

12th April 2025

Devolution Priority Programme Consultation
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
LONDON
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CumbriaDevolutionConsultation@communities.gov.uk

Submission to Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation

I am making this submission to the *Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation* on behalf of the Association of British Counties, an unincorporated association which celebrates the 92 historic counties of the UK, highlighting their importance to our heritage, culture and sense of community and identity.

The Association of British Counties (ABC) has no views on the structures and functions of local or regional government. Our concern is that administrative terminology and administrative area names are chosen to draw a clear distinction between administration and the historic counties. We are happy for historic county names to be used by administrative bodies where these bodies cover an area close to that of the historic county. Our concerns relate solely to Question 7 and the extent to which the proposals reflect local identities. Our answers are below.

Questions 1-6: Neither strongly agree nor disagree.

Question 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined Authority will support the interests and needs of local communities and reflect local identities? **Strongly disagree. Reason:**

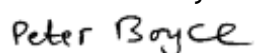
We suggest that the unqualified name ‘Sussex’ would far better reflect local identities than the proposed name ‘Sussex and Brighton’.

This proposed authority is a rare example of a modern administrative body which has an area very close to that of a historic county (see map). It seems an odd choice then not to reflect this in the combined authority name and simply call it ‘Sussex’. In contrast, the name ‘*Sussex and Brighton*’ sounds contrived and makes no geographical sense since Brighton is in Sussex.

Section 4.1 of the consultation document acknowledges that it is to the historic county of Sussex that people have a sense of loyalty and identity, not to ‘*East Sussex*’ or ‘*West Sussex*’. Hence, we also propose that the separate offices of a lord-lieutenant of ‘*East Sussex*’ and ‘*West Sussex*’ be combined into a single lord-lieutenant of Sussex, as proposed by ABC’s [Historic Counties of the United Kingdom Bill](#).

We would prefer that the new authority not be known as a ‘*Combined County Authority*’ since we do not wish to see the word ‘*county*’ used within administrative terminology. We understand it will cease to be called a ‘*Combined County Authority*’ once unitary local government is established, and we encourage the Government to ensure that this happens.

Yours sincerely



Peter Boyce
Chairman, Association of British Counties



The local government areas to form the '*Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority*' compared to the historic county of Sussex.