

ECC Report:

Council Tax 23/24:

New Central Govt legislation caps County Councils increases to 5% total (2% on Adult Social Care and 3% for other services) and 3% total for District Councils like Chelmsford City Council. Essex County Council are proposing to increase by the max allowed on Adult Social Care, but only half of the allowance for other services – i.e., a total of 3.5%.

Around 45% of the budget (£506M) goes on Adult Social Care which means that the remaining services have to share the other 55% (£618M) – Children and Families, Highways maintenance and Sustainable Transport, Environment and Climate Change Action, Other Front Line Services, and Support Services. The budget proposal includes provisions for considerable savings in order to balance the books and accommodate the current inflation rates of 10.7%.

Adult Social Care serves around 15,000 Essex residents of a total of 1.5M, i.e., 45% of the budget goes on 1% of the population – a difficult concept but a reassuring one in that residents know that the service is there when they most need it.

ECC consider keeping the rate as low as possible to be important in today's Cost-of-Living crisis and ECC will remain in the bottom third for tax rates across County Councils.

Member Led Pothole Scheme

I have now entered in all my 36 pothole allowance. I am pleased to say that towards the end, there was difficulty in finding more potholes to make sure I used all of my allowance. However, the recent snow and rain have created some new ones. It is frustrating to hear that some County Cllrs have not used any, or all of their allowance, and the deadline was extended to 15th Jan 2023. Therefore, I have entered some more, taking me up to 42 (officially – although I have reported some multiple holes as a series – so the total is more like 80 potholes!)

