# Warwickshire Local Government Reorganisation
## ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Local councils and the services they provide have an impact on residents' lives, and it is important that you have a say on possible changes to how these services are delivered in the future. Please read the engagement document and/or go online to **www.shapingourcouncils.co.uk** for information about the proposals. To give your feedback, complete this questionnaire and return it FREEPOST to arrive by **14 September 2025**; or answer the questions online via the webpage above by the same date.

Four of Warwickshire's district and borough councils (North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick) have appointed ORS, as an independent social research company, to manage the engagement and questionnaire responses. ORS will faithfully report the outcomes, in which the views of individual members of the public will be anonymous; but where feedback is from organisations or elected representatives or someone acting in their official capacity, it may be attributed.

All the questions are optional, and all information you provide will be processed by ORS in accordance with latest data protection regulations. For further information, please see **www.ors.org.uk/privacy** and **www.shapingourcouncils.co.uk/privacy-policy**.

Warwickshire currently operates in what is often called a 'two-tier' structure – in which major services are divided between Warwickshire County Council and the five district and borough councils.

The County Council is responsible for services like education, social care, and transport, while the district and borough councils are responsible for services like waste and recycling collection, council tax and housing.

The UK government wants to make local government simpler and more efficient by reducing the number of councils and creating unitary authorities that would deliver these services. It has asked all six Warwickshire councils to work together and come up with a plan for how this could work.

**How informed or uninformed do you feel about which services are provided by your borough/district council and which are provided by the county council?** Please tick ✓ one box only

| Very informed | Fairly informed | Fairly uninformed | Very uninformed | Not applicable | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**To what extent do you agree or disagree that the councils should pursue opportunities to streamline services and make efficiencies, while maintaining good services?** Please tick ✓ one box only

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

While the two-tier system has served communities well for years, the government believes change is needed now, and four of Warwickshire's district and borough councils (North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick - subsequently referred to as 'the councils') have collaborated on a plan that would abolish the existing councils and create a smaller number of new unitary councils.

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The councils recognise that the proposals may offer an opportunity to streamline services, bring efficiencies (such as by reducing the number of senior leadership positions), and make things simpler.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the government's requirement to replace the current two-tier system with a smaller number of unitary councils to run local government across the whole of Warwickshire?**
Please tick ✓ one box only

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

The councils recognise that there are many different factors to consider when thinking about the future arrangements for local government in the area. They believe any future arrangements should provide:

» **Accountability:** democratic decision making that can be locally influenced and ensuring residents know how to raise issues to their local councillor and how to have a say on future service delivery

» **Quality:** frontline services that are sustainable, cost-effective and equipped to deliver good local services in the long-term

» **Local Identity:** boundaries that reflects how residents live their lives and how businesses operate

» **Access:** keeping services as local as possible for as many residents as possible

» **Value For Money:** cutting out duplication, increasing economies of scale and improving efficiencies

The councils recognise that they will need to find the right balance between these different criteria when deciding the best arrangements for local government in the area.

**Please rate how important you think each of these criteria are using a whole number between 0 and 10, where "10" means that the criteria is critically important and "0" means the criteria is of no importance.**
PLEASE WRITE IN A NUMBER BETWEEN "0" AND "10" IN EACH BOX

| Accountability | Quality | Local Identity | Access | Value For Money |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

The councils considered two potential future options for local government in Warwickshire:

1) A single county-wide unitary council covering the whole of Warwickshire
2) Two unitary councils for North and South Warwickshire

The councils of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick have all determined that their preferred option is for two unitary councils. Rugby Borough Council has not determined a preferred option at this stage.

It is worth noting that further research is being undertaken. This includes determining whether a more localised approach could deliver greater savings in areas such as adult social care and children's services.

