Greater Essex LGR:
Summary of Proposal for Three Unitaries
Essex Association of Local Council Members
December 2025

Contents

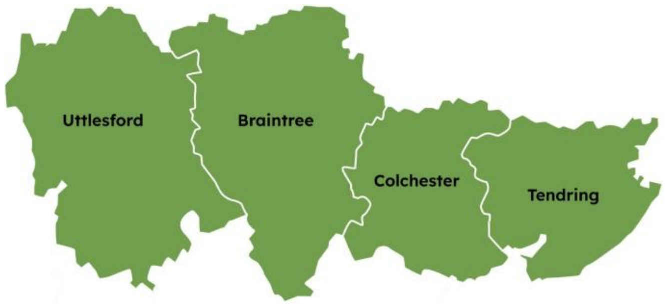
Key messages

- Our proposal for three new unitary councils for Greater Essex is designed to deliver what our residents tell us they expect from LGR which is **better services and better value for money.**
- Our model will save £86m in the first five years and then an ongoing £38m a year just from re-organisation providing the headroom to **invest in better services** and to **invest in community capacity and community infrastructure**. No other proposal creates this headroom to support investment.
- A community and neighbourhood approach is at the **heart of our vision and our model for LGR**, reflected in:
  - Our proposal for **Neighbourhood Delivery Committees** (NDCs) which is the most robust model being put forward for devolving real power to our communities.
  - Our commitment to a new **Neighbourhood Delivery Fund** with an initial endowment of £30m to invest in community projects and community infrastructure.
  - Our **enhanced support for elected Members** in leading the work of the Council and in leading the NDCs in their areas.
  - Our commitment to **joining up our neighbourhood working with local partners**, including parish and town councils, the voluntary sector and community groups, the NHS, the Police.
- Our proposal **protects, values, and supports the crucial role of parish and town councils** – you will be key partners in NDCs and through NDCs will have access to greater resources and system capacity to support your work.

Proposal for three unitaries

Three New Councils for Greater Essex

North Essex Unitary

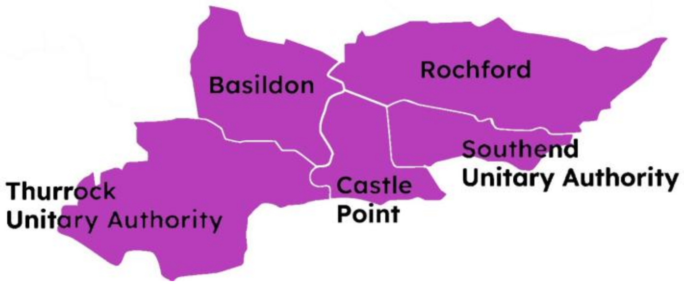


- **Geography:** Braintree, Colchester, Tendring, and Uttlesford.
- **Population:** 604,000; projected 10% growth by 2040
- **Economy:** £14.2bn GVA; 249,000 jobs.
- **Transport links**: A120, A12, Stansted Airport, Harwich Port, Great Eastern Main Line, West Anglia Main Line.
- **Sector strengths:** clean energy, life sciences, digital tech, manufacturing, logistics, tourism.
- **Key growth sites**: Tendring-Colchester Garden Community
- **Additional homes needed by 2040:** 64,000

Mid Essex Unitary

- **Geography:** Brentwood, Chelmsford, Epping Forest, Harlow, and Maldon.
- **Population:** 564,000; projected 4% growth by 2040
- **Economy:** £17.6bn GVA; 259,000 jobs.
- **Transport links**: A12 and M11 corridors and Great Eastern Main Line.
- **Sector strengths:** Life sciences, professional & financial services, construction, digital technology.
- **Key growth sites**: Chelmsford Garden Community, Harlow Gilston Garden Town.
- **Additional homes needed by 2040:** 67,000

South Essex Unitary



- **Geography:** Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, and Thurrock.
- **Population:** 729,000; projected 10% growth by 2040
- **Economy:** £19.1bn GVA; 317,000 jobs.
- **Transport links**: Thames Freeport, Southend Airport, A127, the A13 and the Essex Thameside rail corridor.
- **Sector strengths:** Logistics, construction, clean energy, advanced manufacturing.
- **Key growth sites**: Dunton Hills Garden Village .
- **Additional homes needed by 2040:** 77,000

The most evidence-based and collaborative model

Evidence-based

- ✓ We were led by the evidence and didn't decide on our preferred model until July once the core evidence was in and had been assessed.
- ✓ The evidence base is robust and includes modelling that is authoritative and, in some cases, has been tried and tested in previous rounds of LGR - including:
  - PwC analysis on the financial impacts of different numbers of unitary councils
  - Newton Europe analysis on the impacts of disaggregation on people services
  - CIPFA high level analysis on the debt position of authorities in Greater Essex
- ✓ We weren't just led by the financial numbers though (as they would have pointed towards a two unitary model) but rather took full account of the range of Government criteria, including promoting economic growth, housing growth, community empowerment and place identity – which led us to three unitaries.

