Council Meeting
Agenda

Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7pm

Council Chamber, Civic Centre
Chelmsford

Membership

The Mayor – L Foster
The Deputy Mayor – J Frascona

and Councillors

C Adutwim, J Armstrong, H Ayres, G Bonnett, V Canning
N Chambers, D Clark, H Clark, P Clark, P Davey
A Davidson, C Davidson, S Davis, J Deakin, S. Dobson, N Dudley,
D Eley, K Franks, I Fuller, S Goldman, S Hall, J Hawkins, R Hyland,
J Jeapes, A John, B Knight, J Lardge, R Lee, S Manley, L Mascot,
B. Massey, R Moore, M O'Brien, V Pappa, J Potter, S Rajesh, J
Raven, S Robinson, E Sampson, S Scott, S Shah T Sherlock, M
Sismey, A Sosin, J Sosin, M Steel, S Sullivan, M Taylor, A
Thompson, A Thorpe-Apps, C Tron, N Walsh, R Whitehead, P
Wilson and S. Young

Local people are welcome to attend this meeting, where your elected Councillors take decisions affecting YOU and your City.
If you would like to find out more, please email committees@chelmsford.gov.uk or phone (01245) 606480

MEETING OF CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL

15 July 2026

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Mayor's Announcements

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that they must disclose any interests they know they have in items of business on the meeting's agenda and that they must do so at this point on the agenda or as soon as they become aware of the interest. If the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they are also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting.

4. Minutes

Minutes of meeting on 2nd June 2026.

5. Public Questions

To receive questions from members of the public in accordance with Council Rules 10.1 to 10.6.

Any member of the public who wishes to submit a question or statement to this meeting should email it to committees@chelmsford.gov.uk 24 hours before the start time of the meeting. All valid questions and statements will be published with the agenda on the website at least six hours before the start time and will be responded to at the meeting. Those who have submitted a valid question or statement will be entitled to put it in person at the meeting.

6. Cabinet Question Time

The Leader and Members of the Cabinet to answer questions submitted by Members of the Council in accordance with Council Rules 10.18 to 10.22.

7. Proposed changes to the Constitution

To consider the attached report from the Governance Committee on 24th June 2026 Cabinet on 14th July 2026

8. Treasury Outturn 2025/26

To consider the attached report from the Treasury Management and Investment Sub Committee on 15th June 2026 and Cabinet on 14th July 2026

9. Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

To consider the attached report from the Audit and Risk Committee on 24th June 2026

10. Annual Report of the Governance Committee

To consider the attached report from the Governance Committee on 24th June 2026

11. Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To consider the attached report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29th June 2026

12. Report from the Governance Committee – Proposed Censure of City Councillor

To consider the attached report from the Governance Committee

13. Community Governance Review

To consider the attached report from the Chief Executive

14. Notice of Motion

In accordance with notice duly given, Councillor Jeapes to move:

Most of our Public Parks are accessible without the need to use a car. However, Hylands which has so much capacity and such excellent facilities is an exception to this for most of our residents. Specifically, those with young families.

In 2021 despite over 7,500 people signing a petition objecting to parking charge being introduced and many more residents opposing it this council voted to introduce them.

We are now in the midst of a 'cost of living Crisis', where many of our residents are having to count every penny just to get by. The school summer holidays are now coming up but a day out can be very expensive, particularly for families.

Council believes that:
For the summer holidays from 18th of July until 30th of August 2026 parking at Hylands Park should be free. This is a small gesture but may help more of our residents to enjoy the facilities in a park that was originally purchased by the council to 'secure the vast green space for local public use'.

Removing parking charges would promote access to outdoor recreation and help ensure that the park is affordable and welcoming to all.

That the loss of income for this period, approximately £77,000 can be offset by the £1.24million that was obtain over the initial income expectations when residents were charged for the disposal of garden waste.

In addition, Chelmsford City Council also received an improved financial Government settlement which Cllr Davidson stated would allow the council to support worthy initiatives.

It should be noted that Basildon Council has just approved free weekend parking in several areas based on supporting their town centres, local businesses and communities which may be an additional consideration for Chelmsford City Council.

Council therefore resolves to:

Request that the cabinet member responsible and the relevant officers instigate a Summer (18.7.26.- 30.8.26.) of free parking at Hylands Park

That the viability of similar schemes for free or discounted parking is considered to support Chelmsford town centre and local businesses.

15. Freedom of the City

A presentation will be made in relation to the conferring of the honorary title of Freeman of the City upon Cllr Whitehead.

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held on 2 June 2026 at 7pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor, L Foster
The Deputy Mayor, J Frascona

Councillors C Adutwim, J Armstrong, H Ayres, G Bonnett, D Clark, H Clark, P Clark, P Davey, A Davidson, C Davidson, S Davis, J Deakin, N Dudley, D Eley, K Franks, J Frascona, L Foster, I Fuller, S Goldman, S Hall, J Hawkins, R Hyland, J Lardge, R Lee, S Manley, L Mascot, B. Massey, R Moore, V Pappa, J. Potter, S Rajesh, S Robinson, S Scott, T Sherlock, J Sosin, A Sosin, M Steel, S Sullivan, A Thompson, N Walsh, R Whitehead, P Wilson, and S Young.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Canning, Chambers, Dobson, Knight, Jeapes, Raven, Sampson, Sismey, Taylor, Thorpe-Apps and Tron.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded to declare at the appropriate time, any interests in the business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the three meetings held on 13 May 2026 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. Public Questions

In accordance with Council Rules 10.1 to 10.6 questions could only relate to Item 5 on the agenda. Four had been submitted which can be viewed via this link, responses were given during item 5. The first question queried a lack of reference to equestrians, bridleways, public rights of way and other multi user routes in the Local Plan and asked for an explanation as to why these had been omitted from the evidence base and what assessment had been made of the Plan's impact on equestrian safety and rural connectivity. The second question asked about the impact of the change of political control at Essex County Council on the Local Plan. The third and fourth questions raised concerns about Site 20 at Rettendon Place, regarding the amount of housing proposed, the impact on the green area and wildlife habitats and the impacts on the local community and relevant infrastructure.

5. Chelmsford Local Plan – Submission to Secretary of State for independent examination

The Council considered a report which had been recommended to them via the Chelmsford Policy Board and Cabinet, which sought their approval to submit the Chelmsford Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination and to approve the relevant delegations for the submission and examination processes.

In response to the first public question, the Council were informed that the Local Plan did include direct references to active and sustainable travel as well as specific references to bridleways, Public Rights of Way and multi user routes and crossings. The Council heard that Strategic Policy S10 made provision to secure infrastructure in the Local Plan, including policies to secure improvements to new or existing bridleways where appropriate. The Council were also informed of new bridleway routes, for example in Zone 2 of the Chelmsford Garden Community and that this clearly demonstrated there were mechanisms within the Local Plan which would deliver bridleway improvements to the Chelmsford area. It was also noted that at Masterplanning and planning application stages, full details of any improvements to infrastructure would be required. In response to the second public question, the Council heard that the submission of the Local Plan was not impacted by the change of administration at Essex County Council and that the decision rested solely with Chelmsford City Council. The Council heard that partnership working had taken place with Essex County Council, who had been fully consulted throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, including the agreement of a statement of common ground. In response to the third and fourth questions regarding Site 20 in Rettendon, the Council were informed that the site was for 350 new homes, not 700 and that the site allocation policy required the necessary infrastructure to be delivered as part of the development, including highway and education improvements. The Council heard that new sites had to be put forward to meet the increased housing target from the Government and that they had to be built within five years, hence why specific sites had been chosen that met that timeframe. The Council also heard that the wider development management policies would improve the environment at all development sites, with higher than required biodiversity net gain requirements, along with suitable wildlife and habitat surveys. The Council heard that for Site 20, this would include retaining and strengthening wherever possible the landscaping, trees and hedgerows within the site. The Council also noted that all submitted comments to the consultations, would be passed on to the appointed Inspector to be examined.

The Council heard from the Cabinet Member, who highlighted the importance of a strong Local Plan being in place, to be a solid and sound foundation for decision making on planning applications. They stated that this was an important stage in the process and if approved by Council, the inspector would then consider it and make any modifications before a final vote at Full Council to formally adopt the Local Plan, making it a material planning consideration, to assist with defending against inappropriate development. The Council heard that if the Local Plan didn’t progress to the examination stage, it would mean the new NPPF system for plan-making being applied instead, leading to increased costs, a wholly untested system and higher housing numbers. Alternatively, the Council could choose to support the motion and the positive work from planning officers who had a track record of delivering Local Plans that stood up to scrutiny and delivered award winning developments. It was noted that a quality Local Plan, would allow the correct levels of infrastructure to be pushed for, local targets for affordable housing needs to be met and green initiatives to help address climate change. The Cabinet Member also highlighted the significant CIL contributions that development would bring, providing funding to parish tier Council’s, and the 35% affordable housing requirement at any site of more than ten homes, to help tackle the housing crisis in Chelmsford. The Council also heard that the plan had been considered at various member briefings and public meetings, in addition to an extensive consultation process and that despite moving targets and the cancellation of the A12 DCO, a positive plan was now before members to submit to the inspector. It was noted that approval would extend the current Local Plan by five years, until 2041 and assist in meeting the five year housing land supply, alongside offering enhanced protections to the environment.

The Council also heard from Councillors speaking against the submission of the Local Plan, with concerns raised regarding, build out rates by developers affecting the delivery of housing targets, Site 20 at Rettendon Place being unsuitable for 350 homes due to a lack of infrastructure and issues being passed to the planning inspector instead of being dealt with, homes at Hammonds Farm being proposed that would have significant impacts on the surrounding area, especially traffic levels on the A12 and concerns that building either side of the A12, would prevent it from being the bypass that the City needs. Concerns were also raised about unreasonable government housing targets, a failure to develop City Centre brownfield sites instead concentrating on building in rural areas, and what mitigations could be put in place to ensure build out rates were met by developers.

The Council also heard from other Cabinet members who spoke in support of submitting the Local Plan, with points raised including thanking the officers involved for their continued hard work, the greater emphasis on environmental matters throughout, increased affordable housing, higher job targets and employment areas and significant CIL revenue. The Council also heard that the plan set out a robust framework for housing in the area, prioritising a sense of wellbeing and long term resilience and that many of the brownfield sites in the City Centre are allocated in the Local Plan. It was noted that the plan was evidence based and the Chelmsford Policy Board were thanked for their contributions to assist with the plan reaching this stage.

In response to the concerns raised the Cabinet Member stated that, build out rates were a concern but largely out of the control of the Council and the Local Plan was an important safeguard to ensure houses were only delivered in the correct areas, that the inspector would consider all of the evidence for Site 20 in Rettendon that had been submitted, all major applications would come before the Planning Committee to be considered in detail and that there were mechanisms in place to ensure appropriate infrastructure would also be delivered. It was also noted that there were previous bypasses in Chelmsford, before the A12, such as New London Road and Princes Road and that development had taken place both inside and outside of those bypasses and would continue to take place. The importance of having a Local Plan against not having one was also highlighted, with examples of the lack of infrastructure in areas that did not have a Local Plan.

A recorded vote was requested by more than ten members. On being put to the vote, the motion proposed in the report to the meeting were approved, with the voting being as follows:

For the motion: Cllrs Adutwim, Ayres, D Clark, H Clark, Davey, A Davidson, C Davidson, Deakin, Dudley, Eley, Franks, Fuller, Goldman, Hall, Hawkins, Lardge, Lee, Manley, Mascot, Moore, Rajesh, Robinson, Sherlock, A Sosin, J Sosin, Thompson, Walsh and Young

Against the motion: Cllrs Armstrong, Bonnett, P Clark, Davis, Hyland, Massey, Pappa, Potter, Scott, Shah, Steel, Sullivan, Whitehead and Wilson

Abstained: Cllrs Foster and Frascona

RESOLVED that;

1. the Chelmsford Local Plan attached at Appendices 1 and 2 be submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

2. the person appointed to carry out the Independent Examination recommends modifications to the Chelmsford Local Plan as part of the Examination process, in accordance with Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

3. the Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping be authorised, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, to prepare all necessary documentation to support the submission of the Local Plan for independent examination.

4. the Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping, relevant Council Officers and consultants be authorised, to act on behalf of the Council at the Independent Examination in respect of the Chelmsford Local Plan including submitting written statements and making oral representations at the Hearing Sessions.

The meeting closed at 8:08pm

Mayor

Chelmsford City Council

15 July 2026

Proposed Changes to the Constitution

Report by:
Leader of the Council

Officer Contact:
Lorraine Browne, Legal & Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer, 01245 606560, lorraine.browne@chelmsford.gov.uk

Purpose

To consider proposed changes to the constitution as set out in Appendices 1-2, the detail of which are set out in the report.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council approves the proposed changes to the Constitution as set out in Appendices 1-2 of the report.

1. Background

1.1. The Council's Constitution is reviewed regularly and at least annually to ensure that it remains complete, up to date and reflects current practice and legislation. Reviews are normally initiated by officers although can be requested by members. Any recommendations are submitted in the first instance to the Constitutional Working Group. Its recommendations are passed to the Governance Committee, the Cabinet and Full Council which takes the decision whether to approve the changes or not.

1.2. The proposed changes to the employee Code of Conduct can be found at appendix 1 (see paragraphs 7.1, 8.2, 8.3, 9.3, 9.5, 10 & 13.3) and have arisen due to officer register of interests and declarations now being made online in a similar way to city councillors. The proposed changes to the Mayoralty Rules can be found in Appendix 2 (see paragraphs 5.4.7.3, 5.4.7.4 & 5.4.10.2) have arisen from changes in day-to-day practice.

1.3. The proposals from the annual review of the constitution relating to the Mayoralty Rules have been considered by the Mayoral Working Group which supports the proposals. Both sets of proposed changes have also been considered by the Constitutional Working Group which supports proposals. Governance Committee considered the proposals on 24th June 2026. Cabinet is also a consultee and will be considering this on 14th July. A verbal update will be provided in relation to Cabinet consideration.

2. Conclusion

2.1. Council is asked to consider whether to approve the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendices 1-2.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Employee Code of Conduct

Appendix 2 – Mayoralty Rules

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: These are set out in the report. Full Council determines whether changes are made to the constitution.

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees:

Constitution Working Group

Mayoral Working Group

Governance Committee

Cabinet

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Constitution

Chelmsford City Council

Human Resources

Code of Conduct for Employees/Workers

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*references to employees also includes workers

Chelmsford City Council
Code of conduct for employees/workers

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1. Introduction

1.1. Application

This Code of Conduct applies to all Chelmsford City Council employees* and workers irrespective of the job that they do or the grade that they are on.

1.2 Principles of public life

The 7 principles of public life apply to anyone who works as a public office holder. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life

These principles underpin the Council's policies, procedures and processes set out in this Code of Conduct and elsewhere.

This includes people who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in:

- the civil service
- local government
- the police
- the courts and probation services
- non-departmental public bodies
- health, education, social and care services

The principles also apply to all those in other sectors that deliver public services.

They were first set out by Lord Nolan in 1995 and they are included in the Ministerial code.

1. Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest and not in order to gain financial or other material benefit for yourself, family or friends.

2. Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

*references to employees also includes workers

3. Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

1.3. Purpose behind the Code

Chelmsford City Council is a public authority funded in the main from revenue raised by local and central government taxation. As such, the public, and all other individuals and organisations who come into contact with the Council, are entitled to expect from the Council's employees the highest standard of service in terms of integrity, efficiency, impartiality and courtesy.

This Code sets out the standard of conduct that Chelmsford City Council employees should adhere to when carrying out their work and duties. In addition, its purpose is to maintain and improve standards and protect employees from misunderstanding or criticism.

Employees should always bear in mind that it is not enough to avoid actual impropriety or improper conduct. Employees should always endeavour to avoid any occasion for suspicion and any appearance of improper conduct or impropriety.

1.4. Status of the Code

This Code has been formally approved and adopted by the Council.

*references to employees also includes workers

The Council believes that the Code represents the standard against which the conduct of employees will be judged, both by the public and by their fellow employees. It is not an exhaustive listing of all standards expected of employees.

1.5. Non-Observance of the Code

Failure to adhere to the Code can bring the Council and indeed the whole local government service into disrepute. Such failure could also lead to a finding of maladministration on the part of the Council by the Local Government Ombudsman.

One of the purposes of the Code is to provide guidance to employees and seek to protect them from misunderstanding or criticism. It is therefore in each employee's own interest to adhere to the Code. Employees should be aware that breach of the Code will constitute misconduct (and in certain circumstances, gross misconduct), which may lead to disciplinary action being instituted against the employee in accordance with the Council's Disciplinary Procedures.

Furthermore, employees need to be aware that conduct which is contrary to certain provisions of the Code (e.g. those dealing with unauthorised disclosure of confidential information) could, depending upon the precise circumstances of the case, also amount to an offence under the criminal law and thus result in prosecution of the employee concerned.

1.6. Interpretation

The Code is to be interpreted in spirit as well as by the letter. An employee who is in any doubt as to whether a provision in the Code is applicable to their situation should, in the first instance, refer the matter to their manager.

2. Values and Behaviours

The Council has adopted certain values – Accountability, Creativity, Learning and Encouraging, Collaborative and Trust - which are at the core of how staff and the organisation are expected to behave. These are key to delivering the Council's vision and are the qualities that we expect from all staff. All employees have a responsibility for ensuring that they are aware of the Behaviours which underpin these values and that they actively support and demonstrate these. Information is available on the intranet or through employee self-service.

3. Customer Service and Standards

3.1. General

Employees are expected to give the highest possible standard of service to the public and local community and to abide by the customer care standards set by the Council. Employees who, during their employment, have contact with the public, whether face to face, over the telephone or by way of written

*references to employees also includes workers

correspondence should always ensure that they deal with the individual(s) in an efficient and courteous manner, irrespective of the circumstances.

3.2. Standards of Dress

Employees should dress in a manner appropriate to their role to ensure, so far as is reasonably possible, that no offence is caused to individual members of the public, including members of minority groups. Employees should not wear any badges, jewellery or insignia which might give offence, or which could be taken to indicate that the wearer is a supporter of a particular political party or pressure group. Tattoos should not be displayed which give offence or indicate that the employee is a supporter of a particular political group.

3.3. Consumption of Alcohol and Drugs

Employees should not consume any alcohol before or during their working day, including during their lunch break, if it is likely to have an adverse effect on their work or if it would be inappropriate. For employees whose role requires them to drive or operate machinery, then alcohol should not be consumed prior to driving or operating machinery. With the exception of prescription drugs, or pharmacy over the counter drugs, employees should not take drugs during work times.

3.4 Comments, compliments and complaints

Employees who, during their employment, have contact with the public should familiarise themselves with the Council's comments, compliments and complaints policy and procedure and, where appropriate, bring the procedure to the attention of the public.

Employees should be prepared to disclose to any member of the public their name and position with the Council unless in any case they have genuine cause to believe that such disclosure might compromise their own personal safety.

3.5 Hours and attendance

Reliability in time keeping, attendance and in reporting sickness are all critical to the success of Council services. Poor attendance and bad timekeeping increase costs, reduce service outputs and may undermine the reputation of the Council. Employees should ensure that they:

- Comply with the timekeeping requirement of their job ensuring accuracy of record keeping at all times.
- Are in the workplace and working when they should be
- Ask their manager if there is a need to take time off, for example for a doctor's visit

*references to employees also includes workers

- Agree with their line manager in advance any leave or time off

3.6 Disciplinary standards

These disciplinary standards apply to all Chelmsford City Council employees irrespective of the job they do or the grade they are on.

They should be read in conjunction with the Council's Disciplinary Procedure and this Code of Conduct

Purpose behind the disciplinary standards

The Council accepts that most of its employees can be relied on to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner, irrespective of formal rules. However, in a large organisation such as the Council it is necessary for there to be standards which:

Identifies conduct which is unacceptable to the Council as an employer,

Indicates the likely consequences of such conduct; and

Provides a framework for managers and employees that helps ensure that the required high standards of job performance and conduct are met and maintained

4. Disclosure and use of confidential information

4.1. Information Security

All employees are responsible for keeping personal data, which they access or process, secure and up to date. Line managers have responsibility for the type of personal data they collect and how they use it. Managers are also required to ensure that staff are appropriately trained on how to process personal information in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2016

Individuals who have access to personal data are required:

- to access only data that they have authority to access and only for authorised purposes;
- not to disclose data except to individuals (whether inside or outside the organisation) who have appropriate authorisation;
- to keep data secure (for example by complying with rules on access to premises, computer access, including password protection, and secure file storage and destruction);
- not to remove personal data, or devices containing or that can be used to access personal data, from the organisation's premises without adopting appropriate security measures (such as encryption or password protection) to secure the data and the device;

*references to employees also includes workers

- not to store personal data on local drives or on personal devices that are used for work purposes; and
- to report data breaches of which they become aware to the Information Governance Team in line with the Council's Data Breach Policy and Procedure.

Failing to observe these requirements may amount to a disciplinary offence, which will be dealt with under the Council's disciplinary procedure. Significant or deliberate breaches of this policy, such as accessing employee or customer data without authorisation or a legitimate reason to do so, may constitute gross misconduct and could lead to dismissal without notice.

Employees should communicate with the Council's Monitoring Officer, or their own Service Manager to raise concerns regarding a breach of conduct or other issue of concern related to the delivery of the Council's responsibilities. In some cases, the appropriate disclosure route may be raised by using the Council's Whistleblowing procedure.

4.2 Disclosure of criminal convictions during employment

Employees who are convicted or cautioned for any offence during their employment (this includes outside of your working hours) with the Council are required to immediately notify their line manager in writing of the offence and the penalty.

This includes motoring offences which result in a court action and a driving restriction but not parking offences/fines where no penalty points are incurred. The effect of any conviction or caution will be considered with regard to the post occupied and the nature and severity of the offence and penalty. Any action that may be taken by the Council will be in accordance with the disciplinary procedure.

4.3. Use of Information by Employees

Employees should never use confidential or sensitive information obtained by them during their employment for personal gain or benefit.

5. Equality, diversity and inclusion

All members of the local community, customers and our employees have a right to be treated with fairness and respect.

The Council is fully committed to the elimination of unlawful and unfair discrimination and values the differences that a diverse workforce brings to the organisation. The Council aims to create a work environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

The Council will not discriminate because of age, disability, gender reassignment,

*references to employees also includes workers

marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins), religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. It will not discriminate because of any other irrelevant factor and will build a culture that values meritocracy, openness, fairness and transparency.

All employees are responsible for the promotion and advancement of equality, diversity and inclusion. Behaviour, actions or words that transgress the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in line with the Council's bullying and harassment and disciplinary policies, and this Code of Conduct.

6. Political neutrality

6.1. When Carrying Out Work

Employees (whether or not their post is designated as politically restricted) should follow every lawful expressed policy of the Council and should not allow their own personal or political opinions to interfere with or influence their work.

6.2. Dealings with Elected Members

Employees should bear in mind that they serve the Council as a whole. They therefore serve all Elected Members and not just those of the controlling group and should ensure that the individual rights of all Elected Members are respected. It must be ensured that working relationships are kept on a professional basis.

6.3. Political Assistants

Political assistants appointed in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 are exempt from the standards set out in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2

7. Acceptance of gifts & hospitality

7.1. General

Except in the very limited circumstances employees should not accept any fees, gifts or other benefits on their own behalf or on behalf of a third party, from any member of the public, pressure group or other outside party. All employees are expected to make themselves aware of the guidance on the acceptance of gifts and hospitality which is available on the intranet or from HR. This includes ensuring any gifts or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 are registered with the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of its receipt. Furthermore, that any significant gifts or hospitality that they have been offered but have refused to accept are also registered with the Monitoring Officer.

7.2. Accepting Hospitality

Employees should only accept offers of hospitality if these are occasions on which they are gathering, imparting or exchanging information or representing the Council. Offers to attend purely social or sporting functions should be accepted only when these are part of the life of the community or where the

*references to employees also includes workers

Council should be seen to be represented. Attendance at such functions should be authorised in accordance with the procedure set out in the protocol for gifts and hospitality.

Employees should be aware that it is a serious criminal offence for them **corruptly** to receive any gift, loan, fee, reward or advantage **for doing, or not doing anything, or showing favour or disfavour to any person** in their official capacity. If an allegation is made then it is for the employee to demonstrate via an investigation process that any gift, loan, fee, reward received has not been corruptly obtained.

7.3. Giving of Hospitality

The giving of hospitality to visiting individuals, and during meetings with outside individuals/organisations which take place off Council premises, is acceptable provided that

(i) the visit/meeting relates to Council business; and

(ii) such hospitality is of a kind and proportionate to the circumstances.

In some cases, it may well be wrong not to offer hospitality. For example, the failure to offer a visitor basic refreshment (i.e. tea/coffee) would, in certain circumstances, be construed as discourteous, and possibly contrary to the Council's customer care ethos. Similarly, in the case of lengthy meetings the provision of a "working lunch" may well be appropriate. Hospitality should never be lavish or extravagant and should be proportionate to our role as public body. Employees should always have regard to how such hospitality might be perceived by members of the public - bearing in mind the Council is a public body funded in the main by local and central government taxation, and the need for impartiality in relations with contractors and potential contractors.

8. Personal interests - disclosure etc

8.1. The Underlying Principle

Employees should never use their positions with the Council to seek special favour or preferential treatment for themselves, or friends or relatives. Equally important, employees should not allow the impression to be created that they are, or may be, using their position to promote private or personal interests.

8.2. Disclosure Generally

Employees should disclose, via the online form available on the intranet ~~in writing,~~ and to their manager any personal interest (whether financial or non-financial in nature) which may affect, or be considered by others to affect, an employee's impartiality in any matter relevant to his/her duties. Employees should make themselves aware of the guidance on registering

*references to employees also includes workers

their interests. The manager should ensure that any ~~the~~ disclosures are ~~is~~ recorded in the register of interests via the online form available on the intranet~~maintained by Democratic Services~~.

Note: Non-financial interests could, for example, include involvement with an organisation receiving grant aid from the Council, or involvement with an organisation or pressure group which is seeking to influence or change the Council's policies.

8.3. Statutory Duty to Disclose any Financial Interest in Contract

Employees must be aware that by law (Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972) they are required to disclose in writing to the Council any financial interest, whether direct or indirect, which they have in any contract which, to their knowledge, has been, or is proposed to be entered into by the Council. Failure to disclose such an interest is a serious criminal offence.

This information is collected via the online form available on the intranet. ~~Democratic Services maintains a register for the disclosure of financial (pecuniary) interests. This register is open to inspection by the public.~~

Employees who are not sure whether disclosure is required should initially refer the matter to their manager.

9. Relations with outside contractors and proposed contractors

9.1. Familiarity with Contract Rules etc.

Employees who make or advise on purchasing decisions or are otherwise involved in the ordering of goods or services on behalf of the Council must ensure that they are familiar with the Council's Contract Rules and Financial Regulations relating to contracts and orders.

9.2. Awarding of Contracts and Orders

Employees who make purchasing decisions, or who are otherwise involved in the ordering of good or services on behalf of the Council, must ensure that orders and contracts are awarded strictly in accordance with the Council's Contract Rules and that no special favour is shown, or preferential treatment given, to businesses run by partners, relatives, friends or former employees.

All employees should be familiar with the requirements of the Bribery Act and the Anti-Bribery and Corruption policy. The Council is committed to protecting the public purse and the services it provides from being abused.

We require that all staff, including those permanently employed, temporary agency staff and contractors:

*references to employees also includes workers

- act honestly and with integrity always and safeguard the organisation's resources for which they are responsible

*references to employees also includes workers

- comply with the spirit, as well as the letter, of the laws and regulations of all jurisdictions in which the Council operates, in respect of the lawful and responsible conduct of activities.

The Council will not tolerate fraud and corruption in the administration of its responsibilities, whether from inside or outside the Authority.

The Council's expectation of propriety and accountability is that staff at all levels will lead by example in ensuring adherence to legal requirements, rules, procedures and practices.

The Council also expects that individuals and organisations with which it comes into contact will act towards the Authority with integrity.

9.3. Disclosure of Private Work Carried out by Contractors - The General Principle

Corporate Directors, Service Managers, and any other employees who are involved in purchasing decisions (including the selection of persons invited to tender, and the evaluation of tenders etc) and who have, or have had, a private business relationship (as defined below) with a person or company whom they know has or is seeking to have a contractual relationship with the Council (whether for the supply of goods, services or construction works) should disclose that fact via the online form available on the intranet. ~~in writing to Democratic Services~~.

