

JANUARY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR FLEMING

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Vaccine Hub Volunteers With the booster programme being ramped up even more, we require more volunteers to help at the Maldon Vaccination Centre. If you can spare some time to help, please complete this registration form bit.ly/VaccineVolunteersFB [#VaccineVolunteers](#) [#MaldonDistrict](#) [#Community](#).

Transport to Booster appointments - Support is available for residents of Essex who need help to get to their booster jab appointments. [Essex Wellbeing Service](#) will be offering a free transport service to residents across the county. [Find out more](#)

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT LIBRARY SERVICE PLAN 2022-2026

Residents can have their say on Essex County Council's (ECC) new vision for Libraries, the draft Everyone's Library Service 2022-2026 plan.

Helping children and adults improve their literacy, encouraging people to enjoy reading for pleasure and increasing the range of online resources available to customers are just some of the commitments in the plan. It also commits to keeping all 74 libraries open with investment in training and the upskilling of existing library staff.

The plan also sets out three key aims for the next four years and details how these will be achieved. You can [read more about the aims of the draft plan](#) on the libraries website.

Feedback can be submitted until 1pm on 21 January 2022.

[Read the draft plan.](#)

[Survey for individuals.](#)

[Survey for groups and organisations.](#)

[Easy read survey.](#)

If you require alternative formats of the draft plan or survey, please call 0345 603 7633 Monday-Friday between 8:30am and 5pm.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL UNVEILS £200M CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



During a meeting on the 24th November, Essex County Council's Cabinet declared its support for the Commission's Net Zero report [*Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral*](#) and unveiled its £200m [*climate action plan*](#).

This details how the Council plans to play its part to implement the Commission's recommendations to reach Essex's net zero targets and deliver on its Everyone's Essex commitment to a High-Quality Environment. Essex County Council has also committed to tracking progress and will be producing annual reports on greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilience measures for both the Council and the county of Essex.

The Commission will be monitoring and supporting the progress made by the Council in implementing its recommendations through its meetings next year.

CARBON-CUTTING TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFLECTS COP26 STRATEGY



This month, Transport East opened an online consultation for members of the public.

The consultation will provide the public with the opportunity to have their say on a new transport strategy which aims to cut carbon emissions in the East, and provide much needed investment in transport over the next 30 years.

Transport East is consulting on its proposed strategy to support councils, the Government and other partners in identifying the schemes and funding needed to

ESSEX CELEBRATES NATIONAL TREE WEEK



Earlier this month, Essex County Council celebrated National Tree Week and the start of the tree planting season.

National Tree Week is the country's annual celebration of trees which comprises of tree planting events, workshops and environmental education across the UK.

To mark National Tree Week and the start of the tree planting season, Essex Climate Czar, Cllr Peter Schwier visited two key planting sites in the county to see the benefits which planting will bring to the environment. This included the Essex Forest Initiative tree planting session in Ramsey, and forest-to-be at Hole Farm Brentwood, in the south west of the county. Currently farmland, National Highways has purchased the land for it to be home to up to 200,000 trees in the near future.

Elsewhere in the county, Cressing Temple Barns also saw a tree planting event run as part of the Essex Forest Initiative, to mark the start of National Tree Week on November 27th.

Essex is strengthening its efforts to plant trees across the county and partners across Essex have collectively committed to plant a million trees by 2025/26. The initiative has already made great progress this year- with the planting of 38,000 trees throughout the county - exceeding the 25,000 target. The Essex Forest Initiative will play a vital role in helping to achieve the county's target of reaching net-zero by 2050.

RESIDENTS RECEIVE SUPPORT TO KEEP THEIR HOMES WARM THIS WINTER



In November, we announced that there will be a further round of funding for the [Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme](#).

Through the scheme, residents with combined household incomes of below £30,000 can access a grant of up to £10,000 to make energy efficient improvements in their home, including insulation, heating controls and ventilation. The scheme is available for renters and homeowners on a low income or in receipt of benefits.

The grant will help residents on low incomes to cut their fuel bills and carbon emissions at the same time, whilst keeping their home warm and comfortable this winter. Applications are now open for this phase of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

BUS OPERATOR CONTACT DETAILS

Bus operators in Essex continue to cope in challenging circumstances with regards to the pandemic and known driver shortages. We advise checking with your operator before travel in the event of last minute cancellations/adjustments.