Collaborative and transparent

- ✓ The evidence base we rely on was commissioned by and shared with all 15 authorities in Greater Essex
- ✓ The evidence base has been subject to detailed review by all S151 officers and also reviewed by all CEOs
- ✓ CEOs and officers have also had an opportunity to contribute via a series of policy workshops
- ✓ The contents of the three unitary business case has been shared and explained at webinars to which all 700 elected Members have been invited

X **The above is not true of all the other Greater Essex business cases**

Why three unitaries

The model that best delivers savings and financial sustainability

- ✓ £387m of savings by 2040 and 2.7 years payback for reform alone
- ✓ Best distributes and manages the high levels of debt in the system
- ✓ Avoids excessive concentration of debt and service demand in authorities too small to manage them
- ✓ Creates authorities that will be sustainable both now and in the future in the face of predicted rising service demand

The model that best supports stability and performance in social care

- ✓ Minimises disruption to services that are already high performance and low cost
- ✓ Avoids an escalation in numbers of adults and children in residential care that could cost an additional £100m in children's alone
- ✓ Ensures authorities have the scale and resources to manage key risks – e.g. workforce risks, provider market risks
- ✓ Ensures authorities have the scale and resources to continue investing in prevention and early intervention to manage demand

The model that best ensures a smooth transition of critical services

- ✓ Avoids creating new social care authorities which would give rise to considerable transition risks: new leadership teams; more IT systems; more disaggregation and fragmentation; more uncertainty and anxiety for frontline care staff and service users

The model that best supports economic and housing growth

- ✓ Creates dynamic economic geographies based around our three cities and other engines of growth
- ✓ Unlocks the barriers to housing growth that have held us back particularly in the south of Essex
- ✓ Will support effective working with the Mayor and the MCA

What do our residents think?

Two key points stand out from research that has been carried out with Greater Essex residents . . .

1) LGR will stand or fall on whether it leads to improved services and better value for money

When asked to identify benefits from LGR:

- **85%** said "I would support a change if it led to better services" (the top score)

When asked what was most important to them in how local councils work:

- **52%** said "ensuring public funds are spent efficiently on what matters to me and my area"
- **45%** said "improving the quality of council services" (the top two scores)

2) Residents are generally opposed to the five unitary model

- Only **37%** of respondents supported the 5UA proposal, with **44%** not supporting, and the remainder neutral
- The largest respondent group, at **28%**, was those who strongly do not support the proposal

- Southend-on-Sea is the only area where support for the 5UA proposal is **above 50%**; all other areas in Greater Essex oppose the proposal
- In nine of the 12 districts of Essex, support for the 5UA proposal is **below 40%**; in four Essex districts support for the 5UA proposal is **below 30%**

Localism

Localism: the key points

Three unitaries for Greater Essex are not inherently less local than five unitaries

- All councils under LGR will be significantly larger than people's sense of their local place – for most people that will be their town, their village or their neighbourhood
- Therefore, it can only be rhetoric rather than reality to describe councils of around 650,000 as "mega councils" and councils of around 400,000 as "local councils"
- The key test, as the Government recognises, is for councils to embed locality working in how they operate so that decisions are taken as close to residents as possible and with their active involvement

The three unitary model provides a very strong approach to locality working

- We have the most robust and developed proposal for Neighbourhood Delivery Committees in Greater Essex – with indicative areas, membership, and roles and responsibilities. Other business cases say less on their approach than we do
- Our business case includes a commitment to an initial endowment of £30m to support the work of the NDCs and the savings generated by our model provide financial headroom to support ongoing investment in communities
- Our model reduces the number of elected Members from 700 currently to 284 – a reduction that will deliver material savings while maintaining the strong role of Members; and there will be enhanced support to Members
- We will build on an already strong track record of community working – e.g. neighbourhood health and care teams, Active Essex, Caring Communities Commission

We do have concerns about the ability of the 5UA model to deliver on its localism pledges in practice

- Councils that believe they are already "set up to be local" are more likely to centralise power and less likely to devolve real power to NACs/NDCs
- Councils that are cash-strapped or in EFS will simply not have the resources to invest in local communities, as this is discretionary investment that requires headroom

Localism is also central to our view of public services

A top-down approach to public service delivery simply cannot deliver the outcomes that our residents need and expect

Community leadership and voice important across a range of key areas including:

- Pride of place
- Community safety and anti-social behaviour
- Community cohesion
- Community health and wellbeing
- Local transport
- Local environment
- Local housing and development issues

Essex Caring Communities Commission set out how empowered communities can be at the heart of more local and preventative public services. This is aligned with the new NHS 10-Year Plan.

