

# HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS | MAY 2023



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# COMMENT

## COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

### CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

**Sustainable travel is the future – I have no doubt in that at all. We, as a County, need to do all we can to support and encourage sustainable travel; whether this is through walking, cycling or wheeling.**

Not only will this play an important part in delivering our zero carbon goals, but it will also create a healthier and more cost effective future for all of our residents.

There are so many options when it comes to travelling, but travelling by car is often the default for most – it is this default that I want to start changing. By providing easier, healthier, and safer streets for people to make positive changes, I am confident we can support everyone to consider more fully their journeys and the way they make them.

Our Sustainable Travel team is hosting a conference on Monday 12 June and County Members are invited to listen, learn and ask questions about the future of travel in Essex.





**SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER**  
Transforming travel in Essex

# MOVING SUSTAINABLY

**Ensuring that our streets become healthier is a priority if we're to deliver on our 2050 zero carbon goal and with this end in mind, we're delighted to report that the Sustainable Transport team has recently secured over £5 million to design and implement changes to our roads infrastructure in order to boost active travel.**

We appreciate that ditching the car altogether is not realistic for many of us – but if we can encourage everybody to walk, cycle or wheel once or twice a week, especially for shorter journeys, we will go a long way to meeting our environmental goals.

Sustainable travel will also give our residents increased choice in how they travel, helping them to improve their health and save money as well as making our streets healthier by reducing congestion, improving air quality and freeing up the road network for those who have to use it. We'll be using the ringfenced Active Travel Fund 4 funding to finance a number of

schemes designed to improve walking, wheeling and cycling access in Basildon, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester and Harlow.

This, along with our other active travel initiatives – such as free adult and child cycling training sessions, working with schools and businesses on their active travel plans, funding the Go Jauntly walking app as well as working with commercial partner Tier who are running the e-scooter trial, will go a long way to supporting transport independence.

If any Member is interested in finding out more about our active travel plans (and just to remind you that we're hosting our very own active travel conference for members on 12 June at County Hall), please do get in touch.

We all need to start changing our travel behaviour and we urge you to join us on our active travel journey (excuse the pun!) - and help us meet our ambition to make Essex Safer, Greener and Healthier.





# ESSEX HIGHWAYS RECEIVES A FURTHER £3 MILLION FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR



**A further £3 million for Essex Highways to carry out more maintenance and repair work on roads across the county was announced during May's Full Council meeting.**

This extra funding, announced earlier this month at Essex County Council's Full Council meeting, will be targeted towards road surface repairs and treatments, which will address issues reported to Essex Highways and ensure roads across the county are kept safe for residents and businesses.

This funding is in addition to Essex Highways' £35 million 2023/24 budget for maintaining and repairing the carriageway and to the £9 million additional investment announced in February. Additional crews have been added to the Essex Highways team to help meet the volume of repairs required.

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "We have had

to make some difficult decisions in this year's council budget and this reflects the challenges we're all facing on our finances at the moment.

"I am pleased, however, that Essex County Council is able to go further and provide additional investment for maintenance and repairs of the county's roads and footpaths over the course of the next year.

"Now the resurfacing works are underway, residents across the county are likely to benefit from the investment Essex Highways is making in maintaining the county's roads. Carrying out these repairs is vital to keeping Essex residents moving and supporting them to make safer, greener, and healthier choices about how they travel."

The extra £3m for Essex Highways is in addition to the county's £5.4m allocation from the Department for Transport pothole fund, announced by the Chancellor in the Budget in March.



# ESSEX HIGHWAYS **RECOGNISED** FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION



Above, left to right, Phil Horton (Managing Director Ringway Jacobs), Paul Crick (Director for Highways and Transportation, Climate, Environment and Customer Services, ECC) and Simon Butt (Operations Director, Ringway Jacobs for Essex Highways) celebrate a night of success at the ADEPT awards

**At its annual President's Awards on Thursday 25 May, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) recognised the achievement of members and partners across the country.**

We are delighted to announce that in the Digital Innovation and Technology category, two projects from Essex Highways were awarded highly commended. **Digital Structures Inspections** trialled the use of sophisticated drone platforms and imaging technology with a digital platform to plan, manage and analyse inspections.

**Digital Highway Safety Inspections** uses Road AI technology to automatically analyse video readings from vehicle mounted smartphones and apply UKPMS methodology to categorize and report defects.

In addition, the **Delivering Clean Growth**, category, was won by Essex County Council for its Harlow and Tendring Retrofit Pipeline for Economic Renewal. The judges praised the programme for being 'a bit out of the ordinary

and a very specific and tailored approach to real world problem.'

Paul Crick, Director for Highways and Transportation, Climate, Environment and Customer Services said: "With only three award categories and amongst some very strong competition, I was delighted to accept the winning award for 'Delivering Green Growth' and the highly commended awards in the Digital Innovation and Technology category on behalf of ECC. My thanks to everyone involved in these fantastic initiatives."

Simon Butt, Operations Director, Essex Highways said: "We have always been committed to working smarter and pulling through innovation into service, particularly where we can add value, realise cost savings and work towards reducing negative impact on the environment.

"It was, therefore, extremely gratifying to be recognised by industry and the many Directors of Place and Environment in regard to being innovative with the use of digital technology."

