



Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:30	Thursday, 19 October 2023	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 03330 139825

Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

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		Pages
1	Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	4 - 4
2	Minutes of the previous meeting To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023.	5 - 8
3	Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. No statement or question shall be longer than three minutes and speakers will be timed. If you would like to ask a question at this meeting, please email Democratic Services by 12 noon the day before (Wednesday, 18 October 2023).	
4	Work Programme and Communications Review To receive an update (PSEG/25/23) on the current Committee Work Programme.	9 - 13

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|----------|---|----------------|
| 5 | Local Highway Panels
To receive a report (PSEG/26/23) and question the Cabinet Member. | 14 - 16 |
| 6 | Highways Maintenance Performance Update
To note the report (PSEG/27/23) and consider any issues arising. | 17 - 39 |
| 7 | Date of Next Meeting
To note that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 19 November 2023 at County Hall. | |
| 8 | Urgent Business
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. | |

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

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|----------|---|
| 9 | Urgent Exempt Business
To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. |
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Agenda Item 1

Committee: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 5)

Cllr Alan Goggin
Cllr Jane Fleming
Cllr Dave Blackwell
Cllr Simon Crow
Cllr Paul Gadd
Cllr Paul Honeywood
Cllr Jaymey McIvor
Cllr James Newport
Cllr Lee Scordis
Cllr Andrew Sheldon
Cllr Chris Siddall
Cllr Mick Skeels
Cllr Marshall Vance
Cllr Andy Wiles

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 21 September 2023

Present:

Members:

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor D Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Councillor S Crow	
Councillor J Fleming	Vice-Chairman
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor A Sheldon	
Councillor C Siddall	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Vance	

Officers:

Steve Evison	Director, Sustainable Growth
Tristan Smith	Head of Sector Development, Business & Innovation
Nadia McLeod	Senior Strategy Advisor
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Jasmine Langley	Democratic Services Officer

Councillor T Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy

Welcome and Introduction

Cllr A Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee was as shown in the report.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllr P Gadd, Cllr J McIvor, and Cllr A Wiles.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Subject to amendments to record that Cllr A Sheldon was in attendance and to reword Minute 3, the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22 June 2023 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The Matters Arising report was noted.

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

4. Work Programme and Communications Review

The updated Work Programme was noted.

5. Planning a Growing Economy

Cllr T Cunningham introduced the report (PSEG/21/23) and a presentation which can be found [here](#).

Members were invited to ask questions and provide comment. Key points raised during this discussion included:

- The Sustainable Growth team supported activity in several portfolios and consisted of 120 staff (excluding Adult Community Learning) working across areas including statutory planning functions and economic growth.
- Funding came from various streams with most of the recent work on inward investment (as referenced in the presentation) having been funded through 'reserve' funding.
- It was not for ECC (Essex County Council) to determine what was a 'good job', but work was focused on supporting existing businesses to grow, attracting inward investment, increasing the diversity and resilience of economic activity in Essex, and helping residents to meet the rising cost of living.
- The importance of 'green growth' opportunities was emphasised including supporting sectors such as offshore renewable energy and retrofitting. Information was given on the [Green Entrepreneurs Programme](#).
- Key challenges for the local economy included inflation, the cost of living and the limitation of employment land in Essex.
- Further detail and case study examples would be shared on where ECC had supported local businesses to create jobs, safeguard jobs and secure investment.
- Work was continuing through the implementation of the [Digital strategy for Essex](#) to ensure that, by 2025, every property in Essex could access a 4G mobile signal as well as superfast fixed broadband. Key challenges included planning, business uptake of products once the infrastructure was in place and securing wider public sector investment.
- It was noted that there were 'pockets' in industrial areas that did not have access to superfast speeds, but work was continuing with landowners to encourage uptake and support better mobile coverage.

- ECC was working closely with the district level councils to attract external funding with projects reflecting government criteria and deadlines. Significant investment had been secured through the Future High Streets Fund, Towns Fund and Levelling-Up Fund.
- Work was continuing to stimulate business confidence through investment in areas such as Tendring and the Sunspot centre in Jaywick, and there was a general focus on driving footfall back into town and city centres.
- The [Essex Sector Development Strategy](#) had identified five key sectors for growth: sustainable construction (including retrofit work), clean energy, life sciences, digital technology, and advanced manufacturing and engineering. These sectors were chosen as they were areas where there was existing strength in Essex, and they had an ability to grow and create jobs in the future.

6. Withdrawn Call-in: FP/175/06/23 Changes to the composition of the Local Highway Panels (LHPs)

The report was noted. The Chairman reported that an additional call-in request had been received regarding the Council's response to the consultation on Basildon's Draft Local Plan. This had not met the criteria for a call-in; however, the Chairman had said to the member concerned that they could request the issue be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

7. Petition received on Garden Waste

The report was noted.