Hence localism features prominently in our LGR proposal

It is **not correct** to say that three unitaries will be less local than four or five unitaries, just because the councils are bigger. Localism runs through our proposal, and we have made several concrete commitments to support this

1) Parish/town councils absolutely to remain at the heart of local democracy, service delivery and community voice
2) New Neighbourhood Delivery Committees to be set up as required by Government – to complement, not replace, parish/town councils
3) Localism to be embedded in new unitary councils' culture and working practices
4) New Neighbourhood Delivery Fund to be set up with initial £30m endowment
5) Simplified accountability with fewer unitary councillors than current county/district councillors and with enhanced support to councillors
6) We fully support the five design principles set out in the Joint Statement from the Essex Community Foundation and Local Infrastructure Organisations

Parish/town councils are a key pillar of local democracy in Essex

- There are more than 300 civil parishes across Greater Essex
- These vary significantly in size – smallest has population of just 27, while the largest has population of 38,000
- While parishing is widespread across most ECC districts, it is not so in some urban areas or in Southend and Thurrock. Therefore, around half (930,000) of Greater Essex's 1.9m residents are served by a parish or town council
- We recognise that when they think about their home area, most residents think "hyper-local" – much smaller than current districts. Therefore, where they exist, parishes are a very good foundation for local democracy and place-based working
- Our three unitary proposal recognises the important role that parish/town councils play; it does not change that role; and we envisage that the package of commitments to strengthen localism will also strengthen joint working with parish/town councils

Neighbourhood Delivery Committees

- Alongside our commitment to continue working with parish/town councils, our LGR proposal includes a commitment to set up new Neighbourhood Delivery Committees (NDCs)
- This commitment meets the Government's specific requirement that all LGR proposals have robust neighbourhood governance, including neighbourhood area committees, to embed localism and empower communities
- NDCs (or NACs in other business cases) are **not** *"new district councils by the back door"*, and they are **not** *"new parish/town councils by the back door"*. They perform their own specific role (as described later)
- We have set out substantive proposals on NDCs because we want to stimulate discussion and feedback. But they are just that – proposals for discussion. It will be for the unitary councils to make the decisions about how NDCs will work