~~Democratic Services shall record the disclosure in a register which is kept for thisat purpose and which is open to inspection by the public.~~

Commented [LB1]: There is no requirement to have a register or to make the information public. S117 requires that the officer discloses the information which is the key requirement.

Definition of Private Business Relationship

An employee shall be taken to have a private business relationship with a person or company if that person or company has been engaged to carry out work to the employee's home or that of his/her family or close friend(s); or to supply any goods or services to the employee or his/her family or close friend(s).

9.4. Exceptions

This part of the Code shall not, however, be taken as requiring an employee to disclose a private business relationship with:

(1) any public utility company or statutory undertakers (e.g. British Telecommunications Plc, Eastern Electricity, rail operators and other public transport companies) where work done, or goods/services supplied is a kind which is provided or made available to a large section of the general population.

*references to employees also includes workers

(2) any bank or similar financial institution where the services provided are of a kind commonly provided or made available to other customers of the bank/institution.

(3) any retail store or outlet (e.g. a supermarket or bookshop) where the private business relationship has arisen solely because the employee has purchased from the store/outlet (during its opening hours) goods or services which, at the time of purchase were on display or offer to the public at the same price and on the same terms.

9.5. Employees Who Supervise Contracts

Employees who supervise contractors should disclose via the online form on the intranet ~~in writing to Democratic Services~~ any private business relationship (as defined in 9.3 above) which they have, or have had, with any of the contractors which come within their supervision. The online form is used to maintain a ~~Democratic Services shall record the disclosure in a~~ register ~~which is kept for that purpose and which is open to inspection by the public.~~

~~10.~~ Outside commitments

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All employees should not engage in any outside work which means any paid or unpaid work including voluntary work which conflicts or may conflict with the Council's interests.

An employee who wishes to take up outside work, whether paid or unpaid, must obtain approval before accepting. A request for authorisation in relation to second employments or other commitments should be made using the online form which is available on the intranet. ~~A proforma for this purpose can be found in Appendix 1.~~

If an employee already has other employment or commitments when they join the Council, including volunteering, they must make this known to their manager who will bring the employees attention to the online form for authorisation to be sought and must ensure that they are fully able to undertake their contractual duties.

The Council has an obligation to protect the welfare of its employees. When considering other work, all employees must comply with the Working Time Regulations which govern the total number of hours that can be safely worked as well as ensure that the required rest breaks under regulation can be taken

An employee undertaking secondary employment outside of the Council must complete a Working Hours declaration to ensure that the hours worked in total are permitted under legislation including required rest breaks.

An employee who works in more than one role for the Council will be required to comply with Working Time regulation in relation to hours work and to

*references to employees also includes workers

ensure that required rest breaks are taken.

*references to employees also includes workers

~~11.~~10. Separation of roles during tendering

~~11.1.~~10.1. Separation of Roles

Employees involved in the tendering process and dealing with contractors should be clear on the separation of client and contractor roles within the Council. Senior employees who have both client and contractor responsibilities must be aware of the need for accountability and openness.

~~11.2.~~10.2. Fairness and Impartiality

Employees in contractor or client units must exercise fairness and impartiality when dealing with all customers, suppliers, other contractors and sub-contractors.

~~12.~~11. Use of resources and council property etc

~~12.1.~~11.1. Use of Resources

Employees must ensure that they use public funds and resources entrusted to them in a responsible manner. They should always ensure value for money to the local community.

~~12.2.~~11.2. Commitment to the environment

The Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019 and expects its employees to consider the environmental impact of their actions and behaviour and, in particular, to contribute to reducing waste and reducing carbon emissions where possible when at work

~~12.3.~~11.3. Use of Council Property Etc

Except for cars provided in accordance with the staff car-lease scheme employees should not use Council property, equipment (including computer/word processing hardware and specialist software) and materials for their own personal gain or private purposes with the exception of accessing the internet during non-working time lunch breaks in accordance with the Council's Acceptable Use policy.

~~12.4.~~11.4. Security, health and safety

Employees should be mindful of the constant need to ensure, so far as is practicable, the security and health and safety of their fellow employees, and the safeguarding of Council property and buildings. Each employee should endeavour to avoid acts or omissions on their own part which may be prejudicial to, or compromise, health, safety and security.

*references to employees also includes workers

~~13.~~12. Close Personal Relationships at Work

13.1 Recruitment

Employees involved in recruitment must ensure that appointments are made based on merit. To avoid any possible accusation of bias, an employee must not be involved in making an appointment if they are related to, or have a close personal relationship with an applicant, in accordance with the Employment Rules in the Authority's Constitution

13.2 Other Employment Matters

Employees must not be involved in decisions relating to disciplinary, grievance, promotion or payment related matters, which relate to someone with whom they have a close personal relationship

13.3 Relations with Other Employees

Mutual respect and professional conduct between colleagues are essential to good local government. Employees are required to act in a professional manner and not allow personal relationships to impact on their work and professionalism.

Employees are asked to complete a declaration through the online form available on the intrant ~~form~~ regarding Close Personal Relationships at work, following which a risk ~~n~~ assessment will be undertaken and approved by the relevant Service Manager (or where the risk assessment relates to a Service Manager a Director) to set out arrangements to protect both the employee and the Council.

The Council reserves the right to address any issues arising from close personal relationships at work that cause ongoing work issues and take appropriate action to resolve the issue.

14 Social media, communications and working with the media

14.1 Social media

Using Social media on behalf of the Council

When engaging with customers or organisations on behalf of the Council through Social Media, employees should always remember that they are representing the Council. Employees should represent the Council ethically and with honesty and integrity.

Personal social media use

*references to employees also includes workers

Employees should not post anything that could adversely affect the image of the Council or have the potential to do so. Employees must not breach

*references to employees also includes workers

confidentiality by divulging any personal or sensitive information through social media.

14.2 Communications and publication

Employees must not publicise material which is confidential or against the Council's or our employee's interests.

14.3 Working and contact with the media

Employees should not speak, write, give interviews or take phone calls for information unless the communications team and your manager have given you permission to do so or unless this is part of your role for the Council.

15. Safeguarding

The Council provides a wide range of services and facilities and will promote the welfare and protection of children and adults at risk within all services by:

- Respecting the rights, wishes, feelings and privacy of children and adults.
- Taking seriously and responding appropriately and promptly to all concerns, incidents and allegations.
- Requiring organisations that the Council contracts to provide the Council with services, to have appropriate safeguarding procedures and training in place and adopt the Safeguarding policy.
- Ensuring that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children and adults at risk through the Council's Safer Recruitment Procedure.
- Not tolerating harassment of any Council employees, elected Members, contractors, agency staff, volunteers, suppliers, consultants or children/adults who raise concerns of abuse.
- Seeking to prevent abuse by promoting good practice, creating a safe and healthy environment and avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse occur.

It is expected that all employees:

- Understand the different forms abuse as well as their roles and responsibilities under this Code of Conduct and the Safeguarding Policy.
- Know how to record and report safeguarding concerns, incidents or allegations.

16. Generally

If an employee has any doubt as to whether any action taken or contemplated on his/her part, or on the part of a third party, is likely to result or has resulted in a breach of this Code of Conduct then he/she should discuss the matter with his/her manager or Human Resources as soon as possible.

*references to employees also includes workers

Relevant information to support this Code of Conduct is available on the intranet or via your line manager including the following:

- Financial regulation
- Employment policies and procedures
- Health and Safety responsibilities
- Safeguarding
- Data and Information
- Council Constitution

*references to employees also includes workers

~~REGISTRATION OF OFFICER INTERESTS~~

~~Guidance on the registration of interests~~

~~Your name~~	
~~Your Directorate~~	
~~Your Service~~	
~~Your line manager's name~~	

~~I register the following interests pursuant to Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Employees Code of Conduct:~~

	~~Interest~~
~~1.~~	~~Your membership of or the fact that you are in a position of general management and control of a body that falls within one or more of the following descriptions:~~ ~~a. to which you have been appointed or nominated by the City Council~~ ~~b. exercising functions of a public nature~~ ~~c. directed towards charitable purposes~~ *~~The descriptions identified are alternatives, therefore you need to register any interests that falls within any of the descriptions in (a), (b) or (c).~~* *~~Under **paragraph (a)** there are a number of bodies to which the Council makes officer appointments such as Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council and the Essex Society for Archaeology and History.~~* *~~The organisations that should be included in **paragraph (b)** include those that lobby government to make changes to policy or laws, for example, an active member of the National Trust or AA which may seek to influence public policy.~~* *~~Under **paragraph (c)** this includes not only registered charities but other organisations that raise funds for charities such as Freemasons.~~*
	~~Details~~

*references to employees also includes workers

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~~2.~~	~~Any body of which you are a member or to which you have been elected personally or professionally:~~ ~~(a) receiving grant aid from the Council; or~~ ~~(b) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union).~~
	~~**Details**~~
~~3.~~	~~Any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, which you have in any contract, which has been or is proposed to be entered into by Chelmsford City Council~~ ~~*If you have entered into any form of contract with the Council for the supply of goods or services this should be entered here **but only if** there are still obligations to be fulfilled such as payments to be made or services to be provided. Examples are:*~~ - ~~*Use of Council commercial waste collection facilities by a body or company which you own.*~~ - ~~*Use of the Council's Building Control Team's services in relation to works at any property owned by a body/company in which you have an interest.*~~
	~~**Details**~~
~~4.~~	~~Any body of which you are a member.~~ ~~Any firm in which you are a partner.~~ ~~A company of which you or a close relative are a remunerated director.~~ ~~A company run by a relative, friend, partner, or former employee or yours which has or is tendering for a contractual relationship with Chelmsford City Council (whether for the supply or goods, services or construction work).~~
	~~**Details**~~

*references to employees also includes workers

~~5.~~	~~Any work or services provided to you in a private capacity (a private business relationship) by any business, partnership or sole trader which has tendered or is tendering for a contractual relationship with Chelmsford City Council (whether for the supply or goods, services or construction work).~~
	~~**Details**~~
~~6.~~	~~Any employment or business carried on by you in addition to your employment by Chelmsford City Council.~~
	~~**Details**~~
~~7.~~	~~Any organisation of which you are a member to which you have been elected or appointed professionally or personally which the Council could from time to time have any dealings with that are not covered in other categories above.~~
	~~**Details**~~

~~Your signature: ……………………………………………………………………………~~

~~Date: ……………………......~~

~~Your line manager's signature: …………………………………………………………~~

~~Date: ………………………..~~

~~Monitoring Officer's signature: ………………………………………………………....~~

~~Date: …………………...~~

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*references to employees also includes workers

~~Guidance Notes for Authorisation~~

~~Directors should consider the following:~~

- ~~Does the additional employment conflict with the Council's interests i.e. benefitting from position of being a Council employee e.g. tendering for business?~~
- ~~Does the additional employment conflict with the working time agreement e.g. the employee should not be working 7 days a week and must ensure that they can have the prescribed rest hours? Should the additional employment result in the employee working more than 48 hours a week, an opt out form should be completed.~~
- ~~Could the business interest be seen to be promoted by their position within the Council?~~
- ~~Does the contract preclude the member of staff from having additional employment or a secondary business interest?~~

*references to employees also includes workers

~~Version Number~~	~~Creation Date~~	~~Changes Made~~	~~Changes Made By:~~	~~Authorised/Checked?~~	~~Date of Changes~~
~~2.6~~	~~Jan 2011~~	~~Amended to Disability Confident Logo~~	~~HR Team~~	~~Y~~	~~05/12/2016~~
~~2.5~~	~~Jan 2011~~	~~Updated to reflect new HR structure~~	~~J Ferguson~~	~~Y~~	~~17/09/2015~~
~~2.4~~	~~Jan 2011~~	~~Corrected reference errors in 6.3~~	~~H Dungate~~	~~Y~~	~~30/09/2014~~
~~2.3~~	~~Jan 2011~~	~~Safeguarding Element added~~	~~A Price~~	~~Y~~	~~31/10/2012~~

PART 5.4

MAYORAL PARTY RULES

Contents

I

5.4.0 **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

5.4.0.1 These Rules establish the principles under which the Mayoral Party will carry out their duties and responsibilities. In particular the Party must observe Part 2, Article 5 of the Council's Constitution, the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4.1 of the Constitution and the Mayoral Party Protocol, which has the status of a Practice Note for the purposes of the Constitution.

5.4.0.2 The Mayor will be responsible for the interpretation of the Constitution as set out in Part 2, Article 16 thereof.

5.4.0.3 Administrative and organisation support will be provided to the Mayoralty by the Council and is referred to in these Rules as the Mayor's Office.

5.4.0.4 The role of the Mayoral Party, its responsibilities and guidance on the appropriateness of any duties to be undertaken will be dealt with at the Mayoral Working Group. The following will attend its meetings:

a) Mayor
b) Deputy Mayor
c) Leader of the Council
d) Opposition representative(s)
e) Chief Executive
f) Mayor's Office representatives
g) The Mayor and Deputy Mayor designate (to receive guidance for the forthcoming year)

5.4.0.5 In particular, the Mayoral Working Group will regularly consider issues arising in relation to:

a) The interpretation of and changes required to the Mayoral Party Rules and Mayoral Party Protocol
b) Mayoral Engagements
c) Civic Events
d) Honorary Freeman and Freedoms
e) Town Twinning

Role of the Mayoralty

5.4.0 6 The Mayor is the First Citizen of the City and will personally carry out the duties of the Mayoralty as far as is reasonably practical.

Role of the Deputy Mayor

5.4.0.7 The role of the Deputy Mayor is to deputise for the Mayor when the latter is not available to attend a function or if there is more than one invitation for the same date and time. The Deputy Mayor's role is not to act as Mayoral support.

5.4.0.8 When the Mayor is unavailable to attend a function and the Deputy Mayor is required to attend, then the Deputy Mayor will have use of the Civic Car and chauffeur. All other transportation arrangements should be organised through the Mayor’s Office.

5.4.1 **NEUTRALITY**

5.4.1.1 The Mayoral Party represents the whole City during the term of office. The Mayor, and Deputy Mayor, will therefore during their year of office and whilst acting in this official capacity:

a) Maintain political neutrality
b) Chair Council meetings with absolute impartiality
c) Ensure that a fellow ward or adjoining ward Councillor is available to deal with certain aspects of Council business
d) As far as is reasonably practical, not attend party political functions in the role of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

5.4.2 **FORM OF ADDRESS**

5.4.2.1 The usual form of address for the Mayor is “Mr Mayor”, if male, and “Madam Mayor”, if female. The Deputy Mayor is addressed as “Deputy Mayor”. All Officers of the Council are expected to address the Mayor formally.

5.4.2.2 There are also prescribed forms of address to be used when speaking to or addressing visiting dignitaries. The Mayor’s Office will ensure that the appropriate form of words is identified before any such engagement takes place or correspondence entered into.

5.4.3 **ATTIRE AND USE OF THE MAYORAL REGALIA**

5.4.3.1 The type of attire required at any occasion will be determined by the type of function to be attended and as explained in the Mayoral Party Protocol Practice Note.

5.4.3.2 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will wear the formal Regalia and Chains of Office on the following occasions:

a) All meetings of the Council.
b) The Civic Service.
c) Remembrance Sunday.
d) The Justice Service.
e) Visits of Royalty (unless otherwise requested).
f) Such other occasions as will be agreed by the Mayoral Working Party.

5.4.3.3 The Regalia of Office means the gown, jabot, gloves, hat and Ceremonial Chains of Office or the Mayoral/Day Chain. The Mayor's Office will advise the Mayoral Party on the appropriate form of dress for a particular event or occasion.

5.4.4 **EVENTS**

5.4.4.1 There are four main categories of event as set out below. The number of each and protocol to be used at each category differ and details are contained in the Mayoral Party Protocol Practice Note:

a) Annual Civic events;
b) Those promoted or organised by the Council, or the Mayor, or at which either act as hosts;
c) Those which the Mayor is expected to attend; and
d) Those which the Mayor may be invited to attend.

Annual Civic Events

5.4.4.2 The guest lists, selection of speakers and sequence of speeches at Civic events will be determined by the Mayor, in consultation with the Mayoral Working Group.

Events Promoted by the Council or the Mayor

5.4.4.4 The Mayor will normally be invited to officiate at all events or occasions of major civic significance, but is not required to be involved in all Council promoted events.

5.4.4.5 Where attendance of the Mayor, and/or other members of the Mayoral Party is required, the organiser of the event will arrange an adequate and timely briefing through the Mayor's Office.

Arrangements for inviting the Mayor to Events

5.4.4.6 Invitations for the Mayor to attend functions are for the Mayor and other members of the Mayoral Party only.

5.4.4.7 Formal invitations must be made through the Mayor's Office. If accepted, the invitation will be confirmed and an acceptance letter and engagement form will be sent to the inviting party for completion, which must be returned to the Mayor's Office.

5.4.4.8 This procedure shall apply equally to events organised by Council departments as well as those from external organisations or individuals.

5.4.4.9 Engagement lists showing forthcoming engagements will be prepared on a regular basis. They will include details of the events, the date and time of each engagement, and the organisation and venue for each event the Mayoral Party is attending. The lists will be distributed to:

a) The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor;
b) Council officers, the police, and local & national media sources as appropriate.

Visits Outside the City

5.4.4.10 It is customary for the Mayor's Office to seek the permission of the "host" authority for the Mayor (or a member of the Mayoral Party, as appropriate) to wear the chain or badge of office. Conversely, a Mayor or Chair of another authority attending a function in the City of Chelmsford will seek permission from the Mayor's Office to wear their chain or badge of office.

Precedence

5.4.4.11 When a Royal visit is to take place in the City's area, the following rules will be applied as to which dignitary takes precedence and the order of precedence.

a) On official Royal visits to the county the Chair of the County Council takes precedence before the Mayor and on such occasions the order of presentation by the Lord Lieutenant to the Royal visitor will normally be:
   i. Lord Lieutenant's partner
   ii. High Sheriff and partner
   iii. Chair of County Council and partner
   iv. County Chief Executive and partner
   v. Mayor and their partner
   vi. District (City) Chief Executive and partner
   vii. Member of Parliament and partner
   viii. Chief Constable and partner
   ix. the principal organiser of the event to which the visit is being made
   x. Other necessary presentations may be deputed to the organiser.

b) Where there is a Royal official visit to the City and the event or matter relates to the functions of the City Council the order of presentation by the Lord Lieutenant to the Royal visitor will normally be:
   i. Lord Lieutenant's partner
   ii. High Sheriff and partner
   iii. Mayor and their partner
   iv. District (City) Chief Executive and partner
   v. Chair of County Council and partner
   vi. County Chief Executive and partner
   vii. Member of Parliament and partner
   viii. Chief Constable and partner
   ix. the principal organiser of the event to which the visit is being made
   Other necessary presentations may be deputed to the organiser.

5.4.5 **<u>EXPENSES OF THE MAYORALTY, GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY</u>**

5.4.5.1 The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall each receive a personal allowance to meet expenses incurred by them and their partners because of their official duties. This will be approved as part of the Member's Allowance Scheme.

5.4.5.2 A specific budget will be set annually for the costs of managing and administering the Mayoral functions as part of the Council's normal budget approval procedure. It will be administered by the Mayor's Office.

5.4.5.3 If the Mayoral Party receive gifts during the term of office from organisers of events or from visitors to the Parlour these must either:

a) Be recorded in the Register of Civic Gifts (held by the Mayor's Office) and kept in the Mayor's Parlour; or

b) Declared as a gift in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Councillors as set out in Part 5.1 of the Constitution.

5.4.5.4 Any hospitality received by the Mayoral Party during their year of office must also be notified to the Mayor's Office and recorded in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Councillors as set out in Part 5.1 of the Constitution.

5.4.6 **USE OF THE CIVIC CAR**

5.4.6.1 Where appropriate the Council will provide a Civic Car or other transport for the Mayoral Party for official business. The Civic Car may be used for other purposes but only when authorised in advance by the Chief Executive.

5.4.6.2 The use of the Civic Car will normally be limited to transporting members of the Mayoral Party to and from engagements taking place other than at the Civic Centre. A specific exception applies where transport is required for the purpose of attending meetings of the Council.

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5.4.7 **THE MAYOR'S CHARITY**

5.4.7.1 The role of Mayor is a civic office. Charitable work can be undertaken by the Mayoral Party but should be regarded as incidental to and not a major function of the Mayoralty.

5.4.7.2 A Mayor may choose to nominate a charity to receive Mayoral support during the year. The organisation of any charitable events or liaison with the charitable organisations chosen will not be organised by the Mayor's Office.

5.4.7.3 The Mayoral Party must inform the Mayor's Office of any engagements associated with the nominated charity to ensure that there is no conflict with civic events, which will take precedence.

5.4.7.3 Whilst it is not the role of the Council to be involved in the day to day administration of the Charities account, it is desirable that there be an overview of the financial position on the account during the Mayoral year by the Mayoral Working Group receiving twice-yearly reports on income and expenditure.

~~5.4.7.4 A separate bank account must be opened to be administered by the Mayor, Mayoress, other nominated councillor or person to ensure that any charitable monies received can be accounted for. Any expenses incurred on behalf of the Mayor's charity should be made from the Mayor's charity account. No Council officer will be involved with the administration of the Charity account. A summary of the financial position on the Charity account will be provided to the Mayoral Working Group twice a year.~~

5.4.8 **PATRONAGE AND OTHER SUPPORT**

5.4.8.1 The Mayor, by virtue of the office, may be a Patron, President or Member of a number of organisations during the year of office. The Mayor must not personally agree to invitations to act as patron as this may put the Council in a difficult situation.

Any request for such support of patronage should be made to the Mayor's Office and approval must be officially agreed through that office.

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5.4.9 **SPIRITUAL SUPPORT**

5.4.9.1 The Mayor may appoint a suitable person to provide spiritual support for the Mayoral functions during the Mayor's term of office. The person appointed would normally be someone who is an official of a religious group, reflecting the Mayor's own religion.

5.4.9.2 The person appointed may act as a focal point for religious groups in the area, advise the Mayor on spiritual matters and assist the Mayor to understand and lead all sections of the community.

5.4.9.3 The person appointed will normally conduct prayers at the start of a meeting of the Council. It will not be seen as a sign of disrespect to the Mayor if members of the Council and any public attending the meeting do not wish to participate in the prayers and do not enter the room in which the meeting is being held until after they have finished.

5.4.10 **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.4.10.1 All correspondence addressed to the Mayor, but which relates to the business of the Council, will only be acknowledged by the Mayor's Office on behalf of the Mayor. It will then be passed for detailed reply or action to the relevant Director, Executive Member or Committee Chair as appropriate.

~~5.4.10.2 Arrangements for the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to witness the affixing of the Council's seal to any document will be organised through the Mayor's office.~~

Full Council

15th July 2026

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025/26

Report by:
Cabinet Member for Finance

Officer Contact:
Phil Reeves, Financial Services Manager, phil.reeves@chelmsford.gov.uk, 01245 606562

Purpose

For Council to approve the Treasury Management Outturn Report from Treasury Managmeent and Investment Sub Committee which is being considered by the Cabinet on 14th July 2026, after being recommended by the Treasury and Investment Sub-Committee on 15th June 2026

Recommendations

That the recommendations of the Treasury Management and Investment Sub Committee and Cabinet in relation to the Treasury Management outturn report are approved by Council.

1. Introduction

1.1. The CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management sets out the requirements for Council oversight of treasury management operations. As part of the Code, the Council is required to receive an annual report on the performance of the treasury management function, highlighting the effects of decisions taken and any instances of non-compliance with the Code and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

2. Background

2.1. The Council can expect to hold cash for investment, arising from its revenue and capital balances and the collection of local taxes. This cash can be invested to generate a return that helps support services or used for internal borrowing to fund the capital programme. The Council also needs to borrow externally to fund its capital programme and ensure sufficient liquidity for day-to-day activities. The management of this cash and borrowing is known as Treasury Management.

2.2. Treasury Management is defined by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as:

"The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks"

2.3. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the MHCLG Guidance.

2.4. The Council's investment priorities as required by Government regulations are in order of priority:

(a) The security of Capital
(b) The liquidity of its investments; and
(c) Yield

MHCLG and CIPFA both advise that absolute certainty over security of capital and liquidity does not need to be achieved before seeking yield from investments. Instead, an appropriate balance between all three objectives should be sought, with that balance determined by the Council through its Treasury Management Strategy.

2.5. The operation of Treasury Management is not without risk, and the Council could suffer losses if one of its counterparties had financial difficulties.

2.6. The Council formally reviews its investment holdings in the following ways:

- Treasury Management Strategy report in February
- Treasury Outturn report in July
- A half-year update in November
- The Treasury Management Sub-Committee monitors treasury activity during the financial year.

The review of the year's activities is set out in the following appendices:

Appendix A – External Environment Update

Appendix B – Borrowing and Investment Activity compared to the Approved 2025/26 Strategy

3. Summary of Review

3.1. During the financial year, there were no breaches of the Treasury Management Strategy.

3.2. The economic environment for the financial year saw a gradual reduction in rates but was marked with new uncertainties due to the conflict in Iran.

3.3. The year-end cash and borrowing position were as follows:

- Cash and investments held by the Council was higher than expected, some £18.6m compared to projections of £11.3m made for the 2026/27 budget (forecast was produced in December 2025).
- External borrowing was £14m at year end, in the form of one-year loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). The forecast external debt position was £20m, resulting in an underspend on estimated borrowing of £6m. This favourable variance arose broadly from slippage in capital expenditure and higher receipts and income. Borrowing remained within approved parameters.

3.4. Revenue impact of cash and investment

- Interest earned on investments for the year was £1.20m, which was £0.27m above budget, mainly due to higher-than-average cash balances caused by capital slippage and higher receipts and revenue income.
- The overall return on investments for 2025/26 was 4.3% compared to 4.94% in the previous year. The budget had assumed 4.05%. During the year, the Bank of England base rate decreased from 4.5% to 3.75%.

3.5. The Council at the beginning of 2025/26 held three pooled funds. Ongoing underperformance of one fund, the CCLA cautious world fund led to the decision by s151 officer to dispose of the fund.

3.6. The Council's remaining two pooled funds held at the end of 2025/26, generated total income returns of £335k, equating to a return of 5.35%. After allowing for the CCLA Cautious Fund, the average income return on the funds was 0.43% higher than cash, generating an additional £35k of interest. The value of the funds increased by £309k during the year, but prior to conflict in the Middle East the improvement was £568k. Across the remaining two funds at the end of 2025/26, there was an unrealised loss of £332k.

3.7. At the time of publication of this report, the yield (income) from the funds is broadly in line with the Council's short-term cost of borrowing. This reflects the elevated cost of borrowing in 2026/27. Borrowing interest rates were expected to fall during 2026/27, which would have improved both the capital value and the relative benefit of the funds. The position on the funds remains under review, and disposal may become the best option, but geopolitical uncertainty makes the long-term outlook difficult to determine.

3.8. Since the inception of the fund portfolio, it has delivered an additional £1,075k compared with what the Council would have received from cash investments.

3.9. Revenue impact of borrowing:

- External loan interest costs were £428k, a favourable variance of £761k against the budget of £1,189k. This lower cost was due to lower levels of borrowing than was estimated in the budget for 2025/26.
- The estimated borrowing interest rate was 4.50%, while the average rate actually borrowed at was 5.35%.

4. Conclusion

4.1. It should be noted that the Council's Treasury Management activities operated within approved parameters.

4.2. The Treasury Management and Investment Sub-Committee will continue to monitor investment and borrowing activity.

List of appendices:

Appendix A – Economic Environment Update

Appendix B – Borrowing and Actual Investment Activity compared to the Approved 2025/26 Strategy

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: As detailed in the report.

Financial: As detailed in report.

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: Any fund managers will be required to consider ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) factors in their investment process. All the fund managers would be expected to have signed up to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). PRI argues that active participation in ESG and exercising shareholder rights on this basis can help to improve the performance of companies which may otherwise not address such concerns and so being an engaged corporate stakeholder is a more effective way to bring about change in corporate behaviour on ethical issues.

Further requirements from those identified above are not practical given the limited ability to directly influence any immediate change in the financial markets.

