



Supporting Our Community



ALL CHANGE!



In Surrey, there are currently 11 borough councils like Waverley delivering services such as planning, environmental health, housing and collecting rubbish and recycling. Surrey County Council also provides services for the whole of Surrey including education, libraries, looking after highways and supporting vulnerable people.

The Westminster government wants to make local government simpler and more efficient, so it invited Surrey's councils to put forward proposals for reorganising how council services are run.

Two proposals have been put forward. Depending on which option is chosen, Surrey County Council and the 11 boroughs would be replaced by two or three unitary authorities. Each unitary authority will cover a part of Surrey and provide the services of both county and borough councils. **The government is now inviting views from all those interested in the proposals including local residents, town and parish councils.**



Use the QR code to see GTC's response to the consultation





THE PROPOSALS

The three unitary option is supported by the borough councils of Epsom & Ewell, Guildford, Reigate, Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Woking and Tandridge District Council. It is also favoured by Godalming Town Council.

This option would see the county divided into three unitary authorities called East Surrey, North Surrey and West Surrey. Godalming would form part of West Surrey along with Guildford, Surrey Heath, Woking and the rest of Waverley borough. Each of the unitary authorities would have a population between 400,000 and 500,000 residents.

The two unitary option, which is supported by Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough and Mole Valley District Councils, would see the county divided into two large unitary authorities, each with a population of around 700,000 residents.

The new unitary authority of 'East Surrey' would cover the existing boroughs of Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge. Godalming would be absorbed into the 'West Surrey' unitary authority along with residents who currently live in Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Woking and the rest of Waverley borough.

HOW GODALMING WILL BE AFFECTED

These changes could have a big impact on the local services that we all rely on and could affect how local voices are heard and how money is spent in Godalming.

Godalming currently makes up 18 per cent of the population of Waverley. In a three unitary model, this would reduce to 5 per cent of the population and in a two unitary model, Godalming would account for just 3.5 per cent of the total population.

Since the government announced its local government reorganisation, Godalming Town Council has received feedback from residents that they do not want a council that is geographically remote or for Godalming to be left behind. Instead, they want decision makers to be democratically accountable and to understand Godalming and its unique characteristics.



A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Godalming Town Councillors want local government reorganisation to result in the best possible outcome for the people of Godalming.

This means ensuring we do not lose the treasured assets that give the town its identity or the services which meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

With the county and borough councils being abolished, town and parish councils have an opportunity to affirm their role as the voice of the local community and continue to deliver the services that are important to residents.

With a prudent financial record, experienced team and a proven track record for managing its assets, Godalming Town Council is well placed to optimise the benefits of reorganisation. Your Town Council is currently working on your behalf to put together packages of assets that could be transferred to Godalming. This will include facilities and services that you have told us are important to the community.



WHY TAKE PART IN THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION

Godalming Town Council believes the three unitary model is the best solution for Godalming, **but what do you think?**

The decisions made now will shape how Surrey is run for years to come. By responding to the government's consultation, you can help make sure that any changes reflect what you think would work best.

Visit www.godalming-tc.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/ for a link to the online consultation survey or use the QR code on page 1.

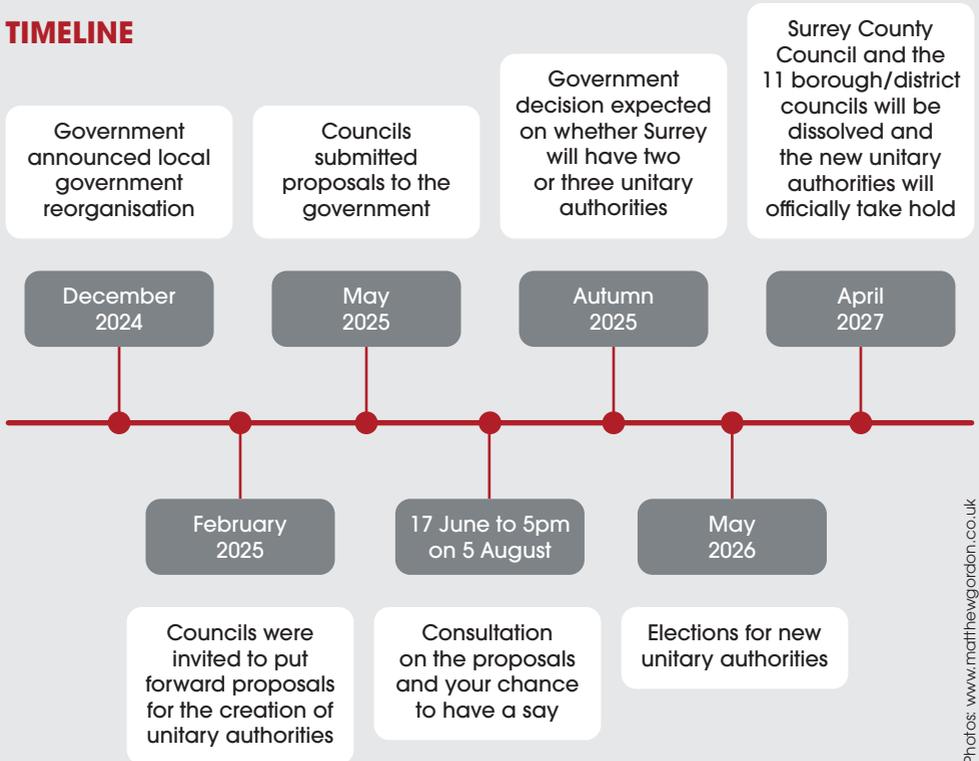
You will be able to see how Godalming Town Council has responded to the consultation.

If you do not have access to the internet, please call Godalming Town Council on 01483 523575 for a hard copy of the government's consultation.





TIMELINE



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