

Response ID ANON-7Q6R-9R6U-6

Submitted to Consultation on the modification to the two unitary proposal received from East Sussex County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council and Rother District Council
Submitted on 2026-06-15 08:42:22

Tell us about yourself

1 What is your name?

Name textbox:

Steve Quayle

2 Are you responding as an individual or providing an official response on behalf of an organisation?

Official response on behalf of an organisation

3 Are you providing the official response from a named consultee?

No

4 In which council area is your address? (if you are responding as an individual this is your home address. If you are responding as an organisation this is your organisation address)

East Sussex County Council

5 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please let us know the organisation's name:

Organisation:

Seaford Town Council

6 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please let us know your position within the organisation:

Position in organisation:

Town Clerk

7 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please select the type of organisation from the options below:

Local government - parish/town council

8 What is your email address?

Email address:

admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Personal Data

1 Please read and tick the box before proceeding with the consultation

Multiple questions in this consultation include free text boxes where you can explain your answers. Please tick this box to confirm that you will not include information which may identify an individual in these boxes

Consultation on the modification to the proposal from East Sussex County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council and Rother District Council

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the potential modification to the two unitary proposal will deliver better unitary local government in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove than the original proposal received as judged against the criteria?

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Don't know:
strongly disagree

2 If you would like to, please use the free text box to tell us about whether the potential modification will deliver new councils that:

Free text box:

This modification is a rehashed version of Brighton & Hove City Council's proposals from summer 2025, just with the exclusion of Newhaven from the area being annexed. Those proposals were comprehensively rejected by local constituents when this matter was consulted on by Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council in autumn 2025. Over 86% of 7,472 responses received gave their preference as "making no changes to the current Lewes district boundaries". In addition, an online petition against these proposals attracted 6,783 signatures. The lack of substantial change to the

proposals leaves Seaford Town Council concerned that the revised proposals do not reflect the substantial level of public opposition to the original proposals and that, as a result, there is a serious risk of undermining public trust and confidence in the democratic accountability of local government.

The modification is not supported by any of the legacy councils at County, District or Borough level within East Sussex, nor by the MP for Lewes.

Whilst this modification would not directly affect Seaford, Seaford Town Council stands in solidarity with its neighbouring local councils - Newhaven Town, Kingston Parish, Piddinghoe Parish, Telscombe Town, Rodmell Parish, Parishes of the Lower Ouse, and Iford Parish – all of whom submitted thorough and detailed rejections of this annexation last autumn. The proposals remain unjustifiably divisive, without clear reasoning for why these areas are considered suitable for inclusion within the urban city of Brighton & Hove compared to remaining within the East Sussex area, which is already established as a long-standing alliance of urban, rural and coastal communities.

To echo the comments of the MP for Lewes "I am fully supportive of Lewes District in its entirety being included within an East Sussex-wide unitary authority. This is the option that makes sense geographically, socially and politically. It respects existing county boundaries, maintains community identity, and ensures that our district is not carved up to suit the needs of Brighton and Hove." "These are distinct communities, separated [from Brighton] by open countryside ... Residents do not see themselves as part of Brighton & Hove, and there is widespread concern about any suggestions to the contrary."

3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the potential modification to the East Sussex proposal for two unitary authorities from the East Sussex councils would have a strong public services and financial sustainability justification?

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Don't know:
strongly disagree

4 If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 3.

Free text box:

Whilst Seaford is not directly affected by the proposal, the disaggregation of services currently provided by East Sussex County Council to the areas proposed to be annexed by Brighton & Hove would have to undergo a disruptive and costly transfer to the new authority for no apparent reason.

The proposals will present a significant and avoidable financial burden on the legacy councils and new unitary authorities, requiring disaggregation of services at a sub-ward level and the costs and logistical implications of doing so, which will likely include complicated TUPE processes.

There have already been delays in the timescales of this process and the proposal to carve up sub-ward levels will only further extend these delays and create additional work for those implementing the proposals. From the Town Council's perspective, there are no clear benefits to this proposal, whether of a financial nature or quality of public service.

The size of the areas being proposed to be annexed will not be efficient nor improve capacity, and will come with heavy financial burden(s). It will lack sustainable public services and weaken community engagement, removing neighbourhood empowerment.

At no point has Brighton & Hove sought to provide a convincing rationale for its proposals, whether in terms of benefits to a Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority, to an East Sussex Unitary Authority, or to the residents of the current Lewes District.

5 I confirm that I have not included any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Yes