

9 July 2025



Princes Road
Maldon
Essex CM9 5DL

www.maldon.gov.uk



ADDENDUM / URGENT BUSINESS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Doug Wilkinson

Dear Councillor

Council – 10 July 2025

Please find enclosed Addendums relating to the following items of business due to be considered at the above meeting of the Council.

- 12. **Community Grant Fund** (Pages 3 - 20)
- 18. **Princes Road - Replacement Fire and Building Security Systems** (Pages 29 - 50)

The Chairperson of the Council has agreed to bring forward the following urgent item of business for consideration in response to the recent Council decision to receive an update on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation at every meeting.

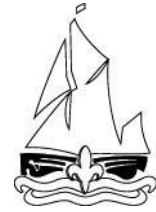
- 15a) **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Update** (pages 21 – 28)

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

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CIRCULATED PRIOR
TO THE MEETING



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to
COUNCIL
10 JULY 2025

ADDENDUM

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

Following feedback from Members, the following amendments are proposed to the Community Grant Scheme report, previously circulated.

- 3.3 This scheme aims to streamline and enhance the Council's ability to provide financial assistance to a broad range of local organisations, including community groups, charitable bodies, educational institutions, Town and Parish Councils, and private businesses. By investing directly into impactful projects, the Council seeks to deliver tangible benefits that improve the quality of life for residents and strengthen the local economy. **The scheme will accept applications in two phases, the first operating from 1 September – 30 November 2025 for Town and Parish Councils, registered voluntary, community or charitable organisations and registered Social Enterprise only. Subject to residual funds being available, phase two will accept applications from primary, secondary, or higher and further education institutions and private sector companies (sole traders and micro businesses 0 - 9 employees only) from January 2026.**
- 3.8 The proposed **grant scoring** panel composition is set out in **APPENDIX 2** and adheres to the Council's Scheme of Financial Delegation for the Lead Specialist Prosperity and Health Integration and Community Manager. **This panel will score the submissions utilising their expertise in the relevant Council Priority, grant management and a broad understanding of the community needs across the district. Members will be provided a synopsis of each grant application in their Ward and requested to provide a letter of support. Once completed, the applications and scoring will be presented to an assurance panel, made up of the Leader of the Council, Chairperson of the Strategy and Resources Committee and Chief Executive for ratification. Small applications, up to £1,000, will be approved by the scoring panel only due to their low-risk nature, however, these will be made known to the assurance panel.**

Members will be provided with a weekly update on the number of applications received, approved or declined, and the overall scoring achieved by each application. This information will be broken down to Ward level.

- 3.9 If approved, this scheme will be integrated into the Council's new process for 'one front door' for grant application administered by the Strategy, Partnership and Communications team. Providing a streamlined, single point of access and support for applicants from the Community Grants Officer. **The appointment of a dedicated Community Grants Officer (15 months) represents a significant cost saving for the Council based on previous commissioning of such work to third party organisations.**

APPENDICES 1 and 2 have been updated to reflect the above amendments.

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Maldon District Council Grant Scheme: Where Quality of Life Matters – Applicant Guidance

1. Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to the Maldon District Council's "Where Quality of Life Matters Grant Scheme"! We're here to help foster a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive district where everyone – residents and businesses alike – can thrive.

This grant scheme offers **grant funding for local community and charitable organisations, and businesses**, enabling them to deliver projects and initiatives that align with the Council's vision and bring tangible benefits to our communities and local economy.

2. Our Funding Priorities

When you apply, we'll prioritise projects that clearly align with and contribute to one or more of the following key areas, reflecting the [Council's Corporate Plan 2025 – 2028](#) and needs of our district:

- **Supporting Our Communities:** We're looking for projects that **bring people together**, actively **reduce social isolation**, and **enhance the mental and physical health** of residents across all age groups. Think about how your initiative can foster connections and wellbeing.
 - **Investing In Our District:** This priority focuses on projects that **enhance and maintain community facilities, green spaces, and public areas**, making them more accessible and enjoyable for everyone. We also welcome investment in **culture**, improving what we offer to residents, businesses, and visitors alike.
 - **Growing Our Economy:** We want to support initiatives that stimulate local economic growth. This could mean funding the **purchase of new goods or services** (like technology upgrades, marketing efforts, specialist training, or product diversification). Projects that aim to **increase visitor numbers** who stay longer and spend more in the district are also a high priority.
 - **Protecting Our Environment:** Projects that contribute to **reducing carbon emissions**, promoting **energy efficiency**, enhancing **climate resilience**, and actively **protecting and improving the natural environment** within the Maldon District are crucial. These projects should align with [the Council's Climate Action Strategy](#).
-

