

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HA

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024

SPENDING PLAN REVEALED FOR £12 MILLION ESSEX HIGHWAYS BOOST

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

In the last few weeks we've had the very exciting news that an additional £12 million is being made available to Essex Highways to carry out additional repairs on behalf of Members. This will go some way in helping improve the condition of the roads and pavements across the county. The funding includes crews allocated to each of your districts and works that you recommend carried out on a cyclical basis. The detail of how this will work is being finalised at the moment, and more information will be available very soon.

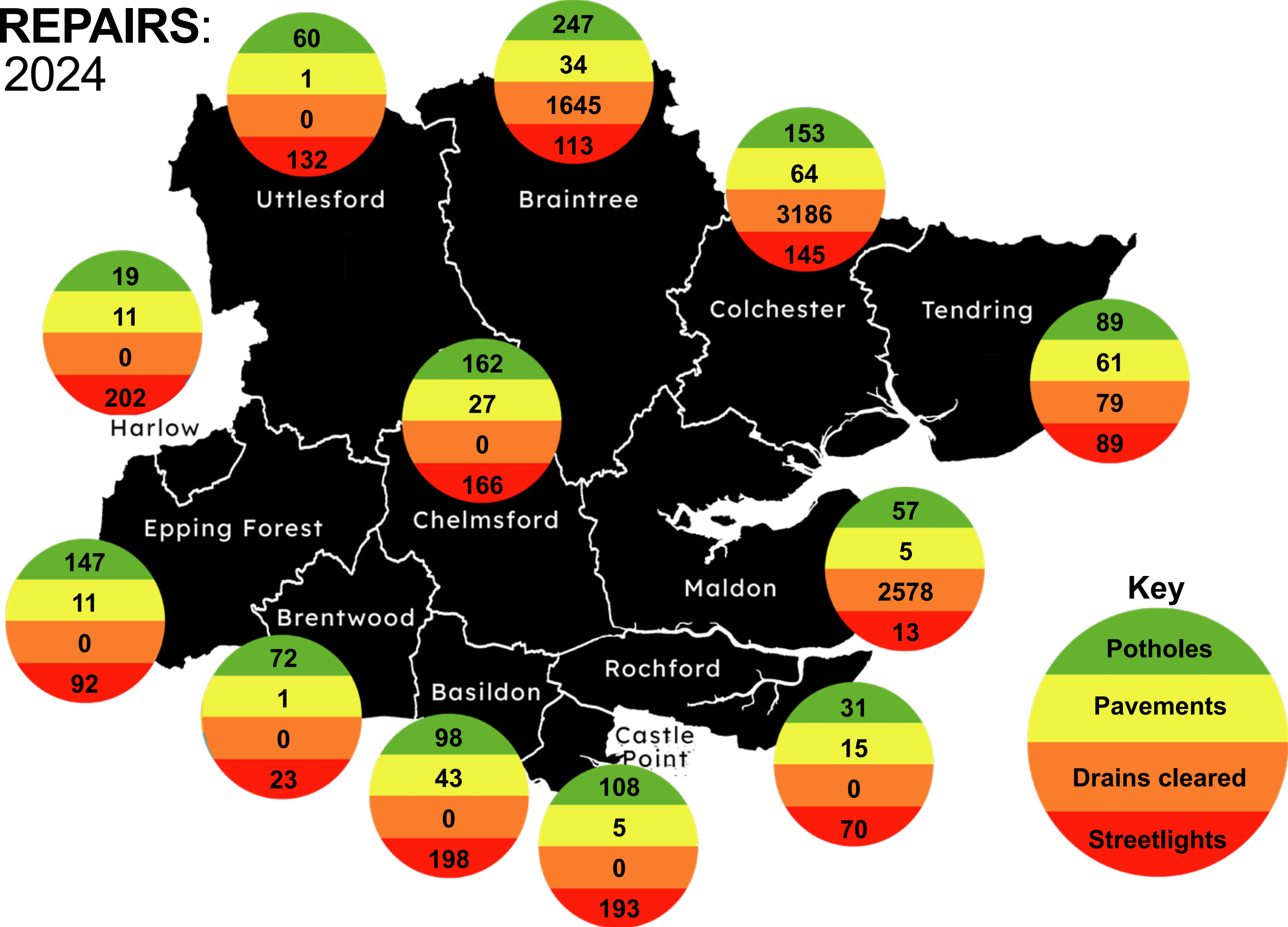
I'm also excited to let you know that the team has been working hard on developing a new members portal for you on the Essex Highways website, which is expected to launch very soon. As part of its development myself and some colleagues have tested it and provided feedback, but I anticipate it being a very useful tool for you all in showing you what works are happening in your divisions and the status of your member-led requests.

