

Essex County Council Conservative Group

Our response to the Essex County Council
Boundary Review - Stage 2 - 30 July 2023

Recommendations on Division boundaries for
2025 Essex Council Elections



Essex Conservatives

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For more information about the recommendations and observations in this submission, please contact us:

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www.essexconservatives.uk

A message from the Conservative Leader of Essex County Council

For the first time in 20 years, Essex County Council is undertaking a boundary review of its electoral divisions across the 12 districts that ECC serves. With considerable population growth since the current boundaries came into effect in 2005, the review is overdue with large disparities in the electorate per member ration. One councillor currently represents 20,500 electors, compared to a colleague representing just 12,190 electors.

A cross party working group of members was set up to support officers with the boundary review. In December 2022, a decision on stage one of the process was taken. That was a council size of 77 members and a review of the current double member divisions. Having researched and consulted colleagues, it was decided that a small increase in members would be appropriate in order to effectively run the Council post 2025. An extra member in Uttlesford, Maldon and Harlow is required. On further analysis, this would have meant a reduction of a member in Castle Point. In considering the difficulties of a division split between Canvey Island and Benfleet, council agreed in July, to ask the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to consider a council of 78 members.

As Group Leader of the Essex County Council Conservative Group, I am pleased to introduce this Conservative group submission, highlighting the particular merits of the ECC cross-party group's recommendations. Bearing in mind the requirements of the commission, we believe that many of the proposals balance the need for logical, well thought out electoral divisions with strong community ties, and the arithmetic challenges of designing divisions within a variance of 10% of the revised ONS figures. These proposed divisions are based on projected 2029 electorates.

The Essex County Council proposals can be seen in their entirety at: <https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/5224/Committee/189/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>. I am confident that in 2025 voters will go to the polls to elect county councillors, representing divisions that best serve local residents.

Best wishes

Kevin Bentley



Cllr Kevin Bentley CC

Cllr Kevin Bentley CC

Leader of Essex County Council Conservative Group

Basildon Borough

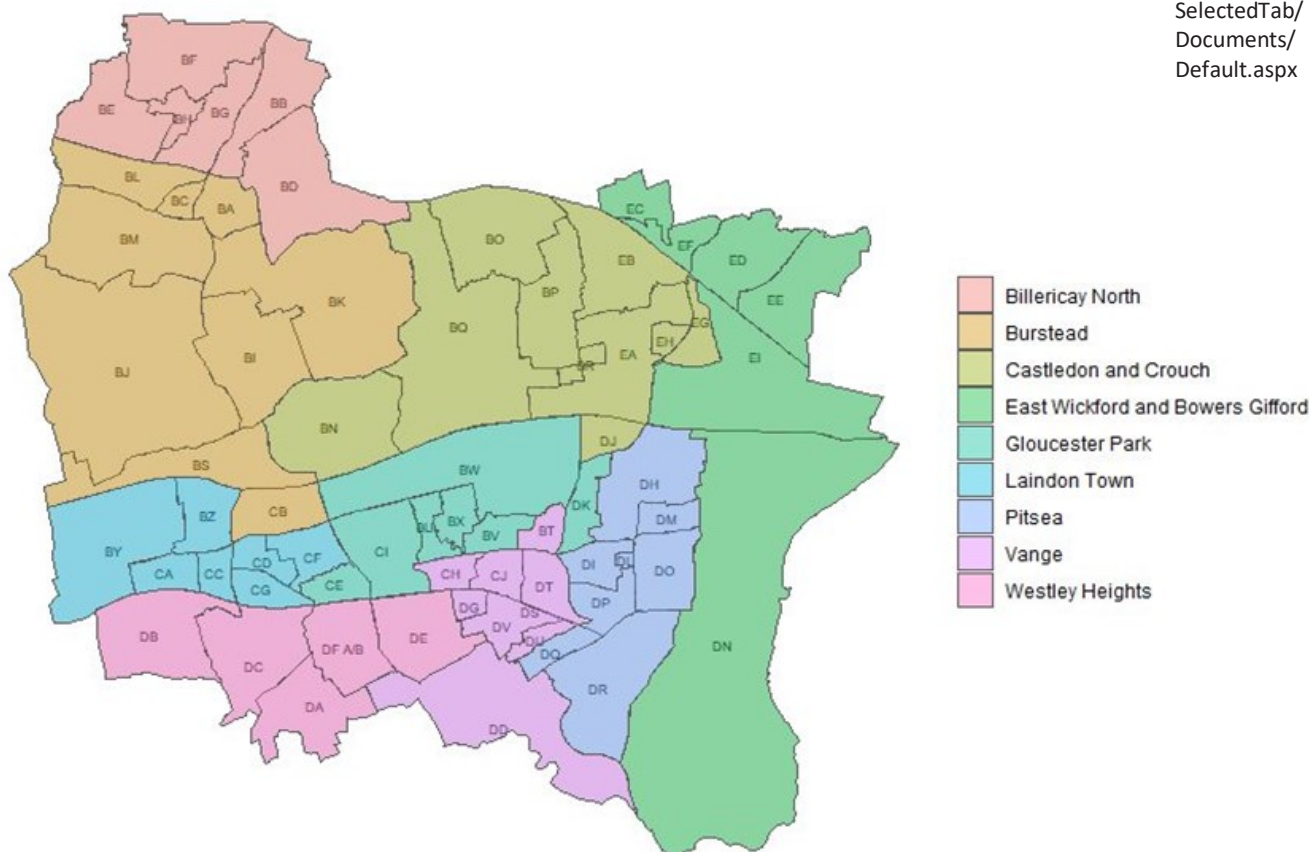
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- Single member review means that Basildon will retain nine county councillors,
- A strong attempt to maintain the integrity of the Basildon urban area and the A127
- Most of the housing close to Basildon Town Centre that was previously in a previous division is now in the same division as the town centre
- As much of Laindon has been kept together within Basildon and respected communities ties in Westley, Vange and Pitsea as well as in the town centre
- The semi-rural area of Bowers Gifford, lying to the east of Basildon feels more affinity with Wickford and many residents in this area have a Wickford postal address

Please click on the below link and you will be able to view the full spreadsheet document of the proposals for Basildon Borough. The information in this map is based on information compiled by Essex County Council using some data from district councils. All copyright acknowledged.

