



HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS



INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
SEPTEMBER 2024

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

**HIGHWAYS
INVESTMENT
BOOST
AS FIRST
'PRIORITY ONE'
SCHEMES GET
UNDERWAY**

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

This month we had the excellent news Essex County Council has kept its rating as a strong leader delivering sustainable transport in Essex. The capability rating of two reflects the hard work that goes into giving residents a real choice in how they travel, and ensuring the right infrastructure is in place to support this. This is very much reflected in a consultation that has recently launched plans to improve walking and cycling in Brentwood on the A1023 on behalf of National Highways.

I'm also very pleased to see that the Roadmender Asphalt method of fixing potholes and cracks is being rolled out across the county. This innovative approach to repairing roads uses old lorry tyres to fill cracks and holes and I've seen for myself how quick and effective this method is.

Elsewhere, as the weather turns more autumnal, it's a timely reminder that the council is promoting the Property Resilience Grant, which is available to residents to help protect their homes from flooding. It's vital residents take precautions where they can and this support can help them do that.

A reminder that the last page of Highways Highlights contains all the info you need to report any issues on the roads, particularly those caused by the weather, so do let the service know if you see anything of concern.

Best Wishes
Tom



ROUTINE REPAIRS: September 2024

Please note: All drains on main roads are cleaned at least once a year over a two-year cycle. Drains on local roads are programmed for cleaning on a district by district basis.



Potholes: 1752



**Pavements:
797**



**Drains cleared:
11058**



**Streetlights:
1165**

MEMBER HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

High Level Report: Monday 14 October

Request Status



Triage Result

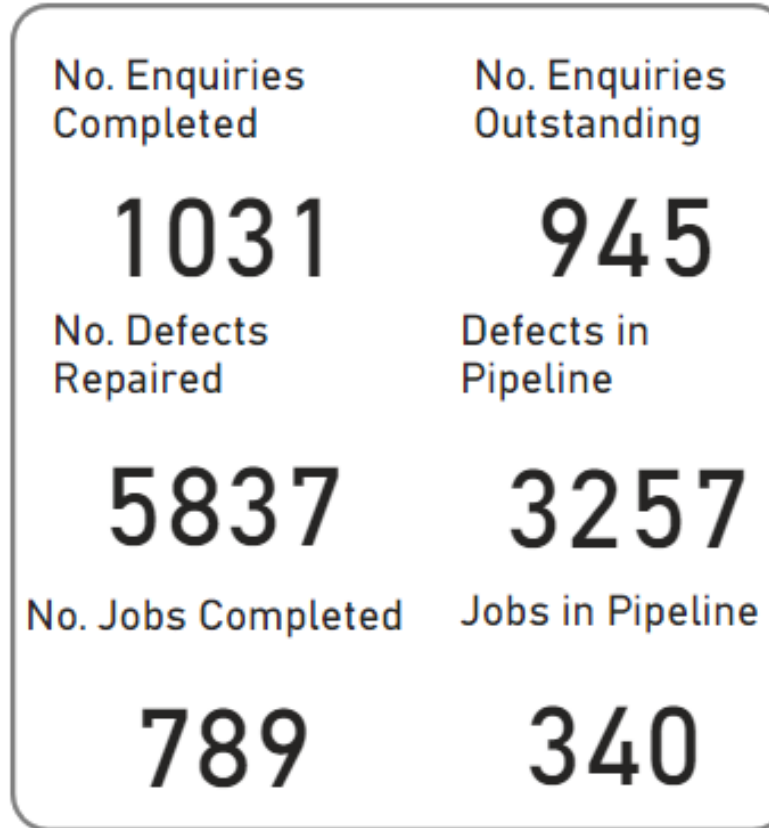
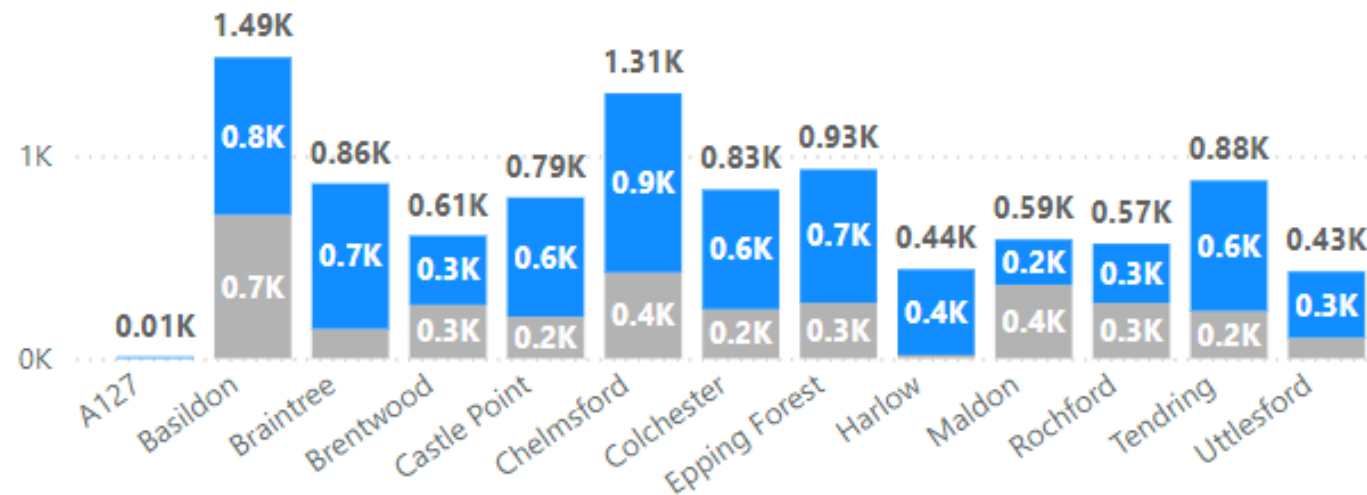
RAG assessment of difficulty of scheduling Member request.



