

TheTown Hall
Market Street
Saffron Walden
CB10 1HZ

Tel: 01799 516501



To: The Mayor and Members of Saffron Walden Town Council

Summons & Agenda

You are summoned to attend the FULL COUNCIL of the TOWN COUNCIL of SAFFRON WALDEN to be held in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden on **Thursday 8th January 2026** commencing at **7.00pm** to transact the business as set out in the agenda below

Scan the QR code to be taken to the website calendar:



Meetings and the Public

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend any of the Council's Full Council or Committee meetings and listen to the debate. All agendas, reports and minutes can be viewed on the Council's website www.saffronwalden.gov.uk. For background papers in relation to this meeting please contact enquiries@saffronwalden.gov.uk or phone 01799 516501

The agenda may be split into two parts. Most of the business will be dealt with in Part I which is open to the public. Part II (if applicable) includes items which may be discussed in the absence of the press or public, as they deal with information which is personal or sensitive for some other reason. The press and public will be asked to leave the meeting before Part II items are discussed.

Members of the public are permitted to ask questions at any of these meetings, with each meeting including an agenda item for questions from the public. Members of the public are not required to register in advance of the meeting but it may be useful if you notify your intention to speak either in advance of or at the meeting by emailing: townclerk@saffronwalden.gov.uk. If you wish to register at the meeting, please indicate your desire to speak at the allocated Public Speaking Time.

Facilities for people with disabilities

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If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest designated fire exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by a designated officer. It is vital you follow their instructions.

For information about this meeting please contact the Town Council:

Telephone: 01799 516501 / Email: enquiries@saffronwalden.gov.uk

General Enquiries – Saffron Walden Town Council Offices, The Town Hall, Market Place, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HZ | Website: www.saffronwalden.gov.uk

Recording of meetings

Meetings will be recorded where possible and practicable to do so.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018:

For details of the Town Council's Privacy Notice, please visit our website: <http://saffronwalden.gov.uk/policies/>



Lisa Courtney, Town Clerk

24 December 2025

1	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>To receive apologies and consider requests for approved absence</p>
2	<p>To receive any Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Members and officers are invited to make any declarations of interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and are reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.</p>
3	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>For the public or press to ask questions of the Council on matters relating to the agenda.</p>
4	<p>Local Government Reorganisation</p> <p>This matter carried forward from the December 2025 Full Council meeting.</p> <p>To consider the Town Council's response to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation, as launched by the UK Government.</p> <p>On 19th November 2025, the Government announced a public consultation on all four proposals for new unitary councils in Greater Essex. The consultation runs until Sunday, 11 January 2026.</p> <p>Full details online on the LGR Hub: https://www.essexlgrhub.org/stronger-greater-essex and Government is expected to decide on the final model for Greater Essex Spring 2026.</p>

Attached are Consultation Questions in the form of a PDF (these can't be submitted (online consultation only) but provide details of the volume and type of questions before responding online). Respondents are encouraged to provide a total of four responses, commenting on each proposed unitary local government. The proposals are summarised as:

1. Five unitary councils across the whole of the area of Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea, comprising the current district areas of:

West: Uttlesford, Harlow, Epping Forest
North East: Braintree, Colchester, Tendring
Mid: Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon
South West: Thurrock, Basildon
South East: Castle Point, Southend, Rochford
(this is UDC's preferred option)

2. Three unitary councils across the whole of the area of Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea, comprising the current district areas of:

North: Braintree, Colchester, Tendring, Uttlesford
Mid: Harlow, Epping Forest, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon
South: Thurrock, Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend
(this is ECC's preferred option)

3. Four unitary councils across the whole of the area of Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea, comprising the current district areas of:

North: Braintree, Colchester, Tendring
West: Epping Forest, Harlow, Uttlesford
Central: Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon, Rochford
South: Basildon, Castle Point, Southend, Thurrock

4. Four unitary councils across the whole of the area of Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea, comprising the current district areas of:

West: Harlow, Epping Forest, Brentwood, Thurrock
North: Uttlesford, Braintree, Chelmsford
East: Maldon, Colchester, Tendring
South: Basildon, Castle Point, Southend, Rochford

Council is requested to consider a response to the local government reorganisation proposals, before the closing date of 11th January 2026.

Attached is a summary of the LGR process and a recommendation report, aligning with the draft response as agreed at the December 2025 Full Council meeting

5	Urgent Information Items Any items to report for information only. This item is included for information sharing only and Council is not permitted to determine matters under this agenda item
6	Date and time of Next Meeting The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 9 th February at 7.30pm in the Town Hall