3. Who Can Apply (Eligibility Criteria)

To be eligible for funding, your organisation or business must meet the following criteria:

- **Be located within or primarily serve the residents of the Maldon District.**

- **Clearly demonstrate a need for your project** and explain **how it will benefit** the local community or economy.
- **Provide a clear breakdown of project costs** and demonstrate **financial sustainability** for the project.
- **Commit to the principle of equal opportunities** and ensure services are **accessible to all**.
- **Have appropriate policies and procedures in place**, such as public liability insurance and safeguarding policies (if working with children or vulnerable adults).

Eligible applicant types include:

Phase One – 1 September – 30 November 2025

- Town or Parish Councils within the Maldon District.
- **Registered voluntary, community, or charitable organisations.**
- **Registered Social Enterprise.**

Phase Two – January 2025 onwards, subject to residual funding being available

- Primary, secondary, or higher and further education institutions.
- **Micro-sized private sector companies 0-9 employees** (including sole traders – please be ready to supply evidence of HMRC registration). Not be part of a larger national chain or franchise, except for those registered as sole traders.
- ~~Registered voluntary, community, or charitable organisations.~~
- ~~Registered Social Enterprise.~~

Only one application per organisation is permitted. ~~during each application window.~~

4. What Your Project Can Cover

The grant scheme is designed to be flexible and can support a range of activities and costs:

- **Project-Specific Costs:** This covers essential items like materials, equipment, venue hire, and fees for sessional workers directly involved in your project.
- **Capital Improvements:** You can apply for funding for **minor building renovations**, improvements to accessibility, or contributions towards **energy efficiency measures**.
- **Activities:** The grant can fund a diverse range of activities, including community events, workshops, training sessions, engagement schemes, and youth activities.

- **Type of Funding:** The grant fund is a mix of **capital and revenue funding**. You'll need to identify which category your costs fall into within your application.
 - **Capital Funding** - This refers to money spent by the applicant organisation to acquire, upgrade, or maintain long-term assets that will be used for more than one financial year. These are typically significant one-off investments that add value to the organisation's property, equipment, or infrastructure, or extend the useful life of an existing asset.
 - **Revenue Funding** - This refers to money spent on the day-to-day running costs of the proposed project, but not the general organisation. These costs are typically consumed within a single financial year and relate to activities or services that enable the project to operate.
-

5. What We Can't Fund

To ensure fairness and effective use of public funds, the grant scheme cannot support:

- Activities that are the sole responsibility of statutory services.
 - Projects that promote political or religious beliefs.
 - Retrospective funding for activities that have already taken place.
 - Core costs for large organisations where the grant would not make a significant impact.
 - Projects that exclusively benefit individuals (unless through a recognised community scheme for a specific vulnerable group).
 - On-going costs associated with the usual operation of your organisation.
 - Applications from any entity not listed in the "Eligible applicant types" above.
 - Age restricted activities.
 - Any other activity that the Council has indicated that it does not regard as suitable for support from public funds.
-

6. Grant Tiers & How Much You Can Apply For

The scheme operates with three tiers to accommodate different project sizes and impacts:

- **Small Grants:** Apply for **up to £1,000** for smaller, localised initiatives.
- **Medium Grants:** Apply for **£1,001 - £5,000** for more developed projects with a wider community reach.

- **Large Grants:** Apply for **£5,001 - £10,000** for significant projects demonstrating substantial community impact and strong strategic alignment.

Please note: The total available funding for the scheme will be announced annually and depends on Council budget allocations and any external funding we secure (like the UK Shared Prosperity Fund).

7. The Application Process

Applying for a grant is a straightforward process:

