

Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral Review of Essex

December 2023

Today's agenda:

The story so far

Process

LGBCE Draft proposals

District by District

How you can get involved

Summary

Electoral Review Process:

Division boundaries:

- **The Commission has re-draw division boundaries so that they meet the statutory criteria**
 - **We are now in the second round of consultation on those proposals and you and anyone else can now comment on them and propose alternatives**
 - **Division boundaries do not cross district boundaries**
- **The criteria include three main elements:**
 1. Delivering electoral equality for local electors. This means ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors so that the value of your vote is broadly the same regardless of where you live in the local authority area.
 2. Interests and identities of local communities. This means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
 3. Effective and convenient local government. This means ensuring that the divisions can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements, including both the council size decision and division arrangements, allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

Timeline



Public Consultation on draft proposals – 28 November 2023 – 19 February 2024



Publication of final recommendations – June 2024



Possibly further consultation (unlikely)

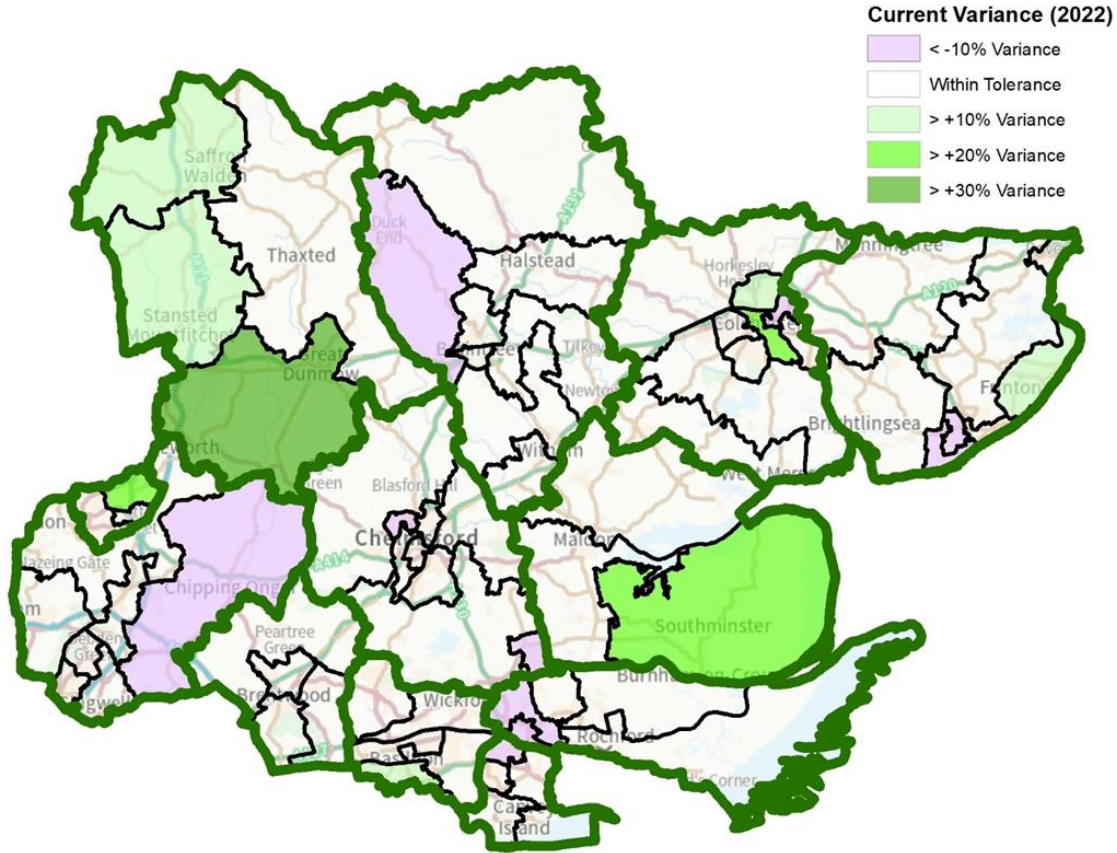


Changes approved by Parliament



New boundaries apply from May 2025 ECC elections

Current ECC Divisions and their variance from the ECC average and proposed divisions



Consultation overview

- **Council size of 78 from 2025 elections (increase of three councillors)**
- **78 divisions, one councillor per division (increase from 70 divisions)**
- **Each councillor will represent an average of 15,848 electors in 2029 based on forecast population growth (increase from 14,319 due to population increase)**
- **Five divisions have the same boundaries –**
 - two of them with proposed new names: Great Baddow = Great Baddow and Galleywood and Rochford West = Rochford North
 - Canvey East, Canvey West, Chelmsford Central remain as now with the same name
- **Variance range for projector electorate in 2029 – seven divisions with between 10 and 12 % more electors expected in 2019 (Clacton South +12%, Burstead +11% and Gloucester Park, Brentwood Hutton, Brentwood South, Clacton West and Wivenhoe St Andrew +10%) and five divisions with between -14% and -10% less electors expected in 2029 (Hadleigh -14%, Rayleigh West -12%, South Benfleet and Rayleigh South -11% and Burnham and Southminster – 10%).**

Basildon

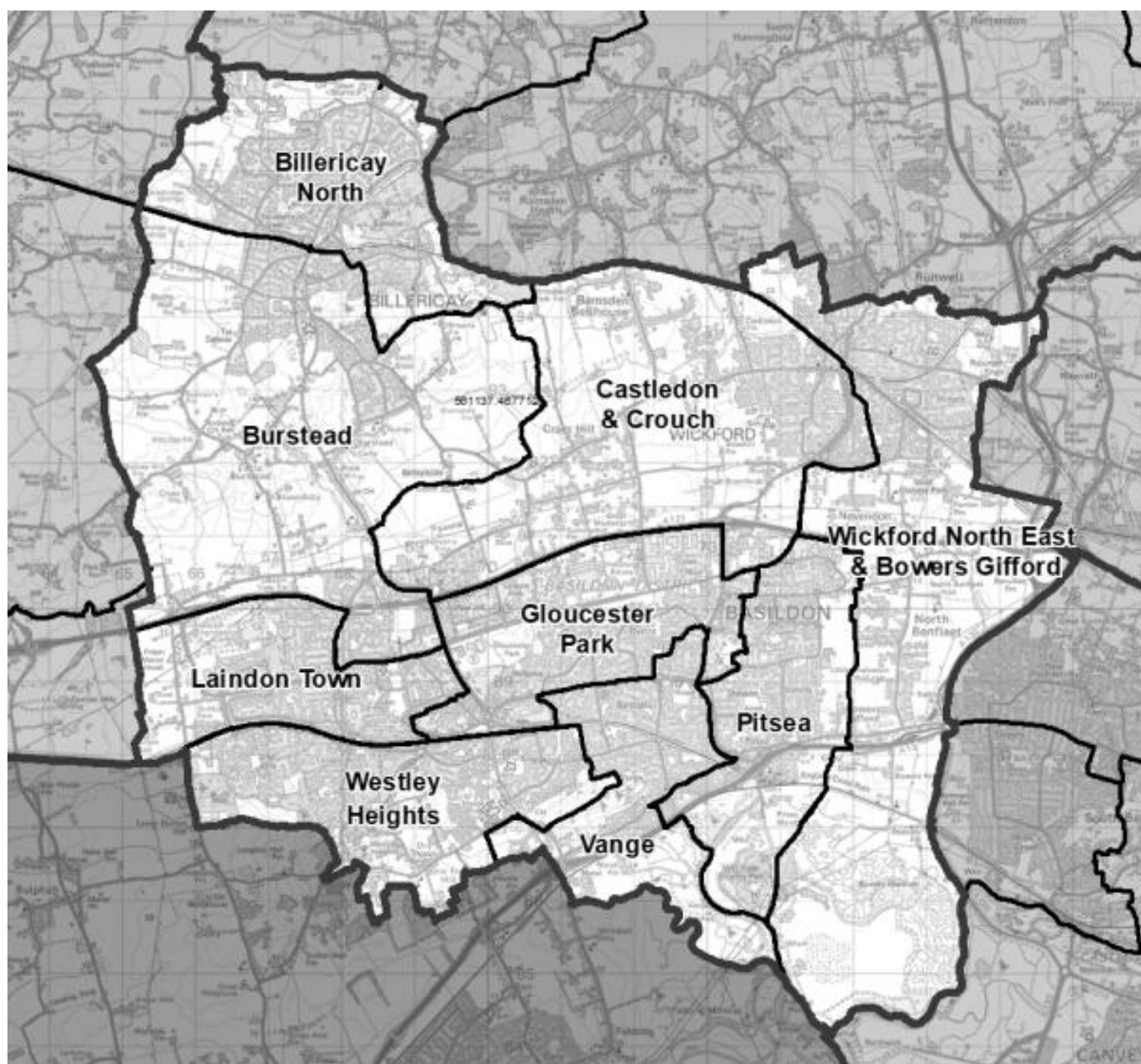
- **No change in the number of seats – nine**
- **Remove all four of the current two member divisions - single seats for each division**
- **Proposed new Division names:** Billericay North, Burstead, Castledon and Crouch, Gloucester Park, Laindon Town, Pitsea, Vange, Westley Heights , Wickford North East and Bowers Gifford

Main Points and changes:

- Very different electoral landscape
- Nine new divisions. Billericay and Wickford both split into two divisions
- Bowers Gifford is placed with Wickford East rather than Pitsea

Questions in the LGBCE consultation:

- Whether the south and east of Burnt Mills Road community identity lies towards Gloucester Park and the town centre, or towards Pitsea
- Whether the community identity of the land south of the A127 in the proposed Castledon and Crouch division lies with Wickford or Pitsea



