

**CABINET held at COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER, on TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025 at 6.15 pm**

Present: Councillor P Lees (Chair)  
Councillors A Coote, J Evans, N Hargreaves, N Reeve and M Sutton

Officers in attendance: P Holt (Chief Executive), B Ferguson (Democratic Services Manager), D Hermitage (Strategic Director of Planning), N Katevu (Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer), A Knight (Chief Operating Officer) and A Webb (Strategic Director of Finance, Commercialisation and Corporate Services)

**CAB38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no apologies for absence, nor any declarations of interest.

**CAB39 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS TO GOVERNMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

The Leader spoke to the report regarding the submission of proposals to Government regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). She said that Cabinet would consider the debate at the Extraordinary Council meeting, which would begin at 7.00pm, before making a decision.

She adjourned the meeting at 6.20pm and said Cabinet would reconvene on the rise of full Council.

*The meeting was reconvened at 8.35pm.*

The Leader reconvened the meeting and welcomed back members to Cabinet. She said Cabinet had listened to the comments made at Scrutiny Committee and full Council with great interest and thanked all members for their contribution to a thorough debate on LGR. She noted full Council's approval of the motion to support Business Case A, the case for 5 unitary Councils in Essex.

The Leader proposed approval of the recommendations set-out in the report, and to formally endorse Business Case A, in submission to Government before the 26 September 2025 deadline.

Councillor Sutton seconded the proposal.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. To consider the four separate business cases provided, and the advice, recommendations and conclusions of the Scrutiny Committee and of full Council, as well as the officer advice on the relative strengths, weaknesses and overall merits of each of those four options.
- ii. To note the settled overall officer recommendation that Business Case A, the case for 5 unitaries in Essex, which would see the Uttlesford area form part of a new unitary authority with the Epping Forest and Harlow areas, and the local share of a disaggregated Essex County Council, represents the best of the options overall.
- iii. To formally endorse Business Case A, the case for 5 unitaries in Essex, in submission to Government by the 26 September 2025 deadline.

*The meeting was closed at 8.40pm.*