

# **ECC Report January 2026**

## **Continued opposition to Norwich to Tilbury proposals**



We have reiterated our concerns about National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury proposal. This will see 100 miles of pylons installed.

At the end of November, we submitted further objections to the Planning Inspectorate.

These include concerns over the impact on the Dunton Hills Garden Village, a development in Brentwood of 4,000 new homes. National Grid's proposed route runs close to the site.

We have provided evidence of how the proposals impact the site. This showed that pylons so close to the development could harm housing and land values. They could also affect affordable housing and essential infrastructure for the garden village. The final plans still lack detail on how these impacts will be mitigated.

Our latest submission also raises concerns such as:

- There is an unrealistic delivery deadline. Completing the project by 2030 is overly ambitious. It will put significant pressure on communities and the highways network
- Offshore alternatives have not been fully explored or costed
- There is a lack of social value and compensation plans. There is still no substantial detail on how affected communities will benefit
- The plans do not address the additional road capacity needed to transport materials and access installation sites

Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, said: “It is only right that we continue to challenge National Grid’s approach. Many communities across Essex and the East of England will be affected. Their best interests must be at the heart of any decisions.

“While we continue to scrutinise the plans, it’s clear many of our concerns remain unresolved.

“We fully support alternative energy, but these plans fail to properly explore all options and their impact.”

On July 2024 we said:

*“We recently confirmed our opposition to hundreds of pylons being installed through Essex.*

*National Grid has updated its plans to build 183 kilometres of pylons. These would run between Norwich and Tilbury and are expected to stand 50 metres tall.*

*There would also be a large substation in Tendring. This is in addition to four sections of underground cabling.*

*However, National Grid’s updated plans do not justify why the project needs to be delivered by 2030.*

*There is also a lack of evidence for the project being delivered by onshore technology. Alternative options have not been fully considered.*

*Furthermore, the plans do not show how Essex will benefit from the pylons. This includes any social value or community benefit funding.*

*Instead, we expect a significant impact on our road network. Developers could use the county’s highways and public rights of way to access key sites.*

*We therefore stand with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils against National Grid's plans.*

*Lesley Wagland, Deputy to the Leader with principal accountabilities on Major Infrastructure Projects and Freeports, said: "National Grid's current plans for the Norwich to Tilbury pylon project remain wide of the mark of what is acceptable to the people of Essex and fail to consider the long-term impact it would have on Essex, with very little offered by way of social value and community benefits.*

*"The plans are not just for pylons, cabling and substations, but what appears to be a temporary road network simply to allow developers access to the land needed for this project. This in turn will churn up the green belt, undermine the viability of much-needed high quality local housing, worsen the condition of our roads and risk bringing Essex to a standstill, when the need for this project on National Grid's current timetable remains unproven.*

*"I urge National Grid to now conduct a full and frank analysis of the responses they have received, what this will mean for Essex and the impact of alternative options."*

**And on June 2023 we said:**

*"The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury. It will be made up mostly of overhead line and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation.*

*Residents, landowners, businesses, individuals or groups can take part in the consultation.*

*We are also being consulted on the proposals, with our neighbours Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council. All three councils have already raised concerns to the initial consultation undertaken last year.*

*Together with our partners we have expressed further concerns about the latest plans.*

*Cllr Lesley Wagland OBE, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, said:*

*We have continued to work with our city, district and borough councils and neighbouring county councils of Norfolk and Suffolk to discuss the Norwich to Tilbury project.*

*We remain fully committed to our net-zero ambitions and appreciate this involves building infrastructure to connect renewable energy sources to the National Grid. However, we believe this can be far better achieved by viable alternative means, without the detrimental impact to our residents, businesses and the local environment that would be caused by the current proposals.*

*We will continue to push for changes to the proposals, and I would urge the public to also have their say."*

**Your Essex Community – supporting the VCS**



It's been a few months since we launched [Your Essex Community](#) - our new support offer for voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups. The aim of the offer is to ensure the VCS has consistent support and to build a stronger sector in Essex.

The new offer includes an e-portal, tools to help organisations involve residents and local, place-based support.

We have made good progress since the offer launched and are seeing positive benefits.

### **What we've achieved so far**

- 314 users have accessed guidance on things like safeguarding and governance via the e-portal - we've also launched a learning series to help with grant applications, leadership and marketing
- 161 organisations, partners, businesses and residents have joined our Community of Practice - we've also held three showcase days to spark ideas and encourage local action
- our place-plans are now complete - we've funded 20 partners to deliver up to 100 activities, which will reach up to 2,000 people by March 2026

## Get involved

If you are looking to get involved with your local VCS, now is the time. You can do this by joining the [Community of Practice](#). To learn about what it takes to start and run a VCS group, visit the [e-portal](#) and have a look at your [local offer](#) of support for VCS groups.