Billericay North

Burstead

Castledon & Crouch

Gloucester Park

Laindon Town

Westley Heights

Vange

Pitsea

Wickford North East & Bowers Gifford

BILLERICAY

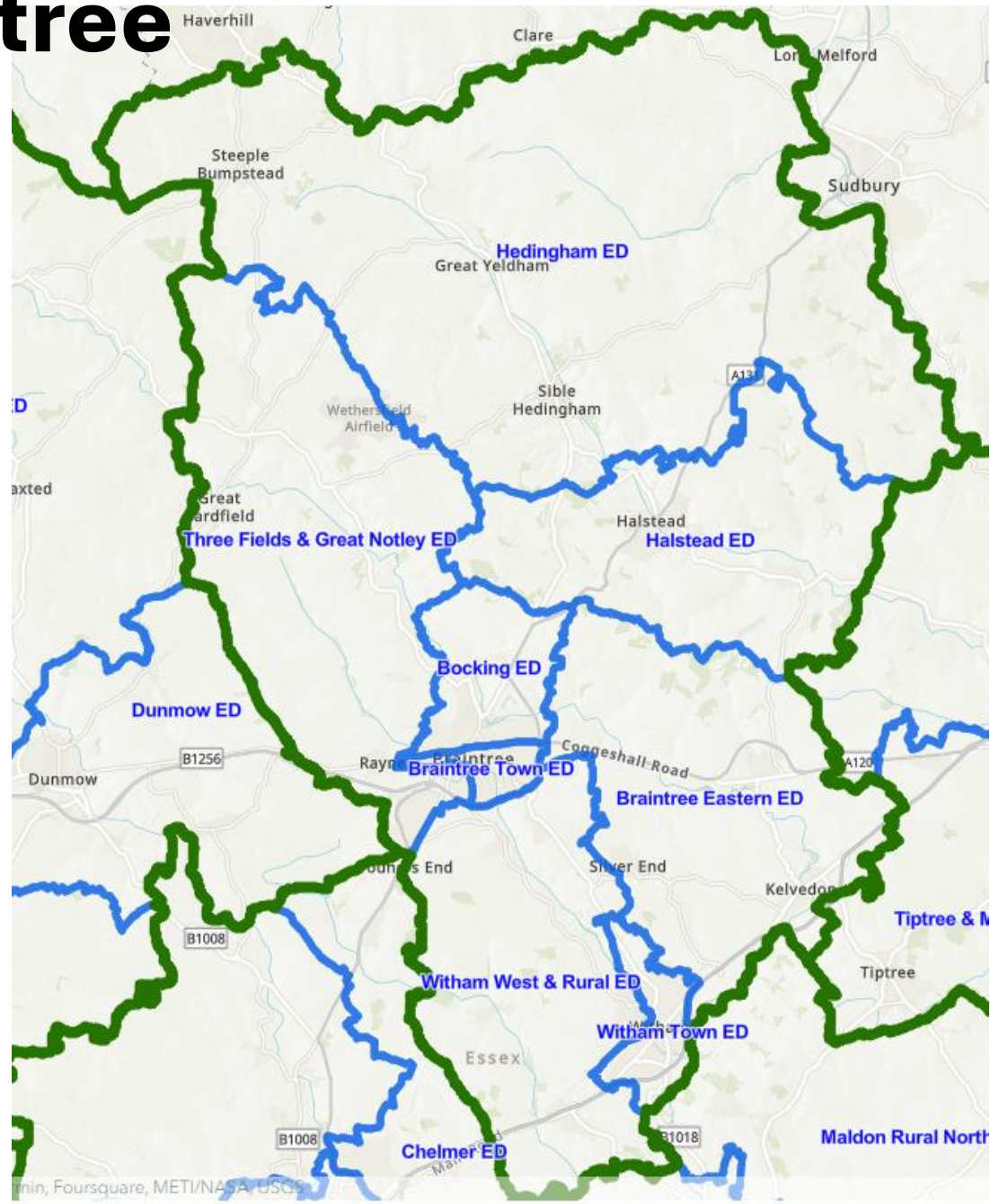
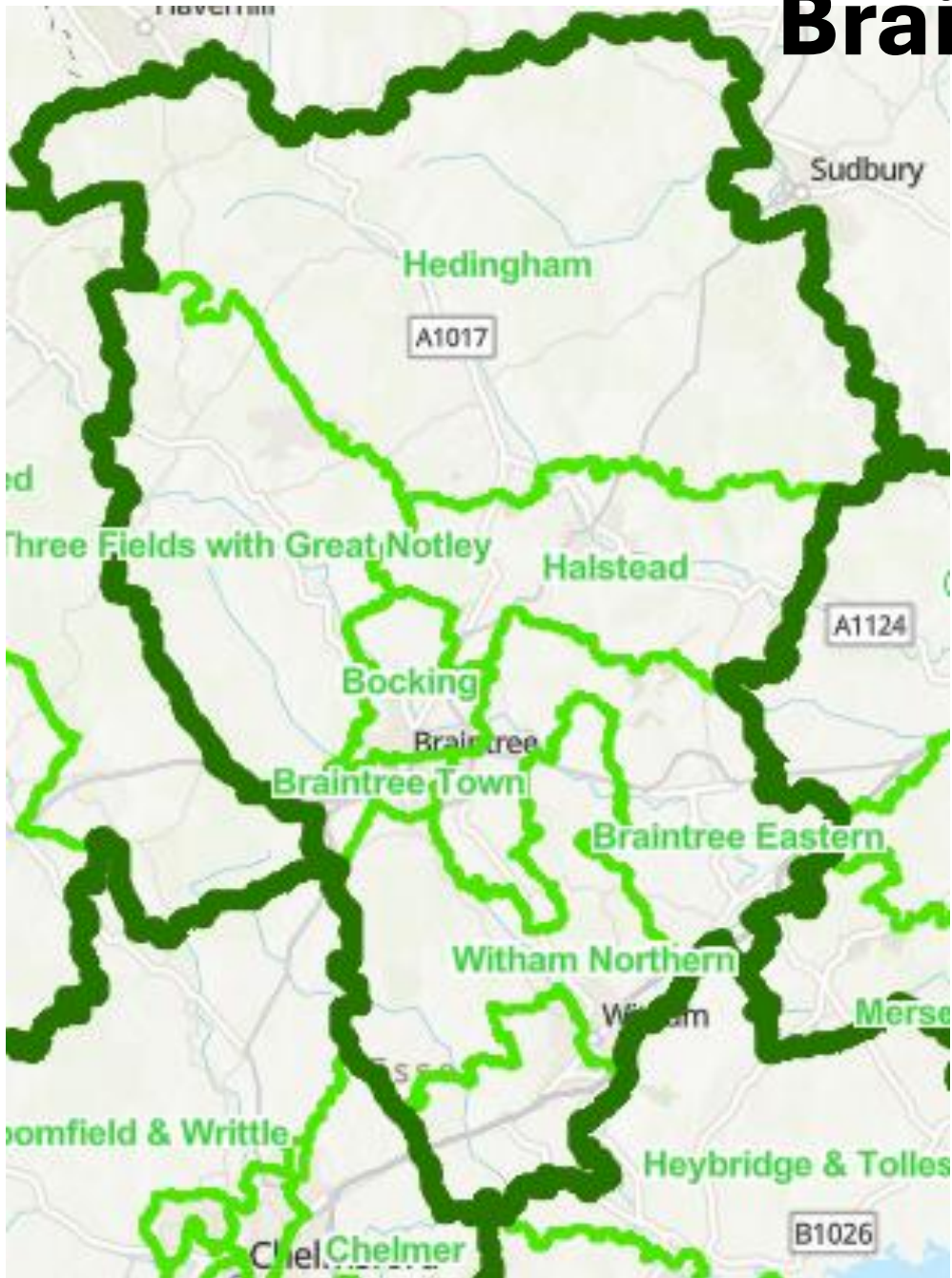
WICKFORD

WICKFORD

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CANVE

Braintree



Braintree

- **No change in the number of seats – eight seats to remain**
- **Division names:** Bocking, Braintree Eastern, Braintree Town, Halstead, Hedingham, Three Fields and Great Notley, Witham Town and Witham West and Rural

Main Points and changes:

- Revised Braintree Town boundaries – the division moves slightly to the East
- Three Fields and Great Notley extended at SE corner to include part of Braintree town (London Road area, including Notley Road)
- Pebmarsh (currently in Halstead) and High Garrett (currently in Bocking) to sit within Halstead division
- New Witham focused division (three of the four wards)
- More logical Braintree Eastern division

Questions from LGBCE:

- Evidence of community links between Black Notley and Great Notley – these are in same BDC ward but not currently or proposed to be in same ECC Division
- Evidence whether the A131 is a better road link between communities in Halstead division than the A1124
- Evidence of ties between Hatfield Peverel and Silver End as per ECC's proposal



Hedingham

Three Fields & Great Notley

Bocking

Braintree Town

Braintree Eastern

Witham West & Rural

Witham Town

HALSTEAD

Halstead

BRAINTREE

Braintree

Braintree

WITHAM

Witham

Finchingfield

Sible Hedingham

HALSTEAD

Halstead

Bocking

Braintree Town

Braintree Eastern

Witham West & Rural

Witham Town

Hedingham

Three Fields & Great Notley

Bocking

Braintree Town

Braintree Eastern

Witham West & Rural

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HALSTEAD

Halstead

Bocking

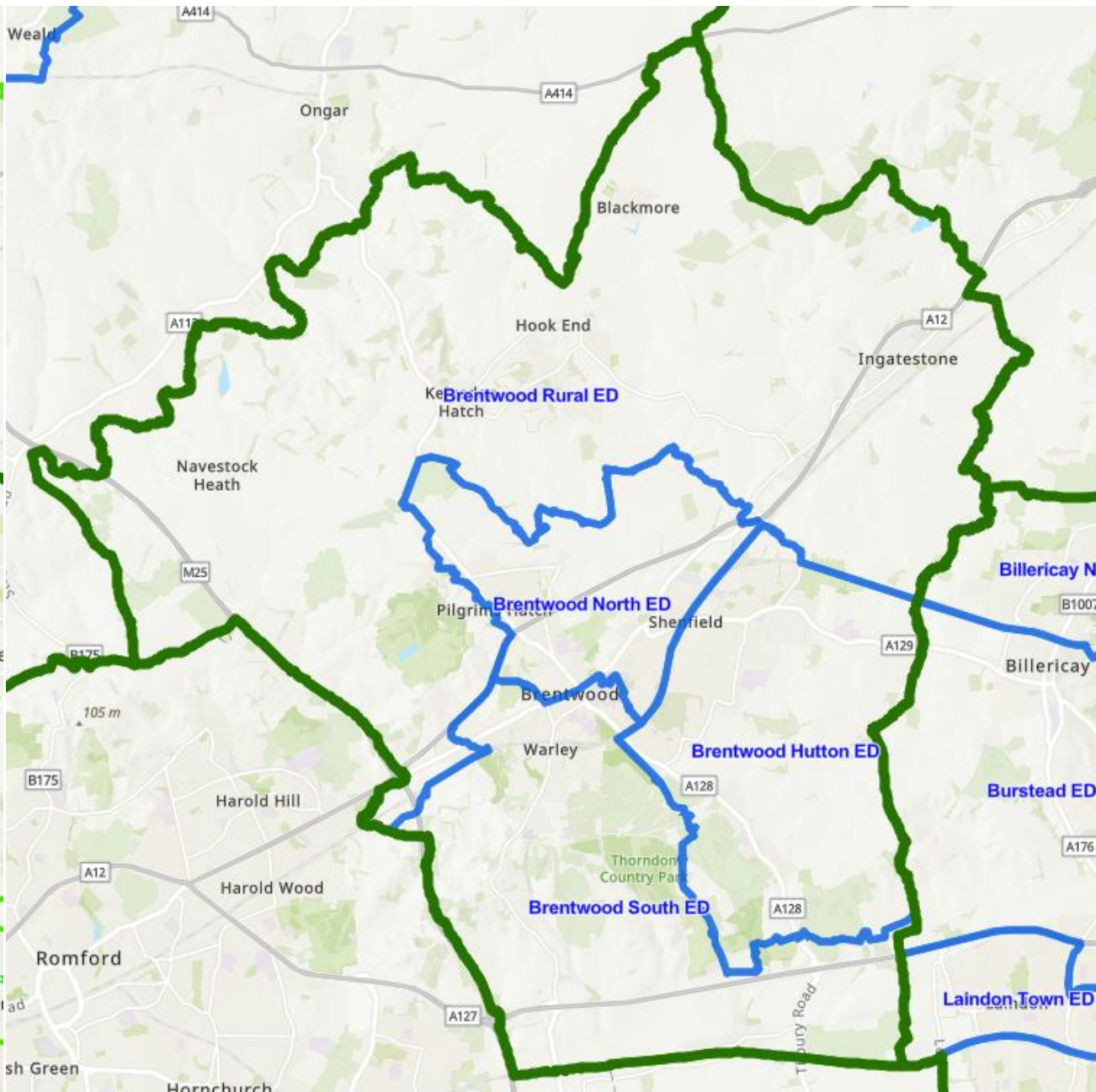
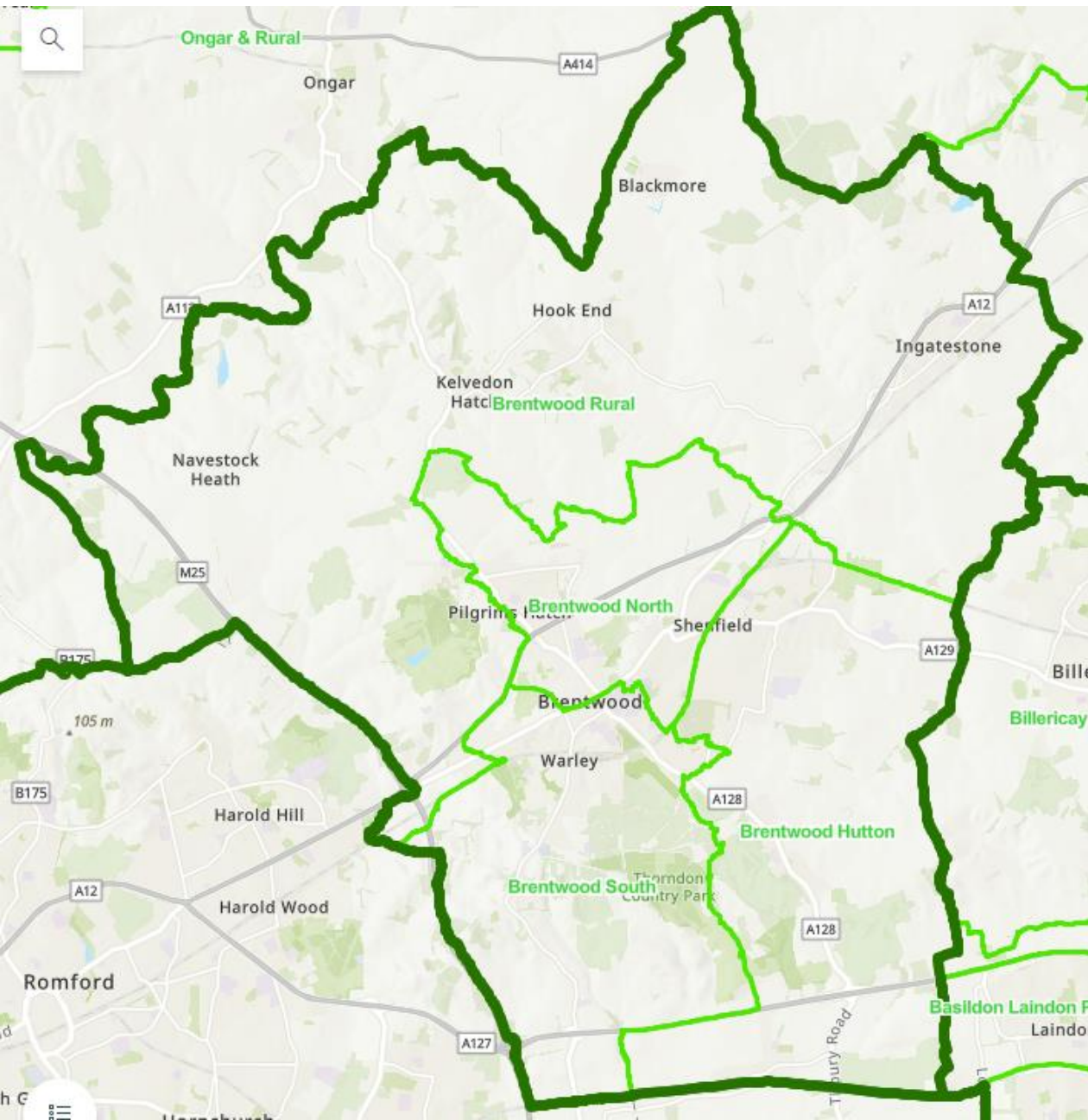
Braintree Town

