

Change is coming - Is a local voice important to you?



CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR AN ASHFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Ashford Borough Council is conducting a Community Governance Review and would like to know what you think about the creation of a town council for the unparished, urban area of Ashford.

Do you think Ashford should have a town council?

Please read through this leaflet and tell us your views by completing the questionnaire online or ask for a paper copy.

We need to know what you think by
5 December 2025



Why are we asking now?

The Government is planning big changes to local councils. They want to join Kent councils together to create new, larger councils.

This is called Local Government Reorganisation, or LGR, and means that from 1 April 2028, Kent County Council and all the borough and district councils in Kent, will be replaced by a smaller number of larger councils that will do the job of both. These larger councils are called unitary councils.

In parished areas, the parish or town council will remain and work with the new unitary council. In the unparished areas of Ashford, only the unitary council will remain and will cover several towns. Parished areas will therefore retain a more local layer of local government than unparished ones.



What is a town council?

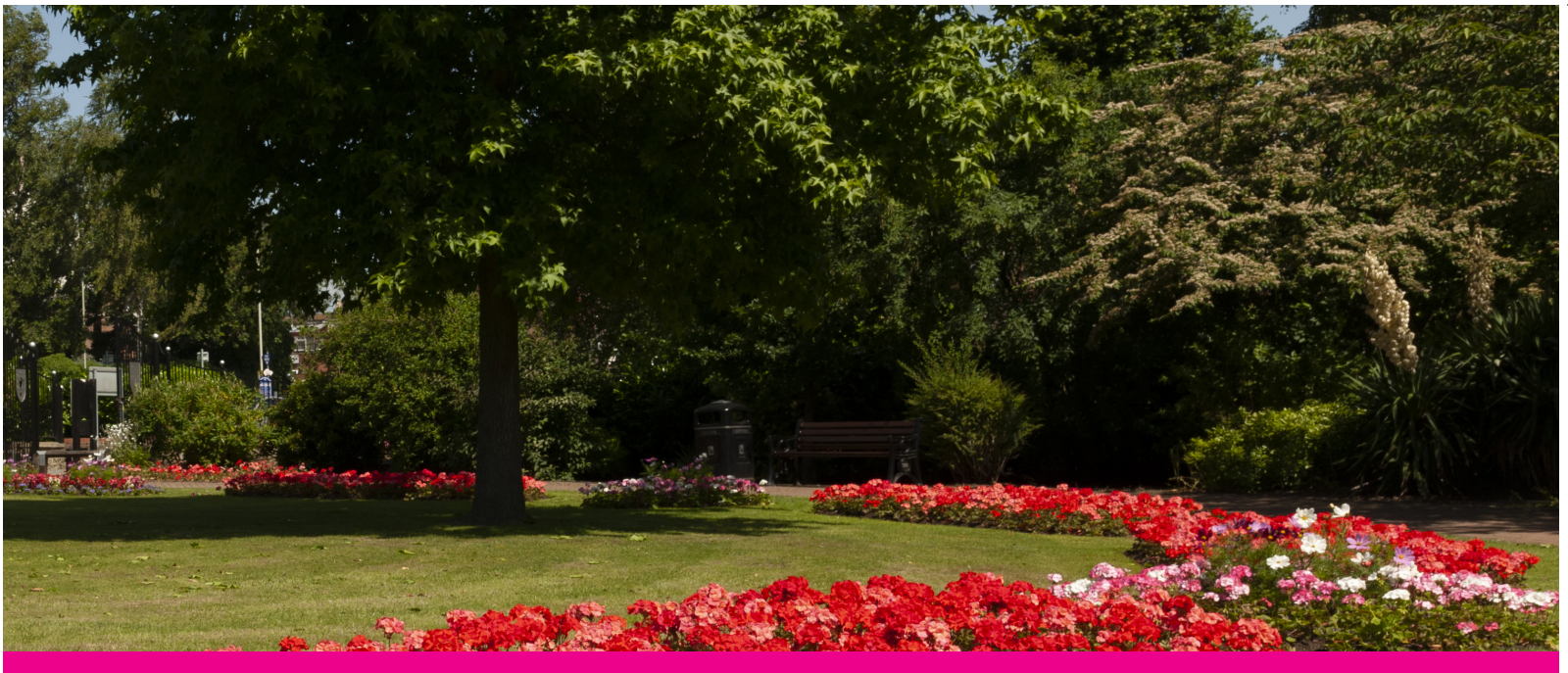
A town council has the same powers as a parish council. The only difference is the name, and they often have a Mayor. They can provide, maintain and support a variety of important and visible services including:

- allotments, parks and open spaces
- bus shelters and community transport schemes
- community centres and leisure facilities
- crime reduction and community safety measures
- festivals, celebrations and tourism activities
- litter bins, street lighting and street cleaning

They are made up of locally elected councillors, providing an extra voice to represent the community; someone who can fight your corner, signpost where to report issues and be an advocate for your local area.

<https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk>





What would change?

