

June 2025

FROM MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL- HAVE YOUR SAY- UNITARY COUNCILS

We are writing to invite you to take part in our survey on local government reorganisation in Worcestershire.

As you will be aware, the Government intends to sweep away all 21 two-tier council areas in England in favour of creating unitary councils. This represents the most significant change to how councils are structured, and services are delivered in the county in over 50 years.

There are currently two options being considered:

Replace all councils with one unitary council

This would replace the county council and six district, city and borough councils with just one council for the whole of Worcestershire.

It would provide all services from collecting bins to school admissions. The new council would geographically cover the same areas as Worcestershire County Council does now.

Replace all councils with two unitary councils

This means the county would be split into two new councils with one for the north of the county and one for the south of the county. Each one would be responsible for all services in their part of the county.

Councillors will be asked in the autumn to decide which of the two options to work up in more detail and submit to the Government by 28 November 2025.

To support councillors to make this decision, we are seeking views from residents, town and parish councils and businesses on how local services should be delivered in future.

Our dedicated microsite www.shapeworcestershire.org has more information and a link to the survey.

You can choose to either submit a single response on behalf of your parish or town council or share the survey link with individual councillors so they can respond personally as residents or submit both. The survey opens on Sunday 1 June and runs until 29 June. We encourage as many of you as possible to take part.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email haveyoursay@shapeworcestershire.org

Thank you for your time and valued contribution to this important conversation.