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None.

Personnel: None

Risk Management: All treasury management activity requires a careful consideration of risk and reward.

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees: None

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26

Appendix A – External Environment Update

Introduction

The Council’s investment performance and borrowing costs are affected by a range of external economic factors, particularly interest rate expectations and the wider economic outlook.

Economic factors impacting treasury management activity during 2025/26

During 2025/26, the external environment remained uncertain. The lack of progress in ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine, together with the potentially negative implications for global growth arising from US tariff policies, meant that expectations for further Bank Rate reductions during the remainder of 2026 became more limited than had been assumed at the beginning of the year.

At the start of the financial year, Bank Rate was 4.5%, before declining to 3.75% by December 2025. By late February 2026, markets were widely expecting a further rate cut in March, particularly after a close 5–4 vote at the February meeting left Bank Rate unchanged.

However, sentiment changed sharply at the end of February 2026. The outbreak of conflict in the Middle East created uncertainty over the supply of crude oil and wider energy prices. Increased concerns about rising inflation led markets to reassess the likelihood of near-term Bank Rate reductions.

This change in expectations fed quickly through into borrowing markets. Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) one-year rates were 4.46% on 27 February. PWLB one-year rates reached a high of 5.4% during March, reflecting significant volatility in gilt markets and making borrowing more expensive than had originally been expected towards the end of 2025/26. Local authority one-month rates rose above 6% before the middle of March and above 7% in the final week of March. PWLB one-year rates have remained above 5% since that point.

At its March 2026 meeting, the Bank of England left Bank Rate unchanged at 3.75% by a vote of 9-0. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) stated that it “stands ready to act as necessary” and was “alert to the increased risk of domestic inflationary pressures through second-round effects in wage and price-setting”. This reinforced the view that, while growth remained weak, inflation risks could limit the scope for further reductions in interest rates over the near term.

Other factors

Local authority-to-local authority lending remained tight. This has limited the availability of funds particularly at year end when borrowing is most needed.

Long Term PWLB rates remain unattractive and generally loans beyond 10 years are 6% plus.

Appendix B – Borrowing and Investment Activity compared to the Approved Strategy for 2025/26

External borrowing

1. The Council has the freedom to borrow in the following circumstances:

- Short-term borrowing to manage liquidity
- Long-term borrowing only to fund capital expenditure if no other capital resources exist e.g. the Council has spent its capital receipts or expects to do so imminently.

2. The Council borrowed £14m externally towards the end of 2025/26 to ensure sufficient year-end liquidity to meet operational needs. The external borrowing outstanding at year end is shown below.

Counter Party	Start	Maturity	Amount	Interest Rate
Public Works Loan Board	25-Feb-26	25-Feb-27	4,000,000	4.29%
Public Works Loan Board	03-Mar-26	03-Mar-27	3,000,000	4.27%
Public Works Loan Board	18-Mar-26	18-Mar-27	7,000,000	4.63%
			14,000,000	

Officers concluded that borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) was a better option than borrowing from other local authorities, due to limited market availability and the high year-end rates.

The Council's financing (borrowing) costs which are charged to the revenue budget, are made up of interest and principal repayment (minimum revenue provision (MRP)).

- Interest costs for 2025/26 were £428k against a budget of £1,189k, giving a favourable variance of £761k because borrowing was both later and lower than budgeted.
- MRP costs were £165k higher than budget, mainly because more vehicles were financed than originally planned.

Overall, this meant in 2025/26 the Council's overall financing cost comprising both MRP and interest was £596k favourable (underspent) against budget.

In December 2025, an updated forecast for external borrowing was prepared for the 2026/27 budget. This forecast identified a borrowing requirement of £20m at 31 March 2026. In practice, borrowing was £6m lower than expected, mainly due to:

- the delayed repayment of £2m from the PLACE scheme. The PLACE scheme was a joint project involving several local authorities in Essex and Hertfordshire to improve housing, funded by Government grant. Chelmsford acted as the lead authority, holding the funds, and it was agreed that the scheme would be disbanded during 2025/26.
- higher receipts and income, including £2m from Saxton 4x4; and

- more vehicles being leased than budgeted (£1.8m), which meant the lease company refunded the Council for the cost of purchases.

Government accounting rules treat finance leases as a form of borrowing, so the Council must report them as such in its accounts and treasury management reporting. At 31 March 2026, the Council had outstanding right-of-use lease liabilities of £6,233k, of which £2,477k related to vehicles and equipment and the remaining £3,755k related mainly to private sector leasing (PSL) for temporary accommodation. PSL leases were not previously included in financing costs before 2024/25, but this changed with the introduction of IFRS 16, which removed the distinction between finance and operating leases.

3. Borrowing Prudent Indicators

Liability Benchmark:-
The Liability Benchmark is a prudential indicator that the Council is required to publish. It helps show whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or a long-term investor and therefore supports long-term financial planning. It represents the cumulative level of external borrowing needed to fund the capital programme while maintaining the minimum level of treasury investments required for day-to-day cash flow management.

Ref.	Liability Benchmark	31/03/26 Actual (£m)	31/03/27 Forecast (£m)	31/03/28 Forecast (£m)	31/03/29 Forecast (£m)
1	Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (total of external borrowing and internal borrowing)	46	75	82	86
2	Less: Balance sheet resources Internal borrowing, temporary surplus cash used instead of external loans	44	32	32	38
3	Subtotal of 1 and 2 :Net loans requirement (Positive figures are external borrowing requirement)	2	43	51	48
4	Plus: Cash balance to ensure we have liquidity allowance, which we hold as short term investments for treasury management purposes.	5	10	10	10
5	Total of 3 and 4; Liability benchmark + are external; borrowing requirements. (Positive is an external borrowing requirement)	7	53	60	58
			<- Forecast externally borrowed ->		

The table above shows how the Liability Benchmark is calculated.
Ref./Row 1 shows the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which is the total of external and internal borrowing needed to fund the capital programme. At 31 March 2026, the capital programme required £46m of borrowing.

Ref./Row 2 shows the balance sheet resources available to support internal borrowing instead of external debt. Most of these resources comprise revenue reserves and capital grants.

Ref./Row 3 shows the net loans requirement. A positive figure indicates that external borrowing is forecast. A further allowance is then added to ensure that the Council holds a minimum level of liquid cash, as shown in Row 4.

Ref./Row 5 shows that the forecast year-end external borrowing requirement for 2025/26 was £7m. Actual external borrowing was £14m, meaning the Council was £7m over-borrowed at year end. This was because some payments were made later than expected and cash receipts were higher than expected at year end. The latest projections show external borrowing requirements of £53m at the end of 2026/27 and £60m at the end of 2027/28, after allowing for a minimum liquidity requirement of £10m.

Maturity Structure of borrowing

The Council had £14m of external loan borrowing with the PWLB with durations of a year (100% of loans for less than 2 years). This loan maturity profile is within the limits set in the 2026/27 Strategy that are shown below

Maturity structure of fixed interest rate borrowing 2026/27		
	Lower	**Upper**
Under 12 months	0%	100%
12 months to 2 years	0%	100%
2 years to 5 years	0%	100%
5 years to 10 years	0%	50%
10 years to 25 years	0%	50%
25 years to 50 years	0%	50%
Maturity structure of variable interest rate borrowing 2026/27		
	Lower	**Upper**
Under 12 months	0%	100%
12 months to 2 years	0%	100%
2 years to 5 years	0%	100%
5 years to 10 years	0%	50%
10 years to 25 years	0%	50%
25 years to 50 years	0%	50%

Other borrowing indicators

There has been no need to revise external borrowing limits, given the continued borrowing position being below that which was forecast. Those limits are identified below:

	2025/26 limit	2026/27 limit	2027/28 limit	2028/29 limit
Authorised limit – total external debt	£50m	£85m	£90m	£90m
Operational boundary – total external debt	£28m	£68m	£72m	£72m

The table below shows the updated affordability indicator for the provisional outturn of 2025/26. A comparison that approved at Full Council in February shows the impact is similar (marginally lower) across the projection.

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Provision Outturn	2026/27 Forecast	2027/28 Forecast	2028/29 Forecast
Total Financing Costs (excludes income generated by capital schemes)	**£2.407m**	**£2.860m**	**£4.343m**	**£5.509m**	**£6.569m**
Affordability Indicator					
Net Revenue Stream	£29.186m	£30.947m	£31.566m	£32,197m	£32,841m
Updated Ratio of financing costs to Net Revenue Stream	**8.25%**	**9.24%**	**13.76%**	**17.11%**	**20.00%**
Previously identified at Council Feb 2026; Ratio of financing costs to Net Revenue Stream	**8.25%**	**9.51%**	**13.92%**	**18.27%**	**20.98%**

Investments

5. Officers with appropriate knowledge and training invest the Council's cash balances. MUFG Corporate Markets were used as advisers on treasury management to help inform the decision-making process.

6. The Council's cash is invested in the following priority order, in accordance with statutory guidance:

   i) Security – protecting the capital sum invested from loss

   ii) Liquidity – ensuring the funds invested are available for expenditure when needed

   iii) Yield – subject to achieving proper security and liquidity, to pursue a yield on investments to support service provision

Both the regulations and CIPFA advise that absolute certainty of security and liquidity does not need to be achieved before seeking yield from investments. Instead, the Council should strike an appropriate balance between all three objectives, as set out in its Treasury Strategy.

7. The Council forecasts its cash flow to manage in-house investments and liquidity. This enables officers to divide in-house funds into two categories:

- Shorter-term, lower-yielding investments – these are placed for relatively short periods, normally 3 to 6 months, so that investment maturities align with peaks and troughs in the Council's liquidity needs. This is particularly important in the final two months of the year, when council tax income falls significantly because most residents pay in 10 monthly instalments.
- Longer-term, higher-yielding investments – these involve investing 'core cash', also referred to as 'balance sheet resources', which the Council does not need for operational purposes in the short to medium term. Core cash includes balances such as revenue reserves. These funds can be invested for a year or more with appropriate counterparties to generate higher returns without creating liquidity pressures.

8. The Council's investment portfolio decreased from £22.8m at 31 March 2025 to £18.6m at 31 March 2026. This reflects the longer-term trend of lower cash balances available for investment as the Council uses cash to fund capital expenditure.

Indicators to demonstrate Compliance with the Approved Treasury Management Strategy

9. A summary of the approved Treasury Management Strategy and the actual outcomes is set out below:

a.	**To ensure that there are no breaches of the approved counterparty limits or durations**	No breach occurred.
b.	**To maintain a target balance of £5m of short notice funds to manage liquidity**	The Council maintained cash balances within the target range for funds available at up to 35 days' notice.
c.	**To maintain long term investments within set limit of £10m and Investment funds of £12m**	Long-term investment holdings remained within the approved limits.

Total bail-in risk exposure (direct and pooled) was at 89% for 2025/26 and this had reduced compared to the previous year which was 100%. This shown below.

Exposure	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Bail In Risk -Direct investment (NatWest holding)	1%	2%
Bail In Risk – Pooled Fund Managers and Money Market Funds	99%	87%
Exempt from Bail In (Local authority investment)	0%	11%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

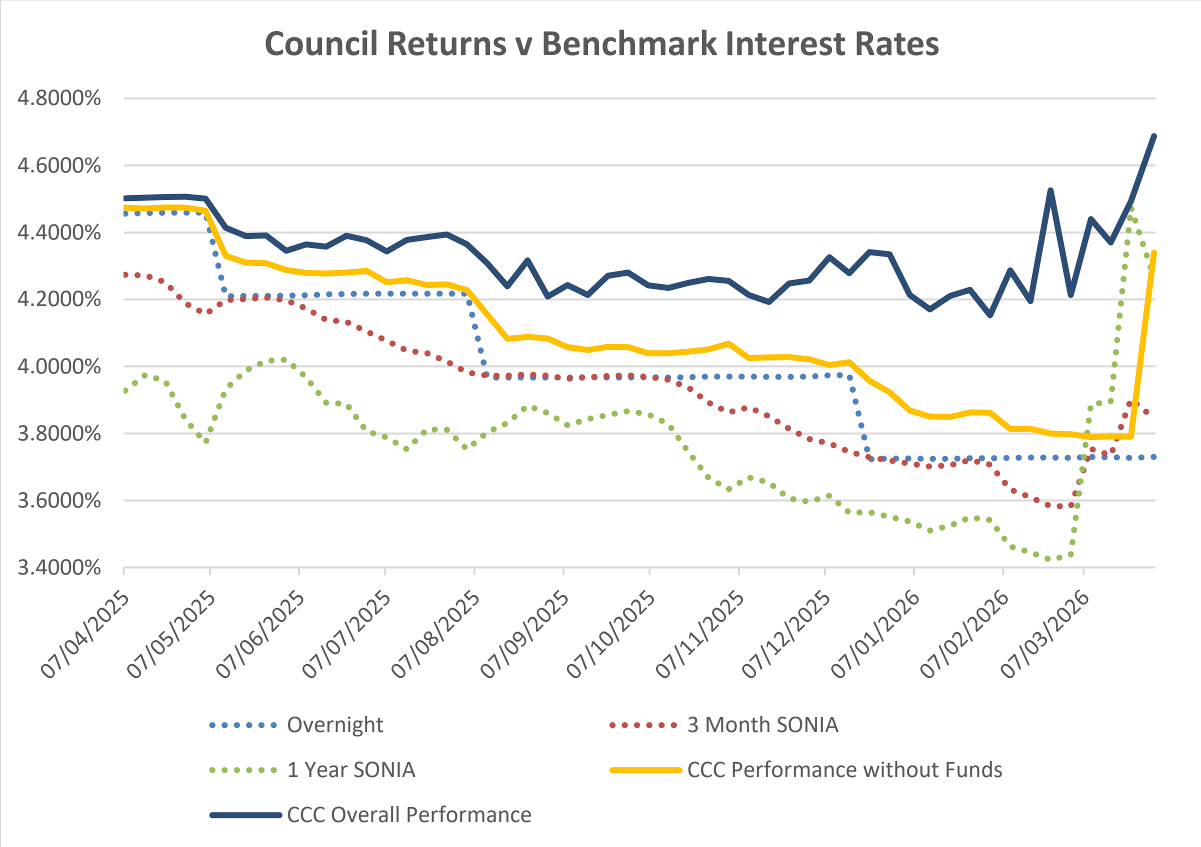
<u>Counter Party</u>

Money Market Funds & Long-Term Funds	Credit Rating (Fitch)	Sum Invested (31/03/2026)	Limits 2025/26
Black Rock Money Market Fund	AAAmmf	£600	£6,000,000
Insight Money Market Fund	AAAmmf	£3,008,730	£6,000,000
Federated Money Market Fund	AAAmmf	£5,986,000	£6,000,000
Deutsche Money Market Fund	AAAmmf	£370	£6,000,000
Invesco Money Market Fund	AAAmmf	£724,040	£6,000,000
BNP Paribas Money Market Fund	AAAmmf	£540	£6,000,000
Aegon Multi Asset Fund	N/A	£3,570,450	Total of £12,000,000
Ninety-One Multi Asset Fund	N/A	£2,997,840	
CCLA Multi Asset Fund	N/A	£0	
Banks & Building Societies			
Natwest	A+	£339,580	£3,000,000
Local Authorities			
Surrey County Council		£2,000,000	£10,000,000
Total Investments		**£18,628,150**	

<u>Return on investments</u>

10. UK interest rates began the year at 4.5% and ended it at 3.75%. The budget assumed an average return of 4.05%.

The table below compares SONIA (the Sterling Overnight Index Average) with the returns generated by the City Council. The figures shown are daily data not cumulative average.



The Council earned a total of £1,199k in investment income during the 2025/26 financial year, which was £274k additional income over the £925k budget. This was mainly due to higher-than-average cash balances caused by capital slippage and higher receipts and revenue income but also partly due to interest rates being slightly higher than budgeted. The year end spike was due to a short duration investment with another local authority at 7%.

10.1 Investment Funds

	Market investments (excluding Multi Asset Funds)	**Multi Asset Funds Income (Based on April 2025 Valuation)**	**All Investments Income Yield**
	Year ending 31/03/2026		
Average yield	4.09%	4.52%	4.30%

The yields shown above have been calculated using opening balances.

The City Council held investments in three Multi-Asset Funds during the financial year. The CCLA Cautious Fund was sold in phases during the year, resulting in a realised loss of £306k. The fund had been generating a lower return than the other two funds and there was little sign of improvement.

In addition, the yield on the fund was below the interest rate the Council was paying on its borrowing. The Section 151 Officer therefore concluded that it was in the Council’s best interests to realise the loss.

Income returns for the two remaining funds are shown below, together with each fund's closing capital value, initial investment value, and unrealised gain or loss.

Fund	Initial Investment Value £	1/04/2025 Investment Value £	31/03/2026 Investment Value £	Unrealised +Gain/(Loss) (since inception) £	Income Return (Based on 1st April 2025 Valuation)
Aegon DIF	3,600,000	3,295,096	3,570,445	(29,555)	5.79%
Ninety One DIF	3,300,000	2,963,896	2,997,836	(302,164)	4.85%
Total/Average	6,900,000	6,258,991	6,568,281	(331,719)	5.35%

Total income from all funds during 2025/26 was £388,504, including dividends received from the CCLA Cautious Fund before it was sold during the year. Income from the two remaining funds was £335k.

The unrealised loss on the two remaining funds had recovered £309K during 2025/26. Fund valuations have been affected by conditions in the global economy and by the conflict in the Middle East. Compared with their initial investment value, the two funds showed a combined unrealised loss of £332k at year end. Only a few days earlier, before the conflict escalated, the unrealised loss had reduced to £73k.

These investments are intended to be held over the medium to long term, so their capital values will fluctuate over time. Since the initial investments were made, the capital performance of the Aegon and Ninety One funds has been adversely affected by geopolitical events. The Section 151 Officer is monitoring the position closely and is considering whether over the medium term the funds offer enough added value to justify holding them. The main concern is whether the yield on these investments falls below the Council's borrowing costs for a prolonged period. If that happens, the Council should consider disposing of some or all of the funds in 2026/27, instead of taking on additional external borrowing. A caveat is that gains in capital value could offset the interest differences. Any decision will depend on the outlook for interest rates, fund values and the Council's borrowing requirement. The funds are not considered to be inherently underperforming, but continued geopolitical uncertainty has weakened returns. In a more stable environment, there remains potential for capital values to recover, although that position is now complicated by higher borrowing costs.

Overall, since inception, the fund portfolio has generated an additional £1,075k of returns above what would been obtained from cash, of which £405k is unrealised.

Conclusion

The Council operated within its Treasury Management Framework throughout the year. This enabled it to protect its financial assets while achieving a good level of return relative to prevailing market interest rates.

Chelmsford City Council

15th July 2026

Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2025/26

Report by:
Audit and Risk Committee

Officer Contact:
Elizabeth Brooks, Audit Services Manager, elizabeth.brooks@chelmsford.gov.uk

Purpose

This report summarises the work that the Audit and Risk Committee has undertaken during 2025/26 in line with CIPFA's Position Statement for Audit Committees 2022.

Recommendations

The Council is requested to note the content of the 2025/26 Annual Report of the Committee.

1. Introduction

1.1. Audit Committees are a key component of the Council's governance framework. Their purpose is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. The Committee's role in ensuring that there is sufficient assurance over governance risk and control gives greater confidence to all those charged with governance that those arrangements are effective.

1.2. In Chelmsford, the Audit and Risk Committee has been delegated governance responsibilities but remains accountable to Full Council. The Committee has oversight of both internal and external audit together with the financial and governance reports, helping to ensure that there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.

1.3. The CIPFA Position Statement for Audit Committees 2022 outlines the core functions of the Audit Committee and advises how Audit Committees should demonstrate their independence and effectiveness. Part of this includes reporting regularly on their work, and at least annually reporting an assessment of their performance.

2. Conclusion

The Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2025/26 is attached for Committee to note and agree.

List of appendices: Appendix 1 - Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2025/26

Background papers: None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional:

The Council has a duty to maintain an effective internal provision to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance (Regulation 5 (Part 1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015). Various guidance emphasises the importance of the Audit Committee, including:

- Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework
- Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
- the Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption.

Financial:

Failure to have appropriate risk management arrangements puts the Council financial management in a weakened position and therefore increases the risk of failing to deliver Our Chelmsford Our Plan.

Potential impact on climate change and the environment:

None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030:

None

Personnel:

None

Risk Management:

The role of the Audit and Risk Committee in relation to risk management covers: assurance over the governance of risk, including leadership, integration of risk management into wider governance arrangements and the top level ownership and accountability for risks; keeping up to date with the risk profile and the effectiveness of risk management actions and; monitoring the effectiveness of risk management arrangements and supporting the development and embedding of good practice in risk management.

Equality and Diversity:

None

Health and Safety:
None

Digital:
None

Other:
None

Consultees: Councillor Walsh, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

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Relevant Policies and Strategies: None

Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2025/26

Introduction from the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee which outlines the Committee's work and achievements for 2025/26.

I hope that this Annual Report helps to demonstrate to the City's residents and the Council's other stakeholders the role that is carried out by the Audit and Risk Committee and the contribution that it makes to the Council's overall governance. All meetings are open to members of the public.

To provide ongoing assurance over the Council's risk management, governance and internal control arrangements, the Committee has been supported during 2025/26 by the Audit Services Manager, the Financial Services Manager (S151 Officer), the Procurement Manager, the Public Health and Protection Services Manager, as well as representatives from the Council's External Auditors, Ernst and Young.

I would like to express my thanks to those officers and Members who have supported the work of this Committee by presenting and discussing reports.

Cllr Nora Walsh

June 2026

1. Overview

1.1. Audit Committees are a key component of the Council's governance framework. Their purpose is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. The Committee's role in ensuring that there is sufficient assurance over governance risk and control gives greater confidence to all those charged with governance that those arrangements are effective.

1.2. In Chelmsford, the Audit and Risk Committee has been delegated some governance responsibilities but remains accountable to Full Council. The Committee has oversight of both internal and external audit together with the financial and governance reports, helping to ensure that there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.

1.3. As outlined in CIPFA Position Statement for Audit Committees, the core functions of the Audit Committee are to provide oversight of a range of core governance and accountability arrangements, responses to the recommendations of assurance providers and helping to ensure robust arrangements are maintained.

1.4. The specific responsibilities include:

- **Maintenance of governance, risk and control arrangements**
  - Support a comprehensive understanding of governance across the organisation and among all those charged with governance, fulfilling the principles of good governance.
  - Consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements. It should understand the risk profile of the organisation and seek assurances that active arrangements are in place on risk-related issues, for both the body and its collaborative arrangements.
  - Monitor the effectiveness of the system of internal control, including arrangements for financial management, ensuring value for money, supporting standards and ethics and managing the authority's exposure to the risks of fraud and corruption.
- **Financial and governance reporting**
  - Be satisfied that the authority's accountability statements, including the annual governance statement, properly reflect the risk environment, and any actions required to improve it, and demonstrate how governance supports the achievement of the authority's objectives.
  - Support the maintenance of effective arrangements for financial reporting and review the statutory statements of account and any reports that accompany them.
- **Establishing appropriate and effective arrangements for audit and assurance**
  - Consider the arrangements in place to secure adequate assurance across the body's full range of operations and collaborations with other entities.
  - In relation to the authority's internal audit functions: oversee its independence, objectivity, performance and conformance to professional standards; support effective arrangements for internal audit; promote the effective use of internal audit within the assurance framework.
  - Consider the opinion, reports and recommendations of external audit and inspection agencies and their implications for governance, risk

management or control, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.

- Contribute to the operation of efficient and effective external audit arrangements, supporting the independence of auditors and promoting audit quality.
- Support effective relationships between all providers of assurance, audits and inspections, and the organisation, encouraging openness to challenge, review and accountability.

1.5. In addition to the CIPFA Position Statement for Audit Committees, various associated guidance also emphasises the importance of the Audit Committee, including:

- CIPFA's Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework
- The Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS)
- CIPFA's Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption

2. Membership and Committee Administration

2.1. There were five meetings of the Committee during 2025/26 (June 2025 – joint with Governance Committee, September 2025, November 2025, January 2026 and March 2026). Membership of the Committee for 2025/26 is attached at Appendix A.

2.2. The work programme is based around the Committee's Terms of Reference (see Appendix C), along with any items requested during the year, and is reviewed at each Committee meeting. A list of the items that have been considered by the Committee during 2025/26 is attached at Appendix B to the report.

2.3. The Committee was supported by the Audit Services Manager, the Financial Services Manager (S151 Officer), the Procurement Manager, and the Public Health and Protection Services Manager, as well as representatives from the Council's External Auditors, Ernst and Young.

2.4. The Committee operated under its Terms of Reference in line with the CIPFA Position Statement. The agendas for the Committee's meetings are published on the Council's website not later than five clear days before the date of each meeting. The minutes of each meeting are also published on the website as soon as possible after each meeting has taken place. The agendas for meetings can be accessed from: Committees and Panels - Chelmsford City Council.

3. Governance Risk and Control

Risk Management

3.1. In September 2025, the Committee received a report from the Audit Services Manager providing an update on corporate risk management and the Principal Risk Register. It was explained that responsibility for corporate risk had moved to the Audit Services Manager earlier in 2025, and since then work had been undertaken to establish how best to manage the function with limited resources. To support resilience, the service was now working in partnership with Basildon Council, with their Risk Manager assisting Chelmsford.

3.2. A full update of the Principal Risk Register had been completed, which formed the central element of the Council's risk management framework and provided oversight of key risks. Other areas of activity included an update to the risk management framework, early development of a Local Government Reorganisation risk register, and the preparation of a new Risk Management Strategy.

3.3. In March 2026, the Committee received its second bi-annual Risk Management Report, which provided an overview of the Council's Principal Risks and reflected the latest update carried out in January 2026 to ensure the register remained aligned with the current risk profile.

Countering Fraud and Corruption

3.4. In June 2025, the Committee received a report summarising the counter fraud work undertaken by the Internal Audit Team during 2024/25, including work on Guidance, Training and Awareness for staff and Councillors and compliance with the National Fraud Initiative and Transparency Code. The Committee were also informed about how the Council managed the risk of fraud and information on the Council's Whistleblowing policy.

3.5. The Committee were also updated on a new criminal offence of 'Failure to prevent Fraud' which became effective from September 2025, which is designed to hold organisations to account if they profited from fraud committed by their employees. It was noted that this was an important area for the Council to monitor closely going forward and that actions taken by the Council within the Counter Fraud strategy had provided a good basis for meeting the requirements to defend the new offence. It was also noted that these would continue to be reviewed and monitored in line with the new legislation.

3.6. In November 2025, the Committee received the updated the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy 2025 aimed to minimise the risk of fraud and corruption and its impact and set out the measures the Council had in place to comply with the Failure to Prevent Fraud legislation. The policy is based on best practice guidance, including Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally and the CIPFA Code of Practice, and incorporated prevention measures for bribery and corruption. The accompanying strategy outlined actions to be delivered over the next two years, including updates to training and the use of technology and artificial intelligence to strengthen fraud prevention and detection.

4. Financial and Governance Reporting

4.1. The Audit and Risk Committee received a report from the Financial Services Manager in June 2025 for the Council's revenue outturn position for 2024/25, outlining the Council's expenditure and income against the approved budgets for 2024/25. The report also outlined the activity in the Council's finances, the variations identified, and the risks they involved.

4.2. The Committee also received a report which detailed the capital expenditure incurred in 2024/25 and were updated on the approved Capital Schemes and variations in cost which had been identified at outturn and to date. The report also provided an update on the approved Asset Replacement Programme for 2024/25 and 2025/26 regarding variations in cost and timing which had been identified at outturn and to date.

4.3. The Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) forms part of the Council's Statement of Accounts and its purpose is to provide assurance regarding the Council's governance arrangements and the extent to which the Council complies with its Local Code of Corporate Governance. The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the Local Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 jointly with Governance Committee in June 2025. The Statement highlighted those areas of governance regarded as important in 2024/25, how they were addressed, and the progress made.

4.4. In March 2026, Committee approved the Accounting Policies which would be used in the preparation of the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts. It was advised that one key change had been introduced relating to the valuation of property, plant and equipment.

5. Establishing appropriate and effective arrangements for audit and assurance

Internal Audit

5.1. The original audit plan for 2025/26 was approved by Audit and Risk Committee in February 2025. An update was provided in September 2025 setting out the reviews proposed from October 2025 to March 2026.