More info on this, including a members session to walk you through it, will be available soon. All in all, there's a lot of exciting things happening to help improve the sharing of information with you from Essex Highways and a more targeted approach to delivering the repairs you want to see in your local areas. There is more to come and I look forward to sharing more in the coming months.

Best wishes,
Tom



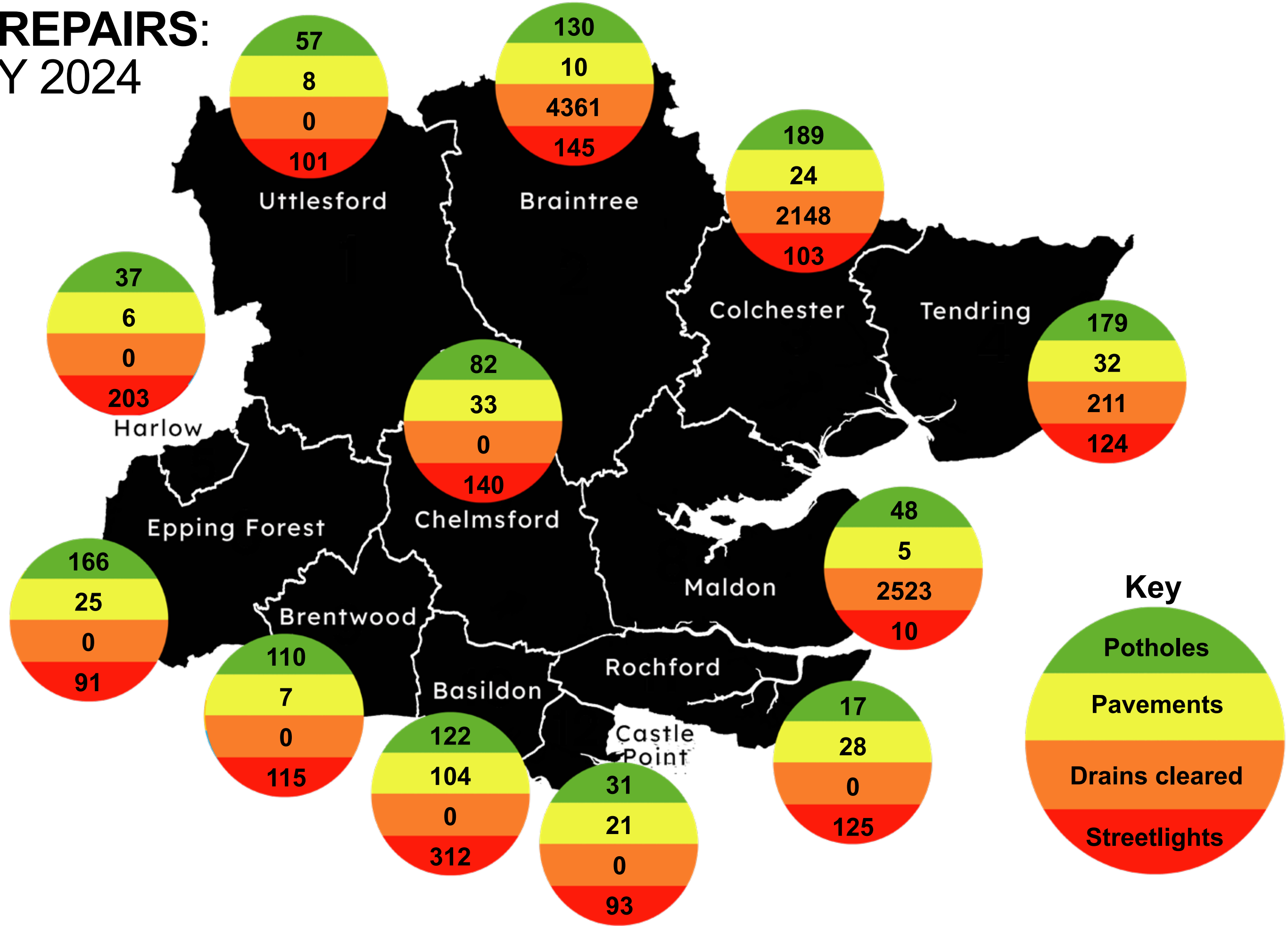
ROUTINE REPAIRS: JANUARY 2024



Key

- Potholes
- Pavements
- Drains cleared
- Streetlights

ROUTINE REPAIRS: FEBRUARY 2024



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SPENDING PLAN REVEALED FOR £12 MILLION ESSEX HIGHWAYS BOOST

Enforcement, resurfacing and rural roads are just some of the areas benefitting from Essex Highways' additional funds.