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Basildon



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Braintree District

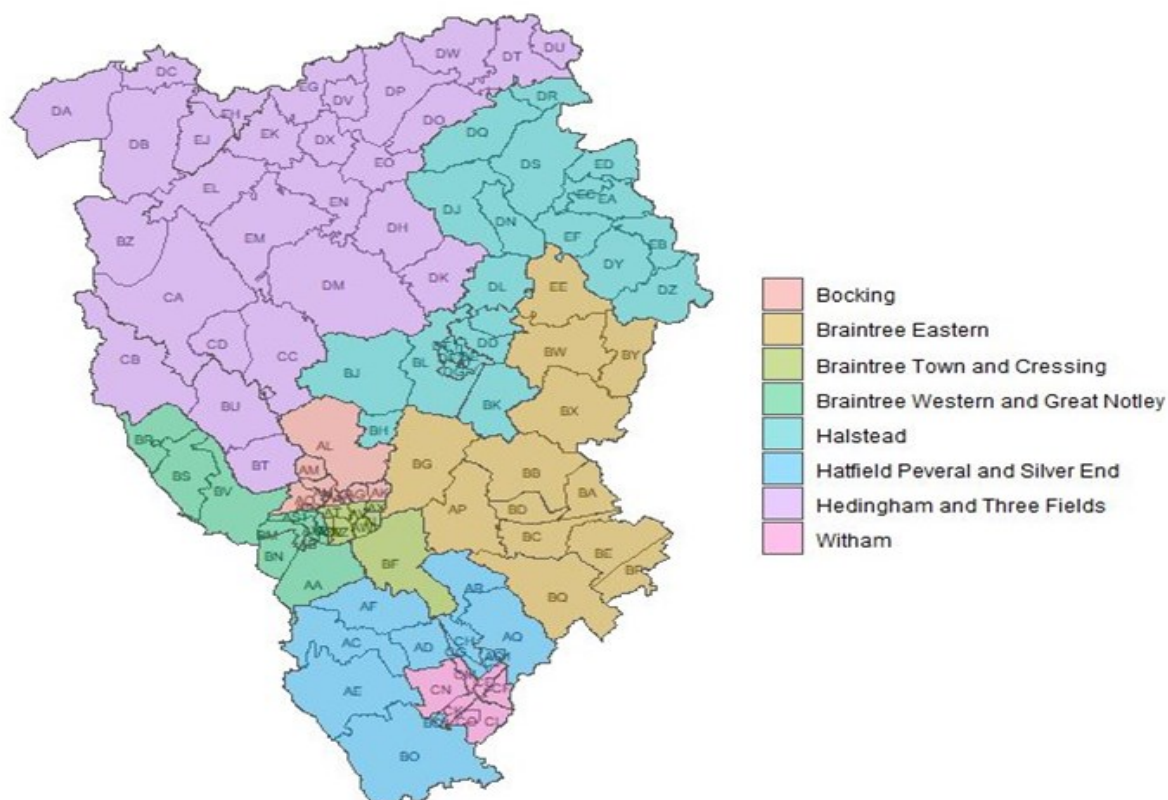
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- Remaining eight single member divisions , taking into account major strategic growth sites and infrastructure links
- The realigned Braintree Eastern division is a logical combination of the three wards of Three Colnes, Coggeshall and Kelvedon and Feering and is coterminous with the new boundary of Witham parliamentary constituency
- Attempts to keep rural communities with strong ties together in both the North and South of the district
- Witham is large enough to have a largely Witham centric county division and the Hatfield Peverel and Silver End division takes into account strong community ties across that part of the district.
- Halstead division proposals try and align communities adjacent to the A131 trunk road

Please click on the below link and you will be able to view the full spreadsheet document of the proposals for Braintree District. The information in this map is based on information compiled by Essex County Council using some data from district councils. All copyright acknowledged.

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Braintree



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Brentwood Borough

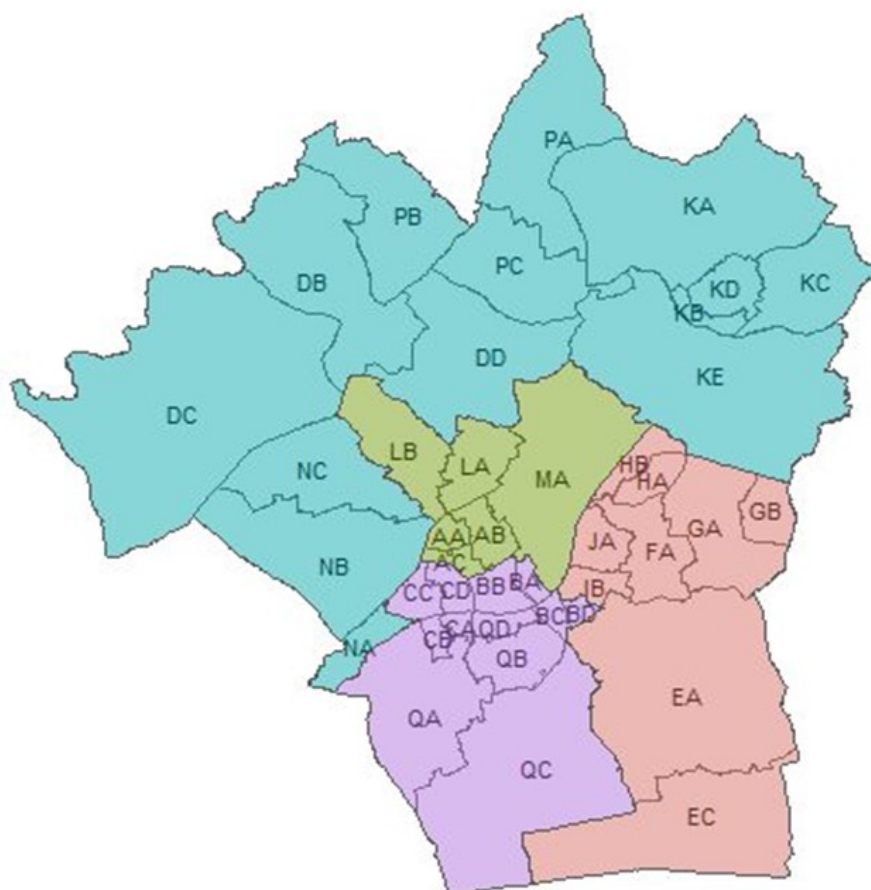
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- No changes suggested for Brentwood Borough
- Current proposals continue to work well for communities and are well balanced

