Fewer councils
Better value
Stronger communities

Proposed changes to councils in Derby and Derbyshire

Background information – July 2025

Tell us what matters to you

DERBYSHIRE
County Council

About Derbyshire

Derbyshire has a strong identity and spirit that's recognised nationally and internationally.

From its large rural areas including spectacular landscapes such as the Peak District National Park to its bustling market towns, characterful villages and the city of Derby, Derbyshire's unique contrasts make the county a special place for residents to live.

As well as its mix of rural and urban landscapes, Derbyshire's rich history and heritage combined with its central location within the UK, attracts visitors from far and wide, contributing to a thriving visitor economy. It also has a large manufacturing sector and 27 market towns which all play a significant role in the local economy.

Derbyshire is also part of the East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA) with an elected mayor for the area, unlocking new opportunities for skills, innovation and infrastructure development.

We want to build on Derbyshire's strengths and ambitions to ensure that all residents, from every corner of the county are proud of where they live, receive support when and where they need it and feel able to contribute to community life.

Local Government reorganisation in Derby and Derbyshire

The Government is planning to simplify how councils operate in Derbyshire – a process known as Local Government Reorganisation.
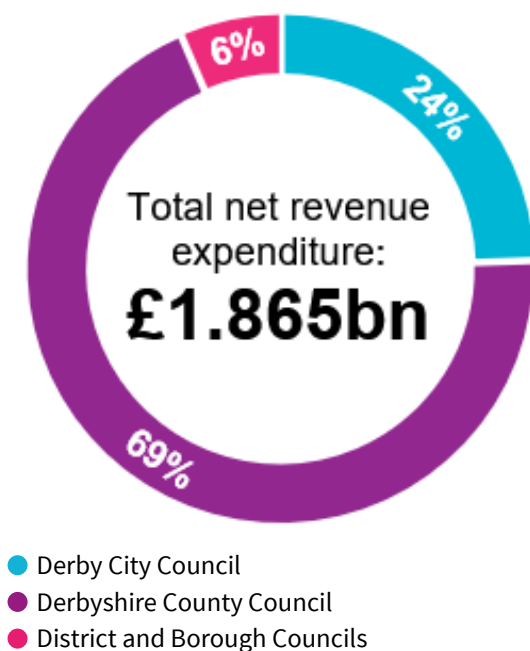
Currently, local government in Derbyshire is split into two tiers:

- ● **Derbyshire County Council** which delivers large scale strategic services including education, adults and children's social care, waste disposal and highways across the county.
- ● **Eight district and borough councils** which focus on more localised services including social housing, homelessness, leisure and waste collections in smaller areas.

Derby City Council is a unitary council which means it delivers all services within the city.

% net revenue expenditure 2023/24

Of all the councils in Derby and Derbyshire, the county council is responsible for providing the largest proportion of services. It is responsible for 69% of the revenue spending on services of all councils within Derbyshire and Derby, which in 2023/24 was a total of £1.865 billion. Derby City Council is responsible for 24% of all spending, and all district and borough councils combined are responsible for 6%.

Town and parish councils also operate at a community level in some areas to improve community wellbeing and manage local facilities such as village halls, however these councils are not included in the Government's plans for reorganisation.

The Government wants to move away from the current two-tier system of district and county councils and has indicated that for most areas this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more, but there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area.

Doing nothing is not an option. Government has said change will happen and has asked us to submit proposals by November 2025 on how local councils could be simplified.

We believe it's better for all of our residents and businesses if we get involved in the process, work to influence and shape decisions, and drive the process as much as we can.

6%
24%
Total net revenue expenditure:
£1.865bn
69%

- ● Derby City Council
- ● Derbyshire County Council
- ● District and Borough Councils

Source: 2023/24 Revenue Outturn Summary, LG Inform, July 2025

Why this matters for Derby and Derbyshire

Derbyshire residents deserve a modern, efficient and effective system of local government.

We need councils that can meet current and future challenges and support the area to grow and prosper, working closely with the East Midlands Combined County Authority.

We are committed to submitting a 'preferred option' to Government which recognises these benefits and is in the best interests of local Derbyshire residents and businesses, delivers better results and value for money for local taxpayers, maintains the county's strong identity and delivery of high-quality local services, and doesn't create an undue advantage or disadvantage for one part of the area.