8. Bus Network Consultation

The report was noted, and it was agreed that members would submit any comments for the Committee's response to the Chairman and/or Senior Democratic Services.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 19 October, 10:30am at County Hall.

10. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

11. Urgent Exempt Business

No items were raised.

Chairman

PSEG – Matters Arising (October 2023)

Date of Meeting:	Agenda Item	Action	Status
September 2023	Item 5 – Planning a Growing Economy	Further detail and case study examples would be shared on where ECC had supported local businesses to create jobs, safeguard jobs and secure investment.	Outstanding at time of publication.
	Item 8 – Bus Network Consultation	It was agreed that members would submit any comments for the Committee's response to the Chairman and/or Senior Democratic Services.	Response submitted following approval by Chairman.

Report title: Work Programme and Communications Review	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 19 October 2023	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at justin.long@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is a standard agenda item giving members of the Committee an opportunity to consider upcoming scrutiny activity and request items to be added to the work programme.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the work programme in the Appendix and suggest any additional items.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board has asked committees to give consideration as to which work programme items may benefit from communications activity to promote the work of the scrutiny function both internally and externally. Members are asked to consider this when reviewing the Appendix.

3. Background

3.1 Developing a work programme

Work has continued identifying priorities and future agenda items. This has included discussions with Committee Members, Cabinet Members and Officers as well as the other Policy and Scrutiny Committees via the Scrutiny Board.

This work has reflected the adoption of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* organisation strategy.

The current work programme is attached in the **Appendix**. Please note that changes in Cabinet Member portfolios and some diary clashes have led to revision of the Work Programme since the last meeting of the Committee.

4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy when considering the work programme and future items.

Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee: 'Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy', and 'High Quality Environment.'

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

6. Appendix – Current work programme and an outline of the remit of the Committee.

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) Work Programme – October 2023

Provisional Dates (2023)	Topic Title	Lead Contact / Cabinet Member	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Cross-Committee Work Identified (where applicable)
19 October	LHP Membership and Performance	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To review LHPs including the membership issue following the (withdrawn) call-in in July 2023	
19 October	Highways Maintenance Performance	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To note the performance reports and identify any follow-up scrutiny work	
23 November	Community Safety	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance	To receive an update on the Safety Advisory Group and work with partners on violence against women and girls, particularly Project Minerva	Link to PAF
23 November	Cycling Strategy / Countywide LCWIP	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To consider the emerging strategies	
23 November	LTP4 including Space and Movement/Road Hierarchy	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To consider the emerging LTP (Local Transport Plan) 4 and related issues	

20 December	Recycling Booking System Trial	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To evaluate the trial and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member	
18 January 2024	Waste Strategy	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To consider the emerging strategy	
TBC	Member-led Pothole Scheme Review	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To review the performance of the Member-led Pothole Scheme	
TBC	EV and Charging Point Strategy	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To review progress on the new EV and Charging Point Strategy (6 months after adoption) and review work on employee fleet transition to EVs	

Topics being pursued jointly or via the Scrutiny Board

- s106 (funding for sustainable transport projects) – CPSC-led (remote) briefing with date TBC

Committee Remit

PSEG is responsible for scrutiny of the following areas of Council activity:

- The economy of Essex
- Economic development and regeneration
- Employment related Skills and apprenticeships
- Strategic Highways and transportation
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Country Parks and other green assets Library services
- Broadband and public communications infrastructure
- Planning
- Environmental services
- Community Safety (not Domestic Violence or Youth Offending Team)
- Emergency Planning
- Waste and recycling
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards
- Housing
- Gypsies and travellers.

Report title: Local Highway Panels	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 19 October 2023	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: justin.long@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) is responsible for scrutinising Strategic Highways and Transportation including Local Highway Panels (LHPs).
- 1.2 The Committee has considered various updates and reports on LHPs following the completion of a Task and Finish Group review in March 2022. These have included:
 - [Task and Finish Group Review – Final Report and Recommendations \(March 2022\)](#)
 - [Initial Response to LHP Task and Finish Group Review \(June 2022\)](#)
 - [Local Highway Panel Task and Finish Group Review – Final Response \(March 2023\)](#)
- 1.3 At the March 2023 meeting, the following points were recorded in the Minutes:
 - It was agreed that a report on LHPs would be brought back to the Committee in approximately six months' time.*
 - Officers confirmed that the new tracking tool for members to monitor LHP schemes would be available from April.*
 - Officers further confirmed that the training on LHPs referenced in the report would be devised and ready in April.*
- 1.4 In September 2023, the Committee considered the following report:
 - [Withdrawn Call-in: FP/175/06/23 Changes to the composition of the Local Highway Panels \(LHPs\)](#)

This outlined that the proposed Cabinet Member Decision - Changes to the composition of the Local Highway Panels (FP/175/06/23) - was called-in by Councillor Barry Aspinell with the support of Councillors Mike Mackrory, James Newport, and Mark Cory.

