

ONE SURREY TOGETHER

A better, brighter, greener future

A single unitary council for Surrey

Vision for Local Government in Surrey

We want Surrey to be a uniquely special place where everyone has a great start in life, people live healthy and fulfilling lives, are enabled to achieve their full potential and contribute to their community and where no one is left behind. Where our economy thrives and grows, in balance with our beautiful natural environment.

We want this for our residents, our businesses and our partners.

But Surrey is being held back.

We need to change the system of local government so that we can respond effectively to the challenges we face and take the opportunities that are coming our way.

There are huge financial savings to be made and a more productive and resilient economy to be harnessed that will benefit residents and communities.

We believe a single unitary authority can achieve this

and we are working on a detailed proposal that can deliver the best future for Surrey, alongside residents, partners and government.

What a single unitary will deliver



Why is a unitary best?



More efficient – initial estimates show that we could save residents up to £35 million through reorganisation alone, with further yearly savings of up to £99 million possible through service transformation, leading to the potential for lower council tax



Easier navigation – residents no longer unsure of which authority is responsible for the vital services they rely on



More integrated services – the ability to approach the needs of residents in an all-round way, providing the most effective solutions



Better partnerships – strengthening connections with a host of organisations and reducing complexities to solve local issues



Better for business and the economy – a holistic approach to skills, infrastructure and business support provisions that will enable businesses to thrive and grow

Why not two, or even three, unitary councils?



Additional partnership complexity and costs – increasing the number of organisations that would have to work together to deliver vital services, e.g. in policing and health, requiring even more complex partnership arrangements at additional cost



Unbalanced economies – the uneven distribution of businesses and wealth generation in East-West and North-South unitary proposals will affect revenue bases and service quality



Uneven pressure on services – population differences, e.g. age, would place more pressure on one area than another



Stark differences in future financial viability – exposure to legacy commercial investment risks, debt and revenue spending pressures within small, sub-optimal unitary councils, lacking the scale to absorb and balance such threats



Damaging disruption to established, critical county services – e.g. Childrens' Safeguarding, Adult Social Care, Highways as new systems, processes and accountabilities would be required, putting improvements seen in the last two years at risk

A single unitary council for Surrey

**Large
enough to
be strategic**

A distinct and
recognizable county
and functional
economic
area of 1.1m people

**Local
enough to
be relevant**

Giving everyone in
Surrey's distinct, local
communities a voice
and role in delivering
our future success

**Delivering
quality
services and
prosperity
for all**

Making a difference
in the lives of all our
residents,
communities and
businesses

Timeline

July 2020

Leader sent letter to Sec of State to request invitation to develop proposal to establish a unitary authority in Surrey

August 2020

Business case developed

Sept/Oct 2020

Business case to council, then submitted to MHCLG

Secretary of State Public consultation on business case (8 weeks)

March 2021

Structural Changes Order laid and elections deferred

Autumn 2021

Budget for new authority set (tbc)

May 2021

Implementation executive formed (tbc)

May 2022
Elections and Vesting Day with new council operational

Co-design and transition to new authority

Internal and external stakeholder engagement to build support for proposals

Autumn 2020

Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper published