



MALDON DIVISION MARCH/APRIL UPDATE

Councillor Jane Fleming

NEW ESSEX CAREERS MAGAZINE AVAILABLE



If you or your colleagues are seeking new job, training or development opportunities, look no further than [Essex Careers](#). This new quarterly magazine features advice, sector spotlights, insights and more, and is available for free online.

BOOK YOUR SLOT TO VISIT A RECYCLING CENTRE

Don't forget, you now need to book a slot to visit an [Essex County Council recycling centre](#).

The booking system has been introduced to help manage queues and congestion, and to reduce the misuse of sites by commercial vehicles. This is a trial initiative set to last until December 2023.

Find out more information about the booking system and book your slot on [our booking web pages](#).

[Watch our handy video](#) for a quick overview by clicking the image below!

BOOST YOUR EMPLOYEES' MATHS SKILLS

Are maths skills impacting your employees' confidence?

Are they affecting performance and development?



With free maths courses available across Essex, the Multiply programme can help your team to learn in a way that suits them.

Discover a Multiply course near you on the [Essex Opportunities Portal](#)

SOUTH EAST NEW ENERGY PROGRAMME

The South East New Energy Programme is led by the University of East London and part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The programme is offering funding to eligible SMEs, towards energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Examples of priority projects are LED lighting, variable speed drives, voltage optimisation systems and infrared heating.

Projects must be completed and paid for before the end of June 2023 so potential applicants are encouraged to [contact PECT](#), who are facilitating the SENE Grant Scheme.

You can also [register](#) to attend weekly grant scheme briefings, held at 3:30pm every Wednesday.

TRAVELESSEX BUS SURVEY - NOW OPEN!



TravelEssex is conducting a survey to better understand public opinion of the bus services in Essex, and how it can improve bus services to encourage more people to use them.

The survey is for both bus users and non-bus users and closes on Sunday 16 April 2023. To have your say and take part in the survey click [here](#).

CHANGES TO ESSEX BUS FARES

A number of our bus fares are due to rise on specific Essex County Council supported services from Saturday 1 April 2023. Concessionary bus pass holders and Park and Ride users will not be affected by this change.

For further information on the services affected click [here](#).

Please note the £2 price cap remains in place until Friday 30 June 2023 for operators that are currently taking part.

EASTER BUS SERVICES



A number of operators will be working to revised service levels during the Easter bank holiday period.

Please check operator websites or social media for further information before making your journey.

VOLUNTEER WITH US FOR THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Are you looking for something to do during the summer holidays? Aged 14 or over?
Why not become a Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer!

Volunteering with us is a great opportunity to do something fun and interesting this summer, and boost your CV at the same time!

Applications open on Monday 3 April and close on Friday 30 June.

[Find out more about Summer Reading Challenge volunteering here!](#)

ENTER OUR POETRY COMPETITION!



Essex Library Service is pleased to announce the launch of our spring poetry competition. Aimed at children and young people ages 4 to 11 years old.

The poems that are entered can be about anything they want as long as it relates to springtime.

You can come into any Essex Library over the Easter holidays where you will find lots of ideas and inspiration.

The categories are

- Reception/KS1

- KS2

Entries will be open until Saturday 14 April 2023. Bring your poem into any Essex Library to enter. Finalists' poems will be displayed in their local libraries, and winners will get some special prizes!

[View our library locations and opening times.](#)

PROGRESS CONTINUES WITH ADVANCED WORKS FOR NEW CHELMSFORD NORTH EAST BYPASS



Advanced enabling works continue to progress ahead of the construction of the planned [Chelmsford North East Bypass](#).

The enabling works involve building a bridge, which will ultimately span the new bypass and enable the continued operation of an existing mineral quarry, Bulls Lodge, during construction and operation of the bypass.

Piling works at the site have been completed and deep drainage has been installed to run beneath the embankments.

More information is available in the third edition of the Chelmsford North East Bypass advanced works newsletter, produced by Octavius Infrastructure, and is available at the bottom of the [Chelmsford North East Bypass webpage](#).

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SUCCESSFUL IN WINNING £1 MILLION ACTIVE TRAVEL CAPABILITY FUNDING

Essex County Council have been awarded £1 million of Capability Funding to help plan and develop walking and cycling networks over the next ten years.

This will include running a series of local engagement events to enable residents and businesses to have their say and help shape networks across the county, as well as having input to school streets and liveable neighbourhoods.

Feedback from these engagement sessions will input directly into the design of the new routes.

The funding will also support several behaviour change projects, including:

- The introduction of some electric bikes to the Essex Pedal Power project
- More community cycling grants to support learn-to-ride sessions, free bikes for targeted groups, cycling festivals and taster sessions

ACCESS FREE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE COURSES AND QUALIFICATIONS

ACL Essex are pleased to announce the extension of the Nightingale Care Bursary. The Bursary enables everyone to access Health & Social Care courses and qualifications for free. So, whether you're looking to start a new and fulfilling career in care or want to upskill – we can support you! Find out more and apply on the [ACL website](#).

COUNCIL TAX INCREASE TO MEET SERVICE DEMAND

Increased investment of £9 million in the repair and maintenance of roads and footpaths across Essex has been confirmed for the next year as part of our 2023/34 budget.

Supporting the vulnerable, improving infrastructure, ensuring pupils receive a high-quality education and help with the cost of living are at the heart of our budget, which was approved at Full Council on 9 February.

Factors including inflation, rises in energy prices and interest rates plus increased service demand have added £87 million more to our costs this year. Balancing these pressures with limiting the impact on household budgets means a Council Tax increase of 3.5% has been approved. This includes 1.5% council tax plus a further 2% ring-fenced to Adult Social Care.

Read more about the [increased investment planned for highways maintenance](#) or more about our [2023/34 budget](#).

WORKSHOPS FOR HOME EDUCATED PUPILS

Conductive Music are working in partnership with the council to offer subsidised STEAM sessions for home educated pupils. Workshops offer opportunities to explore digital music making and coding.

The sessions are fully interactive, imaginative and creative, allowing pupils to investigate and explore both music and computing. [Learn more about the content of the sessions](#) and [book your session online](#).

EATING DISORDERS - SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Online support is available for parents and carers of young people recently diagnosed with an eating disorder, but who have not yet started treatment. Beat, the UK's eating disorder charity, run a 10-week coaching programme over Zoom.

Sessions are weekly and run for 50 minutes. During each one, families will gain insight into their loved ones eating disorder. They will also understand their role in their child's journey to recovery. Learn more about the [referral criteria for eating disorders and how to get in touch](#).

DISCOUNTED BROADBAND

Broadband providers are offering [discounted social tariffs](#) to help people who receive benefits to stay connected. These deals can save eligible households up to £144 a year on their broadband bills.

There are other benefits too, from fixed contract prices to no exit fees.

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 \(essexhighways.org\)](#)