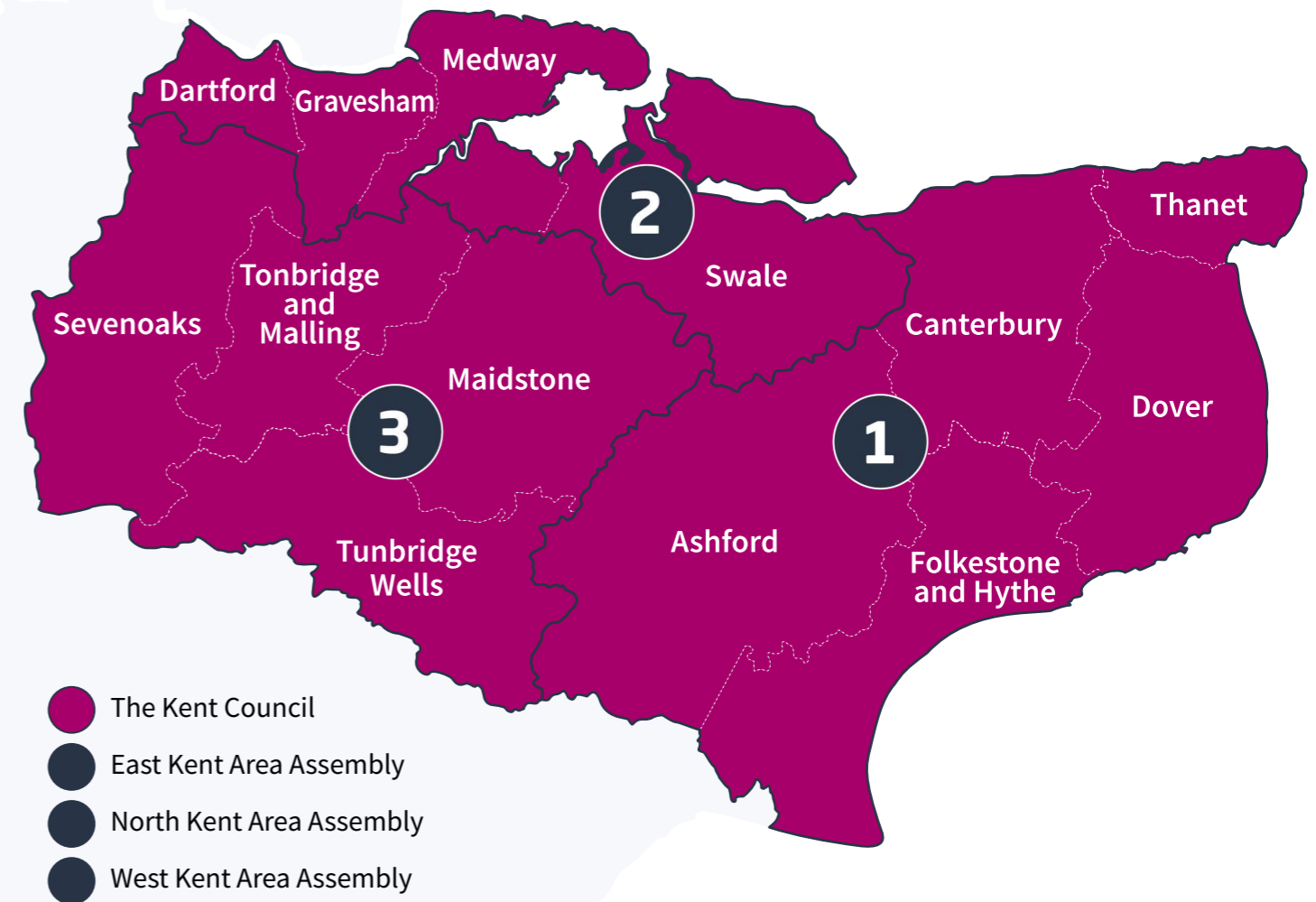


One Kent, One Council, Our Unique County

Kent County Council's proposal for
the future of your councils



- Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is the government's vision to create simpler councils that work better.
- Under the current system, Kent County Council (KCC) provides services such as education, social care and highways, while district and borough councils are responsible for services like rubbish collection and housing.
- Under the new system, KCC and the district and borough councils would be replaced by a smaller number of unitary council(s), who would be responsible for the full range of services in their area.
- KCC is proposing a single unitary council for Kent and Medway – the Kent Council – which would cost less and provide better council services.
- The government is asking people for their views to help decide on the best option for councils in Kent and Medway.



How one council for Kent and Medway would work

The Kent Council would set the budget and run vital, high-cost services like social care for adults and children and support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Keeping these together helps us run them more efficiently while still giving people the high-quality support they need.

The Kent Council would also run three Area Assemblies:

- **North Kent** – Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale
- **East Kent** – Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet
- **West Kent** – Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks

Area Assemblies would make decisions on place-based services in the local area such as maintaining roads and community services like libraries and Family Hubs, so they can flex to provide what people living there need.

One council makes your council tax go further

- Having one council is expected to save £457 million over 10 years – more than double the savings of any of the other options.
- The saving comes from cutting duplication and means more money to deliver and improve frontline services. This could mean quicker pothole repairs, cleaner streets and better local facilities.



One council protects your council services

- Countywide services like social care and transport will continue to be delivered by one Kent Council. If there were more than one council, this would disrupt services, add cost and bring postcode lotteries where services could get worse in some areas.
- All council services will be joined-up and work better with the Police and NHS so we can help people stay well and make sure our communities are strong and safe.
- We need the power of the whole county to manage the challenges of Kent being on the border with Europe, so this has less impact on day-to-day life.



One council gives you a stronger voice

- One council makes it clear who is responsible so you can hold local politicians to account.
- The Area Assemblies will make sure that local services work for the people that use them.
- The Kent Council will spend more time listening to you and have greater resources to fix things when they are wrong.



One council delivers what the people of Kent want

91% of respondents to KCC's resident survey agreed that it is important their council achieves good value for money for the taxpayer.

✓ One council saves more money, more quickly.

Residents told us that they feel connected to Kent and to their local area.

✓ The Kent Council keeps Kent together as a county while the Area Assemblies reflect local identity and the way people live.

People said that having a single strong voice for Kent and Medway is important.

✓ The Kent Council will stand up for the best interests of the county.

Some Kent businesses and organisations think that decisions on housing, planning and education should be more consistent across the county.

✓ One council means new housing is planned in the right places and comes with the roads, schools and other services needed.



Have your say on the future of your councils by 26 March 2026

You can take part in the consultation on the [government's LGR consultation webpage](#).

The one council option is called 1a.

Need a paper copy? Visit your local library or council building.

Other councils in Kent and Medway have submitted alternative options for three, four or five unitary councils. You can share your views on these proposals too.

You can see full details of all the options on the [Kent Council Leaders website](#).

What happens next

After the consultation closes, the government will review all responses and evidence.

A decision on the future of Kent's councils is expected in the summer of 2026.

The government expects that the new council or councils will take over in 2028.