1	BARRACK LANE	2799196	Title=A series of potholes, I have had an interchange with Member Enquiries who have now confirmed that this is part of the highway and ECC highways are responsible for its maintenance, their last message was as follows: "Technically this defect is PS priority on a local road so is out of scope in the Maintenance Matrix/Strategy document. I recommend that Clr Steel add this location/defect to his next submission in the Member Led pothole reduction Once it's on the Members Led list we can produce a job for to fill the holes in the layby. However the defect photos suggest this layby is a unmade/homemade gravel surface so we would most likely fill/compact the holes using road plantings here. We would not surface/resurface the entire layby." We can do better than our photos, create and submit notes along a section or passing place.	made salt	
2	BURY LANE	2786922	Title=A series of potholes. A number of holes at the edge of the carriageway - the road is narrow and one of the residents parks on the road outside his house, so vehicles (and some trucks) get round by going to the edge of the road, where it has worn away and created some big holes. Existing defect ref 2780985	works completed	
3	CHIGNAL ROAD	2786934	Title=A single pothole, Hole at edge of road	works completed	
4	CHIGNAL ROAD	2786937	Title=A single pothole, Large pothole - fills half of carriageway	works completed	
6	CHIGNAL ROAD	2786406	Title=A single pothole, Single large pothole in wheel tracks. Possibly already reported as Track It ref 3538456 or 2755088	works completed	
6	CHIGNAL ROAD	2802201	Title=A series of potholes. Some large holes in a passing place on a narrow road	job raised	9th to 13th January - Completed
7	CHIGNAL ROAD	2802203	Title=A series of potholes. About 15 shallow holes, some quite large - in a row - such that cyclists have to go through them.	works issued	9th to 13th January - Completed
8	CHURCH LANE	2786919	Title=A single pothole, A short strip where the surface has lifted then cracked.	works completed	
9	COURT ROAD	2796170	Title=A single pothole, Large area where surface tarmac has disappeared. Court Road is both narrow and a bus route which means you have to go down the pothole each time vehicles are approaching from the opposite direction (i.e. Chidmar Valley High School) or stop and hold up traffic turning into Court Road from Hospital Approach.	job raised	
10	ESSEX REGIMENT WAY	2786936	Title=A single pothole, Essex Regiment Way - as you approach the park and ride from the North - pothole on the on the left hand side of the carriageway. Due to its position in the fast moving road it has not been possible for a photo to be taken.	works completed	
11	HIGHWOOD ROAD	2808394	Title=A single pothole, the ground from a man hole seems to have created a substantial dip in the road where it appears the road has dropped and this has become evident over the last few months.	job raised	
12	LARKS LANE	2802206	Title=A series of potholes, The passing place layby is in a bit of state. It looks to have been tarmac at one point but is now full of holes and ruts. I think it may be a good idea to have a survey done and then to do it in pairs on the 12th/13th.	works completed	
13	LITTLE MEADOW	2808908	Title=A single pothole, Sunken concrete surface	job raised	Completed 3rd Jan 23
14	LITTLE GREEN ROAD	2786942	Title=A single pothole, in middle of south bound carriageway - quite a wide pothole on the narrow bit of Little Green Road	works completed	
15	LODGE ROAD	2808910	Title=A single pothole, Hole surrounding drain - edge of road and in cycle pathway	works completed	
16	LONG BRANDOCKS	2808904	Title=A single pothole, No further info supplied by Parish Council	works completed	
17	LONG BRANDOCKS	2808906	Title=A single pothole, No further info supplied by Parish Council	works completed	
18	MAIN ROAD	2807246	Customer Selection=A single pothole, The whole drain cover support ledge has sunk which means there is a drop to the drain cover. It is extremely noisy when a vehicle drives over it. And it is in the wheel tracks - there are 10,000 vehicles a day which use the B 1008 through Ford End - so very disturbing for the residents.	not at investigatory	Report has been made to Water Company
19	MAIN ROAD	2807246	Customer Selection=A single pothole, The whole drain cover support ledge has sunk which means there is a drop to the drain cover. It is extremely noisy when a vehicle drives over it. There are 10,000 vehicles a day which use the B 1008 through Ford End and 13% are LGV/HGVs so tend to go over the drain - so very disturbing for the residents.	job raised	
20	MARGARETTING ROAD	2796173	Title=A single pothole, Because of the location, I don't have a photo of it.	works issued	12th to 13th January - Completed
21	MA SHURBY ROAD	2786991	Title=A single pothole, Edge of road crumbled away leaving hole	works completed	9th to 13th January
21	MA SHURBY ROAD	2802216	Title=A series of potholes, Fire hydrant cover - for cyclists this is highly dangerous - at the base of a gentle descent and positioned a cyclists distance 2 deep potholes encroaching into the road positioned in a narrow section on the outer curve of the bend where oncoming traffic is hidden from view because of the hedge opposite until the last minute - forcing drivers out into the road as a result.	works issued	9th to 13th January - Completed
22	MAYFIELD ROAD	2786796	Title=A single pothole, Near kerb and in wheel tracks. Already reported as defect ref 3638405	works completed	
23	MAYFIELD ROAD	2786901	Title=A single pothole, Pothole near kerb Already reported as defect ref 3529020	works completed	
24	MAYFIELDS	2808907	Title=A single pothole, A strip in need of attention	works completed	
26	MORAN AVENUE	2786411	Title=A series of potholes, Looks like 2 potholes but appears to actually be a single hole previously repaired, but both ends of the repair has deteriorated	works completed	
27	PENDBEN HILL	2786796	Title=A series of potholes, Pleshay Road opposite the concrete road entrance - these are the most severe - a series of 3 potholes	works completed	
28	PLAISHEY ROAD	2786796	Title=A single pothole, This is a growing pothole on the inside of the corner	works completed	
29	PLAISHEY ROAD	2786792	Title=A single pothole, Already reported as carriageway defect 2780987	works completed	
30	RECTORY CLOSE	2786934	Title=A single pothole, This is a strip across the road where the concrete has deteriorated and there is a foot wide gap across the full length of the road. This can be filled with tarmac, judging by similar repairs in the same road.	works completed	
31	ST JOHN'S GREEN	2786944	Title=A single pothole, Pothole in middle of part where 2 roads join	works completed	
32	ST ONEHILL ROAD	2808900	Title=A single pothole, It is a pothole that is just (at) the middle of the carriageway and is a danger to cyclists & motor cyclists.	works issued	4th to 6th January - Completed
33	THE RYLE	2808908	Title=A single pothole, No further info supplied by the Parish Council	works completed	
34	TITUSWELL LANE	2801256	Title=A series of potholes, I am adding a photo of an extract from Track It and pictures of some of the worst holes. But can all of them be considered please.	works issued	
35	VICTORIA ROAD	2786903	Title=A single pothole, Already reported as defect ref 2775211	works completed	
36	WHEELERS HILL	2786936	Title=A series of potholes, 2 defects: - drain surround has sunk - this is on Wheelers Hill at the junction with Back lane - pothole on Back Lane at same junction	works completed	
37	WHITES LANE	2799171	Title=A single pothole, Reported by Leighs PC - they haven't given me much info - picture shows a single pothole	works issued	3rd to 5th January
38	Highwood Road	2812107	Multiple holes - reported 1st Jan 23	Submitted	
39	Highwood Road	2812106	Drain cover	Submitted	
40	Chelmsford Rd GW	2812774	Drain cover	Submitted	
41	A131	2814322	12 holes on A131 from Sheeps cote roundabout north to Great Notley roundabout	Submitted	
42	Church Green, Broomfield	2816581	8 holes from Main Road towards Church - recent cycle path work has not helped	Submitted	

