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COUNCIL

21 JANUARY 2025

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A.1 THE GOVERNMENT'S ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER AND LETTER TO LEADERS OF ALL TWO-TIER COUNCILS REFERENCING POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF 2025 ELECTIONS

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report sets out for Council a summary of the Government's English Devolution White Paper published on 16 December 2024 in respect of its proposals in this policy area and the Government's intentions for local government re-organisation; including the relevant timelines for these two separate but parallel strands of Government policy. Associated with this is the potential deferral of elections scheduled for May 2025 to May 2026 (initially).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government's "English Devolution" White Paper was published on 16 December 2024. Devolution concerns taking Whitehall powers and devolving these to more local institutions. The Government styles these local institutions as 'Strategic Authorities'. The White Paper sets out the Government's aim of universal coverage in England of Strategic Authorities – which should be a number of councils working together, covering areas that people recognise and work in. The current Combined Authorities, in places like Tees Valley and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, would become Strategic Authorities (as referred to below). The levels of Strategic Authority are stated by Government as being:

- **“Foundation Strategic Authorities:**

These include non-mayoral Combined Authorities and Combined County Authorities automatically, and any Local Authority designated as a Strategic Authority without a Mayor.”

- **Mayoral Strategic Authorities:**

The Greater London Authority, all Mayoral Combined Authorities and all Mayoral Combined County Authorities will automatically begin as Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

- **Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities:**

Those Mayoral Authorities who meet specified eligibility criteria may be designated as Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities. This unlocks further devolution, most notably an Integrated Settlement (which the Government states will mean Mayors will not be bound by strict Westminster rules over how to spend money locally). Integrated Settlements are to have a single systematised approach to spending controls and a single, streamlined, overarching assurance and accountability framework.”

The default position for Government is that Strategic Authorities should cover areas with a population of 1.5 million or above. The combined population of Essex, Thurrock and

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Southend-on-Sea is currently about 1.8million. The powers of Strategic Authorities are set out in Appendix A ('Devolution Framework Summary Table') to this report.

Mayoral Combined and Combined County Authorities can currently use a Mayoral Council Tax Precept. However, they cannot use this on their full range of functions. Government has said that it will legislate to correct this, raising the value for money of this existing power.

To take forward the intentions in the White Paper, the Government intends to introduce an English Devolution Bill. Ahead of that, it proposes to agree areas that it will determine are ready to move quickly through to the establishment of a new Strategic Authority. Those identified will join a new Devolution Priority Programme. Essex County Council, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea Unitary Councils have submitted a joint proposal to join that Programme. This would, it is proposed, see a new Strategic Authority established in April 2026 for 'Greater Essex' with an election of a directly elected Mayor for the area in May 2026. Links to the reports considered by those Councils are set out in the Background Papers section of this report below.

The White Paper does not solely address devolution matters; it also references local government reorganisation. The Government expects all two-tier areas and smaller or failing unitaries to develop proposals for reorganisation. Those existing Councils are to be replaced with new unitary councils (which the Government says should have 'as a benchmark' a population of 500,000 or more). Further to this, the report references a letter of the same date (16 December) from the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution to Leaders of Councils in two-tier areas (and adjoining unitary councils). This letter included proposals to postpone elections scheduled for May 2025 to May 2026 (initially) where one or other of the following scenarios exist:

- Areas who are minded-to join the Devolution Priority Programme, where they will be invited to submit reorganisation proposals to Government by Autumn 2025.
- Areas who need reorganisation to unlock devolution, where they will be invited to submit reorganisation proposals to Government by May 2025.

Locally, in the week 6-10 January 2025, Essex County, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea City Councils met separately as 'Upper Tier' Authorities to consider the separate but related matters of (1) devolution, (2) local government reorganisation and (3) whether to request deferral of elections to their respective Councils from May 2025 to May 2026 (initially). Following those meetings, the County Council, alongside Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council, are writing to the Minister to request participation in the Devolution Priority Programme (devolution and local government reorganisation), and to request the postponement of elections scheduled for May this year in the County Council and Thurrock Council areas. There are no scheduled elections to Southend-on-Sea Council for May 2025.