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Brentwood



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Brentwood Hutton Brentwood North Brentwood Rural Brentwood South

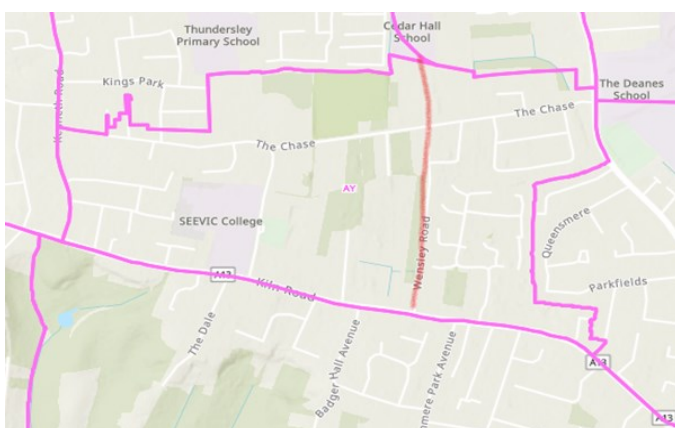
Castle Point Borough

Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- Castle Point to maintain five members
- The two Canvey Island divisions are larger than the 'mainland' divisions important to maintain the island as a boundary. There are no changes proposed for the Canvey Island divisions
- It's proposed that the AY polling district split is between Hadleigh and Thundersley at Wensley Road to increase the population of the Thundersley division. This makes perfect sense

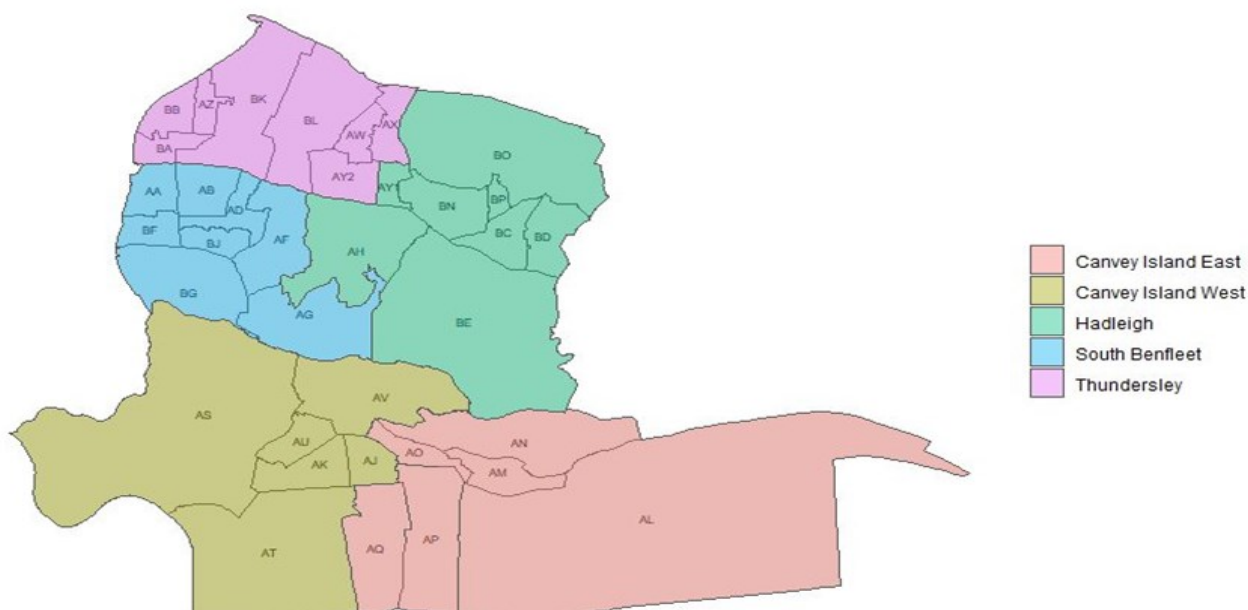
Please click on the below link and you will be able to view the full spreadsheet document of the proposals for Castle Point Borough. The information in this map is based on information compiled by Essex County Council using some data from district councils. All copyright acknowledged.

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The orange line shows where the polling district should be split to balance the divisions.

