

Response ID ANON-5VE9-WTUD-D

Submitted to Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock
Submitted on 2026-01-09 16:25:57

Tell us about yourself

1 What is your name?

Name:
Esme Yuill

2 Are you responding as an individual or providing an official response on behalf of an organisation?

Official response on behalf of an organisation

3 Have you been invited to respond as a named consultee?

Yes

4 In which council area is your address? (if you are responding as an individual this is your home address. If you are responding as an organisation this is your organisation address.)

Not in Essex, Southend-on-Sea or Thurrock

5 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please let us know the organisation's name:

Organisation:
Transport East

6 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please let us know your position within the organisation:

Position in organisation:
Head of External Affairs

7 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please select the type of organisation from the options below:

Other public sector

8 What is your email address?

Email Address:
esme.yuill@transporteast.gov.uk

Personal Data

1 Please read and tick the box before proceeding with the consultation

The sections for each proposal in this consultation include free text boxes where you can explain your answers. Please tick this box to confirm that you will not include information which may identify an individual in these boxes

Consultation on the Proposal from Southend-on-Sea City Council, Chelmsford City Council, Basildon Borough Council, Brentwood Borough Council, Castle Point Borough Council, Colchester City Council, Harlow District Council, Maldon District Council, Tendring District Council and Uttlesford District Council

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers:
Neither agree nor disagree

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

dropdown answers:
Neither agree nor disagree

3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in Best Value Intervention and in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

6 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

8 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

9 If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal.

Text box to add further comments:

Transport East is the sub-national transport body for Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. We are a partnership of existing authorities, both county and district. As such, we cannot take a position on the geography over which our partner authorities should be constituted. However, from a regional transport perspective we have a few points that we feel should inform the decisions surrounding local government reorganisation and future resourcing decisions.

These are evidence-based principles that have been developed through discussions with partners and have been used in response to queries around devolution and local government reorganisation, and are aligned with previous submissions to Government.

- New structures should embed the integration of land-use, service and transport planning and delivery, with a focus on delivering the best outcomes for people, places and business. This would help establish and maximise value from longer-term stable funding allocations.
- New organisations must have the capacity and capability to plan and deliver transport networks within the region. Transport East has established tools, insight, relationships and evidence that can add value in this space.
- Structures need to reduce the financial risks to local authorities and other scheme promoters of developing business cases for new projects, which is currently a barrier to new transport solutions progressing.
- A configuration of authorities and partnerships that maximises pan-regional and beyond-the-region collaboration with neighbouring MSAs, government and delivery agencies.
- New organisations need to be able to build and maintain community support for future transport projects to reduce delays and manage cost risks.
- Balancing local relationships and understanding with the ability to take the strategic decisions needed for the region.
- A configuration of authorities and partnerships that help build and amplify a strong collective voice for the East to stand alongside those representing other regions.
- A focus on customer need should be central to decision-making how on those services that will need to be split between MSA and Unitaries are designed and governed, e.g. buses and road management.

The above comments have been approved by our Board which comprises of representatives from Essex CC, Essex Districts, Southend-on-Sea Council and Thurrock Council.

10 I confirm that I have not included any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Yes

Consultation on the Proposal from Essex County Council, Braintree District Council and Epping Forest District Council

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in Best Value Intervention and in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

6 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

8 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

9 If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal.

Text box to add further comments:

Transport East is the sub-national transport body for Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. We are a partnership of existing authorities, both county and district. As such, we cannot take a position on the geography over which our partner authorities should be constituted. However, from a regional transport perspective we have a few points that we feel should inform the decisions surrounding local government reorganisation and future resourcing decisions.

These are evidence-based principles that have been developed through discussions with partners and have been used in response to queries around devolution and local government reorganisation, and are aligned with previous submissions to Government.

