Essex County Council

South Provider Forum – 15 September 2026

Director Update

Simon Griffiths

Leader, Deputy Leader and Finance

Cllr Peter Harris
Leader



Cllr Russell Quirk
Deputy Leader



Cllr Bo Davis
Finance & Corporate Services



New Administration

Simon Griffiths, Director ASC, Basildon and Brentwood.

Adult Social Care – Cllr Paul Godfrey

Adult Social Care, including the support of and assistance of people with learning or physical disabilities or sensory impairment and older people.

- Adult Social Care Service Transformation
- Care homes
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- Joint commissioning and joint contracting
- Support to Carers
- Mental health services
- Adults income management



Residents and Community Services – Cllr Chris Hossack

- Health system reform, integration and partnerships
- Health Improvement & Protection
- Health Inequality Reduction
- Public Health
- Child health-related matters
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Active Essex
- Sport and physical activity
- Customer Services
- Telephone and Digital Access
- User Experience
- Essex Digital Services
- Community Leadership, Engagement, Resilience and Safety – including Prevent
- Community Strategy
- Voluntary and Community Sector Relations
- Overview of Grants
- Community Initiatives Fund
- Libraries and Community Hubs
- Registration services
- Coroner
- Essex Records Office
- Gypsy and Travellers
- Trading Standards



Local Government Reorganisation

Simon Griffiths, Director ASC, Basildon and Brentwood.

Government update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- The Government has **withdrawn the March decision to progress LGR in Essex**
- Decision follows a **wider review of the national LGR programme**
- **Several other counties** have also had previous decisions withdrawn following updated legal advice
- **Further information is being sought** from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

What we know so far…

- MHCLG remains committed to the principle that unitary councils provide the best foundation for mayors and strategic authorities
- A review led by Minister Jim McMahon will examine all LGR decisions announced in March and July
- The review will also consider West Sussex and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
- Findings will be reported back to Parliament as soon as possible
- The Government has recognised the significant work and partnership collaboration undertaken across Essex

What happens next?

- The Government continues to prioritise devolution
- The timetable for Essex Mayoral elections in May 2028 remains unchanged
- MHCLG has confirmed that unitary local government is helpful but not essential for strategic authorities
- Further details on the review process and timescales are awaited
- Updates will continue to be shared as information becomes available
- Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement