

There is currently a period of public consultation on alternative proposals for the reorganisation of local government in Surrey proposed by Central Government that will replace Surrey County Council and 11 District and Borough Councils with either 2 or 3 unitary authorities. Click on the following link for details of the two alternative proposals : -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-surrey/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-surrey>

The role and status of Farnham Town Council (FTC) will remain unchanged although a new Neighbourhood Area Committee consisting of elected representatives of FTC and the new unitary and other local community organisations and involved stakeholders (e.g. Police and NHS) will be formed to establish a working relationship between Town / Parish Councils and the new unitary for management and administration of local government. There will be elections to create shadow authorities in May 2026 with the new unitary authorities going live in May 2027 when it is also likely that there will be elections for an all Surrey Mayor.

At a meeting of Farnham Town Council's Full Council held on 19 June it was agreed to formally support the 3 unitary proposal in which Waverley would be joined with Guildford, Woking and Surrey Heath. Such a unitary would be able to build on the joint management teams that have been developing between Waverley and Guildford

I would encourage you to participate in this public consultation. When responding It is important that you respond to all 3 parts saying "no" to the proposal that you would not wish to see implemented as well as "yes" to the proposal that you would wish to see implemented.

Like FTC I personally support the 3 unitary proposal as the "best available option". I would have preferred to have started with a clean sheet of paper to allow the feasibility of creating a unitary in which Farnham would have been included in a Blackwater Valley unitary authority but this has not been possible since Central Government has insisted that the new unitary authorities should be made up of existing local authorities within existing County Council boundaries. In my personal opinion this is a wasted opportunity to revise the shape of local government and do the job properly.

The public consultation will close at 1700 hours on Tuesday 5 August. You can respond by completing the [online survey](#), via email or in writing. The online survey has 3 parts viz : -

Part 1 - About Yourself (6 questions) - this has to be completed by every person responding

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/surrey/consultation/intro/>

Part 2 - Two unitary proposal (Surrey County Council proposal supported by Elmbridge Borough and Mole Valley District Councils - 9 questions)

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/surrey/consultation/subpage.2025-04-22.6668122873/>

Part 3 - Three unitary proposal (District and Borough proposal supported by 9 District and Borough Councils including Waverley Borough Council - 9 questions)

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/surrey/consultation/subpage.2025-05-21.5533166696/>

If you are responding in writing, please make it clear which proposal you are responding to. You can email your response to the questions in this consultation to lgreorganisation@communities.gov.uk

Alternatively, written responses should be sent to:

LGR Consultation
Fry Building 2NE
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Please take some time to respond to this public consultation and encourage others to do so. Please free to forward this e mail to anybody else who you may think would be interested.

If there is any further information that I can provide please do not hesitate to let me know and I will reply to the best of my ability.

Cllr David Beaman

Waverley Borough and Farnham Town Independent Farnham Resident Councillor

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