

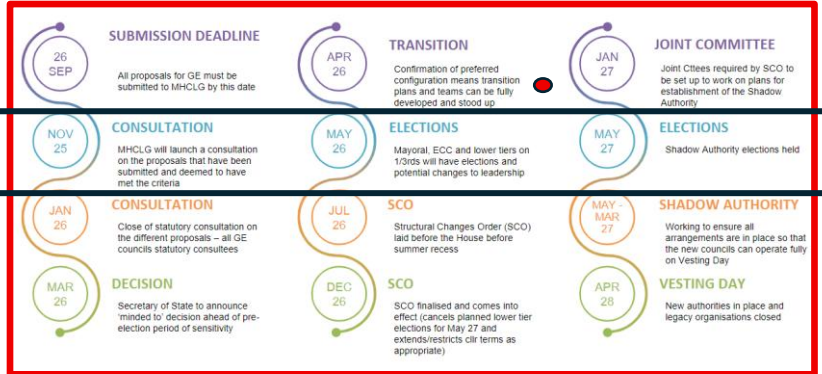
# Talking Notes 28 OCT 3 Fields – Finchingfield

## County

And they're off...

1<sup>st</sup> Tier Essex Councils; ECC, Southend and Thurrock submitted their 4 Unitary models to UK Govt by 26 Sept

**Public Consultation Opportunity**



Visit [www.essexlgrhub.org](http://www.essexlgrhub.org) for details of all proposals

Jobs > Political > Interim Chief Executive Officer – GECCA

**Interim Chief Executive Officer – GECCA**

★ bookmark

Essex County Council 📍 Chelmsford, UK 🏠 On-Site  
🕒 Expiring in 5 days  
Political | Full time | £100,000 – £149,999 per year

Apply

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Interim Chief Executive Officer – Greater Essex Combined County Authority

Fixed Term, Full Time  
Competitive  
Location: Countywide  
Closing Date: Sunday 5th October 2025

Greater ESSEX Combined Council  
UNITARY MODELS: RACE 1

5UA odds  
4UA odds  
3UA odds

?

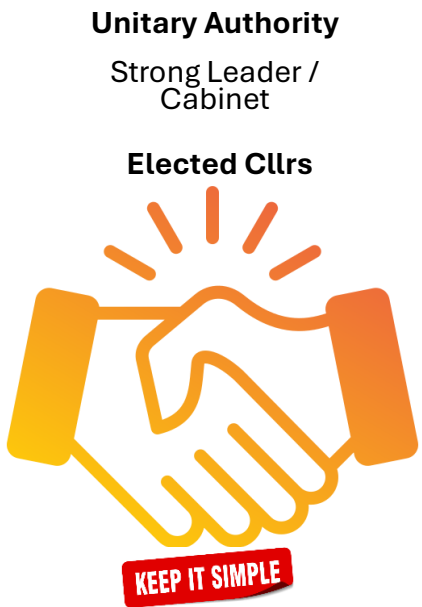
Council promises transparency as Surrey's devolution shake-up looms

Story by Emily Dalton · 6d · 3 min read

The proposals, which were announced by the Government in June, would have seen Ripley & Barmouth Borough Council and Crawley Borough Council merge their structures and merge.

Time is ticking for local government in Surrey as we know it with the long-awaited government decision on how the county will be split due by the end of October.

The high-anticipated decision on how Surrey's councils will be reorganised into new unitary authorities is expected any day now. The announcement will pave the way for shadow elections in May 2026 and a full handover to the new councils in April 2027. So no change will happen overnight.



# KEEP IT SIMPLE



**GECCA  
UA's**  
ONE  
TWO  
THREE  
FOUR  
FIVE



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**BDC**  
**“Braintree Delivery Committee”**  
Number, Size, Selection, Responsibility and Authority & budget TBD  
*[Planning and Public Transport are excluded]*

**Elected Cllrs**  
1963 Residents NOW to 4835 FUTURE?  
(x3 Cllrs per ECC Division?)

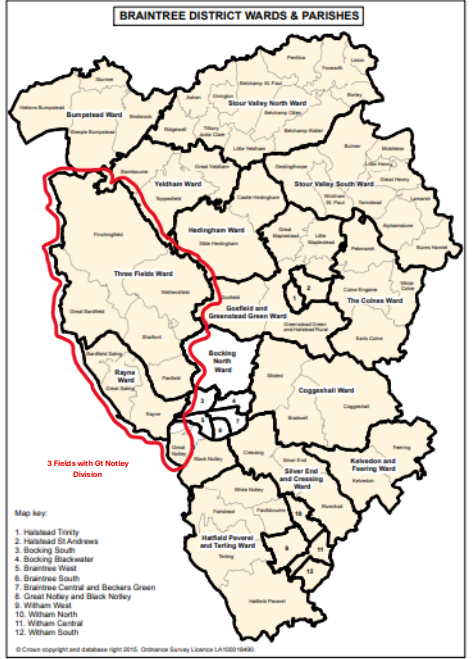
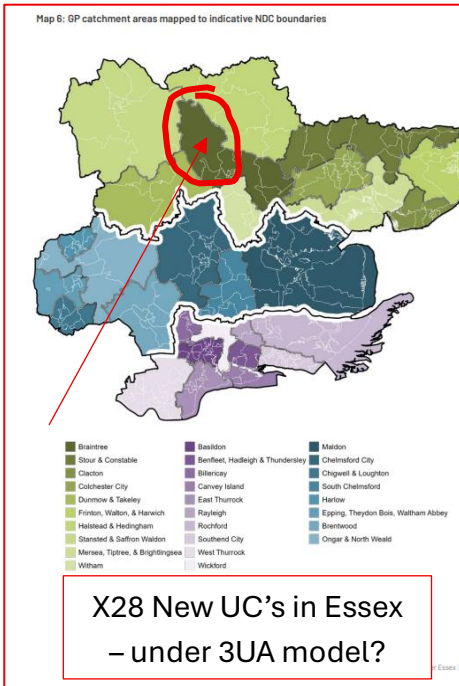
Cllr One UA Focus only

