

## Report for Parish Councils November 2025

### Cllr I Parker, Braintree District Council

1. Local Plan – BDC has finished assessing all the sites which have been put forward for development as part of the Local Plan Review, as well as reviewing the planning policies. Due to the rejection of a number of sites recommended for allocation for development by officers, we are still short of sites for 1,100 dwellings and the Local Plan sub-committee (which I am on) will have to revisit some of the sites which were rejected. The draft Plan will then go out to public consultation (known as regulation 18 consultation) in the New Year.
2. Waste Service Review – Officers have assessed all properties in the District to establish the suitability of properties to receive the new wheeled bins for recycling. From mid November, residents will start receiving letters advising them whether they fall into the standard waste collection category, non-standard or communal. To be considered for non-standard collection, properties must have: no garden, a steep slope for access, step only access or bins would have to be taken through the property. The standard properties will receive 2 new wheeled bins to replace the recycling sacks, non-standard will receive a wheeled bin and boxes. The letters will outline a review process if residents feel their property has been incorrectly categorised. Bins and boxes will start to arrive in February and the new service will start in June.
3. Local Government re-organisation – BDC held a debate in September on the 4 proposals that have been put forward for LGR. The majority of councillors voted in favour of a 3 unitary council model which would see north, mid and south Essex unitary councils with Braintree joining Uttlesford, Colchester and Tendring in a North Essex unitary. The final decision will be made by the Government at the end of March. The consultation on the four proposals has now opened and closes on 11<sup>th</sup> January. Residents are asked for their views on each of the proposals. The consultation can be found at <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/essex-southend-on-sea-thurrock/>. Information on LGR can also be found on a dedicated website <https://www.essexlgrhub.org/stronger-greater-essex>.
4. Economic development – BDC is continuing its efforts to support the local economy. The Council held another jobs fair recently as well as a series of briefings for small businesses.
5. Leisure – a new operator has taken over the running of the Council's 4 leisure centres following problems with the previous operator.