- 1.5 The following reasons were given for the call-in:

"The decision asks the Cabinet Member to agree more 'local flexibility' as to how Local Highway Panels can best work and who can sit on them. However, this leaves the Chair to decide, without input of the panel, who they wish to sit on it. In the case of most LHP's meetings would always take place within the local council offices and voting members would be the County Council members, local district members and a representative from the Parish Councils, plus officers. Meetings would often be clerked by the district Council staff and administrative work carried out by that same office. If this decision is implemented the Chair will have the power to cut membership to only the county members, with no input from district or parish members. This will disenfranchise local members and we will lose valuable local knowledge of areas.

"District Councils may, quite rightly, decide to withdraw their support of the LHP, meaning an alternative venue and secretariat may need to be sought. This would mean that the LHP may not necessarily be in the area in which the Councillors are from, meaning unnecessary travel which also impacts on the climate. The issue of Quorum for meetings is an important one if only the County Members are on the LHP meetings, if one of the County members, for whatever reason cannot attend the meeting will Panels always be cancelled? This has already proved inefficient in the example of the recent Brentwood LHP when one member had to give apologies, the meeting was cancelled as there are now only 4 county members on the panel (although the formal decision has yet to be implemented).

"Would it not be more beneficial to have one unified system for these Panels applied throughout Essex so they can all operate as efficiently and effectively as possible, rather than leaving the format to be decided on the seemingly whim of individual Chairpersons? "

- 1.6 Following informal discussions between call-in members, the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport and the Chairman of the Committee, the call-in was withdrawn with the agreement that the Committee consider the matter as part of its regular work programme.
- 1.7 In addition to the above reports, members of PSEG have expressed concerns about the performance of LHPs on numerous occasions including at the June 2023 meeting ([see Minute 3](#)) and requested that the issue be considered as a matter of urgency.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport has been invited to the meeting to discuss LHPs.
- 2.2 Noting the above Introduction three main policy and performance issues can be identified:

- Implementation of the Task & Finish Group recommendations and the

responses given including on budget, member training, tracking of LHP schemes, and the new 'Chair's Panel.'

- Withdrawn call-in on membership issue and the desirability of the 'local flexibility' given to individual LHP Chairmen.
- General concerns regarding the performance of LHPs as expressed by members of the Committee.

2.3 Members are encouraged to discuss these issues with the Cabinet Member and question them accordingly as well as identify any follow-up work or scrutiny action.

2.4 Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport and Highways Maintenance
Justin Styles – Design Manager
Daniel Maclean – Highway Liaison Team Leader

3. Links to Everyone's Essex

Effective LHPs link to several of the ambitions outlined including on Infrastructure, and Transport and the built environment.

Report title: Highways Maintenance Performance Update	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Karina Grimwade, Senior Strategy Advisor	
Date: 19 October 2023	For: Noting and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Karina Grimwade, Senior Strategy Advisor Karina.Grimwade@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Introduction

The Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) is responsible for scrutinising Strategic Highways and Transportation. As such, the Committee receives quarterly highways maintenance performance updates from the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport. This report covers the latest two updates:

- April – June 2023
- July – September 2023

2. Action required

The performance updates are primarily for noting and to identify any follow-up scrutiny activity. It is suggested that detailed and/or technical questions are submitted by email to the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

- Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.

3. Links to Everyone's Essex

Highways Maintenance performance links to several of the ambitions outlined including on Infrastructure, and Transport and the built environment.

