



East Surrey Council Chief Executive – welcome letter



Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chief Executive for East Surrey Council.

We are at a defining moment for our communities. The creation of East Surrey Council is not simply a structural change, it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape how local government works, how we serve residents, and how we build trust in public service for the future.

For over 50 years, local government structures in Surrey have remained largely unchanged. This reorganisation gives us an opportunity to do things differently — to create a council that is open, transparent and genuinely focused on delivering outcomes for residents, businesses and communities.

We are ambitious for East Surrey. We want to build a modern, high-performing organisation from the outset. One that is clear about its priorities, honest about the challenges it faces, and committed to delivering high-quality services. This will require strong leadership at pace, particularly in the first year as we establish the new council, bring organisations together and set direction for the future.

At the same time, we are building for the long term. As Chief Executive, you will have the opportunity to work with elected members to define the new culture, identity and leadership ethos of East Surrey Council, shaping how it operates, how it engages with residents, and how it works with partners across the system to improve outcomes and drive growth.

We are looking for a leader who will work closely with us as a trusted partner. Someone who listens, brings sound professional judgement, and provides clear, confident advice in a complex and changing environment. You will need to be visible, collaborative and resilient, able to unite people around a shared purpose and lead through both challenge and opportunity.

This is a rare opportunity to build an organisation that reflects the ambition of the place it serves, and to create something that will endure for years to come. We look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Steve Wotton
Leader, East Surrey Shadow Council

