

MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

SUPPORTED LODGINGS

Supported Lodgings Week (9 to 16 November) celebrated carers who open their homes and prepare a young person (16+) for success. Help a young person gain essential life skills including budgeting, cooking and planning for their future. If you have a spare room and want to change a young person's life, email: FosterRecruitment@essex.gov.uk Or Phone: [0800 801 530](tel:0800801530)

LOVE ESSEX MICRO GRANTS

The [Love Essex Fund is back and offering up to £2,000 micro-grants](#) for 10 repair groups in Essex. Whether your group is well-established or just getting started, you can apply! Remember to check the criteria beforehand to make sure your group is eligible. Applications close on 30 November 2025.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND

This year's Community Initiatives Fund has opened for applications. Our fund offers grants of up to £10,000 to:

- voluntary organisations
- community groups
- residents' associations
- Town and Parish Councils

Funding can be used for things like upgrades to sports facilities, community events and much more. [Read more about the Community Initiative Fund](#) and find out how to apply.

HEALTHIER HABITS HUB FUND

Following Essex County Council's first 'Healthier Habits Hubs' launch in November 2024, the 2025/26 new structure has been shaped by the feedback received from both residents and providers. The Healthier Habits Fund will offer financial support to organisations to help deliver new events/projects in Essex. Projects should align with one or more of the outcomes in our [Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities Business Plan 2025-2028](#).

Do you have an idea for a project? Does your hub have the creativity to run a successful health related project? [Apply for up to £2,500 from the Healthier Habits Hub](#).

APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING FOR SMES

Small and medium-sized businesses will benefit greatly from Essex County Council's Essex 200 Apprenticeship Support Fund.

If you've been considering taking on an apprentice or two to grow your business and support new talent, now is the time to do so! Apply early to secure up to £2000 per apprentice (two per business) – funding can cover enhanced wages, equipment, extra training, travel and more.

Availability for funding is limited, apply now before it's too late! Both the business and apprentice must meet the correct criteria to be eligible.

APPRENTICESHIP HUB

Essex County Council's [Apprenticeship Hub](#) service is back and ready to support 2026 schools leavers in Essex. When you sign up to the Apprenticeship Hub you'll have access too:

- free live events throughout the year covering how to get an apprenticeship and exploring different sectors
- 1-2-1 support sessions during school holidays
- regularly updated resources with the latest information and vacancies

CHELMSFORD NORTH EAST BYPASS

The shape of the first section (1A) of the new [Chelmsford North East Bypass](#) is becoming visible as we press ahead with groundworks on the site.

At the southern end of the site work to connect Section 1A of the bypass to the existing roundabout on the A131 Beaulieu Parkway is underway and scheduled to complete in early December.

To the north, the new bypass will connect to a new link road, the North Radial Distributor Road (NRDR), which is to be built by developers of the garden community.

Essex County Council expect to finish construction of the bypass by the end of summer 2026, which will be ahead of completion of the NRDR.

Therefore, there will be a period when the bypass is not open to road users as we await the time when it can be connected to the NRDR and rejoin the A131.

However, it is important to progress the bypass so it is ready to link to the garden community and ensure it is completed within timelines for funding set by the Government.

Two further sections of the bypass (1B and 2) are planned and, subject to funding being secured, will take the road further north to Deres Bridge roundabout at Great Leighs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Greater Essex has 15 different councils. Some areas have two layers of local government - county and district, while others have just one - unitary. Essex County Council's proposal recommends moving to a three council model. This would consist of one council each for north, mid and south Essex. These new councils would replace the existing 15 councils and be designed around real communities, local economies and the services you rely on. [Read our proposal for three new councils, one bright future.](#)

[More information on all proposals submitted](#) can be found on the Essex Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) hub.

FLOOD RISK

Flooding can happen fast. If you see flooding in your area, it's important to report it to the right place. Know your flood risk and report flooding quickly. [Find out what to do about flooding and who to contact.](#)

FREE SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

Get flexible training and guaranteed job interviews with free Skills Bootcamps in Essex. Whether you're looking to change careers, return to work or progress in your current role, Skills Bootcamps provide a fast, accessible way to gain in-demand skills. [Find out more about the Skills Bootcamps in Essex and apply today.](#)

ACL ESSEX POPPINS BURSARY

New childminders in Essex from low-income households can get up to £1,000 in startup costs through ACL Essex's Poppins Bursary. Fully funded training is also available for both new and existing childminders, including Skills Bootcamps in childminding and early years. [Visit our Poppins Bursary page](#) or email Poppins.Bursary@essex.gov.uk to find out more.

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL'S 'WHERE QUALITY OF LIFE MATTERS' GRANT FUNDING

The [Where Quality of Life Matters Community Fund](#) provides organisations with the opportunity to deliver these projects, with grants available of up to £10,000.

Applications are being accepted until 30 November 2025. This application phase is open to town and parish councils, registered voluntary, community or charitable organisations, and registered social enterprises only.

For any queries regarding the [Where Quality of Life Matters Community Fund](#), get in touch with the team at strategy.team@maldon.gov.uk.

LOVE ESSEX 'GREAT CABLE CHALLENGE'

Earlier this month, the Love Essex team set up a pink bin in Chelmsford's County Hall to support [the Great Cable Challenge](#).

In this trial, we worked with [Recycle Your Electricals](#) to encourage employees to confront their 'drawer of doom' and bring in their old cables that have been stashed away.

Despite International E-Waste Day being over for this year, every day is a great day to dig out your old electrical items and make sure they get reused or recycled.

[Find an electrical recycling point near you](#)

DONATE UNUSED TEC TO HELP CHILDREN ACROSS ESSEX

[Digital Essex](#) are asking businesses to donate unused laptops, tablets and phones. This is to help children across Essex who don't have access to the devices they need for learning.

Many devices may no longer meet business requirements, but they can still be repurposed to:

- support a child's education
- reduce environmental impact
- offer a meaningful way to tackle e-waste

It's a simple, cost-effective way to make a real difference in your community. If you know an organisation that might have some old tech to donate, press the button below to learn more.

[Find out more about donating old electronics](#)

BECOME AN RIVERWATCH VOLUNTEER

The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust and Essex Rivers Hub are inviting volunteers to join Essex RiverWatch. This is an exciting citizen science project that monitors rivers and helps identify where action is needed.

As a volunteer, you'll collect monthly water quality data from your local river and make observations of the wildlife and pollution.

No experience is needed and all equipment and training is provided. This is a great way to work together to keep Essex's rivers healthy for everyone.

[Become a RiverWatch volunteer today](#)

ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING FOR THE WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Did you know that thanks to [Active Travel funding](#), your local school could be eligible to take part in WOW, the walk to school challenge, for free?

WOW is a pupil-led project from the charity, [Living Streets](#). Pupils self-report how they get to school on the WOW Travel Tracker, and those who travel actively at least once a week are awarded WOW badges.

Last academic year, the project helped to create almost 18 million new walking journeys. This reduced congestion and pollution across England.

If you think this initiative would 'wow' your school community, press the button below to discover more. [Learn more about the walk to school challenge!](#)

CONSULTATION ON ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROPOSALS IS NOW OPEN

Residents and businesses are being encouraged to share their views on the priorities for Essex County Council's 2026/27 budget.

Next year, the council will spend over £2 billion. This will include funding for essential services and investment in our county's infrastructure and future growth.

The council is asking for views on the key issues facing Essex. Responses to the consultation will help shape services and plan for the future.

The [budget consultation survey](#) can be completed online and closes on Monday 15 December.

Take part in the consultation at: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/ecc-budget-consultation-2026-27/>.

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