

ECC annual report Southminster Division Cllr Wendy Stamp. 25th April 2022.

Regardless of where your political allegiance sits, Kevin Bentley has certainly hit the ground running.

I am sure you have all received a copy of Everyone's Essex but if not, I have included the link.

Download the brochure as an accessible PDF: [Everyone's Essex](#) (PDF, 8.54MB)

Some of us may say not far enough when it comes to funding or new ways of working/future green methods for repairing potholes, reviewing speed limits and highway signs/verge maintenance.

There has been some improvement on school place provision at Ormiston Rivers Academy but sadly not at other local primary and nursery education place expansion as yet. New development is racing ahead without necessary infrastructure improvements.

Recent meetings have taken place regarding the urgent requirement for SEND provision within the area. One of the towns that ECC under consideration is South Woodham Ferrers as this is central and will serve Rochford too. We have a group of active committed parents who is certainly working extremely hard to bring much needed SEND provision to the area. A lot more work is required to bring this to fruition.

The locality fund of 10K benefited a number of our councils last year and I hope to see the projects finish and benefit the community later this year.

A new year of funding should be approved at Full Council in May and as explained I have a few applications to carry over from last year's allowance so I may not be able to help every council for another request – but I will do my best.

LIBRARIES

The Deputy Leader Louise McKinley has certainly championed on libraries and the diversification and multipurpose use of the ones that are still open and safeguarded for the next 4 years.

The Plan outlines our commitment to keeping all 74 libraries open and highlights the following key areas for focus:

Library Service and Literacy

- Improving Literacy for children and adults and creating 'Literacy Areas' in every Essex Library by the end of June. Literacy Areas are new areas that group together materials to support children and adults with reading and literacy skills. They are interactive areas that provide activities and signpost residents to literacy schemes and programmes.

- Supporting children in becoming school ready.
- Offering up to date and refreshed stock and resources (Physical and online).
- Delivering a programme of exciting events in the libraries.
- Upskilling Staff and working with volunteers to enhance the service.

Communications and Infrastructure

- Improving communications with residents so they know what is on offer and working to attract new users.
- Investing in our spaces so they are vibrant, accessible and flexible.
- Ensuring our buildings are as 'green' as can be.

Supporting our communities and levelling up

- Making sure no one is left behind by expanding our outreach and community involvement.
- Enhancing employability, wellbeing, culture and arts through bringing people together.
- Encouraging greater footfall, including welcoming new users through exciting new activities.

[Everyone's Library Service 2022-2026 \(essex.gov.uk\)](https://www.essex.gov.uk)

HIGHWAYS

Cllr Scott is the Cabinet member with the unenviable task of being responsible for 5000 miles of our road network.

I have briefly listed some areas of his responsibilities which may help our residents when wishing to report faults or issues.

Update on projects and a brief description of services.

Major infrastructure investments and different stages.

Chelmsford HIF Projects Beaulieu Station
 Colchester-Tendering HIF Projects A120-A133 link road/rapid transport
 Harlow HIG projects: Sustainable transport corridor
 Fairglen: A130/A127
 M11 J8 at Stanstead: M11 new junction 7a at Harlow.

Highways England led projects.

A12 Chelmsford to A12 widening
 A120 Braintree to A12
 A12 Concrete roads programme.

Other capital works.

Alongside large projects Essex Highways also have an asset condition-led pipeline on many other schemes commissioned and delivered annually using available capital funding. They are locally significant and can cause disruption but are generally quicker to deliver than costly major projects.

Capital schemes include

- 1) Surface dressing
- 2) Machine surfacing (inlay)
- 3) Microsurfacing
- 4) Road reconstruction
- 5) Recycling

Structures

- 1) Bridges
- 2) Culverts
- 3) Subways
- 4) Retaining Walls

Traffic Signals (ITS) and Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS)

Footways

LHP works (Local Highways Panel)

SWAS (Surface Water Alleviation Schemes) These schemes are more than cleansing or jetting – more planning and complex and very often need to collaborate with landowners.

LED streetlight installations still continuing.

SEPP South Essex Parking Partnership

Highways are trialling **6 new innovations** and let's hope there will be many more

- 1) Warm Asphalt -A13 Hadleigh
- 2) Hybrid electric/diesel van
- 3) Electric mini-digger
- 4) Rubber kerbs
- 5) Recofoam surfacing material
- 6) Hydrogen fuel cell lighting.

Sadly carriage way repairs (pot hole) repairs are only to make safe until resources allow to carry out permanent repairs.

They also offer emergency out of hours repairs – overnight/weekends dealing with

- 1) Dangerous potholes and sudden collapse and damage
- 2) Fallen trees
- 3) Highway flooding
- 4) Fuel spills
- 5) Clean up and repair's following accidents.

Also

Winter service

Flooding – Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) manages flood risk from rainfall, surface water and ground water.

Essex highways as the Highway Authority (HA) is responsible for flood control on the publicly maintainable highways. Highways England are responsible for highways drains on their roads in Essex A12, A120, M11, and M25.

ECC and Essex Highways do work together on Gully cleansing, SWAS (Surface water alleviation schemes), planned pre-surfacing jetting and investigation and highway flooding emergencies. I won't go into any greater detail.

Risk assessments – road defects 50mm for carriageway and 20mm for repairs. Inspections of PROW, (Public right of way 4000 miles of).

There are many other responsibilities which I am more than happy to assist clerks and residents with information or sign posting if and when required.

Income comes from – permit charges – Section 74/over running works – defects – skip and scaffolding licensing- temporary traffic regulation order notices, this is exhaustive.