4. Appendices

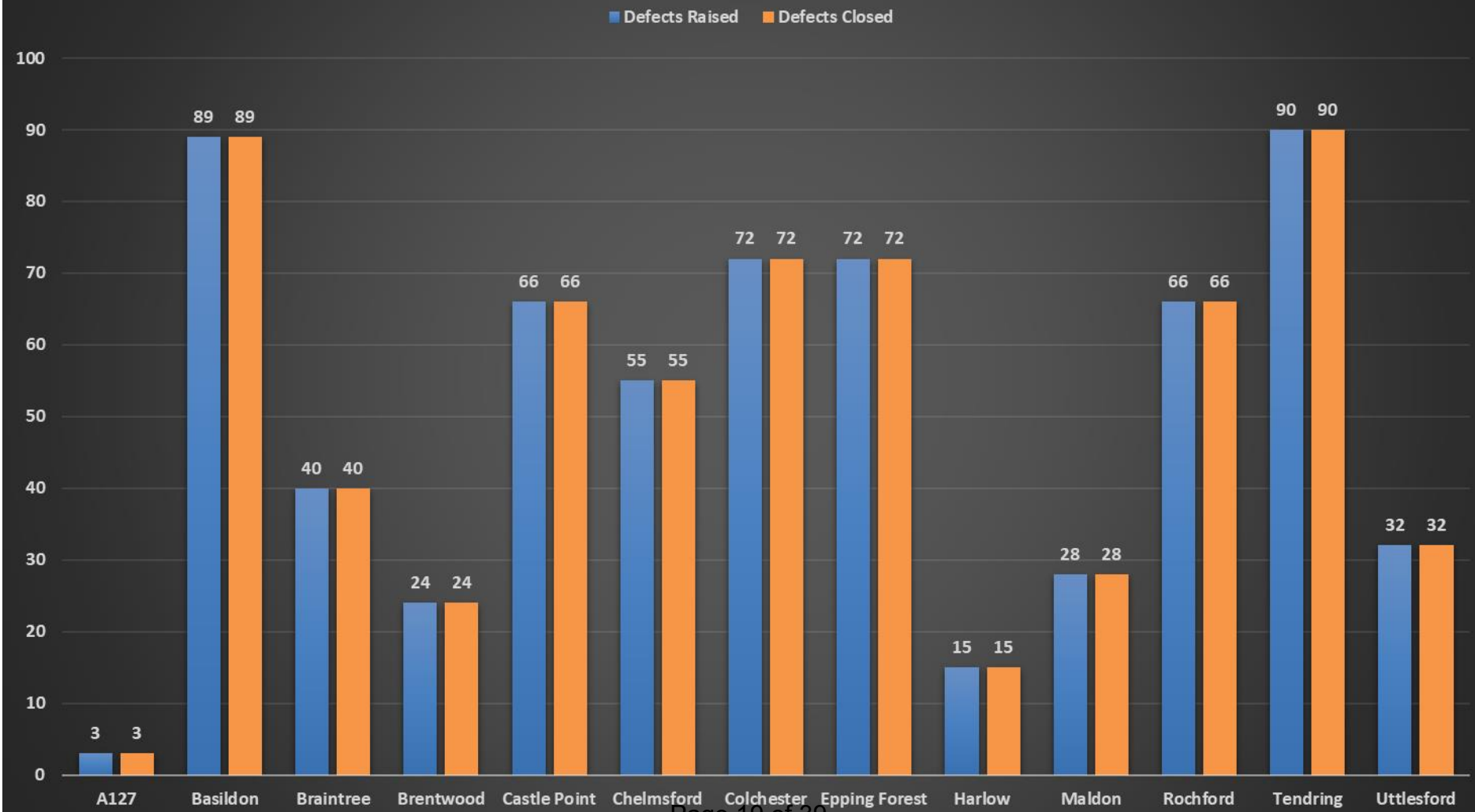
Appendix 1 - Asset Management – Scrutiny Committee Report (April – June 2023)

Appendix 2 - Asset Management – Scrutiny Committee Report (July – September 2023).

