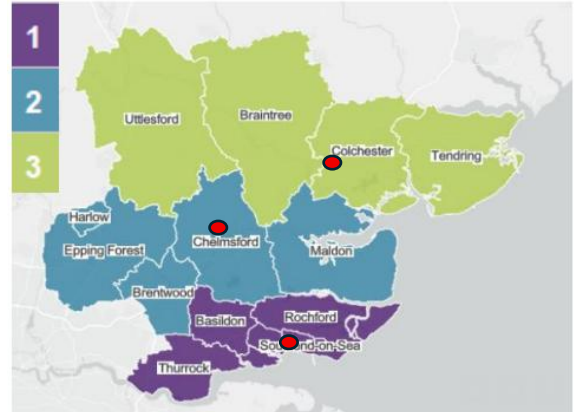
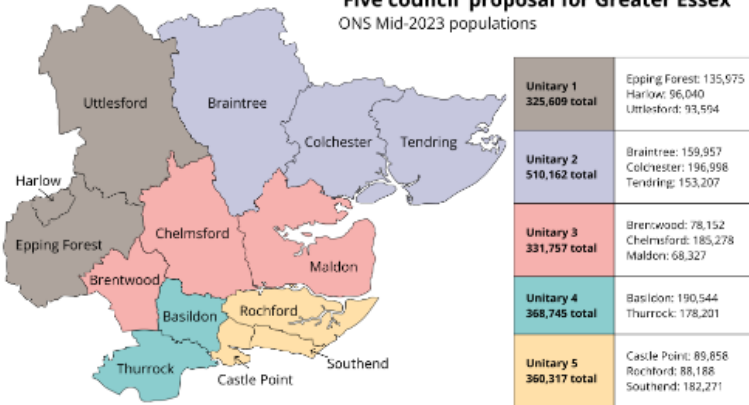


Talking Notes JUL 3 Fields – Finchingfield v2 Tue 22 JUL @ 7.30pm

County & District (Essex devo and LGR)

5UA vrs 3UA

'Five council' proposal for Greater Essex
ONS Mid-2023 populations



- ECC – 1 UA around each current city

5UA

3UA

- Basildon Council
- Brentwood Borough Council
- Castle Point Borough Council
- Chelmsford City Council
- Colchester City Council
- Maldon District Council
- Southend-on-Sea City Council
- Uttlesford District Council

Your only opportunity to feedback is currently by this Official Survey run by the 5UA group and administered by Southend City Council – UNTIL 20 JUL

Q2 asks which district you are from.

Under the Evidence Sharing Agreement the survey results will be shared across all GECCA Local Authorities ahead of the final response(s) to UK Govt in late September.

The 5UA got >7,000 responses at close

ECC has chosen not to survey residents and will contact 1400 selected residents instead

The 5UA Public Survey date will be available on

YourSaySouthend by the end of JULY

Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex

Have your say! Your councils are changing
Major changes are planned to councils across Greater ...



So, How will GECCA structure be decided?

– UK GOVT proposed 5 VOTES; ECC x3, SoS x2, Thurrock x2? (+1 for Mayor)

- When will the details be announced?
- What UA options does Braintree have? Colchester? Uttlesford? Chelmsford? Suffolk?
- What Voting power will Braintree’s UA have in GECCA?
- Size of UA Divisions across GECCA? (000 residents)?
- How Many Cllrs (per 000 residents)?
- “Neighbourhood Area Committee” (NAC) representation per 000 residents?
- How will NAC’s be appointed / remunerated and empowered?
- Transition plan?

Business case for change is.... what exactly?

Will 2 million Essex residents have any say at all? (i.e. a VOTE?)

Will ECC, Thurrock and Southend abdicate to UK Govt (MHCLG) to decide GECCA structure?

Can it be delayed?



