

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Greater Essex

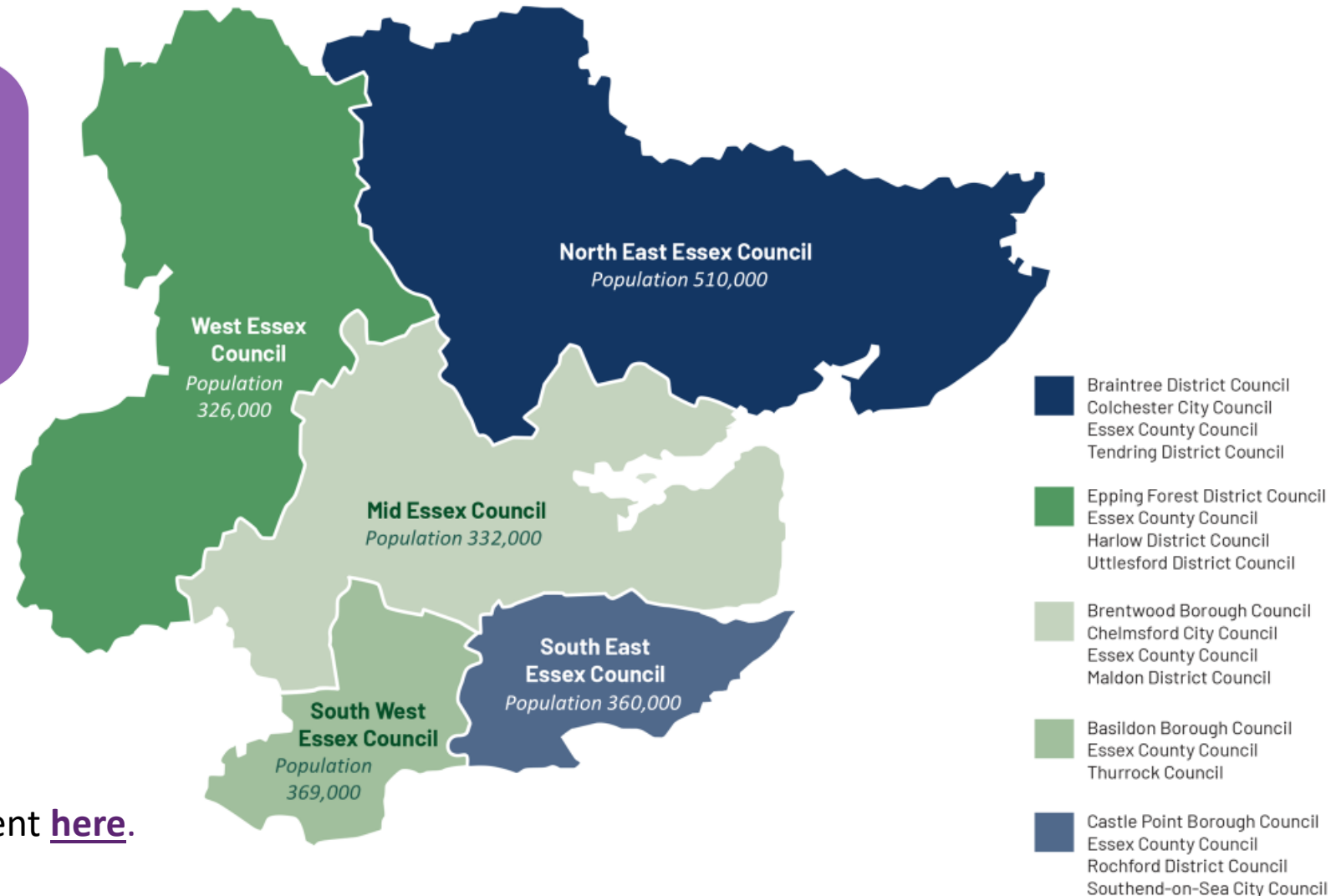
April 2026

Confirmation of the 'minded-to' decision

'Minded to' is a way of referring to the decision by the Government on the new council configuration, which will later be confirmed in law.

The government has announced it is minded to approve the **5 unitary authority option** for the future structure of local government in Greater Essex.

Link to summary of 5UA proposal document [here](#).



Next steps

- This summer/autumn, a **Structural Changes Order (SCO)** will be laid in Parliament. The order will formally establish the new unitary councils and set the legal basis for the transition, enabling the move from existing authorities to the new ones.
- Between now and vesting day in Spring 2028 and, alongside partners, we will also develop a comprehensive **implementation plan**.