- Some services currently delivered by Ashford Borough Council would be transferred to the new town council
- Town councillors would be elected by local residents
- The number of councillors is not yet known, but will be proposed later this year
- First elections would take place in May 2027, then every four years

How much would a town council cost?

Like parishes, town councils get their money from something called a 'precept'. This is an extra charge added to your Council Tax and collected at the same time.

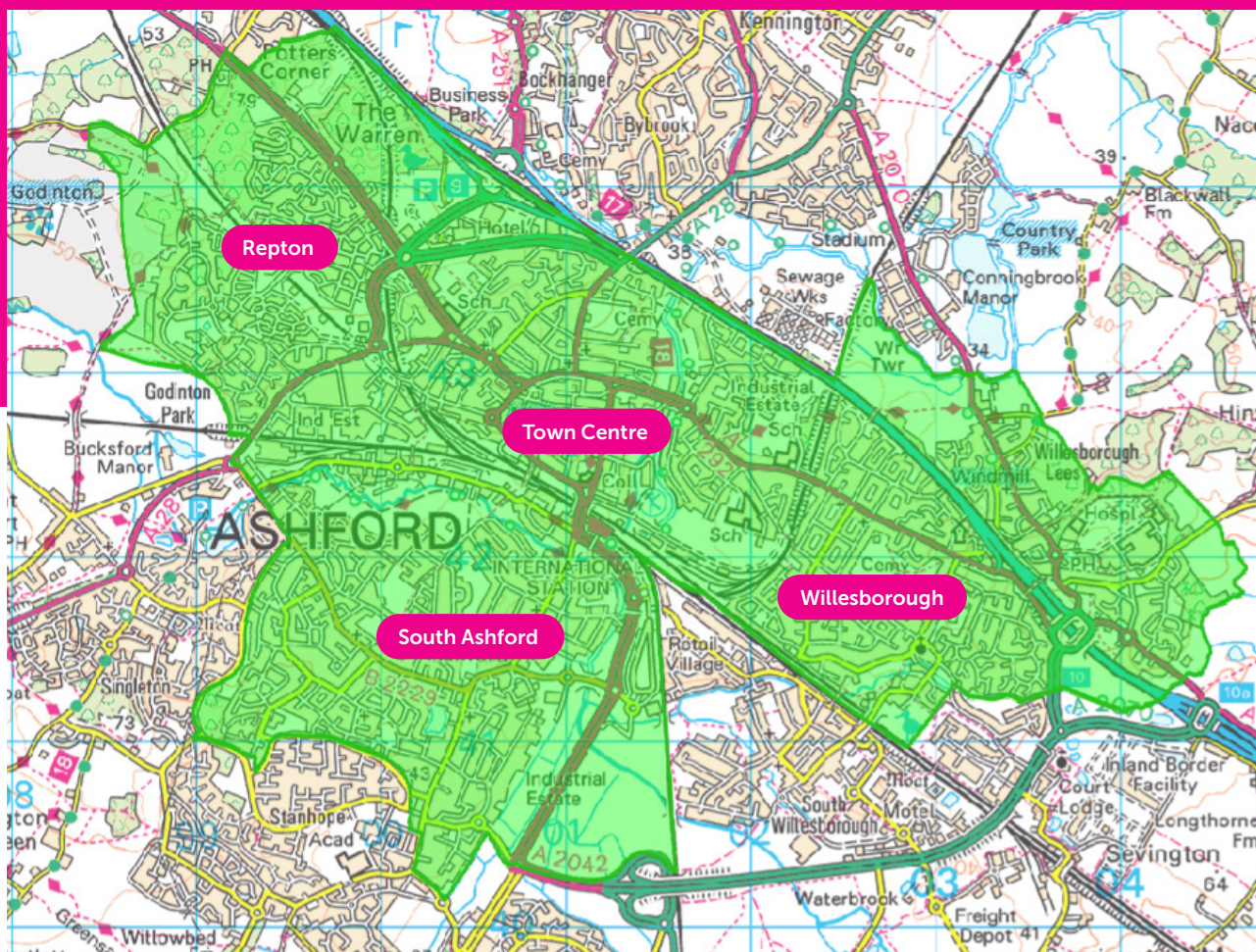
Town councils decide how much precept to charge, based on the services they want to offer. There's no set limit on the amount they can ask for. In 2025/26, the average precept for a Band D property in England is £92.22 per year.

In Ashford Borough, the average is lower, at £70.00. The lowest local precept is £16.53 (Sevington Parish Council) and the highest is £181.36 (Tenterden Town Council).

<https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk>



Which parts of Ashford are included?



We want your views – **Tell us before 5 December 2025.**

It's important we hear from as many people as possible to help shape our proposals, so please spare a few minutes to complete the survey.

Have your say at <https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/community-governance-review> or scan the QR code. If you need a paper copy, contact corporatepolicy.team@ashford.gov.uk or phone 01233 331111.

You can also respond to this consultation by email or send your comments in writing to:

Corporate Policy Team,
Ashford Borough Council,
International House, Dover Place,
Ashford, Kent, TN23 1HU