An  [Independent & Green Group motion] with accepted majority amendments was passed unanimously on 21 JUL 2025

2. **Substantive Motion:**

- 2.1 *"At the 15th September Full Council Meeting, the Council will consider the submission(s) and business case(s) for the creation of a number of new Unitary Authorities to replace the existing local authorities in Essex in response to the Government's plans for the re-organisation of local government in the County. The debate will act to inform the Cabinet ahead of its consideration of the matter on 22nd September, prior to the bid submission(s) being submitted to the Government.*

Ahead of those meetings, this Council commits to continue its programme of Member Briefings, which began on 8th January and was followed by two further briefings on 5th March and 17th June, so as to allow all members the

opportunity to fully understand, and question any submissions and business plans that may be brought forward.

The Council will, together with partner organisations, publicise and support as far as possible, community engagement and survey exercises on any proposals to maximise the opportunity for Braintree district residents, stakeholders and partners (including town and parish councils) to express a view.

This Council also commits to holding future Member Development evenings, potentially with members from neighbouring council areas, likely to be part of a new unitary authority, to support members with a greater understanding of the transition processes that will be required once the Government announces its decision on the future structure of local government in Essex."



GECCA Next Steps?

Autumn 2025 – GECCA reps submit full plans to UK Govt re xUAs?

2026 – “Greater Essex Consultation” – Public [not a vote] – *No feedback from MHCLG to April 2025 survey yet.*

8 MAY 2026 – Greater Essex Regional Mayor Election (directly elected)

MAY 2027 – Election of Shadow Unitary Authorities (Regional Mayoral plus xUA’s

APR 2028 (or later...) – xUA’s GECCA Go-Live

District

Local Plan Refresh

All eyes now looking towards the BIG Sites meeting **24 Sept 2025**

Officers are being asked to offer their formal opinions on sites *much earlier* than the minimum 5 days preceding the meeting to allow communities to concentrate on “officer recommended for development” sites



Residents would also like to see what’s been approved over the borders... as Braintree is not an island...

- **Wethersfield (former RAF site)**
- **Andrewsfield (Rayne & Salings)**
- **Coggeshall**
- **Kelvedon**

Impact of A12 cancellation....(no funding in place by previous Govt) ... what could a GECCA Mayor have done (nal)...



Local Plan Review Timetable

This is the timetable for reviewing the Local Plan. It has been updated as a result of the central government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Timetable for Review

Local Plan Review Starts	Early 2024
Call for Sites	Spring 2024
Evidence Base	Spring 2024
Issues and Options Consultation	20 January - 7 March 2025
Preferred Options Consultation (Reg 18)	October/November 2025
Pre-Submission Consultation (Reg 19)	Spring 2026
Submission to Planning Inspectorate	June 2026
Review Complete	Adoption December 2026



NEW TOWNS TASKFORCE

Building new towns for the future



Interim Update

February 2025

By summer 2025, we will submit a final report to MHCLG ministers, in line with our Terms of Reference, which will include a list of places new towns could potentially be located, as well as wider recommendations on the funding and delivery of new towns.

Finchingfield Parish

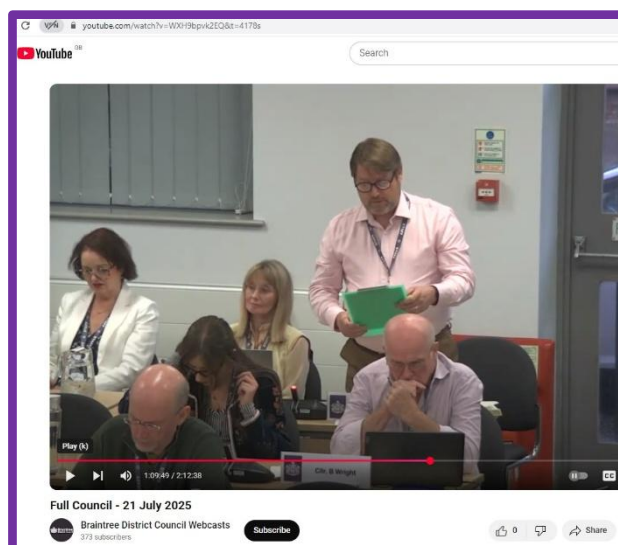
Last night BDC announced that it had been informed by the HO that Wethersfield currently housing around 800 men may consider using its "temporary" surge capacity to allow a further 445 beds - taking the total to 1,245.