5.2. During 2025/26, Audit and Risk Committee received several reports from Internal Audit, updating them on Internal Audit progress against the plan and high-risk issues identified. This included:

- Internal Audit Annual Report 2024/25 which provided an overall annual opinion of “moderate” assurance (June 2025)
- Internal Audit Interim Report 2025/26 (January 2026)

5.3. In line with Internal Audit Standards, the Audit and Risk Committee approved the Internal Audit Charter in March 2026.

External Audit

5.4. In June 2025, the Committee received an update from the Council’s External Auditors, Ernst and Young, which included their annual report for 2023/24 and Provisional Audit Planning Report for 2024/25.

5.5. In September 2025, the Committee received an update from the Section 151 Officer updating Members on progress with prior year external audits and progress made against the 2024/25 audit. The 2023/24 audit, though a disclaimed opinion by EY, had been fully signed off. A discussion around External Audit fees and the proposals for clearing the historic backlog was also undertaken.

5.6. In November 2025, the Committee received an update from EY on the draft Auditor’s Annual Report for 2024/25. Members were advised that the report was required to be issued by the end of November and provided commentary on the Council’s arrangements for securing value for money and progress on the audit of the financial statements. It was reported that the audit work was substantially complete and that the final version of the report was expected before Christmas, with the audit certificate to follow once the ‘Whole of Government Accounts’ procedures had been concluded.

5.7. In January 2026, the Committee received the Audit Results Report for 2024/25, together with verbal updates from the Section 151 Officer and EY. Members were advised that although substantial work had been completed, the external audit could not be finalised before the statutory backstop date, so a disclaimed audit opinion was to be issued. This position reflected the national backlog in local government audits and the historic lack of assurance over opening balances arising from previous years' disclaimed opinions. EY reported that no significant weaknesses or material errors had been identified in the areas reviewed. The Annual Governance Statement was considered consistent with EY's understanding of the Council, and no significant weaknesses had been identified in the value-for-money arrangements. Assurance gaps remained in areas such as PPE valuations, reserves, debtor and creditor listings, and journal testing, largely due to capacity constraints and systemic issues carried forward from prior years.

5.8. In March 2026, under Urgent Business, Section 151 Officer provided an update on the external audit position. Members were advised that Council was required to agree with the disclaimed opinion to avoid missing the national backstop deadline.

Additional Governance and Assurance Reports to Committee

5.9. **Corporate Health and Safety Annual Report** – In September 2025, the Committee received a report updating them on Health and Safety in 2024/25. Members were informed about progress with training, accidents, performance in comparison to other years and the recent audits.

5.10. **Procurement Update** – In January 2026, the Committee received the annual procurement report summarising recent procurement activity, key achievements, legislative updates and planned workloads. Members noted the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023, with procedures, documentation and training updated in line with the new requirements and several procurements already delivered under the new regime. Additional transparency and reporting duties would come into effect from 2026.

Appendix A

Membership of Audit and Risk Committee 2025/26

Councillor Nora Walsh (Chair)
Councillor Gillian Bonnett
Councillor Hazel Clark
Councillor Natacha Dudley
Councillor Smita Rajesh
Councillor James Raven
Councillor Malcolm Sismey
Councillor Andrew Sosin

Independent Persons

Chris Groves
Jeannine Hoeckx

Audit and Risk Committee Work Programme 2025/26 — Appendix B

June 2025

- **Joint with Governance Committee**
    - Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement 2024/25
- **Audit & Risk Committee**
    - External Audit Update
    - Provisional Revenue Outturn Report 2024/25
    - Capital Programme Update and Provisional Outturn 2024/25
    - Internal Audit Annual Report 2024/25
    - Counter Fraud Report 2024/25
    - Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2024/25
    - Audit and Risk Work Programme

September 2025

- External Audit Update
- Updated Internal Audit Plan 2025/26
- Risk Management Report
- Annual Health and Safety Report 2024/25
- Audit and Risk Work Programme

November 2025

- External Audit - Draft Auditor’s Annual Report for financial year ended 31 March 2025
- Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy 2025-27
- Audit and Risk Work Programme

January 2026

- External Audit – Audit Results Report – Auditors Annual Report and Accounts
- Internal Audit Interim Report 2025/26
- Procurement Update
- Audit and Risk Work Programme

March 2026

- Internal Audit Plan 2026 and Internal Audit Charter
- Risk Management Report
- Account Policies for the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts
- Audit and Risk Work Programme

Appendix C

Audit and Risk Committee

Terms of Reference

Statement of Purpose

Our Audit and Risk Committee is a key component of Chelmsford City Council's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. Its role in ensuring there is sufficient assurance over governance, risk and control gives greater confidence to all those charged with governance that those arrangements are effective.

The committee has oversight of both internal and external audit, together with the financial and governance reports, helping to ensure there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.

Governance, risk and control

1. To review the council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework, including the ethical framework, and consider the local code of governance.
2. To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the council.
3. To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee.
4. To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
5. To consider reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.
6. To consider the council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
7. To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption.
8. To monitor the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources.
9. To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.

Governance reporting

10. To review the AGS prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, including the head of internal audit's annual opinion.
11. To consider whether the annual evaluation for the AGS fairly concludes that governance arrangements are fit for purpose, supporting the achievement of the authority's objectives.

Financial reporting

12. To monitor the arrangements and preparations for financial reporting to ensure that statutory requirements and professional standards can be met.
13. To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns

arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.

14. To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

Arrangements for audit and assurance

15. To consider the council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the council.

External audit

16. To support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by PSAA or the authority's auditor panel as appropriate.
17. To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance.
18. To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
19. To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
20. To consider additional commissions of work from external audit.
21. To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies
22. To provide free and unfettered access to the audit committee chair for the auditors, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the committee.

Internal audit

23. To approve the internal audit charter.
24. To review proposals made in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations.
25. To approve the risk-based internal audit plan, including internal audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.
26. To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based internal audit plan and resource requirements.
27. To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the head of internal audit to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
28. To consider any impairments to the independence or objectivity of the head of internal audit arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing and to approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments.
29. To consider reports from the head of internal audit on internal audit's performance during the year, including the performance of external providers of internal audit services. These will include:
    - updates on the work of internal audit, including key findings, issues of concern and action in hand as a result of internal audit work
    - regular reports on the results of the QAIP

- reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to the PSIAS and LGAN, considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the AGS.

30. To consider the head of internal audit's annual report, including:
    - the statement of the level of conformance with the PSIAS and LGAN and the results of the QAIP that support the statement (these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit)
    - the opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control, together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion (these will assist the committee in reviewing the AGS).
31. To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested.
32. To receive reports outlining the action taken where the head of internal audit has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.
33. To contribute to the QAIP and in particular to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.
34. To consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the AGS as required to do so by the accounts and audit regulations.
35. To provide free and unfettered access to the audit committee chair for the head of internal audit, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the committee.

Accountability arrangements

36. To report to those charged with governance on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements and internal and external audit functions.
37. To report to full council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose.
38. To publish an annual report on the work of the committee, including a conclusion on the compliance with the CIPFA Position Statement.

Chelmsford City Council

15th July 2026

Annual Report of the Governance Committee 2025/26

Report by:
Governance Committee

Officer Contact:
Monitoring Officer – Lorraine Browne, 01245 606560,
lorraine.browne@chelmsford.gov.uk

Purpose
To report on the work of the Governance Committee in 2025/26.

Recommendations
That the Governance Committee's Annual Report for 2025/26 attached to this report be approved for publication.

1. Background

1.1. The Council annually adopts a Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement, which reflect the Council's approach to governance arrangements

- On how well the Council has achieved these in the relevant year and targets set in the previous year for improvement; and then
- Identifies future targets for creating a more robust set of arrangements and compliance with them.

1.2 The suite of documents for 2025/26 was approved by the Joint Audit and Governance Committee on 24th June 2025.

1.3 Annual reports on the Audit and Overview & Scrutiny functions have been presented to and agreed by Full Council at its July meeting for a number of years. There is no statutory requirement to produce an annual report by the Governance Committee but it is recognised as good practice, and Full Council approved the first of such reports in December 2016. This report seeks approval of the Annual Report for the Municipal year ending in May 2026 which appears at the Appendix to this report.

1.4 Members views are sought on the content and to recommend that Full Council approves the Committee's Annual Report for subsequent publication.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Annual Report on the work of the Governance Committee 2025/26

Background papers:

Nil

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: These are set out in the report

Financial: The cost of managing the statutory arrangements for dealing with complaints and undertaking standards investigations is borne by the City Council

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: This is set out in the report

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees:

Current members of the Governance Committee were consulted on 24th June.

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Relevant Policies and Strategies:

The Councillor Code of Conduct and associated complaints procedure

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2025/26

Councillor K Franks
(Chair of Governance Committee)

www.chelmsford.gov.uk

CONTENTS

1. Background

Statutory and Procedural requirements under the Standards Regime

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 places all local authorities under a duty to promote high standards of conduct by Councillors. Councils are required to adopt a Code of Conduct which is consistent with the principles set out in the Act, historically known as the “Nolan Principles”, namely selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The City Council adopted the LGA Model Code of Conduct without amendment and this is Part 5.1.1 of the Constitution and was adopted in 2022.

1.2 Local Authorities must also have in place arrangements for dealing with any allegations that the Code has been breached. The adopted Complaints Procedure, in part 5.1.2 of the Council’s Constitution, deals with how complaints made about City Councillors, and those of the Parish Tier Councils in its administrative area, will be handled.

1.3 The Council’s Monitoring Officer is Lorraine Browne, the Legal & Democratic Services Manager and they have appointed a deputy, Mr William Butcher the Legal Services Manager.

1.4 The Monitoring Officer has considerable responsibilities under the standards regime including duties to:

i. Maintain a register of interests for the City and Parish Tier Councillors, who are all required to declare such interests to them.
ii. Consider the best course of action in relation to alleged breaches of the Code, including the responsibility for informally resolving complaints where appropriate in their view.
iii. Consult an Independent Person at various stages in the Complaints Procedure.
iv. Liaise with the Police where the allegation concerns an alleged breach of the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests requirements.

1.5 As part of the Complaints Procedure the Council is required to establish a committee, which will be responsible for dealing with standards issues that cannot be dealt with by the Monitoring Officer or on which they decide Councillors’ views are important. This includes where a formal hearing is necessary to determine if a breach has occurred and if so, what penalties are appropriate. The City Council chose in 2012 to comply with this requirement by establishing the Governance Committee.

1.6 The Council is also obliged to appoint at least one Independent Person. Their role is to ensure that the Council is appropriately applying the statutory requirements and its adopted Policies and Procedures in dealing with any complaints received. They:

i. Must be consulted before the Council makes a finding as to whether a Councillor has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct or to decide on appropriate sanctions or other measures to be taken in respect of that Councillor;

ii. May be consulted at other stages of the Complaints Procedure by the Council or by a member or co-opted member of the Councils covered by that Procedure.

Other Statutory, Governance Responsibilities and Terms of Reference

1.7 In establishing the Governance Committee, the Council allocated a wide set of governance roles and responsibilities, which is broader than dealing with the standards regime alone. The Committee's Terms of Reference are set out in Part 3.2.3(c) of the Council's Constitution. These include:

i. Oversight of the Council's arrangements for dealing with all complaints.
ii. Reviewing the use of the powers exercised by the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)
iii. Approving and monitoring the Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement together with the Audit Committee
iv. Making recommendations on proposed changes to the Council's Constitution.

1.8 Whilst the Committee is "politically balanced", in that membership across all committees are drawn from all the parties represented on the Council and in the same proportions, decisions taken, especially those related to the standards regime are not taken on a political basis. In particular, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor & Leader of the Council cannot be members of the Committee and no more than two members of the Cabinet can sit on the committee at any time.

Membership of the Committee

1.9 The Committee consists of 7 City Councillors and 3 Parish tier Councillors. In 2025/26 the membership of the Committee comprised the following:

Liberal Democrats:	Councillors K Franks (Chair), H Ayres, I Fuller, A Thompson, & S Young
Conservatives:	Councillors B Massey and M. Steel
Parish-Tier Councillors:	Keith Bentley – South Woodham Ferrers Town Council Kuldeep Golla – Chelmsford Garden Community Council, Peter Jackson - Great Waltham Parish Council

1.10 ***Parish-Tier Council representatives* -** At least one must be present when issues affecting a Parish Tier Councillor are discussed. They cannot vote but they provide a valuable perspective and insight into how those organisations and their councillors are expected to behave.

1.11 ***Independent Members -*** They are also invited to attend Committee meetings. They receive an allowance for the services they provide. Whilst they attend the

Governance Committee, when standards issues are to be debated or decided, they too have no voting rights. Nevertheless, their input is invaluable to give assurance that the procedures are being correctly applied. The Independent Persons during 2025/26 were Mrs C Gosling, Mr P Jeremiah, Mr D Lamb (left during 25/26) and Mrs P Mills. Their contribution is much appreciated by the Monitoring Officer and the Governance Committee.

Programme of Meetings

1.12 The Committee receives regular reports on the areas for which it has responsibility. In 2025/26 the Committee met on four occasions and the remainder of this report addresses how the Committee has approached its work during the year.

Publication of Information

1.13 The agendas for the Committee's meetings are published on the Council's website not later than five clear days before the date of each meeting. This is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1972, which is explained in and complies with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4.6 of the Council's Constitution. The minutes of each meeting are also published on the website as soon as possible after each meeting has taken place.

2. Work Programme 2025-26

2.1 The main areas of activity considered by the Committee during the municipal year (May to May) 2025-26 were as follows:

Issues addressed	Meetings
Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 considered by the Joint Audit and Governance Committee	11 June 2025
Monitoring Officer report	11 June 2025
Annual Constitution Report	11 June 2025
Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman complaint handling code update	11 June 2025
Annual report of Governance Committee	11 June 2025
Multi hatted member dispensation report	11 June 2025
Work programme	11 June 2025
Monitoring officer	15 October 2025
Information Governance update 2025	15 October 2025
Senior Responsible Officer's Report in relation to Council's RIPA arrangements	15 October 2025
Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman complaint handling code	15 October 2025
Work programme	15 October 2025
Monitoring Officer report	4 March 2026

Update on Register of Interests in City and Parish-Tier Councils and Council officers	4 March 2026
Annual Gifts/Hospitality report members & officers	4 March 2026
Annual Whistleblowing report	4 March 2026
Work programme	4 March 2026
Hearing standards complaint 8/25	11 March 2026

3. Complaints About Councillors

3.1.1 The Monitoring Officer regularly reports to the Governance Committee regarding complaints received. The statistical information is then published on the Council's website.

3.1.2 For period 1 May 2025 to 1 May 2026, 9 new complaints were received. Each complaint is assessed initially by the Monitoring Officer (1 complaint was assessed by an interim monitoring officer) in consultation with an Independent Person, as necessary to determine whether any action should be taken. Of the 9 cases there were 1 case was referred for investigation and has been subject to a hearing before Governance Committee. This hearing is subject to a separate report to Full Council in July 2026.

4. Future Work Programme

4.1 The work of the Committee as regards the Standards Regime is reactive. There are, however, annual reports as well as reviews on the main areas for which the Committee is responsible and these are reflected in paragraph 2.1 above.

5. Training and Development

5.1 The Monitoring Officer provides advice and assistance throughout the year to Councillors, members of the public and Parish tier clerks in relation to the Standards regime. This has resulted in the development of Practice Notes which reflect this advice and the processes and procedures in place. In addition, they provide advice to the Committee and by extension, the public, at Committees by way of open and frank discussion.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The arrangements the Council has put in place to promote high standards of behaviour are well established but improvements have been identified and approach updated to address these to make it clearer. The transparency of the processes and procedures is being continually reviewed and guidance issued to assist understanding.

6.2 As is evidenced by queries and complaints received, there is a good understanding of the availability of the complaints process and few cases are significantly serious to warrant investigation. Complaint casework is dealt with efficiently and the parties are kept informed. The Committee members and the Independent Persons have been a key part in achieving this.

6.3 The Committee's focus on its other responsibilities is clear through the use of a published work programme and regular updates. As was set out in the Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement adopted in the summer, there are many examples of good practice and transparency.

Chelmsford City Council

15 July 2026

Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report by: Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 29 June 2026

Officer contacts:
Dan Sharma-Bird, Democracy Team Manager dan.sharma-bird@chelmsford.gov.uk, 01245 606523

Purpose

To consider the Annual Report on the activity of the Scrutiny function for 2025/26.

Recommendation:

That the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the activity of the Scrutiny function in 2025/26 be approved for publication.

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1. The Local Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Council on 23 April 2008 (M6.1, CL52, 2008). Under the Code's Core Principle 6 – Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability - the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to produce an annual report on its work for consideration by the Council and subsequent publication.

2. At its meeting on 29 June 2026 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered its Annual Report on the Scrutiny Function for 2025/26 and recommended to Council that the Report be approved for subsequent publication.

3. The Report is attached at Appendix 1 to this report and covers the following matters:

- statutory provisions
- terms of reference
- membership
- publication of information
- work undertaken in 2025/26
- future work for 2026/27
- “call in” of Cabinet decisions
- training and development

Appendices

1. Annual Report on the Scrutiny function 2025/26

Background Papers

None

Corporate Implications

None

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SCRUTINY FUNCTION 2025/26

Councillor J. Jeapes
(Chair – Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

www.chelmsford.gov.uk

CONTENTS

Background

(a) ***Statutory Provisions***

Under the Local Government Act 2000 each local authority is required to establish at least one committee to review or scrutinise decisions taken by the Executive or any other part of the council and make reports to the council or to the cabinet. It can also report on any matters that affect the authority's area or its inhabitants. Its role includes both developing and reviewing policy and holding the Executive to account. The Committee has power to require Cabinet members and officers to attend before it to answer questions and it may also invite other people to attend its meetings.

Chelmsford Council chose, in 2005, to set up a single Scrutiny Committee. The Committee's first meeting was on 23rd May, 2005. It was later renamed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Council on 10th May, 2006.

New legislation came into effect in 2009 which placed additional duties on the Council and in respect of which it was required to make arrangements for their discharge. The legislation concerned was:

- The Police and Justice Act 2006 (Sections 19 -21), which placed a duty on all local authorities to scrutinise the activities of organisations comprising the local crime and disorder reduction partnership, and
- Section 119 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which allowed councillors to ask for discussions to take place at an overview and scrutiny committee on issues of neighbourhood concern.

In December 2009 the Council agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee take responsibility for those functions and that its terms of reference were amended accordingly.

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2010 brought into force on 15th June 2010 the requirement for local authorities to have a scheme for responding to petitions from people who live, work or study in the area. Petition organisers who are dissatisfied with the Council's response can ask for a review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A report on this matter was agreed by Cabinet on 8 June and Council on 9 June 2010 and the Committee's terms of reference were again amended to reflect this additional function.

(b) ***Terms of Reference***

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are contained in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. They are as follows –

General role

To act as a channel for public involvement in the activities of the Council and other bodies operating in the City; to oversee the proper and efficient administration of the Council; to review the effectiveness of its work and services; and to support and complement the activities of the Cabinet, whilst at the same time scrutinising them and offering constructive comment or advice where appropriate.

Specific role

- monitor the performance of the Council's services, carry out detailed reviews of them where considered necessary and report any resulting recommendations to the Cabinet;
- review the decisions, decision-making processes and activities of the Cabinet, other Council bodies and in respect of the Committee's own work to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the Constitution and the policies of the Council;
- monitor the activities and performance of external bodies, liaising with them where necessary, and carry out detailed assessments of the effectiveness of services provided by them if any apparent shortcomings are identified;
- scrutinise the work of the community safety partnership (Safer Chelmsford) and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership itself and exercise all the other functions of a crime and disorder committee pursuant to Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006;
- consider Councillor Call for Action requests following agreement by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee after consultation with the Director of Corporate Services
- consider and respond to petitions, requesting that officers appear before the Committee to answer questions on functions, services or decisions for which they are responsible
- review the Council's handling of or responses to petitions where the petition organiser is dissatisfied with the action taken.

The Committee will also be responsible for

- providing opportunities for officers to acquaint members with the operation of the Council.

(c) Membership of the Committee

The Committee had 13 members, all Members of Chelmsford City Council. They are appointed by the full Council at its Annual Meeting in May of each year on a proportionality basis. No member of the Cabinet may be a member of the Committee.

In 2025/26 the membership of the Committee comprised the following members:

LD Councillors C. Adutwim, N. Bugbee (until March 2026), D. Clark, H. Clark, P. Davey, L. Mascot and A. Thompson (Vice Chair)

CON Councillors S. Dobson, J. Jeapes (Chair), M. Steel, S. Sullivan and P. Wilson

IND Councillor S. Davis

Following the Annual Council Meeting on 13th May 2026, the membership is as follows –

The Committee is currently chaired by Councillor J. Jeapes who is a member of the Opposition group on the Council (the Conservatives).

LD Councillors D. Clark, P. Davey, D. Eley, L. Mascot (Vice Chair), A. Sosin, J. Sosin and A. Thompson

CON Councillors J. Jeapes (Chair), M. Steel, S. Sullivan, R. Whitehead and P.Wilson

IND Councillor S. Davis

(d) Programme of Meetings

The Committee met on five occasions in the municipal year 2025/26. It has five meetings programmed for 2026/27. Additional meetings may be arranged as required, including any which may be necessary if any decisions of the Cabinet become subject to the 'Call In' procedure mentioned in Part 3 of this Report.

(e) Publication of Information

The agendas for the Committee's meetings are published on the Council's website not later than five clear days before the date of each meeting. The minutes of each meeting are also published on the website as soon as possible after each meeting has taken place.

Work Programme 2025-26

The main areas of activity considered by the Committee during the municipal year (May to May) 2025/26 were as follows –

Subject	Date(s) considered
Cabinet Portfolio Update from the Cabinet Member for Finance	15 September 2025
Cabinet Portfolio Update from the Cabinet Member for an Active Chelmsford	15 September 2025
Theatre Inform and Debate	15 September 2025
Cabinet Portfolio Update from the Leader of the Council	15 September 2025
Update/Review of "Our Chelmsford, Our Plan"	15 September 2025
Report on Decisions Taken Under Delegation to the Chief Executive	15 September 2025
Annual Report of the Committee (2024/25)	15 September 2025
Cabinet Portfolio Update from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for a Fairer Chelmsford	17 November 2025

Annual Report on Housing Delivery	17 November 2025
Report on Decisions Taken Under Delegation to the Chief Executive	17 November 2025
Cabinet Portfolio Update for Safer Chelmsford	09 February 2026
Annual Presentation by Safer Chelmsford Partnership and Essex Police	09 February 2026
Call-In Decision: Community Infrastructure Levy – Governance Update	16 February 2026
Chelmer Waterside – Inform and Debate	12 March 2026

The work programme functions on a rolling basis with standard items being the following;

- Cabinet Member Portfolios (including the Annual Report on Housing Delivery) – items were presented every Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and this is to meet the requirements on the Local Government Act 2000 to scrutinise functions of the executive.
- Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee – this item would normally be considered at July Full Council along with the Annual Reports for Governance and Audit & Risk Committees, but this year due to the timetable will be considered at December Full Council
- Report on Decisions Taken under Delegation to the Chief Executive – it is a requirement for the Overview and Committee Scrutiny to consider and note any urgent decisions that were taken under the delegation to the CEO. This is reported bi-annually.

The minutes of the Committee meetings for this municipal year can be accessed below:

- Minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2025
- Minutes of the meeting on 17th November 2025;
- Minutes of the meeting on 9th February 2026;
- Minutes of the meeting on 16th February 2026, and
- Minutes of the meeting on 12th March 2026.

Task and Finish Groups

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee form small "Task and Finish" groups to look into a particular subject or service where appropriate. They work with officers to find out more about the service area and to identify possible improvements. They attend site visits, forums and meetings and undertake research as necessary in order to obtain further understanding and information to support the review. Their findings are fed back to the rest of the Committee in the form of a report and recommendations. In addition to ensuring value for money and that things are done correctly, 'Task and Finish' groups provide excellent development opportunities for Members, help to maintain good Member/Officer relations, raise awareness of issues and services amongst Members and can identify gaps in Member training.

During 2025-26, there were no Task & Finish Group undertaken.

‘Call-in’ of Cabinet Decisions

This Council’s Executive Arrangements, made under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, provide an opportunity for Members to require that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review a decision taken by the Executive (Cabinet) but not yet implemented. Depending on its conclusion, that Committee could then request that the Cabinet reconsider, and possibly amend, that decision.

The procedure for “calling in” Cabinet decisions is set out in the Council’s Constitution (Part 4.5 – Overview and Scrutiny Rules – Rule 4.5.11). In brief this provides that at least five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must request the call-in in writing, setting out their reasons, and the request must be received by the Council’s Legal and Democratic Services Manager by 5 p.m. on the fourth working day after the Cabinet decision was taken.

During 2025-26, one Cabinet decision had been called in regarding the decision taken in regard to Community Infrastructure Levy. The Cabinet decision was upheld by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Future Projects

The Committee keeps its work programme under constant review. The work programme is considered at the end of each meeting.

Training and Development

There were no training sessions for members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2025-26.

Chelmsford City Council

15 July 2026

Report from Governance Committee – proposed censure of City Councillor

Report from:

Governance Committee

Officer Contact:
Lorraine Browne, Legal & Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer, email: lorraine.browne@chelmsford.gov.uk, tel: 01245 606560

Purpose

To consider the report from the Governance Committee following the hearing on 11th March 2026 which determined that Councillor Paul Clark had breached the code of conduct through disrespectful behaviour to an officer and failure to co-operate with the Code of Conduct investigation. The Committee considered that formal censure was appropriate and certain other steps set out in the decision notice attached at Appendix 1. Full Council is asked to now consider formal censure.

Recommendations

That, arising from the breaches of the code of Conduct, Council: -

1. Formally censures Councillor Paul Clark in relation to the findings of the Governance Committee set out in Appendix 1.

1. Background

1.1. Members will be aware that the Council is required to adopt a Code of Conduct in relation to its members. The Council is also required to have in place arrangements to deal with code of conduct allegations against members, including the ability to impose sanctions when a breach of the code of conduct is found to have occurred.

1.2. In accordance with those arrangements, a complaint which met the threshold for investigation, was referred to an external investigator to consider whether the Councillor had breached the code of conduct. Once the investigation had been completed, the matter was subsequently referred to the Governance Committee to undertake a hearing to decide whether there had been any breach of the code of conduct. A committee hearing took place on 11th March 2026.

1.3. The investigation arose from a complaint relating to the councillor's behaviour on 5th June 2025. It was alleged that the councillor had attended the Council offices unannounced and questioned the officer regarding an enforcement notice and the related decision. It was further alleged that the Councillor was hostile and argumentative from the outset. He reportedly raised his voice and repeatedly questioned the officer in a dismissive manner. Further that his challenge focused on the validity of the enforcement notice, which, in his view, should not have been issued. His demeanour was described as threatening. This behaviour was said to be consistent with previous occasions when he attended council offices unannounced and acted disrespectfully towards staff.

1.4. This was despite a reminder being issued by the Monitoring Officer to all councillors by email in November 2024 concerning member enquiries and specifically reminding councillors to make an appointment if they wished to have an in-person meeting with an officer.

1.5. The Committee considered an allegation of a breach of the Code and found that a breach has taken place. The Committee further determined that Councillor Paul Clark had also committed a further breach of the code of conduct in that he had not co-operated with the Code of Conduct investigation process. The Committee imposed the sanctions which are set out in appendix 1.

1.6. The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that this report is the final sanction to be actioned in accordance with the decision made by Governance Committee. All other items have been completed, including the requirement for Cllr Paul Clark to undertake training. This took place with the Monitoring Officer on 30th June and included the Member/Officer relationship protocol as required by the committee.

2. Conclusion

2.1.1 This report has been prepared because of the findings and recommendation of Governance Committee in accordance with the Council's arrangements for dealing with such allegation(s). Full Council is now asked to consider formal censure of Cllr Paul Clark.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Decision of Governance Committee 11th March 2026

Background papers:

Governance Committee agenda 11th March 2026 and code of conduct procedures

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Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: These are set out in the report and it can be confirmed that this matter falls to Full Council to determine.