1. **Read the Guidelines:** You must **carefully read the full** "Where Quality of Life Matters Applicant Guidance" (this document) before completing your application form.
2. **Online Application Form:** All applications must be submitted via the **online application form** available on the Maldon District Council website.
3. **Supporting Documents:** You'll may need to submit a range of supporting documents. These could include:
 - Your latest annual accounts or financial statements.
 - Your constitution or governing document.
 - Safeguarding policies (if you work with children or vulnerable adults).
 - Your public liability insurance certificate.
 - **Quotes for proposed expenditure** (especially important for larger grants of £5,001+).
 - Evidence of any match funding from the organisation or third parties.
 - Letters of support from partner organisations (if applicable).
 - Please be aware that we may request further information to verify your application during assessment.
4. **Assessment:** A dedicated panel will assess your application based on the eligibility criteria, alignment with our funding priorities and Grant Scoring Principles.
5. **Decision & Notification:** We aim to notify applicants of the decision within a specified timeframe, **please see Application Deadlines below. (e.g., typically 6-8 weeks from the application deadline).**
6. **Grant Agreement:** If your application is successful, you'll be required to sign a **grant agreement** outlining the terms and conditions of the funding.
7. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** As a grant recipient, you'll need to provide **progress reports and a final evaluation report**. This will include evidence of

expenditure and details of your project's outcomes, helping us assess the scheme's impact and inform future funding decisions.

8. Application Deadlines

The "Where Quality of Life Matters Grant Scheme" will operate with specific application windows throughout the year.

Phase One will be open to Town and Parish Councils, registered voluntary, community or charitable organisations and registered Social Enterprise only. This will open on 1 September to 30 November 2025 with applications assessed and outcomes advised December 2025.

Phase Two subject to residual funds from Phase One, applications from Primary, secondary, or higher and further education institutions and private sector companies (including sole traders) will be accepted from January 2026.

~~Please keep an eye on the Maldon District Council website for the exact dates of each funding round, which will also be promoted through relevant community networks.~~

9. Get In Touch

For any queries regarding the Maldon District Council "Where Quality of Life Matters Grant Scheme", please don't hesitate to contact us:

Email: Strategy.team@maldon.gov.uk

10. Important Notes

The Maldon District Council Community Grant Scheme guidelines and priorities will be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain relevant to the needs of the district and align with the Council's overarching strategies. Any amendments will always be clearly communicated on the Council's website.

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Rationale for Differentiated Scoring:

1. **Proportionality:** For example, a £500 project does not require the same level of detailed planning, risk assessment, or governance oversight as a £10,000 project. A simpler application and scoring process for smaller grants reduces the burden on both applicants (often small, volunteer-led groups) and assessors.
2. **Efficiency:** Less complex applications can be reviewed and scored more quickly, speeding up decision-making for small grants, which are often time sensitive.
3. **Accessibility:** A simpler process encourages more smaller, grassroots organisations to apply, who might be intimidated by a highly detailed application and robust scoring matrix.
4. **Risk Management:** Larger grants naturally carry more financial risk. A more robust assessment for these ensures due diligence, financial stability, and detailed project planning are thoroughly scrutinised.
5. **Strategic Focus:** Larger grants often fund more significant, impactful projects that require greater alignment with Council priorities and demonstrable long-term benefits. A detailed scoring matrix helps to identify and reward these.

Grant Application Scoring: Tiered Matrices

We'll use three distinct scoring matrices, each designed for a specific grant tier to ensure **proportionality, efficiency, and accurate evaluation**.

Tier 1: Small Grants Assessment (Up to £1,000)

This matrix is simplified for rapid assessment, focusing on direct community benefit and basic project feasibility for smaller, grassroots initiatives.

Total Possible Score: 50 points

Criteria	Max Score	Scoring Guidance (Examples)
Community/Business Need & Benefit (Does it meet a clear local need and deliver positive outcomes for communities or the economy?)	20	0 = No evidence of need/benefit 1-5 = Anecdotal/Limited: Relies on assumptions; benefits a very small group or limited effect on business; impact unclear 6-10 = Good: Some evidence (e.g., small survey, local data); clear benefit for a reasonable number/range of people or to the success of the business, with clear positive outcomes 11-15 = Strong: Robust evidence (e.g., strong community feedback, statistics);

APPENDIX 2 (UPDATED)

Criteria	Max Score	Scoring Guidance (Examples)
		significant, measurable benefits for many residents or a specifically vulnerable group or measurable increase to the business' economic performance, clearly outlining how lives will be improved.
Project Feasibility (Is it achievable with a clear plan and timeline?)	15	0 = Unclear/Unrealistic 1-3 = Basic: Activities listed, but vague on how; high-level dates only 4-7 = Good: Clear plan, realistic timeline with key activities defined; organisation seems capable. 8-10 = Strong: Very clear, achievable, and logical plan; detailed, realistic timeline; organisation has relevant experience/capacity.
Budget & Value for Money (Are the costs justified and does the project offer good value?)	10	0 = Poor/Vague 1-2 = Basic: Costs listed, but justification missing or vague 3-4 = Good: Clear breakdown, costs seem reasonable for the activity; good use of funds for the proposed outcome 5 = Strong: Detailed, justified budget; excellent value for the proposed outcome.
Alignment with the Council's Priorities (Project explicitly aligns with one or more of Council's Priorities.)	5	0 = No alignment 1-2 = Limited: Addresses one priority generally 3-4 = Good: Clearly aligns with one main priority 5 = Excellent: Strongly aligns with one or more priorities

Tier 2: Medium Grants Assessment (£1,001 - £5,000)

This matrix requires more detail and evidence than Small Grants, looking for developed projects with a wider community reach and clearer strategic alignment.