The councils believe that having two unitary councils would best reflect the way people live and work in the area, align better with housing and service demands, and support existing strong links between towns in the north and south, and their relationship with the wider economy.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for <u>two</u> unitary councils to run local government across Warwickshire?** Please tick ✓ one box only

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

The councils are proposing **two unitary councils** covering the following areas:

- » **North Warwickshire:** covering the areas currently served by North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby borough councils (this area would have an estimated population of 331,060)
- » **South Warwickshire**: covering the areas currently served by Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick district councils (this area would have an estimated population of 301,147)

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the areas covered by the proposed two unitary councils?**
Please tick ✓ one box only

| Strongly agree | Tend to agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Tend to disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**If you disagree with any of the councils' proposals, including the areas that each new council would cover, or have any other views or additional comments, please explain. If you believe there is an alternative option that meets the government's criteria which the councils should consider instead, please explain what it is and why you think it would be a better solution. If you think there are any positive or negative impacts related to equalities or human rights that the councils should take into account, please also explain.**
Please answer in the text box below and continue on a separate sheet if necessary

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

**If you are responding _on behalf of_ an ORGANISATION, which organisation do you represent?**
Please give us the name of the organisation and any specific group or department.
Please also tell us who the organisation represents, what area the organisation covers and how you gathered the views of members. Please answer in the box below

**If you are providing your own PERSONAL RESPONSE, please answer the questions below and overleaf.**
Warwickshire's councils have a duty to promote equality and want to make sure all parts of the community are included in this engagement activity, but these questions are optional. All responses will be taken fully into account when making decisions, regardless of whether you provide your details.

**What is your full postcode?**
This will help us understand views in different areas

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Please tick ✓ only one box for each question (unless otherwise stated)

## What was your age on your last birthday?

☐ Under 25          ☐ 55 to 64
☐ 25 to 34          ☐ 65 to 74
☐ 35 to 44          ☐ 75 to 84
☐ 45 to 54          ☐ 85 or over
☐ Prefer not to say

## What is your gender?

☐ Male              ☐ Female
☐ Prefer to self-describe _____
☐ Prefer not to say

## What is your ethnic group?

☐ White
☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
☐ Asian or Asian British
☐ Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
☐ Any other ethnic group
☐ Prefer not to say

## Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

☐ Yes               ☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

## Are you employed by a local authority in Warwickshire, and/or any local authority which neighbours Warwickshire?

☐ Yes               ☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

## If yes, which local authority/ies employ you?

☐ (blank box)

## Are you a councillor for any local authority or Town/Parish Council in Warwickshire?

Please tick ✓ all that apply
☐ No
☐ Yes – County Councillor
☐ Yes – District/Borough Councillor
☐ Yes – Town/Parish Councillor
☐ Prefer not to say

## Which of the following local council services have you, or members of your household, used at least once in the last 12 months? Please tick ✓ all that apply

☐ **Leisure and recreation** (e.g. libraries, parks/playgrounds, open spaces, leisure centres, activities for young people or families)

☐ **Education** (e.g. school admissions/transport, special educational needs - *does not include simply having a child at school*)

☐ **Environmental** (e.g. recycling centres (tips), environmental protection, pest control, noise complaints)

☐ **Housing** (e.g. homelessness prevention, affordable or council housing, housing waiting list, housing repairs, rent enquiries)

☐ **Planning and building** (e.g. planning applications, building control/safety)

☐ **Public health** (e.g. drug/alcohol dependency support, sexual health services, health improvement programmes)

☐ **Regulatory functions** (e.g. trading standards, council tax/housing/welfare benefits enquiries, using the Registrar)

☐ **Road, Transport, and Infrastructure** (e.g. reporting road/pavement/footpath repairs, public toilets, car parks, community transport)

☐ **Social Care and Support** (e.g. adult social care, children's social services, support for vulnerable people)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**
Please return the questionnaire by **14 September 2025** to:
Opinion Research Services ᐧ FREEPOST SS1018 ᐧ PO Box 530 ᐧ Swansea ᐧ SA1 1AF