I am looking forward to new strategies/policies and smarter ways of delivering a service which affects us all. Full details of the above is on Essex County Council Highways website.

An up-to-date report on Ukraine.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme Update 22.04.22

Key figures:

- The latest data indicates there have been 969 requests from Ukrainians with 654 sponsors in the ECC area.

Sponsor Packs and Comms

- All of the translated versions of packs (in Ukrainian and Russian) for Ukrainian guests are now available online here [Ласкаво просимо до Ессексу: інформаційні матеріали для гостей - Essex County Council](#)
- Paper versions for distribution via district/borough/city council teams will be available from next week.
- FAQs on the ECC website are being updated on a weekly basis. The latest set is here: [Information for sponsors welcoming a Ukrainian person or family: Homes for Ukraine scheme - Overview - Essex County Council](#)
- Guidance is still awaited from DLUHC on the process for re-matching Ukrainian guests in the event that arrangements with initial sponsors break down.
- General information and updates are available here: [Essex stands with Ukraine: what you can do to help - Essex County Council](#)

Health Group update:

- A primary care guidance document that outlines likely health issues can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrivals-from-ukraine-advice-for-primary-care>

Housing Assurance/Safeguarding update:

- We are continuing the assurance process for accommodation safety checks and DBS checks.

Ports of Entry update:

- Arrivals at Stansted are currently averaging over a week at around 120 every day.
- The welcome desk at Stansted now helps guests with instances access via QR code to the DLUHC welcome pack
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>
- There are low numbers of arrivals at Harwich, with Stena Line notifying the port of any entering under the 2 key schemes.
- Work is underway in terms of sustainable staffing with Uttlesford CVS volunteers taking over from the Red Cross on May 1.
- The majority of guests arriving do not require extra support.

Finance update:

- The districts are looking at agreeing an approach on how to distribute the £200 payment for new arrivals.
- We are awaiting formal guidance for the process on how sponsors apply for the £350 payment.

School places for Ukrainian children:

- We continue to support Ukrainian families and their sponsors to help them settle into their new communities. This includes meeting any welfare needs as well as children and young people's educational needs.
- All schools have been communicated with to confirm that children from Ukraine have the right to access a school place in the normal way. We are aware of a number of schools who have already received applications and are admitting children. Schools have also been advised about the additional funding from central government to support the needs of Ukrainian children.
- All families arriving from Ukraine will need to follow the [established process for mid-year school admissions](#).

- We continue to work closely with schools to ensure that all children are placed in schools within a reasonable distance from their homes.
- The educational needs of all children living and arriving in Essex remains our top priority and we will continue to support both families and schools with school admissions along with other needs the families may have.

Essex County Council in brief

Tovi Eco Park in Basildon is to be demolished – this is the waste treatment contract for the mechanical and biological waste treatment facility (MBT) – contract mutually terminated between ECC and UBB waste (Essex) Ltd.

Education

Out of 16,067 applications received on time, 14,382 pupils due to start in reception year Sept 22 have been offered their parent or carers first choice 89.51% whereas it was 89.75% last year. This year a further 6.45% was offered their second choice 1.45% third place, 0.50% fourth preference, 2% could not be offered one of the parents preferred schools and was offered a place at the nearest school with a place available.

Adult funding for numeracy funding of £7,908,304.04 has been given from DfE for adult community learning. Visit Essex Opportunities for more information.

Free webinars are being offered on how to **reduce waste and reuse** more, its part of the circular economy project. Cllr Malcolm Buckley is the Cabinet Member for waste reduction and Recycling. It encourages collaboration, education and promotes change for sustainable businesses, schools, and households.

Ride London doesn't come to our part of the division but it does to Maldon Town on the weekend 29th April over 25,000 cyclists are expected to participate.

Kickstart Essex (a national government scheme) has invested over 1 million pounds and has helped over 250 young people start new jobs across the county. 87% have gone on to secure jobs or apprenticeships at the end of their placement.

Essex Climate Action Commission.

A huge amount of work is being carried out on reaching carbon/net zero. An Essex-advice-pack is being released in May that I will send out for councils in addition to all the other information available on The Essex Climate Action Commission website. The site contains all the information about the commission's work as well as news concerning the environment and climate action across Essex.

The Target is 1 tonne per person our UK average is 7.7 tonnes of CO₂ per person. The GOOD LIFE IS 7 THINGS – Healthy Food – Togetherness – Connected to Nature – Physical Activity/mobility – Personal growth & Learning – Ethical/Spiritual framework and Sustainable consumption.

The good life is low carbon. For more information use the links below and start reducing your carbon footprint.

The Commission released its report *Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral* on 20 July 2021. www.essexclimate.org.uk www.julespretty.com for information.

Finally the budget for 2022 – 2023 headlines are:-

£1.3 billion over four years on major infrastructure projects including new schools and large road improvements.

£200 million spending commitment towards Essex net zero targets and achieving a high-quality environment.

Supporting businesses through backing Essex business programme, supporting business growth and creating jobs as well as investment in skills for young people to get back into work.

Libraries we covered in detail previously.

The council tax was increased by 4.49%. 2.99% council tax increase 1% specifically for adult social care plus a further 1.5% for adult social care that was deferred from last year. (Election year).

I am sure there are many other items I could have included in this report but I have written far more than I intended.

I have helped with the officers and some member support, numerous residents over the first year and I hope to continue to do with more confidence now I am settling in a little.

We have all been impacted by Covid 19 in different ways and I wish to send my thoughts, prayers and best wishes to everyone who has personally been affected.

I will endeavor to attend some of the council meetings this year and will start a surgery when I get the feedback from each council if this is wanted.

Thank you

Wendy

Member CC
Wendy Stamp