



Via email only lgreorganisation@communities.gov.uk

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15 July 2025

Dear Sirs

Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey

I am writing to you on behalf of Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council. Salfords and Sidlow is a civil parish within the borough of Reigate and Banstead. The parish occupies most of the rural area between Reigate/Redhill and Horley. Salfords village lies approximately 3 miles south of Redhill astride the A23. Sidlow Village lies to the west of Salfords and south of Reigate on the A217. Gatwick Airport is about 3 miles south from both villages. The Parish Council represents a population of about 3,500 of which 2,700 are electors.

The Parish Council supports the three-unitary model recommendation. We believe it offers better delivery efficiency and maintains local connections better than a two-unitary model.

The proposal for the East Surrey unitary model suggests merging Reigate and Banstead with Mole Valley, Tandridge, and Epsom and Ewell, resulting in a population of approximately 416,000. This arrangement aligns more closely with Surrey's functional operations. While it is acknowledged that the costs associated with a three unitary model may be slightly higher than those for a two unitary model, the Parish Council believes this approach would enable local service delivery that reflects logical groupings.

The local knowledge, existing working relationships and expertise are benefits of the three unitary approach. The four boroughs of East Surrey demonstrate good corporate relationships with each other which will be critical to the future success of the authority. We have no connectivity with any of the other boroughs identified by Surrey in the two unitary model and have genuine concerns as to the extent of liabilities Surrey might seek to pass to the future unitary in East Surrey.

Planning and development for the unitary model must manage the impact of Gatwick airport and economic growth on our community, including its effect on East Surrey Hospital. Coordinated efforts are necessary to ensure public services, transport, and housing meet local needs.



This more sensible devolution boundary would facilitate strategic economic, transport, and spatial planning across the area, supporting the growth goals outlined in the Government's White Paper. Co-operation and very close working relationships around Gatwick Airport will be critical for Government growth aims and targets.

Community engagement and empowerment

The Parish Council proposes the establishment of new town and parish councils within the new unitary authority. These councils are considered necessary for providing a local democratic voice, especially as elected officials in the new Unitary Authorities may have less direct engagement with constituents. Although resident-formed groups and associations contribute to community spirit and advocacy, they do not possess the authority and resources needed to implement changes effectively. A Town/Parish Council functions as a formal mechanism for local governance, offering stronger democratic representation and a greater ability to influence decisions and deliver services that meet residents' needs.

We thank you for allowing us to comment on your proposals and hope that you will seriously consider our recommendations.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Claire Minter
Clerks to Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council