Castle Point



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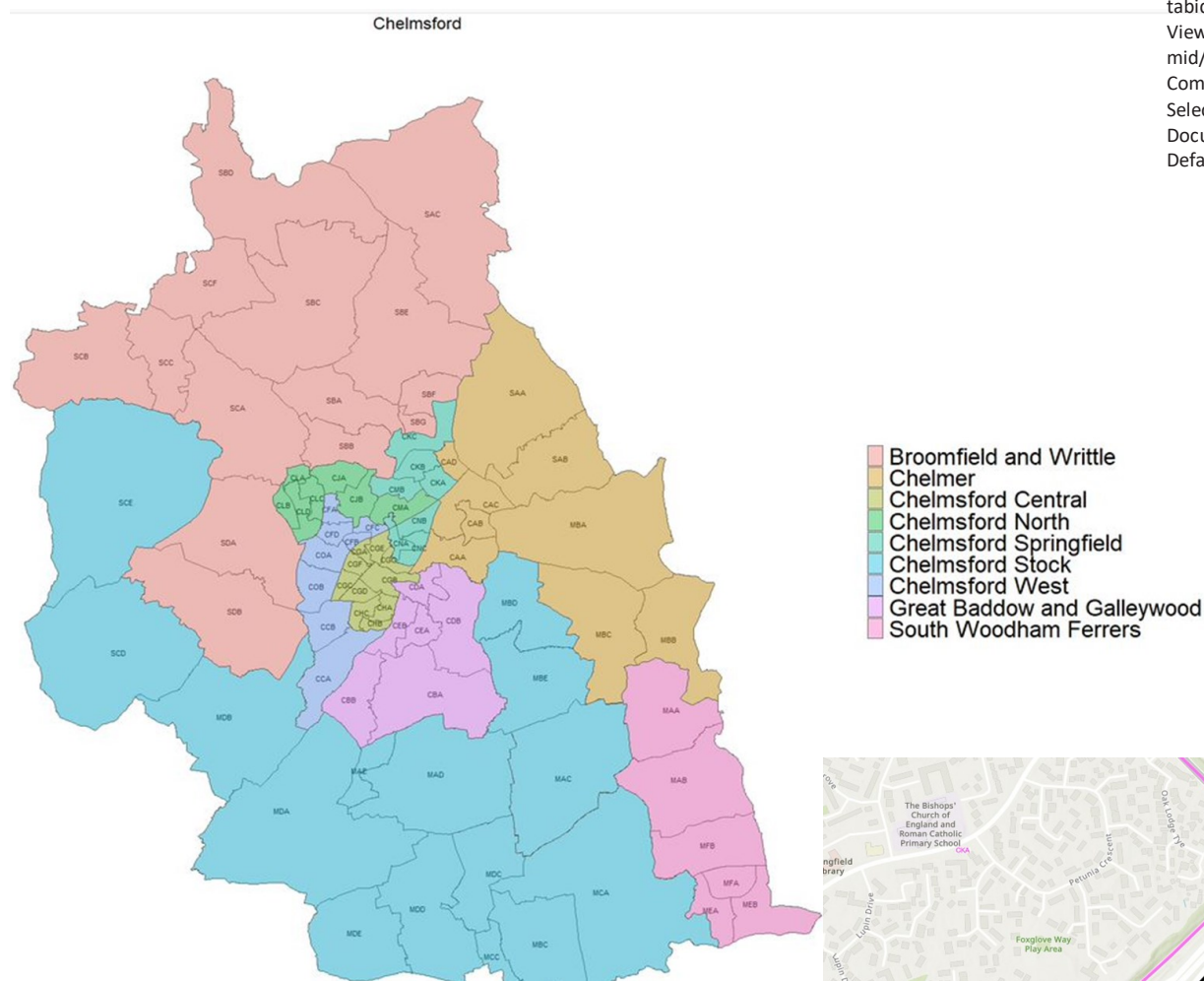
Chelmsford City

Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

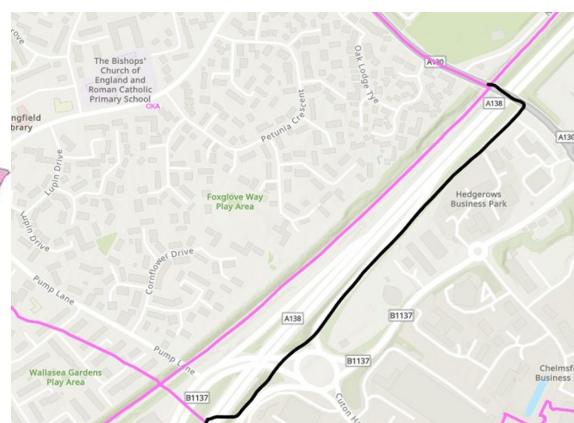
- 9 members representing the City of Chelmsford
- Few amendments to some of the divisions but a realignment of the rural areas is needed to address the electoral number deficit in certain divisions
- We support the slight polling district change at the A138 to enhance the divisions and increase the community ties.

Please click on the below link and you will be able to view the full spreadsheet document of the proposals for Chelmsford City. The information in this map is based on information compiled by Essex County Council using some data from district councils. All copyright acknowledged.

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Colchester City

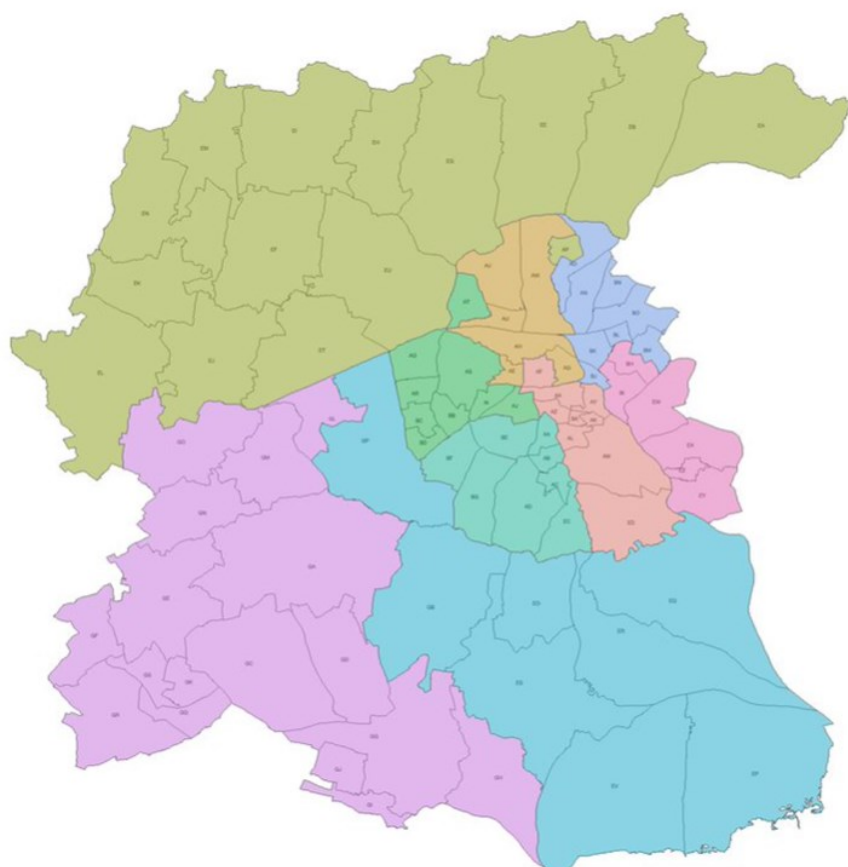
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- 9 members continuing to serve the City of Colchester
- Significant housing growth has meant considerable changes to some divisions
- A realigned Abbey division follows the river and includes Rowhedge
- Drury division absorbs AT Braiswick as there are strong community and city ward links, a readjustment of the polling district would emphasise this
- The proposed Constable division includes the villages adjacent to the A12 with a slight encroachment into the urban area at AP Highwoods, facilitated by a redrawing of the polling district border of AO - moving Severalls Business Park into AP would be workable in terms of numbers
- We support the improvements to the current confusing boundaries of Mersea and Tiptree and Stanway and Pyefleet and welcome plans to create Mersea and Stanway and Tiptree and Marks Tey divisions, better demonstrating community ties in this area