**Elected GECCA MAYOR**  
– plus x3/5 UA Leaders and unelected Boards; Health, Citizens, Business etc  
1:8 GECCA VOTE

**UK Govt Appointed MHCLG GECCA Handler**  
**No English Assembly**

Figure 4: Indicative assets and services that could be managed and delivered at the NDC level

- | Assets:  | Services:  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cemeteries and church yards</li> <li>Crematoria</li> <li>Community centres</li> <li>Allotments</li> <li>Public toilets</li> <li>Local parks</li> <li>Open spaces</li> <li>Sports grounds</li> <li>Swimming pools</li> <li>Play areas</li> <li>Memorials</li> <li>Volunteering (co-ordinating, health, social care, fostering)</li> <li>Roadside verges and other small open spaces</li> <li>Leisure and arts centres</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor highways functions (e.g. minor road and footpath repairs, signage)</li> <li>Grass cutting and open space maintenance</li> <li>Fly tipping</li> <li>Street cleaning</li> <li>Abandoned vehicles</li> <li>Recycling management</li> <li>Health and wellbeing – isolation/volunteering befriending</li> <li>Libraries</li> <li>Community transport</li> <li>Community safety/ neighbourhood watch</li> <li>Footpath lighting</li> <li>Community grants</li> <li>Local tourism</li> <li>Local town economic development (e.g. job clubs)</li> <li>Local climate change initiatives</li> <li>Monitoring and enforcement of environmental health matters</li> <li>Control of markets</li> <li>Street naming</li> <li>Licensing</li> </ul> |



Although only elected members would have the right to vote in these committees, a part of their role will be convening wider partners to participate in meetings and address topics raised by local residents and businesses on key issues. As a minimum we would wish to see local NHS partners, social housing providers, local police commands, parish councils, local businesses, and the voluntary sector play a part. Although individual committees should be free to shape their own operations, we will expect all NDCs to enable members of the public to participate directly in their discussions – whether by raising local issues; asking questions of service providers; or providing local insight through membership of a local ‘residents’ panel’.





**District : Local Plan Review**

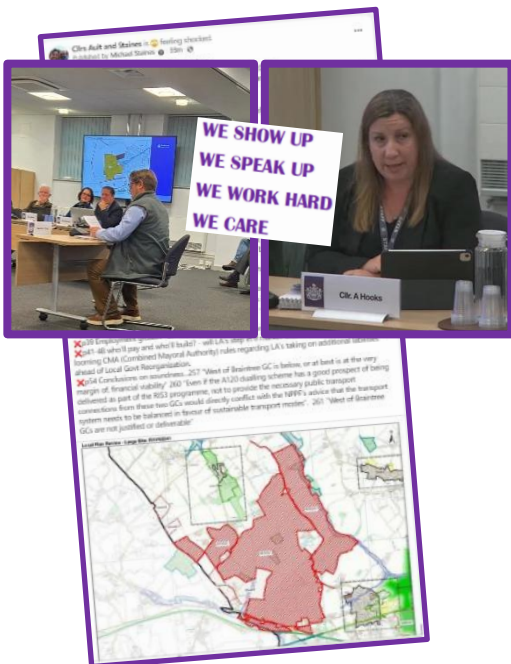
The Local Plan Review timescale has slipped. Despite the Local Plan Sub Committee agreeing lots of sites to be included in the revised plan from 2033 – 2041 officers have identified an 1100 shortfall to the UG Govt Imposed Target and are not happy to proceed to Reg 18 Preferred Options Consultation at this time.

Before new dates are announced - transport and highways impacts of sites will be undertaken and there will be other recommendations to update the plan ahead of moving forward.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the residents, Parish teams including Neighbourhood Plan groups and others that have worked so hard, *again*, to represent communities so effectively in BDC’s last Local Plan review before the new GECCA Mayor takes office.

There is more to do.

