

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

MORE THAN A FLEETING THOUGHT

We are currently investing in operations and efficiency methods to help us to keep Essex moving. A huge part of this was an investment into upgrading our current fleet vehicles, which includes electric vehicles, traffic management vehicles and some new gully cleansing vehicles also. Let's meet the new additions to the fleet...

As part of the fleet replacement programme we looked at alternative fuelled vehicles, before choosing fully electric replacements for these small vans, following extensive research on their many benefits. These electric vans produce zero exhaust emissions helping us to achieve a safer, greener, and healthier Essex. The use of these vehicles also reduces fuel costs significantly.

Currently, we have seven electric vans on our network with three more due to be introduced later in May. In the near future we have plans to order a further 20.

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT



**CABINET MEMBER FOR
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE
AND SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT**

**April brings some huge
leaps forward when it
comes to investing in our
fleet and operations.**

We now proudly operate seven electric vans (with more to be added to the fleet in coming months), three new traffic management vehicles and three new gully cleaning vehicles. All are forward thinking ways we are creating an efficient, climate conscious, reliable operation.

We are also investing in training with the new 'Safe Dig Area' training facility at the Springfield Depot, to provide more intuitive ways to train the teams for all the varied sites they visit to carry out work, particularly in terms of reducing the number of service (utilities) strikes.

You can see that these are all great steps to investing in the future of Essex and our Residents.

MORE THAN A FLEETING THOUGHT

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT VEHICLES

These have been introduced to allow us to self-deliver traffic management as part of the cost savings detailed through the transformation project. We currently have three of these vehicles on our network, which have successfully been in operation for a few months now.



NEW GULLY (DRAIN) CLEANING VEHICLES

A gully cleansing vehicle can be used to clear debris, waste and mud that could be causing blockages in the drain. We have introduced three of these new vehicles to replace older vehicles that had passed the end of their operational life.



IT'S BUILT ALL WRONG TO HELP OUR TEAMS GET IT RIGHT!



Ringway Jacobs new safe dig area in Chelmsford is a fantastic, multi-functional 'street scene' training facility set at the Springfield Depot.

The street scene comprises two footways and a carriageway construction complete with utility covers, kerbs, tactile paving slabs, ramp kerbs, street signs, a mini feeder pillar, lamp column and pedestrian guard rail.

Beneath the street scene are buried empty ducts and cables along with one 'live' power cable that runs from the lamp column to the mini feeder pillar. This can be turned off by an isolation switch while breaking ground.

The idea is that the safe dig area replicates the type of environment that our teams would find out on the network. It will be used to train safe digging techniques (Operatives can excavate down to and around ducts in a safe manner in a controlled environment), tracing and locating utilities (using the CAT and Genny, hints and tips, false readings), visual clues on site and GPR training.

The site has also a number of deliberate anomalies built in (including tactile paving slabs that do not match up with ramp kerbs, sign is too low, edging kerbs incorrectly installed). This offers us an opportunity to use the area for interviews to test a candidate's knowledge and skills.

The area is situated close to the training room providing ease of access and can be used alongside class room training. It is available for use by all RJ staff, Supply Chain Partners and our Clients.

It is inevitable that we come across buried utilities on our network and its imperative we have a safe environment to inform, train and upskill people on the dangers of working around utilities.



UPDATE: LED REPLACEMENT

How many LEDs installed during Phase Four so far?

Approximately 28,500

On average, how many are being installed per week?

Around 600

What districts are we currently working in?

We are currently working in Colchester and Tendring

How much energy and CO2 has been saved from making the switch to LED?

By making the switch, we are currently saving over 75% energy and over 900 tonnes of CO2 per annum (each year).

Where are we heading next?

Once we have completed everything we have planned in Colchester and Tendring, we will be moving to Braintree and Epping Forest.

Aesthetically, what's going to change?

If a current decorative luminaire is upgraded it will be replaced with a similar luminaire, or nearest equivalent from a standardised pallet. Where the existing lantern is a standard functional lantern it will be replaced with its modern equivalent.

Why have some of the columns not been changed?

You may have noticed that some streetlights in areas haven't yet been replaced and you may be concerned that they have been missed entirely.

There are many reasons why this could be, such as operatives being unable to safely gain access to equipment due to foliage or parked cars, to concerns about the column structure. We will get back to them. We are continuing to work until all unfinished units are completed.



The Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) has recently compiled and released its 'On the Roads of Essex' statistics for March. For further information on SERP's current initiatives, click on the logo above.



SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE SMARTER TRAVEL FOR ESSEX NETWORK

The Sustainable Travel Planning team have been out and about spreading the word about our Safer, Greener, Healthier initiative at the Essex Chambers of Commerce Festival of Business.

The Smarter Travel for Essex Network (STEN) is open to all Essex businesses with 50+ employees and is completely free to join. Whether businesses want to encourage staff to walk, cycle, use public transport or car-share, they will receive unlimited support and advice to help them implement effective travel plans for their employees.

In addition, the team can support businesses every step of the way to apply for National Travel Plan Accreditation via an online travel planning tool designed to create robust travel plans. The benefits of introducing company travel plans include increasing travel choices, reducing the cost of parking, on-site congestion, air, and noise



pollution as well as ultimately ensuring employees are happier and healthier.

If you know of any business within your ward or parish who may be interested in joining the network, please get in touch by emailing: travelplanteam@essex.gov.uk 

You can also follow the team on LinkedIn 

ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING MARCH 2022

In March, we continued to repair carriageway and footway defects. When looking at these numbers, it is important to remember that repairs are prioritised by severity not by district, so numbers can vary considerably. On the PR network, drains are cleansed either annually or biennially on a risk based approach. With the local road network, we cleanse all of these on a District by District basis on a rolling programme. These figures do not include adhoc cleanses. Streetlights-fixed totals don't include the work being carried out in the LED upgrade programme.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	36	11	34	649	238
BRAINTREE	14	19	5	0	346
BRENTWOOD	5	19	1	0	181
CASTLE POINT	12	42	2	1870	177
CHELMSFORD	16	10	52	0	119
COLCHESTER	12	39	3	1154	320
EPPING FOREST	13	9	12	0	161
HARLOW	12	5	19	235	147
MALDON	7	6	1	0	75
ROCHFORD	18	14	58	4738	26
TENDRING	11	17	5	6364	275
UTTLESFORD	25	13	1	0	68
TOTALS	181	204	159	15010	2133

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact: Member.enquiries@essex.gov.uk 