

Dear Resident,

We're writing to get your views on proposals to create an expanded decision-making body for the centre of Eastleigh and areas to the north of the town.

This leaflet, and the accompanying survey, are part of a public consultation being run by Eastleigh Borough Council to see if residents would like to see a new, single local council for the area outlined in the map. It's part of our commitment to giving residents greater ownership and control over the day-to-day activities and services delivered on your behalf.

The planned Community Governance Review (CGR) could merge Eastleigh Town Council and Boyatt Wood Parish Council into one larger and more influential decision-making body, representing the first tier of local democracy. Given the proximity of Allbrook Parish, the review will also consult this neighbourhood on whether they should also be part of a larger decision making body.

With devolution and local government reorganisation (LGR) set to create new and much larger unitary local authorities in Hampshire, serving as many as half a million residents, Eastleigh Town Council and Boyatt Wood Parish Council have identified a number of potential benefits of merging, including:

- decision-making would remain as close to the community as possible with local identity and interests of communities being maintained
- the new council would have a stronger voice when engaging with the new unitary authority on issues like planning, infrastructure and community investment

- a new unitary authority is likely to devolve more responsibilities to town and parish councils, which would put a larger central/north Eastleigh council in a better position to take on additional services
- there would be greater financial efficiencies and more consistency in the planning and delivery of services.

Strengthening town and parish councils means that householders are represented by elected councillors who are responsible for more tightly drawn local areas than the much larger unitary authorities proposed under LGR. They would also have a greater say in how the budget for local services is spent.

If the decision is to merge the current councils into one larger council, the election for seats on the new council will take place in 2026, which will replace the scheduled elections for the separate councils.

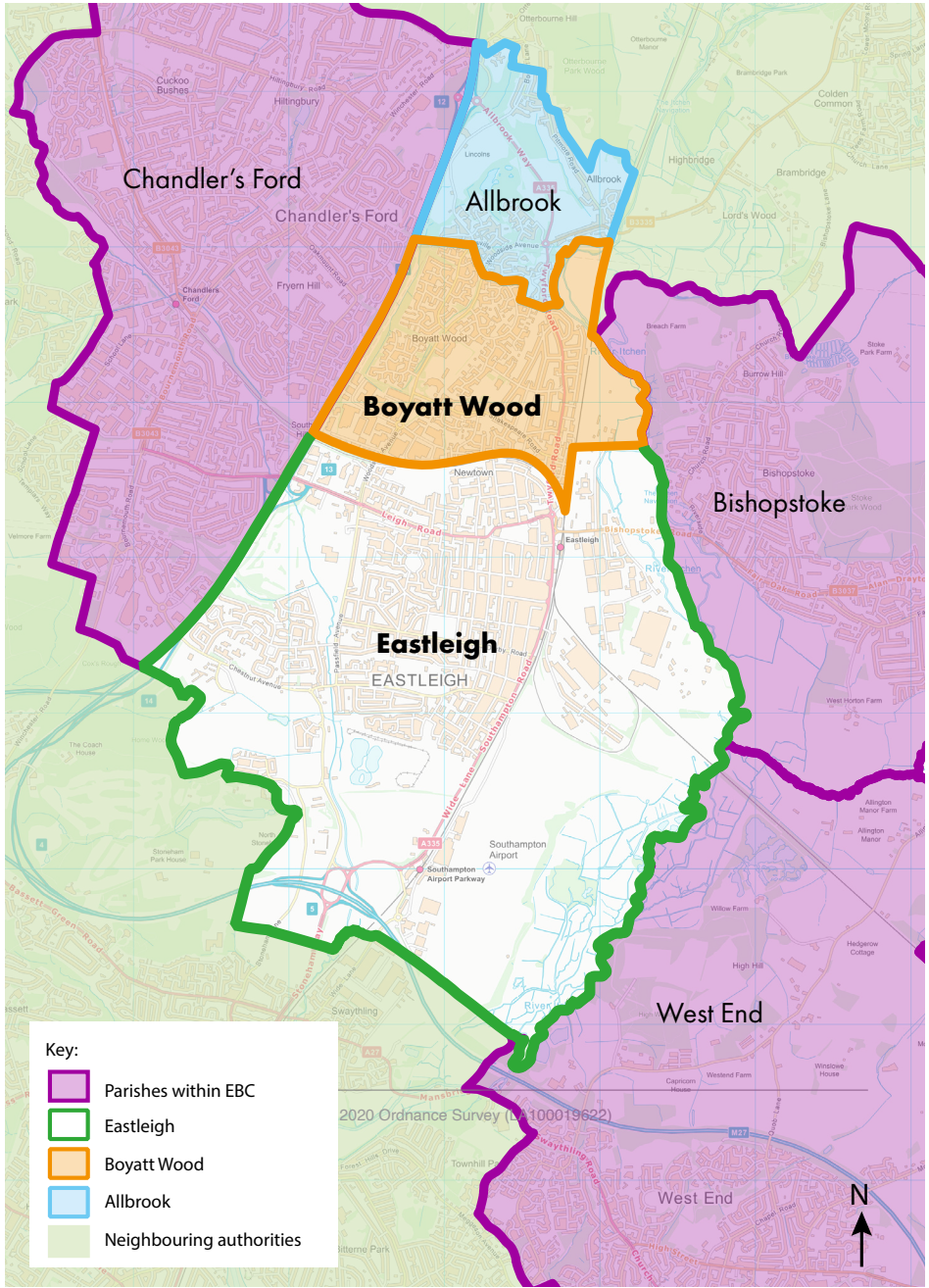
Residents and stakeholders are being asked for their views on the proposals via a survey. We think it is important to take part so that local people have a say in the decision-making process, so we'd really appreciate it if you'd take few minutes to answer the short survey (see details of how to respond in the FAQs).

