



## IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL REGISTER

### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to note that the electoral register is to be amended to incorporate boundary changes to Essex County Council's electoral divisions resulting from a recent review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

### 2 LINKS TO COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Council's democratic arrangements support all of the Council's priorities and objectives.

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

(1) To authorise the Electoral Registration Officer to take all necessary measures to give effect to Essex County Council division changes and new amended polling districts to ensure that the register reflects existing and new boundaries.

### 4 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 In March 2023 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) began an electoral review of Essex County Council. An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority, including:

- The total number of councillors representing the council's electors ('council size').
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors for each ward or division.

- 4.2 The LGBCE’s final recommendations were published in July 2024 and The Essex (Electoral Changes) Order 2024 (the “Order”) was passed in Parliament on 13 November 2024.
- 4.3 Under the new arrangements, the Borough will retain its five electoral divisions: Canvey Island East, Canvey Island West, Hadleigh, South Benfleet and Thundersley, with one Essex County Councillor representing each division. However, the Order has made some boundary adjustments to the existing county council division boundaries which means that polling districts within the Borough are affected. Four polling districts in Benfleet [specify these please] have moved to a different county electoral division and one polling district, AY1 (Thundersley South Ward), which was previously situated in the Hadleigh Division, is now split across the Hadleigh and Thundersley divisions.
- 4.4 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (the “1983 Act”) the Council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and designate a polling place for each polling district. The Council must keep these arrangements under review. If the Council makes any alterations to the polling districts in its area, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must by law amend the register of electors accordingly (Section 18A (5) Representation of the People Act 1983).
- 4.5 Where polling districts have been created to support the implementation of boundary changes, the electoral register will need to be constructed in a way that is capable of reflecting both the existing and the new boundaries. This will enable current councillors to receive the parts of the register they are entitled to while at the same time, allowing individuals to be supplied with the relevant parts of the register once they become a candidate for an election.
- 4.6 The following definitions may be helpful when reading the report.
- “Polling districts” are geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided.
  - “Polling places” are the buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.
  - “Polling stations” are the number of issuing desks in the building or area that is the designated polling place.

## **5 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL REGISTER**

- 5.1 To accommodate the boundary changes before the next Essex County Council elections on 1 May 2025 it will be necessary to make amendments to the existing electoral register to enable electors currently in polling district AY1 to vote at different polling stations for different electoral divisions and to incorporate the change of division for four other polling districts.

**Polling District AY1 – Thundersley North Ward**

5.2 The boundary between Hadleigh and Thundersley Divisions largely follows the existing boundary of Thundersley North Ward and Thundersley South Ward with the exception of polling district AY1 where the boundary line now runs through the middle of the district, as shown on the attached map at Appendix 1.

5.3 To accommodate this change it is proposed to split polling district AY1 in two as follows:

<b>Proposed Polling District</b>	<b>Previous County Division</b>	<b>New County Division</b>	<b>Polling Station Electorate</b>
AY1T	Hadleigh	Thundersley	108
AY1H	Remains in Hadleigh		833

A list of the roads affected by this change is set out at Appendix 2.

**Changes to other Polling Districts**

5.4 As a result of the boundary changes the following polling districts will move into a different county electoral division and it will be necessary to reflect these in the electoral register accordingly however it is not necessary to make any changes to the polling district boundaries as each district has moved in its entirety.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Borough Ward</b>	<b>Previous County Division</b>	<b>New County Division</b>
AF3	Thundersley North	South Benfleet	Thundersley
AG2	Thundersley South	South Benfleet	Hadleigh
AY2	Thundersley North	Hadleigh	Thundersley
AW	Thundersley North	Hadleigh	Thundersley

**Polling Stations**

5.5 Due to the changes to the boundaries it is also necessary to make amendments to the allocated polling stations of those electors affected. Decisions regarding the situation of polling stations is a matter for the Returning Officer.

5.6 Electors in the current AY1 polling district will now be voting for two different electoral divisions for Essex County Council elections but will remain in the

same Ward for Borough elections. The Returning Officer’s view is that to enable electors in AY1T to vote in the same polling station at all election types it would be necessary to allocate a separate venue as a polling station. However the number of venues available for polling stations in Castle Point is very limited and Runnymede Hall is considered to be a good venue for local electors in terms of its size, proximity to a main road and transport links, ample parking on site and accessibility for disabled voters. Furthermore, as the number of electors affected is relatively low at approximately 108 electors (excluding postal voters) a separate venue is not considered necessary.

