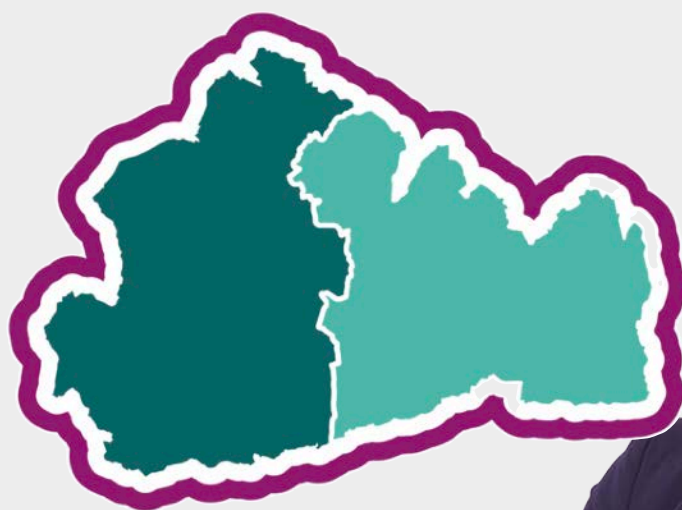




**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Local government in Surrey is changing



**Easy  
Read**

# Easy Read

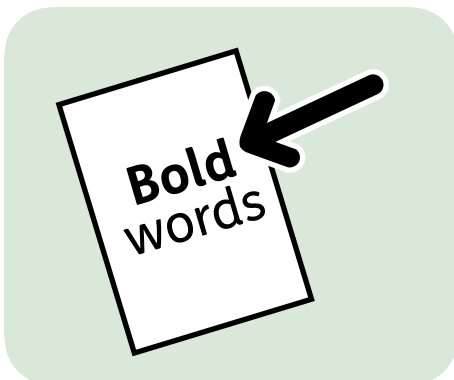


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

# What is in this booklet

About this booklet .....	4
Why we are changing .....	5
Future Surrey .....	6
Elections for the new council .....	7
How to vote .....	8
Find out more .....	14



What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this survey to tell us what you think: [www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey](http://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey)

# About this booklet



We are Surrey County Council.  
Next year, we are being replaced.



All the councils in Surrey are being replaced by 2 new councils.



The new councils will be called East Surrey and West Surrey.



This booklet will explain how this change is going to happen.

# Why we are changing



Right now, there are a lot of councils in Surrey.



There is Surrey County Council, and 11 local councils.



This is complicated.



From 1 April 2027, people will have 1 council for all their services. Which council this is will depend on where you live in Surrey.

# Future Surrey



All the councils are working together to help people understand the changes.

We are calling this **Future Surrey**.



We have put all of the important information about Future Surrey on this website:

[www.surreylgrhub.gov.uk/hub](http://www.surreylgrhub.gov.uk/hub)



You can use this website to find out more about our changes and what they mean for you.

# Elections for the new council



On 7 May 2026, you will have a chance to vote for who you want to be part of your new council.

This is called a **local election**.



The people you vote for will set up the new councils.



They will take over running the councils on 1 April 2027.



Your services will not stop while we change over to the new councils.

# How to vote



You will be able to vote on Thursday 7 May 2026.



If you want to vote, you must **register** first.

This means signing up to vote.



You must register by Monday 20 April 2026.



You can register at this website:  
[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

## Vote in person



You can vote in person between 7am and 10pm on Thursday 7 May 2026.



We will send you a card called a **poll card** in the post.



Your poll card will tell you where you should go to vote.



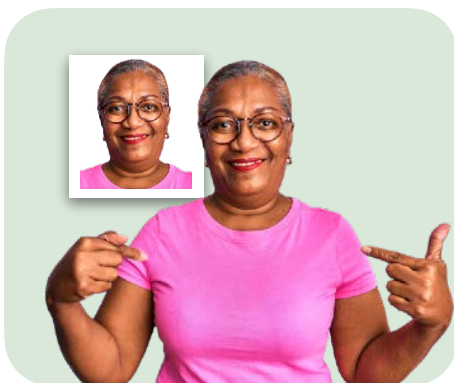
If you vote in person, you must bring **photo ID**.

We will explain more about this on the next page.

# Photo ID



If you vote in person, you must bring photo ID with you.



**Photo ID** is an official document with your photo on.



For example, you can use a passport, driving licence or a travel pass.



There is a full list of the different types of photo ID on this website: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterid](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterid)



If you do not have any photo ID, you can apply for a **Voter Authority Certificate**.



You can use this instead of photo ID when you vote.



You can apply at this website:  
[www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)



You must apply before 5pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

# Vote by proxy or post

You do not have to vote in person. Instead, you can:



- Ask someone you trust to vote for you. This is called **voting by proxy**.



- Vote by post.



If you want to vote by proxy or by post, you should apply as soon as possible.



You can apply at this website:

[www.gov.uk/how-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote)



You must apply for a postal vote before 5pm on 21 April 2026.

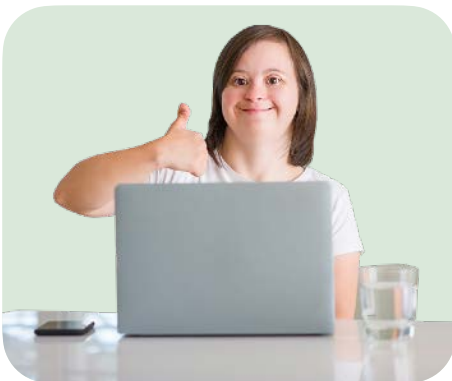


You must apply for your proxy vote before 5pm on 28 April 2026.

# Find out more



Every month, we send an email to people in Surrey. It is called **Surrey Matters**.

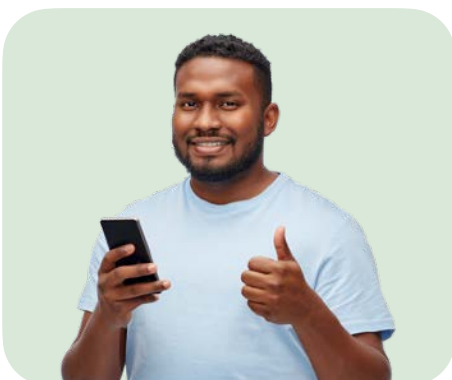


**Surrey Matters** has useful information about the changes we are making.



You can sign up for Surrey Matters at this website:

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters)



You can also follow our social media to find out more:

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/socialmedia](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/socialmedia)

This Easy Read booklet was produced by [easy-read-online.co.uk](http://easy-read-online.co.uk)  
The booklet includes images licensed from Shutterstock.