The consultation closes at midnight on Sunday 25 May.

Thank you for taking part.

James Strachan
Chief Executive

Map of Eastleigh and surrounding areas



A new single local council for Central and North Eastleigh?

Give us your views on proposals to merge Eastleigh Town Council and Boyatt Wood Council.

For more information visit www.eastleigh.gov.uk/eastleighcgr



Resident Survey

Where possible, please complete this survey online at www.eastleigh.gov.uk/eastleighcgr

The scope of this review is focused on central Eastleigh and Boyatt Wood areas; however, given the proximity of Allbrook, it is important to also give Allbrook residents opportunity to share their views. By sharing your postcode this will enable us to consider the views of Allbrook residents separately.

1. Please give your full postcode, which we need to enable us to segment responses by neighbourhood:

Postcode

House number

2. Are you responding as: *(please tick)*

☐ a resident

☐ a business

☐ other *(please specify)*

3. What would be your preferred type of council? *(please tick)*

☐ a. The areas of Boyatt Wood and Eastleigh Town are merged to create a new local Town Council covering the combined area of Boyatt Wood and Eastleigh Town

☐ b. No changes, preference is to have separate councils covering the areas of Boyatt Wood Parish Council and Eastleigh Town Council

☐ c. Other – *(please specify)*

4. Should a new council covering the parishes of Eastleigh and Boyatt Wood also include the area of Allbrook?

(the views of Allbrook residents will be considered seperately)

☐ Yes – Allbrook Parish Council should merge with Eastleigh Town Council and Boyatt Wood Parish Council

☐ No – the Parish of Allbrook should remain as a separate council

5. Do you have any other comments or thoughts on the proposed changes to the governance arrangements for the centre of Eastleigh and the area to the north of the town centre?

Return to “Freepost EBC Electoral Services” or deliver in person to Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh SO50 9YN

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community Governance Review (CGR)?

A CGR allows a principal authority like Eastleigh Borough Council to put in place or make changes to town and parish councils - for example by creating, merging, abolishing or changing their boundaries.

What do town or parish councils do?

Town or parish councils are the first tier of local government and are separate elected bodies made up of local people representing the interests of their community. Their activities fall into three categories: delivering services, like parks, play areas and cemeteries, to meet local needs, giving the community a voice and representation, and improving the quality of life and community wellbeing.

How are they funded?

Town or parish councils are funded through a sum of money called a ‘precept’ – a separate charge that is added to, and collected with, the Council Tax. The town or parish council sets its own precept to finance the services and facilities it provides.

Why is Eastleigh Borough Council consulting on a Community Governance Review (CGR)?

Boyatt Wood Parish Council (BWPC) and Eastleigh Town Council (ETC) have requested that Eastleigh Borough Council conducts a community governance review in time for the 2026 town and parish council elections. It will consider whether merging them into a single, larger town council would serve residents better.

Research suggests that people have the greatest level of trust in their most local tier

of governance. Eastleigh Borough Council believes that strengthening the most local tier of decision-making is the best way to give residents greater ownership and control over the day-to-day activities and services delivered on your behalf. If a new larger council is created for the centre and north of Eastleigh it will give residents a stronger voice than the existing smaller town and parish councils.

Why is this consultation happening now?

The government has set in motion a local government review (LGR) that will create much bigger “unitary” councils serving as many as 500,000 residents. This means that Eastleigh Borough Council and Hampshire County Council are likely to be replaced by a council covering a much wider area than the present Borough, reducing residents’ representation.

What are the benefits?

With elected councillors representing your immediate neighbourhood, more key decisions on issues affecting your community are likely to be made locally; a larger local council would also have a stronger voice when engaging with the new unitary authority and would be in a better position to take on devolved services, keeping them locally accountable, and there should be financial efficiencies by combining operations. There would be a more unified approach to planning, community projects and local infrastructure would ensure coherent decision-making across the area, rather than separate councils working independently.

What would a new enlarged council deliver?

The responsibilities of the existing town and parish councils already include maintaining local parks, cemeteries, play areas, allotments and community buildings. They also have a strong voice in planning issues.

What area does it cover?

The scope of this review covers central Eastleigh and surrounding areas to the north.

Why does this review include the area of Allbrook when a decision was taken by Allbrook Parish Council to remain separate?

Legislation requires principal councils to ensure that community governance will reflect the identities and interests of the community, and will be effective and convenient. It should also take into account the impact on community cohesion, as well as the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish. A CGR should also consider boundaries of existing local parishes and, given the proximity of Allbrook to Boyatt Wood and Eastleigh, it is important that residents in this area can give their views.

When could the new council be created?

Administrative and financial arrangements will take effect from 1 April 2026. Changes to electoral arrangements will come into force at the first scheduled elections following the review. This would be in May 2026.

How can residents have their say on the CGR?

All interested groups and residents will be invited to give their views.

Should you wish to submit a representation regarding this review you can:

- Complete the online form: www.eastleigh.gov.uk/eastleighcgr
- email cgr@eastleigh.gov.uk
- post your written submission to “Freepost EBC Electoral Services” or deliver in person to Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh SO50 9YN
- return the consultation flyer to “Freepost EBC Electoral Services” or deliver in person to Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh SO50 9YN

Why should I respond to the consultation?

As a resident or local business, decisions on a range of important matters are made on your behalf all the time. Where there is an opportunity to have these decisions taken more easily and locally, we think people should take it. The consultations give local people a voice and opportunity to influence important decisions. It involves listening to and learning from local people before decisions are made.