

District Councillor Report –March 2026

Maldon District Council was delighted to help celebrate a major milestone for one of the community's most valued organisations – the 60th anniversary of the Burnham-on-Crouch Lifeboat.

To mark the anniversary, the Chairman of Maldon District Council, Cllr Kevin Lagan, visited Burnham-on-Crouch Lifeboat Station on Monday 16 March. During the visit he presented the crew with a formal letter of recognition on behalf of the Council, thanking the dedicated volunteers who give up their time to keep people safe on the water. Cllr Lagan has also made a donation on behalf of the Council to the Maldon and Burnham RNLI fundraising branches in acknowledgement of the charity's vital work.

Maldon District Council is pleased to announce that a project to remove the build-up of silt at Hythe Quay will start today, 18th March.

The dredging at Hythe Quay will enable safer access to the Quay for all vessels and is anticipated to be completed in mid-May, however this is subject to weather and tide conditions.

To enable the dredging work, for a few weeks the visitor pontoon, will be removed. However, this will provide the opportunity for us the Council to undertake some routine maintenance on the structure. Once the work has been completed on it, it will be returned.

Maldon District Council is pleased to announce the official launch of a new Banking Hub, operated by Cash Access UK, which opened to the public on Wednesday 4 March 2026.

The hub provides a much-needed banking facility for Maldon and the surrounding area, following the closure of several high street branches in the town centre over recent years. By bringing essential banking services together in one location under one roof, the hub will ensure residents and businesses can continue to access the facilities and support they need locally.

The hub will be open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, and residents can use the hub regardless of who they bank with, and access a full range of everyday services, including:

- Paying in cash (notes and coins) and cheques.
- Withdrawing cash (notes and coins).
- Checking account balances.
- Paying utility bills.
- Topping up gas and electricity.

Alongside the counter service, the hub also offers a Community Banker Service, providing residents with face-to-face support and personal banking advice in a dedicated private space.

Different banks will be represented throughout the week, including Lloyds Bank, Santander, NatWest, Barclays, and Halifax. This will give customers the opportunity to discuss account-specific queries directly with their bank on a rotational basis.

Maldon District Council is the grateful recipient of a potentially life-saving bleed kit, generously donated by the Liam Taylor Legacy in collaboration with Maldon Building Services (MBS).

The Liam Taylor Legacy was founded by Julie Taylor in memory of her grandson, Liam, who tragically lost his life to knife crime in 2020. The organisation is dedicated to raising awareness about the devastating impact of knife crime and supports communities by fundraising for and distributing bleed kits. The kits are designed for rapid emergency response and can help save lives in critical situations.

Maldon Building Services (MBS) is currently delivering a range of civil works with Maldon District Council. As part of their commitment to supporting the community, and as part of the delivery framework, MBS has facilitated the donation of the bleed kit for the Council's offices, ensuring this vital resource is readily available should the need arise.

The handover took place on Monday 23rd February with Julie Taylor from the Liam Taylor Legacy, alongside MBS Directors Ian Freshwater and Karen

Williams, joining the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Kevin Lagan and Doug Wilkinson, Chief Executive.

The Chairman of Maldon District Council, Cllr Lagan, said “We are grateful to the Liam Taylor Legacy and Maldon Building Services for providing the Council with this bleed kit.

“Knife crime can have a devastating impact on our communities and our families. Having the bleed kit available within our offices means that we can quickly respond to an emergency situation should it arise, and potentially save a life.”

As part of our ongoing improvements to our leisure facilities, we will shortly commence works to develop the new Splash Pad feature within the Blackwater Leisure Centre. This investment will provide an upgraded and improved experience for our members and visitors and will remove the outdated “jungle rapids” which have been out of use for several years.

To allow our contractors to work safely and efficiently, the swimming pool, steam room and sauna will operate with adjusted hours from Monday 13 April 2026.

- Weekdays: 3:30pm – 9:00pm
- Weekends: 8:00am – 5:00pm (normal hours)

During this phase, the construction team will complete essential preparatory works, including installing internal scaffolding to create a fully enclosed area. This ensures all demolition activities can be carried out safely while keeping the swimming pool operational and protected. Once the demolition stage is complete (estimated at 10 weeks), the pool will return to its usual opening hours while the final installation of the new Splash Pad continues.

These temporary changes allow us to keep the pool available for public use while enabling our contractors to progress the project efficiently and safely. Individuals and groups using the pool during weekday daytime hours (up to 3.30pm) will shortly be contacted by Places Leisure with exercise and wellbeing options during this temporary period.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we complete this important improvement project. The new Splash Pad will significantly enhance our family

leisure offering, and we look forward to welcoming you to the upgraded facilities upon completion.

Maldon District Council has formally renewed its commitment to supporting the Armed Forces community by signing its new Armed Forces Covenant pledge. The pledge was signed on 12 February at a ceremony held at Merville Barracks in Colchester, attended by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cllr Ron Pratt, and Director of Neighbourhood Services and Communities, Sue Green.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a nationwide promise ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly and face no disadvantage in their daily lives. It brings together local authorities, businesses, charities, and communities to recognise and value the contribution of serving personnel, reservists, veterans, and their families.

By signing the Covenant, the Council has renewed its commitment to supporting the Armed Forces community and reaffirmed its bronze accreditation under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). The ERS recognises employers who actively support the Armed Forces Covenant and encourage their staff to do the same. There are three levels of recognition—Bronze, Silver and Gold—awarded to organisations that go above and beyond in supporting the Armed Forces community.