



**Essex County Council**

## MARCH UPDATE MALDON DIVISION – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

### MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY HUB GRANT SCHEME

“Voluntary, community and charity organisations in the Maldon District are invited to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 to set up a new community hub or to support or provide more facilities at existing projects.

The new Community Hub Grant Scheme from Maldon District Council is being funded from a successful application to the Magnox Social Value Support Fund. Grants of up to £1,000 are available to assist organisations with schemes that support residents to keep warm and connect with the local community.

The grant could be used to help organisations:

- Increase the use of their space
- Start up a new activity
- Pay for utility bills or for energy efficiency measures
- Provide food and drink
- Activities for the elderly, children and families
- Activities that support the wellbeing of their local community

The first phase of applications will be considered on 7 April 2023. Applications received after that date will only be considered if the funding allocated to the programme has not been fully spent.

#### Criteria

- Grants can be used to assist with new community hubs or support existing ones. This could include increasing the use of space, assisting with energy bills, provision of free warm food/drinks and providing new events or activities
- Applications that bring together partners to offer support for people in a respectful and practical way are welcomed
- Take up figures will be requested at the end of May 2023 for monitoring and evaluation purposes

#### How to Apply

Please complete the online application form at [www.maldon.gov.uk/grantapplication](http://www.maldon.gov.uk/grantapplication)”

## ESSEX HIGHWAYS USEFUL LINKS AND READING

- Essex Highways website: [Essex Highways](#)
- Report an issue you've seen: [Tell us](#)
- Track an issue you've reported: [Track It](#)
- Find out what roadworks are happening in your area with the live traffic map: [one.network](#)
- Find out what works Essex Highways is responsible for and planned programmes of capital works: [Highways Information Map | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)
- Find out about roadworks happening two weeks up to 12 months into the future: [Future Roadworks Map | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)
- Track the gritters in your area and find out more about how Essex Highways decides when and where to send them in the winter: [Track the gritting lorries | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)
- Essex Highways latest news: [News, Press Releases and Highway Highlights \(essexhighways.org\)](#)
- Essex Highways Twitter – for updates, features and photos of work happening across the county: [@essexhighways](#)
- Latest updates from Essex County Council's Traffic Control Centre Twitter: [@essex\\_travel](#)
- Further reading – road strategies, including annual maintenance plans: [Road strategies | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

## £2 BUS FARE CAP TO BE EXTENDED



The government has announced plans to continue to cap single bus fares outside of London at £2 until the **end of June**, saving passengers money and encouraging more people back on the bus. Bus operators that are continuing the £2 fare cap scheme will be confirmed in due course.

The government's existing £60 million investment to cap single bus fares has already shown early signs of increased bus use.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said: "Getting more people onto reliable and affordable buses will strengthen communities and help grow the economy – connecting people to jobs, driving pensioners to see friends and family, and helping people attend medical appointments or access education."

## AMBITIOUS ESSEX SUPPLY CHAIN CAMPAIGN

This year Essex County Council is launching a campaign to promote procurement and supply chain opportunities to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) across Essex in the aim to deliver better outcomes for local people. SMEs are vital to growing our local economy, supporting local employment, and delivering benefits that make Essex a great place to live and work.

Through this campaign, we aim to offer guidance, hints and tips, workshops, and webinars to support SMEs looking to expand their reach into the public sector and access supply chain opportunities.

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### **What opportunities to expect**

Essex County Council procurement teams manage over 1300 suppliers, with a total value of all managed contracts of £3.9bn. We purchase goods and services from a range of industries, supporting the delivery of statutory and non-statutory services with the aim of improving outcomes for all in Essex in receipt of our support. These include:

- Technology: software, hardware and networks
  - Corporate services such as: Public Library Services, Consultancy, training and Coroners Service
  - Highways and Major Schemes
  - Passenger Transport: bus services for home to school, social care, and local buses
  - Waste, Energy and Environment
  - Construction and Schools PFI
  - Housing and Facilities Management
  - People service areas including older people, adults with disabilities, mental health, education, children and families and public health
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### **What's on offer?**

- Monthly newsletter bulletins providing hints and tips and where to find the latest opportunities
- Updated SME Procurement Guidance to support businesses engaging with Public Sector Tenders
- Procurement workshops delivered by Backing Essex Business
- Webinars on how to access supply chain opportunities from large contracts

If you would like to hear more about this campaign, please [contact](#) the business team.

## IMPORTANT CHANGE TO YOUR RECYCLING CENTRES

From Monday 13 March, you will need to book a slot to visit an Essex County Council recycling centre.

This is a trial that will be in place until December 2023. A booking system has already been trialled at Rayleigh Recycling Centre, and a booking system for large vehicles is currently in place at our nine van-friendly sites.

Both of these booking system trials have been successful in smoothing the pattern of demand across operating hours and reducing queues and congestion.

[Find out full details about the booking system trial.](#)



## YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £60 OF SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS!

Another month, another chance for you to win! This month's Food Waste Challenge is simply to [keep a food waste diary](#).

This will help you recognise the types of food that are wasted more often, or how much food you throw away in an average week. You can then refer to this diary to find out how you can rescue the foods you end up binning! This could be by storing them correctly or by popping them in the freezer before they go out of date.

Don't forget to [confirm you've completed the challenge](#) to be entered into the competition.

### My food waste diary

when	what	why	how
Monday Dinner	Potato peelings Table spoon of uneaten mash	Unused peel Cooked too much	Compost bin Food caddy
Tuesday Breakfast	3 slices of mouldy bread	Didn't eat or freeze in time	Food caddy



### Free courses for jobs

Adults in England have the chance to access their first level 3 qualification for free.

This offer is also available to adults in England who earn less than the National Living Wage annually (£18,525) or who are unemployed. This is regardless of their prior qualification level.

All 19 to 23 year olds can access courses for free through their [legal entitlement to a first full level 3 qualification](#).

### 9% PAY INCREASE FOR FOSTER CARERS

Foster carers will now receive, on average, £504 per week per child. This demonstrates our commitment to supporting carers and recognising the vital work they do.

Join our community to transform children's lives. We match children to your family, offer 24/7 support and bespoke training.

Call us on 0800 801 530 to find out more or read more about [fostering options](#) on our website.

## **WE'VE ALL GOT OPINIONS, WE WANT YOURS**

We're looking for Essex residents aged over 18 to join the Essex Residents' Panel. Your opinions count so make yours heard!

Members of the Essex resident's panel will receive a maximum of 6 online surveys a year, it is a quick way to get involved and influence improvements to services that matter to you and your local community.

Be a vocal local, [join the Essex Residents' panel now!](#)

## **BOOST YOUR GREEN CAREER WITH ACL**

You could play a key role in helping Essex achieve our carbon neutral commitment. We're offering free retrofit training to develop your green career.

Available at Levels 2 and 5, qualifications will help you understand how to enhance buildings to make them more sustainable.

[Find out more about retrofit and apply today.](#)



