



Civic Leadership in West Suffolk - Consultation

Creating a new Council for West Suffolk gives our communities an opportunity to help shape how it works. We are looking at the civic leadership of the new council – this is how our communities, businesses and local area are visibly championed. All councillors as part of their role demonstrate civic leadership but this is mainly the responsibility of a Chairman or Mayor, who also ensures the smooth running of council meetings.

We want to hear your views which will help inform the debate on whether borough status will be applied for and whether to have a Chairman or Mayor. Your views will also support further work on the role of the new councillors and their civic leadership responsibilities.

If you would like to read more information about the current roles and responsibilities of a district council chairman, a borough council mayor, ward councillors, leaders of the councils or town council mayors, please click here to read our short information sheet www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/civicleadership

The scope of this survey is West Suffolk's civic leadership. Whatever is decided will not affect the existing arrangements at parish or town level as they can co-exist. For example, Haverhill or Newmarket can continue to have town mayors whatever the decision at the West Suffolk level.

Please note the titles used to refer to the civic leaders in the survey are those currently used in the council constitutions – i.e. Chairman and Mayor. Dependent on what is recommended in terms of the future of civic leadership, alternative names will be considered.

Q1. We are keen to ensure we take account of the views of residents from across West Suffolk. To enable us to do this please provide us with the first 5 digits of your postcode below. We will not be able to identify respondents from this information. If you would prefer not to give this information, please write the name of your town or village in the box below, or you can leave it blank and move on to the next question.

3. Civic Leadership in West Suffolk

Q2. What do you think are the three MOST important things about civic leadership in West Suffolk? (Please select three statements) Civic leadership should:

- ☐ ensure the smooth running of council meetings in order to promote and increase public confidence in democracy
- ☐ be a visible champion for the council and community
- ☐ promote and represent West Suffolk and its communities locally, regionally and nationally
- ☐ promote local business
- ☐ promote local arts, heritage and culture
- ☐ give all residents, particularly children and young people, an understanding of citizenship and local institutions
- ☐ continue the history and heritage of West Suffolk
- ☐ engender a sense of local identity, belonging and pride
- ☐ promote community cohesion
- ☐ support local groups and community and voluntary organisations
- ☐ promote, support and champion specific issues for example, health and wellbeing, young people, older people, the environment, rural communities

something else:

Q3. What do you think are the three LEAST important things about civic leadership in West Suffolk? (Please select three statements) Civic leadership should not:

- ☐ ensure the smooth running of council meetings in order to promote and increase public confidence in democracy
- ☐ be a visible champion for the council and community
- ☐ promote and represent West Suffolk and its communities locally, regionally and nationally
- ☐ promote local business
- ☐ promote local arts, heritage and culture
- ☐ give all residents, particularly children and young people, an understanding of citizenship and local institutions
- ☐ continue the history and heritage of West Suffolk
- ☐ engender a sense of local identity, belonging and pride
- ☐ promote community cohesion
- ☐ support local groups and community and voluntary organisations
- ☐ promote, support and champion specific issues for example, health and wellbeing, young people, older people, the environment, rural communities

something else:

5. Borough or district status

The new West Suffolk Council will legally be a district council. However, the shadow council will have the option of applying for a borough charter, to be a borough council. The charter would cover the whole of the area of the new council – i.e. the area previously covered by Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

Q4. What do you think would be the benefits (if any) for West Suffolk of being a borough council, in terms of civic leadership?

Q5. What concerns would you have (if any) about West Suffolk being a borough council, in terms of civic leadership?

6. Civic figurehead

All Councils, including West Suffolk, must have a chairman. For some councils, who have borough status, this role can be taken by a mayor. If West Suffolk Council successfully applied for borough status, it then has an option to have either a chairman or a mayor as its civic figurehead.

Q6. What do you think would be the benefits (if any) for West Suffolk of having a mayor instead of a chairman, in terms of civic leadership?

Q7. What concerns would you have (if any) about West Suffolk having a mayor, instead of a chairman in terms of civic leadership?

7. Equality and diversity

Q8. How should the civic leadership of the new West Suffolk ensure they engage with, represent and support a wide range of individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds?

Q9. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

9. Your response

Q10. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Organisation (please state in the box provided below)

Details of organisation:

10. About you

In order to ensure that we engage with people from a range of backgrounds, please let us know some information about you by answering the following questions. The information will be used for equality monitoring purposes only and individuals will not be able to be identified.

These questions are optional and you can still be complete the survey without answering them if you would prefer not to.

Q11. Gender:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Q12. Your age category:

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-59
- ☐ 60-69
- ☐ 70+

Q13. Do you have any long standing illness, disability or infirmity?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q14. Please select your ethnic origin

- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Indian
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – any other Asian
- ☐ Black or Black British – African
- ☐ Black or Black British – Caribbean
- ☐ Black or Black British – any other Black
- ☐ Mixed – White and Asian
- ☐ Mixed – White and Black African
- ☐ Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed – any other mixed
- ☐ White – British
- ☐ White – Irish
- ☐ White – any other White
- ☐ Other ethnic group – Chinese
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Q15. If you would like to receive a link to the online version of the final report of the Civic Leadership Review, please give us your email address. This information will be held in line with our data protection policy and will only be used for the purposes of sending you a link to the report once it is published.