

ECC June Report 2025

New Chairman and Vice Chairman of ECC announced



Councillor Ray Gooding is the new council Chairman. The news was confirmed at a meeting of the Full Council on 20th May 2025.

Councillor Gooding previously served as Vice-Chairman while Councillor Jill Reeves was Chairman. He has been the County Councillor for the Stansted division since 2005. Previously, he has held the roles of Cabinet Member for Children and Families and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

He has sat on several committees. These include chairing the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee and Chairman of the Scrutiny Board. He has also served on flood and coastal committees, adoption and education panels, and other outside bodies. He continues to serve as a trustee of the Active Essex Foundation.

Councillor Gooding is a Mechanical Engineer by profession. He was the Senior Partner in an Engineering Consultancy for more than 20 years. As a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers, he has played an active role in developing young engineers to achieve their full potential.

He also has a keen interest in encouraging participation in sport. As well as this, he is an advocate for the role of music and arts in supporting community wellbeing. These areas will be his focus during his term of office.

Speaking on his appointment, Councillor Gooding, said: "It's been a pleasure to work with Councillor Reeves as Vice-Chairman over the last couple of years. I look forward to my term in office as the new Chairman of the council. It is an honour to take up this role and I look forward to serving the residents and communities of Essex. One of my priorities as Chairman will be to focus on the role of the voluntary sector in Essex and the benefits it brings to the county."

Councillor Carlo Guglielmi was elected as the new Vice-Chairman of the council to support Cllr Ray Gooding.

Cllr Guglielmi who was elected in May 2013 for the Division of Tendring Rural West was a Subpostmaster for 36 years of Honeycroft Post Office, Lawford, in Tendring, and has always been well involved with his community.

He will still carry on as the Chairman of the Development and Regulation Committee and as Vice Chairman of the People and Family Scrutiny Committee, and he is very much looking forward in fulfilling his new role. He said: "I am truly looking forward to supporting Cllr Ray Gooding in the highest office of this historical Authority, and it is an absolute honour to have been given the opportunity to become Vice-Chairman of Essex County Council."

Unsustainable pressures found on health and social



A new report has found urgent challenges face health and social care across Essex.

The independent Essex Caring Communities Commission spent months hearing from people with experience. This includes doctors, nurses, carers, social workers, charities, hospices and service users.

The 11 commissioners heard about the challenges faced and opportunities for improvement. The commissioners include leaders from the NHS, Salvation Army, universities, think tanks and different political groups.

Now, the commissioners have set out 23 actions for radical change. These cover the creation of many services, task forces and boards.

All actions give more power to local communities, where most of the heavy lifting is done. They also aim to prevent health and care cases in the first place, rather than just reacting to them.

Some of the 23 actions include the creation of:

- Essex Retirement Service - helping our ageing population stay active and socially connected
- Library of Things - making more public sector assets available for local communities

- Multi-Agency Triaging Hubs - enabling staff from different organisations to work together
- School Ready Task Forces - increasing the number children ready for secondary school by 50% in priority areas
- Housing Board - significantly increasing retirement and specialist housing
- Volunteering Olympics - doubling the number of volunteering opportunities across Essex
- Apprenticeship Programme - opportunities every year for care leavers and people with disabilities
- 50+ Task Force - doubling over 50s participation in the local labour market

Commissioners will use the opportunity of devolution in Greater Essex to strengthen its actions. This includes new mayoral powers from a proposed Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Read the report in full as the commission begins implementing the change across Essex:

Document

[10358 Caring Communities Report V6 ACCESSIBLE.pdf \(PDF, 4.8MB\)](#)

Councillor Beverley Egan, Commission Chair, said: “We must be honest and recognise the current way of doing things is not sustainable. Reacting to cases, rather than preventing them in the first place, has become the norm. That is not to say doctors, nurses, carers, social workers and practitioners do not go above and beyond – there is simply not enough joined up support for them to carry on delivering quality yet affordable care.

“As a society, we must ensure the care and support we will all need at some point in

our lives is available to everyone. I encourage all Essex residents to view our full report and stay up to date on this exciting work over the coming months.”

