



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP**  
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities  
and Local Government*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Cllr. Kevin Bentley  
Leader of Essex County Council

19 January 2025

Dear Cllr. Kevin Bentley

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

Thank you for your representation on the postponement of elections in your area.

My department has undertaken an initial review of all responses from councils, including responses from opposition groups and individual councillors. Some have made explicit requests for postponement, and others have made explicit requests for elections to go ahead.

However, there are a small number of councils who have set out how postponement would release essential capacity to facilitate reorganisation, but did not make a clear request of whether or not they want their elections postponed. Your representation is one of these.

I have been clear that this Government is taking a locally-led approach. **In the absence of a clear request on whether your election should be postponed, I will assume that your council's view is that your election should go ahead.** I will take account of this alongside the other material in your representation and the other representations I have received in coming to a final decision.

Please clarify your position by 10am on Tuesday 20 January.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP**  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government