

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW 2023

PROPOSAL FOR COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL AREA

On behalf of Harwich & North Essex Conservative Association, we hereby make the following proposal for the reorganisation of County Council Division Boundaries in the Colchester City Council area.

In particular, we propose:

- 1) Continuity - That the existing Division Boundaries form the starting point and foundations for the current reorganisation.
- 2) Mersea & Tiptree / Stanway & Pyefleet Division Boundaries - The above principle of continuity notwithstanding, that the current confusing boundary between the Mersea & Tiptree and Stanway & Pyefleet Divisions be simplified.

Please see Appendix 1 for a full breakdown by Polling District of our proposals for the reorganisation of County Council Division Boundaries in the Colchester City Council area.

The reasoning behind our proposals is set out in more detail below.

1) CONTINUITY & STABILITY

The existing Division Boundaries in Colchester have been in place since 2005. Many of the Divisions (including Constable, Drury and Wivenhoe St. Andrew) have remained largely unchanged since 1981.

In contrast, the existing Ward Boundaries have only been in place since 2016 - and are scheduled for review in 2026. Should Ward Boundaries be used as the “building blocks” for the new Divisions, only one County Council Election (in 2025) will take place before the Wards and Divisions again fall out of alignment.

It is preferable, therefore, for the existing Division Boundaries (not the Ward Boundaries) to form the starting point and foundations for the current reorganisation.

Maintaining the existing Division Boundaries, as much as is possible subject to other requirements (such as Division electorate size), will:

- a) Provide greater continuity and stability.
- b) Make it easier for electors to understand the Division structure.
- c) Crucially, make it easier for electors to understand who their representative is at the County Council.

2) MERSEA & TIPTREE / STANWAY & PYEFLEET DIVISION BOUNDARIES

The inconsistent alignment of the current Mersea & Tiptree / Stanway & Pyefleet Division Boundaries with the Mersea & Pyefleet / Marks Tey & Layer Ward Boundaries is confusing for residents.

The following breakdown demonstrates the complicated current allocation of Polling Districts to Divisions / Wards on the border between Mersea & Tiptree Division and Stanway & Pyefleet Division:

- a) Mersea & Tiptree Division / Mersea & Pyefleet Ward - Polling District EV
- b) Mersea & Tiptree Division / Marks Tey & Layer Ward - Polling Districts GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ
- c) Stanway & Pyefleet Division / Mersea & Pyefleet Ward - Polling Districts EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES
- d) Stanway & Pyefleet Division / Marks Tey & Layer Ward - Polling Districts GA, GB, GL, GM, GN

Our proposals, contained in Appendix 1:

- a) Simplify the current Division / Ward Boundary arrangement for Mersea & Tiptree / Stanway & Pyefleet Divisions by allocating the entirety of Mersea & Pyefleet Ward to Mersea & Tiptree Division.
- b) Due to the geography, necessarily allocate Polling Districts from Marks Tey & Layer Ward to both Mersea & Tiptree and Stanway & Pyefleet Divisions.
- c) Retain continuity with the current Division Boundaries by maintaining Mersea's links with Tiptree.
- d) Retain Mersea's community links with Tiptree. Children resident on Mersea have priority admission to Thurstable Secondary School in Tiptree (Maypole Road, Tiptree, CO5 0EW), with daily buses transporting pupils between Mersea and Thurstable School. Mersea children only have priority admission to one other Secondary School, namely The Thomas Lord Audley School in Berechurch (Monkwick Avenue, Colchester, CO2 8NJ).

SUMMARY

In summary, the proposals contained in Appendix 1 for the reorganisation of County Council Division Boundaries in the Colchester City Council area:

- *Maintain 9 Divisions across the Colchester City Council area.

- *All 9 proposed Divisions are within 10% of the target electorate size (16,651 electors) for Colchester, as required by the Local Government Boundary Commission England (ie. 14,986 to 18,316 electors).

- *Provide good continuity and stability with the existing Divisions, which have been in place since 2005, ensuring less disruption for electors. This will make it easier for residents to understand the Division structure and who they are represented by at the County Council.

- *Provide for strong commonality of interest within Divisions - ie rural areas are largely located with other rural areas, and urban areas are largely located with other urban areas.