No final decision made, but could begin as early as next week!

Cllr Staines asked this question last night after the announcement in last night's BDC Full Council meeting

"Tonight's announcement regarding Wethersfield surge capacity growth is a huge concern as the self-imposed current capacity threshold will likely be exceeded within weeks. Councillor Ault and myself will follow up with all parties outside tonight's meeting. Can I please ask for assurance across the team [BDC] that you will support efforts to manage this effort as required and keep residents informed and that with an eye on Dominic [Dominic Collins is a Corporate Director within BDC responsible for planning policy and development management - including enforcement - and reports to the Chief Executive] to watch Home Office compliance with the SDO (special development order)"

Cllrs Ault & Staines have been liaising with many parties today and have called for an extraordinary HO : Parishes Liaison Meeting (the last one was held on **15 July**) but did not mention "surge".



BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES – 26th June 2025 at 5.00pm

- (7) That it be recommended that the following schemes, the status of which has been assessed as 'red' as they do not meet Essex Highways' criteria, are removed from the list of potential schemes:-

LBRA242017 – Weight restriction, Finchingfield bridge,
The Green, Finchingfield
Estimated Cost:- Not applicable



I cannot see this item FP/059/03/25 in the Agenda for ECC Cabinet on 22 JUL 25

Ref No: FP/059/03/25 Key Decision to be considered: Agreement to pursue an interim strengthening solution for Finchingfield Bridge Decision Role: Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport Cabinet Member Action; Equality Comprehensive Impact Assessment. Decision Maker: Tom Cunningham - Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Legal - Monitoring Officer. Finance - Section 151 Approval from the above stakeholders will be sought prior to submitting the Cabinet Member Action Report. The Finchingfield Parish Council have also been consulted. Stakeholder Involvement: How and when will the decision be taken: 31 July 2025 List of documents to be submitted: Lead Officer: [REDACTED]

Forward Plan Ref No. FP/146/06/25

Report title: Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members	
Report author: Secretary to the Cabinet	
Date: 22 nd July 2025	For: Information
Enquiries to: Emma Tombs, Democratic Services Manager, 03330 322709	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

The following decisions have been taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet:

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<https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/Essexcmis5/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=W5qijibIO%2bbwNgn2gfdjeC18RGLWpXrSNIMMsmmsgQRKZnjo%2bMhRrNg%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNIRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFfUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40XFvdEw%3d%3d=hFfUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bA1vYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGobiSoIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qj0ag1Pd993jyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJf55vVA%3d>

Protecting Finchingfield Guildhall

3) Protection - Highways have previously offered an extra metal bollard to persuade drivers to move away from the building and also road markings to do the same but this offer has never come to anything. We used to have a reflective edge on the churchyard side of the overhanging part of the building but ECC Conservation made us take it down. Currently we have plaster damage but it has been worse, as the photo below shows. Essex Highways' response has also been to suggest that we slice off the jetty so that no part of the building overhangs the road. As the building is listed Grade 1 and classed as of 'exceptional importance' by Historic England, Trustees would be risking imprisonment if we followed Highways Officers' advice!



In Your Area

Let's Talk

Wednesday, 30 July 2025
Walk & Talk
 Finchingfield on the Green, CM7 4JX
 Time: 13:00 – 13:30

Next Agenda Item please

NBUG : THU 11 Sept - Shalford Village Hall - 7.30pm

We (District Cllr, Shalford PC) met DigiGo on THU 3 JUL – to kick-off 3 Fields BUG (bus user group)



Keen to see NBUG have appropriate representation across 3 Fields with Gt Notley Division – can you help

- Virtual monthly meetings – (45mins)
- local events which you'll develop (2 per year per Parish?)
- help locals *get on the bus*
- help groups *get on the bus*
- help identify service needs
- help roll-out / explain new features
- verify / scrutinise bus data and sentiment about the service



AGE	Women	Men	Pan	Sha	GtB	Finch	Weth	Ray	Sal
65+									
55-64									
45-54									
35-44									
25-34									
15-24									