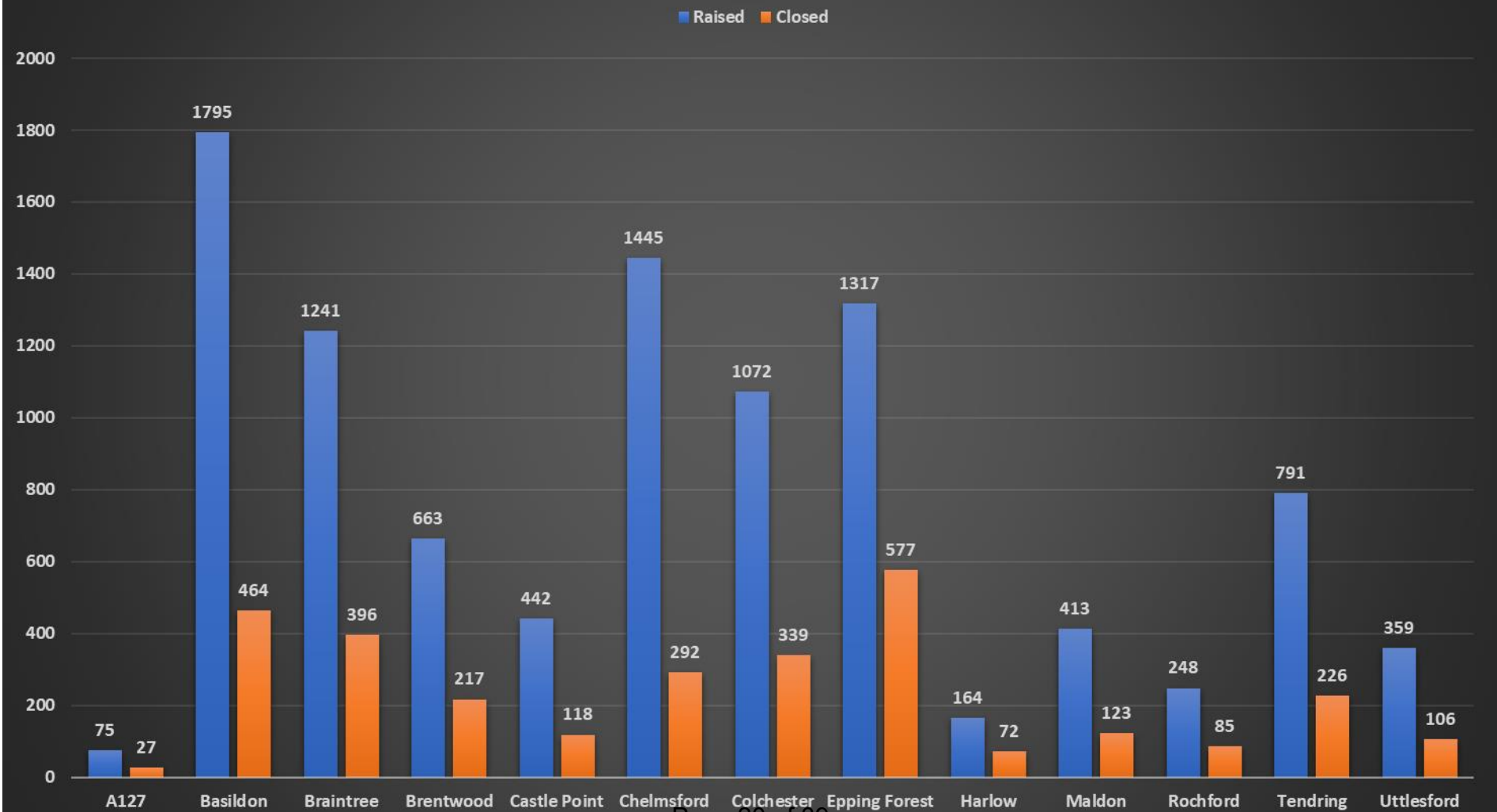
Asset Management

Scrutiny Committee Report
April – June 2023


Emergency Repairs (S1 Priority)



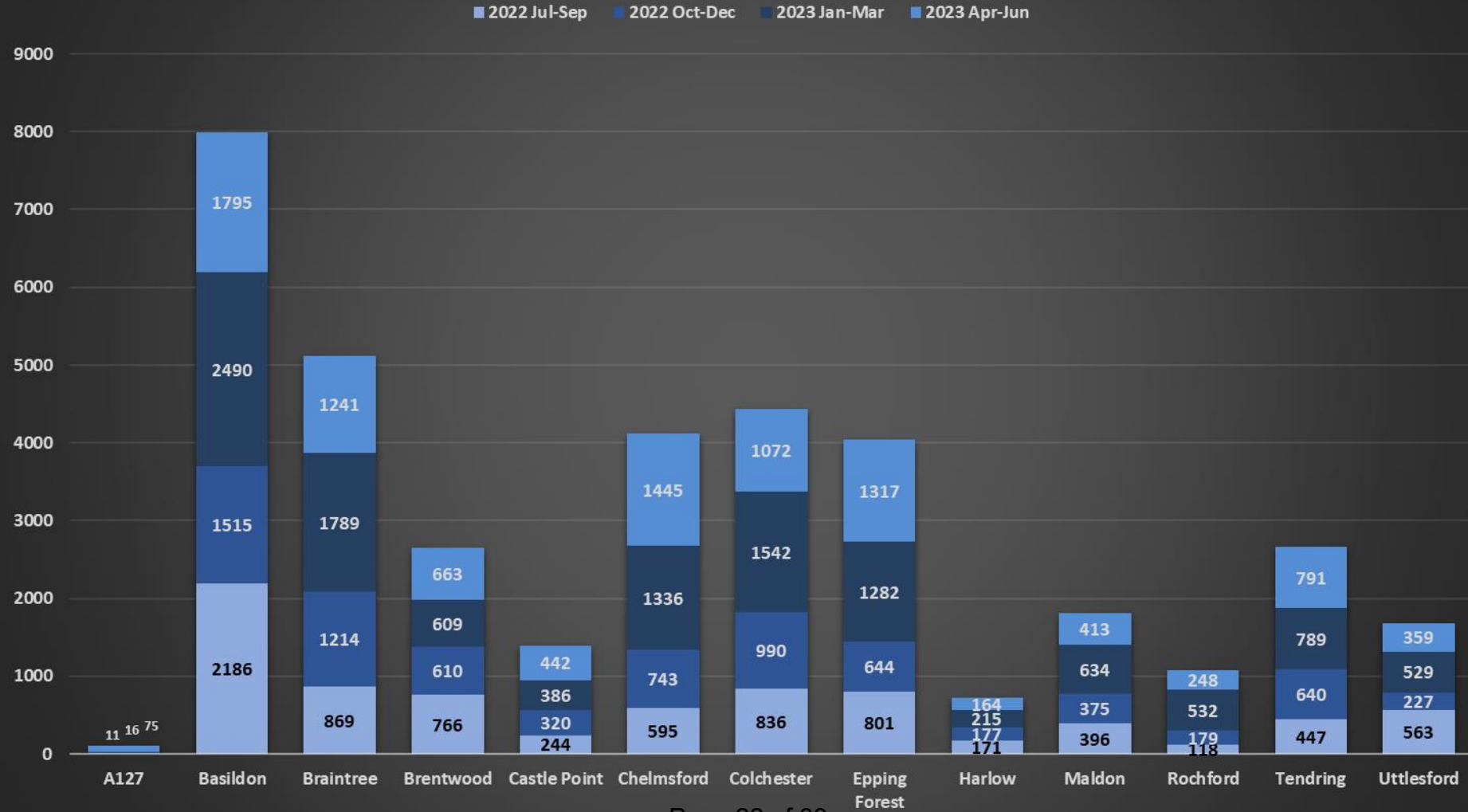
New Defects this Quarter (April - June 2023)