- *Simplify the current confusing Division / Ward Boundary arrangement for Mersea & Tiptree / Stanway & Pyefleet Divisions by allocating the entirety of Mersea & Pyefleet Ward to Mersea & Tiptree Division.

Thank you for taking the time to read our submission. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Brown

Chairman of Harwich & North Essex Conservative Association

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APPENDIX 1

Proposal for the reorganisation of Essex County Council Division Boundaries in the Colchester City Council area

CURRENT DIVISION	POLLING DISTRICT	WARD	CONSTITUENCY	ELECTORATE 2029
Division 1 ("Abbey")				
Abbey	AF - Castle	Castle	Colchester	2142
Abbey	AK - Scarletts	Old Heath & The Hythe	Colchester	499
Abbey	AL - Barnhall	Old Heath & The Hythe	Colchester	1609
Abbey	AM - Old Heath	Old Heath & The Hythe	Colchester	2434
Abbey	AX - St. John's Green	New Town & Christ Church	Colchester	4123
Abbey	AY - Hythe	Old Heath & The Hythe	Colchester	1726
Abbey	AZ - Canterbury Road	New Town & Christ Church	Colchester	2078
Abbey	BA - Winsley Square	Old Heath & The Hythe	Colchester	682
Stanway & Pyefleet	ED - Rowhedge	Old Heath & The Hythe	HNE	1,866
Total				17,159
Variance				3.00%
Division 2 ("Constable")				
Mile End & Highwoods	AP - Myland East	Highwoods	Colchester	2787
Constable	EA - Dedham	Rural North	HNE	1645
Constable	EB - Langham	Rural North	HNE	963
Constable	EE - Boxted	Rural North	HNE	1214
Constable	EF - Fordham	Rural North	HNE	906
Constable	EG - Great Horkesley	Rural North	HNE	2057
Constable	EH - Little Horkesley	Rural North	HNE	167
Constable	EI - Wormingford	Rural North	HNE	372
Constable	EJ - Aldham	Lexden & Braiswick	HNE	412
Constable	EK - Chappel	Rural North	HNE	451
Constable	EL - Great Tey	Rural North	HNE	827
Constable	EM - Mount Bures	Rural North	HNE	198
Constable	EN - Wakes Colne	Rural North	HNE	444
Constable	ET - Eight Ash Green	Lexden & Braiswick	HNE	1416
Constable	EU - West Bergholt	Lexden & Braiswick	HNE	2,623
Total				16,482
Variance				-1.00%

CURRENT DIVISION	POLLING DISTRICT	WARD	CONSTITUENCY	ELECTORATE 2029
Division 3 ("Drury")				
Drury	AI - Christchurch	New Town & Christ Church	Colchester	1776
Drury	AJ - Hamilton Road	New Town & Christ Church	Colchester	2116
Drury	AQ - Trafalgar	Lexden & Braiswick	Colchester	676
Drury	AR - Home Farm	Prettygate	Colchester	2203
Drury	AS - East Lexden	Lexden & Braiswick	Colchester	1767
Mile End & Highwoods	AT - Braiswick	Lexden & Braiswick	Colchester	737
Drury	BB - East Prettygate	Prettygate	Colchester	2464
Drury	BC - West Prettygate	Prettygate	Colchester	2199
Drury	BD - James Carter	Prettygate	Colchester	1527
Total				15,465
Variance				-7.70%
Division 4 ("Maypole")				
Maypole	AA - Berechurch Road	Berechurch	Colchester	1674
Maypole	AB - Willows & Monkwick	Berechurch	Colchester	1347
Maypole	AC - Mersea Road	Berechurch	Colchester	2203
Maypole	AD - Blackheath	Berechurch	Colchester	2301
Maypole	BE - Rainsborowe Road	Shrub End	Colchester	2397
Maypole	BF - Shrub End	Shrub End	Colchester	2856
Maypole	BG - Lordswood Road	Shrub End	Colchester	3280
Stanway & Pyefleet	EC - Cherry Tree	Berechurch	HNE	526
Total				16,584
Variance				-0.40%
Division 5 ("Mersea & Tiptree")				
Stanway & Pyefleet	EO - Abberton	Mersea & Pyefleet	HNE	393
Stanway & Pyefleet	EP - East Mersea	Mersea & Pyefleet	HNE	246
Stanway & Pyefleet	EQ - Fingringhoe	Mersea & Pyefleet	HNE	678
Stanway & Pyefleet	ER - Langenhoe	Mersea & Pyefleet	HNE	494
Stanway & Pyefleet	ES - Peldon	Mersea & Pyefleet	HNE	480
Mersea & Tiptree	EV - West Mersea	Mersea & Pyefleet	HNE	6119
Mersea & Tiptree	GC - Layer Marney	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	183
Mersea & Tiptree	GG - Great Wigborough	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	178
Mersea & Tiptree	GH - Little Wigborough	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	25
Mersea & Tiptree	GI - Salcott	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	190
Mersea & Tiptree	GJ - Virley	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	58
Mersea & Tiptree	GK - Tiptree Grove	Tiptree	Witham	1265
Mersea & Tiptree	GQ - Tiptree Church	Tiptree	Witham	1909
Mersea & Tiptree	GR - Tiptree Heath	Tiptree	Witham	2612
Mersea & Tiptree	GS - Tiptree Maypole	Tiptree	Witham	2236
Total				17,066
Variance				2.50%