We will now await to hear whether Greater Essex has been accepted as part of the Priority Programme.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Council:

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- i) acknowledges work will continue to ensure that the District of Tendring is in the best possible position should devolution and/or local government reorganisation go ahead;**
- ii) mandates the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to seek to ensure that the voice of Tendring (and north Essex more generally) is as strong as possible in any negotiations around devolution and local government reorganisation recognising its opportunities and challenges;**
- iii) recognises that Members and Officers will continue to deliver this Council's best value and other statutory duties for the benefit of its residents, businesses and communities every day that it exists; and**
- iv) welcomes the intention to provide periodically, briefings to Members (and reports to this Council as necessary) as the agenda around devolution and local government reorganisation develops locally.**

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Government's policy position for (1) devolution and (2) local government reorganisation has significant implications for this Council, the residents and businesses of the District and local Town and Parish Councils and those in unparished areas. Consequently, it is appropriate to enable all District Councillors to have this opportunity to consider the policy positions and intentions for the District and provide the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive with the appropriate mandate

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The option of not submitting this report was considered and discounted given the significant impact described of the Government's intentions around (1) devolution and (2) local government reorganisation and to ensure that the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council have been provided with a mandate on which they can enter discussions with other Council during the next coming months.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

This Council's Corporate Plan sets out its ambitions for the District of Tendring and the Council's services in the period 2024-28. The Council will continue to focus on delivering the Corporate Plan for that full term or until any new Unitary Council were to replace it.

At the heart of the Corporate Plan is the vitally important role of Community Leadership. Harnessing the power of partner organisations to address the socio-economic challenges of the District and recognise the demographics of the population locally. Maintaining this community leadership role, continuing to deliver for the communities we serve and ensuring any successor Council is equally committed to these must be our shared endeavour in this coming period.

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OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT (including with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other stakeholders where the item concerns proposals relating to the Budget and Policy Framework)			
The devolution and local government reorganisation proposals in the White Paper would require extensive public consultation in due course. There was no opportunity for public engagement between the late December 2024 publication of the White Paper and the 10th January 2025 deadline for applications to Government to join a fast track Devolution Priority Programme or whether to delay the May 2025 County Council elections.			
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)			
Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	YES/NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income <input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)	
<p>If the decisions around (1) devolution and (2) local government reorganisation were matters for this Council they would definitely be Key Decisions. It is because the decision around devolution is one for Essex County Council (and the Unitary Councils for Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea) and central Government that this is not a Key Decision for this Council. Detailed proposals for Local Government Re-organisation affecting Tendring District Council would be a Key Decision at the appropriate time for making such a decision.</p> <p><u>Devolution:</u></p> <p>Combined county authorities are incorporated under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. They bring together a county council for a two-tier area and neighbouring unitary or county councils. They are similar to the original combined authority.</p> <p>The decision to proceed with devolution for Great Essex required the production of proposals which must be approved by Cabinets at the County Council, Thurrock and Southend). These must be the subject of consultation – consultation may be undertaken by the local authorities or by central government. The combined authority is then established by a statutory instrument.</p> <p>If reorganisation goes ahead, the combined county authority would need to be converted into a combined authority incorporated under the Local Democracy Economic Development and Regeneration Act 2009. It is clear that the English Devolution Bill will significantly impact on the law relating to devolution. The draft bill has not yet been published. The requirement to</p>			

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approve proposals means that Essex County Council, Southend and Thurrock, have direct control over devolution, although this may be changed by the Bill.

Local Government Reorganisation:

Local government reorganisation is governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Secretary of State can at any time invite proposals for unitary local government from local authorities, and also has the power to direct authorities to submit proposals. The criteria against which proposals are to be judged can be set out in the invitation/direction. The law says that local authority boundaries may not cross police force boundaries but can otherwise be whatever best meets the criteria.

Although Government encourages local authorities to work together there is nothing to stop competing proposals being submitted and in that case the Secretary of State can select one proposal for consultation or may consult on competing proposals before making a decision as to which is to be taken forward.