New Defects (April - June 2023)

District 	Raised	Closed	% Closed
A127	75	27	36.00%
Basildon	1795	464	25.85%
Braintree	1241	396	31.91%
Brentwood	663	217	32.73%
Castle Point	442	118	26.70%
Chelmsford	1445	292	20.21%
Colchester	1072	339	31.62%
Epping Forest	1317	577	43.81%
Harlow	164	72	43.90%
Maldon	413	123	29.78%
Rochford	248	85	34.27%
Tendring	791	226	28.57%
Uttlesford	359	106	29.53%
Grand Total	10025	3042	30.34%

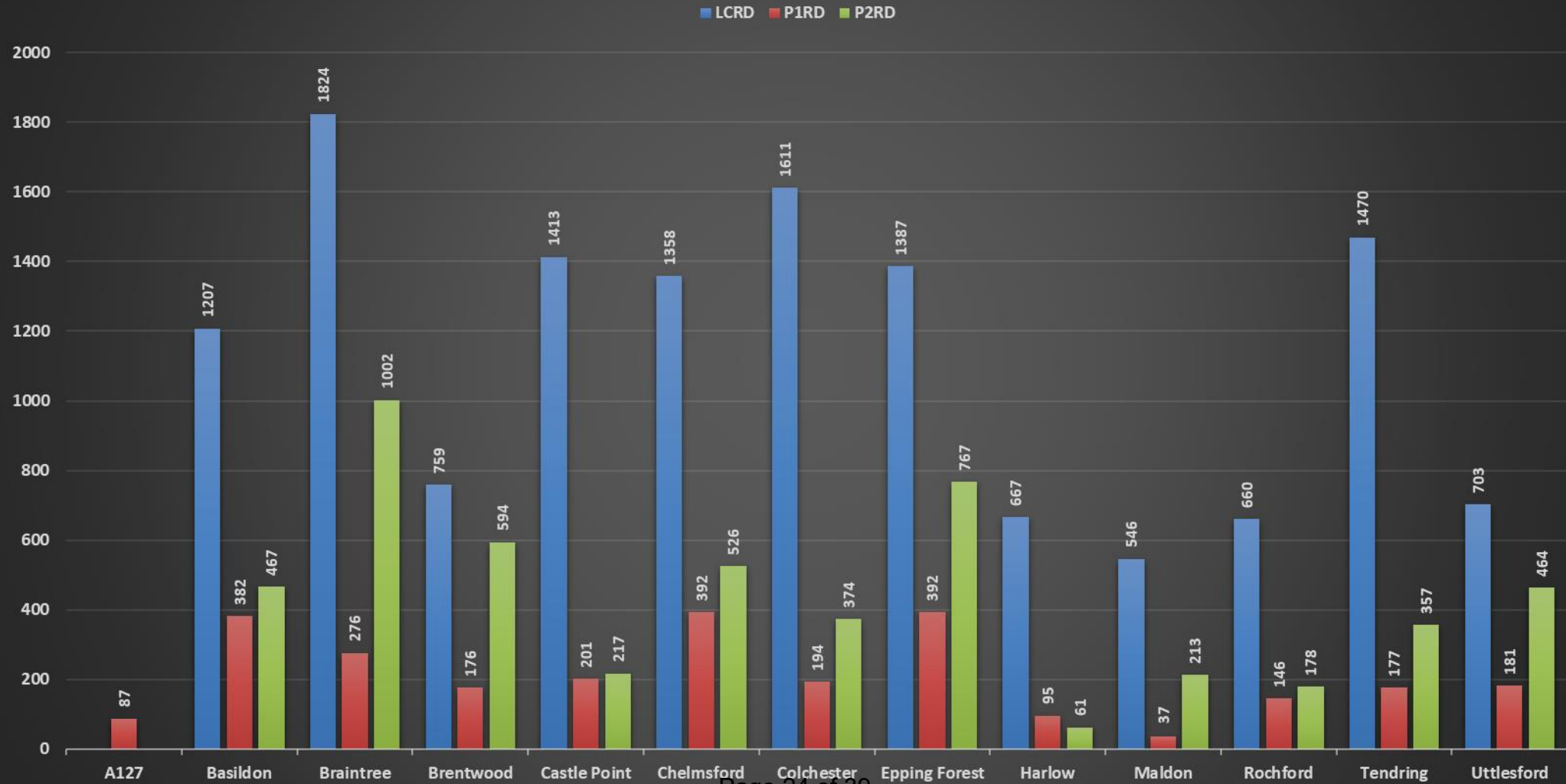
New Defects (July 2022 - June 2023)