From 10 councils to two

We want to create local councils which make sense for local people.

Following local elections in Derbyshire in May, all viable options were carefully considered against the Government criteria, with a strong focus on community identity and efficiency.

In July, at a meeting of the Full Council, it was agreed that current evidence suggests reducing the number of councils to two would be the best option to strike this balance.

The new councils would deliver the same services as the current county and district councils – with one council providing services for the north of the county and one for the south, including the city. They would both have new structures, fewer layers of bureaucracy and get better results for businesses and residents with services provided under one roof.

✅ **Simpler for residents** – one point of contact for north and south

✅ **Clearer accountability** – less confusion over who is responsible for what

✅ **Better value for money** – less bureaucracy means saving money

✅ **More local focus** – two councils to maintain truly local representation

Money saved could be spent on:

✅ **Fixing roads**

✅ **Adult and children's social care**

✅ **Waste collection**

✅ **Education**

✅ **Leisure facilities and parks**

✅ **Keeping council tax as low as possible**

We've identified three different options for how the councils could be organised:

Option A	Option B	Option C
Two councils with Amber Valley in the north	**Two councils with Amber Valley in the south**	**Two councils with a new boundary**
This option would form two new unitary authorities, one covering the north and one covering the south, using district boundaries with Amber Valley in the northern council.	This option would form two new unitary authorities, one covering the north and one covering the south, using district boundaries with Amber Valley in the southern council.	This option would form two new unitary authorities, one covering the north and one covering the south with a new boundary through Amber Valley and Derbyshire Dales.

Option A

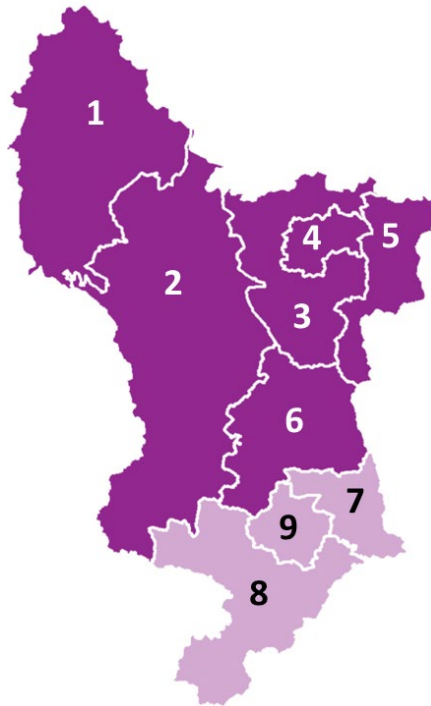## Two councils with Amber Valley in the north

This option would see two new councils replace the existing 10, split along the southern border of Amber Valley and Derbyshire Dales.

Northern Derbyshire

1 - High Peak
2 - Derbyshire Dales
3 - North East Derbyshire
4 - Chesterfield
5 - Bolsover
6 - Amber Valley

Southern Derbyshire

7 - Erewash
8 - South Derbyshire
9 - Derby City

Considerations for this option

✅ Benefits:

- Saves money compared to the current two-tier model
- Has support from other councils
- Aligns to East Midlands Combined County Authority structures
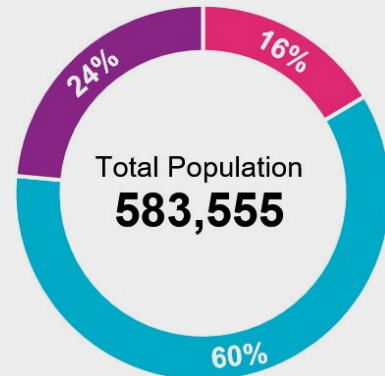- Right size to maintain local voice and identity

❌ Drawbacks:

- Northern Derbyshire council would be significantly larger than southern Derbyshire
- Countywide services would need to be split
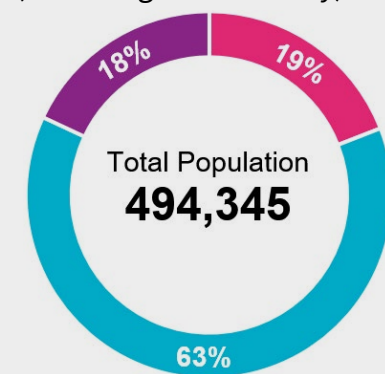- Older versus younger age profile between the two unitary authorities

Population

The northern unitary council under this option would have a total population of 583,555, 54% of Derbyshire's total population, which would be slightly larger than the southern unitary at 46%.