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Colchester

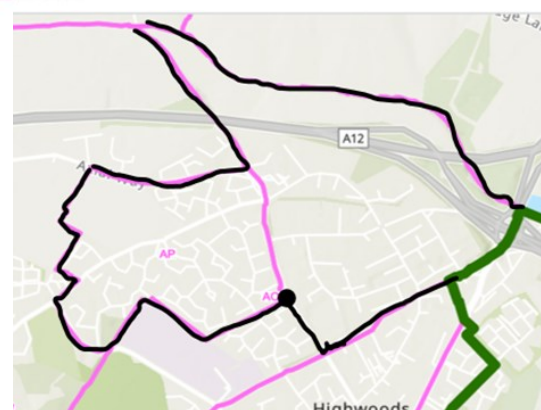


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Above realignment of polling district AT and below a change to the AP polling district line around Severalls Business Park.

Abbey
City
Constable
Leiston
Maple
Mersea and Stanway
St John's
Tiptree and Marks Tey
Withhoe St And



Epping Forest District

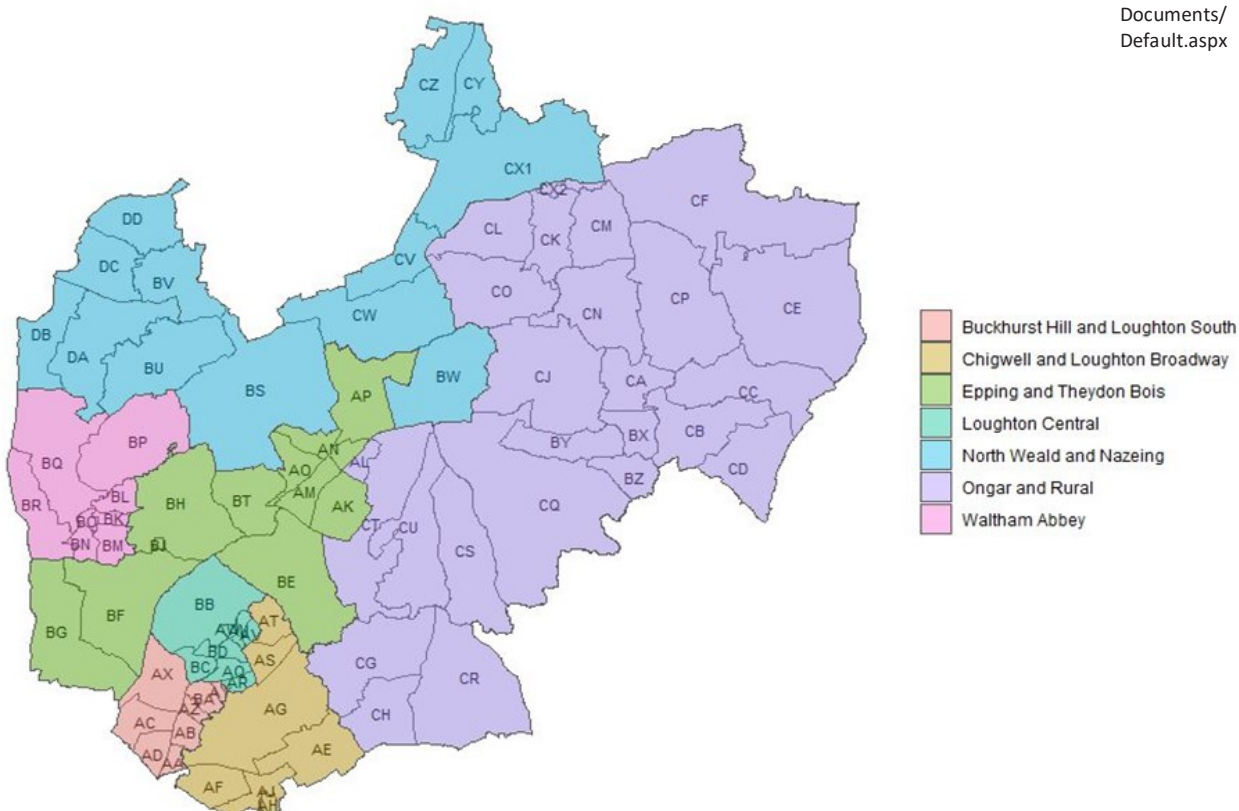
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- Rebalancing of divisions to even numbers including adding more rural areas to Ongar Rural
- Epping and High Beeches together works because local intelligence suggests that residents of High Beeches generally look more to Epping for services than they do to Waltham Abbey, which as a parish now too large to have its own division

Please click on the below link and you will be able to view the full spreadsheet document of the proposals for Epping Forest District. The information in this map is based on information compiled by Essex County Council using some data from district councils. All copyright acknowledged.