An extra £12 million allocated to Essex Highways will fund several priority areas for residents. The funding boost was approved by Essex County Council at its recent Full Council meeting as part of the 2024/25 budget.

In addition to its normal yearly budget, the extra money will ensure Essex Highways continues delivering the council's priority to enable

safer, greener and healthier travel across the county. Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, said: "From enforcement to Local Highways Panels, Essex Highways is responsible for a wide variety of areas many people may not know about.

"The £12 million is a significant boost to help us look after and improve one of the largest road networks in the country. This includes getting more crews in each borough, city and district to prioritise repairs raised by local councillors."

The funding includes (but is not limited to):

£8 million for additional crews in each borough, city and district to prioritise repairs raised by local councillors.

£2 million for Local Highways Panels to deliver large schemes, freeing up existing budgets for small schemes.

£350,000 to fund three months of defect repairs over the summer. This will expedite repairs in rural areas affected by flooding and winter damage.

£300,000 to enable winter-safe crews to deliver more maintenance and repairs over the next winter.

£100,000 to increase enforcement capabilities and hold landowners accountable for maintaining foliage.

£100,000 for additional highway resurfacing works across Essex.

£49,500 for additional communications resources, ensuring residents and members are better informed.

INNOVATIVE TACTILE PAVING TECHNIQUE TRIALLED IN ESSEX

Tactile paving typically features raised surfaces such as dots, bars, or lozenge-shaped bumps to warn people with impaired vision of dangers or obstacles such as a crossing, steps, or a train station platform edge.

The paving comprises specialist tiles laid at specific depths, depending on their location. This usually means a section of footway being dug out so the tactile tiles can be laid - requiring machinery, traffic management etc.

However, Essex Highways has recently trialled a new innovation called TAC-GRID which greatly simplifies installing tactile sections of footway.

TAC-GRID requires no jointing, no cutting, or excavation – it is laid continuously (wet lay) directly onto the existing surface and

follows the natural undulations of the surface. It suits new installations or repair/upgrade of existing crossings. Installation involves minimal disruption to road users with an average crossing back in service within hour. A 93.6% reduction in CO2 emissions is achieved when compared with installing traditional flag tactiles.

TAC-GRID is cheaper than traditional methods and, dependent on site location, no heavy plant or machinery is needed, minimum Traffic Management is required and only two operatives are needed to install it.

The trial sites in Colchester will now be monitored and assessed by Essex Highways, before a decision is made on whether to bring TAC-GRID into service throughout the county.



BUS SURVEY 2024: HAVE YOUR SAY ON TRAVELLING BY BUS IN ESSEX

TravelEssex is conducting a survey to better understand public opinion of the bus services in Essex, and how it can improve bus services to encourage more people to use them.

An online survey for both bus users and non-bus users is available during the next two weeks.

In addition, face-to-face surveys will be carried out across Essex in six locations: Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Clacton and Harwich during the same period.

The survey will close on Sunday 17 March 2024. [Have your say and take part in this survey, here.](#)



USEFUL CONTACTS

With Winter now upon us, the likelihood of fallen trees, power outages and flooding following weather events increases. Help and support can be found below:

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you think there's a risk to public safety, do not report it online, please call us immediately on 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use our text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

FALLEN TREES

To report a fallen tree that is obstructing a highway please contact Essex Highways:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/trees-hedges-and-weeds>

To report a fallen tree on a highway that is a risk to public safety call:
0345 603 7631

POWER CUTS

In the event of a power cut in your area, report to UK Power Networks by calling 0800 31 63 105 or simply 105. You can also report and check power cuts in your area at ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut

FLOODING

You can keep an eye on flood warnings here;
<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>

Essex County Council is the local flooding authority:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/floods-emergency-planning>