

## ECC Report

### Essex Safer Speeds Strategy

Essex County Council are carrying out a consultation on their draft **Essex Safer Speeds Strategy** - which sets out a new, flexible and evidence-based approach for introducing safer speed measures across Essex. **Speed is the biggest factor in fatal road collisions** in Essex. In **2025, 60 people died** on Essex roads, with almost **half of deaths linked to excess speed**. The strategy supports **Vision Zero** – the ambition that **no one should be killed or seriously injured on Essex roads by 2040**.

This strategy aims to promote safer, more user-friendly streets. A major part of it looks at reclassifying roads based on a 3 by 3 matrix of Place and Movement, rather than just having PR1, PR2 and local roads.

In my opinion it is the start of a major shift towards slower speeds and lower speed limits, but it genuinely wants to know whether the general public want this – in many places where lower speed limits have been imposed, there has been a public kickback and this is a more cautious approach aiming to take the public with them.

The survey opened 16 March 2026 and closes 26 April and can be found here [Essex Safer Speeds Strategy - Essex County Council - Citizen Space](#)

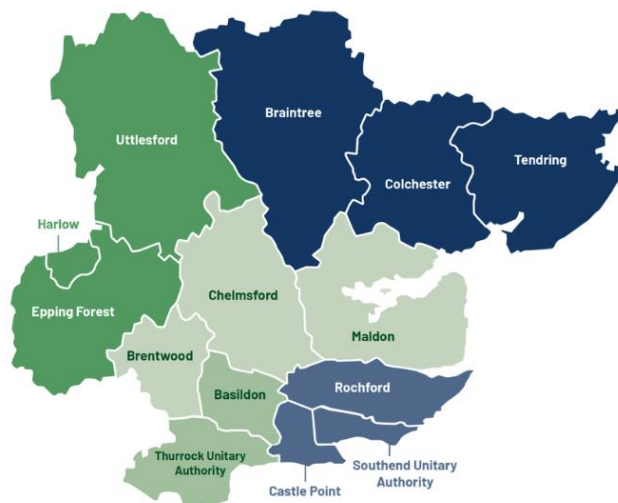
There is also a Chelmsford Drop-in consultation events - From 7 Apr 2026 at 10:00 to 7 Apr 2026 at 14:00 Tindal Square (outside Shire Hall), Chelmsford

## LGR

The Government has just announced (subject to parliamentary approval) that Chelmsford will join Brentwood and Maldon, along with Essex County Council services, to form a new mid-Essex unitary authority from April 2028. This forms part of the wider five unitary model which has now been selected for Greater Essex.

The new councils in Essex will be made up of the following existing authorities and Essex County Council services:

- Brentwood, Chelmsford and Maldon
- Braintree, Colchester and Tendring
- Epping, Harlow and Uttlesford
- Basildon and Thurrock
- Castle Point, Rochford and Southend-on-Sea



The Government has also confirmed their commitment to repayment in-principle of £200m of Thurrock Council's debt.

Until 1 April 2028, Chelmsford City Council and Essex County Council will continue to operate as usual. The latest information about local government reorganisation in Greater Essex will also be published on the joint [Essex LGR Hub](#).

ECC elections are going ahead 7th May 2026 and I will be standing for Broomfield and Writtle which has slightly changed with the loss of Great Leighs and the addition of Stock and Margaretting.

There is also the added complication that there will be a City Council by-election in Broomfield and the Walthams as there has been a resignation by the Lib-Dem Cllr at short notice. As you know, there are supposed

to be 3 Chelmsford City Cllrs for Broomfield and the Walthams, but Cllr Bugbee has been noticeable by her absence at any of the 4 Parish Council meetings (Greet Waltham, Little Waltham, Broomfield and part Carden Community), a permanent OOO on her email, and poor attendance at City Council meetings. I welcome the opportunity to have a more motivated City Cllr for City Council, to share the workload. Seena Shah will be standing for the Conservative group.

### **Pylons**

NI have just issued a note on changes to the application. I have been through the documentation and there is no mention of Chelmsford, so I can only assume that our suggestions for alternative undergrounding and routes, have not featured.

Apart from all the usual objections I have made in my capacity as ECC Cllr, CCC Cllr, PC Cllr and individual, I also pushed hard for a relatively minor change on pylon height and location next to Chelmsford Road in the "Waltham gap". Whilst this has no mention in the issued changes, it is possible that this might be catered for in that NGET had already requested flexibility to revert to standard lattice pylons in the Waltham gap following further technical details being refined.

I have sought clarification on this and whether such a change is still being considered and have had a response that my question will be placed before the Examining Authority as a deadline 3 submission, comments on any further information or submissions received by deadline 2, and it will be published on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website in due course.

### **Love Your Bus**

**Love Your Bus Round 2 (2025/26)** grant fund have now been notified of the outcome of their applications. This year saw exceptionally strong engagement across the county. Building on the first round (which received 12 applications and funded 8 projects), the second round received **24 applications**, with **23 projects successfully meeting the criteria and awarded funding**, totalling **£895,160**. One application was voluntarily withdrawn due to duplication.

A wide range of enhancements have been funded, including additional morning, peak, evening and weekend journeys, route extensions to isolated areas, reinstatement of withdrawn services, youth fare trials, marketing campaigns, accessibility initiatives, and improvements to passenger information. The geographic spread of awards continues to demonstrate strong countywide participation.

In my local area, the successes of the last 2 years have been:

#### **25/26**

##### **Roxwell Parish Council**

Add three weekday evening journeys on Route 46 (Chelmsford–Ongar) supported by pro bono marketing.  
£50,000

##### **High Easter Parish Council**

Trial a Monday route variation to Epping on 17/18, including ticket machine and Wi-Fi upgrades. **Conditional award** (Work with ECC on ticketing system integration)  
£31,580

##### **High Easter Parish Council**

Deliver marketing and promotional activity to improve visibility of Routes 17/18. Conditional award (website/app excluded; provided via Modernising PT Project)  
£23,473

#### **24/25**

##### **High Easter parish council**

Additional short Journeys added on service 17/18 2 days per week between Chelmsford and Chignall, including promotion of the service  
£17,200

More info: [Love Your Bus Information Hub](#)

### **City Council**

#### **Community Governance Review:**

Based on a 1% response rate, the decision has been taken to proceed with CGR. I did clearly state my objection, as a member of the working party on the basis that I do not believe a 1% response rate to be significant in statistical terms to support a change. However, this is going to the next stage of consultation.

ECC and CCC report for meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

This includes a proposed local change whereby there is a suggestion to extend the boundary of Broomfield PC to Valley Bridge Road. BPC responded to the first consultation that they would like to extend even further to incorporate the parade of shops, but this was rejected – although I pushed for this as it was something BPC were keen on.