- 5.7 The Returning Officer proposes to make amendments to existing arrangements for all polling stations at Runnymede Hall to accommodate the electors of AY1T. This will also have an impact on electors in polling district AX2 (approximately 25 electors excluding postal voters). The proposal would mean that whilst electors in both polling districts would need to change polling stations depending on the election type the polling place would remain the same and therefore lessen the impact of any voter confusion.
- 5.8 The Returning Officer intends to create a double polling station in Runnymede Main Hall, divided into a pink and a white side, as is the usual practice in Castle Point for double stations, and move electors in polling district AX2 from Runnymede Foyer into one side of the main hall along with polling districts AY1T and AY2 for the Essex County Council elections.
- 5.9 It is proposed to keep Runnymede Main Hall as a double station for all future elections. The use of Runnymede Foyer will no longer be required. Electors in AX2 and AY1T will move between the ‘pink’ side and ‘white’ side of the hall depending on the election type as set out below:

*Arrangements for Essex County Council elections:*

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>County Division</b>	<b>Polling Station</b>	<b>Total Electorate</b>
AX2, AY1T, AY2	Thundersley	Runnymede Main Hall (White)	784
AY1H, BN2	Hadleigh	Runnymede Main Hall (Pink)	1961

*Arrangements for Borough, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and UK Parliamentary General elections:*

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Borough Ward</b>	<b>Polling Station</b>	<b>Total Electorate</b>
AY2	Thundersley North	Runnymede Main Hall (White)	624
AX2, AY1H, AY1T, BN2	Thundersley South	Runnymede Main Hall (Pink)	2121

## **6 OPTIONS**

6.1 There are no alternative options to that proposed above.

## **7 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Failure to implement the proposed changes to the electoral register would risk the efficient and effective running of the Essex County Council elections on 1 May 2025.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 As referred to in the body of the report.

## **10 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are none in relation to this decision but Equality and Impact Assessments will be carried out for each polling station and any necessary adjustments will be made before the election in May 2025.



Angela Hutchings

Chief Executive

**Background Papers:-**

The Essex (Electoral Changes) Order 2024

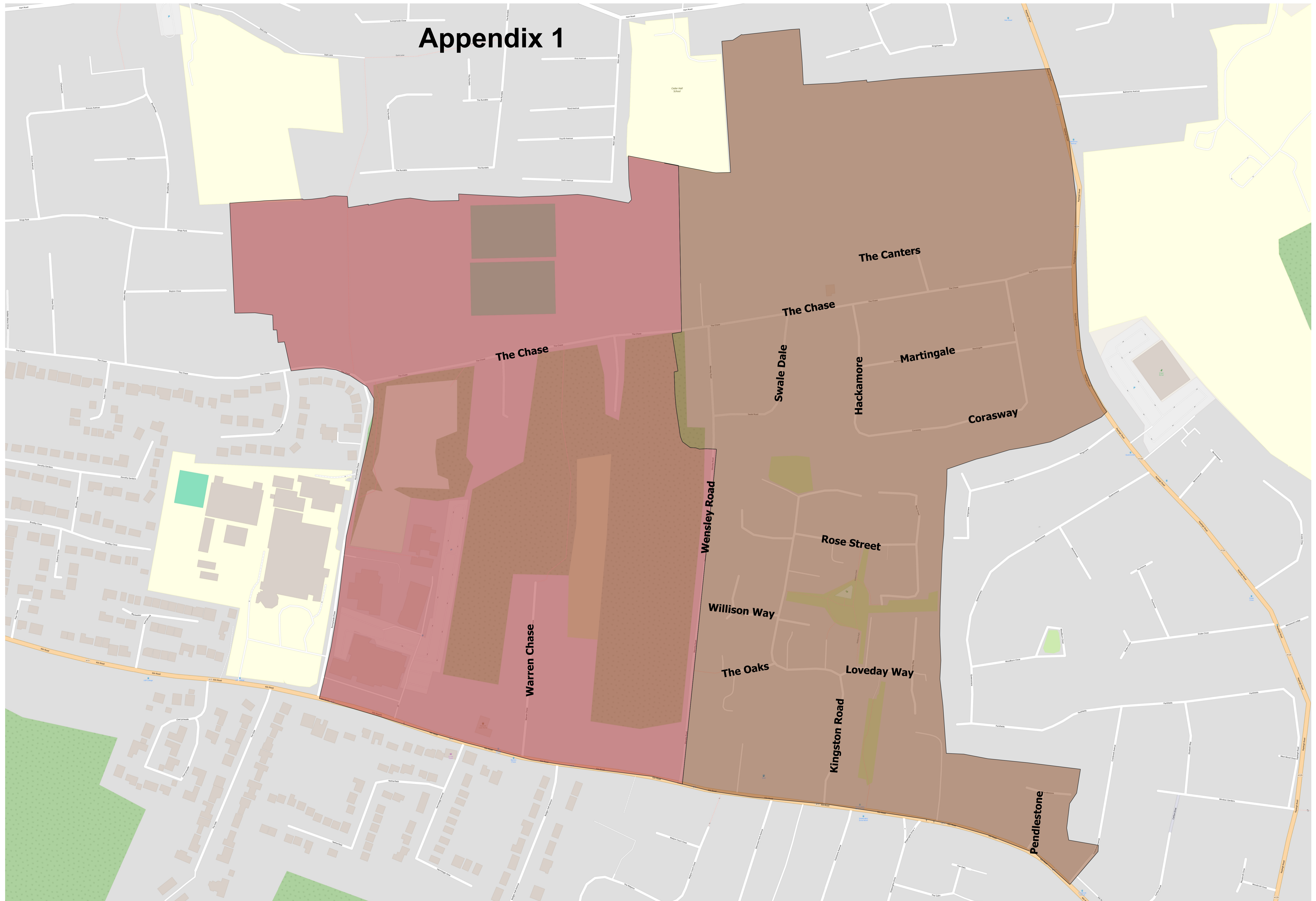
The Representation of the People Act 1983

