



## MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

### PLUME ACADEMY EXPANSION

Essex County Council is funding the expansion of Plume Academy which will create 300 new school places at the school.

Essex County Council is investing £14.8 million to expand Plume Academy in Maldon. The decision was confirmed at the council's Cabinet meeting today (14 November).

The expansion will create an extra 300 pupil places at the school over the next three academic years.

The spaces are needed following growth of the town and due to two new housing developments on Limebrook Way and in Heybridge.

The expansion will ensure that more Year 7 pupils get their preferred school place and mean less pupils need to travel out of town to schools further away. It will also give more choice to those in rural communities who wish to travel to larger towns for their schooling.

### APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACES NOW OPEN

Parents and carers in Essex can now apply for primary (reception) school places. The application window is open between 4 November 2024 and 15 January 2025.

Children are entitled to start primary school in the September after their fourth birthday. Parents and carers of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 can apply now.

Applications can be made online at [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

Those received after the 15 January deadline will only be considered once all on time applications are determined. This means applying late could reduce the chance of parents getting a place for their child at their preferred school.

### FOOD SUPPORT FUND

Local organisations providing food and support to those most in need can now apply for up to £2,500 in grant funding. Essex County Council has allocated a further £250,000 to its food support fund to help local communities this winter. Applications for grants can be made from today (Monday 4 November). Grants are available to organisations, including:

- food support groups
- food pantries
- foodbanks
- community based organisations
- voluntary groups

The money can be used by these organisations to provide food for families with children and for any individuals from across the Essex County Council local authority area who are struggling.

The fund will be available until the money has been used. There is no deadline for applications. All grants awarded must be spent by 31 March 2025.

## HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Funding from the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund will support households struggling with the cost of living. It will help households which may struggle with costs such as energy, groceries and bills. The fund is available until Monday 31 March 2025 through different access points. This includes the [Essential Living Fund](#), community supermarkets and local voluntary organisations. [Find out more about what the £9.4 million support includes](#) and at Essex County Council website.

## PENSION CREDIT

Pension credit tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs. You may be eligible even if you own your own home or have savings. [Check your eligibility for pension credit](#) today.

## BUS FARE CAP TO RISE TO £3

The [Prime Minister](#) has confirmed that the £2 bus fare cap will be replaced with a new £3 bus price cap in the budget announcement this week. It will run until the end of 2025 and will cover most bus journeys in England.

The £2 bus fare cap was introduced in September 2022 during the cost of living crisis, with the existing cap due to expire at the end of December.

Essex County Council Passenger Transport will update when it is known which Essex Transport Providers will be enrolling in the scheme.

## VOLUNTEER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN THE MALDON DISTRICT

Last month, as part of Community Transport Week, Cllr Cunningham visited the Uttlesford Community Transport scheme, meeting with some of the dedicated volunteers who help make these essential services possible.

The visit highlighted the invaluable role volunteers play, not only in providing accessible transportation but in building connections and fostering a stronger sense of community. Community Transport schemes across Essex help those with limited mobility or without access to regular transport options.

Volunteer drivers are the backbone of these services, offering affordable and reliable transport for essential journeys like medical appointments, shopping, and social outings. Contact Community 360 on 01206 505250

## PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANT

The Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant offers up to £8,000 of flood protection measures for your home.

The last date to apply for the PFR grant is Saturday 30 November 2024. Don't wait until it's too late, check your flood risk and [find out if you're eligible for the PFR grant](#) and at Essex County Council website.

## MALDON LIBRARY'S MENS HEALTH IN NOVEMBER

Throughout November, Maldon Library is hosting a series of exciting events designed for men of all ages. Join us for engaging activities that promote health, well-being, and community connection:

- **Men's Gaming Cove:** Bi-weekly meetups for gamers aged 30-50. Come enjoy a friendly gaming environment with others who share your passion.
- **Dads Can Braid Too:** Learn how to braid your daughter's hair with the help of trained beauty expert Graceful Braids. A fun and practical skill-building session for fathers.
- **Daddy Cool:** A special storytime session for dads, grandpas, stepdads, uncles, and their little ones. Bond over stories and create lasting memories.
- **Men's Health Check:** Take part in health screenings and learn more about maintaining your physical well-being.

And there's much more to come! Keep checking the link for additional exciting events being added throughout the month.

## BOOST EMPLOYEES NUMERACY SKILLS WITH FREE MULTIPLY COURSE

In today's fast-paced work environments, numeracy skills are indispensable for effective administrative tasks.

