

Why a new council?

We have looked at several options:

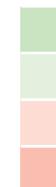
- do nothing
- revert to working as two separate councils (dismantle the shared service partnership)
- expand the shared service partnership to include other councils
- create a new, single district council for west Suffolk

Strong positive impact

Weak positive impact

Weak negative impact

Strong negative impact



The table below shows how they scored:

Future form of local government in West Suffolk - options	Better local/public services	Significant cost savings	Greater value for money	Stronger and more accountable local leadership	Sustainability in the medium to long term
Do nothing	Poor financial stability and puts services at risk in medium term.	Lack of savings options as paying for two councils	Further savings unlikely on top of existing shared services savings.	More joint decisions could lead to reduced democratic accountability. Lack of opportunity to refresh leadership structures.	Risk of divergent agendas between two councils leading to financial vulnerability.
Revert to working as two separate councils (dismantle the shared service partnership)	Increased costs would place ongoing delivery of services at serious risk.	Increased costs from additional officers and lack of shared services.	Duplication of work would increase costs.	Traditional model of district council leadership.	Most vulnerable form of local government in the future. Small councils at high risk of failure
Expand the shared service partnership (to include additional new partners)	Could enhance service delivery. But complexity of extra arrangements could reduce speed and efficiency of service delivery.	Significant staff savings with minimal costs.	Could generate greater efficiencies but up to a point. Multiple agencies and distances would reduce efficiency and add cost.	More chance of reduced democratic accountability locally as shared decisions taken by varied partners.	Significant risk of divergent agendas between a wider number of partner councils
Create a single council for west Suffolk	New streamlined council benefits from economies of scale and strong financial position.	Transitional costs paid back in first year through further efficiencies. Need for harmonisation of council tax levels.	Most efficient for West Suffolk, achieving £800,000 in savings and efficiencies. Better opportunities to work more closely with wider public sector.	Opportunity for strong strategic leadership, strong partnerships and greater focus on locality based working alongside families and communities.	Most resilient form of local government in the future due to scale and ability to attract and manage growth and investment.