It should be noted that local government reorganisation is currently controlled by central government who can reorganise local authorities against the wishes of local authorities in an area. In Essex it is unlikely that any of the 15 councils would continue to exist and the new councils would be created in 'shadow form' the year before implementation. The shadow authorities have power to recruit staff and plan for implementation but do not have any local government powers until they 'go live'. Shadow authorities would be governed by councillors elected the year before. Those councillors would become councillors of the live authorities.

Property belonging to the 15 councils will be split between the new councils by agreement or by the Secretary of State if agreement cannot be reached.

The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

The White Paper refers throughout to the need to legislate for the policy ambitions as set out, this will involve an English Devolution Bill (being the proposals for a new law, or proposals to change an existing law) being presented for debate before Parliament. A Bill can start in the Commons or the Lords and must be approved in the same form by both Houses before becoming an Act (law). The timeline for the legislation process is currently unknown.

Whilst these proposals are going through the necessary steps to become legislation and until local government reorganisation involving Tendring District Council, is confirmed, the Council will remain in place with its statutory duties, discretionary powers and services and capital programmes to deliver. Good governance will be crucial through this period and the Council is expected in the continuation of its adherence to its best value responsibilities and delivering its statutory requirements.

Whilst the decision as to whether or not to defer the County Council elections are not a district council function, Article 2 of the Constitution sets out that key roles of councillors are to represent their communities and bring their views into Council decision making processes and effectively represent the interests of their ward and of individual residents. Decisions will be made by central government and on the face of it there does not appear to be any other

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opportunities in which views of Tending residents can be made.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Whilst the White Paper itself does not have direct financial implications on the authority, it does potentially lead to substantial change, including the potential abolition of this Council itself, which would include substantial cost in terms of preparing its smooth merger into a new unitary council.

The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

The comment above relating to the substantial costs involved is important to repeat, which would be in terms of budgets, resources and capacity. This would need to be balanced against the need to continue to deliver Council Services on a 'business as usual basis' as well as delivering key priorities and projects.

Significant uncertainty would also be introduced in terms of financial planning over the coming years, which would therefore introduce challenges in terms of the Council's medium term financial plans, including cost pressures, savings and investment.

The above would therefore need to be acknowledged and plans put in place to address the associated risks as part of the agreed way forward.

Subject to the approach agreed, it may be helpful to learn from other local government areas that have recently gone through similar reorganisation processes, which in turn would likely help mitigate risks both financially and non-financially.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	During this period, the Council will continue to apply its resources to secure the sustainability of its services to the public.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	During this period, the Council will apply its usual robust approach to decision-making and consideration of risks.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	During this period, the Council will continue to apply value for money considerations to all decisions it takes.

MILESTONES AND DELIVERY

Following the publication of the white paper just before the Christmas break, the following deadlines are particularly noteworthy:

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10 January 2025 –

- (a) Deadline for County and Unitary Councils to request Government to join the Devolution Priority Programme referred to elsewhere.
- (b) Deadline to request Government to postpone May 2025 elections to May 2026 (initially) in order to provide the space and certainty to progress with (1) devolution and (2) local government reorganisation as quickly as possible.

[**Note:** Essex County, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea Councils submitted their request to join the Devolution Priority Programme and to postpone their elections.]

March 2025 – Interim plans for local government reorganisation to be submitted to Government. This may require a decision at Tendring District Council to support any proposals.

Autumn 2025 – Full plans for local government reorganisation to be submitted to Government.

1 April 2026 – New Strategic Authority established for Great Essex exercising devolved powers

May 2026 – Elections to the office of Mayor of the Strategic Authority
Tranche 1 elections to shadow new Unitary Councils established through local government re-organisation

1 April 2027 – Tranche 1 of the new Unitary Authorities come into being established through local government re-organisation

May 2027 Tranche 2: elections to shadow new Unitary Councils established through local government re-organisation

1 April 2028 Tranche 2 of the new Unitary Authorities come into being established through local government re-organisation

ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION

There are fewer risks associated with (1) devolution than there are with (2) local government reorganisation. Devolving powers from Whitehall to a directly elected Mayor and Strategic Authority for Greater Essex poses opportunities for harnessing those powers and aligning investment based on more local requirements than would otherwise be the case. The Leaders of the County Council and the Unitary Councils of Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea forming the decision-making body for the Strategic Authority (with the directly elected Mayor following their election) could mean there is a bias towards the south of the County initially. Local government re-organisation, with the creation of a small number of Unitary Authorities in place of the existing County, District and Unitary Councils in Greater Essex would likely rebalance the decision making to ensure the needs of the residents and businesses in the north of the County were represented in the Strategic Authority's decision-making. If this occurred in Tranche 1 (see milestones section of this report), it would from April 2027. This is because Unitary Councils across Greater Essex would replace the County and existing Unitaries in that decision-making.