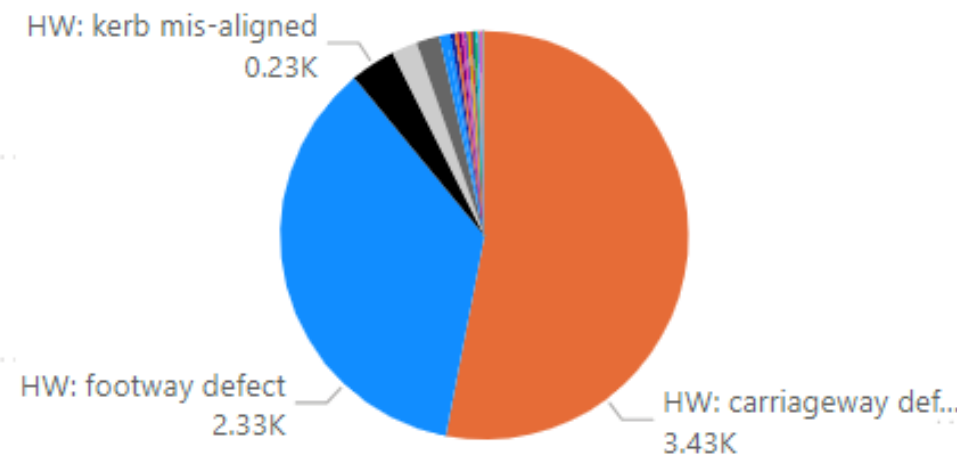
Defects by District

Shows defects that have been repaired and those programmed for repair.