Braintree Eastern

Witham West & Rural

Witham Town

Brentwood



Brentwood

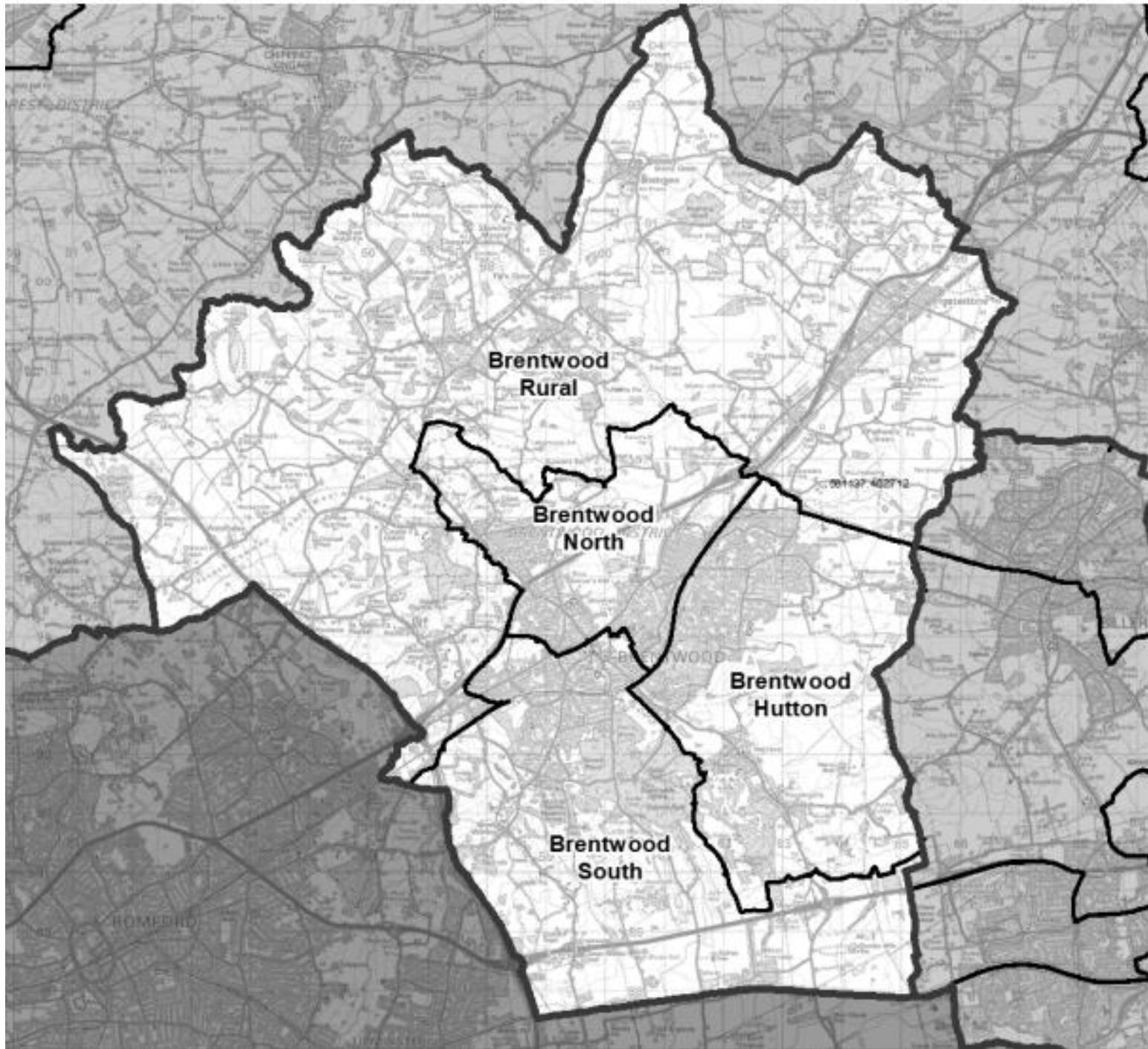
- **No change in the number of seats – four to remain**
- **Division names:** Brentwood Hutton, Brentwood North, Brentwood Rural and Brentwood South

Main points and changes:

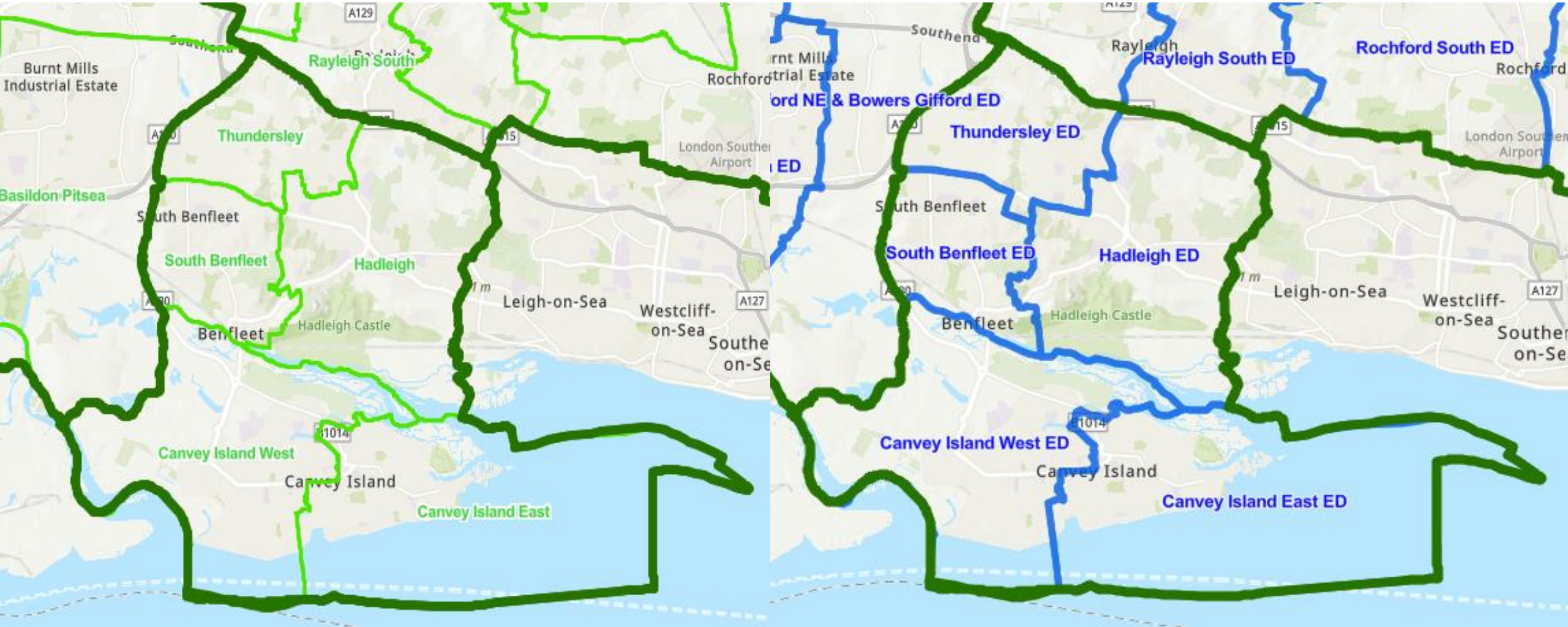
- Area north of Ingrave Road, which comprises the south section of the new Hutton South ward to move into Brentwood Hutton
- West Horndon and surrounding area to move to Brentwood South from Hutton
- Very minor Adjustment of the boundary between Brentwood North and Brentwood Rural in the area of Bellhouse Lane, Coxtie Green Road and Apple Gate to follow the new boundary between Pilgrims Hatch and Brizes, Stondon Masset and South Weald wards

Questions from LGBCE:

- Comments on the proposed boundary changes for Brentwood South and Brentwood Hutton



