



HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS



INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
MAY 2024

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER



IT'S ROAD SURFACING SEASON

COMMENT

The pre-election period started on 30 May 2024 and will run until the General Election has taken place on 4 July.

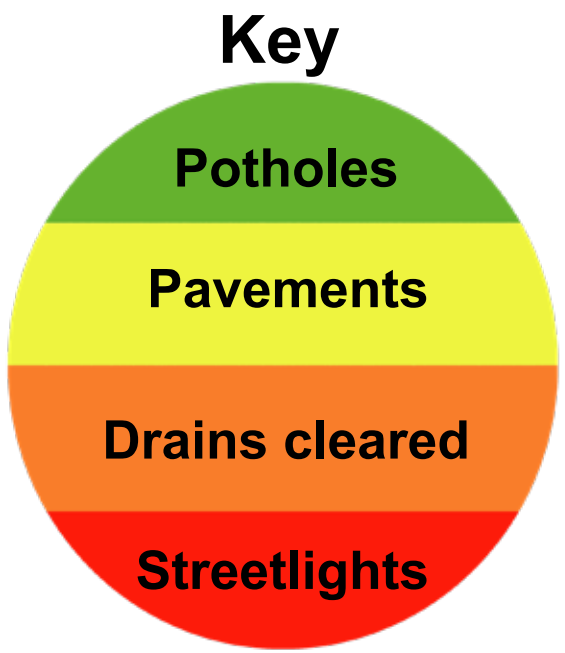
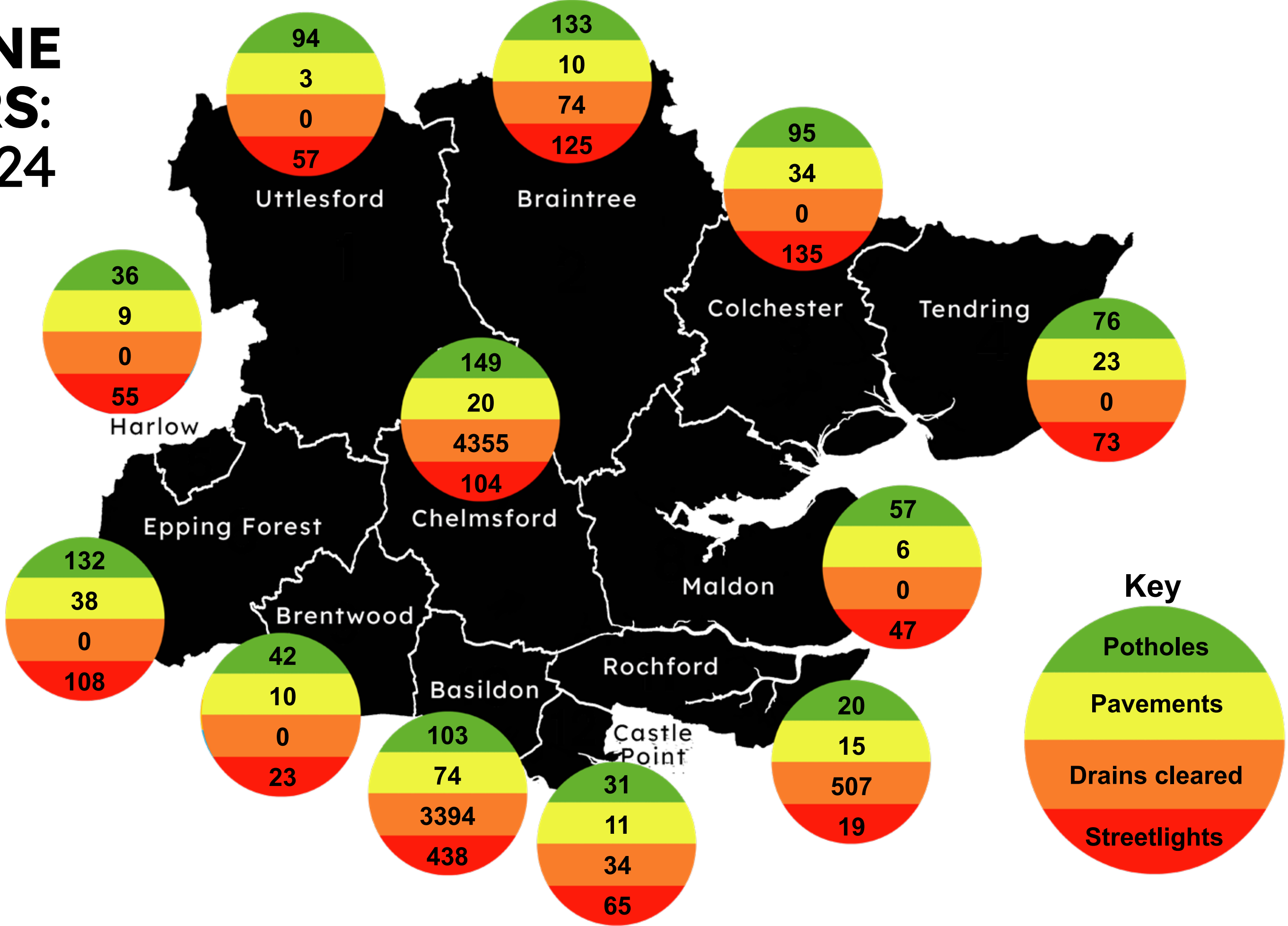
The pre-election publicity rules aim to prevent the use of public funds and resources for political purposes or for creating materials that could potentially influence an election.