Total Possible Score: 75 points

Criteria	Max Score	Scoring Guidance (Examples)
Strategic Alignment (Project explicitly aligns with one of Council's Priorities outlined in the fund and demonstrates how.)	20	0-4 = No alignment/Contradictory. Project fails to address any of the Council's priorities or conflicts with them 5-9 = Limited: Addresses one priority generally, but without strong detail or a clear link 10-14 = Good: Clearly aligns with one main

Criteria	Max Score	Scoring Guidance (Examples)
		priority, providing some rationale 5-20 = Strong: Strongly aligns with one or more key priorities, demonstrating a clear understanding of the Council's vision. <i>If "Climate Action & Energy Efficiency," directly contributes to the Council's "Our Home, Our Future" strategy.</i>
Community/Business Need & Impact (Provides concrete evidence of the problem or opportunity the project will address (e.g., survey results, local statistics, community feedback, or business plan.)	20	0-4 = No evidence of need/benefit 5-9 = Limited: Relies on anecdotal evidence; benefits a small specific group or limited effect on business, limited; impact unclear 10-14 = Good: Some evidence of need (e.g., small survey, local data); clear benefit for a reasonable number/range of people or to the success of the business, with positive outcomes outlined 15-20 = Strong: Provides good evidence of community need (e.g., community feedback, local statistics); delivers significant positive impact for a notable number of residents or a specifically identified vulnerable group or measurable increase to the business' economic performance, clearly outlining how quality of life will be improved.
Project Design & Deliverability (Project goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). A clear, step-by-step plan of how the project will be delivered. A logical and achievable schedule for project activities and milestones.)	15	0-3 = Unclear/Unrealistic 4-7 = Basic: Activities listed, but vague on how; high-level dates only; organisation capacity implied but not clearly demonstrated 8-11 = Good: Clear plan, realistic timeline with key activities defined; organisation has relevant experience and appears capable 12-15 = Strong: Very clear, achievable, and logical plan; detailed, realistic timeline with key milestones; organisation demonstrates relevant experience to make the project a success and adequate staffing/volunteers.
Financial Management & Value for Money (Comprehensive breakdown of all costs, clearly justified with supporting quotes where appropriate. Project demonstrates efficient use of funds, maximising impact, and considering long-term sustainability beyond the grant period,	10	0-2 = Poor/Vague 3-5 = Basic: Costs listed, but justification missing or vague; value for money not explicitly addressed 6-7 = Good: Clear budget breakdown, most costs justified; project seems to offer reasonable value for money 8-10 = Strong: Detailed, justified budget; excellent value for the proposed outcome; demonstrates efficient use of funds and some consideration for sustainability

Criteria	Max Score	Scoring Guidance (Examples)
where not a one-off event.)		
Partnership & Collaboration (Evidence of working with other organisations or community groups to enhance impact and reach.) For a private business to score well in this criterion, they must demonstrate how the grant will also contribute to wider collaborations (with community groups, charities, or other businesses) creating a clear, measurable, and positive impact on the community. This means leveraging their resources (expertise, facilities, funding, Corporate Social Responsibility) to address identified community needs or enhance existing public services.	10	0-2 = No collaboration 3-5 = Basic: Project delivered in isolation, or very informal, limited collaborations 6-7 = Good: Some informal partnerships demonstrated; limited collaboration with other local groups or services 8-10 = Strong: Evidence of meaningful informal or formal partnerships, clear joint working, and/or leveraging resources from other organisations to enhance project reach or impact.

Tier 3: Large Grants Assessment (£5,001 - £10,000)

This matrix requires the most comprehensive detail, scrutinising strategic impact, robust financial planning, detailed risk assessment, and long-term sustainability for significant investments.