CURRENT DIVISION	POLLING DISTRICT	WARD	CONSTITUENCY	ELECTORATE 2029
Division 6 ("Mile End")				
Abbey	AE - Jumbo	Castle	Colchester	1305
Parsons Heath & East Gates	AG - Riverside	Castle	Colchester	2257
Abbey	AH - Cowdray Avenue	Castle	Colchester	2673
Mile End & Highwoods	AU - Bergholt Road	Mile End	Colchester	2097
Mile End & Highwoods	AV - Mile End Road	Mile End	Colchester	4716
Mile End & Highwoods	AW - Turner Road	Mile End	Colchester	4066
Total				17,114
Variance				2.80%
Division 7 ("Parsons Heath")				
Mile End & Highwoods	AN - East Highwoods	Highwoods	Colchester	4371
Mile End & Highwoods	AO - West Highwoods	Highwoods	Colchester	835
Parsons Heath & East Gates	BJ - Greenstead Road	Greenstead	Colchester	805
Parsons Heath & East Gates	BK - St. Anne's	St. Anne's & St. John's	Colchester	3260
Parsons Heath & East Gates	BL - Churnwood	St. Anne's & St. John's	Colchester	1097
Parsons Heath & East Gates	BM - Longridge	Greenstead	Colchester	1601
Parsons Heath & East Gates	BN - Ipswich Road	St. Anne's & St. John's	Colchester	1647
Parsons Heath & East Gates	BO - Parsons Heath	St. Anne's & St. John's	Colchester	2745
Total				16,361
Variance				-1.80%
Division 8 ("Stanway & Marks Tey")				
Stanway & Pyefleet	GA - Birch	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	689
Stanway & Pyefleet	GB - Layer de la Haye	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	1502
Mersea & Tiptree	GD - Layer Breton	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	247
Mersea & Tiptree	GE - Messing	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	262
Mersea & Tiptree	GF - Inworth	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	70
Stanway & Pyefleet	GL - West Stanway	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	1926
Stanway & Pyefleet	GM - Copford	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	1505
Stanway & Pyefleet	GN - Easthorpe	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	140
Constable	GO - Marks Tey	Marks Tey & Layer	Witham	2194
Stanway & Pyefleet	GP - Stanway	Stanway	Witham	7339
Total				15,874
Variance				-4.90%

CURRENT DIVISION	POLLING DISTRICT	WARD	CONSTITUENCY	ELECTORATE 2029
Division 9 ("Wivenhoe St Andrew")				
Wivenhoe St. Andrew	BH - Hawthorn Avenue	Greenstead	Colchester	3569
Wivenhoe St. Andrew	BI - Avon Way	Greenstead	Colchester	5645
Wivenhoe St. Andrew	EW - University	Wivenhoe	HNE	2258
Wivenhoe St. Andrew	EX - Wivenhoe Cross	Wivenhoe	HNE	1920
Wivenhoe St. Andrew	EY - Wivenhoe Quay	Wivenhoe	HNE	3095
Wivenhoe St. Andrew	EZ - Broome Grove	Wivenhoe	HNE	1269
Total				17,756
Variance				6.60%