How we envisage Neighbourhood Delivery Committees working

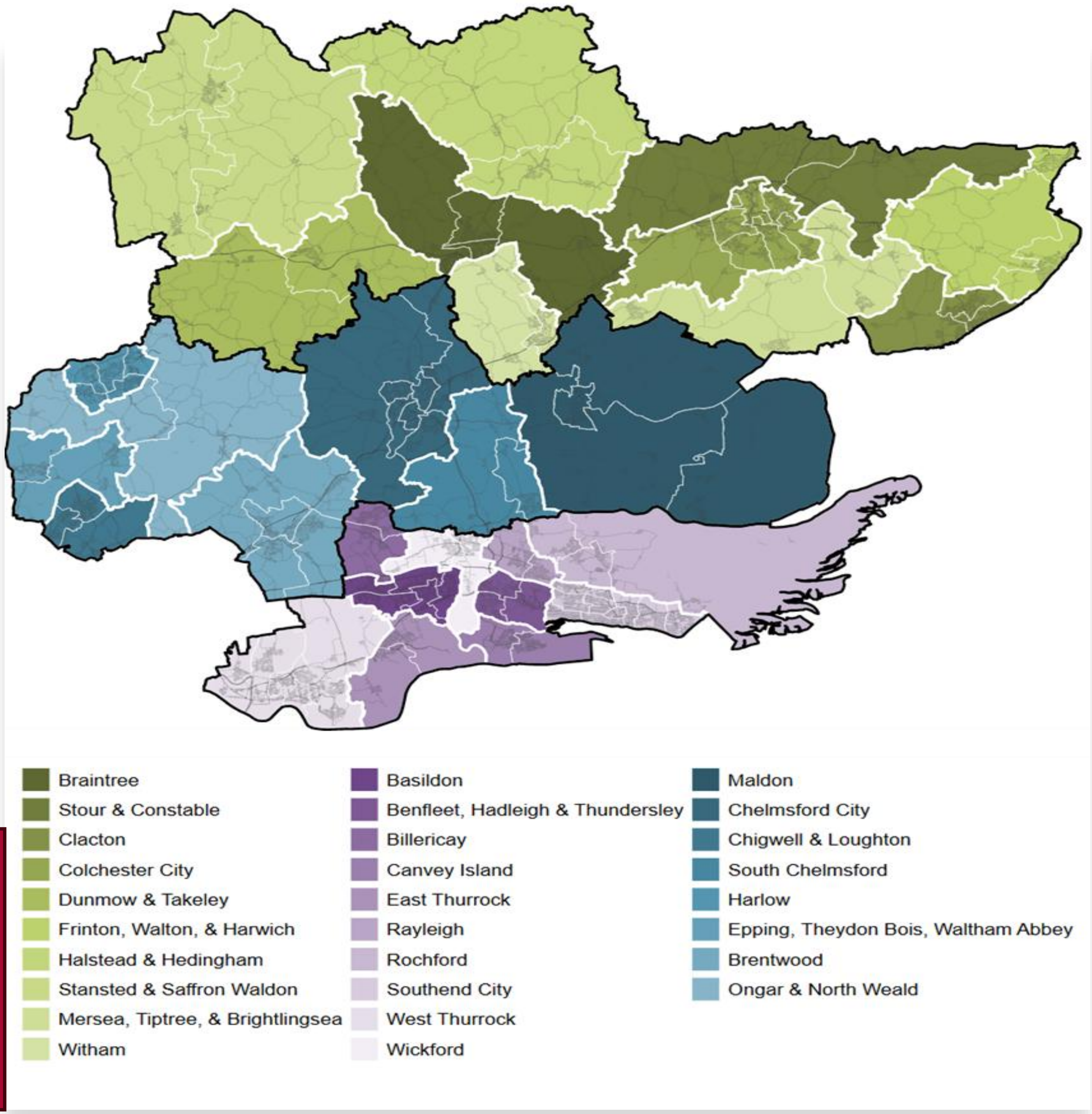
- We envisage NDCs operating at a range of geographical scales: from groups of villages, to market towns and their surrounding hinterlands, to large and fast-growing cities.
- NDCs will thus provide a sound basis for local place leadership, ensuring that smaller towns and villages can articulate their priorities and concerns within the new unitary authority structure on the same footing as larger towns and cities.
- How NDCs operate may vary from place to place to reflect local circumstances and what will be most effective for that area

Formal Area Committees
Every area covered by one NDC. Voting members: local elected councillors (Chair elected by committee).

Local Decision-Making
Allocate resources from a council-provided budget. Can raise extra funds (sponsorship, grants—not taxes).

Community Engagement
Bring together partners: NHS, police, housing, parishes, businesses, voluntary sector. Public can participate: raise issues, ask questions, join panels.

Flexible Powers
Powers and responsibilities tailored to each area's needs. Strong governance and controls in place.



Potential Neighbourhood Delivery Committee Areas

- This is **indicative** at this stage – for discussion
- Envisages 28 NDCs in total:
  - 10 in North Essex unitary
  - 8 in Mid Essex unitary
  - 10 in South Essex unitary

Elected unitary councillors in the three unitary model

- Elected unitary councillors will be the most important and most direct link between communities, businesses, the new unitary authorities and the Mayor of Greater Essex.
- The creation of new unitary councils, and the end of two-tier local government, will simplify local democratic structures in Essex.
- It will give residents and community leaders more clarity on who their councillors are and enable Members to champion all the needs of their communities, unfettered by the constraints that Members operate under in the two-tier system. Resulting in reduced bureaucracy to get things done that matter to local people

Current Structure:

- Greater Essex has 700 councillors (75 county and 625 unitary/borough/city/district) with each councillor representing an average of 1,963 electors.

Proposed Changes:

- 3 councillors per division, (except one division in Southend-On-Sea with 2 councillors)

Impact:

- Total councillors reduced to 284. Each councillor will represent an average of 4,839 electors to maximise electoral equality across council areas.