Castle Point



Castle Point

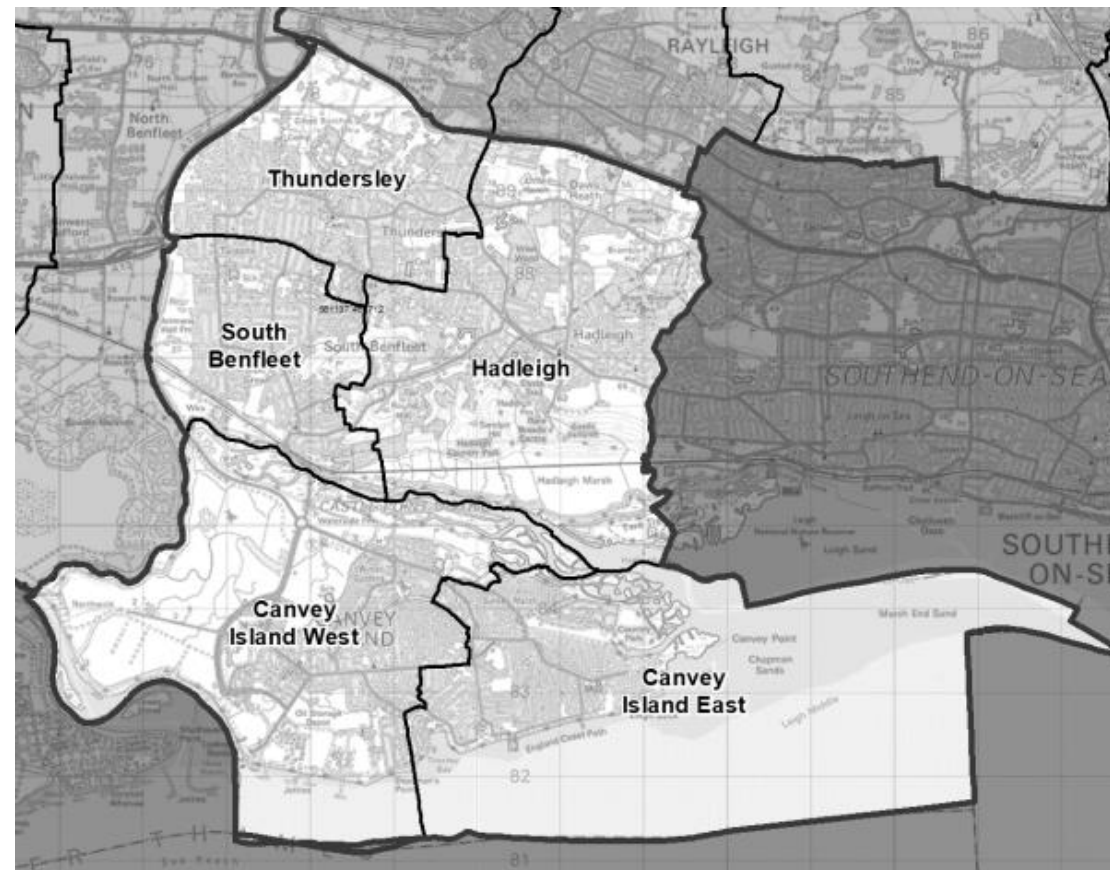
- No change in number of seats – five to remain
- No change to boundaries of Canvey Island East and Canvey Island West
- **Division names:** Canvey Island East, Canvey Island West, Hadleigh, South Benfleet and Thundersley

Main Points and changes:

- Difficult to achieve electoral equality that is reflective of community identity or effective convenient local government
- All of the new Thundersley North ward will be within the Thundersley division

Questions from LGBCE:

- None



Chelmsford

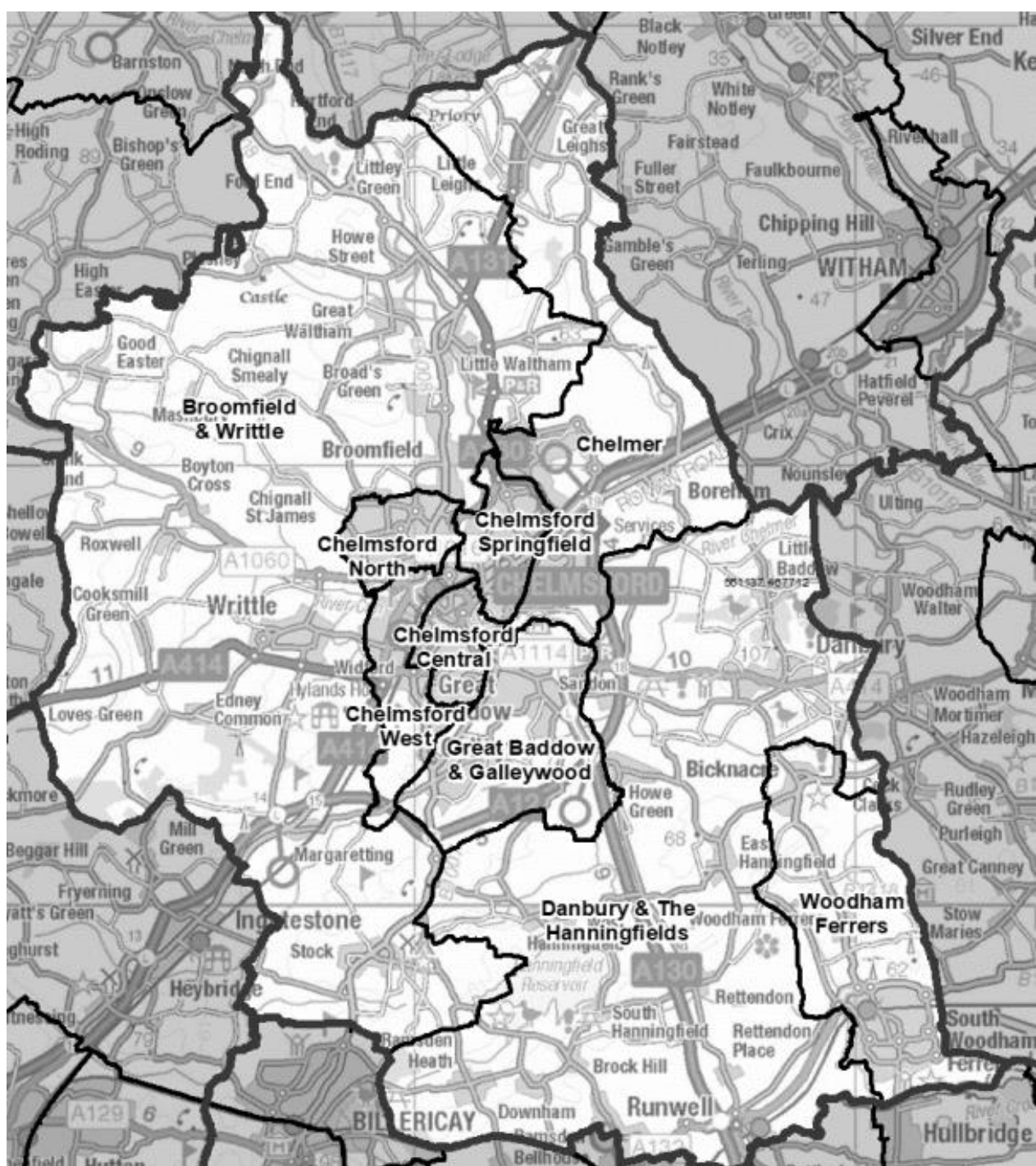
- **No change to number of seats – nine to remain**
- **Great Baddow and Galleywood (apart from renaming to include Galleywood) and Chelmsford Central remain unchanged**
- **Division names:** Broomfield and Writtle, Chelmer, Chelmsford Central, Chelmsford North, Chelmsford Springfield, Chelmsford West, Danbury and The Hanningfields, Great Baddow and Galleywood and Woodham Ferrers

Main Points and changes:

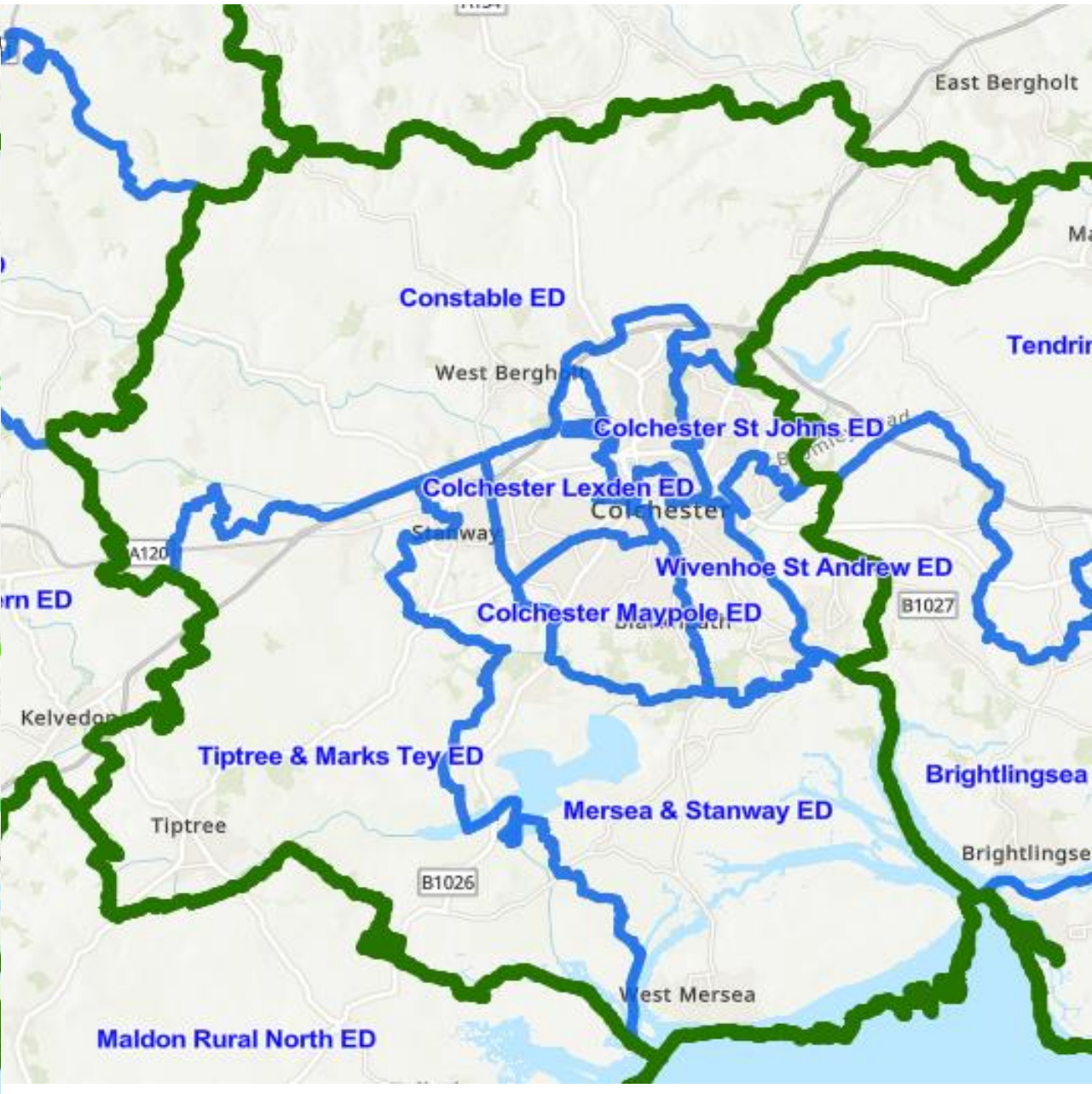
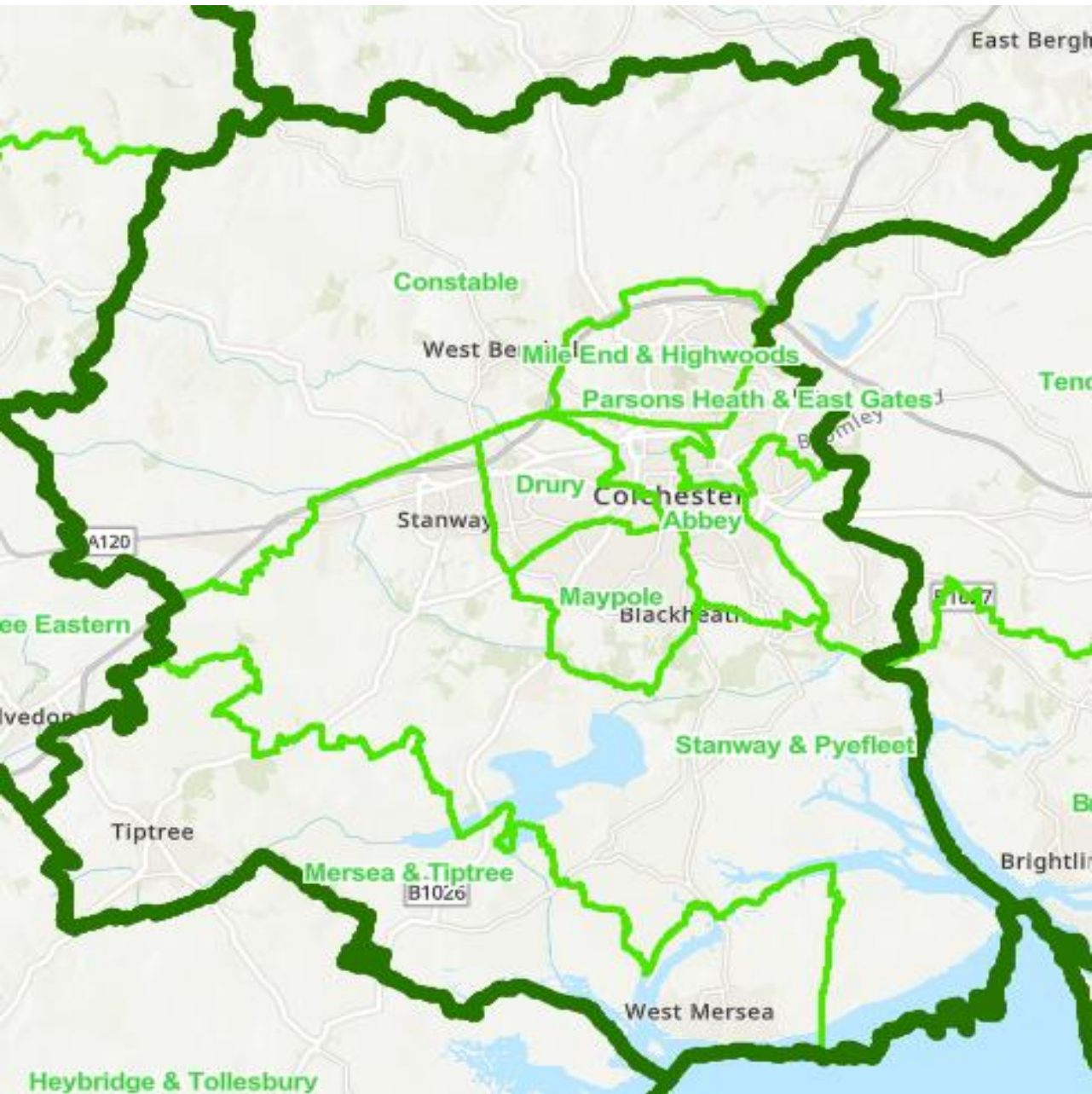
- Broomfield and Writtle extended to the south to include Stock but loses Gt and Lt Leighs
- South Woodham Ferrers division is extended north to include Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre
- Chelmer division to include the Leighs
- New Danbury and the Hanningfields division formed from most of the Stock division and the S part of Chelmer division.
- Chelmer, Springfield and Chelmsford Garden parishes across two divisions – not possible for it to be within one