Northern Derbyshire
(including Amber Valley)

Total Population
583,555

24% · 16% · 60%

Southern Derbyshire
(excluding Amber Valley)

Age:
- 0-15
- 16-64
- 65+

Total Population
494,345

18% · 19% · 63%

Source: 2023 based Mid-Year Population Estimates, ONS, 2024

Based on 2023 Mid-Year Population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics, the proposed northern Derbyshire area would have a total estimated population of 583,555, with 16% aged 0 to 15 years, 60% aged between 16 to 64, and 24% aged 65 years and over. Whereas, southern Derbyshire would have an estimated population of 494,345, with 19% aged 0 to 15 years, 63% aged 16 to 64 years, and 18% aged 65 years and over.

Option B
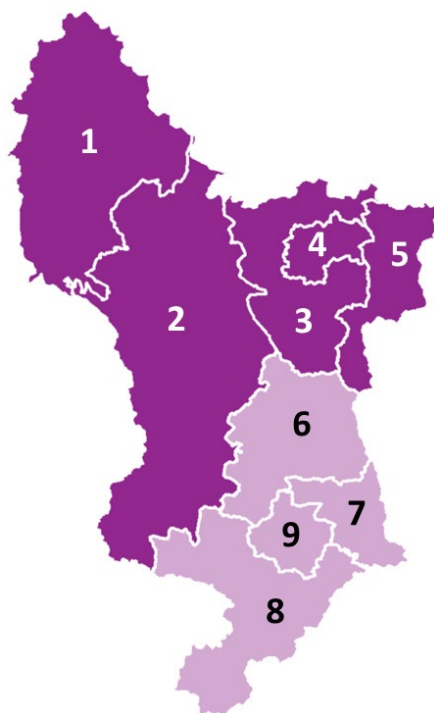## Two councils with Amber Valley in the south

This option would see two new councils replace the existing 10, split along the northern border of Amber Valley and the southern border of Derbyshire Dales.

Northern Derbyshire

1 - High Peak
2 - Derbyshire Dales
3 - North East Derbyshire
4 - Chesterfield
5 - Bolsover

Southern Derbyshire

6 - Amber Valley
7 - Erewash
8 - South Derbyshire
9 - Derby City

Considerations for this option

✅ Benefits:

- Saves money compared to the current two-tier model
- Has support from other councils
- Aligns to East Midlands Combined County Authority structures
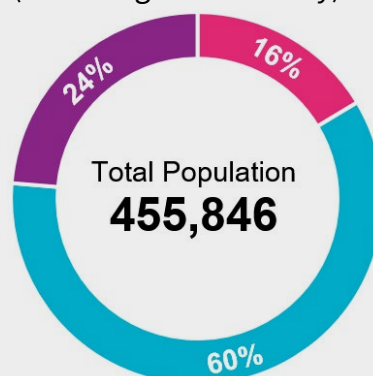- Right size to maintain local voice and identity

❌ Drawbacks:

- The unitary council in the south of the county would be significantly larger than the north
- County wide services would need to be split
- Older versus younger age profile between the two unitary authorities
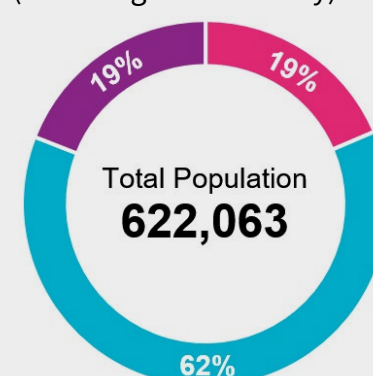
Population

Moving Amber Valley to the southern unitary authority council would mean a much larger proportion (58%) of Derbyshire's population residing in the south of the county, leaving 42% of residents in the northern unitary council area.