- New structures should embed the integration of land-use, service and transport planning and delivery, with a focus on delivering the best outcomes for people, places and business. This would help establish and maximise value from longer-term stable funding allocations.
 - New organisations must have the capacity and capability to plan and deliver transport networks within the region. Transport East has established tools, insight, relationships and evidence that can add value in this space.
 - Structures need to reduce the financial risks to local authorities and other scheme promoters of developing business cases for new projects, which is currently a barrier to new transport solutions progressing.
 - A configuration of authorities and partnerships that maximises pan-regional and beyond-the-region collaboration with neighbouring MSAs, government and delivery agencies.
 - New organisations need to be able to build and maintain community support for future transport projects to reduce delays and manage cost risks.
- Balancing local relationships and understanding with the ability to take the strategic decisions needed for the region.
- A configuration of authorities and partnerships that help build and amplify a strong collective voice for the East to stand alongside those representing other regions.
 - A focus on customer need should be central to decision-making how on those services that will need to be split between MSA and Unitaries are designed and governed, e.g. buses and road management.

The above comments have been approved by our Board which comprises of representatives from Essex CC, Essex Districts, Southend-on-Sea Council and Thurrock Council.

10 I confirm that I have not included any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Yes

Consultation on the Proposal from Rochford District Council

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in Best Value Intervention and in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

6 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

8 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

9 If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal.

Text box to add further comments:

Transport East is the sub-national transport body for Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. We are a partnership of existing authorities, both county and district. As such, we cannot take a position on the geography over which our partner authorities should be constituted. However, from a regional transport perspective we have a few points that we feel should inform the decisions surrounding local government reorganisation and future resourcing decisions.

These are evidence-based principles that have been developed through discussions with partners and have been used in response to queries around devolution and local government reorganisation, and are aligned with previous submissions to Government.

- New structures should embed the integration of land-use, service and transport planning and delivery, with a focus on delivering the best outcomes for people, places and business. This would help establish and maximise value from longer-term stable funding allocations.
- New organisations must have the capacity and capability to plan and deliver transport networks within the region. Transport East has established tools, insight, relationships and evidence that can add value in this space.
- Structures need to reduce the financial risks to local authorities and other scheme promoters of developing business cases for new projects, which is currently a barrier to new transport solutions progressing.
- A configuration of authorities and partnerships that maximises pan-regional and beyond-the-region collaboration with neighbouring MSAs, government and delivery agencies.
- New organisations need to be able to build and maintain community support for future transport projects to reduce delays and manage cost risks. Balancing local relationships and understanding with the ability to take the strategic decisions needed for the region.
- A configuration of authorities and partnerships that help build and amplify a strong collective voice for the East to stand alongside those representing other regions.
- A focus on customer need should be central to decision-making how on those services that will need to be split between MSA and Unitaries are

designed and governed, e.g. buses and road management.

The above comments have been approved by our Board which comprises of representatives from Essex CC, Essex Districts, Southend-on-Sea Council and Thurrock Council.

10 I confirm that I have not included any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Yes

Consultation on the Proposal from Thurrock Council

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in Best Value Intervention and in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

6 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

8 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

9 If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal.

Text box to add further comments:

Transport East is the sub-national transport body for Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. We are a partnership of existing authorities, both county and district. As such, we cannot take a position on the geography over which our partner authorities should be constituted. However, from a regional transport perspective we have a few points that we feel should inform the decisions surrounding local government reorganisation and future resourcing decisions.

These are evidence-based principles that have been developed through discussions with partners and have been used in response to queries around devolution and local government reorganisation, and are aligned with previous submissions to Government.

- New structures should embed the integration of land-use, service and transport planning and delivery, with a focus on delivering the best outcomes for people, places and business. This would help establish and maximise value from longer-term stable funding allocations.
- New organisations must have the capacity and capability to plan and deliver transport networks within the region. Transport East has established tools, insight, relationships and evidence that can add value in this space.
- Structures need to reduce the financial risks to local authorities and other scheme promoters of developing business cases for new projects, which is

currently a barrier to new transport solutions progressing.

- A configuration of authorities and partnerships that maximises pan-regional and beyond-the-region collaboration with neighbouring MSAs, government and delivery agencies.
- New organisations need to be able to build and maintain community support for future transport projects to reduce delays and manage cost risks. Balancing local relationships and understanding with the ability to take the strategic decisions needed for the region.
- A configuration of authorities and partnerships that help build and amplify a strong collective voice for the East to stand alongside those representing other regions.
- A focus on customer need should be central to decision-making how on those services that will need to be split between MSA and Unitaries are designed and governed, e.g. buses and road management.

The above comments have been approved by our Board which comprises of representatives from Essex CC, Essex Districts, Southend-on-Sea Council and Thurrock Council.

10 I confirm that I have not included any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Yes