# Slough explores becoming part of Greater London amid local government shake-up



Slough, a town in Berkshire, is currently exploring the possibility of becoming part of Greater London amid a broad government initiative to reorganise local authorities. The Government's Devolution White Paper encourages reshaping smaller local councils into larger unitary authorities that will hold more powers locally rather than centrally from Westminster. This push for structural reform has put Slough, which has faced significant financial challenges, including a bankruptcy declaration in 2021 over a £760 million deficit, at the centre of discussions about its future governance.

The local council has been considering a range of options. These include merging with neighbouring councils in Berkshire such as Reading, Windsor, and Bracknell, joining Buckinghamshire, or most notably, merging with one of the London boroughs, particularly the London Borough of Hillingdon which borders Slough. There is even speculation about Slough potentially becoming a London borough in its own right. Senior councillors have emphasised Slough’s unique position and the need for any merger to place the town at the heart of decision-making, addressing pressing issues like debt and health inequalities. These discussions form part of an ambitious Government plan to consolidate local authorities into fewer but more powerful bodies, aiming for a transformative reorganisation by 2030.

The notion of Slough becoming part of Greater London is not without local support. A community-led proposal from former councillor Mewa S. Mann, co-signed by over twenty residents, highlights Slough’s intrinsic connection to London. The letter to Slough’s MP points out the strong daily commuter links to London, as well as cultural and economic ties, framing it as a natural extension of the capital rather than a detached town. This sentiment was echoed by London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who in recent comments welcomed the idea of Slough joining London. Khan referred to the historical growth of Greater London and stated he was “not surprised” by Slough's interest, expressing openness to discussions about expanding London’s boundaries. He described London’s growth over centuries and recognised the need to plan for such expansion thoughtfully.

This potential absorption of Slough into Greater London would represent the first significant boundary change since 1965, signalling a possible major shift in England’s local government geography. Analysts from institutions such as the London School of Economics note that the current configuration of London is not fixed and could evolve if both sides—the capital and Slough—are in agreement. The reorganisation could create larger, more resilient administrative entities better equipped to manage services and economic growth in a densely interconnected area. However, as yet, no formal negotiations have begun between Slough Borough Council and potential merger partners, and all considerations remain tentative.

The broader context of these discussions is rooted in the Government’s drive to empower local leaders by devolving greater administrative control and resources to unitary authorities. This policy aims to tackle inefficiencies and improve service delivery by creating larger local bodies. For Slough, this may mean a chance to overcome longstanding financial instability and benefit from closer integration with London’s economy and infrastructure networks. Yet, such a change would also raise questions about identity, governance, and local representation that will need careful management if such a merger proceeds.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2072042/UK-town-sadiq-khan-london), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2yngl3g1po), [[5]](https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/london-could-absorb-slough-under-english-devolution-plans-79198/), [[7]](https://www.tortoisemedia.com/2025/03/06/england-is-changing-shape--slough-is-just-the-start)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2072042/UK-town-sadiq-khan-london), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2yngl3g1po), [[4]](https://www.themj.co.uk/talks-potential-london-link-slough), [[5]](https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/london-could-absorb-slough-under-english-devolution-plans-79198/), [[7]](https://www.tortoisemedia.com/2025/03/06/england-is-changing-shape--slough-is-just-the-start)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2072042/UK-town-sadiq-khan-london), [[2]](https://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/news/council-and-politics/201626/former-mayor-calls-for-slough-to-become-part-of-greater-london.html), [[6]](https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/sadiq-khan-wants-peoples-republic-34778290)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2072042/UK-town-sadiq-khan-london), [[7]](https://www.tortoisemedia.com/2025/03/06/england-is-changing-shape--slough-is-just-the-start)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2072042/UK-town-sadiq-khan-london), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2yngl3g1po), [[5]](https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/london-could-absorb-slough-under-english-devolution-plans-79198/), [[7]](https://www.tortoisemedia.com/2025/03/06/england-is-changing-shape--slough-is-just-the-start)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2072042/UK-town-sadiq-khan-london> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/news/council-and-politics/201626/former-mayor-calls-for-slough-to-become-part-of-greater-london.html> - Former councillor Mewa S. Mann has submitted a community proposal to Slough MP Tan Dhesi, urging a serious dialogue about Slough joining Greater London. Over 20 residents co-signed a letter highlighting the town's intrinsic connection to London, citing daily commutes, engagement with London's institutions, and shared cultural and economic ties. The proposal aims to explore the tangible benefits of such a merger, emphasizing the longstanding relationship between Slough and London.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2yngl3g1po> - Slough Borough Council is considering merging with other councils under a major government-led shakeup. Options include merging with a west London borough, other councils in Berkshire, or forming a Thames Valley-wide strategic authority. Senior councillor Gurcharan Manku expressed a desire for Slough to be at the centre of any potential merger, emphasizing the borough's unique characteristics and the need to address critical issues like debt and health inequalities.
4. <https://www.themj.co.uk/talks-potential-london-link-slough> - Slough Borough Council is exploring the possibility of merging with a west London borough or boroughs. A report presented to senior councillors outlines this option, along with the potential for Slough to consider a merger with Buckinghamshire. The discussions are part of a broader government-led reorganisation of local authorities, aiming to create larger, more powerful unitary authorities.
5. <https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/london-could-absorb-slough-under-english-devolution-plans-79198/> - Slough Borough Council is considering merging with a west London council or becoming part of the Greater London Authority. This potential merger stems from the government's English Devolution policy, which aims to reduce the number of smaller local authorities in favour of larger ones with more power devolved from central government. The council has yet to start negotiations with potential merger partners, and no decisions have been made.
6. <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/sadiq-khan-wants-peoples-republic-34778290> - London Mayor Sadiq Khan has expressed openness to discussions with areas considering joining Greater London, including Slough. The Government's Devolution White Paper encourages the reorganisation of local governments into larger unitary authorities, granting more powers to local leaders. Slough Borough Council is contemplating merging with West London boroughs or being incorporated by the Greater London Authority, with the Mayor stating he is 'not surprised' by Slough's interest in joining London.
7. <https://www.tortoisemedia.com/2025/03/06/england-is-changing-shape--slough-is-just-the-start> - Slough Borough Council is considering becoming part of the Greater London Authority as part of a broader government-led reorganisation of local authorities. This potential change would be the first significant alteration to London's boundaries since 1965. The move is part of Labour's plan to transform local government boundaries, aiming for an ambitious first wave of reorganisation by 2030. The decision could have implications for other towns and cities in England.