We have clear rules on what is allowed and what isn't for our communications and marketing activities during this period.

For this reason, Highways Highlights will focus on business as usual activities regarding Essex Highways



ROUTINE REPAIRS: April 2024





Essex Highways kicks off 2024 road resurfacing programme

Essex Highways has launched its 2024 road resurfacing programme, which will improve and upgrade many roads across the county. Resurfacing will improve the condition of roads with deterioration caused by wet weather. It will also ensure that existing roads remain in good condition for longer.

The works will be carried out as part of the £39 million carriageways budget for Essex Highways in 2024/25. Over the forthcoming months residents can expect to see more work being undertaken to improve roads around the county. The newly maintained roads will also promote safer, greener and healthier travel for those choosing sustainable transport for their journeys.



Tom Blackburne-Maze, Director of Highways and Transport at Essex County Council, said: “Essex Highways crews are excited to be delivering this year’s resurfacing works. As part of the council’s investment into our roads, this programme will provide residents, communities and businesses with improved and safer roads which will make it easier to travel. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works may cause while they are implemented and will endeavour to deliver them as quickly as possible and minimise the impact upon anyone affected.”

Information about road closures will be made available in advance. This will allow residents and businesses time to make alternative arrangements if roads are closed or temporary traffic lights are in place. Residents are also asked to be respectful to operatives carrying out repairs. Essex Highways crews always strive to work as quickly and efficiently as possible to minimise disruption.

New Paving Machine Helps with Basildon Resurfacing Work

Essex Highways' commitment to innovation and technology extends to its supply chain partners. As a sub-contractor for Henderson & Taylor, Taydal Surfacing has recently been making extensive use of its new Cat AP555 asphalt paver for works in Essex.

The machine can be driven over recently paved surfaces, without the risk of damaging the asphalt or leaving marks. The rubber tracks also allow tight turning in cramped working areas through the ability to counter-rotate if necessary. It can also be operated in more restricted spaces than many competing machines. The new AP555 is also safer and greener thanks to an improved exhaust system that extracts fumes from the machine and vents them out away from the operator and crew.

Simon Butt, Operations Director, Essex Highways said: "It's great to see that a proactive approach to using new technology is embedded within Essex

Highways and runs throughout our supply chain partners too. This helps us collectively work towards providing a safer, greener and healthier county for the residents of Essex."

The new Cat Pavers are versatile and suit local works as they can be driven from site to site at speeds of up to 11km/h, without needing to be transported on the back of a truck.

The machine is the first of the new generation AP555 models featuring many upgrades such as the Mobil-Trac undercarriage. The paver has been used for repaving local roads that connect housing areas in Basildon.





Essex Highways prioritises roadside safety and wildflower conservation this grass-cutting season

Essex Highways is working with partners to conserve vital wildflower species in verges across 90 locations in the county.

Where it is safe to do so, certain roadside verges will be left uncut throughout May until late June. These provide sanctuary for nationally scarce species such as Sulphur Clover, Lesser Calamint, and Crested Cow Wheat.

Essex Highways is working with Essex County Council's arboriculture

team to identify special roadside verges, with approximately 40 miles of road verges across Essex recognised as beneficial for wildflowers. It is also hoped it will encourage more people to choose active travel so they can enjoy the wildflowers on their journeys.

For the remaining verges, the yearly mowing works will begin this month as Essex Highways rolls out a targeted grass-cutting strategy to enhance safety by improving visibility on roads and junctions.

Grass within a metre from road edges will be trimmed to ensure clear sight lines, allowing for safer navigation this summer.

Tom Blackburne-Maze, Director of Highways & Transport Climate, Environment and Customer Services at Essex County Council, said: "While the safety and visibility of Essex's roads is of paramount importance, it's wonderful we've been able to identify verges across Essex that can be left to grow during the spring to conserve wildflower species."

Essex hosts world's greatest festival of cycling

The world's greatest festival of cycling returned to Essex at the end of May when Ford RideLondon-Essex took place.

Hosting Ford RideLondon is part of the County Council's Everyone's Essex: a plan which aims to help people keep healthy and active and promotes active travel as part of the move towards net zero.

The continuation of the partnership with Ford RideLondon agreed last

year means that Essex will remain one of the London Marathon Foundation's core funding areas for the next two years.

The events bring thousands of people to the county every year and showcase Essex on both the national and international stage.

The Ford RideLondon Classique brings world-class sport to the county while the Ford RideLondon-Essex mass participation rides raise

millions of pounds for good causes each year.

Both the professional races and the inspirational challenge rides have received great support from all the Essex communities involved.

Essex Highways once again supported the events by helping coordinate routes, road closures and ensuring road surfaces for suitable for the riders.



Have your say on new Essex cycling strategy

Residents, businesses and visitors are being encouraged to have their say on a new Essex Cycling Strategy.

Thursday 23 May saw the launch of a six-week consultation on the draft strategy. It aims to make cycling an easier and more attractive option, particularly for short journeys.

The strategy's vision is to see more people, of all abilities, ages and backgrounds, cycling in Essex more safely and more frequently.

It highlights six key cycling outcomes we want to achieve and sets out activities and actions for the coming years.

Take part in the consultation before Sunday 7 July.



Essex Cycling Strategy

Help shape the future of cycling in Essex.

 Essex County Council

**SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER**

USEFUL CONTACTS

Although the weather is improving, should there be instances of fallen trees, power outages and flooding, 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>