

ECC Report:

- **Devolution and Unitary Councils**

5th Feb –The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, informed the leaders of ECC, Southend, and Thurrock, that “*Based on our criteria of geography and readiness set out in the English Devolution White Paper, I am pleased to confirm that Greater Essex has been selected to join*

*the Devolution Priority Programme.*” In addition it stated that the request for County local elections to be postponed from May had been accepted from May 2025 to May 2026.

- **CNEB**

*The main works are now underway on Section 1A following the appointment of Octavius Infrastructure as contractor.*

*Recent works have included:*

- *Topographical and ecological surveys*
- *An archaeological survey undertaken by Oxford Archaeology revealing past Roman use of the site*
- *Groundworks for the delivery of the site compound offices/cabins*
- *Preparation works for a UK power networks diversion*

*The Chelmsford North East Bypass – Section 1A, January 2025 newsletter contains further details. This can be found attached to this email and on our project webpage here: [www.essexhighways.org/chelmsford-north-east-bypass](http://www.essexhighways.org/chelmsford-north-east-bypass)*

The benefit of CNEB to Broomfield, LW, GW, and other parishes, is that it should take traffic away from Essex Regiment Way, which will in turn take traffic away from the B1008 Broomfield main Road.

- **Drainage issue on Grange Road and Woolmers Hay**

I met with the Flood team lead at Grange Road, on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 25, and also talked to the residents.

We believe that there must be an under-road pipe which should take the water from the ditch on the west, to the one on the right. We can't jet that pipe through unless we can find the entrances at either end. So far, they have not been located. We can see a slight raise in the road, which would indicate where such a pipe is located. The resident (responsibility for the west ditch, is going to try and cut back into the verge to see if they can locate the pipe. If they can, I can arrange for it to be jetted. If it can't be located, I need to apply for a new pipe to be laid – which may take some time.

Woolmers Hey – the flood team lead has had discussions with various owners with riparian responsibilities and is being monitored. So far, it has not reoccurred.

**CLlr Mike Steel**

**Member for Broomfield & Writtle**