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The risks of local government re-organisation revolve around the ability of the new Council to have a recognisable geography that individuals and businesses can relate to and provide it with an identity in which civic pride can flourish. Avoiding a Council that is too large to relate to, while being large enough to take on services such as adult social care and children's services will be a challenge. There is a risk that the disaggregation of the finances from the County Council into a Unitary council covering the current Tendring District could be insufficient to match the significant demands on adult social care and children's services in the area, which will need to be managed during the transition process. There will also be a need to establish new relationships with a range of partners that can place shape for the future. One set of relationships will be with Town and Parish Councils and what arrangements would be appropriate for any unparished areas given the size of the proposed new Unitary Councils. A further risk is to long-term regeneration schemes such as those in Harwich and Clacton-on-Sea. The ability of a new Unitary to retain the focus currently provided for those schemes by the existing District Council is a risk worth recognising. Related to this is the risk that the necessary attention to the needs of the communities that make up the District of Tendring will be diluted in any new unitary structure spanning several current District Councils. The challenge for Officers and Members in this period will be to continue to address the needs of the District and ensure these are given the focus they require in any new unitary.

A further risk is the potential pace of change; both in the extent to which it creates anxiety and uncertainty and impacts on recruitment and retention (and thereby capacity) to deliver everything that must be delivered by the Council in the coming period. On the basis that any new Unitary Council will still deliver the range of services that are delivered by Tendring District Council it is envisaged that many of the staff working for the Council may be transferred to the new Unitary Council (on the basis that local government reorganisation proceeds). There will be notable exceptions to this position, including senior management positions.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty, which applies in Great Britain and requires public authorities to have due regard to certain equality considerations when exercising their functions, including making decisions. Any Strategic Authority introduced to exercise devolved powers would have the same requirement on it and, if local government reorganisation results in new Unitary Councils, the duty will apply to those.

SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

The Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force on 31 January 2013. It requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Any Strategic Authority introduced to exercise devolved powers would have the same requirement on it and, if local government reorganisation results in new Unitary Councils, the requirement will apply to those.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2050

In respect of devolution, the Appendix A identifies that one function of a Strategic Authority would be in respect of collaboration by that Authority with government, including on the Great British Energy's Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan. This in turn would influence progress with the Council's own net zero ambition (or the policy of a future successor Unitary Council).

OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS

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Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.	
Crime and Disorder	One implication of establishing a new Mayoral-led Strategic Authority for the whole of Essex (including Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea) would likely be that Mayor's Office would take on the role of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex Police Area.
Health Inequalities	In respect of the devolution element of the White Paper, Appendix A sets out that there would be a bespoke statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty for a Combined Authorities.
Subsidy Control (the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the related Statutory Guidance)	Not applicable.
Area or Ward affected	All wards

