

District Councillor Report –April 2026

A new government-funded [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) (CRF) has launched today (7 April) in Essex.

The new fund provides support for families and individuals in financial hardship. It also aims to help communities build long-term financial resilience.

The fund is designed to support residents with urgent needs.

It will cover the below key areas.

- Crisis Payments for low-income households facing urgent financial difficulty.
- Specific funding as needed. Including those facing immediate financial hardship due to increases in heating oil prices and are at risk of losing immediate access to heating or hot water.
- Expanded Resilience Services, including financial guidance and support.

Residents who believe they are eligible for any of this support can apply [online](#) or via the dedicated phone line (0300 790 0124) that is run by Southend City Council. Please note this is for anyone in the Essex County Council area.

Maldon District Council Leads Essex in Recycling Rates

The latest league table showcasing recycling rates for all 321 local authorities across England in 2045/25 has just been released by [letsrecycle.com](#). The published results highlight the nation's progress towards a greener future and shine a spotlight on local success stories.

Maldon District Council has emerged as the top performer in Essex with a recycling rate of 57.8%, securing its status among the top 6% of councils nationally for recycling rates. This remarkable achievement reflects the council's strong commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The Leader of Maldon District Council, Cllr Richard Siddall, and Chief Executive, Doug Wilkinson, recently visited Northey Island to meet with colleagues from the National Trust.

During the visit, the National Trust team outlined the latest phase in 10 years of Coastal Adaptation work across the site, which is to create a brand-new island just off the shore of Northey Island, designed specifically to provide a safe breeding habitat for some of the UK's most vulnerable coastal bird species. The Blackwater Estuary is internationally recognised for its rich wildlife, and projects like this play a vital role in strengthening the long-term health of the local ecosystem.

By separating nesting areas from predators and rising tidal pressures, the new island aims to boost populations of species that depend on undisturbed saltmarsh and shoreline environments. This work forms part of wider efforts to protect coastal habitats, increase biodiversity and build resilience to the effects of climate change along the Essex coast.

As I'm sure you are all aware, we are voting on 7th May and every vote counts so please, please make sure you vote. If for any reason you have not received a polling card please still attend as you will still be able to vote provided you are on the Electoral Register. Please also remember to take photo I.D

1. A poll for the election of a County Councillor for Maldon Rural South will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026, between the hours of 07:00 am and 10:00 pm.

<u>Name of Candidate</u>	<u>Description (if any)</u>
<u>BASSENGER</u> <u>Mark Geoffrey</u>	<u>Independent</u>
<u>ELEY</u> <u>James</u>	<u>Liberal Democrats</u>

<u>FLEMING</u> <u>Jane Lisa</u>	<u>The</u> <u>Conservative</u> <u>Party</u>
<u>GEORGE</u> <u>Richard</u>	<u>The Green Party</u>
<u>HAYWOOD</u> <u>Linda Joan</u>	<u>Independent</u>
<u>JAY</u> <u>Justin</u>	<u>Reform UK</u>
<u>PRESTON</u> <u>Felix</u>	<u>Labour Party</u>