

MALDON DIVISION FEBRUARY UPDATE

CHANGES TO BUS TIMETABLES

There continues to be a number of bus journeys cancelled because of driver shortages, making the real time displays inaccurate, which it is realised, is very frustrating for passengers.



Due to the number of manual changes required to reflect these cancellations, the decision was made to remove the departure times from displays.

We are pleased to let you know that we have now instructed our partners to start restoring the information on the displays. This will begin with Arriva, First, Stephenson's, Flagfinders and Go-Ahead group information, as these operators have confirmed to be confident in the accuracy of their information. We understand how inconvenient this is for passengers, however we only want to use the displays when we know the information is correct.

[illegible]

We have recently received updated journey times from [First](#). New timetables are currently being printed ready to renew the frames shortly.

Due to these difficulties, we advise checking with your operator before travel in the event of last minute cancellations/adjustments. Operator contacts can be found [here](#).



SELEP and Arts Council England have joined forces to provide guidance on the clear, decisive action that can be taken by the cultural and creative sector to rejuvenate the high streets.

Ahead of the publication of a new report, Creative High Streets, on Wednesday 2nd February 2022, SELEP, Arts Council England and We Made That will be hosting a webinar at 1pm on the 02 February 2022. It will give insight into how this report provides a clear roadmap and practical guidance for any town in the Southeast and speaks to all partners on how they can utilise the creative offering in their area to drive communities back onto the high streets.

Attendees will be able to hear from each of these organisations and how this work plays into their overarching operations. We will also hear from several businesses in the Southeast who are featured in the report, to find out how this roadmap has already helped their business ventures and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-high-streets-in-the-south-east-registration-245936692267>

£1M ARTS AND CULTURAL FUND OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS

The Essex County Council Arts and Cultural Fund is now open to artists and cultural organisations across Essex. You can get a grant of between £2,500 and £30,000 to deliver projects.

[Apply for the Arts and Cultural Fund](#) before Friday 28 February.



NEW LIVE SHOWS ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Essex County Council are launching a new live series to showcase employment and training opportunities across Essex. Guests and speakers will talk about retraining, changing careers, finding a job, self employment and much more. You can ask questions and get further support and advice after the show.

[Register now](#): the first show is at 6pm on Wednesday 26 January.

GET ONE-TO-ONE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

If you are unemployed or need support with your employment and training prospects, you can get one-to-one support from our Evolve team. An advisor will help you look at your job and training options as well as local services, social groups and wellbeing courses. You can speak with them on the phone, video call or in person.

Email evolve@essex.gov.uk to arrange an appointment.

EVOLVE



PARENTS IN ESSEX: GET PERSONALISED EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

Parents in Essex, can get targeted and [personalised employment support](#) from Essex Opportunities. You can speak to an advisor to discuss your employment goals, get career advice and find out how to improve skills and access training.

Call 03330 320509 or email workingfamilies@essex.gov.uk to book an appointment.

REVISED PLANS FOR CHELMSFORD NORTH EAST BYPASS

Essex County Council recently submitted a planning application for Chelmsford North East Bypass. In response to feedback, they have now provided more information and made some design changes relating to noise, biodiversity, lighting, landscape and drainage.

JOIN THE VIRTUAL JOB FAIR FOR MALDON, CHELMSFORD AND UTTLESFORD

Find out about current job and training opportunities in your area at the [virtual job fair](#) on Thursday 10 February.

Participants will have the chance to apply for jobs and speak to major employers through live chat.

Virtual Job Fair

Maldon and Chelmsford

Employers and training providers join us for our online job fair! Our previous events have attracted over 9000 job seekers! Showcase your current job and training opportunities, and speak with job seekers during the event using our live chat function.

For more details email
essex.opportunities@essex.gov.uk

10TH FEBRUARY 11AM

Essex
Opportunities
Essex and Southend



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROPOSALS

The [budget proposals](#) set out how Essex County Council plan to invest in families, communities, the economy and the environment. It is proposed to increase council tax to below the current inflation rate.