Total Possible Score: 100 points

Criteria	Max Score	Scoring Guidance (Examples)
Strategic Alignment (Project explicitly aligns with one of Council's Priorities outlined in the fund and demonstrates how.)	25	0-5 = None 6-10 = Limited: Project generally touches upon one Council priority but lacks clear detail or a strong, explicit link to the Council's vision. If climate-related, it's very general or not directly measurable. 11-17 = Good: Project clearly aligns with one or two main Council priorities, providing sound

		<p>rationale and demonstrating a good understanding of the Council's strategic goals. If climate-related, it shows a reasonable contribution to "Our Home, Our Future."</p> <p>18-25 = Strong: Project strongly aligns with multiple Council priorities, demonstrating a deep understanding of the Council's vision and how the project directly supports it. If "Climate Action & Energy Efficiency," it is a core component and explicitly contributes measurably to Council's "Our Home, Our Future" strategy (e.g., quantified carbon reduction, significant energy savings, biodiversity net gain, enhanced climate resilience).</p>
<p>Community/Business Need & Impact (Provides concrete evidence of the problem or opportunity the project will address (e.g., survey results, local statistics, community feedback, or business plan.)</p>	20	<p>0-4 = None: No evidence of community/business need or anticipated benefits. Impact is unclear, irrelevant, or minimal.</p> <p>5-9 = Limited: Relies on anecdotal evidence; benefits a very small, specific group; impact is vague or difficult to measure.</p> <p>10-14 = Good: Some evidence of need (e.g., small survey, local data); clear benefits outlined for a reasonable number/range of people, with positive outcomes described. Impact is generally clear.</p> <p>15-20 = Strong Provides robust, comprehensive evidence of community need (e.g., detailed needs assessment, extensive consultation, compelling local statistics, strong letters of support from community leaders/beneficiaries). Project delivers substantial, measurable benefits for a large number or strategically important vulnerable groups within the Maldon District, clearly articulating how lives will be improved and aligning with the grant scheme's overall "Quality of Life Matters" theme</p>
<p>Project Design & Deliverability (Project goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). A clear, step-by-step plan of</p>	20	<p>0-4 = None: Aims, objectives, activities, or timeline are unclear, unrealistic, or illogical. Organisation's capacity is not demonstrated or appears insufficient.</p> <p>5-9 points = Limited: Aims are broad,</p>

<p>how the project will be delivered. A logical and achievable schedule for project activities and milestones.)</p>		<p>objectives lack detail/measurability. Activities listed but vague on methodology. Timeline is basic. Organisation's capacity is implied but not strongly evidenced.</p> <p>10-14 point = Good: Clear aims, objectives are generally SMART. Activities are well-defined and logical. Realistic timeline with key milestones. Organisation demonstrates relevant experience and appears capable.</p> <p>15-20 = Strong Exceptionally well-defined aims, with clear and SMART objectives. Comprehensive, logical, and innovative plan outlining all key activities, roles, responsibilities, and specific methodologies. Professional, detailed, and realistic timeline with clear milestones, assigned responsibilities, and well-considered contingency planning. Organisation demonstrates a strong track record of successful project delivery, dedicated team (staff/volunteers).</p>
<p>Financial Management & Value for Money (Comprehensive breakdown of all costs, clearly justified with supporting quotes where appropriate. Project demonstrates efficient use of funds, maximising impact, and considering long-term sustainability beyond the grant period, where not a one-off event.)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>0-4 = None: Budget is absent, highly vague, or contains significant unjustified costs. No consideration of value for money or sustainability.</p> <p>5-9 = Limited: Basic budget breakdown, but justification for costs is weak or missing for key items. Value for money not explicitly addressed; sustainability plan is absent or unconvincing.</p> <p>10-14 = Good: Clear budget breakdown, most costs justified with some supporting quotes. Project appears to offer reasonable value for money. Some consideration for long-term sustainability (e.g., potential for future funding, volunteer training, investment from the business itself).</p> <p>15-20 = Strong: Highly detailed, realistic, and fully justified budget with clear cost breakdowns for all items. Multiple competitive quotes for significant expenditure are provided. Demonstrates exceptional return on</p>