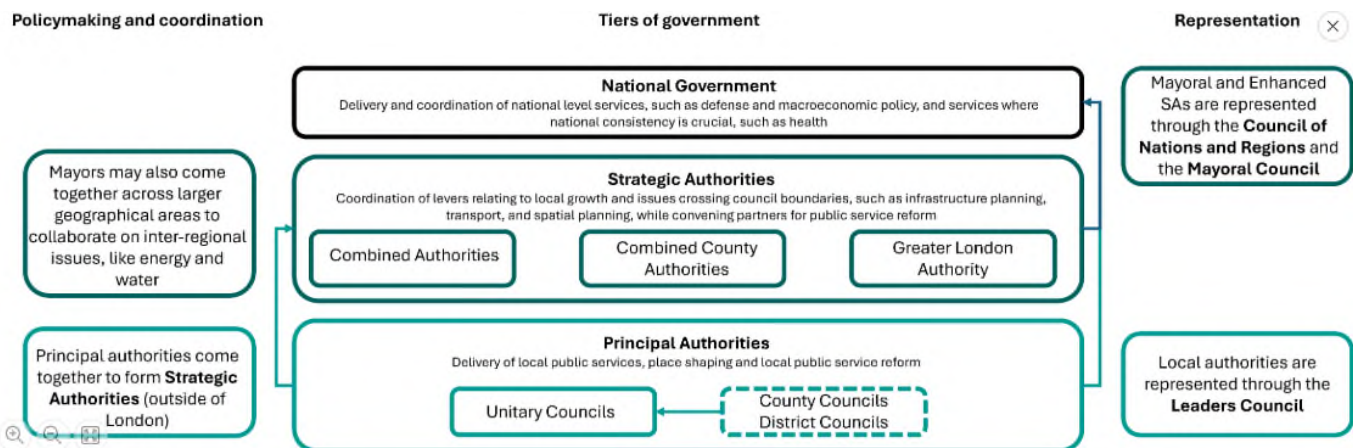
PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

December 2024 saw the publication by the Government of the White Paper on English Devolution, setting out their detailed ambitions for reform of local government structures across England. The two main elements of the White Paper focused on:

- Devolution Deals – Strategic Authorities and Directly-Elected Mayors
- Local Government Reform – i.e. merging districts, counties and small unitary councils into new, bigger unitaries

The intended model for policy making & co-ordination, tiers of government and representation going forward, as set out in the White Paper, is as follows:



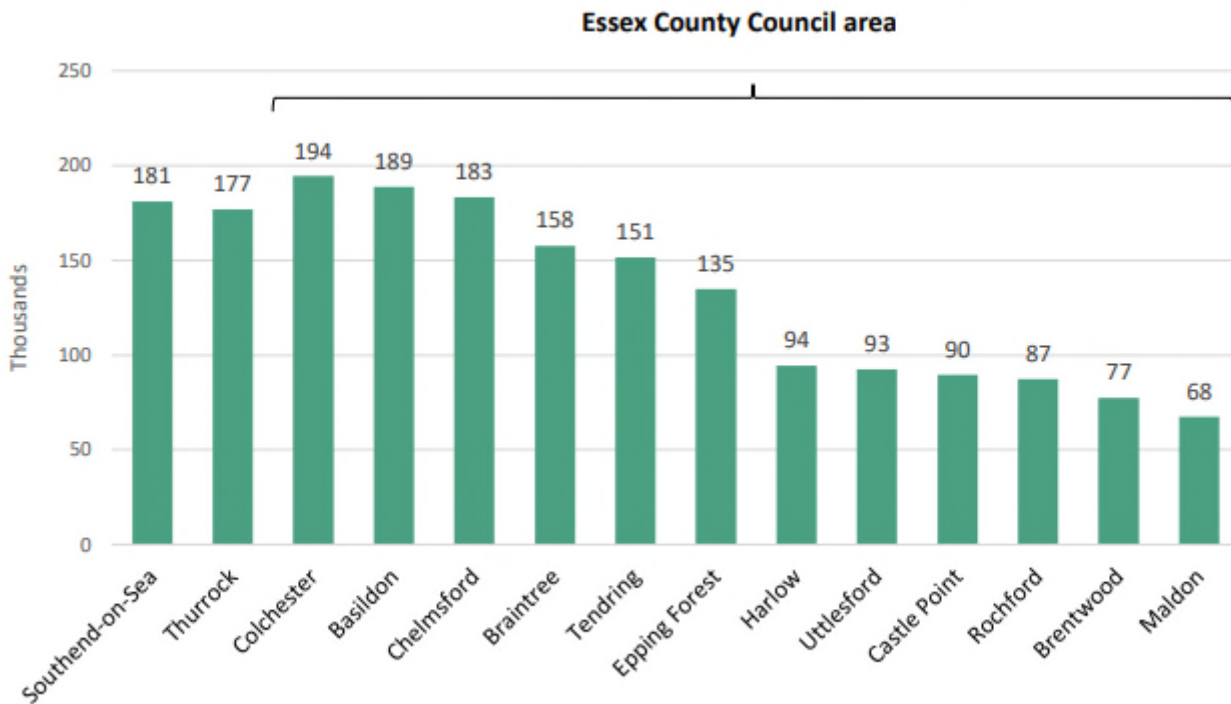
The model identifies the intention to move from two tier (County and District Councils) to Unitary

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Councils. It is already the case that less than half of England's population live in areas without a Combined Authority (taking on devolved powers from Whitehall) or where there are two tiers of principal authorities.