Incorporating feedback from parish/town councils

We have listened to feedback from town and parish councils and have sought to shape proposals in line with this. Town and Parish councils told us that they want LGR to:

- Recognise their unique experience and role in representing local voices;
- Establish formal structures for parish councils to contribute to decision-making and policy consultations;
- Ensure equitable representation and resourcing across different regions, particularly coastal and rural areas;
- Address local challenges such as deprivation, health inequalities, and environmental pressures through locally informed planning;
- Maintain the individuality and heritage of communities while enabling strategic coordination across the county;
- Avoid centralisation that could dilute local accountability and responsiveness.

We believe the proposals we have set out (covered earlier) respond to and address these points

We have signed up to the Essex Community Foundation Principles

Principle	In practice
Local Government Reflects Communities	Governance structures must represent and respond to the unique identities and needs of local communities.
VCFSE Sector's Governance Role	Include Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sectors in decision-making to amplify community voices.
Long-Term Place-Based Investment	Sustained funding supports local, sustainable initiatives that build community resilience and empowerment.
Championing Community-Led Solutions	Enable communities to design and deliver services that meet their specific needs, encouraging innovation and ownership.
De-centralised Decision Making	Decisions should be made close to the people affected, ensuring accessible and transparent governance.

The financial case

Efficient and Sustainable Public Services

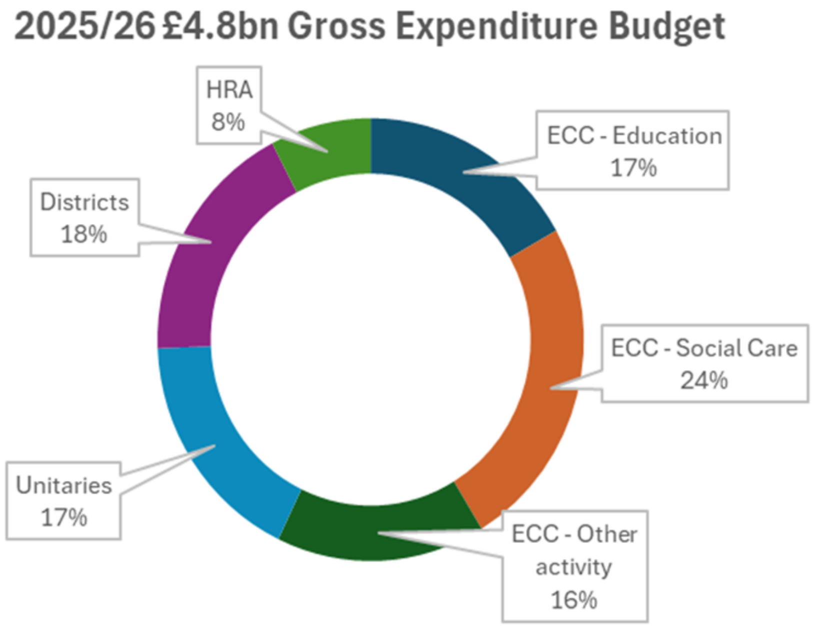
Greater Essex faces considerable financial challenges; this is one of the key reasons why reorganisation is important.

The region's gross annual expenditure is £4.8bn, with **57%** of spending through Essex County Council and **17%** by Southend and Thurrock. Notably, excluding education and HRA, **over 45% of all net spending relates to social care**, highlighting the importance of maintaining high-performing and cost-effective services.

There is a collective **forecast budget gap of £55m for 2028/29**, aside from the £280m forecast SEND High Needs block deficit and assuming sustainable balanced budgets are set by all over the next 2 years.

Latest Capital Financing Requirements total **£5.2bn** with **£4.1bn of external borrowing that is likely to rise** as local reserves are expected to be drawn on heavily over the next 3 financial years.

5 districts have **delayed audits** or received **disclaimed opinions** not specifically related to the government's backstop arrangements and **6** districts had **significant weaknesses in VFM** arrangements reported for 2023/24. Basildon and Thurrock have **no VFM commentary from 2020/21** onwards.



