



## REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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to  
COUNCIL  
3 APRIL 2025

### MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE GREATER ESSEX DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Members for the proposed Greater Essex devolution consultation response.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the response to the Greater Essex Devolution consultation as set out in **APPENDIX 1**.

#### 3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 In December 2024, the government published the English Devolution White Paper. This sets out plans to move power out of Westminster and back to local communities, ensuring that every part of England is covered by devolution.
- 3.2 Local council leaders from Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend-on-Sea City Council have since written to government expressing their interest in taking forward devolution within their area through the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority, with the first election for a Mayor taking place in May 2026. Before taking a decision on whether to proceed with the making of the necessary legislation, the government is seeking views from interested parties, including those who live and work in the area.
- 3.3 The consultation led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) runs for eight weeks and closes on 13 April 2025. It seeks views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas of Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend-on-Sea City Council (referred to as Greater Essex in this consultation).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This consultation provides Maldon District Council the opportunity to give its views on the impacts of the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority for Greater Essex. It does not prevent any parties or individuals from submitting separate responses.

## 5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

5.1.1 None at this stage.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None at this consultation stage.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None at this consultation stage.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – None at this consultation stage.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Engagement with the proposed plans for devolution is currently absorbed by the current establishment and led by senior members of staff and the Leader of the Council.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – Demonstrates the Council is engaged with the Devolution proposal for Greater Essex.

Background Papers:

[Greater Essex devolution consultation - GOV.UK](#)

Enquiries to:

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