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Financial: There are no direct financial implications associated with the determination but additional external costs of approximately £13k have been incurred through the appointment of an investigator and an advisor to the Governance Committee.

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None.

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees:

The Chair of Governance Committee in March 2026 has been consulted in relation to this report.

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

None

Standards Hearing 11 March 2026

Councillor Paul Clark

Complaint 8/25

This Decision Notice relates to item 4 of the Governance Committee agenda for the meeting on 11 March 2026 and the Hearing which took place during this meeting. This decision notice should be read in conjunction with the detailed report to the committee and the minutes of the meeting.

The committee announced its decision with summary reasons after the Hearing to those people present. Councillor P. Clark did not attend the Hearing.

Complaint

The Committee considered the investigation report of Mr John Austin of John Austin Associates concerning the complaint raised by a member of staff about Councillor Clark's behaviour towards her on 5 June 2025.

The complainant alleged that Councillor P. Clark attended the Council offices unannounced and questioned the officer regarding an enforcement notice and the related decision. It was further alleged that the Councillor was hostile and argumentative from the outset. He reportedly raised his voice and repeatedly questioned the officer in a dismissive manner. Councillor P Clark's challenge focused on the validity of the enforcement notice, which, in his view, should not have been issued. His demeanour was described as threatening. This behaviour was said to be consistent with previous occasions when he attended council offices unannounced and acted disrespectfully towards staff.

Mr Austin considered whether there had been a breach of Paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct, as follows:

1 Respect

Para 1.2 -

As a councillor:

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Mr Austin's report concluded that there was evidence to support a finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct by Councillor P Clark.

The Hearing

The Committee heard from Mr Austin, who summarised his report and in particular emphasised the following points:

- The meaning of Respect is politeness in speech and conduct.
- The Local Government Association Guidance on the meaning of Respect in the Code of Conduct includes unreasonable or demeaning behaviour.
- He noted that it was clear from Officer A that Councillor P Clark's behaviour had got to a point that officers are hesitant to speak up in front of him.
- There are no recordings of what happened so Mr Austin had to weigh up the evidence from the complainant and the witnesses. He found the officers' evidence credible.
- He noted that it is rare for officers to complain about councillors and it is a brave act.
- He had also tried to speak to Councillor P. Clark on several occasions as stated in the Report, but Councillor P. Clark had refused to meet him. Councillor P. Clark had, however, provided comments after the report was complete, refuting the report.
- Mr Austin stated that, weighing everything up, he found Councillor P. Clark had demonstrate a lack of respect.

The Committee also heard from the complainant and two witnesses. The Committee also heard from the complainant's supervisor. In particular:

- Councillor P Clark's behaviour had previously been difficult. For example, he had interrupted the complainant's supervisor during an online teams meeting while she had been wearing headphones.
- The supervisor had not been in the office during the incident on 5 June 2025 but had seen her staff afterwards and they were shaken. They are a robust team and they deal with other emotive issues in other Wards, but had not been affected by interactions with other members as they had been affected by Councillor P Clark.
- The complainant confirmed that she had been left angry and frustrated by the interaction with Councillor P Clark. She is an experienced officer with 5 years' experience, but Councillor P. Clark spoke to her as if she was an idiot or a child.

The Committee asked if Councillor P. Clark had asked the complainant to do anything against normal planning procedure. The complainant said she felt the implication from Councillor P. Clark was that she should remove the notice. He had asked them in the past to drop particular cases.

The Committee asked Mr Austin and the witnesses several questions. They also considered how the Monitoring Officer had previously communicated with Councillor P. Clark about access to officers. The Committee noted that, in November 2024, the Monitoring Officer had emailed all councillors reminding them of the process by which to raise questions with officers, providing them with an email address to use to raise queries and asking them to make appointments to speak to officers.

The Committee noted also that on 18th June 2025, following this complaint, the Monitoring Officer had confirmed to Councillor P. Clark the Management Team's decision to impose temporary measures to control Councillor P Clark's access to officers, including restricting his access to those areas to which he needs access as a councillor e.g. publicly accessible meeting rooms and the members' area.

The Committee was concerned that Councillor P. Clark had ignored specific advice from the Monitoring Officer, i.e. the email she sent to all councillors in November 2024.

The Committee was also concerned – and mentioned on several occasions – that relations between councillors and officers at the Council is generally excellent and that the Committee would be very concerned if one councillor's behaviour negatively impacted relationships between members and officers.

The Committee recognised that members are often put under a lot of pressure from their constituents, but that that does not excuse poor behaviour towards officers. The Committee also commented that although officers – particularly senior officers – are meant to demonstrate a level of robustness, members are in a position of power in their relationship with officers and must not abuse that authority.

The Committee was also grateful to the complainant for bringing the complaint and wished to record its thanks to her for raising this important issue.

Independent Person

The Committee also heard from the Independent Person, who stated that, having worked for other councils, she had seen poor behaviour from members towards officers before and it was therefore very important that this behaviour was not allowed at the Council. She felt that Councillor P. Clark had shown a lack of respect towards the complainant and the whole team. She was also concerned about his refusal to cooperate with the investigation. Balanced against that, the Independent Person said that councillors should be able to challenge officers, but she commented that this should always be done in a respectful way.

Decision

Having heard from Mr Austin, the complainant, her supervisor and witnesses, and in consultation with the Independent Person, the Committee agreed that Councillor P. Clark had breached paragraph 1.2 – Respect – in the Code of Conduct.

The Committee also considered:

- Councillor P Clark's failure to meet with Mr Austin, despite several requests;
- the tone of his written response to the Report, which was felt to be dismissive, and;
- the disrespect that Councillor P. Clark had shown to the Code of Conduct process and this Committee in failing to attend the Hearing, despite several emails to him from the Monitoring Officer and her team; and in his attitude to the process.

The Committee noted that it is open to it to consider other breaches of the Code of Conduct and found that Councillor P. Clark was also in breach of paragraph 8 - Complying with the Code of Conduct - specifically paragraph 8.2, which states:

As a Councillor:

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

Sanctions

After a further period of deliberation, hearing from Mr Austin about his views on appropriate sanctions and, in consultation with the Independent Person, the Committee imposed the following sanctions:

1. To publish its findings in respect of Councillor P Clark's conduct.
2. To recommend to Council that Councillor P. Clark be issued with a formal censure.
3. To instruct the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Councillor P. Clark on the Code of Conduct, with specific emphasis on the 'Protocol for Relationships between Councillors and Officers'.
4. Exclude the Councillor from the Council's Offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms and the members' area as necessary for attending Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings for a period of 12 months, reduced to 6 months upon compliance with attendance at the training arranged under No. 3 above.

Chelmsford City Council

15 July 2026

Community Governance Review

Report by:
Leader of the Council

Officer Contact:
Legal & Democratic Services Manager, Lorraine Browne, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, lorraine.browne@chelmsford.gov.uk, 01245-606560

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members in relation to the community governance review and city status.

Recommendations

1. That the outcome of the initial formal consultation be noted.

2. That Council notes the position in relation to City Status.

3. That Council agrees that no changes are made in relation to community governance and that the community governance review is concluded at this stage.

1. Introduction

1.1. Members will recall that Council decided to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) of its own volition, with the publication of the Terms of Reference (as amended) and formal initial consultation commencing in September 2025 in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement In Health Act 2007. Chelmsford has 29 parishes, but the large urban central area is currently unparished.

1.2. This report provides details of the results of the consultation, an update in relation to city status and the options now available to the Council. The Connectivity and Local Democracy Working Group have provided a member steer that no further action should be taken in relation to the CGR and the review process is ended at this stage. Accordingly, the report sets out briefly the options that have been considered but focusses upon the preferred course of action supported by the working group.

2. Decision-making process and statutory criteria

2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out two statutory criteria. Chelmsford City Council must, by law, have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

(1) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
(2) is effective and convenient.

2.2 In addition, the Council must take into account the 2010 government guidance (published by DCLG at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf). The Council must also have due regard to responses submitted during the consultations and be open and transparent such that local stakeholders are made aware of the outcome of the decisions and the reasons behind those decisions.

2.3 Whilst Members are advised to read the DCLG guidance in its entirety, some key extracts are included below. Essentially, the guidance supports the 2007 Act requiring that local people are consulted, and that their views are taken into account during the CGR. Whilst City Councillors are the decision-makers, those decisions must be based on evidence submitted through the CGR consultation process. *Numbers refer to paragraph numbers in the DCLG guidance; emphasis added for clarity:*

> 7. The guidance supports and helps to implement key aspects of the 2006 white paper. The 2007 Act **requires that local people are consulted during a community governance review, that representations received in connection with the review are taken into account** and that steps are taken to notify them of the outcomes of such reviews including any decisions.
>
> 58. **It is clear that how people perceive where they live** - their neighbourhoods - is significant in considering the identities and interests of local communities and depends on a range of circumstances, often best defined by local residents. Some of the factors which help define neighbourhoods are the geography of an area, the make-up of the local community, sense of identity, and whether people live in a rural, suburban, or urban area.

95. The recommendations **must take account of any representations received and should be supported by evidence which demonstrates that the recommended community governance arrangements would meet the criteria set out in the 2007 Act**. Where a principal council has conducted a review following the receipt of a petition, it will remain open to the council to make a recommendation which is different to the recommendation the petitioners wished the review to make. This will particularly be the case where the recommendation is not in the interests of the wider local community, such as where giving effect to it would be likely to damage community relations by dividing communities along ethnic, religious or cultural lines.

2.4 It is important to note that it is Chelmsford City Council who decides community governance arrangements. Therefore, where difficult decisions must be made, consideration must be given to opposing and differing views in light of legislation, best practice, and official guidance.

2.5 Essentially, proposals for change should first identify the identities and interests of the communities and then consider the governance arrangements for that area.

2.6 Members are invited to note that the course of appeal is by way of Judicial Review, a potentially expensive and damaging mechanism open to local stakeholders if there is a failure in the decision-making process.

2.7 It is also important to recognise that the number of responses received is not necessarily strong evidence on the strength of feeling either for or against any particular viewpoint. It is true that stakeholders preferring the status quo may not make representations until and unless there is a suggestion of significant change that they would otherwise oppose. Therefore, where little response has been received, it cannot be assumed that local people are in favour of supporting the change proposed by a few submissions; they may well currently be unaware of those suggestions and happy with no change. That is why the second round of formal consultation is important, and why targeted requests for responses are recommended in areas where changes are proposed. Consultation documents so far were developed in conjunction with the Communications Team to ensure clarity for respondents and adherence to statutory criteria and best practice.

2.8 Members will be aware that the Government is currently in the process of reviewing local government arrangements in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock with a view to replacing the current 15 authorities with 5 single- tier unitary authorities (this is referred to as LGR) . Once the Structural Changes Order for the area is made, a transitional period begins, and Chelmsford City Council would lose the power to implement the recommendations of the CGR, as that function would pass to the shadow, or successor, authority. It is anticipated that the Structural Change Order will be in place by the Autumn of 2026.

2.9 Members are reminded that the scope of the CGR is defined in law. Whilst some responses have been received that are outside of the scope of the CGR, this Council has no authority to make decisions or recommendations on those matters and so cannot engage in meaningful discussion about them. Specifically, the CGR cannot consider or determine:

(1) Parliamentary constituency boundaries

(2) County Divisions, other than requesting consequential amendments are made to align with any changes to parish boundaries, whilst the County still exists
(3) City Wards, other than requesting consequential amendments are made to align with any changes to parish boundaries, whilst the City still exists
(4) The number of County or City councillors
(5) Any arrangements for the new unitary authorities that will be contained within the Structural Change Order for Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock
(6) The powers and authority of different tiers of government

3. Initial Consultation

3.1 The initial consultation took place from 13th October 2025 to 4th January 2026, inviting respondents to give their views on community governance arrangements in the unparished part of Chelmsford City Council and in the adjoining parishes which border the unparished area.

3.2 A total of 617 responses to the initial consultation were received. Compared to CGR consultations conducted elsewhere and given that the consultation did not cover the whole of the city area, this is a substantial response. Given the broad and open nature of the initial consultation, a wide range of responses were received. These have been weighed against the statutory criteria and used to consider whether Draft Recommendations to make changes to community governance should be made.

3.3 Through the consultation to date, there have been a range of views expressed as to whether the unparished area should be parished or not. The majority of responses (549) came from the unparished city centre area, whilst only 22 came from outside of the area. A further 8 respondents were unsure. However, most comments did not reflect issues of identity and interests, nor effectiveness or convenience of local governance arrangements.

3.4 The survey asked whether respondents supported the establishment of a new form of community governance given that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) would see the abolition of Chelmsford City Council, along with other local authorities in Essex, and how their views varied depending upon what form that reorganisation took. Out of a total of 598 responses to this question, 184 (30.77%) were against some form of community governance being established, whilst a further 22 (3.68%) were unsure. 313 (52.34%) of respondents favoured emparishment regardless of the outcome of LGR, whilst 61 (10.20%) were in favour only if Chelmsford was merged with two very large or more than two other authorities to give a population of over 420,000. A further 18 respondents (3.01%) were in favour only if Chelmsford merged with four or more other authorities to give a population of circa 564,000. Therefore, on the basis LGR proceeds, a total of 392 (65.5%) were in favour of establishing some form of community governance.

3.5 Respondents were then asked what form of community governance they would like to see established in the currently unparished city centre area. The pattern of responses broadly followed the previous question regarding whether the area would benefit from a new form of community governance. Of the 541 responses to this question, less than one quarter (117 or 21.63%) favoured retaining the status-quo with no changes introduced. There was a clear majority view in favour of some form of parish council, with 330 (61.00%) wanting to see an elected tier of local government (a parish council) introduced, whilst a further 53 (9.80%) were in favour of joining an existing parish area. In total, 383 (70.79%) were in favour of emparishment in some form. Only 41 (7.58%) of respondents were in favour of some other form of community governance such as area committees or informally organised groups.

3.6 The Council also consulted the neighbouring parishes in light of the potential for a new parish to be created. The Council received suggestions from 3 parishes (Springfield, Great Baddow and Broomfield) as to boundary changes.

3.7 Consideration can also now be given to the impact a CGR might have upon city status. This is a complex, evolving and nuanced area which has required detailed consideration and legal advice. Whilst many Councils have been able to retain city status through reorganisation, the position for Chelmsford is different and has highlighted that there is currently no known mechanism to resolve this.

3.8 The latest update in relation to city status set out in this report was not known or consulted upon during the initial consultation. Similarly, the minded to decision which has now been made by government in relation to LGR was also not known at the time of the consultation. Accordingly, it should be noted that none of the respondents were made aware of these issues during the initial consultation. Of course, if the Council were to proceed with the CGR there would be a second stage of consultation and such matters would need to be addressed and consulted upon. The responses to the initial consultation should be considered in that context. The redacted responses can be found at appendix 1 to this report.

4. City status update

4.1 Chelmsford became a city in 2012 as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The letters patent granted by the late Queen Elizabeth II bestowed status upon 3 "towns" (this included Chelmsford as well as Perth in Scotland and St Asaph in Wales). City status was sought and granted across the whole of the Chelmsford City Council area through royal prerogative.

4.2 As is noted in the report, Chelmsford (along with 14 other Essex authorities) is in the process of local government reorganisation. The Council has consulted MHCLG about how city status can be retained. MHCLG cannot provide legal advice to the Council in this regard and so external legal advice has also been sought from Counsel.

4.3 Whilst some rights and interests are transferred through transitional laws and arrangements, city status is not automatically retained or transferred to the new unitary council that is proposed upon abolition of the city council.

4.4 The Council has been advised that city status cannot be transferred to a parish council which has a different footprint to that stated in the letters patent (eg the whole of the Chelmsford City Council area). Accordingly, the only tried and tested mechanism to retain Chelmsford's city status is through charter trustees. However, charter trustees are not available where an area is fully parished. Therefore, if the Council were to proceed to parish the unparished urban area, city status would be lost upon re-organisation in 2028.

4.5 Officers have explored various other options to retain city status including whether part of the unparished area could be parished (to avoid the loss of the charter trustee mechanism) and sought to establish whether it would be possible for further letters patent to be issued, but these discussions have not resulted in the requisite re-assurance concerning city status.

4.6 In light of the above update the Connectivity and Local Democracy Working Group were consulted on a proposal to take no further action in relation to the CGR and to conclude the review now. The working group supports that approach and accordingly this report has been drafted with that option in mind.

4.7 Arrangements will need to be made by the Council in relation to charter trustees. A further report will be provided in relation to this at a later stage.

5. Options that have been considered for the currently unparished City Centre

5.1 The following options have been considered:-

- Proceed to fully parish the unparished area - this would include considering whether there should be one parish or a group of parishes, new parish warding/electoral arrangements as well as boundary changes that may arise for existing parishes that border any new parish. As explained above, as this would result in the loss of city status this option is not proposed or supported by the working group.
- Proceed to parish part of the unparished area – the responses to the consultation were consistent across the various wards and accordingly, based upon the evidence from the consultation, this option is not viable or justifiable.
- Seek further letters patent – there is no known mechanism for this to happen
- Take the decision not to make any community governance changes at this stage so the urban area remains unparished and the CGR ends at this stage. In accordance with the member steer from the working group next steps in relation to this option are considered further below.

5.2 To conclude the proposal is to agree option 4 - that no further action is taken in relation to the CGR and that the process is concluded at this stage.

6. Next steps

6.1 If Full Council agrees that the CGR now ends the Council will update the website accordingly and notify interested parties (eg Essex County Council and relevant parish councils) of the position concerning the CGR.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Redacted responses

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: This is a non-executive matter which falls to Full Council to determine. The legal implications are set out in the report but it should be noted that the report focusses upon the preferred course of action indicated by the working group and further details including advice would be necessary should Council wish for alternative options to be explored further.

Financial: The Council made £165K budget provision when the CGR was commenced. Approximately £34k has been spent to date but it is anticipated that no further costs would arise in ending the review.

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None.

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None.

Personnel: None.

Risk Management: There is a risk that failing to follow the CGR process as set out in legislation and guidance may lead to a legal challenge by way of Judicial Review. This would represent a significant financial and reputational risk to the City Council. Not proceeding with the CGR would reduce the risk in relation to this.

Equality and Diversity: Changing community governance boundaries and local governance arrangements has no impact on equality and diversity. A small number of electors may be affected if their property becomes part of a different electoral area as their polling station may change as a result. However, polling places are outside of the immediate scope of this review and are reviewed and approved by Council, taking into account accessibility for all electors. The method of communication and community engagement for any consultation takes account of equality, diversity and accessibility. This report does not propose that any further action is taken and accordingly that would have no impact upon equality and diversity. .

Health and Safety: None.

Digital: None.

Other: None.

Consultees:

A full initial public consultation was carried out

Connectivity and Local Democracy Working Group

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Our Chelmsford Our Plan – Bringing people together and working in partnership to encourage healthy, active lives, building stronger, more resilient communities so that people feel proud to live, work and study in the area.

Do you live in the currently unparished city centre of Chelmsford?	Which area of Chelmsford do you wish to comment on?	Do you think that the area would benefit from a new form of community governance?	What style of community governance do you think would work well in your area?	What kind of informal representation do you think would be best?	Please explain why you think your chosen option(s) would work. If you selected more than one option, do you have a preferred option?	If required, how should we draw the boundaries of any new community governance area?	Please give us more details about your suggested boundaries.	Any other comments or feedback	What existing parish-tier council does your feedback relate to?	What do you think should change about this parish-tier council?	How do you think the boundaries of this parish should be changed?	What would you change about the warding or grouping of the parish?	What should the parish be called? Please explain why	How should the number of councillors be changed?	Why do you think the number of councillors should be changed?	If you think the council should be abolished please explain why	Is there anything else about the parish tier council that you think should change?	What should change?	Any other comments or feedback
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		There should be a new parish for the remaining unparished area, the parish council would be called "Chelmsford City Council" and the mayoralty (borough status) and city status would go to the new parish so that Chelmsford doesn't need a charter trustees like Bath or loose its city status like Rochester. This would ensure the city centre is represented in the same way as the rest of the area and the new unitary authority doesn't have to work harder on the unparished area.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		This really should have been done back in 1974 though there have been 2 parishes formed a few years ago.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I feel it needs it own parish with its own representives	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Only an elected body would have the authority to influence higher bodies and implement plans.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I suggest our area is based on the Parish of Widford, as previously.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I have previously knowledge of Chignal Parish Council and the ability to apply for funds/focus on matters that specifically affect the villages is something we should have in our area to benefit our residents too	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Informal groups fall apart and tend to have no strategic direction	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		The area needs to be split the local issues and areas of focus will likely be very different across such a large area especially with the city centre right in the middle											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government ;	The present Councillors are useless and it needs residents to take some control	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government ;	Local input for local people with elected members that have real chance to change things	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It should work, we need a body which promotes the city centre rather than seeing at as a cash cow with revenues from parking, and encourage visitors.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		The proposals will only workif this is not just another layer of beuracratic administration. There must be NO addition to existing council administration, rather there should, must, be a reduction of expenditure. If the plan cannot achieve this then it should be abandoned and new ideas presented.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Or area committees, giving the area a voice	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I believe the area is big enough to warrant independent representation rather than being amalgamated into another area	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A Parish Council is democratically elected and has some (albeit very limited) powers, and it's role is understood by most people. It also has a set process for raising funds to disperse.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	It seems strange that Springfield All Saints Church, most of Springfield Rd, Police Hq Springfield, etc are not in Springfield Parish area. I've lived here [REDACTED] and always thought this was Springfield. The southern most boundary should be moved south to include everything North of Victoria Road, it all being a mainly residential area.												
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Closer to local issues	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;	These are formal committees of the council. The councillors are properly supported by the professional officers of the council including democratic services so there is the right level of professionalism as to how the business is conducted with the best advice on hand. The area committes provides the right level of consultation and checks/balance. Gives a local voice into the larger organisation. Avoids adding a layer of government that could become disjointed from the aims policy etc of the "bigger" council.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Chelmsford has had a council for many years, and a mayor. If Chelmsford City is abolished, we need a new council for the town.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;	Na	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Because our areas, particularly residential such as Moulsham Lodge could be neglected by any future organisation	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I would split north/south, with the far southern area probably needs to be subsumed into Galleywood as well.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I believe a parish council would work better than a committee based system.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I feel that the unparished area should be divided up better as it currently covers a huge area of very mixed residential styles/populations and a large amount of green spaces and parks which at the current size would be unmanageable for a smaller council, as it takes the city council to complete this already. The smaller and merged areas with current/new parishes would have a better say and better representation of their community to be able to complete the tasks required under this system.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Chelmsford will require more local representation to deliver local priorities.	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I have no faith in the council and I do not see that change would improve anything. Chances are the same people would be elected.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I feel local views would be under represented if parish tier councils didn't exist for my locality	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		We've done alright without a parish council. If one is put in place very few people would bother voting, so leading to the chance of a very small minority electing a radical council.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		How much has this cost?											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We have green space etc we would function as an ordinary parish	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No																	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		This is the normal democratic set-up so would ensure alignment with other areas and expected ways of working	I don't know													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Money is spent on projects without consultation - if we have a parish council we may be better informed as to where the money is going and have a say on what it could be spent on	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		As central Chelmsford should be treated as its own distinct district and not be seperated to join other parishes.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No																	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Why should I pay more council tax and gain nothing. We're fine without a parish council. Parish councils are only useful for villages not for city centre. Much better reducing the number of parish councils and save us money.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I have lived in this area [REDACTED] and have never had a need or desire for an organisation such as is proposed here. In addition I assume that this will add a cost to the Council Tax of everyone living in the affected area and I am utterly opposed to this and will vigorously oppose at every opportunity any attempt to impose another layer of bureaucracy on Chelmsford residents	I don't know		I think I have made by views clear in the previous question.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A parish precept would ring-fence a small part of our council tax to be spent locally on day-to-day upkeep and small improvements. I'd like to see consistent investment in the public realm—green spaces, railing flower boxes and planted roundabouts—because these lift the look and feel of the city, encourage pride and respect, and make Chelmsford a nicer place to live. A parish council would also give residents a clear local voice and a practical way to act quickly on things like paths, bins and planting, and to support small community grants. It's a simple, accountable way to make a visible difference in our area.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Please keep the whole unparished central Chelmsford area together as one new parish/town council, with internal wards for fair representation. The city centre works as a single community; one council will give clear accountability, consistent standards and better value, and let us deliver cohesive projects like planting, paths and public-realm upkeep that lift pride in Chelmsford.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Local representatives with powers to enact change at the local level should be first and foremost	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The demographic profile could be a strong argument for creating a dedicated City or Town Council. A new Moulsham and Central Town Council would be dominated by the voices of its younger, working population, allowing it to focus explicitly on the issues relevant to a modern, dense city centre.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Local parish to represent the local area. Existing parishes may not be as interested in the new areas and we may lose out as a result	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Large area with many residents requires democratically elected authority, even more important if Chelmsford city council will be abolished.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		To bring us into parity and access to potential funds to support hyper local improvements	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think there should be some form of democratically elected governance for the local area in and around the city centre, rather than anything more informal	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		t	Divided into north, east, south and west													
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Great Baddow	The boundaries	Incorporating some of the unparished area						No		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;	.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It needs community involvement because the people living in the area care more about the area than those who dont	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Because individuals are elected by local people	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help ;	Has a physical base to connect meetings have a post box or adverts etc.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		No											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Because the existing elected city councillors do a fantastic job. It is more bureaucracy, therefore more council tax to pay.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Extend existing parish councils	None											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish tier council would be more benefit to local people, perhaps more improvements instigated to this area of Chelmsford , residents have their say about the deteriorating state of the pavements and underpass with electric cables exposed from the ceiling - causing hazards for walkers and invalidity mobile vehicles _. RISK of electric shocks from exposed wires in underpass.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		for more local focused decision making	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						Parish councils are a nonsense and add another layer of complication to the overall governance of the area - [illegible]											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						No as will be a huge increase in cost. Many of city centre residents are single young people who cannot afford the already extortionate council tax. If only the funds were used to fund services we already pay to protect women's safety in the city centre											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help.;Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	As an important area of the city we need many voices and as many approaches to the area as possible	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We need representation for local people.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Local representation	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Out of all the options I have read, this is my preferred.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - [illegible]	Make people feel heard and decisions to be made by people that are living through issues in the area and are passionate about their area	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We need elected representatives who know about our specific needs in Chelmsford City Centre and who will ensure the local remains a good place to live	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't agree with the introduction of yet another layer of bureaucracy [illegible]	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		[illegible]											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Keep us consistent with other parts of area who have a parish councils	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Strong communities within Old Moulsham and Springfield. Plenty of candidates	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible]	Divided into north, east, south and west		[illegible]											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		[illegible]	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Why pay extra money for the same service	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No																	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible]	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish Council could be the best option of local governance	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A parish tier council would give residents a direct say over local services. It's the only solution that does this.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		[illegible]											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It works for other areas of the city	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Perhaps due to the central location the area is adequately managed by the city council, it does not need an additional tier of administration.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Allows representation and decision making at a very local level	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		My area needs a community voice and councillors to address the specific needs of this area. Which are different to neighbouring areas of Chelmsford	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[REDACTED] [illegible]	I don't know		[illegible]											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible]	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		[illegible]											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible]	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible]	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		[illegible]											

	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		This option would mean that we could keep Chelmsford and also seek to transfer the city status to the new parish	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
No	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Waste of money on a type of council (parish) when it's city centre area.	I don't know				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						I believe that there should be ONE council for the whole of Essex and disagree with the suggestions of 3, 4 or 5 authorities. I see no need for local parish-tier councils. All decisions should be made by the new Essex County Council		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Always considered us as part of Springfield	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Join Springfield PC			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
No	The currently unparished city centre area	No	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into.	Parish/Town councils are undemocratic (the co-opting of members is not democratic), they lack transparency, they have no scrutiny or challenge on their spending and sit on excessive reserves - I do not want this	I don't know				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		More governance over the area especially planning	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The only properly democratic option	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Great Baddow	Nothing - it is fine as it is
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think we need a parish type council, to enhance local governance, bring the local community together more. We don't have a heart to the community like a community centre. We need to build more community based activities. So there is more pride in our area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I feel that the whole area is too big for one parish. If you follow the local city council boarders it would be easier and cheaper to install. As we would have the boundary already in place, we would know exactly which councillors we are dealing with, and it should be a reasonable fair representation of residents.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						Residents of the currently unparished area in the city centre need to be aware that a new parish tier council will increase their council tax charges. City centre residents already face higher rents in the city centre, residents parking costs - any potential 'benefit' from the introduction of a new parish council needs to be balanced against increasing living costs in already difficult times for those 51,000 residents.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		An elected parish council will offer local representation	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
No	The currently unparished city centre area	No	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into.	The new local government organisation is intended to reduce the number of local councillors. The new Unity Authority can provide the local guidance through use of a committee of elected unity councillors. We do not need more local politicians	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Extend existing parish boundaries to include unparished areas, eg. Springfield parish could include the Lawns / old Springfield and areas towards city centre.	We need to leave any final decisions to the new Mayor / Unitary Authority.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help :	Local people know their area and what works best. A forum should only include participation and attendance by the elected local members(s) as local residents require it; and those members should be required to provide answers to questions and justify the position of the council they represent. What is not needed is creation of another level of local government representatives and further imposition of local taxes (parish precepts).	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish councils can create their own neighbourhood plans and apply for community funding.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	None/no changes at this level		Im still unclear what the powers of a parish council are. And how it would represent local residents to a larger body. Therefore I cannot answer the question	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		The cost of a parish council seems excessive considering how little it appears to do		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A local point of contact for local issues	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		I thought I was already part of Springfield Parish. I feel part of Springfield Parish. I don't feel unparished. I don't see the need for changes. Why spend money ? What will actually be achieved? Nothing	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Incorporate into Springfield Parish	Why change something that isn't broken		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		We have elected councillors supposedly representing the area. Why do we need an extra layer of bureaucracy with the additional level of cost that would inevitably follow? An attempt to bring in an additional parish council was attempted some years ago and rejected. One hopes this attempt will suffer the same fate	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		If Chelmsford merges with other areas I fear that the City would suffer in terms of local representation for City issues.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I have previously lived in a village with parish councillors who were keen to help promote the interests of the village. I think that could work even within areas of central Chelmsford.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I answered existing City Council wards to question 15 but think north, south, east and west could work too.		