Efficient and Sustainable Public Services

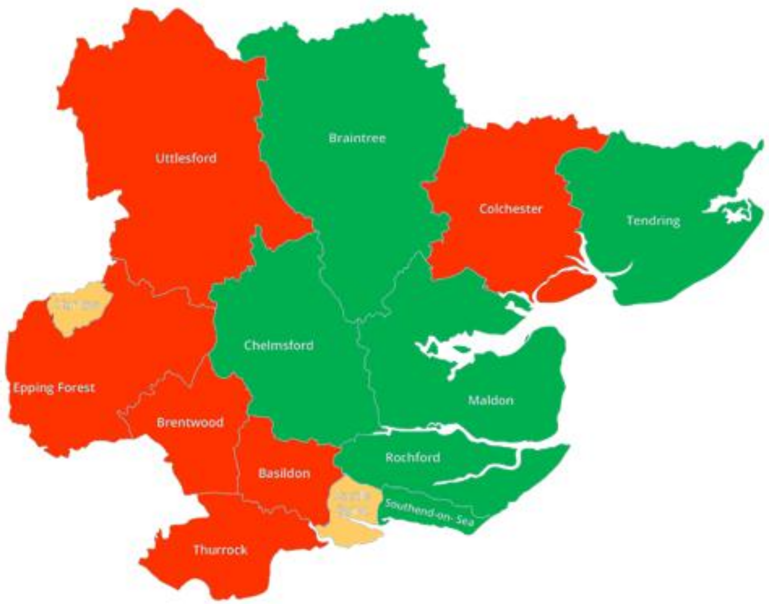
Debt analysis

- Total external debt across Greater Essex is £4.124bn, with additional implied internal borrowing of £1.121bn (£5.245 CFR).
- £82m of General Fund annual debt servicing costs relate to Thurrock.
- The maps show a RAG of the distribution of General Fund debt repayment as a percentage of annual net revenue budgets.
- This demonstrates how significant the cost of repaying debt is across the West and the South in particular, even after the disaggregation of ECC debt financing which reduces the overall risk assessment for all district areas.
- New unitaries that these existing authorities are replaced by must contain these costs within operational revenue budgets.
- The three-unitary model can better absorb debt pressures by more evenly balancing the cost of debt financing than other models.

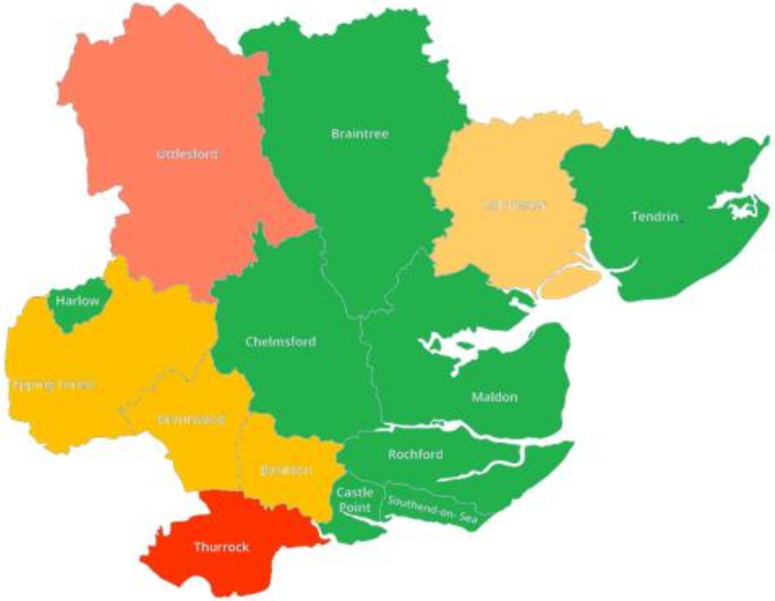
	2025/26 Net Revenue Budget	Total Financing Costs	Financing Costs as a % of budget	Financing Costs as a % of budget after ECC disaggregation
	£000	£000		
Basildon	37,110	19,053	51.3%	16.5%
Braintree	21,340	1,757	8.2%	8.8%
Brentwood	10,954	5,252	47.9%	15.8%
Castle Point	15,588	1,812	11.6%	8.6%
Chelmsford	26,580	2,407	9.1%	8.0%
Colchester	29,674	9,812	33.1%	11.6%
Epping Forest	19,383	8,398	43.3%	15.3%
Essex	1,212,006	99,982	8.2%	
Harlow	17,843	1,870	10.5%	8.0%
Maldon	12,416	2	0.0%	8.0%
Rochford	13,943	232	1.7%	9.0%
Southend-on-Sea	174,253	15,789	9.1%	9.1%
Tendring	17,660	233	1.3%	6.1%
Thurrock	240,657	81,713	34.0%	34.0%
Uttlesford	15,682	14,693	93.7%	24.0%
	1,865,089	**263,005**	**14.1%**	**14.1%**

*ECC financing costs have been disaggregated on the basis of population

Debt financing costs as a % of net budget before ECC disaggregation



Debt financing costs as a % of net budget after ECC financing cost disaggregation



Efficient and Sustainable Public Services

The Financial Model

The financial model developed by PwC, in liaison with all 15 S151 officers across Greater Essex, was used to evaluate five local government reorganisation options. The three unitary model offers:

- The highest financial benefit among all the options being proposed to Government (and second only to the two unitary model).
- up to £36m more savings per annum from reorganisation alone compared to the most expensive five unitary model and costs less to implement.
- Net benefit of £86m after 5 years.
- Payback period of 2.7 years.
- Cumulative benefit of £387m by 2040, from reorganisation alone, excluding transformation and wider public service reform benefits.
- A three-unitary configuration offers the most balanced distribution of funding relative to service delivery costs compared to other options.