**Local Plan Refresh : Highlights**



**24 Sept : Wethersfield : FINC 2502 (upto 10,000 houses)**

*Zero housing allocation : New +ve LPP Policy & Inset Map instead RAYN 2236 (upto 600 houses)*

*Zero housing allocation (twice)*

**1 Oct : West of Braintree : RAYN 2241 and SALI 2258 (upto 7000 houses)**

*Zero housing allocation*

**6 Oct : KELV 2208 / 2209 and 2212 (upto 5640 houses)**

*6000 houses allocated (to be challenged in Reg 18 process)*

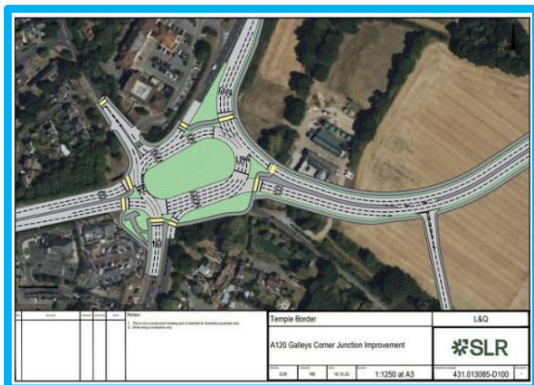
**20 Oct : CRES 2041 Gateway “car” Park (upto 4500 houses)**

*Zero housing allocation*

**CRES2101 - Land East of Braintree (upto 2500 houses)** on the A120 by Galley’s corner - *~1000 houses allocated plus space for*

*“future Galley’s Corner Improvement”*

**Next Meeting : TBD**



## Where are we in the process?

### Preferred Options (Reg 18) (future stage)

We will then consult on the Preferred Options document, which is a full draft of the reviewed Local Plan. It includes updated and new policies and sets out proposed sites where new homes, jobs and other facilities could be located, and contains policies that we would use to decide planning applications.

This consultation is expected to take place in November/December 2025.

### Pre-Submission (Reg 19) (future stage)

Following consideration of the responses made during the Preferred Options consultation and with any subsequent alterations made to the plan, we will then consult on the Pre-Submission document, which will focus on legal compliance and consistency with national planning policy.

This consultation is planned to take place in spring 2026.


### Submission (future stage)

This stage will be the formal submission of the Local Plan. We will submit all plan documents, evidence and comments to the Planning Inspector for an Independent Examination.

### Adoption (future stage)

This will follow feedback from the Planning Inspector on the Independent Examination.

**UPDATE**



**MAYOR**

A directly elected Mayor in a Mayoral Combined County Authority has a broader role that typically covers multiple local councils within a Combined or Strategic Authority. The directly elected Mayor will have significant powers over strategic functions such as:

- economic development
- housing
- infrastructure
- Transport

**UPDATE**



## More District News...

 **North Zone BUS USER GROUP**  
25 September at 17:02 · ⚙️

#16 Chelmsford to Wethersfield provider KonectBus is taken over 1 OCT 2025 by Transport Made Simple - some details here [↓](#)



EADT.CO.UK


**One of region's largest bus services taken over by UK transport group**  
Go East Anglia, which operates Konectbus Norfolk and Konectbuses Essex & Suffolk, has been ...


We have reached out to the new operator but are awaiting contact to be established.

Hoping to have another Bus User Group session in NOV...

Wed 22 Oct • 09:00 – 10:00

## FW: Love Your Bus Meeting



 Microsoft Teams Meeting

The LOVE YOUR BUS USER GROUP led by Shalford met with DigiGo on 22 OCT to progress the spending of the £50K Grant money to improve the North Zone service.

**1852 North Zone monthly passengers DigiGo** *(ave last 6 months)*



**Highlights as follows;**

**County**

**1) Local Govt reorganisation : we are now watching Surrey to assess what UK Govt may decide to do in Essex in May 2026 ... size and number of unitaries and elections in May 2026 / and May 2027.**

**District**

**2) Local Plan Review : dates will now move back while officers review traffic and other factors to see how to get another 1100 houses into the Local Plan review before Reg 18 consultation can begin.**

**2.1) We have asked BDC to update the interactive map showing all sites allocated for development between now and 2041 - and for others to be removed - so the picture is completely clear for residents.**

**3) Public Buses : Nearly 1900 trips are taken per month on average in the North Zone on DigiGo and the £50K grant secured by x7 Parishes in the 3 Fields with Great Notley Division lead by us and Shalford Parish Council will improve afternoon service availability 2pm -7pm M-F from this week.**

**4) Wethersfield : Security and health issues have also taken time and we have been on the radio and on email with BDC highlighting the risk to key resident services - especially East of England Ambulance Service - as we head into Winter and as the Home Office has not reduced service users back to the 800 safety level they said they would in July.**

**We understand that Service User numbers at the site are now at the SDO cap of 1240.**



## Finchingfield Parish

Wethersfield Base Security became local news on 23 OCT and 28 OCT.

On 21 OCT we had already asked The East of England Ambulance service and Mid Essex Integrated Care Board (via BDC) for assurances regarding provision of resident services in the area as the Home Office has not reduced Service Users back to the safe cap of 800 during October (as they stated in July) and we now approach winter when NHS services are most stretched.

Talking on BBC Essex on 24 OCT at 07.05