		investment, innovative approaches to maximise impact, and highly efficient use of public funds. A robust and credible plan for long-term project sustainability beyond the grant funding, including clear strategies for diverse income generation, volunteer retention, or integration into existing services.
Partnership & Collaboration For a private business to score well in this criterion, they must demonstrate how the grant will also contribute to wider collaborations (with community groups, charities, or other businesses) creating a clear, measurable, and positive impact on the community. This means leveraging their resources (expertise, facilities, funding, Corporate Social Responsibility) to address identified community needs or enhance existing public services.	15	<p>0-3 = None: No evidence of working with other organisations. Project appears isolated.</p> <p>4-7 = Limited: Project delivered largely in isolation, or very informal, limited collaborations with minimal stated benefits.</p> <p>8-11 points = Good: Some informal partnerships or limited collaboration with other local groups/services, with their roles generally described. Some benefits of partnership are stated.</p> <p>12-15 = Strong: Strong evidence of formal or informal strategic partnerships that significantly enhance the project's reach, expertise, and sustainability. Clear demonstration of how partnerships will leverage additional resources (financial, in-kind, expertise) and avoid duplication. Evidence of meaningful community co-production or engagement in the design and delivery of the project (beyond mere consultation), especially with target beneficiaries.</p>

Key Considerations for Implementation:

Scoring Thresholds:

- Small Grants: A minimum score of 30/50 (60%) for funding consideration.
- Medium Grants: A higher minimum of 45/75 (60%) is appropriate.
- Large Grants: The highest minimum, 65/100 (65%), to ensure only the most impactful and robust projects receive significant funding.
- Weighted Criteria: Notice the weighting in the larger grant matrices (e.g., Strategic Alignment and Community Need are high), reflecting their importance to the Council's overall objectives.
- "Decline" for Missing Information: Make it clear that applications failing to provide essential documentation (e.g., latest accounts, governing document) or a clear budget will be automatically declined before scoring.
- Assessor Training: Crucial for all panel members to ensure consistent application of the scoring guidance across all tiers.
- Feedback: Provide tailored feedback for each tier – simpler, direct feedback for Small Grants, and more detailed, constructive advice for Medium and Large Grants.

This tiered approach provides a clear, fair, and efficient system for assessing grant applications, ensuring that Maldon District Council's investment yields the best possible outcomes for its communities.

Grant Assessment Panels: Composition for Tiered Scoring

Purpose: To quickly and efficiently assess a high volume of smaller applications, ensuring basic eligibility, community benefit, and feasibility. The focus is on enabling grassroots activity.

Officers:

Scoring Panel ~~Primary Assessors~~ for Relevant Priority Area (Maldon District Council):

- **Role:** ~~Scoring Primary Assessors~~:
 - Supporting Our Communities – Community Health and Wellbeing Officer/Health Improvement Officer
 - Investing In Our District – Health Integration and Community Manager
 - Growing Our Economy – Lead Specialist Prosperity
 - Protecting Our Environment – Technical Lead: Climate Action
- **Rationale:** Expertise in relevant Council Priority, grant management, and a broad understanding of community needs across the district.

Community Grant Officer (Maldon District Council):

- **Role:** Officer to ensure the reviews process is undertaken in accordance with the processes. Requests Member support for application in relevant Ward.
- **Rationale:** Adds a layer of validation, assists with Scoring Assessor/s questions, and may have specific local knowledge of the applicant/s.

Assurance Panel:

- **Role:** To provide final ratification of the applications proposed for support by the Scoring Panel.
- **Rationale:** To offer an additional later of validation, ensuring medium and large grant applications meet the Council's strategic needs and the protection of public funds

Process for ~~Scoring Grants~~ Panel:

- **Initial Assessment:** Community Grant Officer assess all applications for completeness and accuracy.
- If Small (up to £1,000), Community Grants Officer makes a recommendation to the relevant **Scoring Primary** Assessor, of the relevant priority, on its eligibility and reasoning for approval/decline providing a completed scoring assessment. The **Scoring Primary** Assessor then approves or declines the application. Application is then passed to either the Lead Specialist Prosperity or the Health Integration and Communities Manager for final approval. If a small grant application presents complexity, controversy, or significant uncertainty, it can be "escalated" to the Medium/Large Grants Panel for a full review.
- If Medium or Large, the Community Grant Officer convenes a Panel of the **Score Primary** Assessors, either in person or virtual.

In advance of the panel, the **Scoring Panel Primary Assessors** will undertake an individual assessment and apply the relevant scoring matrix in accordance with the grant amount.

- **Scoring Panel Review:** Community Grants Officer reviews the assessment and application, agreeing or querying scores.
- **Scoring Panel Primary Assessors:** propose to approve or decline the application.
- **Assurance Panel:** applications are presented to the Assurance Panel for final ratification.
- ~~**Rapid Decision:** Decisions are made by Officers under delegated authority. Providing proper segregation of duties between those evaluating the bids and the approval of the process for the bids to be evaluated.~~

Approvals of the grant values are within the Council's Scheme of Financial Delegation for the Lead Specialist Prosperity and Health Integration and Community Manager.

