

Dear Sir/Madam

Keeping local government as local as possible

The people of Essex deserve councils that are local, accountable, and responsive. This is why the overwhelming majority of councils in Greater Essex have worked together on a collaborative proposal for five new unitary authorities. This is the only proposal with support of from all the political parties that lead Councils across Essex.

Reorganisation should promote growth by respecting the geography of this hugely diverse county and by bringing government closer to residents, not further away.

Our proposal reflects that principle, with a practical plan to modernise, reduce duplication, and build councils based on the places they serve. As leaders from across Essex representing different councils, political traditions, and communities, we have come together to tackle the urgent need for change.

We owe it to the people of Essex to provide a system that they can identify with and that is built for the future. The five unitary council model does this best, delivering the greatest saving.

However, we also know that whatever the outcome of the Government's re-organisation, we will work together with all the councils across Greater Essex to put the needs of our residents first.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Gavin Callaghan, Basildon Borough Council

Cllr Barry Aspinell, Brentwood Borough Council

Cllr Dave Blackwell, Castle Point Borough Council

Cllr Stephen Robinson, Chelmsford City Council

Cllr David King, Colchester City Council

Cllr Dan Swords, Harlow District Council

Cllr Richard Siddall, Maldon District Council

Cllr Daniel Cowan, Southend-on-Sea City Council

Cllr Mark Stephenson, Tendring District Council

Cllr Petrina Lees, Uttlesford District Council