Links to operator pages with the most up-to-date travel cancellations are below:

[Arriva](#)

[First - North Essex](#)

[First - South Essex](#)

[Hedingham](#)

[Stephensons](#)

[Vectare](#)

Other operator contact details can be found here:

www.essexhighways.org/bus-operators

ADD DISCOUNTED BUS TRAVEL TO YOUR TRAIN TICKET WITH PLUSBUS



What is PlusBus and how can it help Essex passengers?

PlusBus is a discounted travelcard connecting passengers from National Rail to unlimited bus travel around town. With a valid National Railcard, the user is entitled to one-third off the normal day ticket. There is also a value season ticket option for commuters.

Whether you are visiting friends, commuting to work, or going shopping, PlusBus provides the flexibility to travel on buses before or after a train journey. With no peak period restrictions, you can hop-on and off buses and as much as you like all day.

It also provides the added convenience of saving time by arranging your whole journey at the same time, and there is no need to keep change for additional bus fares.

Where can I purchase a PlusBus ticket?

You can buy PlusBus day tickets at the same time as you buy a train ticket, from ticket machines at participating stations or online. Simply ask for PlusBus when purchasing your train ticket.

Find out more here: www.plusbus.info

WHY BUY WHEN YOU CAN BORROW?

The festive period can be an expensive time of the year, so why not save the planet **and** your pocket with the [Essex Library of Things](#)?

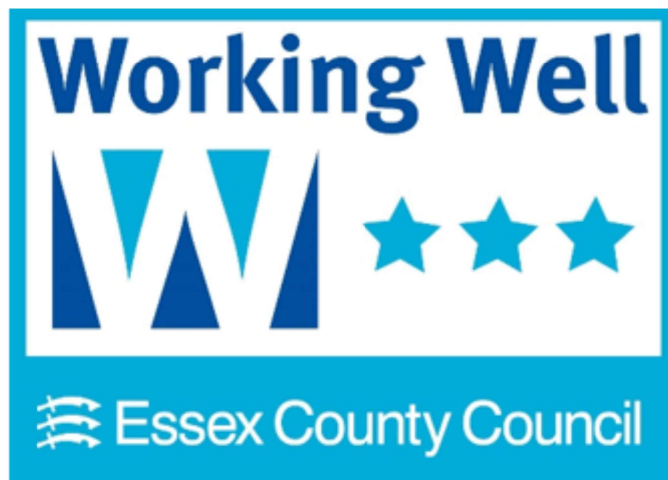


Delivered in partnership with the [BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy Project](#) and [Essex Libraries](#), this service enables Essex residents to borrow a range of items for free.

Why not borrow a bread maker for a freshly baked loaf on a chilly day? Or how about trying one of the kids' musical instruments to keep the little ones entertained this winter? Whatever you're looking for, there's something for everyone on this new borrowing service!

[Check out the full catalogue on the Love Essex website.](#)

FUNDED WORKPLACE HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME AND MHFA ENGLAND TRAINING FOR YOUR ORGANISATION



Essex Lifestyle Service has been commissioned by Essex County Council's Public Health Team to deliver a free innovative, evidenced based holistic health and wellbeing programme to support organisations in Essex.

The free Working Well programme offers a wide range of support including:

Discounted (and free) MHFA England Mental Health First Aid Training (2-day Mental Health First Aider, half day Mental Health Awareness plus the NEW 3 yearly refresher training).

Stress Awareness workshops, Managing Long Covid, Mindfulness, Disability Awareness, Managing Menopause, Dementia Friends, Men's and Women's Health Awareness campaigns, guest speakers and fun activities

On-site and virtual NHS Health Checks, online NHS My Weight Matters weight management programme, Stop Smoking Support, links with the Active Essex Find Your Active programme

HR Specialist, who can work with small organisations to set up policies, procedures and offer additional training for Managers to improve confidence to support staff with poor mental health. Monthly Newsletter and Training calendar

For more information, please visit: www.essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk/workplace/about-working-well