Maldon District Council Members will be provided with a weekly update on the number of applications received, approved or declined, and the overall scoring achieved by each application. This information will be broken down to Ward level.

Council Update July 2025

- Devolution
- Local Government Reorganisation

maldon.gov.uk

'Where Quality of Life Matters'



MALDON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Devolution – Latest update

Recap

- February 2025 – Greater Essex confirmed as part of Government's Devolution Priority Programme.
- Public Consultation conducted 17 Feb to 13 April. Government is currently reviewing the responses received.
- Still on track for Mayoral election May 2026.

Latest

- Officers are attending workshops hosted by Essex County Council (ECC), Thurrock and Southend next week to discuss and identify policies and processes in readiness for day one of the Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA).

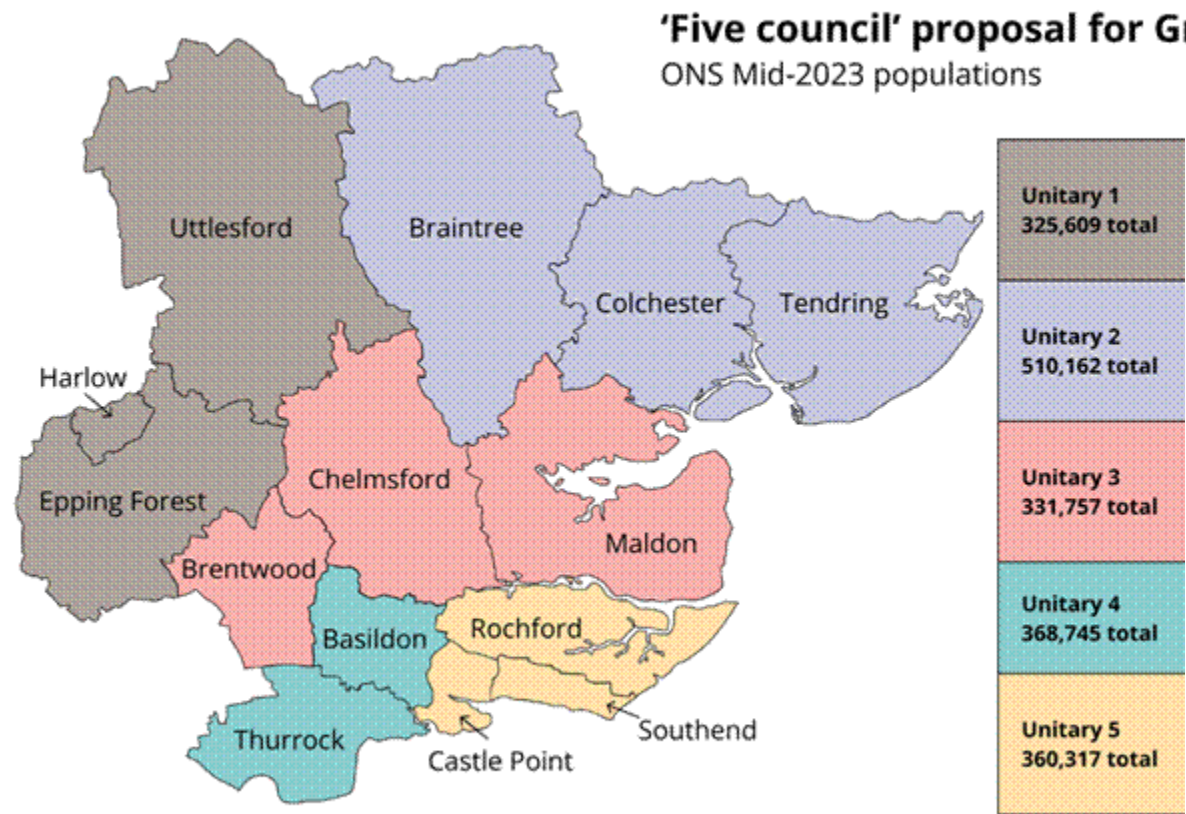
Local Government Reorganisation – latest update