Northern Derbyshire
(excluding Amber Valley)

Total Population
455,846

16% · 60% · 24%

Southern Derbyshire
(including Amber Valley)

Total Population
622,063

19% · 62% · 19%

Age:
- 0-15
- 16-64
- 65+

Source: 2023 based Mid-Year Population Estimates, ONS, 2024

Based on 2023 Mid-Year Population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics, the proposed northern Derbyshire area would have a total estimated population of 455,846, with 16% aged 0 to 15 years, 60% aged 16 to 64 years, and 24% aged 65 years and over. Whereas, southern Derbyshire would have an estimated population of 622,063, with 19% aged 0 to 15 years, 62% aged 16 to 64 years, and 19% aged 65 years and over.

Option C

Two councils with a new boundary

This option would see two new councils replace the existing 10, split along current parish boundaries in Amber Valley and Derbyshire Dales.

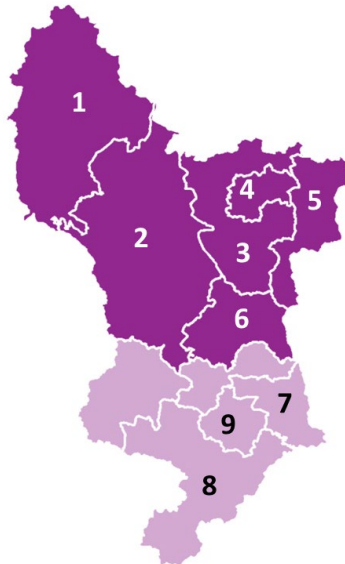This boundary between north and south is just a suggestion and we want your help to decide the best place for it.

Your thoughts about your local area are important to help us decide where the split should be if we choose this option. We've suggested which parishes could be included in the north area and which ones could be included in the south in Appendix 1 and you can also view how this would look on a more detailed map on our website

■ Northern Derbyshire

1 - High Peak
2 - Derbyshire Dales (part)
3 - North East Derbyshire
4 - Chesterfield
5 - Bolsover
6 - Amber Valley (part)

■ Southern Derbyshire

2 - Derbyshire Dales (part)
6 - Amber Valley (part)
7 - Erewash
8 - South Derbyshire
9 - Derby City

Considerations for this option

✅ Benefits:

- Could create more equal sized councils
- Saves money compared to the current two-tier model
- Aligns to East Midlands Combined County Authority structures
- More common sense north/south split
- Right size to maintain local voice and identity
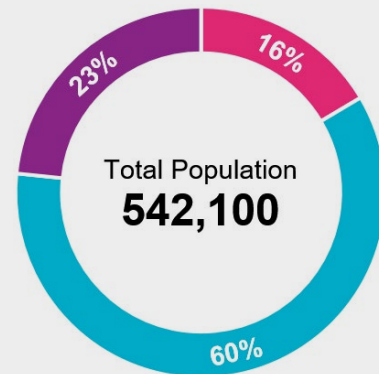
❌ Drawbacks:

- Countywide services would need to be split
- More complex to deliver
- Could cause confusion for areas subject to boundary changes
- Older versus younger age profile between the two unitary authorities

Population

The population size of both unitary councils would be similar under this option.
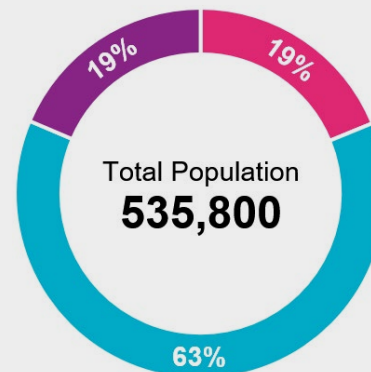
Northern Derbyshire
(split Amber Valley and Derbysire Dales)

Total Population
542,100

23% | 16% | 60%

Southern Derbyshire
(split Amber Valley and Derbysire Dales)

Age:
- 🔴 0-15
- 🔵 16-64
- 🟣 65+

Total Population
535,800

19% | 19% | 63%

Source: Guesstimate based on current Parish boundaries using 2022 and 2023 based Mid-Year Population Estimates, ONS, 2024

Based on 2023 Mid-Year Population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics, the proposed northern Derbyshire area would have a total estimated population of 542,100, with 16% aged 0 to 15 years, 60% aged between 16 to 64 years and 23% aged 65 years and over. Whereas, southern Derbyshire would have an estimated population of 535,800, with 19% aged 0 to 15 years, 63% aged between 16 to 64 years and 19% aged 65 years and over.

