



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)**

---

**to  
COUNCIL  
11 DECEMBER 2025**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To agree a formal response on behalf of Maldon District Council (MDC) to the statutory government consultation on local government reorganisation in Essex.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That the Council considers any changes to the draft consultation response at **APPENDIX 1**;
- (ii) That the Council approves the draft consultation response at **APPENDIX 1** subject to any changes agreed under (i);

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 At the Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 25 September 2025 the Council agreed to support the five unitary model of reorganisation.
- 3.2 As set out in this previous report stage 3 of reorganisation requires a statutory consultation on the proposals. The government has launched a statutory public consultation to consider all the business models that have been submitted.
- 3.3 The Statutory Consultation was launched on 19 November 2025.
- 3.4 The consultation seeks views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock to submit proposals for unitary local government for their areas. Members of the public or any member can make individual responses to the consultation at <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/essex-southend-on-sea-thurrock/>
- 3.5 The consultation closes on 11 January 2026, and it is suggested that a formal response from MDC is provided.
- 3.6 The LGR Working Group met on 24 November 2025 to consider the formal response from MDC. This response is based on the previous decision that the Council supports the five unitary model.

- 3.7 A draft consultation response has been produced, with a copy attached at **APPENDIX 1**. Members are asked to consider any changes to this response and to approve a final draft for submission.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Council has previously agreed to support the five unitary model. As a local authority who will be directly affected by LGR.

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

- 5.1 The Council will continue to deliver the priorities in the Corporate Plan throughout this stage of LGR. There will not be any impact until the transition phase.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None at this stage of LGR process.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None at this stage of LGR process.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – None in relation to this consultation.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None in relation to this consultation response.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None in relation to this consultation.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – This statutory public consultation is the latest stage in the devolution process.

Background Papers: Consultation.

Enquiries to: Emma Holmes Director of Legal and Governance