

Uttlesford District Council

Full Council meeting 14 October 2025

Member Motion: Preparing for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Proposer Cllr Silcock
Seconder Cllr Sell

Motion:

This Council notes with concern that:

- i. Proposals for LGR and so called “devolution” in Essex risk diluting local democracy, by creating larger unitary authorities that are more remote from residents.
- ii. The imposition of a regional mayor and combined authority will further centralise decision-making, contrary to the principles of localism.
- iii. Many of this Council’s officers, who provide vital services to residents, face uncertainty because of the reorganisation.

This Council believes that:

- i. The officers, local assets, services and democratic accountability must be protected in any reorganisation.
- ii. Stronger parish and town councils will be vital to ensuring residents’ voices are heard and that the Unitary Council and the Mayor are held to account.
- iii. Cross-party cooperation is essential to prepare for these changes in the best interests of Uttlesford Residents.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- i. Establish a cross-party working group to examine the potential impacts of LGR and “devolution” on Uttlesford.
- ii. Identify measures to protect council-owned assets, services and officers from the risks of disaggregation.
- iii. Explore ways to strengthen parish and town councils so that local democracy is not diminished.
- iv. Report back to full council with recommendations on how best to safeguard the interests of Uttlesford residents and the Council’s workforce before any reorganisation is implemented.