No	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The areas of Chelmsford with parish councils seem nicer than the currently unparished area. So introducing a parish councils might make this area nicer.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I suspect a simple solution would be better than over complicating things.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		All other parishes have this	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I feel that the new system of governance, which removes Chelmsford City Council, will be detrimental to the average person in Chelmsford overall. I feel that the needs of people across the areas in each council area will not be heard or considered or will be diluted due to the increased responsibilities that come from more people across a larger area. I am upset by this change and predict it will be negative for all affected. Therefore, I feel it is essential that a new parish is created so that we can at least have a chance at having a say and ensuring the best quality of life for ourselves. Representation for the people of Chelmsford is a necessity, and if we do not get this I am concerned this will be very detrimental for us	I don't know					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Cost	I don't know					
	The currently unparished city centre area	No						I vote No to a central Chelmsford paris council. I am firmly opposed to the establishment of a parish council for central Chelmsford. My position is unambiguous: I do not want a parish council in this area. When I say 'No', I mean exactly that. 'No' is the direct opposite of 'Yes'—there should be no room for misinterpretation or alternative readings. Under no circumstances does 'No' imply 'possibly', 'okay', or any other meaning. My intention is clear and should not be construed otherwise.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		[REDACTED] I don't feel that any parish council would add much of interest to us locally . The area that is unparished varies widely in the central Chelmsford area , and there would be very different requirements within this area for local people . I don't think paying for another layer of council would assist with this , if anything it could lead to even more discontent with services being provided in some areas and not others . I feel parish councils are more suited to smaller areas like villages eg whittle that have a clearer boundary and their own requirements.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
	The currently unparished city centre area	No									
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help.;Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	I always think local residents need a voice	Divided into north, east, south and west					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		My preferred option is for democratically elected representatives.	Divided into north, east, south and west					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		With CCC & ECC going we need a direct reference point solely for us.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I do feel I need to point out a few things. One the envelope the CCC information came in was addressed to The Resident. Generally such are advertising so they go straight in the recycling paper bin. I gather from other people they do the same so how many of your leaflets went into the recycling? I also felt very sorry for the staff of CCC & ECC seeing them both done away with, are all their jobs going? Lastly I could not open the link on Safari on my IPad which is not helpful. Also what about the people who are not computer			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		My area is known as Springfield, with the All Saints Springfield parish church just around the corner on Springfield Green	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	The area is naturally bounded by the Chelmer, the old A12 and the Chelmer Valley Route.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		In my experience the more tiers of management or layers of council you have the less gets achieved rather than more and is often responsible for slowing down processes that are already slow. Why on earth would any council tax payer want to fund a new tier of local government that to use your example of likely powers, may have responsibilities for allotments! Any new tier of government will never have any meaningful power over the new enlarged council and is a complete waste of time, money and effort succeeding only in creating yet another pointless level of bureaucracy. There is plenty of that in government already and we certainly don't need anymore.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I haven't noticed any difference to the currently unparished part of the City I live in to anywhere else that has one. This is an exercise in expanding bureaucracy for the sake of it with any newly elected officials having no meaningful powers over things that really matter- which is health, roads, policing. Having control over allotments, the odd signpost here or there or maybe even a parish council notice board is a farcical waste of time, and for which you wish to raise my taxes even more. Please give up this nonsense.			
I don't know	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is vital that local areas have local representation to deal with local issues which would not be known by higher larger authorities. It is unthinkable that the area of central Chelmsford would not have this representation. How this is even thought about is a mystery to me. Every other area has local parish representation so why not the heart of Chelmsford!!	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Having lived in a parish I believe that it is easier to have your say on local issues and if the councillors are elected from the area they too will better represent the local people	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		It may make more financial sense to just have the whole one un- parished area however putting finance aside I feel smaller parish councils work better I live in Melbourne which is quite a deprived area whereas some of the areas in the un- parished area's are more affluent thus giving rise to very different wants and			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No									
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		As before	Divided into north, east, south and west					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	None/no changes at this level		The options given do not show any cost associated, nor do they detail how an extra (?) level of administration will improve services for the tax payer. History, and management theory, from Machiavelli to Parkinson, shows that increasing bureaucracy slows output and adds cost. Has there been a cost benefit analysis of this , parish, proposal? We rare advised that a charge could be added to our rates, council charge, of between £22-167 per year, a wide remit. Experience shows that these value estimates grow as the newly ensconced elected or (additional?) employees seek to establish themselves and build their empires. Activities necessary to improve their pay grades.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		The present system of local counsellors works, adding another layer just adds cost, will create delays, move decision makers further away from the client, tax payer. The proposals should include at least one proposal which calls, investigates, for a reduction in the layers of administration			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	My area should join an existing parish		On the boundaries of writtle and widford	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I am wholly against 'parish level' councils for two reasons. Firstly, I lived in a parish council area until I moved into Chelmsford and the parish council was nothing more than a 'talking shop' for self-important people who did nothing and served no purpose other than to continually attempt to interfere in the lives of ordinary people. Secondly, I am against any move that will increase Council Tax; we are already being taxed at unacceptable levels due to chronic underfunding of local government by the Tory government in Westminster 2010-2024 and a further increase to create another layer of bureaucracy and meddling is neither necessary nor desirable.	I don't know		Only that I hope this ridiculous idea will be knocked firmly on the head.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		The are has not needed a parish tier in the past and my experience of such lower tiers tells me that there would be no benefit to residents and inevitably additional costs.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't think more levels are needed at extra cost	Keep the whole of the currently unparished					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Because a smaller and local council would best represent the interests of the community at the local level, as opposed to a larger organization which can be bogged down by bureaucracy and playing numbers games.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		As my address is only just out of the Broomfield parish area to move the parish boundary to include this part of north Chelmsford would be my preferred option. Or my second preference a new parish tier council for this area.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	My address is so close to the Broomfield parish area. I make use of a number of facilities in the village.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		My community is Springfield, for many purposes including Scouts, the Church, local shops, schools and we should be part of that parish.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I would include Trinity ward and The Lawns into Springfield parish.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Concern about 'who' looks after allotments.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We already have a few informal community organisations. A dedicated parish would be good to have a formal interest in the needs of the area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		It does need breaking up a bit because it is a large area for a parish.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		We don't need more Bureaucracy in the system, we are already represented, and would prefer less local nonsense	I don't know		I see no valid reason to change anything, and this proposal will only add cost to the system that we're expected to pay for!			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		This has gone unparished for a long time, the only reason I can think of to parish it now is to go against the spirit of the unitary authorities. The benefits are unclear by the material cost is very clear. We need less government not more and should give any saving back to struggling families	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The approach of central government has always been to centralise. That is reflected in the current proposals for Essex. In these circumstances care needs to be taken to ensure that hyper-local matters are adequately addressed. At this point a town or parish council is probably the beta way to achieve this.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Something equivalent to a Town Council is appropriate.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We should always elect individuals to represent us, otherwise decisions are made by those who aren't representing us, being part of a democracy means we can elect officials to represent us	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Fits into existing structure	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Fewer levels is better providing everywhere and everyone is represented equally			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		We currently do not belong to a parish, and as far as I can tell Chelmsford City Council are no more remote than Essex County Council, neither of whom are particularly approachable, and neither of whom really represent me. If both are abolished and the resulting council is based many miles away, that will not make any difference to me either. The road will stay just as potholed, and the light outside our house shining into our windows will carry on functioning just the same, the recycling centre will carry on either taking or not taking our waste, and presumably more excuses will be found to cut services whilst raising council tax. There has been no consultation on anything either council has done which has affected me, I'm just expected to roll with the punches and carry on, I don't expect that to change no matter where the replacement is. [REDACTED], and I've never seen a parish council that was worth anything to residents, they were there with their councilors feeling all important, but actually doing nothing much of use to local residents. Most people do not know they are there, they're pointless	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		If the entire central area was put into one grouping you could call it something like Chelmsford City Parish Council :).			
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Springfield	It should be abolished	No
	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would provide a direct representation of the locality and its needs.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Do not drown the local representation into a wider and more populated regional system thus weakening its voice.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I do not see the benefit of this. It is just another level of bureaucracy, which there are more than enough at the moment, and at a further cost to residents.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A parish council gives the community a voice, more control, and greater capacity to improve its own local area. It bridges the gap between residents and higher levels of government and still gives local people a voice. It ensures local decisions are made by people who live there and understand the place best. It also acts as a democratic forum for discussing local issues such as planning applications, services, and community projects.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		To simplify the process of creating new parish boundaries, I propose that we use the existing electoral wards as the starting point. At the same time, we should ensure that the population of each new parish is considered and reasonably balanced. A GIS-based approach is recommended: model the current boundaries and generate splits informed by population data. This method may produce parish boundaries that are elongated in places in order to meet population-balancing objectives. So it could be a combination of both electoral wards adapted with the NSWE solution.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						Do not wish to do anything that will result in an increase cost.			
Yes	Somewhere else that is already parished								Writtle	Nothing - it is fine as it is	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Changes cost extra money. I have previously lived in a parish and saw no benefits. Joining a tired council is a terrible idea. I do not agree.	I don't know					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I want to see the population take more interest in what happens here. Either imposed by a higher level governance or by the City Council. We seem to have little contact with our elected city councillors except around election time. I don't know if our 3 city councillors live in the ward. I know our MP does, but we need councillors who will be in regular contact with the community and can pick up on issues at early stages and know what should be done about them - to whom information should be sent. Some issues are county council related and city councillors seem to have little influence on outcomes that are in the County Council jurisdiction. The community needs a voice, its own voice. It needs involvement with issues that relate to where they live and / or work. I don't want decisions that impact our lives to be taken by a County Council chairman who can live as far away as Saffron Walden or Epping. Local electorate and local issues being looked after by local people. Give us a voice.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		End the remoteness of governance, involve our people so we can take care of things that matter to us, make representations to the powers that be. Have a voice.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I do not wish to pay extra council tax for duplication of services and unnecessary bureaucracy. There would be an overlap with existing city services which would also become confusing. Also set-up and transition costs for elections, staffing, initial running etc which would fall on the residents. There may also be apathy and low turnout- of uncontested seats meaning the parish might not be representative of its residents.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished		Do not mess with something that is not broken. Chelmsford residents do not want to pay for unnecessary bureaucracy.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Being a democratically elected local council it will help bring a voice for Chelmsford, rather than it being slowly diminished into a larger area with a LGR. A parish council can have a direct impact and actually help change a situation the community is struggling with by listening to the residents. If Chelmsford were to merge with other councils the local voice is lost and with it our independence to change local issues and not generic council problems.	I don't know					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		If larger merges, I'd be concerned that local knowledge would be diluted so having a more locally focussed group would help to ensure the right type of services are made available.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would be better to have people looking at particular concerns that affect us at a local level looked after by a body that is able to raise money via council tax to address those concerns.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Although the current unparished area is defined as 'City Centre' I'm not sure this reflects the areas covered. Maybe the business part of the area, north of Parkway should be one parish or left unparished and the areas with housing to the south of the Parkway become a separate parish.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help.;	I think it would be good to engage local people without the layer of bureaucracy or political involvement that might come with elected councillors.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		The audacity, a very obvious play to increase charges on residents in the un-parished area. No we do not want this.	I don't know		Not wanted and not needed.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No									
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		If other areas have this then we should too, to be equal stakeholders. I would also be interested to know the size of the parishes and whether, due to population size, we should be made of more than one parish because of how busy the town centre is and how large the population size is.	I don't know					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						The last thing that residents of Chelmsford need is more bureaucracy, more cost, more waste, more			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		In the current economic situation it would be madness to add more, and unnecessary cost to all members of the public and council tax payers	Keep the whole of the currently unparished		Do not create unnecessary cost and a further tier of bureaucracy!!			
I don't know	The currently unparished city centre area	No	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is democracy. Local residents having a strong say in what benefits their community and communities at large. Top-down governance is undemocratic and highly prone to despotic control.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		It sounds like changes to councils are being made to streamline processes and improve efficiencies in areas where there are no doubt waste. The leaflet I've received sounds like an attempt to secure funding to keep positions that would otherwise be streamlined. If 51,000 people live in the unparished area and we assume families of 4 live in all properties (I imagine it's less), multiply this by £51.38 and it's approx £650k a year. For what? Individual representation in a group of max 4 other like minded councils. If it's done properly it shouldn't matter. The talk of postponing next years council elections only supports the view of self serving. The reality is we have the council at the moment and unpopular decisions are being made or forced by government. It's unlikely that a parish is going to change these decisions that overshadow any good work carried out so it's no doubt another level of waste	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It brings the city centre in line with surrounding areas and I like the idea of a local voice to hear about the local problems that beset daily life but are too small to worry a large organisation who we hope will focus on the bigger picture.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		In creating such a local parish council it should not be an excuse to spend money on buildings and infrastructure if existing buildings can be re-purposed when the City Council ceases to exist. We do not yet know how a Unitary Authority will hit our pockets under the guise of new infrastructure and so with a charge for a Parish Council there will be a nervousness about the changes. You should be totally transparent about likely costs and proposed spending at every stage in setting this up but accepting that you cannot speak for future Unitary Authorities.			
I don't know	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would put Central Chelmsford on-par with the adjacent Parishes !	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						In a cost of living crisis the last thing we need is higher council tax to pay for some power hungry local busy bodies to sit around every other Thursday evening pretending to achieve something			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Focus on small part involving less population is a better approach always and it have better benefits for the public.	I don't know					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		High density population area with a number of ongoing local challenges (e.g. parks, antisocial behaviour around key city centre points such as railway and bus stations, etc.) that require the right level of attention and local community engagement and communication	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		There is no issue at this present time. We have mp's and leaders and I believe that is suitable. Any further merging is an excuse to take more money. If I could opt out I would I do not want to have to pay £160 for something which will probably not lead to any actual changes	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Keep each area as is and unparished. Keep Springfield separate from Chelmer village separate from Melbourne etc.			
No	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Because of the extra cost £160.00	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No									
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Any of the new suggested mergers 3, 4 or 5 are too large to bother with the local news of this area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		You should ignore the non residential parts of this are			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is not possible to make two choices! I have no idea if it would work but we have no direct access to decision-making where I live in [REDACTED] and people contact Stephen Robinson through Facebook. This is inappropriate and only works for people on FB!	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Local level representation can only be a good thing	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Use church parishes?	No			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						Waste of money			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		It would avoid unnecessary extra cost	I don't know					
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		It would appear you are trying to make us join poorer areas to fund their short fall.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	Local residents know local issues and may respond quicker to requirements. Local representatives should be directly available to promote local issues.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		The scope of activities for the new parish hub needs to be defined clearly to contain expectations.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A larger council will mean the Chelmsford area, currently ably served by the city council, will have no local representation which is essential!	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		The current city wards seem to work well with local councillors who are both proactive and reactive to the needs of their communities.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Would put central Chelmsford on same footing as rest of Essex.	I don't know					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I pay more council tax than I can afford, and a parish tir council can only mean more unwanted expense. It seems like change for changes sake.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished		It is an unnecessary expence and a waste of time.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						If it's going to be an additional cost, I'm strongly opposed. I also do not agree if the Liberal Democrats have any involvement			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't want any changes, very cheeky of you to add money to my council tax. No change as chelmsford council takes years to reply anyway so the parish would be the same	I don't know		Don't split chelmsford, you'll cause a divide.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Is this increase in council tax going to pay for weekly black bin & brown bin collections - IF NOT I DONT WANT IT.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We should not be funding larger poorer areas and should not merge with more deprived areas as this will affect the City and the community	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Would provide a level of local government and control for Chelmsford - the unrepresented area	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Failure to provide a Council close to the people who live in Central Chelmsford would result in a lack of control in the provision of local services in the area			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't think one parish should be responsible for a shared city centre.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished		Is now the right time to complete this consultation? Wouldn't this be better completed after LGR.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	Local matters need to be addressed by local people. Therefore neighbourhood forums & resident associations would best represent these matters.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	We already have a few local forums, WhatsApp groups etc. it would be good to make it more professional so we get listened to.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together					

[illegible]	[illegible] unparished city centre area	[illegible] happens with LGR	[illegible] community organised groups	[illegible] They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	[illegible] unparished area of Chelmsford is actually comprised of several council wards, that don't necessarily have that much in common, as far as their very local needs are concerned. I would rather see opportunities for residents in each of their own communities, such as mine in Moulsham Lodge, to establish their own associations to deal with very local concerns. These associations would be able to offer a collective voice for each ward. They can then forward their concerns with the local unitary council, when it is formed.	[illegible] arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	My area should join an existing parish		Goat Hall Lane is right on the boundary of Galleywood and therefore merging with the Galleywood Parish Council is the obvious solution	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Integrated with Galleywood as my home is right on the boundary					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I do not think an additional level of government would be of benefit and would like to continue being an unparished area.	I don't know		I think we were asked about unparished areas having their own Paris councils before. Why are we being asked again and how much				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Well I think you guys working in the public sector are by definition something that takes from the people that actually contribute and pay taxes. So this will mean more of you useless people that we need to pay with our taxes. For us that work hard and pay taxes seeing you with little preparation making decisions is painful. The only thing you have proven to be good at is to be in a party like the Tories or labour and say yes to escalate positions but never created a job or last more than a week working for a private company.	I don't know		Yes - I know that you don't care the slightest on what we have to say, you will pretend to listen and then you'll do whatever you want as usual, and my best is of course				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't endorse increases to already higher council tax to have these additional parish tax	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		To avoid residents being disenfranchised from decisions affecting them.	I don't know		Boundaries should be based on population, such that any new parishes / wards are comparable in size to existing ones.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		There is no added value from another tier of local government. There should just be one unitary authority in Greater Essex, but the next best option would be three unitaries. Local voice could be built into all policies through Residents Assemblies which are issue based and recruit and remunerate like jury service. There is no need for further tiers of representative government at local level. The parish level should be removed at the same time as the demise of 15 county, city, district and borough authorities.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Essex's problem has been that too many councillors take on roles at parish, district and county levels to make up a full wage. A single tier of unitary authorities is all that is needed. This can have an elected council, but it does not need to be party political. It should reflect and champion local issues and priorities that emerge from deliberative democracy involving local people and embedding lived experience. Current models do not deliver this. Devolution and Local government reorganisation should give Essex the chance to do things differently, rather than just fitting into the existing layer of powerless and				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It's just good to be well represented	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Representatives are elected	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	My area should join an existing parish		I have always considered where i live to be part of Springfield. I would prefer to join that parish council.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	i think the river is a natural boundary. We lie to the east of it so are closer to Springfield than tobthe city centre.					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		I tried to select two option to Q12. Firstly I cannot see why we cannot join with either Galleywood PC or Great Baddow PC. If not a new Parish Council covering Tile Kiln and Moulsham.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	See answer to Q14.					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	My area should join an existing parish		Because for most activities we already relate to Springfield	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		no				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		As a local resident in an unparished area we need representation at a local level.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Government and by extension local government is already incredibly lethargic and overly bureaucratic. I feel that this change would make things less efficient.	I don't know						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						There is no benefit to us, just a negative - the cost which we don't need currently with all the cost of				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would be good to have a parish councils to assist with more trivial issues in the area and make some quality changes for the residents, not just the high street	I don't know						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I already pay too much council tax, I don't want another set of busy-bodies charging me more money.	I don't know		Just don't do it. We are fine as we are.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		The Governance structure of councils is currently being reviewed to be more streamlined, strategic and efficient. On this basis why should Central Chelmsford introduce a further layer of governance. Parish Councils are not strategic thinking and provide little benefit and often waste money. The future of Parish council's should be reviewed as part of the Essex governance review and should seek to remove urban parish councils so the new council's can focus resources more strategically and efficiently. We have Borough and County Councillors representing the community so O do not see why we need another layer of governance and red tape.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		The Governance structure of councils is currently being reviewed to be more streamlined, strategic and efficient. On this basis why should Central Chelmsford introduce a further layer of governance. Parish Councils are not strategic thinking and provide little benefit and often waste money. The future of Parish council's should be reviewed as part of the Essex governance review and should seek to remove urban parish councils so the new council's can focus resources more strategically and efficiently. We have Borough and County Councillors representing the community so O do not see why we need another layer of governance and red tape.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Governance on a local level gives the public a direct say in how things are managed in their local area. This is key where the unitary authorities being much larger are by definition less close to local issues. This form of governance appears to work well in other countries (e.g. Germany) and may help more people to take some ownership of their local community.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Good to have the opportunity to see what the issues are as local government changes. I think it's important that we should have easy access to the people elected to represent us				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It seems bizarre that all other Chelmsford areas have their own voice, but we do not, which is why I would like to see an accountable, formally elected council to speak for us and ensure equity with these other areas. The city centre has unique requirements, so merging with a more suburban area of the city would mean our concerns would not be considered effectively.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area									It should be abolished		No
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think the current unparished area is sufficiently large enough to have its own elected tier of local government. I also think the current unparished area's residents face similar circumstances being in close proximity to the city centre that current parishes perhaps do not, being as they are slightly further away. I believe an elected tier would be more accountable to residents and be better respected than an informal community group	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		No, I put my comments in question 14. Thank you.				
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		No valid reason reason to create a new structure in an area already encircled by sizable parished areas. Why? Impose more expense with no direct benefit to residents. A new parished area would create management and implementation problems without any new powers that could not be provided by subsuming and expanding an existing parished area(s) with the central unparished area.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Expand an existing parished area giving primacy to the unparished district					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would give us our own identity	I don't know						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No										
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						From part experience living in other areas of Chelmsford, when it comes to final decisions on issues affecting a parish area, the requests / recommendations made by the parish Council are invariably ignored / overridden at a higher level. Consequently I do not wish (and cannot afford) to pay additional costs on top of the already hefty council tax for a parish council that will likely have very little beneficial impact on issues effecting the area. And if a parish council has no real impact, then the forums and associations you have mentioned will				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The city centre has a demographic which by its very urban nature has different needs and expectations of services to suburban parishes. Merging the centre of Chelmsford with existing parishes works only dilute the opinion of those living and effected by city centre interests.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Very uncertain explanation, will Councillors remain? We need meetings , preferably not late at night, so we can submit community problems and/or thanks.	I don't know		Smaller community centres with meeting hubs, with councillors, police AND TRADING STANDARDS listening to problems.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish Council have a long history and it seems they work well. Also they are esourced with some money	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
I don't know	The currently unparished city centre area	No						I do not have the confidence additional rates would be spent wisely				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Cost of living, council tax does not need to be raised	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		The reason to combine areas is to save cost and gain efficiency through scale. This just puts another layer of cost and complexity back into the system negating the reason to change. The additional cost is not justified to manage such a small set of local outcomes. Managing allotments and community centres should be managed at a much larger scale these very small a parish councils.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Let's save more cost and combine all of these small irrelevant parishes or remove this entire layer.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		A parish council would cost money. It add very little. We'd just be paying for more bureaucracy	Keep the whole of the currently unparished		People shouldn't be forced to pay another £50 per year for a parish council that most do not want or do				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I have raised concerns in the past and the only person to reply to me was Stephen Robinson. I do not currently feel that my concerns are taken into account with the current system.	I don't know		I would be very interested in the dialogue and suggestions that is going to take place.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	The two options would have zero cost to residents, but an area committee would be able to make decisions, assisted by and information provided by residents associations.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Whilst it's good to get feedback from the community, I feel many of the decisions made at central & local government level, are already made & the feedback is just to be seen to be doing the right thing. I do however, hope feedback is taken into consideration.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We need local representation.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The existing Chelmsford City Council serves us well- but the new structure will leave a democratic deficit between residents and the rather remote single tier. (The whole reorganisation seems ill thought through and a potential disaster to go ahead with it in the midst of a severe fiscal crisis in local Government. Experienced people will leave in droves.)	I don't know		Deckchairs on the Titanic				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Residents will have a bigger voice locally	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						Not needed extra cost				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	My area should join an existing parish		I would like to join an existing parish to keep costs down. I'd like my views to be represented but I wouldn't like to see everyone in the area have to pay for representation.	Divided into north, east, south and west						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	None/no changes at this level		Having lived in Chelmsford [REDACTED] without having a parish council I don't see the need for one now. This is just another layer of bureaucracy we do not need.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It makes sense for an area to be represented at the most local level possible.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Voter turnout for parish councils tends to be very low, so the council would end up with minimal mandate but the power to make decisions. It also runs the risk of creating another level of bureaucracy. Council tax is already very expensive in Chelmsford compared to other areas, and parish fees would push this up further.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished						
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		If additional local representation could be funded by the putative savings made in the LGR then I would support a parish council. Taxpayers in the UK already pay far too much for their politicians.	I don't know						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The local community is very active and organised street parties and Christmas events. It has also worked closely with local councillors on revamping the local play area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is democratic and may help members of the community get better access to amenities (my interest is in allotments specifically).	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		It will mean another layer of bureaucracy, waste of money. Stephen Robinson's slogan for many years "Don't choke Chelmsford" but it seems as though he is encouraging the building of more new houses but	I don't know						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		No new level of political bureaucracy, expenses etc.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	None/no changes at this level		We don't know what is happening to Chelmsford City council. It appears things have to change. The changes are reported to save money. Adding a parish Council will have a cost. We need to see how effective the new council is.	I don't know						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;	Whilst Parish councils sound like a good option because they are democratically elected and have formal powers, I am wary of an increase in council tax to pay for this. I think Area committees could be a good alternative option because councillors will have some powers to actually implement changes/manage local matters without raising a precept. I think I would need a clearer perspective of how the parish council would benefit the area in order to justify the precept.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		As a resident of [REDACTED] I have always wondered why I and my neighbours have no local ground level political representatives, especially when compared to Chignal and Broomfield parishes which are only a few streets away from North Melbourne. Discussing local matters with local people will surely advance our community.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		North and South Melbourne consists of dense estates. The focal points are Morrisons, school and library, also Melbourne Parade and surgeries at Melbourne and Tennyson.				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.;	Area committees	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)						
[illegible]												

Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		The problem appears to be that the area is unparished and this would seem to be the simplest and most cost effective solution.	I don't know		[illegible]		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		This would be fresh way of managing the City centre moving forward	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We need our own parish to represent our needs	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		[illegible]	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	No parish councils			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		[illegible]	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	[illegible]			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It will work to make sure local issues remain being dealt with locally and stop us feeling like nobody cares about our issues. Local people know best about local issues.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	I'm close to the boundary of a Parish Council area and feel I have more in common with that area rather than being lumped into the existing in parishes area which extends into the City Centre which has very different needs	Chelmsford is a lovely place to live which must in part be due to our City Council and to have it joined with other possibly less effective Councils is a great shame.		
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think that this would ensure local representation on local issues and help to retain the identity of Chelmsford.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I think it would work best if the northern section of Trinity Ward, eg north of Sanford Rd, joined Springfield Parish, and the southern section remained in the central area with a new joint council together with other unparished central Chelmsford wards		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		See little reason to change. Will only cost more money to residents.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished		Cannot see justification for another costly change in how local government is run.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Beneficial to join an existing parish council with systems and procedures etc. already established and where there is experience in running a parish council. The full unparished population size is too diverse and large to be 'local', and we are close to the boundaries of 2 local existing parishes (Springfield and Chelmer Village).	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Both Chelmer Village and Springfield parishes are adjacent to [REDACTED], although Chelmer Village is the closest by proximity. We feel more in touch with what happens in these parishes than within the rest of the unparished area, and they have established parish councils	It feels like it would be better to build on the expertise of existing parish councils rather than set up one or more new parishes in the unparished area. It is essential to have adequate parish tier councils with local powers, responsibilities and representation, especially in the light of the Local Government Reorganisation.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Chelmsford is a great place but its local government is overstaffed, stiflingly bureaucratic and definitely overpaid, with a slew of unnecessary functions. It has elected but not necessarily qualified councillors whose only responsibility is policy and oversight. They have no executive or management responsibility which are the domain of the chief exec and department heads. Yet the CEO and officials have long been silenced. Their names do not appear in the council website. After [REDACTED] in this county town (City is a joke) I do not know who they are. Please no more tiers, but a parish council might help to correct matters.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		No wonder local government, transport, the utilities, civil service, NHS and just about every public organisation are going bust. Over the years we've had one major re-organisation after another, incurring massive costs and organisational disarray but no improvement. Frequently the opposite. As an American management prof pithily observed - "The squeaky wheel gets the grease". It's surprising the so-called black hole is only £20 billion. Now here's another one.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420 000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		An annual payment, supporting an elected membership seems that it eoukd best support. As long as this woukd only be fir private individuals (assuming businesses woukd be paying a business council tax)	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Encourage people to take an interest in who is standing for election	I don't know				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420 000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Elected parish tier councils would be more democratic and accountable than unelected area committees or informal community organised groups which run the danger of being taken over by special interest groups. No existing parish that would be suitable (Moulsham would do if it had a parish)	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		We are close to the Springfield boundary, the Unparished area should be shrunk to deal with only the city centre area, residential areas should move to existing parishes.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	See above.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420 000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Merger of CCC seems inevitable and then the unparished area will have no voice about its own future	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		No		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Our area is very different from the rest of Chelmsford overall and we need more representation.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Look forward to local elections		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Supportive of your proposal. It seems very odd that the central area of Chelmsford is not represented as a whole, where as other parts of Chelmsford area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population approx 500,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how [illegible]	No	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						[illegible]		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible]	Divided into north, east, south and west				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420 000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible]	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		An area with a unique identity as compared other local parishes. should have it's own local representation.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		One local point of contact for local governance, with decision making abilities is the most preferable option. It could be more effective and have a direct representative voice when making requests and expressing opinions to a higher level of authority.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		New but not necessarily better governance but to also align with the rest of Chelmsford	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The city centre has different urban issues than a rural surrounding parish.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		It should be an effective means of local representation, to join an existing parish council.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	I am surprised that Old Springfield, where I live, is not in Springfield Parish Council. Why is it not?	I do not feel that reducing the number of Local Governing Councils would benefit Chelmsford residents. To be lumped in with Harlow could prove problematic		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	Area committees or informal community organised groups	I don't know;	If a change to local government that may involve a charge or even a "mayor" is required because of the unitary change proceeding then that demonstrates the unitary change is flawed. This local government change has never been raised by the councillors backing the unitary change. Whilst possible options are outlined the councillors backing the unitary change should explain how they envisaged the unparished city centre responsibilities currently handled by the city council (but apparently don't come under the new unitary) would be addressed. Also a full list of such responsibilities that the new unitary would not take on from the old city council should be provided so a proper informed decision can be made. Referring to parish council responsibilities such as community centres don't apply as we don't have a community centre as we were not originally an outlying village.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Adding to response at Q16 all of the possible changes to the Chelmsford city unparished area refer to the need to raise funds. Self-funded presumably means those in the area get charged in addition to paying the new unitary tax. This is not acceptable as what the city council previously did within our existing charges appears to be subject to a new charge because the new unitary falls short in providing all that the current city council does. There is wide range between the possible charges given as illustrative and nothing is mentioned about how such charges can be challenged by residents. It almost seems that some current city councillors are trying to keep their jobs because the new unitary is supposed to be making efficiency savings - one of which would be cross-over jobs. So a proper list of what the current city council does for us in the un-parished city centre that the unitary won't do should be provided.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420 000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Its the tried and tested way of our democracy.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Join Widford with Galleywood.	Will we in Widford be forced to pay a parish precpt rate and what ecactly would be the benefits over our current "no parish precept" arrangement? Could this just be means of increasing our combined council tax.?		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		[REDACTED] should I believe join Springfield parish	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		If you want to make Chelmsford great, please listen to the residents and ensure year on year things are getting done but not for cost cutting i.e. the no mow may etc...		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Greater and more accountabler local representation and decision making	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		[REDACTED]. I believe my area was once part of Broomfield Parish and I would like us to rejoin it.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	[REDACTED]. I believe my area was once part of Broomfield Parish and I would like us to rejoin it.			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A parish-tier council would ensure local democracy and representation that is currently lacking in my area, would help to deliver services to meet local need, and would improve community wellbeing.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		A parish-tier council for the existing Old Moulsham/Moulsham Lodge area would appear to be the sensible option going forward. Keeping the whole of the currently unparished area together would result in an overly large parish area.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		On the one hand you are looking to increase the size of the main Councils then on the other you want to introduce a useless lower tier of governance. [REDACTED] without a Parish Council and I can see no reason to introduce a tier of local busy bodies that we don't need. Also no doubt that would also introduce a local precept of about £16.00 per month - no thanks!	I don't know		No		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Better local representation with much bigger councils coming soon	I don't know				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		I live in [REDACTED] It would make sense for those of us who use the Broomfield parish facilities, as we are still in Broomfield, (churches, community hall, parks, library etc) to become part of the Broomfield parish.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	I live in [REDACTED] It would make sense for those of us who use the Broomfield parish facilities, as we are still in Broomfield, (churches, community hall, parks, library etc) to become part of the Broomfield parish			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		I think that Tile Kiln could join with Galleywood parish. The parish does lots of good work that we already benefit from.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I have lived in the unparished area for most of [REDACTED] and I cannot remember one single occasion on which I noticed the lack of parish or community representation. I cannot see why this should change under LGR other than to add costs.	I don't know		An unnecessary addition of a layer of governance and bureaucracy with its associated costs		
No	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		There is no additional need for beauracracy	I don't know		People are struggling to pay council tax and this additional resource does not outweigh the cost of administration		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We moved to Chelmsford from an area of [REDACTED] that was overseen by a Parish Council. We felt informed about what was happening and were able to attend the regular meetings and comment on local issues. We are on the Great Baddow boundary and I like the way Great Baddow Council is run and would like something similar	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The description of Parish Tier council seems to us to be what is required for our area as it would represent the area and would address local concerns/interests.	I don't know		Whatever the new arrangement it is important to ensure that local concerns/interests are addressed, similar to neighbouring Chelmsford parishes. On this basis ,a Parish Tier Council would seem to be the best option		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Town council would help decide where allocated funds/CIL would be best spent	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	North and south			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I believe the interests of this area are best served by a proposed unitary authority. This makes it clearer to understand who is in charge of what and I oppose introducing another level of governance at a time when it should be simplified.	I don't know				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		WE SHOULD HAVE A PARISH COUNCIL JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER AREAS OF CHELMSFORD	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Recognised working practises, established patterns and organization to ensure voices are heard	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Greater Essex and the very long and very expensive LGR will leave many many Chelmsford residents dealing with the debacle of a faceless computerised anonymous tangle of contact which will fail to serve, support or make sense on all aspects of living in Chelmsford and indeed living in Essex. A Parish Council will , hopefully , offer a sane and contactable port of call to establish how, who, where, when and what to do when attempting to start the oh so weary journey of finding someone somewhere who knows what is happening and what to do.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		An additional elected local governing body would raise council tax and increase admin. The City Centre is a wide area with differing needs and I think it would be better to extend the current areas to include more of the City Centre as needs will be better understood that way. This could be supplemented with a very small City Centre parish covering areas without much connection to outer areas - both cheaper and more representative.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Merge with Broomfield would give good coverage for local transport and planning issues.	Would have been useful to have had the map within the consultation instead of just in the flyer posted through the door.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Have never noticed lack of parish council and don't feel the need for money to be spent on one now. Not sure why money was spent on printing and posting leaflets about it either.	I don't know		Could not care less.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		need local people	Divided into north, east, south and west				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		HERE ARE ENOUGH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. EACH ONE COSTING A LOT OF MONEY. AT PRESENT IT SEEMS NO ONE IS CARING FOR THE AVERAGE HARD WORKING MEMBER OF SOCIETY. WE DO NOT NEED FURTHER RED TAPE!	I don't know		NO		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Adding a Parish council will increase council tax without bringing any real benefits to residents, at a time when everybody is already too squeezed and really fed up of being taxed more and more and more. The proposal so far has not mentioned any reduction in Council tax due to elimination of City council - why is this, there would be less costs? This is the reason why I don't support this and neither do any of my neighbours that I have spoken to.	I don't know		NO - to increased council tax; NO - to additional pointless bureaucracy - it's a waste of time & money.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420 000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		1) I have no complaints on how the City Council runs my road/the area: Admirals Park is run very well, fly tipping is picked up promptly when I report it, and only very minor gripes 2) My biggest concern will be if/when Chelmsford CC merges with other towns' councils - I see the state of Brentwood High St or hear from friends who are under councils in south Essex and I would hate to see things deteriorate round here - under the banner of 'cost cutting'.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		There's a lot of negatives these days - rising costs, increased pressures from a growing population in the city / more traffic - but there are a lot of positives in the area - an award winning park, community groups, tree planting - we should do all we can to preserve those positives.		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		There is simply too much government. Local government is extremely inefficient. Local governments across the country are facing funding gaps. I do not see how creating more underfunded local government will help the unparished area. More government is not the answer to solving the issues in Chelmsford, it will just simply give counsellors, at all local levels, an excuse to pass the buck onto someone else.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I'm not confident that you will actually listen to the views of residents. Whilst I am only one voice, the way the survey is framed and the informational pamphlets you have posted out, make it seem as though you've already made up your		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I would prefer not to add another layer of decision making, as this could be overly bureaucratic, and lead to slower decision making. In my view, the new unitary authorities need to be in place and established before considering adding another layer of decision making.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think elected local representation is very important. I think the current city council has done a good job of improving Chelmsford and I want there to be local people who live in the area and understand it representing Chelmsford residents and getting important things done.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Important to keep to established tiers of governance	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Again, it's sensible and important to keep to established tiers of governance. Greater complexity and innovation for its own sake are expensive and unnecessarily confusing for all concerned. Ideally there will be no changes at all. The current system is not perfect but it has worked reasonably well. Change is far from imperative and the UK economy is struggling. Further change at such a juncture will be massively expensive, adding to the national burden. Organisations, departments and staff, senior and otherwise, as well as council members will suffer consequent chaos and uncertainty which will affect performance, decision taking and efficiency for minimal gains. This is not the time for reorganisation. The NHS has had one after another after another. Hardly surprising it's in the biggest ever mess. As an additional comment - [REDACTED] in Chelmsford the identity of the chief executive and heads of department are unknown to me and they do not appear		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		The proposal for Chelmsford to merge with Brentwood and Maldon is the option I would prefer that listed in the leaflet I have received, but I noticed that this option was missing from question 12.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	My preference is for Chelmsford to merge with Brentwood and Malden, so the new boundary should be drawn to include both parishes.	My main concern about the proposed change is the potential economic impact on the area — whether it might affect daily living costs and whether it would truly bring a better future for the community. I believe a detailed comparison of all options across different aspects would be helpful before further discussion. The information provided in the leaflet and on the website only mentions Band D property comparisons. Could you please advise if more detailed information is available elsewhere?		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Any form of new unitary council, covering a wide area with many calls on officer's and member's time, will reduce the opportunity for very local issues to get sorted. A local Parish Council will be able to respond better to such minor issues and as an elected body will have a greater degree of authority than some other form of 'community representative' group and will give us parity with other areas eg. Writtle.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
No	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think local people should be shaping their community and have people representing them and the best interests of what is happening in their community. What works in one place may not be suitable for even the next town along.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	I think it needs to be more than just one area. Perhaps 2 with some unparished areas/boundaries joining with existing areas			
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Works already without a parish council	I don't know		Stay as we are		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420 000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The (currently) unparished area needs to have a formal voice, especially if merging with other areas. The areas we could be merging with are significantly different to the Chelmsford city area, and have different challenges too: so it's vital residents of this area have a voice.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Important to have local representation as I understand the government favours large merged councils of 500,000 plus, so it is likely that Chelmsford will be in one of only 3 large councils in the LGR.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I feel that certain peripheral parts of the current unparished area would be better served by joining their adjacent current parishes - eg Springfield seems to be split rather abitrarily currently, and it looks to me (from the unparished map) as if the long southern 'extension' of the current unparished area would be better served by joining Galleywood. However, I think the very centre of Chelmsford where I am is distinctive in being a University area		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I believe it is best to remain unparished, why would you impose more costs on homeowners by creating a parish.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished				
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I chose 1 as you can't choose more than one	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I think it will also depend on other influences such as DRs Hospitals schools. Quite difficult to be decisive from the short list above		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I feel a more formal representation, whether a new elected tier or join to existing parish, would be the most democratic - and secure appropriate funding to be able to deliver for the city centre should Chelmsford city council cease to exist.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)				
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Chignal	Nothing - it is fine as it is
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No								
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		We have survived decades without a 'parish'council. All this will do is add another tier of bureacracy which will add another outlay of £80-£100+ to my Council Tax [REDACTED] per year council tax and my £60 brown bin tax. If the relevant councils did there jobs properly then there is no need for an extra layer of council employees and bureaucracy etc. [illegible]	I don't know		Leave Central Chelmsford without a 'Parish' council. It has survived so far. It is not warranted and not needed		

Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Dedicated and elected rep / voice of the people that live here.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		
No	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		We need less, not more, politicians. Parish councils currently cost taxpayers more than the unparished area. Experienced elsewhere (e.g. Salisbury) shows how expensive it is for taxpayers to maintain a city-wide parish.	Divided into north, east, south and west		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	None/no changes at this level		It all works now, and Parished areas are more expensive for residents.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
No	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Of the options provided only parish committees any any designated powers	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		One larger parish would be more cost effective then lots of small ones
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		An established sector, where parish councils can be set up easily to an established model.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Include my area in Broomfield Parish Council, as this is the most relatable to residents here and we are only just outside the boundary	Parish Councils are established and very well appointed to cater for grass roots representation, especially after LGR is implemented.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
							Lawn Lane. This would encapsulate a lot of 'old Springfield' who already think of themselves as living in Springfield. Interestingly all of the local children attend	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It will keep it relevant to the area I live in, as I don't feel joining with a neighbouring ward would help, as they are big enough as they are anyway.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		We already have too many councils in Chelmsford, we don't need another level of bureaucracy and more opportunities for officials to say something is not their responsibility, it comes under a different council	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would create a group of elected representatives that would be focused on the interests and needs of central Chelmsford	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Change is needed but not too large as representation still needed and enough proximity for people to be heard	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Would actually have a group of people that would be working on making the area better. It is too hard financially out there to rely purely on Informal community organised groups. Not sure how well the Area committees would be ran and what the reality is of discussing an issue and then something being done about it. I don't know enough about other existing parishes so I can't comment.	I don't know		Not sure but it would have to be divided a bit as it is a big area with a lot of people living in it I guess
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Proximity to another parish would be most cost effective and builds on existing structures	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Springfield parish council is effective and active	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The reorganised councils under the government plans, will reduce the number of local councillors and make them represent a larger area - this will reduce the time they have to respond to and work with residents and reduce representation of local issues. Introducing the local parish will go some way to redressing that balance.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	My area should join an existing parish		Increase the size of an established parish council	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Simpler to merge with an existing parish	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Expanding parish level councils is not the right answer at the current moment. The wider reorganisations of councils accross Essex is a much greater threat to Chelmsford's governance. Chelmsford is a well run city, and it being forced to merge with any of the surrounding councils will do significant harm to the quality of Chelmsford's governance. As a city, and Essex's county town, it is simply absurd that Chelmsford City Council becoming a unitary authority in its own right, separate from other council mergers is not being considered. While Parish councils do much good work, and I would support them at most other times, the energy of the City Council right now needs to be focussed on resisting the LGR as far as possible rather than tinkering with parish level councils	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		if we are to have bigger unitary authorities its important to have local representation and who speak for the local area and give feedback particularly in areas of planning and developing local plans, provision of services . Also good to have a focus for delivering very local services like looking after green space, providing community facilities.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Not sure how other parish boundaries were drawn. I live in Old Moulsham and would like an 'Old Moulsham' focus in a parish council
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A parish council for the city centre area would be beneficial as it already houses a large number of people. It makes sense that they have their own parish council so that voices can be heard and actions taken more quickly than being absorbed by other parishes or one large council.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						This would be more money to spend out of a very poor pension
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Can see no benefit to the residents of this area, only extra costs to everybody including vulnerable pensioners trying to live off state pension.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Elected government is the only way it should work.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is more formal/official with funding from council tax	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	The north of the area where i live seems more aligned to the springfield parish than a city centre parish	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Better representation for this area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;	City Councillors would be democratically accountable to their constituents and would also provide a more robust link to the new unitary council. They would be better placed to influence/change decisions for the benefit of their constituents in that new unitary council than a neighbourhood forum or community association. Parish councils would only work if they had real political clout which they do not possess at the moment.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I am highly sceptical of the agenda behind the new proposed local government reorganisation in Essex. The loss of local representation and larger more inefficient unitary Councils will not serve the residents of Chelmsford and the surrounding parishes well. Chelmsford have always enjoyed the reputation of a fiscally well managed and responsible Council who have not wasted Council taxpayers money. I fear that this will be lost once they are amalgamated into a larger unitary council. The provision of a local community governance body would not be enough to compensate for the loss of influence and decision making power that Chelmsford Councilors will have in an enlarged unitary Council
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Can r select more than one option but would also consider joining with Writtle as on the border of that parish. But otherwise an elected council would be more democratic and hopefully would be representative of the local people hoping it is not too city centre focused as I'm on the border of the area	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Keeping some level of governance at a local level is important if unitary councils are implemented. Always believed smaller groups get things done and are more flexible than larger organisations
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I'd rather be represented democratically by a local council with a good knowledge of the area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The elected tier should hopefully take on board the interests of the local community it represents and should be apolitical. It should work entirely for the area it serves. It should be segregated into localised areas, perhaps using the template of writtle which is a successful parish as a guide to delivering such a project.	Divided into north, east, south and west		The four regional parishes (north, east, south and west) which equates to approximately 13,000 in each needs to have independently elected representatives, time limited with a clear constitution which serves and promotes the communities that they represent
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Waste of money that achieves nothing	I don't know		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		The Chelmsford City Council area has been run (as far as I understand) based on elected councillors. This has been paid for through baseline Council Tax at the level of the property rating. In 'Parish' areas an additional precept is paid, covering parish matters such as the village hall etc. THE CITY CENTRE IS NOT A VILLAGE! Therefore the existing Council Tax arrangement should remain where we pay nothing extra (and expect nothing extra). It is accepted that change will come, and that the same administrative tasks and personnel may not be retained. So be it - but don't change a thing that will increase costs to the residents of the city centre. We have put up with the city for all these years, during which time not a lot has changed, so we don't expect to pay extra for the status quo to continue. If you want an example, parking is devolved down to south essex parking partnership to manage, the main library is going nowhere and most community facilities are already run by local groups. ie Chelmsford Social Club, Chelmsford City FC (Athletics Stadium) etc. The establishment of a Unitary Authority should NOT COST a single penny more than standard Council Tax banding	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Don't do a thing. Just maintain Chelmsford City Council in its existing form.
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I'm not sure that there would be enough interest in informal community groups. I also feel that the city is a separate entity and although I live close to the boundary of an existing parish I identify with Chelmsford city and think we will need a separate elected tier to represent us.	Divided into north, east, south and west		I think Chelmsford city residents need some form of separate representation and I would not want the area to be subsumed into the surrounding parishes.
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is important for Chelmsford to retain a voice against the context of LGR. Roles and responsibilities though, must be clearly defined.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Either keep the whole of the unparished area together, or merge with other parishes so there is one large Parish Council covering the whole of Chelmsford.
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Democratic and regulated body works ensure fair and transparent governance with accountability	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		An elected tier if local government will lead to greater transparency and will allow residents to make their voices heard. It is a more democratic approach to governance.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think it's the strongest and most effective option where there is accountability and the potential for real results.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		I think there is a real need for those who care about their local environment to have a voice through local representation. There are so many issues in todays society that it really needs a coming together of people who want to improve standards for the people of the area. My only concern is there may be personal agendas and money wasted on vanity schemes. It will need some strong people to run it.
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We feel it would be the best and most fair option	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		There is no need for further councils, which do nothing to properly represent the residents, only the self serving interests of the councillors. I am not prepared to pay ANY more tax to cover more councils and get NOTHING in return.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I fully expect the views of the public to be ignored as they usually are by the council, who will just do what they like.
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	My area should join an existing parish		Chignal Road and Avon Road including allotments are very close to existing parishes (Writtle and Chignal); otherwise area groups may be less bureaucratic than a formally elected parish council in an area with diverse identities such as Melbourne, Moulsham, Waterhouse estate, central Chelmsford etc. CCC has done a good job to date.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	As qu 14	Thank you for asking
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		With a population of 50k+ the current unparished area should have an elected parish council. These new parish councillors can properly represent the views of the residents and business's.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		There should be a new parish for the city centre and be covered like all other areas. It's important to have a lower level voice and community that can make local community decisions rather than having to go into larger councils to get money or make community decisions.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		Part of me feels that it would be easier to join Broomfield parish as we are on the cusp of the parish, however part of me feels a new 'Central' parish should be created which reflects where my property is based. If joining an existing parish, there's always an argument of the boundary lines who's in and who's out, so it would be easier to use the current unparished area to create a new one.
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		More local governance in necessary in my view.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would have a greater say in decisions for Chelmsford	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Local voice needed if no City Council.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Better local governance.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It's democratic and allows the ability swap out poor performing councillor's/parties.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I'd also be okay to merge with an existing Parish council
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						

Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Already feel part of Broomfield parish council	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Lots of residents in this area already use many of the facilities in Broomfield, such as church, library and schools						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Elected parish council would have a degree of electoral mandate	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
	Somewhere else that is already parished								Springfield	The boundaries	During the last re-organisation Springfield Parish was divided to form three parishes. The current Springfield Parish is now too small and only contains the suburb of North Springfield. Apart from the Parish Centre, it has no identity or character. Identity would come if Springfield Parish was combined with the adjoining unparished village of Springfield, as was originally expected during the previous re-organisation.	No	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		We prefer to belong to our local bordering parish which we thought we already did! Traditional and democratic. Small is beautiful!	I don't know		This is not easy to comprehend. We want to have a legal right to decide what happens in our area by voting as local residents in small areas/parishes in the traditional sense of a small area not a large area, where matters concerning local issues are decided by us not the government or a larger entity					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		Probably the cheapest option. I assume that this will only entail adding an extra councillor for our area.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Seems the easiest option.	No					
	Somewhere else that is already parished								Writtle	Nothing - it is fine as it is			Writtle Parish Council wish to reiterate the council and local residents original response to the previous CGR that the boundaries of Writtle and the number of councillors should remain unchanged.
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		The Lawns are closely associated with Springfield, therefore should join Springfield Parish.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Including the Lawns area would benefit the residents to have a more local voice						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish councils seem to work well in other areas.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Goverment groups can be more accountable and professional than committees	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Consistent with other layers of local government and could be elected at the same time. Would help ensure a voice and representation within current structures. Could potentially be less prominent / recognised if an area committee / informal organised group.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Based on existing arrangements would be consistent with other areas and would fit with the broader local government approach.					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;	I strongly oppose the area becoming parished - we don't need another tier of local government. Parish councils are often very unrepresentative of the communities they oversee, and too often become vehicles for narrow interests that do not reflect the diversity and views of the whole community. Instead, area committees of already elected councillors is a more appropriate solution.	I don't know							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		If when ECC disappears and Chelmsford joins 2 or more other local authorities then we should have elected councillors to represent the city centre of Chelmsford	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		This would provide formal governance and representation at local level, which is currently missing. There are already many existing informal, community and non-governmental groups (e.g. charities and BID) that serve various purposes in the City Centre unparished area, so I do not think another one will add as much value.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		The unparished area lacks a formal community space, and as someone who is involved with a number of local groups and organisations (formal and informal), this is keenly felt as a missing asset. I would hope that a parish council, with formal powers, would be able to secure such a community asset (among other things)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Greater democratic representation	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is important for local representatives to be elected to a new Parish style council for the governance of the unparished area. Local representation for local people is paramount in our democracy, having local people representing local people will allow for more intelligent deployment of resources on local schemes and provide a new point of contact for any local issues rather than going straight to the city council.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No											
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Chelmsford City Council should remain untouched as there is no democratic mandate for local government reorganisation, as there has been not democracy referendum to warrant such a change at this magnitude.	Divided into north, east, south and west		If you want to deliver meaningful change, then change the voting system to Proportionate Representation where everyone's vote matters and have equal weight and					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		To ensure that we are represented by people we have chosen who have some form of accountability and the ability to actually make meaningful changes.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		An elected tier such as being suggested means that those who live in the area will have some input into local issues which I fear will disappear once the new unitary authorities come into force. We need to be properly represented.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Chelmsford is well run and the central part needs representation.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		My area should have a voice - no clear reason to join another parish unless Government forced	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		In the new structure, UA councillors will have large area and populations to cover and they will be heavily pressured by their statutory duties. It makes sense to have a body of people that can concentrate on purely Chelmsford matters.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		In 15 I mean that there should be one council covering most or all of the current unparished area (there may be sense in moving areas like Springfield to existing parishes)					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Local councils can deal with local issues	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The area needs it's own representation, at present it's lost in the main Council and virtually run by the businesses. BID	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		All areas need their own individual parish.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		N/a					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	None/no changes at this level		More expense for little results, another layer of bureaucracy.	Divided into north, east, south and west		Chelmsford City Council, and their staff in particular, do a great job and have done for many years. My only concern is the useless crowd at County Hall get absorbed into the re-organised county set up, in which case a parish council is probably needed.					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It's important to have local representation by people who understand the local problems.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We need elected representatives that are familiar with its problems	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		City centre issues are different from rural areas					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would give us a local option to plan any local issues etc	Divided into north, east, south and west							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish council is necessary to make sure local issues are taken into account in any decision making by any body	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		The area of central Chelmsford cannot be left without Parish Council representation. LOCAL democracy would be thrown out of the window without parish council representation.					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I think this is an established form of governance and would match with how the other areas of Chelmsford are governed at this level.	I don't know		My main concern with creating a new central parish is to do with how parks would be managed. The central area contains Central Park and most of Admirals Park - these are widely used by people from all over the wider Chelmsford area so having them governed by just a locally represented council seems unfair. I enjoy the range of events held in Central Park, even though [REDACTED] they can be noisy at times. I wouldn't want a inwardly-focused parish council to change this as I think it benefits the wider community.					
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Waste of time and money	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		The residents of Forest Drive all live on the boundary of Writtle or Chignal areas.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	It may be cheaper for local residents to merge with another parish run council and share resources, events, etc and be represented	None					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Council tax is already extortionate. Having to pay extra for power-hungry, self-aggrandising parish councillors seems a waste of money especially as there's no fixed cost. I'm sure it would be the higher amount rather than a smaller amount. No thanks.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Need to be officially elected and have power to make decisions. Rather than being too informal.	I don't know							
	Somewhere else that is already parished								Broomfield	The boundaries	The southern boundary of Broomfield Parish has overtime become muddled and confused, with next door neighbours being either inside or outside the parish. The parish council would like to propose a redefining of this boundary so that the dividing line runs along Oliver Way, Patching Hall Lane (outside the St John Payne School) crossing the main Broomfield Road and extending along Fifth Avenue. Residents in this area frequently believe that they are in the parish when they are not, despite their postal addresses including Broomfield. The parish council believe that with the parishing of central Chelmsford, that all bordering parish boundaries should be	No	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Limited benefit resulting from change. So if it isn't broken then don't fix it.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		1: Under LGR, decision-makers will inevitably be more remote. The 50,000 people in the unparished area will be a fairly small proportion of the unitary area. So there's a high risk decisions affecting us that we cannot control if they're left to the unitary. For example, if money is tight, we could find cuts in our public toilets, our street care and even our parks. A parish/town council for our area would give us the option of keeping these services instead of losing them, as has happened in some other counties (e.g. Somerset, Shropshire). 2: The concerns I hear is that parishes pay a precept and therefore council tax would go up. That's not necessarily so - it could even go down. It's true that parishes pay a separate council tax precept on top of the amount paid to the City Council. But the special expenses regime means that residents of the unparished area pay extra for the same services, it's just part of a higher precept we pay to the City Council. For example, in 2025-26, residents of Mashbury pay less than those in the unparished area, and the council tax bills of residents of Chignal, Margaretting, Roxwell and Stock are within around 1% of those in the unparished area, an insignificant difference given the potential levelling up of only council tax bills once we merge with Brentwood, Maldon and especially Epping Forest and Harlow. 3: With the imminent demise of Chelmsford City Council, we need a means of retaining City status. Whilst other solutions have been suggested, the neatest and simplest is to transfer City status to a new town council for the unparished area, enabling Chelmsford City Council to emerge from LGR as the dust settles.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		My main comments are above. I would also support making minor transfers to tidy up the boundaries. For example, I'd move the Broomfield and Chignal parish boundaries northwards to re-establish a green gap between Chelmsford and the villages, with housing just north of Newlands Spring, plus Emberson Croft, and the development at Warren Farm and proposed sites SGS18 and SGS19 into the new central Chelmsford parish.					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would give us the same powers and representation as presumably the other Chelmsford parishes have.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help.;	Less political bias	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		An elected tier offers representation for residents with a level of accountability that is stronger than for informal community groups.	Divided into north, east, south and west							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;	Parish Councils are an unnecessary layer of local bureaucracy that charge a precept on council tax for doing exactly the same duties an area committee would do more professionally and at a lower cost. They also tie into religion which is increasingly inappropriate in our heterogeneous and largely secular society. Even the initial spend on securing and maintaining a parish hall and employing a parish clerk is considerable, and unwarranted. Area committees are the best option because they combine the political heft of elected members from a top-tier local authority with representation from the local community, the mix most likely to effect change. Only in very large authorities of over half a million residents might those advantages be lost, which Chelmsford hopefully won't be locked into. With all due respect to pastoral councillors, many are elected unopposed and therefore face no real test of their abilities through either candidate selection or the ballot box. As a result, a good number are unsuited to local governance and simply wish to wield influence locally without any concern for their fellow residents. Top-tier councillors are less likely to allow personal interests to affect their decisions as they are subject to more scrutiny and know they will have opponents in the next election. They will also be more aware of any wider context to their decisions from their other council work. I would therefore much rather have elected representatives from a top-tier local authority (supported and advised by a properly staffed democratic services team) ensuring residents' voices are heard in the area they were elected to serve than potentially an unelected local busy body advised by one clerk. The other alternatives, a residents' or community association, lack political power or a guaranteed budget and are therefore less likely to effect real change.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						More council= more wasted money. Scale it back don't grow it bigger					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		I live adjacent to Springfield Parish yet I am included in the City Centre despite living in Springfield. The current Parish has an arbitrary boundary of Lawn lane. I feel closer to Springfield than the Town Centre.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	The Lawns Ward should be included in the Springfield Parish boundary. Possibly even parts of Trinity Ward, such as the area between Arbour Lane and the river before the railway line.	The Parish Council has already submitted an official response; [REDACTED]. Many residents who live on the estates between Lawn Lane and the river, or Arbour Lane and the river, genuinely believe they are part of Springfield Parish Council. Parish is about place. It does not make sense that whilst I am clearly geographically located in Springfield, I am currently included in the unparished City Centre area					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		We currently participate in many activities provided by Springfield Parish. [REDACTED], we shop within the area. we use the facilities at the Comunity Centre (tho we cannot claim any residential discounts. I have volunteered [REDACTED]. We feel prt f Springfield parish	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Springfield Hall area to be part of Springfield Parish	No more					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I want local councillors to represent my views. I think they need to be locally accountable to the public and the only way this can be done is through democratic elections.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		None of the other arrangements allows my/our voice to be heard directly on issues important to living in this locality.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I would prefer a formal [illegible]	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		It would be better [illegible]					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Less remote than higher-tier council. Councillors and staff with local knowledge.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I live in the city centre [illegible]	I don't know							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would increase engagement [illegible]	I don't know		I think that anyone elected [illegible]					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Historically Springfield [illegible]	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	Somewhere else that is already parished								Broomfield	Nothing - it is fine as it is			
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						We don't need another layer [illegible]					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Elected Parish Councils [illegible]	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council [illegible]	Creating a parish level council [illegible]	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	[illegible]	Please lower taxes, not raise them!					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		I feel represented by Springfield already	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		[illegible] option of "Parish-tier councils" as the form of community governance to give local residents a greater say over local matters in our parish. The reason for this is that: a) we strongly believe that more local representation is better for our parish community, as this provides greater local knowledge of needs and opportunities, and most likely greater responsiveness and agility - especially as local government representation at the district Council level will be via much larger authorities in future b) we believe that parish-tier councils are a proven form of community governance c) as a community-focused church we would value a relationship with a more local body within our parish in order to collaborate to support and grow the community d) if there is no local government organisation representing our local parish community, we would lack an organisation that can convene the whole parish community for the good of the community, and while we are active within the local community, we as an Anglican parish church do not have the mandate and resources to provide this convening function	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can	Allows community participation without the bureaucracy of parish councils	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Equal population						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier		We live in a largely residential area without any democratic representation at local level.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier		Having elected members is important. This would also be consistent with other areas of Chelmsford which have parish councils.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier		Needs better service	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council	Because Parish Councils are often undemocratic with members co-opted rather than voted in. They have little or no scrutiny and are poorly run and offer a bad value for money	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier		Distant governance I believe would lead to poor understanding of local areas	Divided into north, east, south and west							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council	.	I don't know		.					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I live in an area very close and similar to Springfield Parish, indeed, within less than 10 minutes walk of the Parish Church. It would be more efficient for parts of the unparished area to join a suitable adjacent functioning parish than to form a single new one covering a much more diverse area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Electoral Wards ought to mirror the new Parishes. To have more than one political boundary does not seem to make sense. It might be necessary to have more than one Ward in a Parish, but boundaries should be common, thereby dividing a parish into electoral units					
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Galleywood	Nothing - it is fine as it is			

Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Without a smaller local body we will only have governance and the opportunity for representation at the whole authority level. This is in contrast to the parished areas who will still have local governance. The city Council worked really well but we need something to replace this under the new structure.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		It is vital that we don't lose our local representation and are then disadvantaged in comparison to the parished areas of Chelmsford.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		We are one road away from springfield parish border, therefore would be better to join them and be able to boost the finances and use facilities and elected officials of the parish.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Structure is already in place therefore would be able to use experience to help take in new areas												
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Joining an existing parish area would help new parish councillors because they could join with experienced parish Councillors for meetings and work	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	I'm in the [REDACTED] west part of Chelmsford... there is melbourne and Newlands spring adjacent ...I feel it would be good for my neighbourhood to join with Broomfield Parish Council. This would include chignal estate and melbourne with Newlands spring, Hollow Lane, St Andrews Park and onwards to Broomfield...the bus service C2 connects chignal estate and melbourne and Newlands spring to Broomfield Hospital............when the discussion of the housing of sunflower field was discussed it was allocated to writtle which I feel is wrong as quite clearly there is Roxwell Road as a boundary between writtle and chignal estate .....I feel more connected to Broomfield because I can travel to Broomfield on the bus [REDACTED]....I can walk to Newlands spring [REDACTED]....I cannot walk to Writtle it is too far and I would have to go into the town centre just to get a bus to	Broomfield parish to be supported and funded to include chignal estate melbourne, Newlands spring hollow Lane and any new housing....in future a new community centre could be built with high quality design to meet the needs of current and new communities built in future years situated on high ground above any flood risk from the Brooks ,streams and rivers in the area.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know																	
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We would benefit from a local council in the unparished areas to benefit the local community	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government.:	as few tiers as possible	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		We are only just outside the border of Broomfield, and feel that we use the facilities there already, this would make sense	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	By BBC extending each of the existing boundaries slightly, the unrepresented area can be absorbed into the existing structure without too much costly bureaucracy. Then when elections are next due the new residences can be included	When we moved to Chelmsford I was surprised we were not in a parish already.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Previous attempts to have a local volunteer group to support old moulsham voices failed only option is to have a formal parish council to cover the old moulsham area	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I feel strongly that there should be a more local tier and parish councils work elsewhere. I would be happy with a Town council but that is not on offer.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		It would have been helpful to see a map of the above suggestions and the population each would cover compared with neighbouring parishes as there is not really enough information to decide here.											
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Galleywood	Nothing - it is fine as it is									
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Think it would work well to have a new, individual voice	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Great Baddow	Nothing - it is fine as it is									The area of Waterson Vale, Goodwin Close and Bawden that is within Great Baddow should remain in Great Baddow. Although the road connections are with Chelmsford Central, the nearest shops, schools and community facilities are nearby within Great Baddow by footpath
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	My area should join an existing parish		The unparished area is very varied and one new parish council would likely not represent the needs of the residents. It would make more sense for the unparished area to be divided and areas join the closest existing parish.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into. ;Neighbourhood Forums - These are community-led groups involved in shaping policies. The unitary council might consult with them on upcoming plans and initiatives and sometimes unitary councillors can be members of the forum. They are mostly self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government :	My experience of parish councils in other areas are that they are less representative of their local community than other structures. Generally older and more male. This leads to very local decisions that can be biassed in favour of certain sections of the community. I would prefer a structure that would activity encourage engagement from a diverse section of the community - especially for the central areas of Chelmsford that tend to include more diverse communities than the surrounding villages or suburban areas. The very central area should also include business representation. This could be a good opportunity to try more innovative ways of engaging communities - Citizen Panels; jury style structures where people are selected based on the demographic make up of the area; a board of representatives from relevant community groups - including school governors, local councillors, businesses, charities, faith groups, environment/ nature/ sports etc depending on the assets within the boundaries of the area. Actively trying to include a more diverse set of representatives than historic parish council which are largely self-selecting even if elected.	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		The area is too fragmented to have a community organisation so it needs to be elected	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		There is a good response to elections and it is the democratic form of representation. The residents do take a keen interest in local matters.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
I don't know	The currently unparished city centre area	No						We already have councillors for this. why have another ineffective layer of Government, More costs on the Council tax payer											
	Somewhere else that is already parished								Springfield	The number of councillors	As beaulieu is growing Springfield is shrinking			There should be less councillors	Less councillors		Yes	The boundaries	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Hopefully this would give the most balanced input.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help :	Elected members get into positions with minimum votes. They are then driven largely by their own egos or their own interests. A group of interested people working in consultation with other local people are likely to be more effective	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						Absolutely no need to increase the council tax for an irrelevant reason. Being in a previously parish area, I can honestly say they don't provide any benefits to anyone and yet cost more. All the parishes should be removed											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		We already have close ties with Broomfield parish. Many of our children are bussed into Broomfield schools.	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	I don't know	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Area committees - Formed by groups of councillors from a 'bigger' council, they would meet to discuss and manage local matters and an agreed budget relating to their local area. By the time changes are made, this would be the new council that Chelmsford City Council merges into :	I think because of legalities it needs to be some form of government intervention but we do need people that actually live in the area	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish tier councils give the local people the opportunity to have a say and hopefully be listened to and their opinions put forward	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No																	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		No requirement, waste of money	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		This area already has a great community feel, however for this to be formalised and creating a city centre that feels truly governed locally for the benefit of both the local residents and to support and encourage visitors to this city.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Having had lots of experience of parish councils they can be very useful in rural areas. However urban areas are already covered by local councillors or ad hoc arrangements for example for responding to planning applications. I think introducing a new tier would be pointless and would be better served by local councillors representing the wards.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		This is working fine at present please don't just change things for the sake of it. Let the council do it's job.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help.;Residents Associations - These can be set up by any group of local people. They choose how they are represented and what their goals are. They are largely self-funded, but can receive grants and support from the unitary council or government :	As our area is already unparished, it should be up to residents to decide on local issues	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		We are a big enough area to be our own parish											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't think adding another level of bureaucracy will achieve anything other than additional costs to the residents and will only benefit self-serving, 'connected' local wannabes, not the everyday people in community. Having lived, paid tax and observed politics in the area for [REDACTED], I know that regardless of what system is in place the man in the street will not have real representation. Councillors (and MPs) just get paid more and have expense accounts to keep them in line with the public sector, whilst cutting services. In my opinion, the less councillors we have, the better.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I understand the need for parish councils in rural areas, but not in the Chelmsford city area.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It would maintain a distinctly local level of representation when the proposed local government reorganisation will replace our existing City Council with a larger authority.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		Would have to pay more council tax like other parishes do. At the end of the day we live in the citiffdf	I don't know													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It is important to have a local say in decisions, especially if chelmsford council is merged into a larger council that will have less connection and knowledge of the issues of the local area.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We do not have a real sense of community nor any specific local help or idea: eg helping environment by planting areas that are just grass, encourage garden trees in pots if necessary on front paths, turn St John's village hall into a real community centre for all sure start, youth centre etc	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No																	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Area of reasonable size with a number of schools - either a new parish council or join Springfield	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		B	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		B											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		To ensure local representation, should the Chelmsford City Council be disbanded in the LGR.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		There is insufficent evidence presented in the briefing that 'parish councils' (or other arrangements) deliver value for money.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I believe that more local representation is better for our community, as this provides greater local knowledge of needs and opportunities, and most likely greater responsiveness and agility - especially as local government representation at the district Council level will be via much larger authorities in future Parish-tier councils are a proven form of community governance If there is no local government organisation representing our local community, we would lack an organisation that can convene the whole community for the good of the community	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Moulsham Lodge has a local Community organisation in Moulsham Lodge Community Trust (MLCT), they deliver a range of events and activities for the local and wider communities. Funding is always an ongoing challenge to run both the building and the activities. By changing to a parish we would be able to potentially charge a precept that could fund a parish building and more events and activities that benefit local communities. Also a parish would have the ability to raise funding and loans to improve the space MLCT already have, with either a new community building or extending the Community Station to provide more space. For many years unparished areas have not benefited from the precept that is collected for the city centre, so it would be a fairer democratic position to be in where local representatives decide where money is spent locally	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		A potential parish for Moulsham Lodge would be to link it to Goat Hall ward (tile kiln)											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Have more say	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It will function as its neighbours already do	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A proven form of local governance that puts the central Chelmsford area on an equal footing with surrounding parish councils	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't want one	I don't know		I do not believe a Parish council is necessary - it's another level of governance without teeth and without money - I have dealt with various parish councils in the UK and none have impressed me - we pay enough in Council tax now - why should we pay more for something that will not produce results											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						I am not sure what benefit these reorganization will have on the people living in Chelmsford beside increasing their Council Rates. where are the details of cost saving with combining into a larger unit and the benefits.											
I don't know	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		If people live in the area they understand the issues and put local views first.	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I feel the City centre should keep its own identity	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		Merging with other councils will mean poorer and more stretched local services. Local voices need to be heard.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Newland spring should join either Broomfield or Chignal.	Chelmsford must not join with Harlow which has a number of significant issues. Brentwood and Maldon would be better.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It will mean our needs and request to be represented and heard more closely.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Representation locally to serve our local needs and give representation for the area	Divided into north, east, south and west		Moulsham as an area should be recognised and we fall into that in my opinion											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Seems best option	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	We are near Broomfield so join that	No											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No																	
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Other areas within Chelmsford are served by elected members. The Central area should be afforded the same.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		Representation is important so that our voices and opportunity to influence is not lost when the inevitable council mergers happen.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No						Stay the same no Parish Council or anything that means paying more!											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I chose the parish tier option based of what I read, it will be better represented the voice of local people.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		LGR will result in larger areas represented by fewer councillors	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		As I put forward in the most recent review, the unparished areas, including Old Moulsham, suffer from the lack of representation at parish level. Whilst we have local city councillor representation, they are inevitably having to look at issues affecting the City as a whole as well as more local issues. That is a tall order and it would be preferable for the two outlooks to be separated, so that there is local representation which considers local issues. That would best be achieved by the establishment of a parish council which is a tried and tested form of representation. These arguments apply under the current local government arrangements. They apply with even greater force if the creation of unitary authorities goes ahead. Anticipating the next question, the new parish councils should be based on recognised areas of community, such as Old Moulsham. A broader based city centre parish councils should would not be seen as sufficiently local and would not therefore command local support to the same degree.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		As noted above, I would press for a parish council for Old Moulsham as being a recognised local community area which could work with other Old Moulsham organisations (such as local churches) to foster and promote the interests of local residents.											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Needs to be local, needs to be democratic- ie elected.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We need to have a local voice.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It works for the rest of Essex, Chelmsford centre is one of the very few areas that are unparished, and really need representation.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	I live in what most people would describe as Springfield, but it is not in the Springfield Parish. I believe this area (Lawns district ward) would be better suited to join Springfield Parish Council rather than a new central Chelmsford Town/Parish council												
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		[REDACTED] many of the residents believe they are actually already come under Springfield Parish Council. The area has a unique identity, and is very much known as 'Springfield'. There is more in common with the area that comes under Springfield Parish Council than the city centre, so if the area were to be parishes it would make sense to join with the existing parish.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Springfield (Lawns city district ward) has it's identity as 'Springfield'. For the area to fall under a more central parish would not fit with the makeup of the area. Springfield (Lawns) really should fall under an expanded Springfield Parish Council												
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Ace your say in local matters	Divided into north, east, south and west													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		A parish tier council could raise funds for, and then provide, the nice to have services that the unitary council will find hard to provide given pressures on council budgets by statutory services. Residence of Central Chelmsford deserve to have local people taking decisions on local matters not a huge unitary council	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	I'd like to see one council for the urban area of Chelmsford, though there is an argument that areas to the East of teh River and North of Springfield Road should be included in the Springfield Parish												
	The currently unparished city centre area	No						We do not want central Chelmsford to have a parish or tiered council											
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		It fits with th3 existing system. In fact, I though we were represented at parish level.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		To date the 51,000 people in the unparished have been content with the arrangement that they are unparished. None of the local councillors, local parties have previously been visible in promoting this change, nor has there been a ground swell of agitation for this change.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		The printed consultation document uses the phrases 'we think', 'we believe', 'your preferred' within it's text, this is somewhat disambiguous as Chelmsford is an organisation that is promoting its own demise under the forthcoming LGR. Were a parish and it's precept to be established: using your quoted annual rate precept of (say) lowest, average and highest band D precepts, the annual income generated would equate to £1.1M, £2.6M and £8.5M respectively. As the only use suggested for these addition monies appears to be facilities for retention of the hat and robes of the existing Mayor, a recurring collection of up to £8.5M p.a for a glorified cupboard seems rather overblown. Further, once LGR occurs: it will be for the new Authority to determine the fate of these and other historical artefacts.											
I don't know	The currently unparished city centre area	No																	
No	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Closer to local people	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I am sympathetic to putting lawns into Springfield											
No	Somewhere else that is already parished								Great Baddow	Nothing - it is fine as it is									The Waterson Vale area has links to Great Baddow for shops and schools therefore it should remain in Great Baddow.
No	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Living in a parish myself, the benefits of having a parish council works really well, it enhances the community feeling and makes local politics easier to get involved with and understand and everyone within my parish have the best interests of our parish in their hearts	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)													

Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I wanted to select 2 options but system would not let me do that. "An elected tier of local government... " OR "My area should join an existing parish"	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Part of Woodhall, the Avenues & North Melbourne could join Broomfield or it could be a standalone parish.						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		Keeping decision and support for and in the local area.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Local for Moulsham Lodge and Great Baddow abd Tile Kiln but not Central Chelmsford.						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with four or more authorities (population approx 564,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Parish councils would be democratically elected and able to deal with issues at the very local level leaving the higher tier councils to concentrate on strategic matters.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Local representation after LGR when Chelmsford City Council will no longer exist.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I think that the idea of forming a parish council should be considered when we know the details of LGR I think the current proposal has been rushed forward to protect jobs and benefits enjoyed by current employees and not necessarily for the benefit of the residents. Already there is talk of buying property, wages and compensation. there there is mention of a possible saving of £380 million saved by 2040, but no details of income and expenditure to justify these figures. The whole plan for a parish council has not been explained	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		No changes needed	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		No changes needed	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Central unparished area needs town council to ensure local involvement in local decisions under LGR	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		The current arrangement works. Would prefer no change and want to keep central Chelmsford unparished for reasons below. I am assuming that Chelmsford central area would still be provided with service but decided by the new unitary authority where hopefully Chelmsford City Council staff will be still working and providing expertise on local Chelmsford area: •Current arrangements via Chelmsford City Council work well already. •We, in the central area of Chelmsford are already represented by current councillors. •Chelmsford City Council has years of experience and expertise in service delivery, governance, policy, processes, legal aspects, has accountability. This is already applied across the central unparished area. •The tax would be maintained at a lower level / with no additional parish tax. Parish charges differ and any additional parish tax amount is unspecified and unpredictable. •Power of larger council budgets may be more economical across a wider area and has greater buying power than a smaller parish budget. •We currently understand what we are likely to receive in our area and standards of delivery - parishes may differ in consistency of service delivery according to very local choice decided by fewer people. I cannot see any benefits at the moment of a new central Chelmsford parish. Would a parish have the ability to overturn unitary authority decisions within their parish; for example if the new authority decided to sell an allotment or community centre or land, could the parish prevent the sale? A new parish can lead to duplication of, or additional tasks overall. Who would manage, monitor, govern, understand legal aspects, maintain standards, and accept accountability for parish services? Would current Chelmsford City Council staff be required to transfer their jobs to a parish employer or be made redundant when perhaps a parish decides to employ a private contractor to deliver a service? Would a parish "own" the community building, the land it is built on, the allotment site?	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together		I cannot see any benefits at the moment of a new central Chelmsford parish. Lack of initial expertise across within a smaller parish staff establishment, not set up with policy, processes, regulation, governance, employees etc. A new parish can lead to duplication of, or additional tasks overall. Who would manage, monitor, govern, understand legal aspects, maintain standards, and accept accountability for parish services? Would current Chelmsford City Council staff be required to transfer their jobs to a parish employer or be made redundant when perhaps a parish decides to employ a private contractor to deliver a service? Would a parish "own" the community building, or the land it is built on, the allotment site? Would a parish have the ability to overturn unitary authority decisions					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		If an elected tier of local government works for other parts of Chelmsford, it ought to work here as well.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I think a parish council is a waste of money and just a way of electing more councillors who do very little for the local area.	Keep the whole of the currently unparished							
	Somewhere else that is already parished								Springfield	The boundaries	[illegible]	No	[illegible]
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		There is no appetite for another layer of local government. This is only being pushed for party political reasons and it would be a poor use of taxpayer money. The consultation itself may face legal challenge.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		A parish-tier Council in the current unparished area of Chelmsford is not an optimal solution for the following reasons: 1. Increased Financial Burden (Council Tax Precept) Unlike the City or County Council, parish councils are funded by a "precept," an additional charge added to residents' Council Tax bills. While the average Band D parish precept in Chelmsford is approximately £51.38 per year, existing parish charges in the district range as high as £167.13 (Danbury). This adds financial pressure to household budgets during a period of high living costs. 2. Risk of Bureaucracy and Inefficiency A new parish council covering a large urban area is an unnecessary extra layer of bureaucracy that may complicate local decision-making rather than simplify it. Creating another tier can lead to fragmentation and isolation, where adjacent local councils struggle to work together					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		To have the same type of representation as the surrounding parishes.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
No	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Needed for better local representation.	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	It would make sense that a Town Council should be formed for those residents living near to the town centre. [REDACTED] Holy Trinity Church, Springfield. However the church building is closer to the town centre than it is to Springfield. This reflects the fact that the ecumenical parish of Springfield was much larger in the 19th century. However the church of All Saints, Springfield is very much at the heart of Springfield and it would make sense if the older parts of Springfield came under the present Springfield Parish Council. Residents near to the town centre would have concerns about keeping buildings for community use, the use of allotments, the provision of green spaces and play areas. Having town and parish councillors would help to maintain the identity of their areas,. Councillors on the unitary authority from further afield would not have knowledge of the local context						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		Provide community-level representation and decision-making within the larger LGR structures. An elected council equivalent to existing parish councils seems most appropriate. Suggest keeping unparished area together if that minimises need for additional funding costs	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		We have no local consultations for local residents on local issues that matter to us. Our City Councillor may necessarily not live in our area.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		We need better communication with the City and County council. The County Council is very remote, it's impossible to speak to any officer there and our lives are being badly impacted Ona daily basis. For example, the introduction of electric scooters by ECC who have no idea what impact these have on residents and how dangerous they are. A parish council would give us a voice that must be listened to.					
	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I do not think a parish-tier Council for the current unparished area is practical or sensible. I would prefer to see no changes made. However, if there needs to be a change, it should be to an Area Committee as this would be more cost effective and less bureaucratic, being connected to the larger Authority post-LGR.	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)		An Area Committee would make more sense than a parish tier Council for the urban area of Chelmsford. We do not want increased bureaucracy or the cost of funding a parish-tier Council in the urban area, especially given that parish-tier Councils have little real power anyway. I feel strongly that no parish/ward boundaries should be					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - but only if LGR sees Chelmsford merge with two very large or more than two other authorities (population over 420,000)	An elected tier of local government e.g. parish tier councils		I want decisions made locally. I don't agree with merging CCC with other councils	Based on existing electoral arrangements (such as City Council wards)							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	None/no changes at this level		I don't believe any of the options would give residents any more of a voice than they have now,eg "Community created groups usually don't have any decision-making powers, but the bigger councils can consult with them. They can't charge tax, but they find other ways to raise funds for community schemes." Just a tickbox exercise.extra layers of bureaucracy same old arguments as now city blaming county and vice versa	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	Happy to look at suggestions	If the county council and the City Council worked more harmoniously together in the interest of the council taxpayers, and not keep trying to make political points,we could have a city to be proud of sadly, Chelmsford city has declined over the years costs are going up to the general public which deters people from going into the city. Council taxpayers and businesses are treated like cash cows. The parish council option could work, but it doesn't need paid counsellors smaller parish councils have volunteer counsellors a much better base to work on.I would need to know what the parish council would be responsible for. If it's for grass, cutting and maintenance et cetera will the bigger councils charge less as they have less work to do. parish councils will need an office and staff. What work wouldn't be done if we didn't go down the parish council route.I sincerely hope you listen to the residents and don't treat people in this exercise as you would in a CCG					
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	Area committees or informal community organised groups	Neighbourhood or Community Associations - Membership of these groups is open to everyone in the area. They organise local activities and represent community interests and may have a community centre or hall as a base for their activities. They should agree a constitution to govern their operations. They are largely self-funded, but as above, can receive help :	I think this is the option that would appeal to the majority with membership being open to everyone there should be a good mix of ideas and opinions and residents should get a real feel of the association belonging to them	Keep the whole of the currently unparished area together							
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	Yes - no matter what happens with LGR	My area should join an existing parish		I think the unparished area shold be apportioned to the surrounding parishes	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	see answer above						
Yes	The currently unparished city centre area	No	My area should join an existing parish		The surrounding parishes to be alloted a portion of this unparished area	Something else e.g. include my area in an existing parish council	see the answer above						