LHP

LCHE202036 design has been completed and GWPC have been asked if they approve it. The proposed works are the installation of two new signs, some 'trees arms trimming' and two 'SLOW' markings on the road next to the new signs, at a cost of £10,800 (per the latest CHP schemes list). GWPC were keen on this scheme when it was raised.

This is a “total scheme” so will be completed in Q4 if GWPC approve. If they do not approve, the funds will normally be retained for other schemes in the queue.

Highway Rangers service :

The Chelmsford Highway Rangers service is administered by Chelmsford City Council but funded by ECC. ECC have given notice that they intend to cease funding the service as part of budget savings. This decision has been “called in” and I am a member of the Scrutiny committee which will review the decision (I am the deputy Chair). I have collated a list of all the recent tasks addressed by the Chelmsford Highway Rangers and will seek to understand how these will be provided in the absence of the Rangers.

Great Waltham to Chelmsford Cycle Route

The latest phase of the ECC Highways cycle route from the Hospital to Goulton Road has been completed. I walked the route with Site Supervisor and it is quite impressive – with recycled tyre surface and embedded solar lighting. The next stage is from Goulton Road towards Chelmsford via School Lane and depends on S106 funding from the Broomfield Bloor Homes build.

City Council Report:

Given recent concerns around Housing Association maintenance performance, I would like to remind Parish Cllrs of the process:

In the first instance, any issues around maintenance are between the tenant and the landlord (Housing Association), and if a satisfactory conclusion is not achieved, the particular issue should be escalated to the ombudsman.

Should a tenant wish to ask for Chelmsford City Council for intervention in a dispute, there is a link to the process here:

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/housing/tenants/housing-standards/>

Where it clearly states “*If your landlord does not complete repairs they are responsible for, or if you think your property is unsafe, you can report it to us.*”

Chelmsford City Council has a duty under the Housing Act 2004 to assess housing conditions and where conditions are found to be unsafe the Council must act.

Previously if the Housing Standards team received a complaint about disrepair in an RSL property it would just be case of informing the RSL and the disrepair would be dealt with, we are now increasingly having to follow formal enforcement routes to obtain a resolution. Formal enforcement action has to follow a strict process which is not necessarily quick. However, failure to adhere to the legal processes at the early stages could jeopardise further formal action such as prosecution or works in default.

If all of the above fails to address the issue, then tenants can ask for the help of their City Cllr.