In thinking about local government reorganisation in Greater Essex, the following table provides population estimates from 2022 for Essex District and Unitary Councils. As stated elsewhere, the Government's stated benchmark for new Unitary Councils is a population of 500,000 or more.

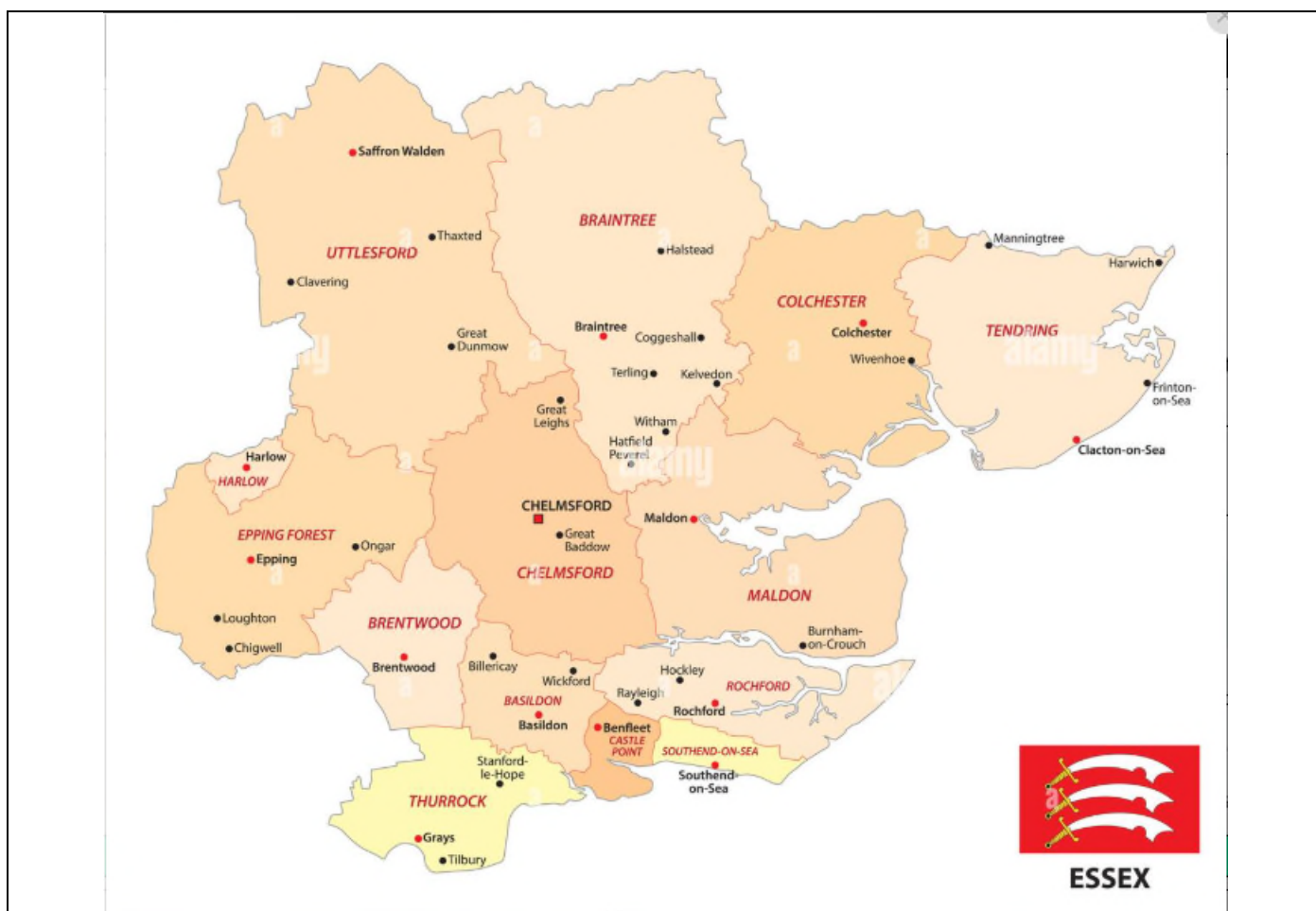
Chart PD2: Composition of Greater Essex population by borough, city and district council area, 2022