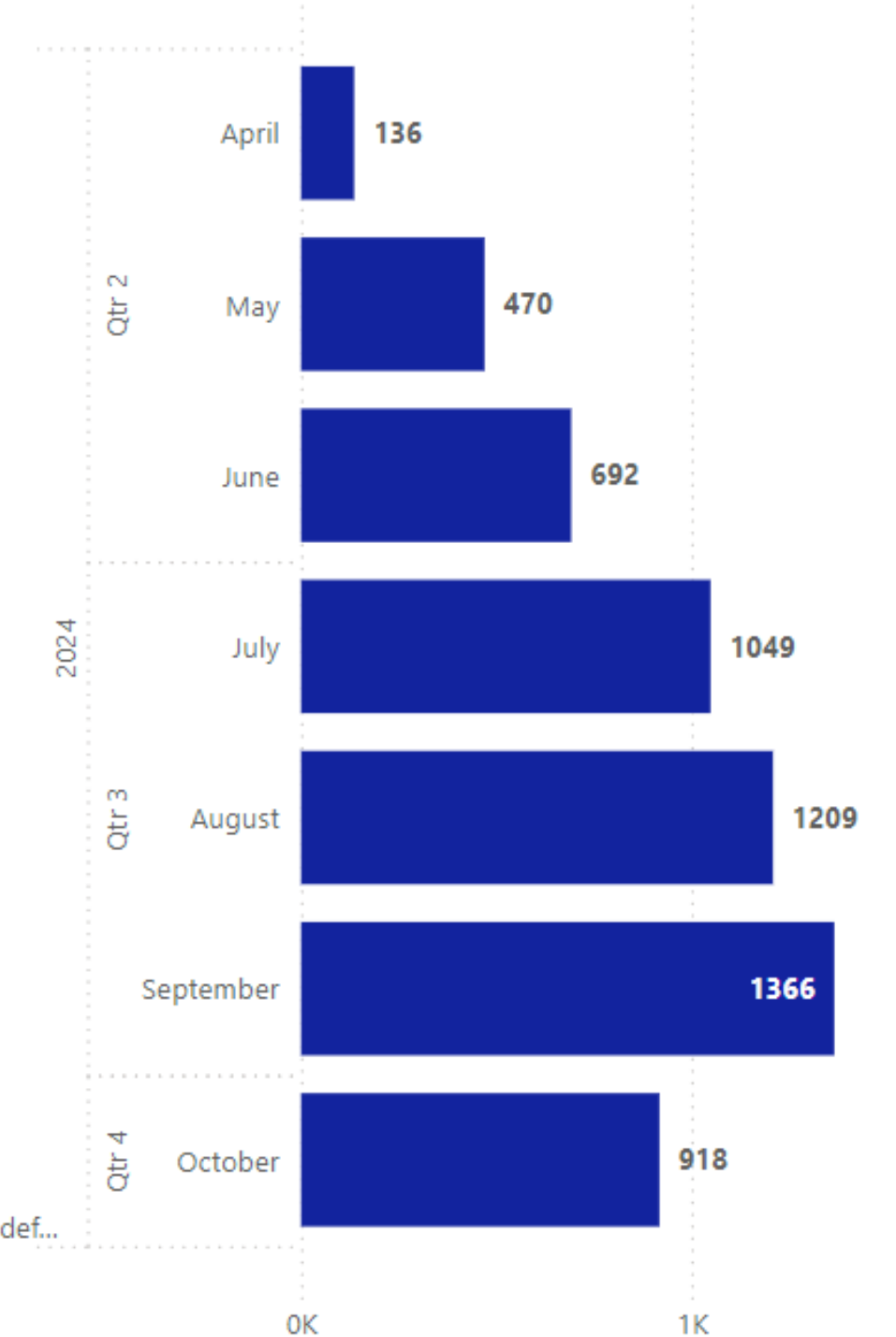
Defect repaired ● N ● Y



Repaired Defect Types



Defects Repaired by Month



PRIORITY ONE UP AND RUNNING

Road surfacing works in Chelmsford, Rochford, Colchester, Braintree, Maldon, Castle Point and Epping Forest have all been undertaken following the launch of Essex County Council's £25 million Priority One campaign.

Announced in August, the Priority One investment will see additional crews and resources pumped into highways maintenance across the county. Crews will tackle road surfacing, vegetation clearance, drainage, signs and lining. The funding is in addition to existing maintenance budgets and is the single largest investment into improving our highways Essex County Council has ever made.

Councillor Mark Platt, Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council and lead for the Priority One project, said: "I want to send a really clear message to Essex residents that we are listening, and we understand the importance of feeling proud about the places we live. How our local area looks and feels matters and this campaign is called Priority One, because we recognise our road network is central to our local environment, and this impacts us all.



“We have made a fantastic start with additional resurfacing works taking place across the county. We will this week be working overnight in Chelmsford and Rochford on two key roads, with works in Harlow and Tendring to follow. Over the coming weeks and months, we be announcing further works, with teams out in every borough, district and city area helping to make travel in Essex safer, greener and healthier.”

The £25 million investment comes after £12 million of extra investment was announced earlier this year for highways. £8 million of this supports the Members’ Highways Initiative, where County Council Members prioritise the issues they want Essex Highways crews to repair. A separate £39 million was also set aside this year for the county’s annual resurfacing programme.