The model assumes a "safe and legal" authority from day one.

	Number of Unitaries			
	Two	Three	Four	Five
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Implementation costs	**(60)**	**(74)**	**(89)**	**(105)**
On-going annual net savings / (costs)				
2028/29	27	19	3	(12)
2029/30	40	28	11	(5)
2030/31 (first year of on-going net saving excl. implementation costs)	**53**	**38**	**18**	**2**
2031/32	53	38	18	2
2032/33	53	38	18	2
Total net benefits / (costs) after 5 years	**167**	**86**	**(21)**	**(114)**
Payback period (years)	**1.8**	**2.7**	**6.1**	**53.6**

Critical services

Unleashing Opportunity – delivering outcomes for residents: Education, SEND, Children's Services and Adult Social Care (1 of 2)

Greater Essex is facing growing pressures on public services due to demographic and social changes:

- Ageing Population: By 2040, over a third of residents in some districts will be aged 65+.
- Rising EHCPs: Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) spending is projected to rise by 150% by 2040.
- Complex Needs: More young people are entering adulthood or presenting in adult social care with increasing complexity of need.
- Workforce Shortages: Staffing gaps in social care, education, and therapy services.
- Fragile Markets: Limited access to essential and affordable services like residential care and SEND provision.

The three unitaries model addresses these challenges by:

- Creating authorities that are better equipped to manage demand and deliver high-quality services.
- Supporting innovation and investment in prevention.
- Balancing scale and localism.
- Offering a fairer distribution of demand and financial risk across new authorities.
- Preserving existing collaborative arrangements.
- Simplifying alignment with partners such as the NHS, police, and education providers.

Unleashing Opportunity – delivering outcomes for residents:

Education, SEND, Children's Services and Adult Social Care (2 of 2)

Challenges faced by other models

- **Higher Costs:** servicing these models will be higher cost – more senior staff; more IT systems; loss of commissioning economies of scale.
- **Unequal Distribution of Demand and Risk:** Under the five unitary model, one authority would hold 25% of all EHCPs, another would have the highest levels of older people and deprivation.
- **Risk to Prevention and Early Help Services**: Smaller unitaries may struggle to maintain effective early intervention services currently in place, which could lead to increased numbers of children in care and higher long-term costs.
- **Ability to withstand provider failure:** Smaller unitaries may struggle with changes in the market or provider failures.
- **Greater Complexity and Fragmentation:** Creating more authorities would increase system complexity, making collaboration with partners like the NHS and Essex Police more difficult.

The analysis for more smaller unitaries doesn't add up

The 5 unitary business case in particular claims that having a larger number of smaller new unitaries will lead to a better and lower cost social care system. **We strongly disagree with this claim, which is based on several misleading or inaccurate assertions**.

Claim in 5 UA business case	Why this doesn't add up
The 5UAs would save £79.3m per annum on adult social care	• A risky assumption - the data is incomplete, excludes London in generating average costs, skewing results to the North of England which typically has a different pay and property costs and a lower number of self funders. • It ignores the starting point in Essex, where rates of admissions into residential care are far, far lower than in Southend and Thurrock. • The PeopleToo report correctly says admissions to residential care drive cost, but actual local performance has not been used to inform the 'size of the prize'.
5 UAs will be able to commission care services more cheaply through local providers rather than more expensive national providers	• Essex has 600-700 care providers, the vast majority are locally based, it is unclear why the 5UA case thinks we should pay local providers less. • There is no evidence that care providers charge larger councils more because they have bigger budgets. If anything, larger councils drive economies of scale through greater purchasing power. We also commission in local lots with local pricing, where of benefit so already realise savings from this approach. • ECC's current cost of care reflects local differences in wage rates and property costs and is driven by the market. • From 2028 pay and conditions will be set nationally via the Fair Pay Agreement process.
5UA's will be able to "do prevention" more effectively because they will be closer to local communities and better able to link in with local health and housing services	• Key to prevention is having the ability to work locally but also the financial headroom and resilience to be able to invest, The PeopleToo report states counties perform strongly in terms of diversion to universal services. • Five unitaries will **make prevention harder not easier** because a more fragmented system is harder to co-ordinate action across partners – as we moved to a single ICB for Essex. • The most effective approach is to start with a simple system, with financially viable councils able to invest and then embed localism into those structures, which is what the 3UA proposal does. • The opportunities around localism in the 5UA model are there for all unitary authorities to capture.
The Peopletoo analysis suggests that unitaries of 250-350K are lowest cost in social care	• It neglects to say that authorities of 500-750k are cheaper on most cost measures than ones of 350-500k • It doesn't take account of the specifics of Essex, where **both Southend and Thurrock have much higher levels of children and adults in care** than ECC does. • It does not factor in any costs around disaggregation This headline is both questionable and selective, the most robust evidence on the cost of social care in LGR is the latest Newton report, which shows that costs increase as the number of social care authorities increases.