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Epping Forest



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Harlow District

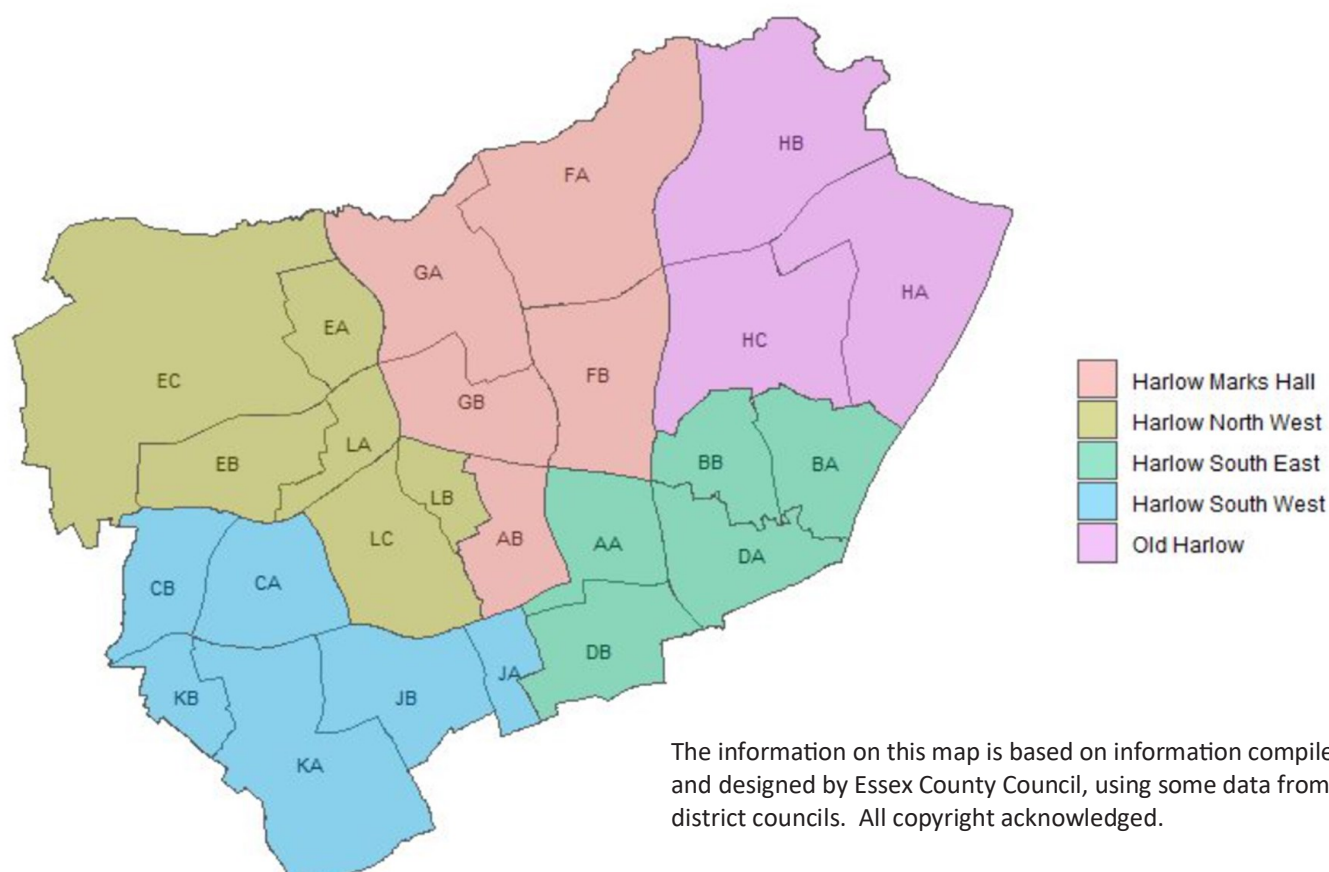
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- Proposal to increase the number of members to five as a result of significant forecast growth. It is also proposed to remove the current two member division
- The five proposed five divisions are balanced as evenly as the communities allow. Harlow is mainly an urban area, the proposal brings together Old Harlow, Netteswell and Marks Hall in the north of the town, bringing together Church Langley, Harlow Common and Bush Fair East, these use the Church Langley shopping centre and Passmores School.
- Toddbrook and Little Pamdon are natural neighbours and the last proposed division brings the areas that use Staple Tye shopping centre, library and Stewards School

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Harlow



Maldon District

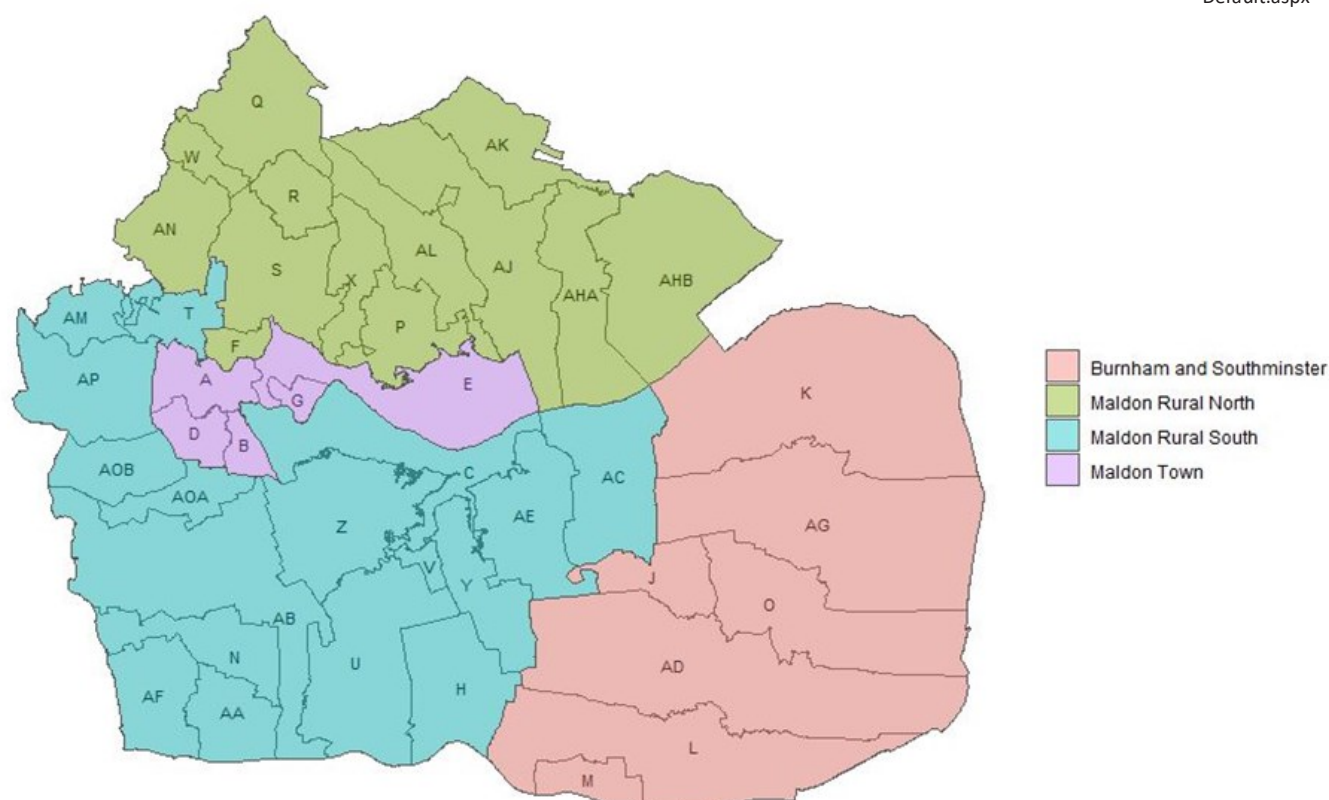
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- An additional division for Maldon District
- Natural community links and infrastructure whilst accommodating new housing into rural parts of the district
- The proposed divisions maintain Burnham and Southminster, Maldon Town and the north and south areas of Maldon district, bringing together neighbouring villages

