

# Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Greater Essex

March 2026

# Current position: MHCLG Timeline

We are here



## MHCLG – Statutory Timeline

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

<b>Pre-Minded To Decision</b> October 2025 – March 2026	<b>Collaboration &amp; Detailed Design</b> April 2026 – May 2027	<b>Implementation</b> June 2027 – March 2028	<b>Final Transition</b> April 2028
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# Current position: 'Minded-to' Decision

Government has not yet issued a **formal “minded-to” decision** on which structural proposal (3, 4 or 5 unitaries) it will progress for Greater Essex. The “minded-to” decision is currently expected in **March 2026**.

Once the Government confirms its decision, it will issue a **Statutory Change Order (SCO)**, before proceeding with elections for shadow authorities in **May 2027**.

Greater Essex has a **strong track record of collaboration**, and we will come together as a system to implement whatever model the Government decides upon.

## Key factors in Greater Essex are:

The high level of **financial risk and debt** and its distribution

The need to ensure a **smooth transition for critical and high-risk services**

The need to maintain **stability and performance in social care services**

# Frequently Asked Questions

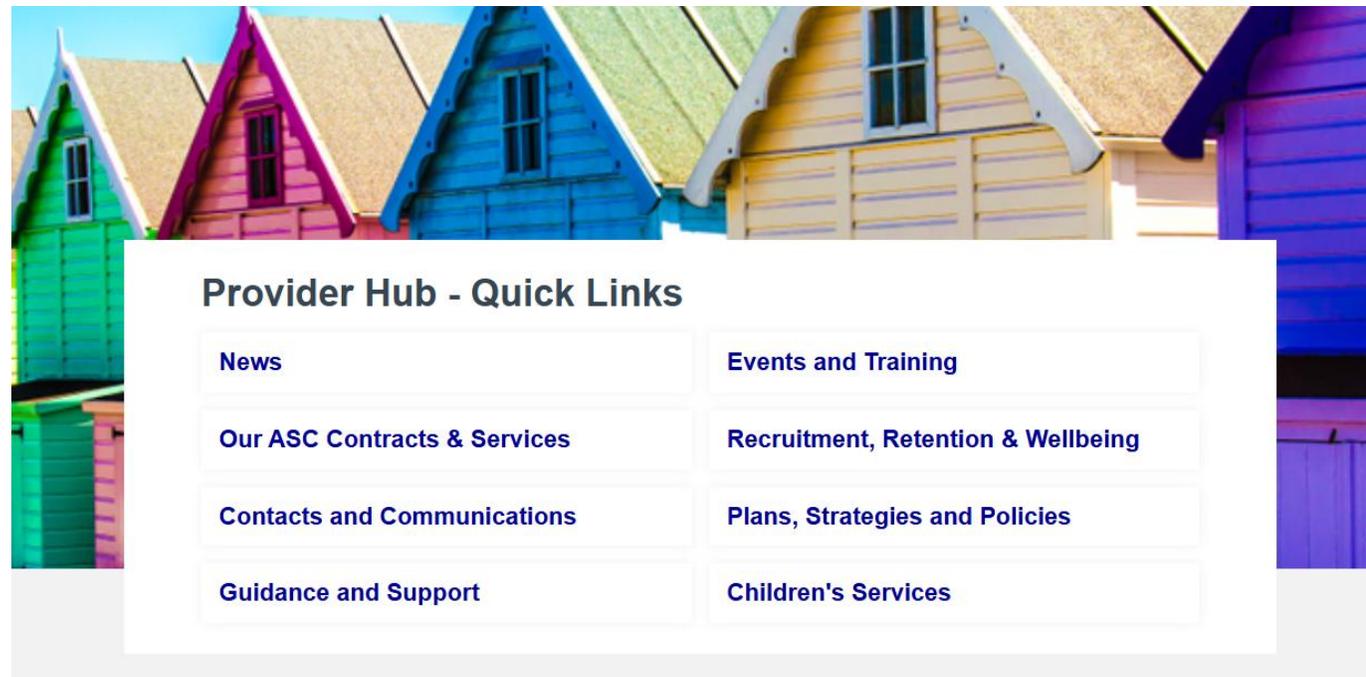
[Click here to find out more](#)

**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](mailto:SIA@essex.gov.uk)