## Help shape a healthier Essex



We want everyone in Essex to live happy, healthy lives. To make that happen, local councils, the NHS and community groups are creating a plan called the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It's about working together to improve the health of people in Essex.

### Why now?

The existing four-year strategy comes to an end in 2026. The new draft plan, when finalised and agreed, will go live at that time. With the big changes that are happening in health and local government, this new three-year plan will help us work together during this time of change and focus on the things that really affect

health. This includes housing, education, jobs, transport and digital access.

## **What we'll do**

Through this plan, we'll work together to support people early, prevent illness and build on ideas which really make a difference. Every community is unique, so we'll listen locally and make sure help reaches those who need it most.

## **Why your views matter**

We have suggested four main areas to improve the health of Essex residents. We want to know if you agree with these, or if you think something else is more important. Your feedback will help shape the final plan.

## **What we're consulting you on**

We are consulting on these four key areas and supporting priorities:

- 1. Improving life chances for children and young people.** Keeping happy, safe and free from the effects of poverty.
- 2. Helping more people into and stay in work.** Helping people find jobs, stay employed and build the skills they need for future opportunities.
- 3. Building healthy, resilient and connected communities.** Make places healthy, help communities connect and make support easy to get.
- 4. Creating opportunities to improve health and reduce the impact of poor health.** Promote healthy lifestyles, including helping older people stay healthy and well, reduce substance misuse and support mental wellbeing.

## **Get involved**

We'd love to hear what you think. Your ideas can help us shape health and wellbeing in Essex. [Take part in the consultation here](#)

## **Your Essex: The newsletter connecting you with your council**



We're proud to bring residents Your Essex, the monthly newsletter designed to keep you informed, engaged and connected with everything happening across the county.

Each edition of Your Essex delivers trusted updates on the full range of council services, from essential information like school admission windows to exciting developments in health, environment, children and families, and the local economy. It's your go to source for clear, consistent, and reliable news straight from the council.

Your Essex is more than just updates, it's about giving you a voice. The newsletter includes consultations and surveys, ensuring you have the opportunity to share your views and play an active role in shaping decisions that affect our communities.

Stay connected and [sign up to Your Essex today.](#)

**Why you should sign up to Your Essex**

Your Essex provides residents with:

- timely information: Stay updated on important council news and events
- trusted information: Single source of information from Essex County Council sent directly to your inbox at the start of every month
- community engagement: Opportunities to participate in live consultations and share your views on matters that are important to you and your community
- diverse topics: Coverage across a wide range of topics such as children and families, health, environment and economy

## **Welcome to the Leader and Cabinet Member's blog**



This is where our Leader and Cabinet Members share their thoughts and updates on key topics.

The Leader and Cabinet Members' blog gives you:

- **a direct voice from our political leadership team** – hear first-hand about priorities, decisions and plans for Essex
- **insight into challenges and opportunities** – understand how we are working to make Essex a great place to live, work and visit
- **regular progress updates** – stay informed about projects, services and initiatives shaping our county

Our aim is to be open and transparent, sharing what we are doing and why. We want to keep you connected and involved in the conversation about the future of Essex.

[Explore the latest posts.](#)

## **Shaping the future of local government in Greater Essex**



We have published an [assessment of our proposal for local government reorganisation \(LGR\)](#). We will submit this as part of the [Government's LGR consultation](#).

Our assessment includes an overview of the Government's consultation questions and annexes. These cover themes such as finance, social care, education, economy and housing growth.

## **Our proposal**

Our LGR proposal recommends creating three new unitary authorities. These would replace the current 15 councils and two-tier system. It is one of four LGR proposals for Greater Essex and was developed alongside Epping Forest District Council and Braintree District Council.

We believe a three unitary model offers the best future for Greater Essex by delivering:

- better services with decision-making closer to communities and services designed around local needs
- improved value for money by reducing duplication and efficient use of resources
- stronger local accountability with clearer lines of responsibility and greater transparency
- support for economic growth and enabling us to tackle inequalities
- secure and sustainable social care services which allow for streamlined decision-making

The Government's consultation is open until 11 January. It is open to anyone living or working in Greater Essex and is your chance to shape the future of local government.

[Find out more and take part in the consultation.](#)

**BETA** Help us improve this site by [giving feedback](#)

Cllr Giancarlo Guglielmi

ECC Member for Tendring Rural West  
Chairman of the D&R Committee  
Vice Chairman of Essex County Council  
Vice Chairman of the People and Family Committee

TDC Ward Member for Lawford, Manningtree, and Mistley  
Chairman of the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee  
Vice Chairman of Tendring/Colchester Border Garden Community