- Work has continued at pace to develop two business cases.
- Business case A: Sets out a specific case for a 5 Unitary Authority (5UA) model.
- Business case B: ECC has completed an options appraisal and announced it will develop a case for a 3 Unitary Authority model.
- All Essex authorities can submit a preferred option. Both Thurrock and Rochford have voiced a desire to submit their own preferred option business cases.
- Engagement for businesses cases A and B has begun through surveys, telephone interviews and website consultations with residents, businesses and partners across the county.
- The 5UA model has received over 3,000 responses as of the end of last week. The consultation runs until the 25 July.
- Click here to have your say: [Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex | Your say Southend](#)

Local Government Reorganisation – Business Case A: Five Councils

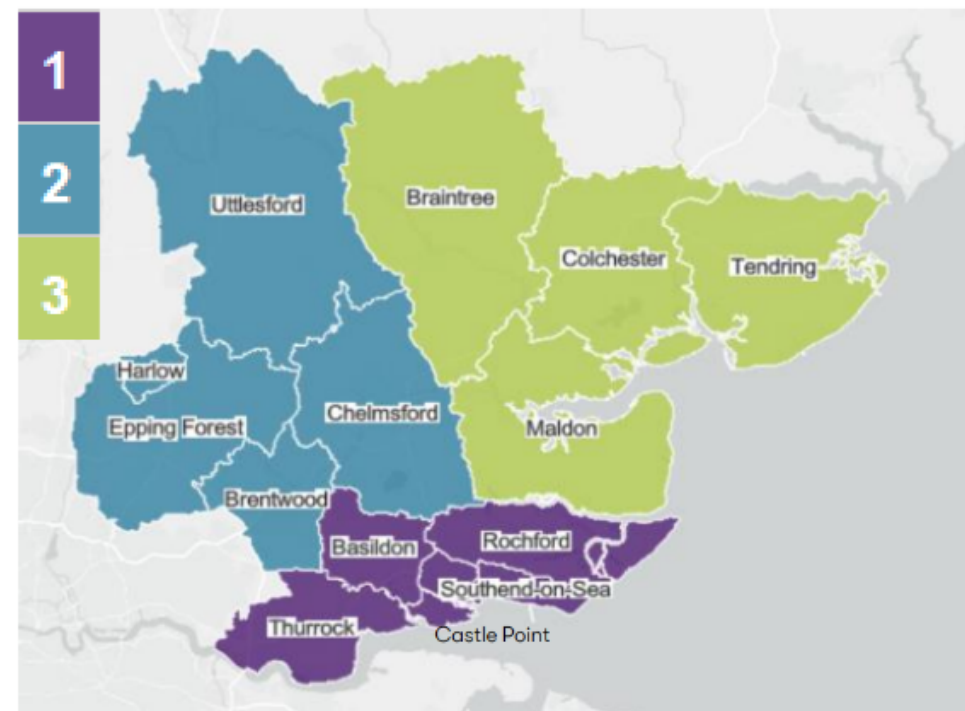
Maldon, Chelmsford and Brentwood councils would form a unitary authority

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Local Government Reorganisation – Business Case B: Three Councils

- The business case ECC is leading on has completed an options appraisal.
- Based on their evidence they are leaning towards a preferred model of Three Councils.
- This would join Maldon with Tendring, Colchester and Braintree to form a Unitary Authority.



Total population for each unitary: 3UA model

1. 729,062

2. 589,039

3. 578,489

*Grant Thornton UK LLP 2025 LGR evidence study

Local Government Reorganisation – Next steps

- A report setting out the proposal for LGR will be taken through MDC Council on the 25th September for ratification.
- Proposal to be submitted to government on the 26th September 2025.
- Government will then decide which number of unitary councils is to be taken forward.
- Government will carry out a consultation on their preferred option/s.
- Shadow councils to form 2027 – including elections to the shadow authorities.
- Unitary councils to go live 2028.

Local Government Reorganisation – Member Engagement

June		July		August		September		Ongoing
17th	Update to Full Council	10th	Update to Full Council	4th	Member working group. To go through 5UA draft business case.	1st	Devolution and LGR Member working group	Devolution and LGR working group to meet every six weeks or as needed. Continued updates to Full Council.
19th	Devolution and LGR Member working group	14th	Update to Town and Parish Engagement Forum (MDC members attend this) Chaired by Cllr Driver.	6th	Evening <u>All Member briefing</u> on the 5UA Business case draft.	11th	Update to Full Council.	
		21st	Devolution and LGR Member working group. Progress update on Devolution and all business cases.	29th	Deadline for Council Report	25th	Extraordinary Council Greater Essex LGR proposal report.	
						26th	Proposal to MHCLG - submission deadline.	

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