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# Appendix 1



## Appendix 2

### Castle Point Borough Council

#### Street Index with House Numbers - existing AY1

Street Name	PD Ref	Property Numbers
Corasway	AY1	Odds 1 to 29, Evens 18 to 18
Hackamore	AY1	Odds 15 to 45, Evens 52 to 2
Kiln Road	AY1	Odds 107 to 253
Kingston Road	AY1	Odds 1 to 57, Evens 2 to 40
Loveday Way	AY1	Odds 1 to 21, Evens 28 to 2
Martingale	AY1	Odds 1 to 29, Evens 26 to 2
Merrigold Close	AY1	Odds 1 to 5, Evens 2 to 14
Pendlestone	AY1	Odds 7 to 23, Evens 22 to 2
Rayleigh Road	AY1	Odds 203 to 243
Robins Path	AY1	Odds 1 to 37, Evens 2 to 20
Rose Street	AY1	Odds 1 to 55, Evens 28 to 72
Swale Road	AY1	
The Canters	AY1	Odds 1 to 9, Evens 18 to 2
The Chase	AY1	Odds 287 to 345, Evens 350 to 310
The Oaks	AY1	Odds 1 to 13, Evens 2 to 8
The Poppies	AY1	Odds 1 to 17, Evens 2 to 16
Warren Chase	AY1	Odds 1 to 43, Evens 42 to 10
Wensley Road	AY1	Continuous 2 to 1
Willison Way	AY1	Odds 1 to 5, Evens 2 to 12
Woodpecker Drive	AY1	Odds 1 to 9



## Appendix 2

### **Castle Point Borough Council**

#### **Street Index with House Numbers - AY1H**

Street Name	PD Ref	Property Numbers	
Corasway	AY1H	Odds 1 to 29	Evens 18 to 18
Hackamore	AY1H	Odds 15 to 45	Evens 52 to 2
Kiln Road	AY1H	Odds 165 to 253	
Kingston Road	AY1H	Odds 1 to 57	Evens 2 to 40
Loveday Way	AY1H	Odds 1 to 21	Evens 28 to 2
Martingale	AY1H	Odds 1 to 29	Evens 26 to 2
Merrigold Close	AY1H	Odds 1 to 5	Evens 2 to 14
Pendlestone	AY1H	Odds 7 to 23	Evens 22 to 2
Rayleigh Road	AY1H	Odds 203 to 243	
Robins Path	AY1H	Odds 1 to 37	Evens 2 to 20
Rose Street	AY1H	Odds 1 to 55	Evens 28 to 72
Swale Road	AY1H		
The Canters	AY1H	Odds 1 to 9	Evens 18 to 2
The Chase	AY1H	Odds 287 to 345 1-20 Chase Mews	Evens 350 to 310
The Oaks	AY1H	Odds 1 to 13	Evens 2 to 8
The Poppies	AY1H	Odds 1 to 17	Evens 2 to 16
Wensley Road	AY1H	Continuous 2 to 1	
Willison Way	AY1H	Odds 1 to 5	Evens 2 to 12
Woodpecker Drive	AY1H	Odds 1 to 9	

## Appendix 2

### **Castle Point Borough Council**

#### **Street Index with House Numbers - AY1T**

Street Name	PD Ref	Property Numbers
Kiln Road	AY1T	Odds 107 to 163
The Chase	AY1T	Melrose, Devonia, Little Warren, 1 Lime Tree Villas, 2 Lime Tree Villas, Westdown, Oaklea, Chase Lodge, Eaton Cottage
Warren Chase	AY1T	Odds 1 to 43          Evens 42 to 10