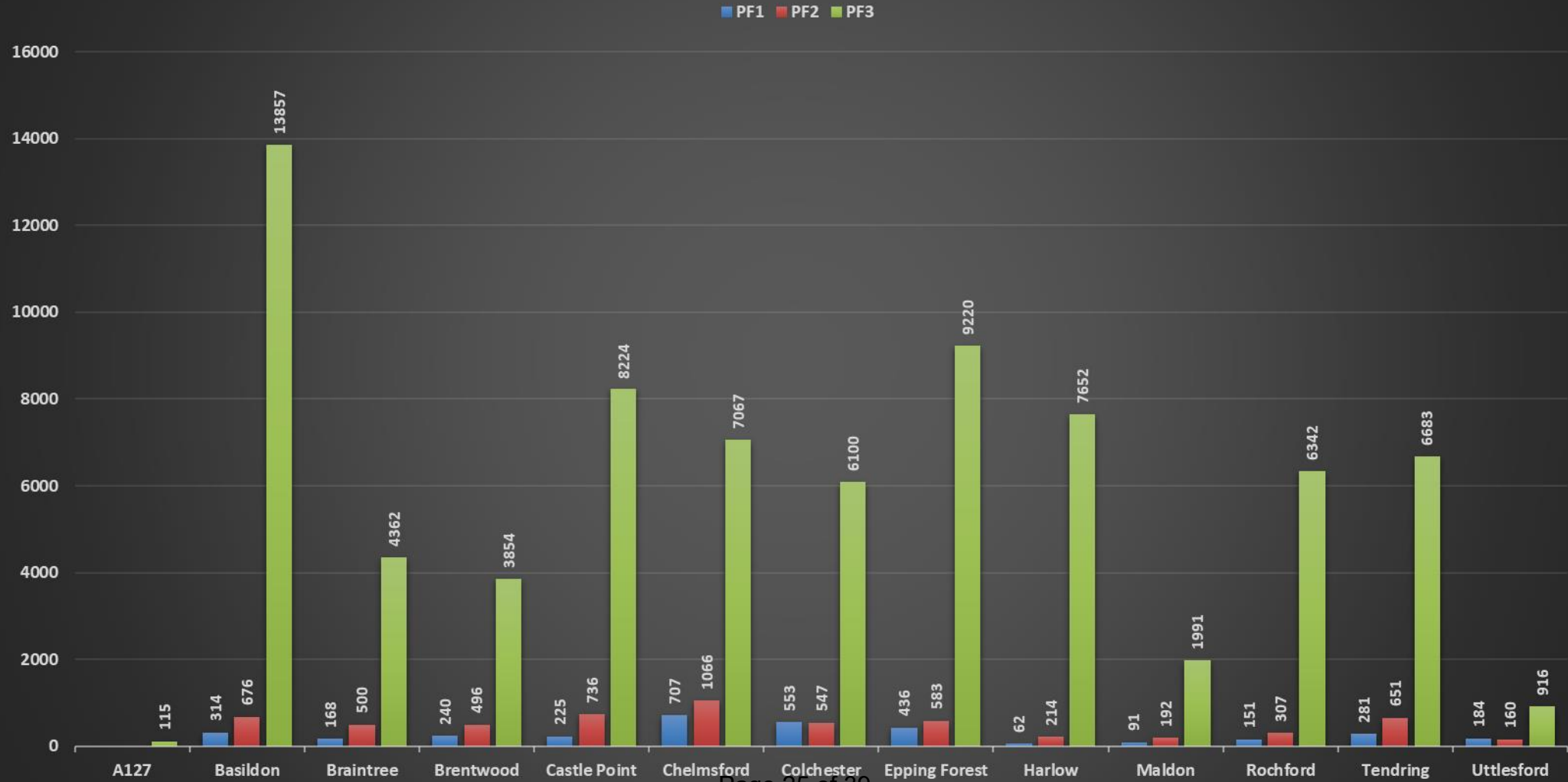
Defects Closed (July 2022 - June 2023)



