

Have your say

**YOUR
COUNCILS
CHANGE IS
COMING...**



Have your say on the way Councils in Kent and Medway are organised

Government ministers have launched a consultation on the future number of councils in Kent and Medway and the areas they should cover. They want to hear your views on the biggest shake up of local government in 50 years. Ministers asked councils to come up with plans to create unitary councils in a process known as local government reorganisation (LGR).

Councils in Kent

Under the current system Kent County Council (KCC) delivers some services such as education, social services and roads, and district or borough councils deliver others like emptying your bins and providing housing services.

Under the proposed system, a much smaller number of unitary councils would deliver all council services in one area. Medway Council operates in that way today.

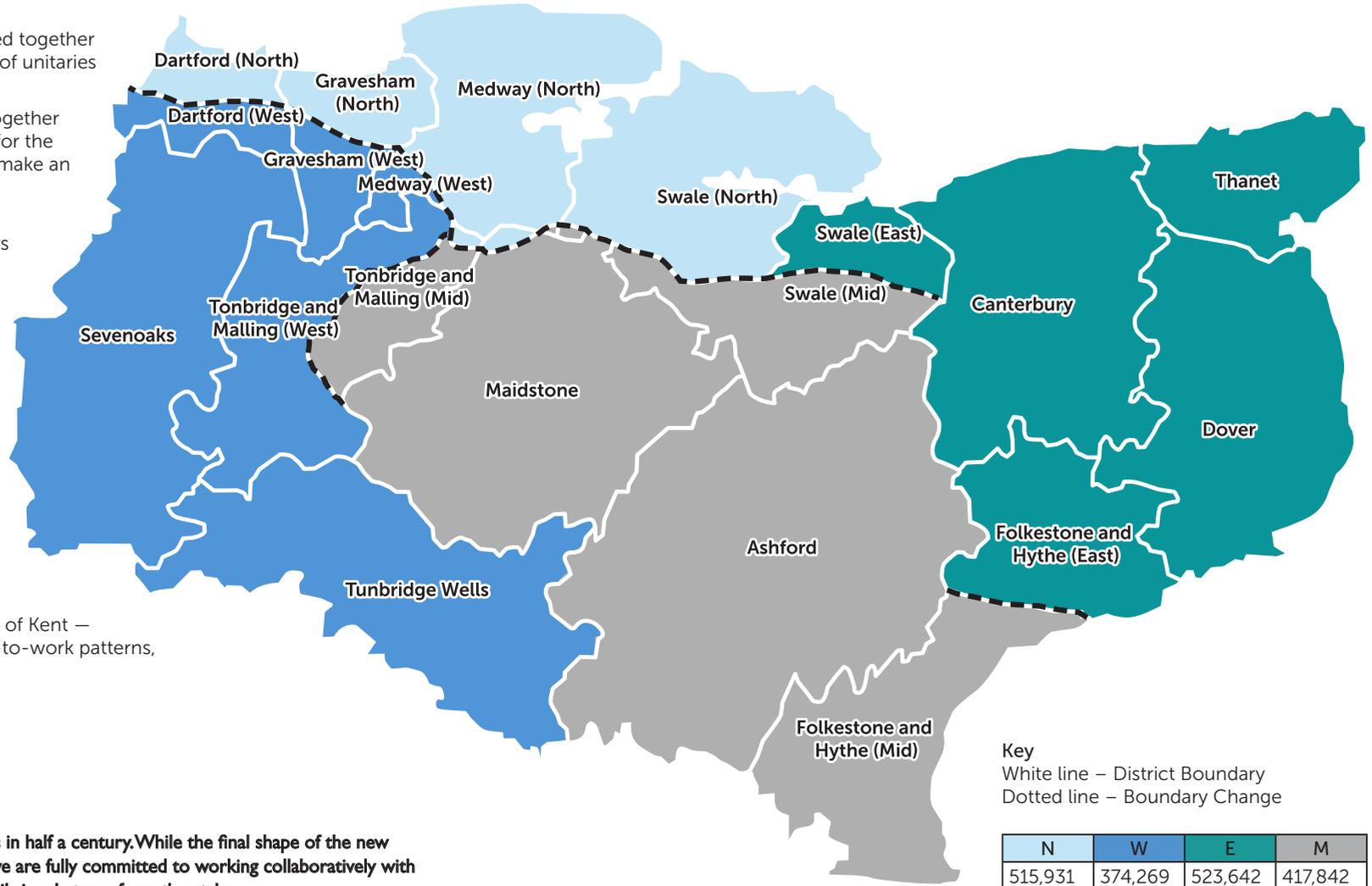
[Read on to find out more](#)

Options drawn up

Councils across Kent and Medway have worked together to draw up a series of options for the number of unitaries needed and what areas they should cover.

We've worked really closely together to pull together the evidence to support a number of options for the people of Kent and Medway so everyone can make an informed decision.

It's now over to residents and organisations throughout Kent and Medway to help ministers make an informed decision.



Option 4d – Four Unitaries*

In Ashford, councillors feel the 4d model goes a step further than the other business cases on the basis that minor boundary changes are acceptable.

This represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape the geographical areas that reflect the established communities of Kent – strengthening local identity, supporting travel-to-work patterns, and balancing urban and rural needs within a four-unitary model that has strategic capacity.

“This is the most significant change to local councils in half a century. While the final shape of the new unitary councils will be for government to decide, we are fully committed to working collaboratively with our partners to deliver effective, future ready councils in whatever form they take.

“There is a great deal of work ahead, but I’m confident that, together, we can create a system of local government that is responsive, resilient and better placed to meet the challenges and opportunities facing our communities.”

Cllr Noel Ovenden, Leader of Ashford Borough Council

*To match the current total population of 1,931,684, a proportional multiplier was applied to the original figures for options with boundary changes. This preserves the relative population distribution across each area while ensuring the total aligns with up-to-date data.

To take part in the government’s consultation, visit www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-kent-and-medway/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-kent-and-medway

The deadline for responses is 26 March 2026.



Where can I find out more about this?

There is lots of background information, including the detailed explanations for each option, at: <https://kentcouncilleaders.org.uk/lgr-consultation/>

Further information can also be found on Ashford Borough Council's website - <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/lgr>

What happens next?

Once the consultation closes, the civil servants and ministers will consider everyone's responses alongside the evidence that has been presented to them.

A decision on which option ministers have chosen is likely to be announced in the summer.

LGR timeline



28 Nov 25

Final proposals
submitted



Feb - Mar 26

Consultations



Jul 26

Decision
announcement



Autumn 26

Secondary
legislation



6 May 27

Elections to
new unitaries



1 April 28

New authorities
operational