Have your say

Now we need to find out what matters most to you, so that our final proposal to Government can recommend councils that make sense for local people.

We want to know how you feel about where you live, what makes you feel connected to your local area and what you think about our options for new councils.

We want as many residents, town and parish councils, businesses, community organisations and partners as possible, to give us their views.

What you think really does matter and will help us shape the future of Derbyshire.

➡ Take part in our questionnaire

Next Steps?

After this survey closes on Tuesday 19 August 2025 we will gather all the responses to this survey to understand the views of residents, businesses and organisations throughout Derbyshire.

We'll then use the results to update our appraisal of all the options and include your views in our final proposal to Government alongside a range of other evidence and costings.

We will then submit a proposal to Government by 28 November 2025, with feedback on all proposals expected from Government in early 2026.

The Local Government Association (LGA) have developed a comprehensive list of **frequently asked questions** on their website where you can find more information about local government reorganisation.

Appendix 1

Parishes within Amber Valley and Derbyshire Dales

Option C involves creating a new boundary, splitting the borough of Amber Valley and Derbyshire Dale district along parish boundary lines. The following is a list of parishes which have been allocated to the north or south of the split for the purposes of the map and to illustrate where a dividing line to create two new councils might be placed. You can also view how this would look on a more detailed map on our **website**.

Amber Valley – North

- Aldercar and Langley Mill
- Alderwasley
- Alfreton
- Ashleyhay
- Belper
- Codnor
- Crich
- Dethick, Lea and Holloway
- Hazelwood
- Heanor and Loscoe
- Idridgehay and Alton
- Ironville
- Pentrich
- Riddings (unparished)
- Ripley
- Shottle and Postern
- Somercotes
- South Wingfield
- Swanwick
- Turnditch

Amber Valley – South

- Denby
- Duffield
- Holbrook
- Horsley
- Horsley Woodhouse
- Kedleston
- Kilburn
- Kirk Langley
- Mackworth
- Mapperley
- Quarndon
- Ravensdale Park
- Shipley
- Smalley
- Weston Underwood
- Windley

Derbyshire Dales – North

- Abney and Abney Grange
- Aldwark
- Ashford in the Water
- Atlow
- Bakewell
- Ballidon
- Baslow and Bubnell
- Beeley
- Biggin
- Birchover
- Blackwell in the Peak
- Bonsall
- Bradbourne
- Bradwell
- Brassington
- Brushfield
- Callow
- Calver
- Carsington
- Chatsworth
- Chelmorton
- Cromford
- Curbar
- Darley Dale
- Eaton and Alsop
- Edensor
- Elton
- Eyam
- Fenny Bentley
- Flagg
- Foolow
- Froggatt
- Gratton
- Great Hucklow
- Great Longstone
- Grindleford
- Grindlow
- Harthill
- Hartington Middle Quarter
- Hartington Nether Quarter
- Hartington Town Quarter
- Hassop
- Hathersage
- Hazlebadge
- Highlow
- Hognaston
- Hopton
- Hulland
- Hulland Ward
- Ible
- Ivonbrook Grange
- Kirk Ireton
- Kniveton
- Little Hucklow
- Little Longstone
- Litton
- Matlock Bath
- Matlock Town
- Middleton and Smerrill
- Middleton
- Monyash
- Nether Haddon
- Newton Grange
- Northwood and
- Tinkersley
- Offerton
- Over Haddon
- Parwich
- Pilsley
- Rowland
- Rowsley
- Sheldon
- South Darley
- Stanton
- Stoney Middleton
- Taddington
- Tansley
- Thorpe
- Tideswell
- Tissington and Lea Hall
- Wardlow
- Wheston
- Winster
- Wirksworth
- Youlgreave

Derbyshire Dales – South

- Alkmonton
- Ashbourne
- Boylestone
- Bradley
- Brailsford
- Clifton and Compton
- Cubley
- Doveridge
- Edlaston and Wyaston
- Hollington
- Hungry Bentley
- Longford
- Mapleton
- Marston Montgomery
- Mercaston
- Norbury and Roston
- Offcote and Underwood
- Osmaston
- Rodsley
- Shirley
- Snelston
- Somersal Herbert
- Sudbury
- Yeaveley
- Yeldersley