Questions from LGBCE:

- Evidence of community links between Margaretting and Stock parishes (these are currently together and would remain together)



Colchester



Colchester

- **No change to number of seats – nine to remain**
- **Division names:** Colchester Abbey, Colchester City, Colchester Lexden, Colchester Maypole, Colchester St Johns, Constable, Mersea and Stanway, Tiptree and Marks Tey and Wivenhoe St Andrew

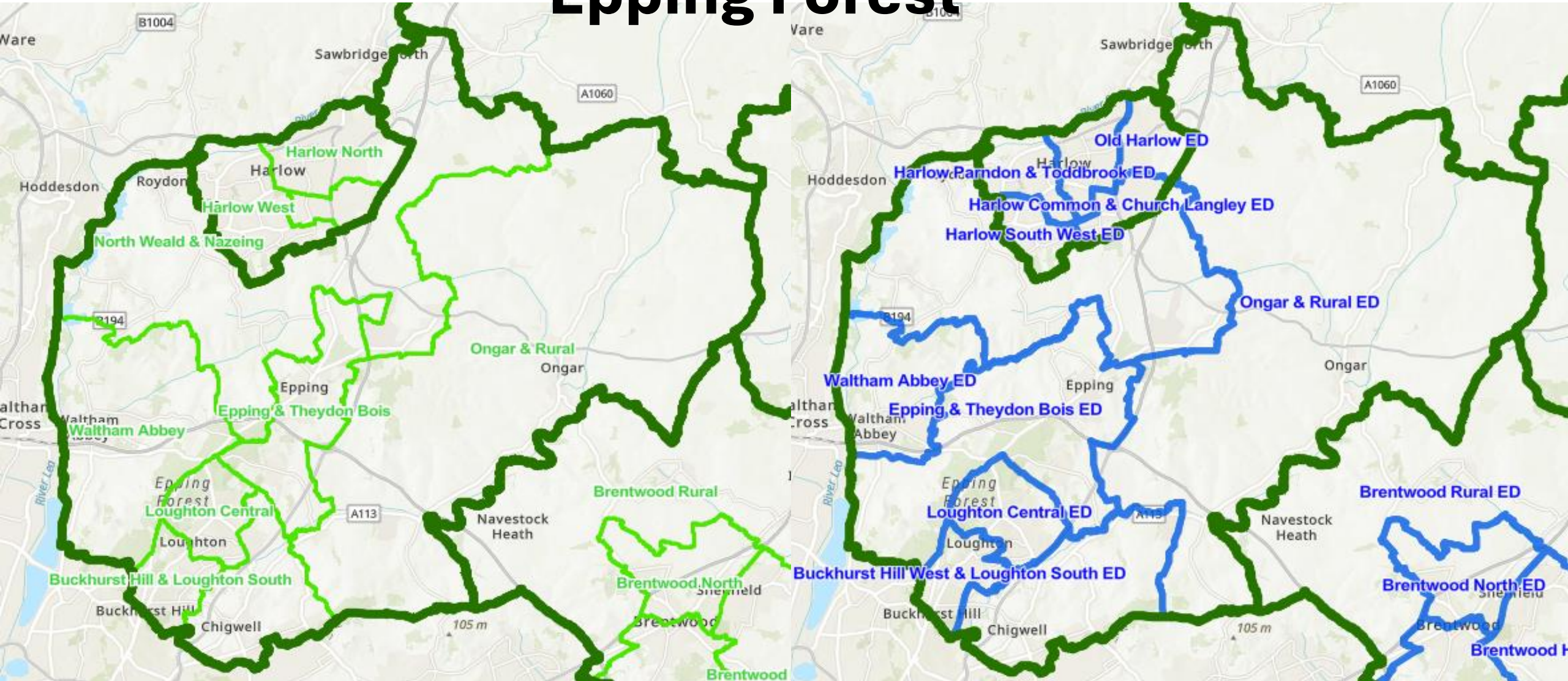
Main Points and changes:

- Mersea Island now in one division with Stanway (currently only E Mersea is with Stanway)
- Tiptree and Marks Tey brought together
- Abbey moved south to include Rowhedge
- Lexden Division (was Drury) now includes Braiswick, which is currently in the same CCC ward as Lexden)
- New boundary between Colchester St Johns and Wivenhoe St Andrew to improve electoral balance
- Myland East parish ward moved into rural Constable division

Questions from LGBCE:

- If alternative patterns of divisions can be identified for the whole of Colchester, that meet the statutory criteria the LGBCE would like to hear them

Epping Forest



Epping Forest

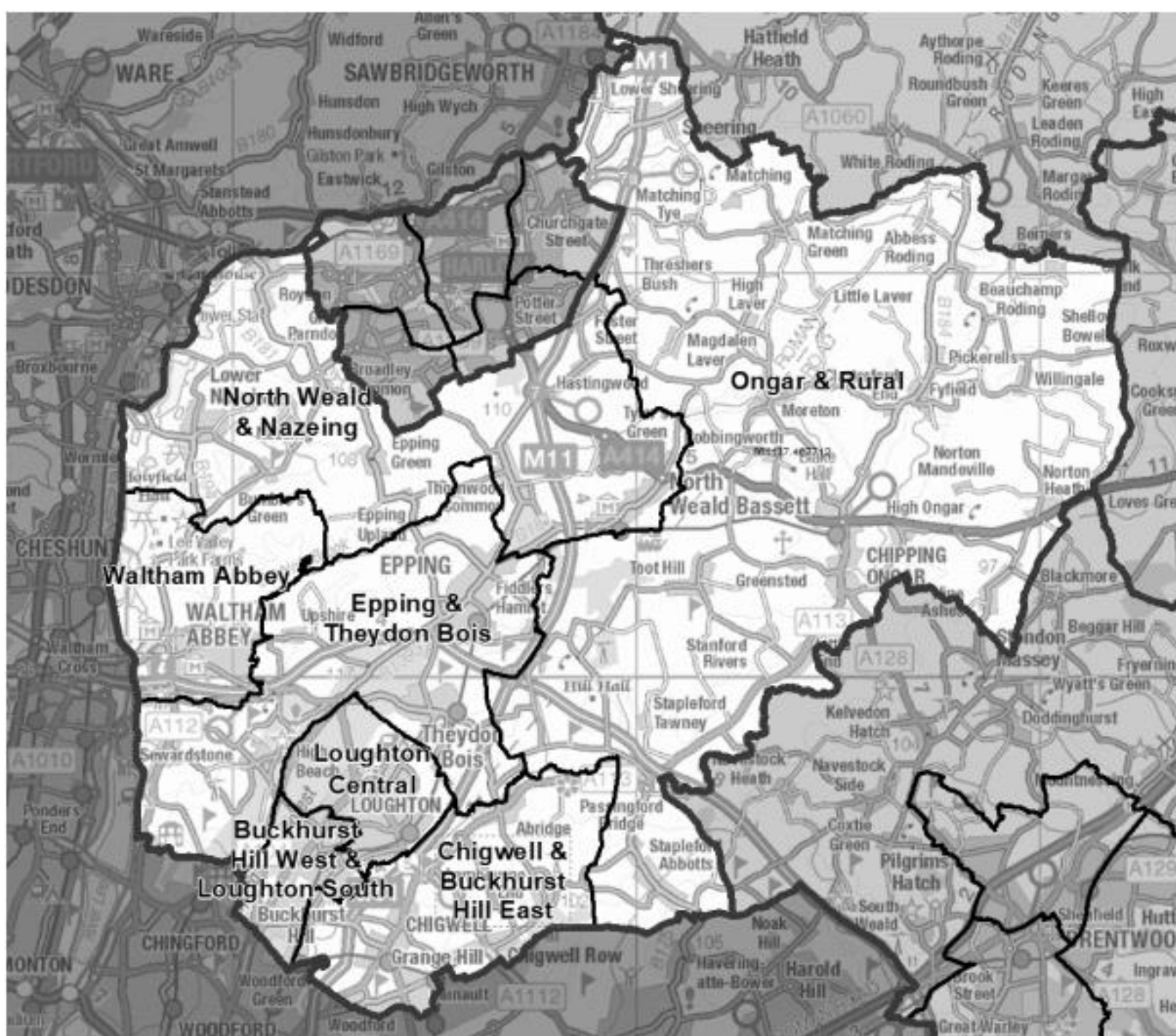
- **No change to number of seats – seven to remain**
- **Division names:** Buckhurst Hill West and Loughton South, Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill East, Epping and Theydon Bois, Loughton Central, North Weald and Nazeing, Ongar and Rural and Waltham Abbey

