

# Let's shape the future of Suffolk together

How could public services work better for you?



The national government wants to simplify how Councils work. This means the current County, District, and Borough Councils will be replaced and all services will be run by new "Unitary Councils".

Currently, local government services are delivered in Suffolk like this:

- Suffolk County Council is responsible for delivering services such as special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), roads, public transport, social care, libraries, and recycling centres across the county.
- Five district and borough councils (Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, and West Suffolk), are responsible in their areas for delivering services like bin collections, street cleaning, parking, leisure services, local planning, council housing, and helping homeless people.

A Unitary Council is a single authority which provides ALL these services for a specific area.

Suffolk's Councils are now looking at how to reorganise to better meet the needs of residents, businesses, and communities, as part of the government's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) initiative.

**We want to know what you think. Please take a few minutes to share your views!**

*This survey is being conducted by Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils in collaboration with East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and West Suffolk Council.*

*Please note that all responses to this survey will be treated in the strictest confidence and you will not be identifiable in reporting the survey findings. For full details of how we use personal data, please view our privacy policies at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/uk-gdpr-privacy-notice](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/uk-gdpr-privacy-notice)*

# Have your say:

You can complete this survey online at: [www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr)

**Alternatively, please complete this form and either:**

- Scan and email it to [engagement@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:engagement@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)
- Send it to Have Your Say Suffolk, East Suffolk Council, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

The deadline for receiving completed submissions is **Friday 25 July 2025**.

If you would like to be sent a large print version of this document, please call our Customer Services team on **0333 0162000**.

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## About you

**1. Which Suffolk district do you live in, that is the council which you or your household pays your Council Tax to?**

Please tick (✓) one answer only

<input type="checkbox"/>	Babergh District
<input type="checkbox"/>	East Suffolk District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ipswich Borough
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mid Suffolk District
<input type="checkbox"/>	West Suffolk District
<input type="checkbox"/>	I live in Suffolk but don't know which district
<input type="checkbox"/>	I live outside of Suffolk (please state where):  -----

**2. What is your postcode, minus the last two digits? For example, NR33 4 or IP5 1.**

This helps us ensure we hear from residents all across Suffolk

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**3. How are you responding to this survey?**

Please tick (✓) one answer only - if you fit more than one category, please choose the one that is most important for this survey

	As a resident
	As a business owner
	As someone working in the area
	As someone who works in public services (for example working for a council, in the NHS, police, fire or ambulance services)
	As someone involved in a local voluntary organisation or community group
	As a parish or town councillor
	As a district, borough or county councillor
	Other (please state): -----

**4. Which age bracket are you in?**

Please tick (✓) one answer only

	Under 18
	18-34
	35-49
	50-64
	65-79
	80+
	Prefer not to say

## Views about the future of local government

### 5. What is most important to you in thinking about how any future council(s) in Suffolk should operate?

Please rank the following attributes in order of importance by numbering each one from 1 to 9, where 1 is the most important and 9 the least important.

	<b>Accountability</b> - Ensuring clear accountability - being open and clear about when, how and who is making what decision; how public money is being spent and who to hold to account for any poor performance
	<b>Being local</b> - Ensuring decisions that affect you, and where you live, are made close to you - by councillors and a council that understand your needs and represents your area
	<b>Influence</b> - Ensuring you have a say over, and can influence, decisions that will affect you
	<b>Money</b> - Ensuring council tax and public funds are spent wisely, efficiently and on the things that matter most to you and other people where you live
	<b>Accessibility</b> - Ensuring good local and online access to council services and councillors
	<b>Tailored to you</b> - Ensuring council services are tailored to your needs and the needs of other people where you live
	<b>Quality</b> - Improving the overall quality of public services
	<b>Protecting the vulnerable</b> – Prioritising services for the most vulnerable people
	<b>Seamless</b> - Better joining up of public services focused around your needs and those of other people where you live - e.g. services provided by the council, NHS, police, fire and charities

## **Your voice matters**

6. **Is there anything else you'd like to say about how local government could work better for you and your community?**

Please write in the space below

**Thank you for sharing your views!**