Next steps

High-level timelines (LGR & Devolution)

Local Government Reorganisation	Date		Devolution	Date
Submission of formal unitary proposals submitted	26 September 2025		Final Greater Essex proposals submitted to Government	September 2025
Statutory consultation on Governments preferred option	19 November to 11 January 2026		Legislation laid before parliament	Autumn 2025
Government decision to implement a proposal	March 2026		Parliamentary scrutiny and approval	Late 2025
New Unitary Authority Elections	6th May 2027		Legal establishment of Greater Essex MCCA	Early 2026
Shadow period	May 2027 – March 2028		Mayoral Election	May 2026
New Unitary Authorities go live	1 April 2028			

MHCLG public consultation on LGR (1)

Overview

Runs from 19 November 2025 to 11 January 2026

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-essex-southend-on-sea-and-thurrock

Questions the consultation is asking (and our high-level view for our proposal)

Q1) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

*Our three unitaries proposal **strongly meets** this criterion because it sticks to well-established economic geographies; creates dynamic growth for all areas with no area left behind; balances deprivation and affluence more evenly across the new areas; and balances housing growth.*

Q2) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

*Our proposal **strongly meets** this criterion because it is based on robust evidence; it is based on cautious assumptions rather than being overly optimistic on the finances; and it is based on what our residents and our partners tell us they want LGR to deliver: better services, better value for money and a simpler system*

MHCLG public consultation on LGR (2)

Questions the consultation is asking (and our high-level view for our proposal):

Q3) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

*Our proposal **strongly meets** this criterion by delivering significant savings (£86m just from re-organisation in the first five years with £38m a year ongoing thereafter); by reducing high concentrations of demand linked to deprivation; by enabling new councils to benefit from economies of scale; by ensuring a more equitable disaggregation of ECC's existing budget; and by better spreading and managing debt.*

Q4) To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in Best Value intervention and in receipt of exceptional financial support?

*Our proposal **strongly meets** this criterion because it better manages existing debt and will create new councils that have greater financial resilience.*

Q5) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

*Our proposal **strongly meets** this criterion because it better supports critical services in the face of rising demand and costs; it will enable prevention, transformation, and a more local approach; it will deliver benefits from integrating county and district services; it will reduce risks around transition; and it will create a simpler system for partners to work with.*

MHCLG public consultation on LGR (3)

Questions the consultation is asking (and our high-level view for our proposal):

Q6) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

*Our proposal **strongly meets** this criterion because it delivers what our residents tell us they want: better services and better value for money. In a Greater Essex survey of residents that was done over the summer, 85% of residents told us they will support LGR if it delivers better services.*

Q7) To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?

*Our proposal **strongly meets** this criterion because it creates three new councils that will be well balanced in population and economic terms and that will be effective strategic partners with the new Mayor in the Greater Essex Mayoral Combined Authority.*

Q8) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

*Our proposal **strongly meets** this criterion because it will create new Neighbourhood Delivery Committees, backed by a comprehensive framework of powers and responsibilities and underpinned by an endowment to ensure that capacity funding is guaranteed into the medium-term. Localism will be hard-wired into the operating model and culture for how the three new councils will operate.*

Our ask for today:

1. Do you understand the proposition we are putting forward/is there anything else we can provide that would help you understand it better?

2. Do you understand , in particular, the arrangements we are putting in place for neighbourhood/local level governance?

3. Will you respond to the Government consultation?

Access the Consultation here