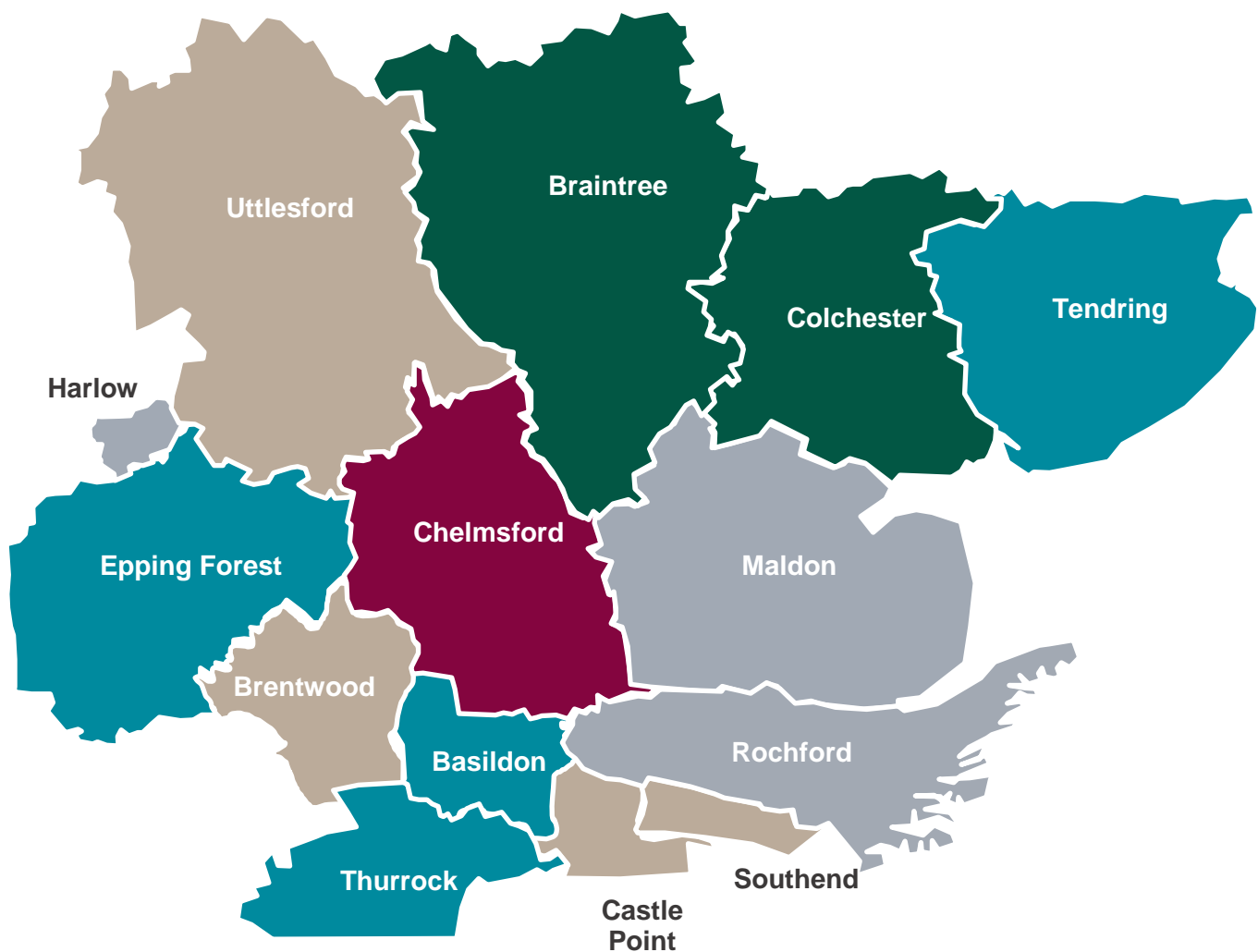


Local Planning Authority Update | Essex

Covid-19 and current working arrangements

April 2020

No information provided
Holding meetings via telephone
Holding meetings virtually
Providing written responses
All meetings cancelled / postponed



The following provides latest available information on how Local Planning Authorities are responding in the face of the current public health situation. It is based on information obtained from discussions with officers of the respective Councils, and from information published by Councils. It is intended to provide an accurate position as possible as at 1 April 2020, and is subject to change. The map above relates to Local Planning Authorities' approach to engaging with applicants / prospective applicants at this time.