Main Points and changes:

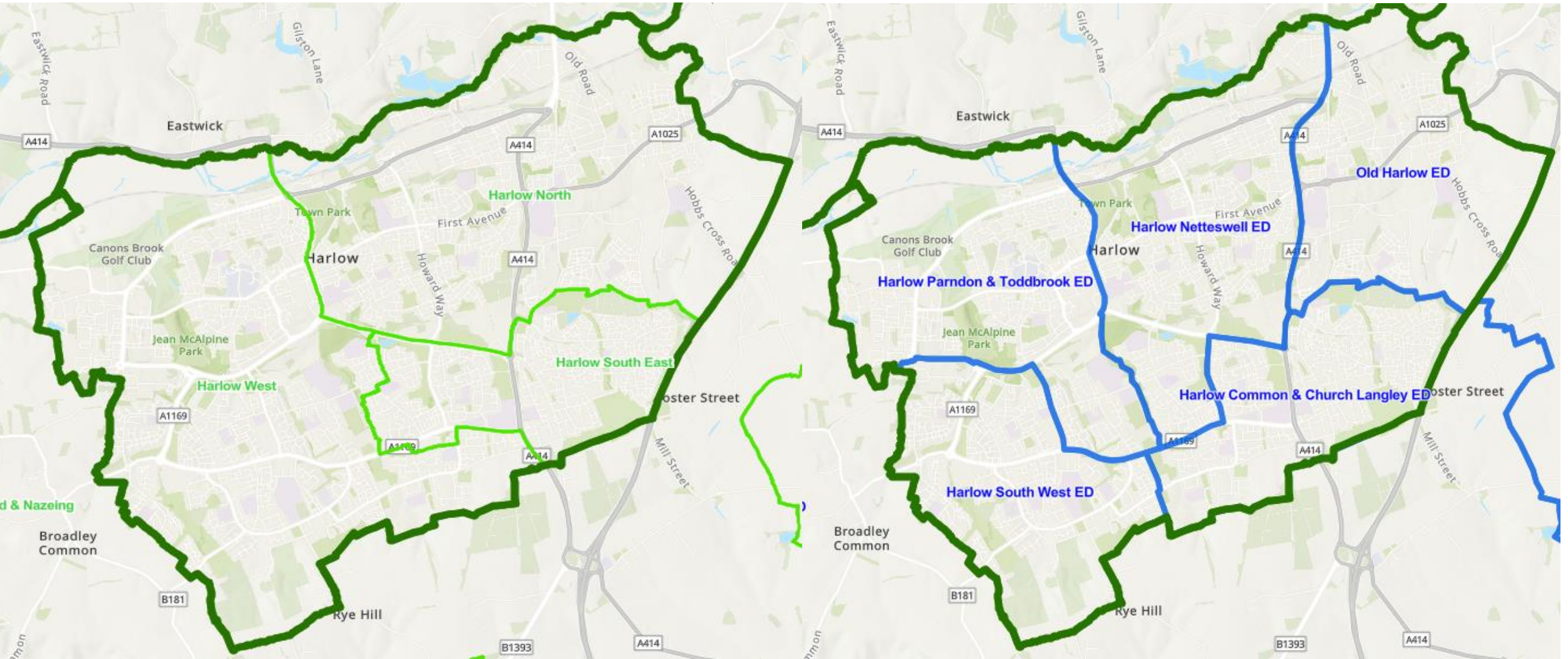
- Loughton now split between two divisions (rather than three), Loughton Broadway placed in one of these
- North Weald and Nazeing reduced in size to four parishes
- Buckhurst Hill split - Chigwell to include part of Buckhurst Hill following loss of Loughton Broadway
- Change to Waltham Abbey division, High Beeches moved to Epping and Theydon Bois
- Increase in size of Ongar and Rural, allowing Matching Green to be in one division – this division is 17 parishes
- Splits parish of Epping Upland

Questions from LGBCE:

- None



Harlow



Harlow

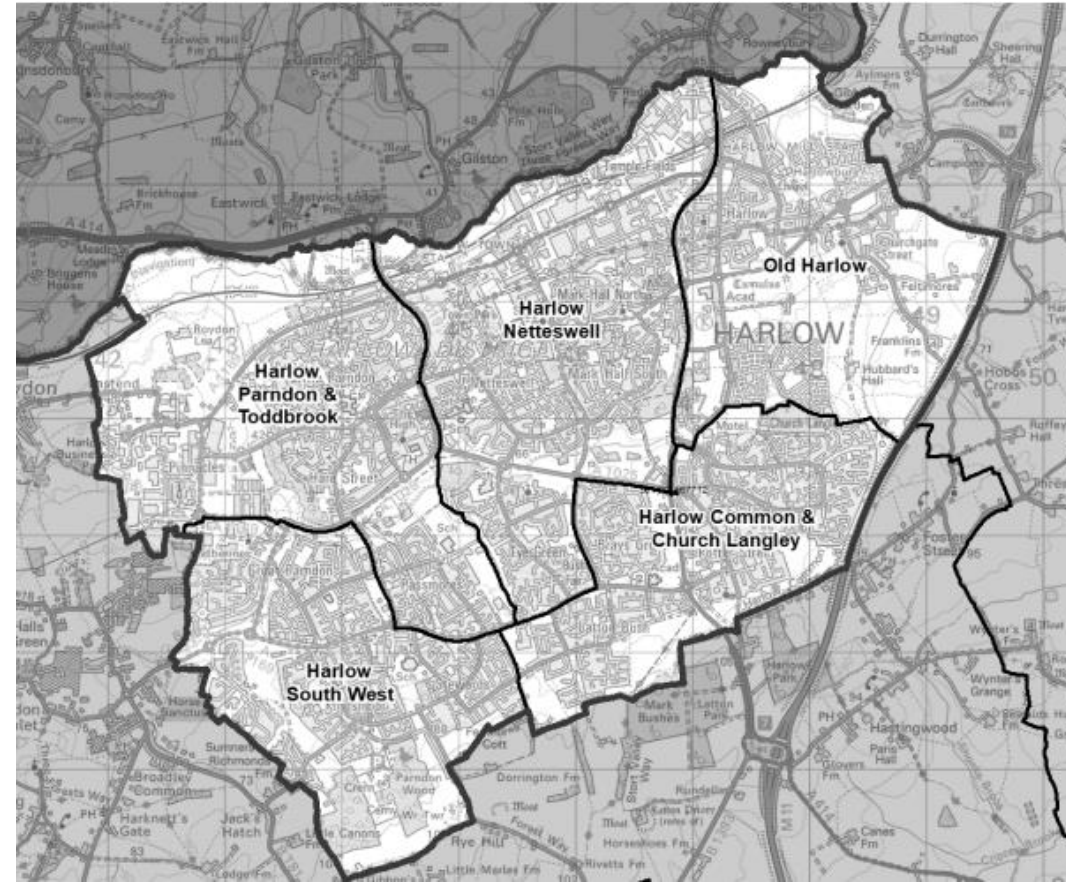
- Increase the number of seats from four to five
- Remove the two member division of Harlow West and create five single member divisions
- **Division names:** Harlow Common and Church Langley, Harlow Netteswell, Harlow Parndon and Toddbrook, Harlow South West and Old Harlow

Main points and changes:

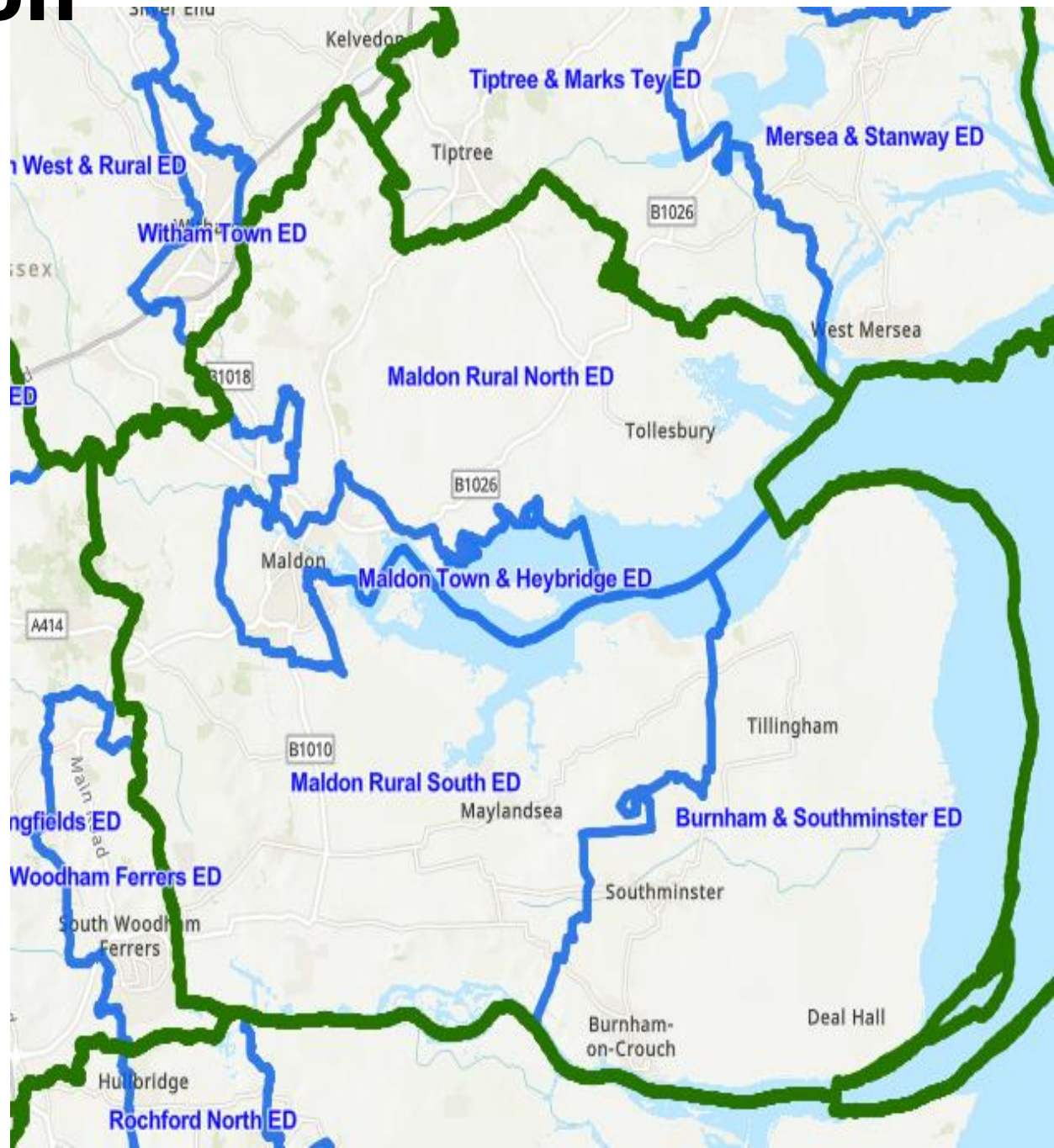
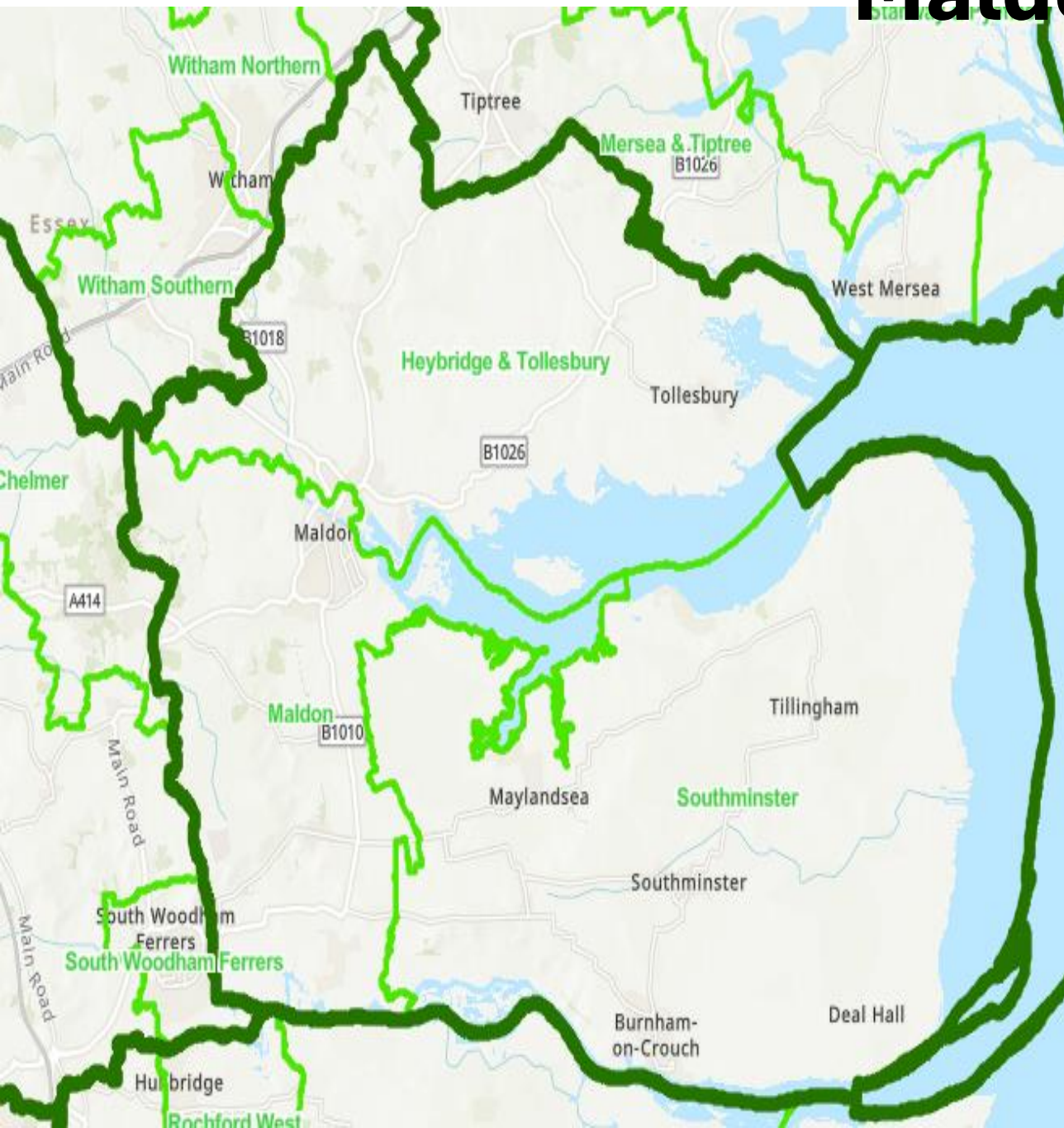
- Creation of five new divisions
- Divisions to reflect updated ward boundaries

