

**Reshaping local government in West Sussex - West Sussex County Council states its preference for a one unitary authority**

West Sussex County Council is stating its preference for a single unitary authority for the whole of the county as its preferred option for local government reorganisation.

The council maintains that a single authority is best for providing high-quality and financial sustainable services to residents.

A business case for local government reorganisation in West Sussex was developed and agreed by all 8 councils in the county. Each council is taking its own decision on its preferred option.

The joint business case and each authority's preference will be submitted to government by Friday this week (26 September) for a final decision in spring 2026.

Leader of West Sussex County Council, Cllr Paul Marshall, is now writing to the government to ask ministers to consider the council's preferred option.

He said: "As the case shows, creating a singly unitary authority will save £50m per year, which is £30m a year greater than the savings that would be generated by moving to two unitary authorities, and pays back the cost of change much more quickly. This unlocks millions we can invest in crucial public services while minimising disruption to those services, especially those that protect vulnerable people.

"Creating two unitary councils in West Sussex will mean having to split essential services that keep our most vulnerable people safe and that are currently delivered countywide, notably children's and adults' social care. We are very conscious in reaching this conclusion that the unavoidable disruption if a two unitary model is adopted will create further challenges in these sectors, both of which are already under significant pressure, and impact on the significant improvements we've made as a council over the last few years.

"While we prefer a singly unitary option, whatever the government choses, we will maintain our successful collaboration with the District and Boroughs and our shared focus of achieving the best outcome for residents."

Councils in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Council have also produced their own business cases. While East Sussex councils have been open about the shape of their plans for some time, Brighton & Hove City Council did not reveal the areas covered by its proposals until just a few working days before the submission deadline, meaning that it has not been possible to fully assess the proposal's impact on West Sussex at this point.

Cllr Marshall is therefore also calling on ministers not to consider the Brighton & Hove business case. He said: "I was personally very disappointed to see Brighton & Hove City Council's alternative proposal for local government reorganisation in Sussex, which was issued after our case was published in papers for our council and cabinet meetings.

"Brighton & Hove City Council has not engaged with us and so we have not been able to test their assumptions or modelling. Our initial assessment though is that the case lacks sufficient detail, due diligence and analysis, and it is difficult to see how the proposals meet the government's criteria, notably financial stability, engaging with councils affected, and managing the risks of services being disrupted."

**Engaging with communities**

The business case for West Sussex draws on feedback from the views of 9,000 residents who took part in engagement work over the summer. What came across very strongly in the responses was a desire for local councils be focused on the differing needs of the

places they are responsible for, and for an effective local voice in shaping decisions. This will be a key requirement to build into the new council or councils when they are created. The government will run its own consultation on the options in the coming months, giving the public a chance to express their view based on the full business case, including the estimated financial impact of each option, which importantly was not available for the earlier engagement exercise.

**Further information**

[Read the joint West Sussex business case for local government reorganisation.](#)

### [Find out more about the future of local government in Sussex](#)

**Protect your child from flu this winter** - Flu can be very unpleasant for children and can sometimes cause serious problems, such as pneumonia. Children under the age of 5 years have one of the highest rates of hospital admissions due to flu. Getting your child vaccinated not only protects them but also helps protect your family. It reduces the risk of flu spreading to relatives who may be more vulnerable, such as grandparents or family members with long-term health conditions. Vaccination can also help prevent the disruption flu causes, meaning you're less likely to need time off work or other activities to care for a sick child, or if you become unwell yourself.

The nasal spray flu vaccine for children is quick, safe and helps keep families and communities protected over winter. It's offered to children aged 2 to 3 years, school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and children with certain long-term health conditions.

### [Find out more including how to get the children's flu vaccine](#)

**Lights, camera, action! Road safety shows return to Sussex schools** - Road safety is taking centre stage in Sussex secondary schools this autumn with the return of Theatre-in-Education performances. These engaging shows use drama, humour and audience participation to help students learn about road traffic dangers in a memorable way.