Elevate your staff's essential skills, including:

- basic numeracy skills using real work-based scenarios
- measurement skills, length, weight, volume and time
- calculating percentages and ratios
- fundamentals of data, understanding charts, graphs, and tables
- spreadsheets, making decisions based on data and problem-solving
- plus, much more

The online course runs Monday evenings, 7pm to 9pm, from Monday 18 November to Monday 2 December. [Register now.](#)

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON PROPOSED NEW GROWTH & SKILLS LEVY

The Government is planning changes to the current [Apprenticeship Levy and introducing a new Growth and Skills Levy.](#)

As part of this process, the Essex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) will be providing feedback on the proposals.

The voice of employers in Essex is crucial to this process and the Essex LSIP wants to hear from you.

You can share your views on the proposals in a survey. There are two surveys, one for [Levy paying employers](#) and another for [Non-Levy paying employers.](#)

To find out more about [LSIP](#) or get involved, email [joannegiles@essexchambers.co.uk](mailto:joannegiles@essexchambers.co.uk).

## HAVE YOUR SAY – MALDON DISTRICT RESIDENT & BUSINESS SURVEY

Maldon District Council's annual Resident and Business Survey is open now.

This is your opportunity to influence the services in your community and have a say on how the Council can better support you.

The survey is open until Sunday 24 November.

You can complete the survey [online](#) or via a paper copy which can be requested by calling 01621 854477 or by popping into the Council Offices.

It takes approximately 5 minutes to fill out and you could win a £50 Voucher just by taking part!

## NEW CHELMSFORD NORTH EAST BYPASS

Works to build the first phase of the [Chelmsford North East Bypass](#) are set to get underway early next year after Essex County Council awarded the construction contract.

Following a tender process, a contract has been awarded to [Octavius Infrastructure Limited](#) to build the first section of the bypass.

The first section of the bypass (known as section 1A) will connect with Beaulieu Parkway in the south, providing access to the A12 at Boreham Interchange via the Beaulieu Parkway Bridge.

To the north, it will join with a new link road, to be built by developers as part of the planned Chelmsford Garden Community, to the Wheelers Hill roundabout on the A131 Essex Regiment Way.

The bypass, together with the new railway station at Beaulieu, will provide important infrastructure to support planned housing and economic growth to the north of Chelmsford.

Enabling work for the first phase of the bypass is already underway.

A new bridge spanning the future road has now been completed. The bridge will allow the continued operation of an existing mineral quarry, Bulls Lodge, during construction and operation of the bypass.

In the future it will provide an east-west link across the bypass for all modes of transport, including pedestrians and cyclists. This will enable access to the planned new Chelmsford Garden Community and existing communities to the west of the bypass.

A second package of enabling works, which involves excavating a new silt lagoon and infilling two existing lagoons close to the planned new bypass, is ongoing.

## BEAULIEU PARK STATION CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Works on the new Beaulieu Park Station are continuing to progress well. The new station building structure is now complete and has been topped off with a wooden laminated roof to provide a visually striking environment for passengers.

The main station footbridge was installed in May to connect the station building to the platform and will have lifts to provide step free access. The platform structures have also been constructed.

Railway vlogger Geoff Marshall recently visited the Beaulieu Park Station site to see how the works were progressing. [Watch his video](#) to see footage from the site and hear from some of those who are helping make the station happen.

Once complete in 2025, the new station will relieve pressure on Chelmsford Station, and provide a better, more resilient and flexible service with three platforms, car parking, a public transport interchange, cycling facilities and new track for passing trains.

To stay up to date with the construction of the new Beaulieu Park Station, please visit the [project webpage](#).

#### **FASTER & GREENER WAY TO REPAIR OUR ROADS**

Essex Highways has announced the successful trial of an innovative new method of repairing roads in Colchester and Tendring.

The use of Roadmender Asphalt, which recycles materials from old lorry tyres, was used to mend damaged roads without the need to dig them up.

This is a great example of circular economy in action. Waste is put to good use to repair our roads, benefitting both residents and the environment! [Find out more](#) about the successful trial.

#### **WASTE SEARCH FUNCTION ON LOVE ESSEX WEBSITE**

If you've got something you no longer need or want, find the best way to get rid of it with our nifty waste search function.

Whether it's finding something a new home, the nearest place to recycle, or checking if something's accepted in your bin, we've got you covered.

[Visit our website waste search](#), then just start typing what you want to get rid of. Select from the dropdown list, enter your postcode and click Search!

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