

ECC and CCC Report

Consultations:

There are a number of consultations in progress – below is a reminder of them all:

Consultation - Pylons NG proposal accepted for Examination

Govt Planning Inspectorate have accepted NG's proposal for examination and consultation. The consultation registration deadline was 27th Nov. I have registered as a Chelmsford City Cllr, an Essex County Cllr and as an individual stating opposition to overhead lines, but also some specific local comments. Both City Council and County Council have registered, as have all the Parish Councils in my division along the route. These Parish Councils have also submitted a joint response.

[Norwich to Tilbury - Project information](#)

Many parishes along the route had a protest gathering on 15th Nov. I joined the one at Writtle.

The Planning Inspectorate phoned me because I had made several submissions and asked if they could be combined. It did give me the chance to ask if the comments made in registration would still be carried forward if people do not add to them when invited. This was confirmed.

Election - Devolution in Essex

This is transfer of powers from UK Govt to local authorities. Greater Essex will be a Mayoral Combined County Authority. The first Mayoral election was expected to take place in May 2026. It seems that the creation of the combined authorities will still progress, but the election of a Mayor will be postponed to May 2028. The [news was released](#) as the Government also announced its funding and approach for proposed combined authorities in the Devolution Priority Programme. (This decision also affects Norfolk/Suffolk, Hampshire and Sussex.) The Government says the delay is to allow local government reorganisation (LGR) to happen before the mayors are elected. However, they still intend to create the Greater Essex Combined County Authority (GECCA) in early 2026 and have announced some funding to make that happen. Greater Essex will receive a third of their annual investment funds in both 2026-27 and 2027-28. Without a Mayor, the voting members of GECCA will be three from Essex County Council (ECC) and two each from Southend and Thurrock - until LGR happens. There will be two District-tier leaders as non-voting members.

This announcement does not affect LGR which will continue as planned, with elections to new unitary councils in May 2027.

The announcement does not relate to local elections. Elections to ECC, Thurrock and one third of some Essex districts are currently scheduled for May 2026.



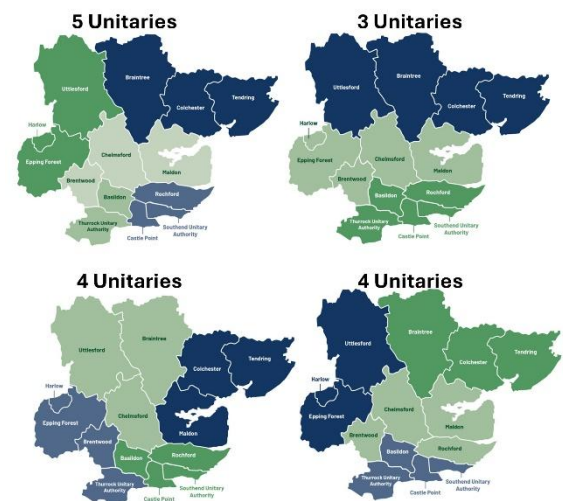
Reorganisation (LGR).

The existing county council (ECC), 2 Unitaries (Thurrock and Southend) and 12 district local authorities (including Chelmsford City Council), will be abolished in March 2028 and replaced with several single tier authorities. Several options have been submitted to the Govt which now goes out to consultation from Nov 25. I have sat through hours and hours of presentations, read 100s of pages, listened to several well-respected consultants who have different opinions. Quite how the public are meant to form a view, I am not sure. Perhaps the main consideration is which of our neighbours do we naturally align with? Elections for the Unitary Councils will take place in May 2027 and the elected Cllrs will spend the first year overlapping the current councils, whilst they set up the new Unitary councils ready to take over in March 2028.

[A stronger Greater Essex | Essex Local Government Reorganisation Hub](#)

Consultation - Chelmsford Community Governance Review (CGR)

Consultation - Local Government



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LGR will see the abolition of Chelmsford City Council, and there will be fewer, larger Unitary Councils. Whilst the rural areas have Parish Council representation for local services, the centre of Chelmsford is “unparished” (about 56,000 electorate). CGR is consulting residents (until 4th Jan if they want a Parish Council, and asking adjacent Parishes if they want to encompass some of the unparished areas

[Community Governance Review 2025](#)

Consultation - Chelmsford Local Plan review

Central Govt require our Local Plan to show a build rate of 1400 dwellings per year (60% higher than the current plan) to align with their target of an extra 1.5 million homes. There have also been shortfalls in the current plan because of Govt withdrawal of infrastructure funding (like the A12 widening). The net result is that City Council is having to look at new sites that can be readily delivered within the next 5 years. In my area:

- Broomfield – New - 200 homes Land West of Patching Hall Lane
- Great Waltham – increase from 20 to 75 homes Land South of Ford End Primary School
- Chignal – New – 100 homes Land North of Hollow Lane

Anyone can respond to the consultation which will run until 8th January 2026.

[Local Plan Review](#)