Questions from LGBCE:

- None



Maldon



Maldon

- **Increase the number of seats from three to four**
- **Division names:** Burnham and Southminster, Maldon Rural North, Maldon Rural South and Maldon Town and Heybridge

Main Points and changes:

- Burnham and Southminster to become one division
- Creation of a Rural South (Mayland, Althorne, North Fambridge, Stow Maries, Woodham Walter, Mundon, Ulting)
- Creation of a Rural North (the Braxteds, Wickham Bishop, The Tothams, The Tolleshunts, Goldhanger and Tollesbury)
- A Maldon Town and Heybridge division

Questions from LGBCE:

- Would a two member division for Maldon Town and Heybridge and Maldon Rural North divisions be preferable to two single member divisions?

Rochford



Rochford

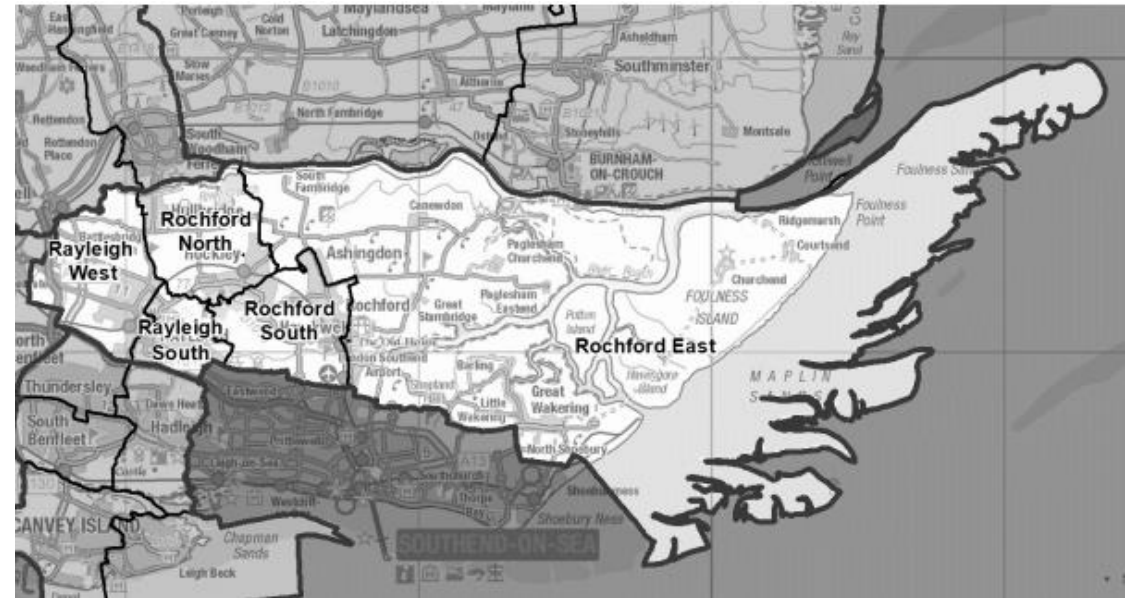
- **No change to number of seats – five to remain**
- **Division names:** Rayleigh South, Rayleigh West, Rayleigh East, Rochford North and Rochford South (current Rochford West division becomes Rochford North)

Main Points and changes:

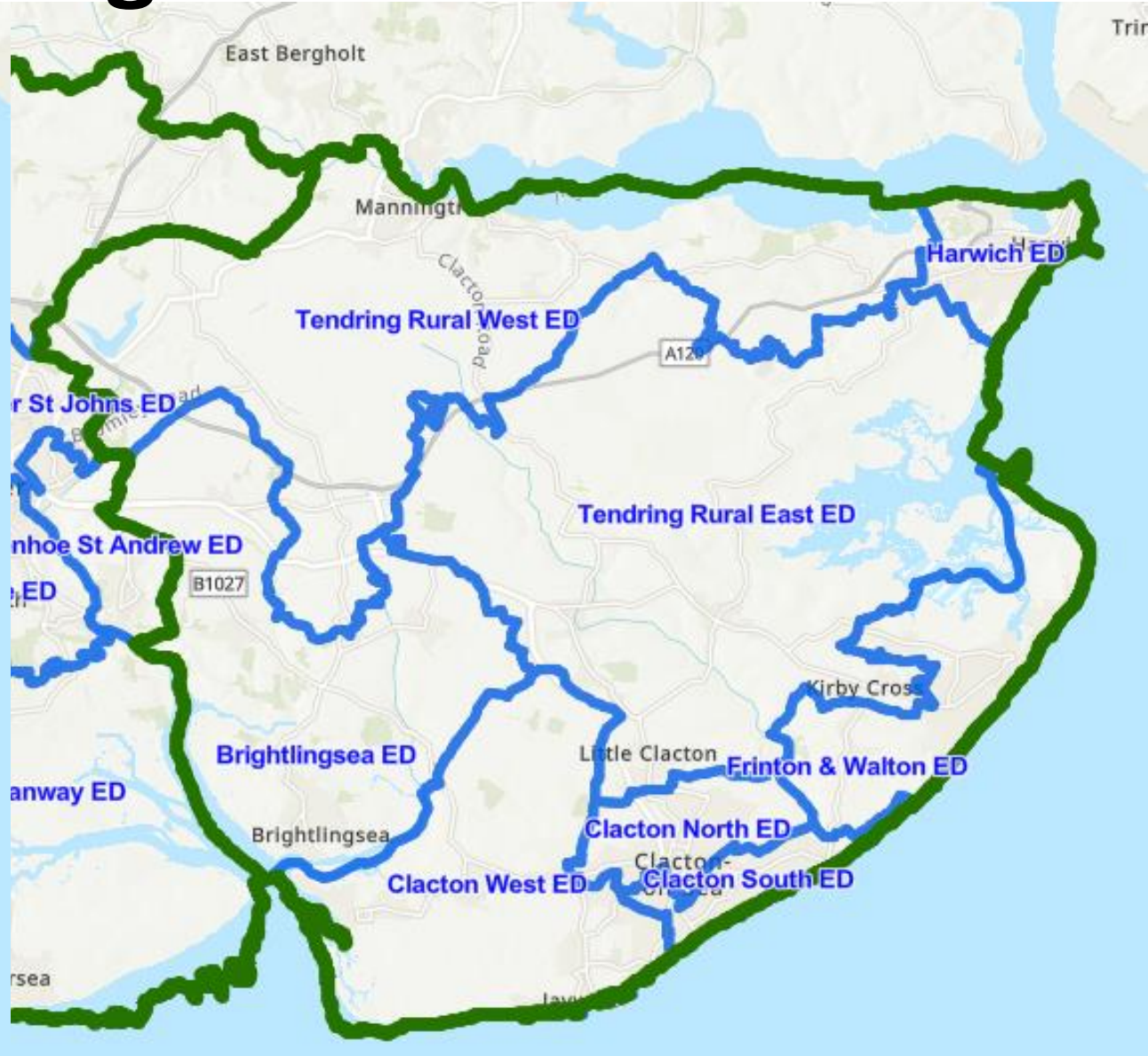
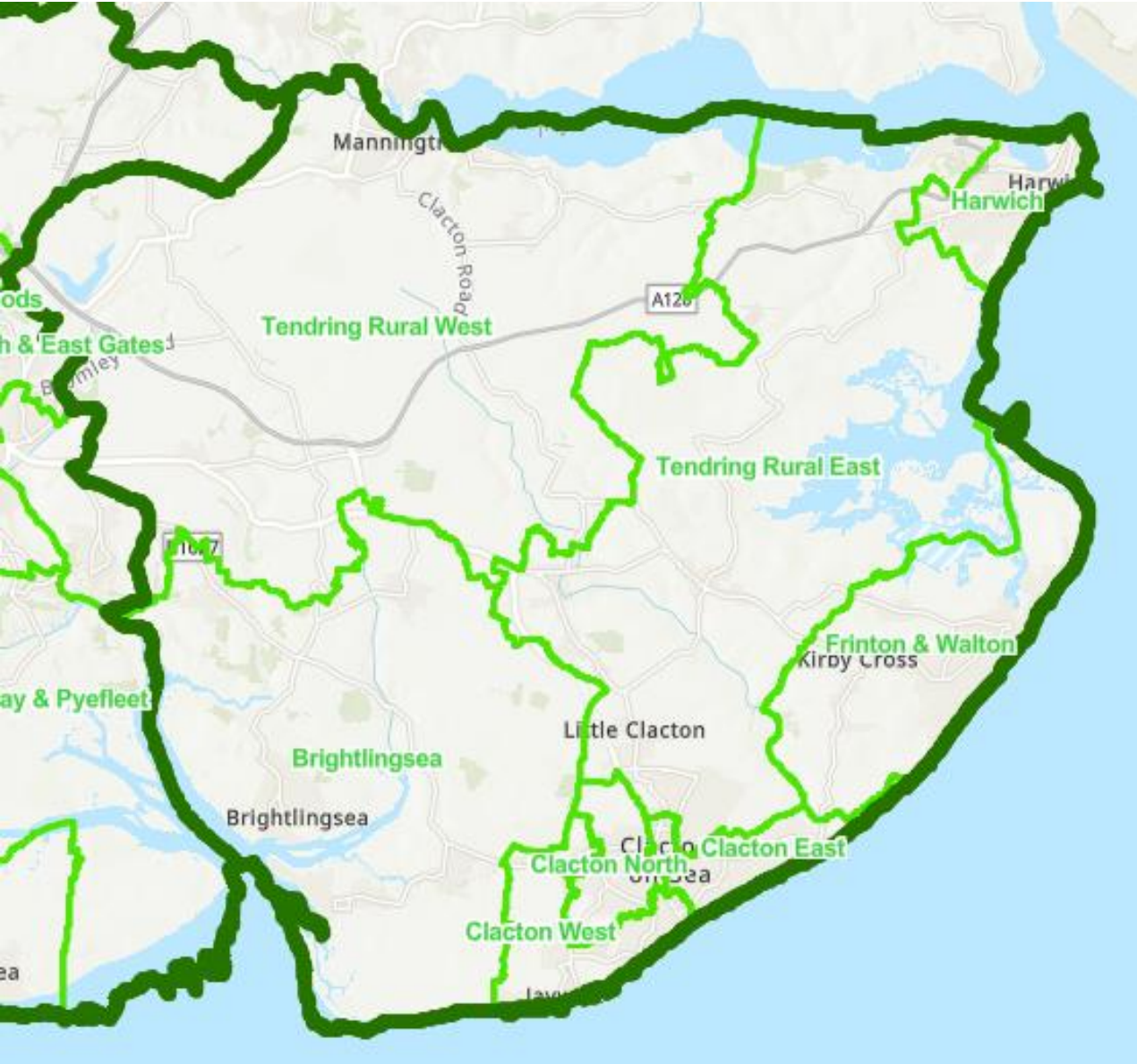
- Geographically large rural Rochford East division
- Allowed electoral variance to enable community identify to remain