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Maldon



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Rochford District

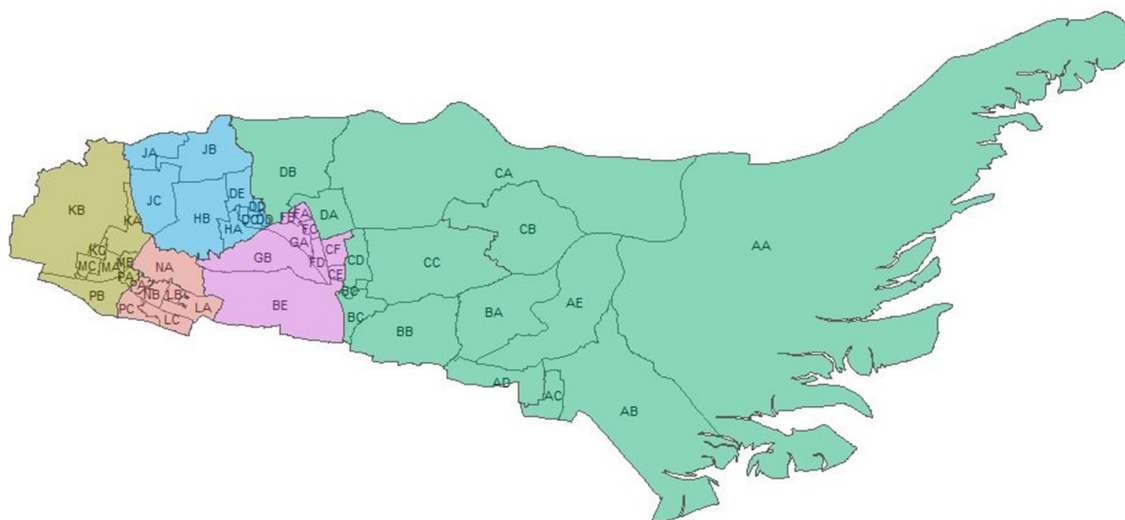
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- Proposal to maintain five members. The divisions are small compared to the County average
- The proposal maintains divisions which are either largely urban or largely rural
- We support the proposal to reduce the disparity between the two Rayleigh divisions by splitting polling district PA along the High Street, Rayleigh

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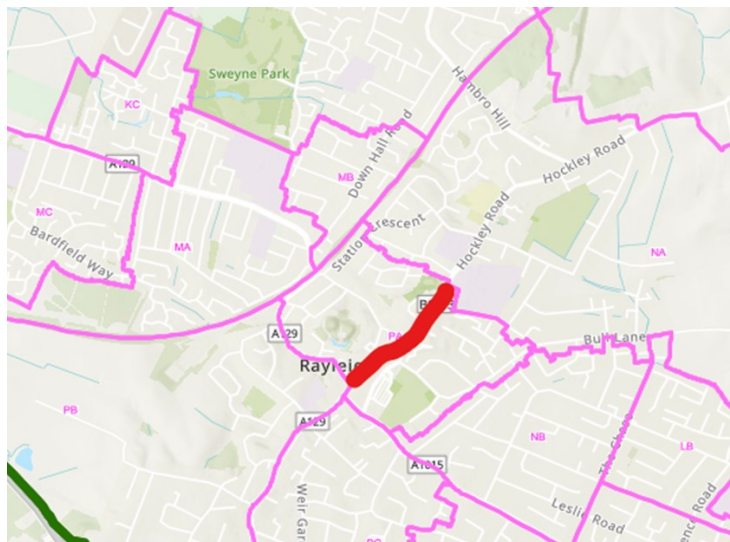
Rochford



Rayleigh South
Rayleigh West
Rochford East
Rochford North
Rochford South

The proposal to split the High Street Rayleigh is shown here.

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Tendring District

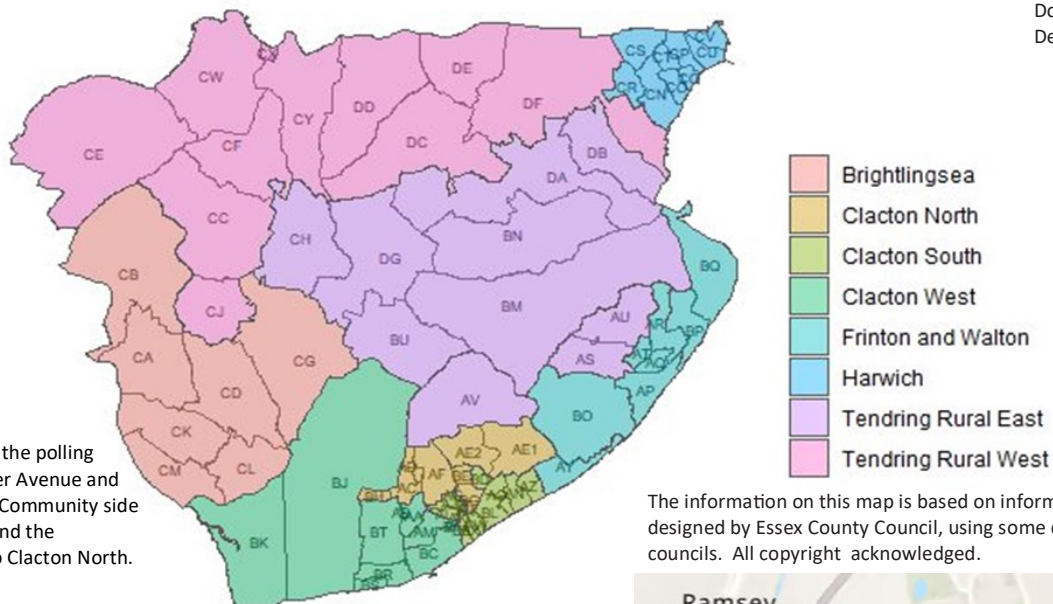
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- 8 divisions in the Tendring District
- Support the tidying up of divisions
- Harwich population increased with additional polling districts from rural areas
- Urban Clacton now spread over 3 divisions as opposed to 4