Source: Mid-year Population estimates 2022, National Statistics

The area of Essex County, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea Councils is as follows:

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Looking more broadly, it is being reported that the following County Councils are seeking approval to delay their May 2025 elections to 2026 in order to allow them to meet the tight timetable to submit local government re-organisation proposals by the autumn of 2025 and to participate in the Devolution Priority Programme to bring Strategic authorities in for April 2026:

Devon, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, West Sussex and Worcestershire.

We need to make sure we are prepared for all eventualities – including that this council may become part of a wider unitary authority at some point from 2028. As a result we are working with partners, including other local authorities, to establish what work we need to do together, to ensure we are in a strong position to serve our Tendring community, particularly due to the specific socio-demographic challenges we face here. This work will take considerable time and effort from officers – which will no doubt be beneficial regardless of the outcome – and as a result may require some re-prioritisation of where we focus time and resource.

The importance of Tendring is magnified due to our particular socio-demographics, and our community leadership role is as significant as ever; these are the principles that we need to take forward when considering and preparing for all possible outcomes from the actions triggered by the White Paper. By implication, the range of matters to be worked on include:

1. Future size of representation;
2. approach to debt;
3. the Council Tax harmonisation position;

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4. tax base needed to support Adult social care and Children's services, particularly based on our socio demographics;
5. local challenges – focus not lost due to our coastal issues and wider challenges and opportunities;
6. not lose the key partnerships we have in place such as health, which has seen the Health Index improve and many other strides forward addressing some of the key challenges and opportunities;
7. scale of the work which will need to happen to deliver local government reorganisation – which will divert staff from priorities.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

The 16 December 2024 Government White Paper on English Devolution and letter to leaders of councils in two tier areas of the same date.

The White Paper can be accessed here –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper>

Letter to Leaders of Councils in two tier areas (and neighbouring unitaries)

[Letter to Council Leaders 16 December 2024 from Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution](#)

The Local Government Association's briefing on the content of the White Paper is available here:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/devolution-white-paper-day-factual-briefing>

In addition, the following may be of interest in considering this issue:

- [Essex County Council's Extraordinary Meeting on 10 January 2025 - Agenda and report on this matter](#)
- [Thurrock Council's Cabinet Meeting on 7 January 2025 - Agenda and report on this matter](#)
- [Southend-on-Sea Council's Extraordinary Meeting on 9 January 2025 - Agenda and report on this matter](#)

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Devolution Framework Summary Table.

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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Devolution Framework summary table

Key

(**) refers to functions for which funding will be included in Integrated Settlements for Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities

(^) refers to functions which apply to Combined and Combined County Authorities only

Detail	Foundation Strategic Authorities	Mayoral Strategic Authorities	Established Strategic Authorities
Funding and investment			
Access to a multi-departmental, long-term integrated funding settlement**			X
Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation		X	X
Removal of gateway review from investment fund, after Gateway One complete			X
Ability to introduce mayoral precepting on council tax^		X	X
Consolidation of local growth and place funding in a single pot**	X	X	X
Strategic leadership			
A statutory duty to produce Local Growth Plans		X	X
Membership of the Council of Nations and Regions		X	X
Membership of the Mayoral Data Council		X	X
Transport and local infrastructure			
Local Transport Authority and public transport functions, including bus franchising and responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan	X	X	X