More information on the Priority One campaign



Photographs in this article feature completed works at the A134 Maldon Road in Colchester

ESSEX HIGHWAYS NEARS COMPLETION OF LED STREETLIGHT UPGRADE PROJECT



More than 130,000 older-style streetlights have been replaced with LEDs as part of Essex Highways' programme to upgrade streetlights across the county. The project, which is nearing completion, is expected to save £39 million in energy running costs over the next 25 years.

Photo this page: Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Transport and Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment (left) are pictured at a site in Braintree on Thursday 3 October. They paid a visit to see some of the final LED units being installed.

For the last three years, Essex Highways crews have been replacing around 600 lights a week. A total of 131,254 have now been replaced, with only approximately 700 streetlights left to go. Since the rollout of the LED streetlights began, Essex Highways has seen fewer of the new streetlights needing repair compared to the older units. This has reduced the number of call-outs crews have received to carry out repairs. The new units also save around 80% in energy costs and are more efficient due to an expected longer lifespan of 20 years. This will save taxpayers' money as lamps need to be replaced less frequently.

The upgrade programme faced difficulties from delays due to COVID-19 and supply chain issues caused in part by the war in Ukraine. Around 95% of the lights are working as expected, with the rest waiting for repairs that are linked to issues like power supply. As part of the upgrade programme, older LED units have been made available to parish councils to take responsibility for and have been fitted to older streetlights they own. Rayne Parish Council has already secured units and has reported an immediate impact with reduced monthly streetlight maintenance costs.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Transport said: "I am very pleased that Rayne Parish Council has been proactive in taking up our offer of using some of the older LED units and are already reaping the benefits. I hope other parish councils from across the county are able to take us up on this offer."





Councillor Diana Garrod, Lead Member for Climate Change and Sustainability at Braintree District Council, said: “On discovering the availability of older LED streetlights, we put a call out to our parish councils to see if they could make use of them. Rayne Parish Council snapped up the opportunity and is now benefitting from the energy-efficient lighting.

“The lights are an excellent example of reuse, which will continue to save the parish council money and contribute to carbon reduction.”

Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling, added: “Upgrading old-style streetlights to LEDs has significant benefits for the environment.

“The new lights use far less energy, helping to reduce carbonemissions, while the LEDs can also be dimmed, meaning they produce less light pollution. This significant investment in the future of Essex will help us meet our environmental goals, while at the same time saving taxpayers’ money.”



**AROUND
THE
COUNTY**

WIDESPREAD PAVEMENT REPAIRS FOR COLCHESTER CITY CENTRE

Colchester will benefit from extensive footway renewals as part of ongoing efforts to revitalise the city centre. Repairs will take place from October 2024 to March 2025 and focus on damaged pavements in high footfall locations.

This includes:

- Culver Street West
- Sir Issac's Walk
- High Street
- Trinity Street

Repairs will involve replacing and resetting slabs and regrouting and sealing pavements, with the overall aim of ensuring footways last longer. The majority of works will take place overnight between 7pm and 5am to minimise disruption.



Traffic management measures will be set up to help keep pedestrians and Essex Highways crews safe. The repairs are being delivered by Essex County Council and Colchester City Council, funded by a £300,000 reallocation from the Department for Transport's HS2 budget and £50,000 from Colchester City Council.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council, said: "Pavement renewals reflect our commitment to enhancing Colchester's public spaces and encouraging active travel. This will make the city safer, greener and healthier for everyone who lives, visits and works here. The footway improvements will not only address immediate issues – they will contribute to the broader ongoing efforts to revitalise Colchester's City Centre."

Councillor David King, Leader of Colchester City Council, said: "I'm pleased to see these long-needed and essential pavement repairs taking place, as they are a key part of our broader strategy to revitalise Colchester City Centre. Working with our partners to enhance our public spaces makes them more enjoyable and attractive to shoppers, visitors and residents. Renewal adds further momentum to our transformation of Colchester and will help ensure our city centre thrives as a welcoming place for all."

Provisional dates for pavement repairs in Colchester are:

- High street – 6 October to 17 October 2024
- Trinity Street – 20 October to 1 December 2024
- Vint Crescent – 2 December to 13 December 2024
- Sir Issacs Walk – 6 January to 14 February 2025
- Culver Street West – 17 February to 29 March 2025



USEFUL CONTACTS

Whatever the weather, you never know when the unexpected might occur. Should there be instances of fallen trees, power outages, flooding etc, 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>