Questions from LGBCE:

- Would the boundary between the two Rayleigh divisions be better running along Websters Way or Bull Lane and Stile Lane instead of the High Street, allowing the High Street to be in one division?



Tendring



Tendring

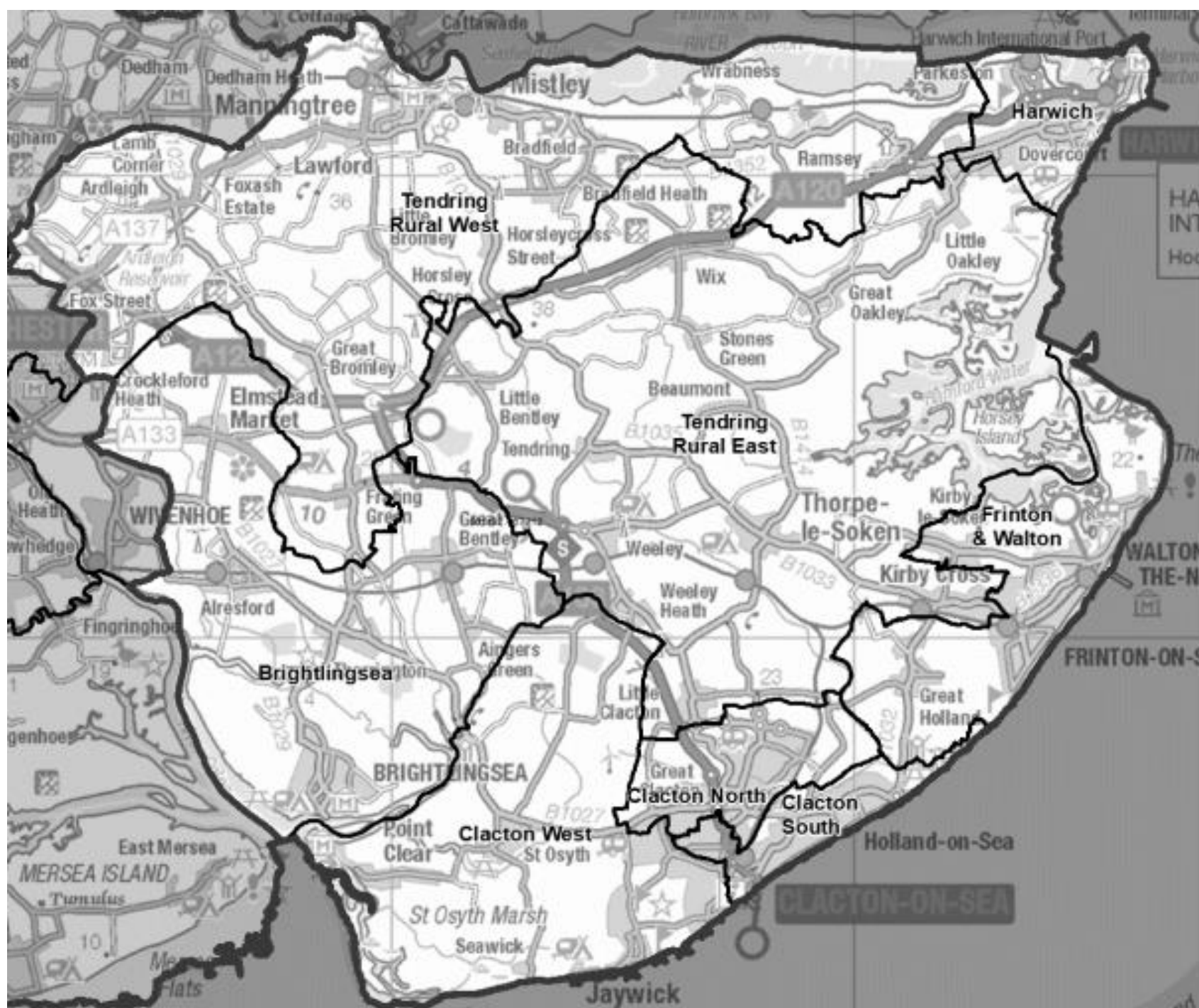
- **No change to number of seats – eight to remain**
- **Division names:** Brightlingsea, Clacton North, Clacton South, Clacton West, Frinton and Walton, Harwich, Tendring Rural East and Tendring Rural West

Main Points and changes:

- Harwich division to include all five Harwich wards
- Placement of Kirby-le-Soken into Frinton and Walton, so all of Kirby-le-Soken and Hamford ward to be within one division
- Wix to move to Tendring Rural East
- Railway line as a boundary to put all of St John's ward into Clacton North
- Boundary to run along St Osyth Road and Old Road
- Larger electoral division for Clacton South to maintain community identity

Questions from LGBCE:

- Views on boundaries for Clacton South division



Uttlesford



Uttlesford

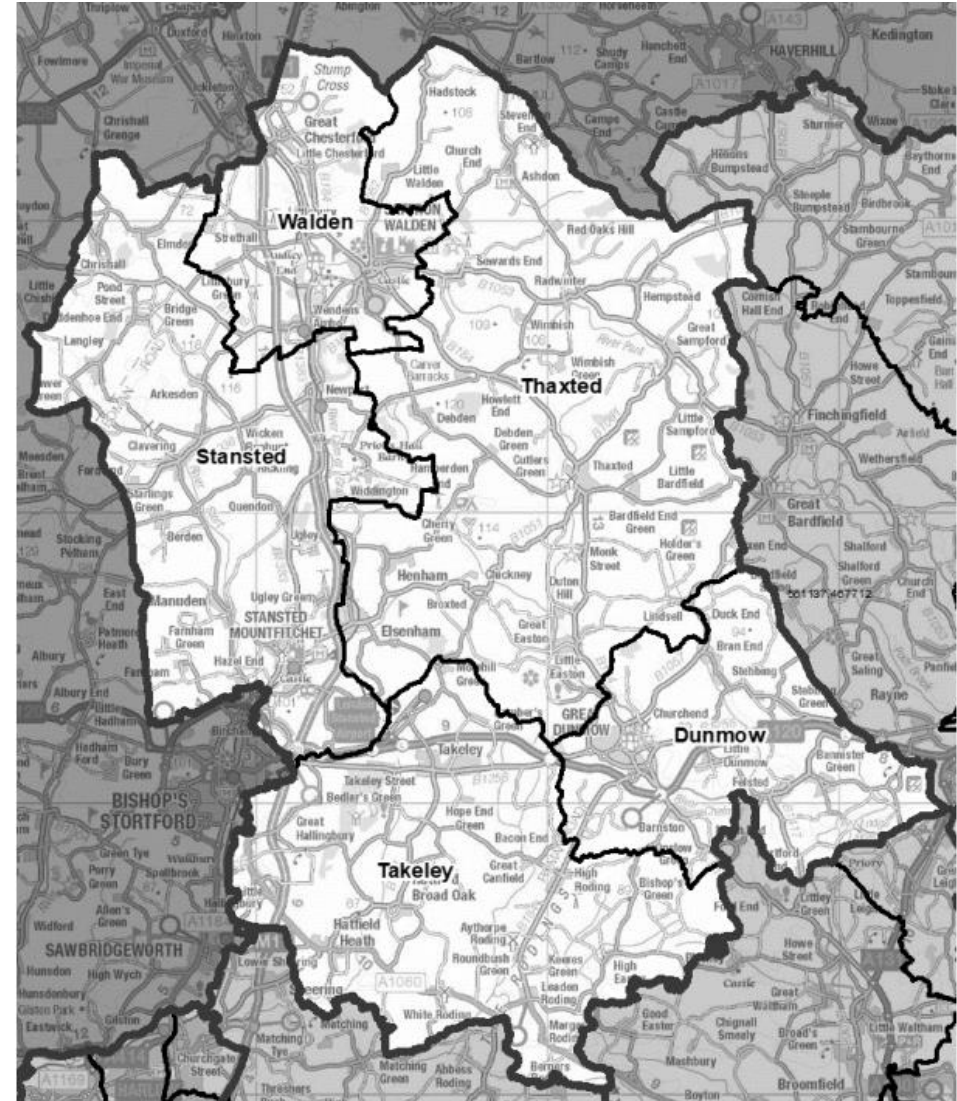
- Increase the number of seats to five from four
- **Division names:** Dunmow, Stansted, Takeley, Thaxted and Walden

Main Points and changes:

- Wendens Ambo parish to sit within Walden division
- All Newport ward within a single division
- Widdington to move to Thaxted

Questions from LGBCE:

- None



Next steps

- **Anyone can respond to consultation (individuals, parties, local authorities etc.)**
- **ECC is likely to respond**
- **Feedback to your group rep on Boundary Review Committee or Paul and Joanna **NO LATER than 2pm on 12 January but sooner if possible****
- **Officers are happy to meet individual members or groups of members or political groups**
- **ECC Decision making committee scheduled for 23 January 2024**
- **Closing date for responses to LGBCE is **19 February 2024****

After the consultation

- **LGBCE will finalise their proposals in summer 2024**
- **They may consult again if they are doing something radically different from current draft proposals**
- **Make recommendations to Parliament and lay draft Statutory Instrument**
- **Parliament approves Statutory Instrument**
- **New boundaries in force from May 2025 election.**