- Year 7 students (ages 11–12) will see *Look Up*, a show focused on pedestrian safety and responsibility, which is particularly important for those who may be walking to school without their parents for the first time.
- Year 11 students (ages 15–16) will watch *Take a Second*, which explores the impact of choices made as passengers and future drivers as they reach their final year of secondary school.

The programme is supported by the county council, and neighbouring authorities in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, reflecting a shared commitment to road safety education.

[Read more](#)

**West Sussex Recycling Centres switch to autumn/winter hours from 1st October -**

During this period, all centres will be open from 9am to 4pm. To reflect reduced visitor numbers, some centres will close for an additional day each week.

The updated opening days for centres local to Chichester are:

- Bognor Regis - Monday to Wednesday, Saturday to Sunday
- Chichester - Monday, Wednesday to Sunday
- Littlehampton - Monday, Thursday to Sunday
- Midhurst - Monday, Thursday to Sunday

All centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Before visiting any West Sussex Recycling Centre, don't forget that residents must book a timed slot. Booking is quick and easy via the [Book to Recycle system](#), or by calling 01243 642106 for those without internet access. Slots can be booked up to 14 days in advance, or on the same day when there is availability.

A handy A-Z guide on what can and can't be recycled at the West Sussex Recycling Centres is available on our website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/recyclingatoz](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/recyclingatoz)

West Sussex Recycling Centres are committed to prioritising reuse as much as possible. All West Sussex Recycling Centres offer a dedicated paint reuse container. Residents can donate paint in good condition (e.g. not dried out), provided there is space in the container.

To check full opening hours and book a visit, go to: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/RC](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/RC). You can now borrow potentially life-saving blood pressure monitors free of charge from all 36 libraries in West Sussex.

**A loan that could save your life** - High blood pressure (or hypertension) is a leading cause of heart attacks, strokes and other diseases, but it is a treatable condition and early detection is key. The easy-to-use blood pressure monitoring kits can be borrowed for up to three weeks by local library members and used at home to check blood pressure daily. The kits come with a guide on how to measure blood pressure, interpret the results, and a diary to log them. For low and high blood pressure readings, people are encouraged to contact their GP for further advice and treatment. Further information to support being healthy is also provided in the kit.

The initiative is a partnership between West Sussex County Council's public health and library services and NHS Sussex, with the aim of increasing the detection of undiagnosed hypertension. Often called 'the silent killer' as it usually has no symptoms, high blood pressure can only be detected via a blood pressure check, which is quick and painless. For many people, there may not be a single cause, but reducing your risk through being a healthy weight, minimising your salt intake, being physically active, drinking within recommended guidelines and stopping smoking can all help reduce your blood pressure. Being aware of your blood pressure and checking it regularly is an important way that you can take charge of your own health and wellbeing.

The West Sussex Wellbeing Programme can support West Sussex people to make these changes. The programme supports people to maintain and improve their health through practical advice that addresses inequalities and supports people to be healthy and well. This is another superb example of how our libraries support health and wellbeing in our communities and WSCC is delighted to be able to offer this valuable service, which we are sure will benefit many people.

Contact your local library for more information.

**Local News:**

**Come and have a brew with the crew** - Chichester Fire Station is inviting residents to visit for a cup of tea and a talk to get practical advice on how to keep their homes safe from fire. Chichester White Watch Manager, Sam Isted, said: "Our team will be on hand to share simple, practical advice about smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, electric blankets and other standard household electrical appliances. "So come and have a brew with the crew and find out how to make your home a safer place."

**Chichester Fire Station** is located on the Northgate roundabout, the closest available parking is located at Northgate car park. The event is being held on **Friday 10 October from 10am until mid-day**.

**Flooding - Stane Street (adjacent to commercial entrance to Amenity waste site)** - Following your report last month I checked on our mapping system and there appear to be a number of gullies clustered around the site entrance, so I have asked for them all to be checked. I am still awaiting an update, but have chased it this week.

**Coach Road pedestrian improvements** - No further updates since last month's report.

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

Also, a reminder that all our public meetings are webcast live and are also archived, so you can always view them later. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/watch-county-council-and-committee-meetings-online/>

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