Here is a breakdown to help you understand what the proposals could mean for you. A typical band D property would pay an extra £60.21 per year under the new budget.

Of this £60.21:

- £33.35 per year would go to [adult social care](#), allowing us to continue to support around 17,000 adults each day while addressing pressures as a result of the pandemic
- £11.19 per year would go towards [improving travel access and upgrading roads](#), creating more [school places](#) and improving infrastructure and housing
- £7.11 per year would go towards [climate change initiatives](#) to help achieve the county's net zero targets
- £4.57 per year would go to [children's social care](#), helping to keep vulnerable children safe and address pressures in the sector
- £3.99 per year would go to [home to school transport](#) to make sure children can get to school

CLEARING CROSSFIELD PATHS WITH THE ESSEX AREA RAMBLERS

Essex County Council have teamed up with Essex Area Ramblers to [keep more public rights of way clear for walkers](#). Our work together will help more people enjoy the 4,000 miles of public rights of way across the county.

NEW FUNDING PACKAGE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS IN ESSEX

Essex County Council have agreed [a package of new funding totalling £7.4m for the care sector in Essex](#). The funding will help improve the recruitment and retention of care workers.

APPLY FOR THE OMICRON HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE GRANT

Hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses impacted by the Omicron variant can apply for one-off grants of up to £6,000 per premises depending on rateable value.

Find out more about the [Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant](#) on GOV.UK and visit your [city, district or borough council website](#) to apply.

GREEN HOMES GRANT

As the cold weather hits, we will be using the heating more this winter. If you live in Essex and find it hard to heat your home and worry about your energy bills, [The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme](#) might be able to help you. You could qualify for up to £10,000 of home improvements. Delivered by Warmworks, the scheme can help you make improvements for a warmer home and help you reduce your fuel bills.

You could qualify for help if you live in an energy inefficient home which is owned or privately rented, and you are in receipt of benefits or on a low income.

[Apply by completing the Green Homes Grant Scheme application form](#)

TAX FREE CHILDCARE - HMRC REMINDER

HMRC is reminding families that they can get up to £2,000 a year to help with childcare costs. Tax free Childcare provides eligible families with up to £500 every three months (or £1,000 if they are disabled) towards the cost of holiday clubs, before and after school clubs, and childminders and nurseries.

VANS AT MALDON RECYCLING CENTRE

A new booking system for vans is being trialled at recycling centres across Essex. From 28 February, anyone visiting Maldon Recycling Centre with a van, pick-up or large trailer will need to book a slot in advance by going to the [Love Essex website](#).

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE RETROFIT ACADEMY'S LOCAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT BOOST



As part of its plans for Levelling Up the county, Essex County Council has partnered with leading retrofit training body, [The Retrofit Academy CIC](#), to deliver cutting-edge domestic retrofit training and accreditation to energy efficiency companies and individuals seeking to enter the industry.

The programme will develop new skills, nurture new careers, and boost economic activity in the region, while improving energy efficiency and addressing the deepening cost of living crisis and working towards the UK's net-zero goals.

Domestic retrofit is the process of devising and installing home improvement measures that reduce the energy consumption of our homes, and source sustainable energy supplies where possible.

The Retrofit Academy CIC is a not-for-profit organisation, central to delivering PAS 2035 compliant training and support to the next generation of retrofit professionals in the UK. They offer a series of virtual and in-house qualifications, courses and coaching to help ensure trainees and their teams are prepared for the retrofit revolution.

As part of their aim to create qualified retrofitters, there are four levels of training are on offer, covering all levels of experience and setting candidates on the path to establishing flourishing careers in retrofit.

**This project is fully funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund.*

For more information on training opportunities, please

visit: <https://www.retrofitacademy.org/essex-funding-l5-landing-page/>

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Council has launched an 8 week public consultation for the Local Development Plan Review.

This is the first opportunity for residents, businesses, and organisations to have their say on how new development in the District could be managed in the future.

The consultation will run until 14th March 2022 and can be accessed via the Council's website or for those without access to the internet, comments can be made in other ways, please call 01621 854477 to discuss.