

# Unitary Council candidates standing in Epsom and Ewell

10 April 2026



[Click here for](#) : Details of all candidates for East Surrey Unitary Council standing in Epsom and Ewell

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In the weeks ahead Epsom and Ewell Times will publish the personal statements of all candidates that wish to provide them to us.

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Residents across Surrey - including Epsom and Ewell - will go to the polls on **Thursday 7 May 2026** in elections that will reshape local government for a generation.

The vote is part of the Government's programme of **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**, which will replace Surrey's current two-tier system with **two new unitary authorities** from April 2027.

For Epsom and Ewell residents, this means voting not for the existing Borough Council, but for councillors who will form the new **East Surrey Council**.

## What voters are being asked to decide

The 2026 elections will choose councillors for the "**shadow**" **East Surrey Council**, a body that will operate alongside existing councils during a one-year transition period.

These councillors will:

- Set the first budgets and council tax levels for the new authority
- Establish governance structures and staffing
- Oversee the transfer of services ahead of April 2027

Once the new system comes into force, they will continue as full councillors of the new authority until at least 2031.

## How the new system will work

Under the reorganisation:

- Surrey's **12 existing councils** (county plus districts/boroughs) will be abolished
- Two unitary councils - **East Surrey** and **West Surrey** - will take over all services
- East Surrey will cover areas including **Epsom & Ewell, Elmbridge, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge**

Each new authority will deliver everything from bin collections and planning to education and social care - functions currently split between borough and county councils.

## Voting system and representation

Voters will be able to choose **up to two councillors per ward**, with the top two candidates elected under a first-past-the-post system.

Across East Surrey:

- 72 councillors will represent 36 wards
- Elections are based broadly on current county council divisions

## What it means locally

Importantly, **no elections are taking place in 2026 for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council itself**. Existing borough and county councillors will remain in post until March 2027, creating a period of overlap.

For residents, day-to-day services are expected to continue unchanged during the transition.

## Registering and voting

To take part:

- You must be registered to vote by **midnight on 20 April 2026**
- Photo ID is required at polling stations
- Postal and proxy voting options are available

## A pivotal local moment

The Surrey LGR Hub describes these elections as a key step in creating a simpler system of local government, with councillors elected in May playing a “key role in setting up and then running the new councils.”

For Epsom and Ewell, the vote represents a significant shift away from long-standing borough governance towards a much larger strategic authority - with consequences that will shape local services, taxation and representation for years to come.

Sam Jones - Reporter



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[Two unitary proposal confirmed](#)

[Epsom & Ewell Borough Council agrees to submit proposal recommending three unitary councils for Surrey](#)

[County council set to propose two unitary councils for Surrey](#)