We are here

MHCLG – Statutory Timeline

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|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Inviting Unitary Proposals February 2025 Complete | Submission of Formal Unitary Proposals September 2025 Complete | Statutory Consultation November 2025 – January 2026 Complete | Decision to Implement a Proposal March 2026 Subject to collective agreement and OGD write round and consultation responses | Making Secondary Legislation Summer – Autumn 2026 SCO for each area to dissolve the predecessor councils and establish new unitary authority. | Transition Period Autumn 26 – March 2028 A critical time for success of new authority. Includes elections in May 2027. | New Unitary Authority Go-Live 1 April 2028 Indicative 'Go Live' date. |
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What does this mean for care providers?

The new unitary authorities are not expected to come into effect until 1st April 2028. Until then, we will continue to deliver the **vital services our residents rely on.**

For now:

- There will be no immediate changes affecting care providers.
- The Government is expected to set out further details to Greater Essex councils in the next few months about how the changes will be prepared for and implemented.
- We will continue working closely with all councils across Greater Essex as we plan the next steps.

We will continue to work with Essex Care Association on how we engage with care providers and share communications about the changes happening over the next couple of years.

Frequently Asked Questions

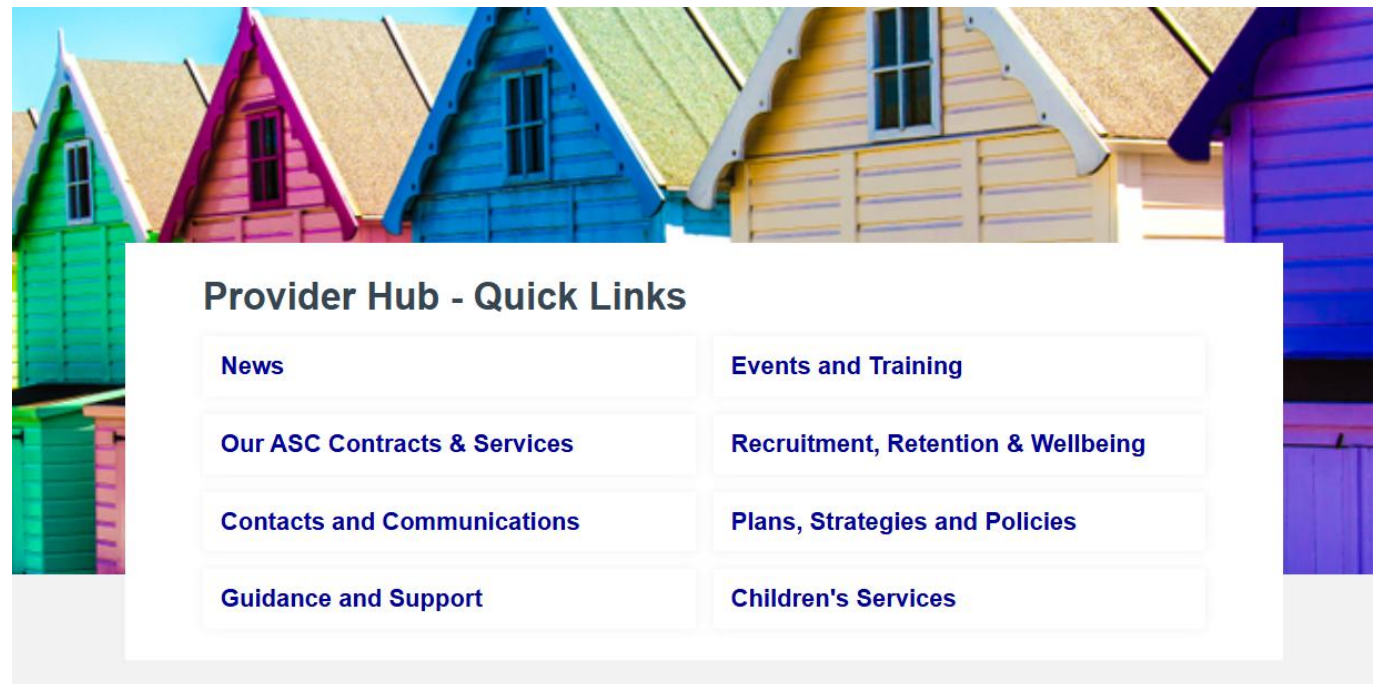
[Click here to find out more](#)

We continue to welcome your questions and feedback as we shape the future of Greater Essex.

Provider LGR FAQs have been produced, capturing the themes and queries raised so far.

These FAQs are available on the [Essex Provider Hub](#), providing a central place for up-to-date information and guidance.

We will continue to update the FAQs as more questions arise, and new information becomes available.



If you have any further questions, thoughts and feedback, please contact us via SIA@essex.gov.uk