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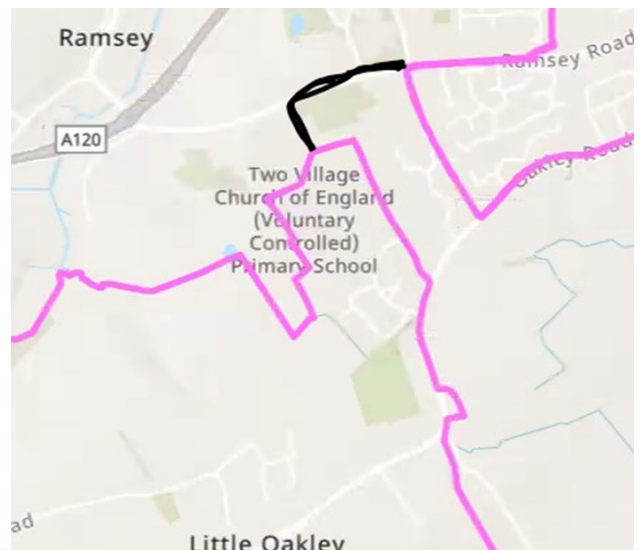
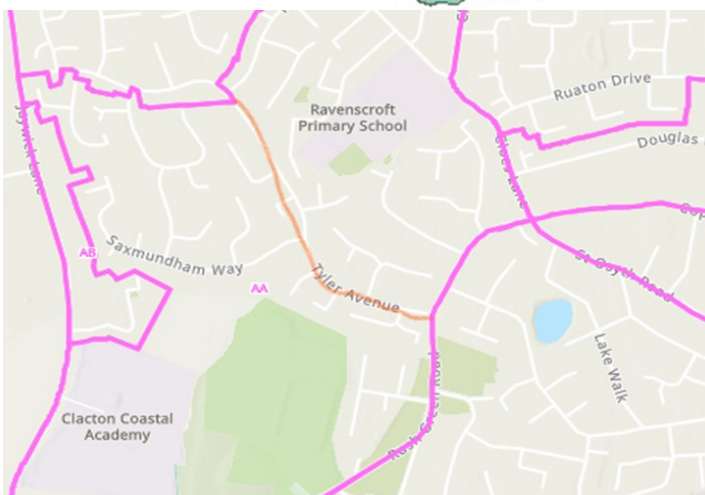
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Tendring



This shows splitting the polling district of AA at Tyler Avenue and putting the Coastal Community side into Clacton West and the Ravencroft side into Clacton North.

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Uttlesford District

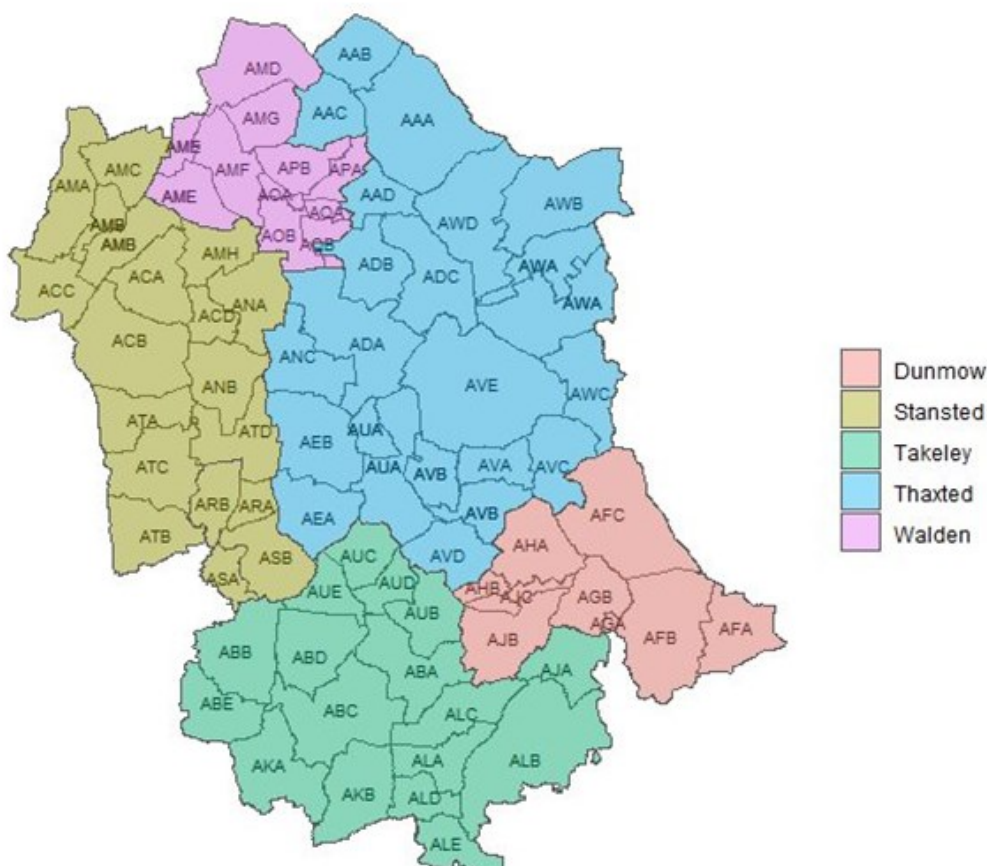
Why we support the Essex County Council proposals:

- The number of divisions increases from four to five
- None of the settlements are large enough to have a focussed division
- It seems sensible that as Takeley has had significant growth, that there is a focussed division there
- A continued focus on existing divisions of Saffron Walden, Thaxted, Dunmow and Stansted

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Uttlesford



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