LOCAL AUTHORITY	CURRENT SITUATION
Basildon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Planning Committees cancelled until further notice. There is however a requirement to continue making decisions on applications that are scheduled to be determined by Planning Committee, and they are considering emergency measures to ensure they have a robust process in place. When this is finalised the process will be published on the website. – The Council reports that it has cancelled all face-to-face meetings, but that officers are available by phone or e-mail to discuss current and potential projects. Officers are still carrying out site visits where appropriate. – The Council are seeking to determine the large majority of decisions where possible. It is possible major / complex applications may be delayed. – There is no update on the progress of the new Local Plan.
Braintree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Planning Committees are currently postponed until late April. – Meetings are being held over video call, if this is not suitable then the Council are still offering written advice for services such as pre-apps. – Decisions that don't require a Committee meeting or site visit are going ahead as usual. Decisions that require a Committee are on hold for the foreseeable future. Case Officers will provide updates regarding specific applications and the impact the current situation will have on their determination. – Braintree District Council has indicated that unless something dramatically changes, it is unlikely that Section 2 of the new Local Plan will be examined in Spring / Summer 2020. A revised timetable has not yet been determined.
Brentwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Planning Committees and meetings are suspended for the foreseeable future. – Where possible decisions are being made on applications. The Council are still considering the best way to respond to the current situation, and hope for meetings and committees to be able to take place remotely in the future, but at the moment this is not feasible. – An update regarding committees and meetings will be posted to the website in due course. – The Local Plan is still working towards the same timescale: The Brentwood Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 14 February 2020.
Castle Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Planning applications are still being processed but meetings and site visits are not taking place. The Council requests for electronic means of submission and communication to take place. – It remains the Council's intention to submit the Local Plan for examination in Public in summer 2020.
Chelmsford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All meetings are postponed until further notice and only written advice is being provided at this time. – Committees are postponed until further notice. – They anticipate decisions will be still be made on time, and officers are still working remotely to ensure this is the case. However, this only applies to decisions being made under delegated powers, due to all committees being postponed for the foreseeable future. – In light of current circumstances, the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to consider the adoption of the Local Plan (scheduled for 31 March 2020) has been postponed and thus the adoption of the Plan has been delayed. Further information and updates will be posted on the Council's website in due course.

Colchester

- Face-to-face pre-app meetings are cancelled and the council are providing written feedback. Meetings over the phone or through virtual means may be taken, at the Officer's discretion.
- For meetings where site visits are required if these can take place then they will go ahead, if not then the council are asking for photographs from the applicant and using these to aid a written response.
- All Planning Committees are cancelled. The Council anticipate providing an update as to when they will re-commence on the website in mid-April.
- For decision making it is still business as usual and the Council are working to provide decisions within the standard timescales.
- There has been no update provided on the progression of the Local Plan.

Epping Forest

- Meetings are still occurring and the means in which they are conducted is at the Officer's discretion, dependent on the complexity of the application being considered.
- Upon request for information the Council stated they are dealing with applications 'faster than ever'.
- Committees are suspended for the time being whilst discussions are occurring internally regarding how they can be conducted in the future.
- Work is still being undertaken to progress the emerging Local Plan and there has been no impact on this work as yet.

Harlow

- No update has been provided by Harlow Council regarding how their services will continue to be operated, during this unprecedented time.

Maldon

- The Council has not provided information on its position in light of the current situation, and has not responded to requests for information.
- There has been no update provided regarding how Maldon District Council will be providing their services at the current time.
- The Local Development Plan was adopted in 2017, there are no reviews scheduled to take place in the near future.

Rochford

- The Council is looking for Committees to take place remotely.
- Meetings are still going ahead and these can be organised to take place over the phone or through virtual means.
- For decision making it is business as usual, all officers are working remotely and they anticipate to determine decisions in the same time. However, they recommend talking to specific case officer's regarding individual applications.
- There is no update on the Local Plan.

Southend

- All meetings and Committees are cancelled for the foreseeable future.
- Decision making is also likely to be delayed for the time being as officers are experiencing issues with remote working.
- There is no update on the Local Plan.

**Tendring**

- Meetings will either be postponed or held over the phone where possible.
- Planning Committee will not take place in its usual format, alternative arrangements are being considered and an update will be posted once that is decided.
- Decision Making services are expected to continue, and the Council is aiming to provide decisions in the same manner and timescale.
- There is no update regarding the Local Plan.

Thurrock

- Meetings will be held as normal, with officers working remotely. The means used will be at the officer's discretion but this is likely to be either over the phone or through virtual means.
- All Committees are cancelled for the foreseeable future.
- Decisions will continue to be issued in a timely manner where possible.
- There is no update regarding the Local Plan.

Uttlesford

- Meetings and Committees are cancelled for the foreseeable future and will not be held over the phone or through virtual means.
- The Council has suggested there may be a slight delay in determining application whilst during the transition to remote working process. Given committees are cancelled, it is likely this advice only stands for those applications being decided under delegated powers.

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