

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENTS WILL HELP LOCAL ROUTES

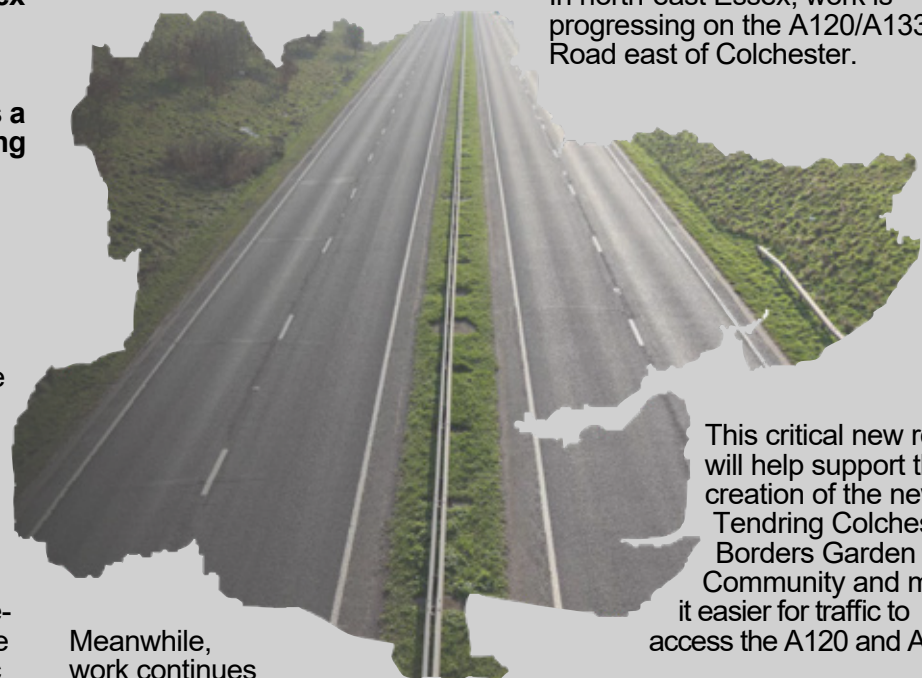
While we are seeing a focus on encouraging walking and cycling within our urban areas, upgrading key strategic roads across Essex is also critical and £700million is being invested over the next six years. Delivering the right major route improvements has a transformational impact, helping shift traffic to the strategic network and away from local roads, reducing congestion, improving air quality and our communities' environments.

In west Essex, work on the new M11 J7a junction has entered the next stage, with hard shoulder and lane closures on the existing motorway to prepare for groundworks due to start in November.

In south Essex, the A127 Task Force is preparing the case for re-trunking the A127 to unlock future investment and enable economic growth, while initial junction improvement schemes are being developed, subject to funding. Construction is also scheduled to begin at Fairglen Interchange next year.

In mid Essex, the Government has committed to progressing an upgrade of the A120 from Braintree to A12 and we are now handing

over all our county-led work done to date, to Highways England.



Meanwhile, work continues improving sustainable transport infrastructure as part of Chelmsford City Growth Package and long-term options for the Army and Navy junction are undergoing further modelling and assessment before public consultation in 2021. Plans for the Chelmsford North East Bypass and Beaulieu Station development also moved ahead with a county first – an online

virtual exhibition, which replaced traditional face-to-face engagement events that we could not hold. In north-east Essex, work is progressing on the A120/A133 Link Road east of Colchester.

This critical new road will help support the creation of the new Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community and make it easier for traffic to access the A120 and A12.

Construction is due to begin on the road in 2022. Alongside the Link Road, the Colchester Rapid Transit System which will run between the A12 Park and Ride and the new Garden Community is also currently being designed.

For details about all these schemes and more, refer to the Highways Schemes section of our website.



COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

**DEPUTY LEADER, ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
AND CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

Essex is set to see millions of pounds of investment into our highways from maintenance to new infrastructure.

