EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE ESSEX (ELECTORAL CHANGES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2026

2026 No. [XXXX]

1. Introduction

1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Declaration

2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

3. Contact

3.1 Richard Buck at the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Telephone: 0330 500 1271 or email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.

Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

4. Overview of the Instrument

What does the legislation do?

4.1 The Essex (Electoral Changes) Order 2024[1] gave effect to recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for Essex County Council. Electoral arrangements refer to the total number of councillors elected to the authority under review, and the names, number and boundaries of county divisions and, where applicable, parish wards. This also relates to the number of councillors to be elected for each county division and, where applicable, parish ward. The new arrangements for the County Council were scheduled to come into effect at elections in May 2025 (subsequently postponed to May 2026[2]).

4.2 The 2024 Order contained errors with respect to the number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward of the parish of Rochford, and the commencement dates for the new electoral arrangements for Rayleigh and Rochford parishes. This statutory instrument amends the 2024 Order to correct these errors.

Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?

4.3 The extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction(s) which the instrument forms part of the law of) is England and Wales.

4.4 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is England.

[1] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/1180/contents/made.

[2] The elections were postponed by The Local Elections (Changes to Years of Ordinary Elections) (England) Order 2025: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2025/137/made.

5. Policy Context

What is being done and why?

5.1 The Essex (Electoral Changes) Order 2024 gave effect to recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for Essex County Council. The Order contained an error relating to the number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward in the parish of Rochford. The total number of parish councillors elected to the parish should have been 17, rather than the 12 allocated to each parish ward in the 2024 Order.

5.2 Additionally, the commencement dates for the new electoral arrangements for the parishes of Rayleigh and Rochford were incorrect in the 2024 Order. The new electoral arrangements for the parish of Rayleigh should come into effect at scheduled parish elections in 2028, rather than 2027. The new electoral arrangements for the parish of Rochford should come into effect at scheduled parish elections in 2026, rather than 2027.

What was the previous policy, how is this different?

5.3 The instrument brings correctly into effect at the appropriate election, and with the correct allocation of parish councillors, the final recommendations for electoral arrangements for the parishes of Rayleigh and Rochford following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's most recent electoral review of the authority. In most cases, electoral arrangements will be different from the outcome of the previous review.

6. Legislative and Legal Context

How has the law changed?

6.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has power under section 59 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) to make an order giving effect to recommendations contained in a report, prepared under section 58(4) of the 2009 Act, after conducting an electoral review under section 56(1) of that Act. If a mistake occurs, section 59(6) gives the power to make an order to rectify the mistake. This instrument is being made to amend the Essex (Electoral Changes) Order 2024 to correct the errors outlined in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 above.

Why was this approach taken to change the law?

6.2 This is the only possible approach to make the necessary changes to the electoral arrangements of the authority.

7. Consultation

Summary of consultation outcome and methodology

7.1 The Essex (Electoral Changes) Order 2024 gives effect to recommendations that were consulted on during the review of electoral arrangements which concluded in July 2024. During the course of that review, the Commission received approximately 170 representations. The consultations involved the County Council, borough and district councils, parish and town councils, local MPs, local residents and other interested parties. Following two rounds of public consultation, the Commission published its final recommendations. In November 2025, Rochford District Council wrote to the Commission highlighting the errors contained in the 2024 order outlined in paragraph

5.1 and 5.2 of this memorandum. The Commission subsequently agreed to the laying of an Amendment Order in Parliament to correct these errors.

8. Applicable Guidance

8.1 The Commission does not intend to issue any guidance alongside this instrument. This is not considered necessary as the Order is self-explanatory and correctly gives effect to recommendations following consultation with interested parties as to the changes to electoral arrangements.

Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

9. Impact Assessment

9.1 A full Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because there are no significant or anticipated impacts that would follow from its implementation.

Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies

9.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies because the impact relates specifically to changes to the electoral arrangements of Rayleigh and Rochford parishes and it will fall to Rochford District Council to implement these changes.

9.3 The legislation does not impact small or micro businesses.

9.4 The impact on the public sector will be limited to the area for which the Order makes provision. The one-off cost of amending the electoral register to reflect the electoral arrangements is to be funded by Rochford District Council.

10. Monitoring and review

What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?

10.1 The Commission will have no role in monitoring the implementation of the Essex (Electoral Changes) (Amendment) Order 2026. The Commission is not required to undertake such monitoring; that is a matter for the officers of the relevant council.

10.2 The instrument does not include a statutory review clause.

Part Three: Statements and Matters of Particular Interest to Parliament

11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 None.

12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument is not made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 or the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (“relevant European Union Acts”).