# ROAD SURFACING? WE'VE GOT IT COVERED

**Resurfacing works on many roads across the county are now in full swing as the warmer and drier spring weather sets in**

**We have now launched our 2023/24 programme to upgrade the condition of many roads across the county repairing some of the damage caused by the cold and wet winter conditions.**

Our 2023/24 budget for maintaining and repairing the carriageway across Essex over the next year is over £35 million. This does not include the £9 million additional investment announced as part of our budget in February, which has now been allocated to the following works:

- £3.46 million for road resurfacing
- £4 million for two member led footways schemes, where members will prioritise funding across their districts.
- £1.54 million for carriageway patching.

In addition to this, a further £3 million was announced at Essex County Council's Full Council meeting last month and an extra £1.2 million has also been allocated to Local Highway Panels for resurfacing.

Members will work with the panels in their districts to allocate funding to the defects they prioritise. Additional crews have also been put in place to support our teams deliver maintenance and repairs across Essex.

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "The additional investment allocated to fixing Essex's roads is a clear commitment from Essex County Council to ensuring damage caused by the winter is repaired and roads are maintained.

"It's exciting the resurfacing programme is now underway and is being supported by additional crews secured to help with the volume of work required to repair roads the width and breadth of the county and increase the visibility of the service as these repairs are carried out."







**Our engineers routinely and carefully inspect and record the condition of all roads on the network, to ensure the highest risk jobs are prioritised for the safety of the public.**

There are five main resurfacing methods that are used across Essex:

- **Surface dressing** is used where the surface is in reasonably good condition but needs sealing to stop water damage. A large area can be covered very quickly and once completed it can last up to ten years.
- **Micro surfacing** is a more durable process which places a thin layer of a completely new surface on the road. It takes longer to cover a given area than surface dressing but is used where roads are busier and the surface needs levelling off.
- **Machine resurfacing** involves removing the existing surface, and a completely new surface is laid. It is a slower process but is very effective in places where the road is badly worn and is required to take heavy traffic.
- **Recycling** is used in limited areas where the condition of the road is only slightly less than desired and a very durable new surface can be laid. It is easier to re-use existing materials rather than bring in new stone for this method.
- **Joint and crack sealing** is necessary to stop water damage to the underlying surface. The road surface type will determine which method will be used.

Inspections and technical scans provide information on when it is more economical and efficient to renew the entire surface.

By resurfacing the road by any of these means, it ensures that the road becomes more water-resistant, potholes are repaired and the road benefits from improved paint work and skid-resistance for many years.

Resurfacing works are different from makes safe works that take place during the winter months to repair dangerous potholes. Make safes are temporary repairs that are made to high-risk damage while a permanent repair is scheduled, which sometimes could be the resurfacing works.

Resurfacing works can be disruptive and need road closures, but the work to the road will last for many years. To make it easier for the work to take place, residents and visitors are asked not to park on the area of road that is to be resurfaced, as that can cause costly re-visits or even prevent the work being done at all.

On the busiest routes, surfacing works are often carried out at night, which allows longer working sessions than during the day and enables works to be completed more quickly, reducing the impacts on road users and nearby residents.

For more information about resurfacing works and to find out where they will be taking place, please visit our [Renewing Surfaces page](#).



# SCHOOL MAKES GOOD USE OF OLD ROAD BARRIERS



**The Green barriers we used to aid social distancing during the pandemic have now outlived their use with us but were just too good to go to waste, so we have donated them to Terling C of E School.**

The barriers will be used as part of the school's Outdoor Play and Learning to cordon off areas but also to be incorporated into creative play activities the students will be taking place in. It's little things such as donating or reusing items that would have otherwise gone to waste that contribute to us achieving a Safer, Greener, Healthier Essex.

Headteacher Sarah Meares (pictured bottom right) said: "This very generous donation of barriers from Essex Highways will support our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) project at school. OPAL aims to improve the quality of day-to-day playtimes, with an impact on engagement, learning, personal development, behaviour and physical activity.

"One of the first steps in our OPAL journey has been to 'zone' our outdoor play space so that different activities can take place around the school site. The donation of the barriers has allowed us to do that more effectively. We can create space for children to use different play equipment, without impacting on other play. They are durable, easy to move and we hope will last us a long time."





# ROUTINE REPAIRS: APRIL 2023

In April we continued to repair carriageway and footway defects. When looking at these numbers, it is important to remember that repairs are prioritised by severity not by district, so numbers can vary considerably. Streetlights-fixed totals don't include the work being carried out in the LED upgrade programme. Please note: Our gully clearing service has been severely impacted this month by the winter weather as most of our Essex Highways gully operatives are also winter service drivers.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	122	34	86	1441	184
BRAINTREE	110	53	16	2960	294
BRENTWOOD	89	24	9	1366	41
CASTLE POINT	12	26	2	1477	100
CHELMSFORD	44	32	27	0	65
COLCHESTER	120	78	8	0	285
EPPING FOREST	127	13	17	709	118
HARLOW	11	37	8	423	65
MALDON	47	17	9	0	59
ROCHFORD	26	20	16	0	103
TENDRING	54	31	11	1357	74
UTTLESFORD	35	8	2	0	566
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>9733</b>	<b>1954</b>