Councillor Kevin Bentley, Leader of Essex County Council, said: “This is one of the proudest days of my political career and one of the most important pieces of work I’ve been involved with. I welcome this report and thank the commissioners, as well as all those who have engaged with them, for producing it.

“I’m very keen as leader that we look to the future of how we care for people, not just now but in the decades to come. How we care for the most vulnerable in society is one of the most important things any society can do.

“This report makes clear that things cannot simply continue as they are. The Essex Caring Communities Commission is prepared to radically transform outcomes for residents while addressing the demand on public services. It’s one of the only reports of its kind in the UK.

“The opportunity of devolution in Greater Essex will enable much change by bringing more power to local people, including the proposed creation of a Mayoral Combined County Authority.”

Local Government Reorganisation options progress



In March, the 15 councils in Greater Essex shared an interim plan for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) with government.

This set out how LGR could help councils to achieve more for residents and businesses.

Since then, we have been gathering evidence to inform future options.

This includes a proposed number of new councils we believe is right for Greater Essex.

Our position is that we want to consider the evidence before deciding on a preferred number of new unitary councils.

The latest research, from consultants Price Waterhouse Cooper, shows fewer new councils would potentially strike a better balance between being able to deliver essential services and achieving value for money for taxpayers.

Alongside other councils, we are now using this insight to develop a draft LGR business case. This draft business case will include a proposed number of new councils.

The development of a separate draft business case is being led by Southend-in-Sea City Council, based on the case for a five-unitary council model.

Both business cases will be submitted to government in September. Government will make the final decision for Greater Essex.

[Read more from our Leader. Councillor Kevin Bentley.](#)

Share your experience of fraud



We want as many people as possible in Essex to share their experiences of fraud.

This is because new data shows a 6.1% increase of fraud in Essex in the last year. This represents 9,604 offences and £68.5 million in lost money.

A lot of residents feel worried about reporting fraud. According to Essex Police, many people experience some type of fraud at least once a month but do not report it.

The Multi Agency Approach to Fraud (MAAF) has launched a new survey to help focus resources and stamp out fraud.

The MAAF is made up of different agencies, including:

- Essex County Council
- Essex Police

- Essex Trading Standards
- Victim Support
- The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

You can [fill out the anonymous survey on our website](#) from now until 8 June 2025.

If you have been a victim of fraud, or would like to find out more, visit [Action Fraud](#) and [Essex Police](#).

Councillor Mark Durham, who oversees Essex Trading Standards, said: "Fraudsters are always looking at new ways to scam people to a point where it's not always immediately clear when you've been a victim. This can make fraud a difficult crime to combat and means we have to constantly evolve our tactics. However, if enough people come forward and engage with our anonymous survey, we can get a better understanding of the issues faced and start stamping out what has become a rampant issue across the UK."

[Register for the Essex Energy Switch to save money](#)



The [Essex Energy Switch](#) is about local communities coming together and saving money on their gas and electricity bills. The more people that register, the bigger the potential saving per household.

By registering with Essex Energy Switch, you can 'group buy' with other people in your local area. This allows energy companies to offer competitive prices. Prices are often better as a group rather than to individuals.

Registering for the Energy Switch is quick, easy and helps avoid searching for the best deals as all the hard work is done for you.

We recognise that some householders across Essex are struggling to pay for their energy supplies. The Essex Energy Switch scheme is one way of addressing the issue.

By joining a collective switch, we increase our purchasing power and can negotiate a better deal.

Residents have until 23 June to register their interest. It's a free, easy and secure way to cut energy bills without wasting time on comparison sites.

All residents need is a recent gas and electricity bill. There is no obligation to switch supplier or tariff once registered. Spread the word to friends and family and help more people see if they can save.

Everyone who registers will receive a personalised offer. The offer details how much they could save by switching energy supplier. It's up to you if you choose to accept the offer and switch.

Once the registration window closes, energy companies will bid at an auction to see who can offer the lowest energy tariff.

Once the winning bidder has been selected, anyone who has registered will be contacted. If they choose to switch our trusted partner will take care of the entire switching process.

[Find out more about how Essex Energy Switch could help you get a better energy deal](#)