The Top 50 Member Led pothole repair scheme has been successful and work will start shortly. We have also had money in from Government, the LEP as well as ECC investment to create Junction 7A on the M11.

We have been told that Highways England will soon start on the A12 and we are now working hard to have the A127 upgraded and put back into the national road programme to ensure it receives the funding required for this important area of South Essex.

WHY NOT TRAVEL DIFFERENTLY TODAY?

Stop.Swap.GO! is a campaign about making it easier than ever for the people of Essex to think about using cars less and switch to more active and sustainable travel methods like walking and cycling.

Encouraging people to walk, cycle and use the bus will help reduce carbon emissions and local pollution, and reduce local congestion too.

It's a unique chance to greatly improve our air quality, our health, and life opportunities for the next generation. Why not encourage people to find out more on the [website](#).

Following the introduction of semi-permanent measures in various towns across Essex, Essex County Council in August also submitted an ambitious bid for further Government Emergency Active Travel funding to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The Essex proposal, which includes details of five transformational schemes in Basildon (Wickford), Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford



and Colchester, is now being considered by the DfT with results announced later in the Autumn.

Review the bids on the Safer, Greener, Healthier highways webpage, in the 'Documents' section.



DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 43% of car trips in Essex districts are under three miles. That's just a 15-minute bike ride

IS THIS THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT?

Not at Essex Highways we hope! With long-range forecasting not really able to offer any meaningful insights yet to possible winter conditions, we nevertheless are gearing up to deliver our winter gritting programme on Essex roads.

This year, our gritting team go to stand-by from 19 October. Before then, on the first two Saturdays in October, you may see our gritter vehicles out and about as drivers refresh their knowledge of the routes we grit. Don't forget that Highways England, not Essex Highways, grit the A12, A120, M11 and M25 in Essex.

If you want to refresh your own memory of roads we grit, please [have a look at our gritting routes map online](#). You can also find out much more on our other [extensive winter travel pages](#) – and if you would like to get daily alerts about whether we are gritting or not, then please follow our [Essex Highways twitter feed](#).

Although we can't guarantee that there won't be disruption caused to winter service due to the Covid19 pandemic, we are planning very carefully so we can continue to deliver the best service we can under any situation a virus outbreak or the weather can throw at us.



INNOVATION >

WALKING THE TALK

Each year hundreds of miles, millions of square metres, of surface dressing on Essex roads depends on the timely arrival of a succession of tipper-trucks full of small stone chippings to keep up with the spreader.

The loaded lorry tips up the stones sliding them down into the spreading machine, whilst both vehicles continue to move along as the stones are spread on the sticky binder material. This creates inefficiency and a risk if there are overhead wires or overhanging buildings or posts.

Councillor Robert Mitchell explains a new 'walking floor' system that solves the problems and can result in fewer tipper journeys too:



WATCH THE VIDEO



POTHOLES, PAVEMENTS DRAINS AND STREETLIGHTS FIXED IN THE MONTH...

Potholes fixed per district/city/borough in August are as listed below.

When considering these numbers, remember that there are many more miles of road

in Uttlesford than in Harlow, for example, and the balance of types of road (main, secondary, local) are different too, so a direct comparison is misleading. In September crews continue to clear drains on local roads and

any higher-risk drains in Basildon, Colchester and Uttlesford as well as the start of clearing drains on main roads (PR1 & PR2 roads) in Epping Forest.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	12	23	60	2523	388
BRAINTREE	53	178	53	0	245
BRENTWOOD	3	21	43	0	92
CASTLE POINT	13	55	23	2218	180
CHELMSFORD	21	35	130	0	244
COLCHESTER	49	102	23	2337	217
EPHING FOREST	54	59	23	0	157
HARLOW	0	27	26	0	201
MALDON	6	9	3	0	62
ROCHFORD	3	8	16	0	103
TENDRING	16	158	69	0	257
UTTLESFORD	23	31	15	1371	99
TOTALS	253	706	484	8449	2245




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