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Detail	Foundation Strategic Authorities	Mayoral Strategic Authorities	Established Strategic Authorities
Simplification and consolidation of local transport funding**	X	X	X
Removal of certain Secretary of State consents, e.g. on lane rental schemes		X	X
Duty to establish a Key Route Network on the most important local roads^		X	X
Mayoral Power of Direction over use of constituent authority powers on the Key Route Network^		X	X
Priority for strategic rail engagement (including mayoral partnerships) with Great British Railways	X	X	X
Statutory role in governing, managing, planning, and developing the rail network		X	X
An option for greater control over local rail stations		X	X
A 'right to request' further rail devolution			X
Priority for support to deliver multi-modal ticketing			X
A clear, strategic role in the decarbonisation of the local bus fleet	X	X	X
Active Travel England support for constituent authority capability^	X	X	X
Formal partnership with National Highways		X	X
Skills and employment support			
Joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan model, with Employer Representative Bodies	X	X	X
Devolution of the core Adult Skills Fund	X		

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Detail	Foundation Strategic Authorities	Mayoral Strategic Authorities	Established Strategic Authorities
Devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills functions through a consolidated skills funding pot**		X	X
Central convening of youth careers provision including greater flexibility for Careers hubs		X	X
A clear role in relation to 16-19 education and training		X	X
Responsibility for developing local Get Britain Working Plans	X	X	X
Devolution of supported employment funding**	X	X	X
Co-design of future employment support that is additional to core Jobcentre Plus provision		X	X
Delegated delivery or commissioning of employment support that is additional to core Jobcentre Plus provision			X
Alignment of Jobcentre Plus boundaries with Strategic Authorities			X
Housing and strategic planning			
A duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy	X	X	X
Strategic development management powers (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)		X	X
Ability to raise a Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy to fund strategic infrastructure (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)		X	X
Ability to make Mayoral Development Orders		X	X

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Detail	Foundation Strategic Authorities	Mayoral Strategic Authorities	Established Strategic Authorities
Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations		X	X
Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)	X	X	X
Devolution of wider grant funding to support regeneration and housing delivery**		X	X
Ability to set the strategic direction of any future programme to support affordable housing provision in their area			X
Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England		X	X
Support to establish a public sector land commission			X
Economic development and regeneration			
Partnership working with Department for Science, Industry and Technology and UK Research and Innovation to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening local research and innovation capacity	X	X	X
Develop joint innovation action plans with Innovate UK to shape long-term strategies and investments		X	X
Embed UK Research and Innovation lead points of contact for enhanced collaborative working on innovation with Mayoral Strategic Authorities that are committed to work collaboratively on innovation		X	X
Responsibility as the accountable body for the delivery of Growth Hubs	X	X	X
Devolution of Growth Hubs funding**			X
A Strategic Partnership with the Department		X	X

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Detail	Foundation Strategic Authorities	Mayoral Strategic Authorities	Established Strategic Authorities
for Business and Trade focused on domestic growth, exports, investment, and delivery of local growth priorities.			
Partnership working with Department for Culture, Media and Sport Arm's Length Bodies to maximise culture, heritage, and sport spending in place	X	X	X
Environment and climate change			
Devolution of retrofit funding this parliament subject to a successful transition period (see 3.7)**			X
Heat network zoning coordination role	X	X	X
Coordinating local energy planning to support development of regional network energy infrastructure	X	X	X
Green jobs and skills coordination role	X	X	X
A strategic role on net zero in collaboration with government, including on Great British Energy's Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan	X	X	X
Responsibility for coordinating delivery and monitoring of Local Nature Recovery Strategies^	X	X	X
Health, wellbeing and public service reform			
A bespoke statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty^	X	X	X
Mayors engaged during the Integrated Care Boards chair appointment process		X	X
Mayors as members of local Integrated Care Partnerships, and consideration for position of chair or co-chair		X	X

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Detail	Foundation Strategic Authorities	Mayoral Strategic Authorities	Established Strategic Authorities
A role in convening partners and driving cross-cutting public service reform, including looking at areas such as multiple disadvantage	X	X	X
Public safety			
Mayors accountable for the exercise of Police and Crime Commissioner functions where police force and mayoral boundaries align^		X	X
Mayors accountable for the exercise of Fire and Rescue Authority functions where fire and rescue service and mayoral boundaries align		X	X
A clear and defined role in local resilience, working with the Local Resilience Forum to embed resilience into broader policy and delivery^	X	X	X