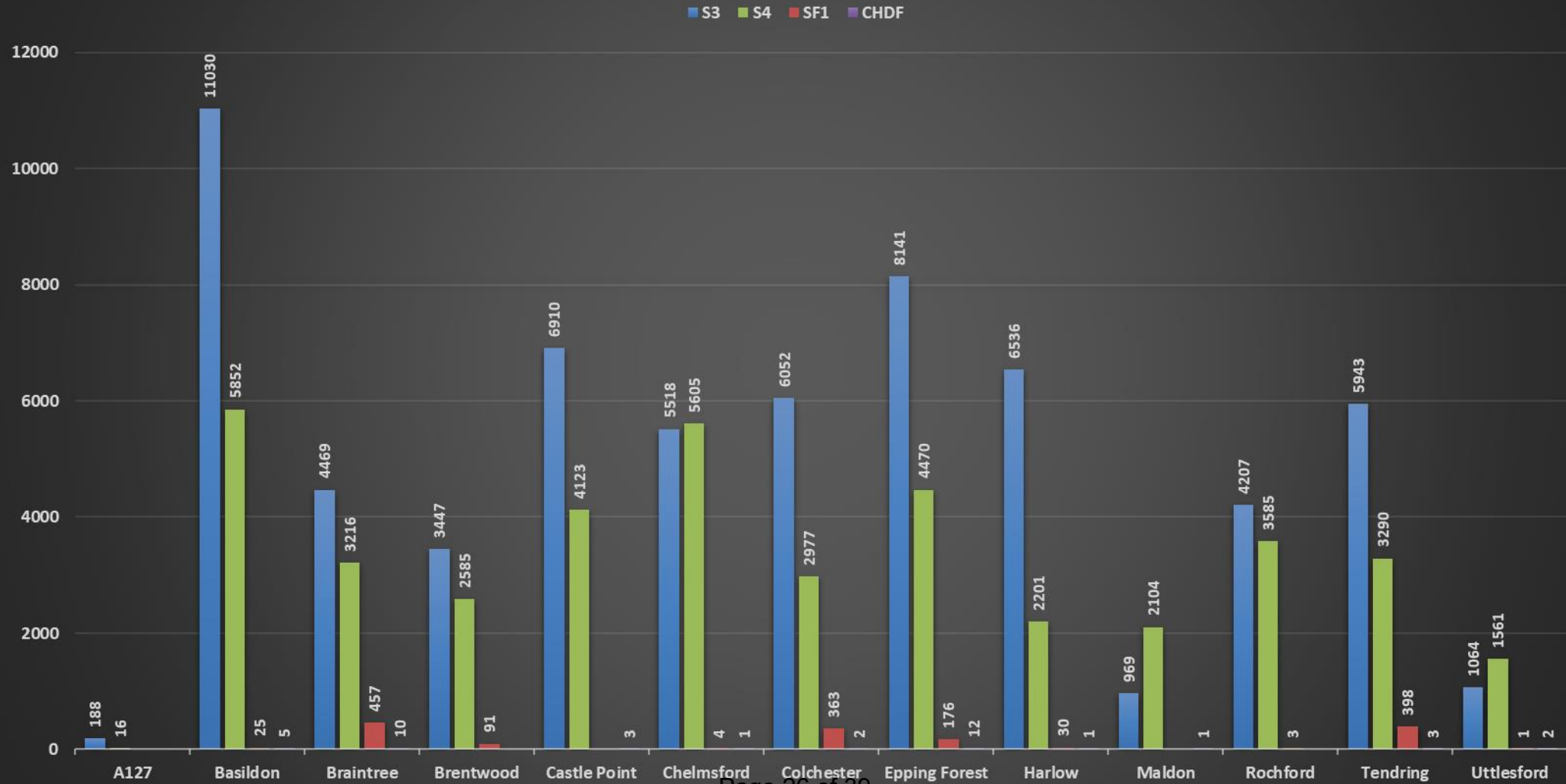
Outstanding Carriageway Defects (30th June 2023)



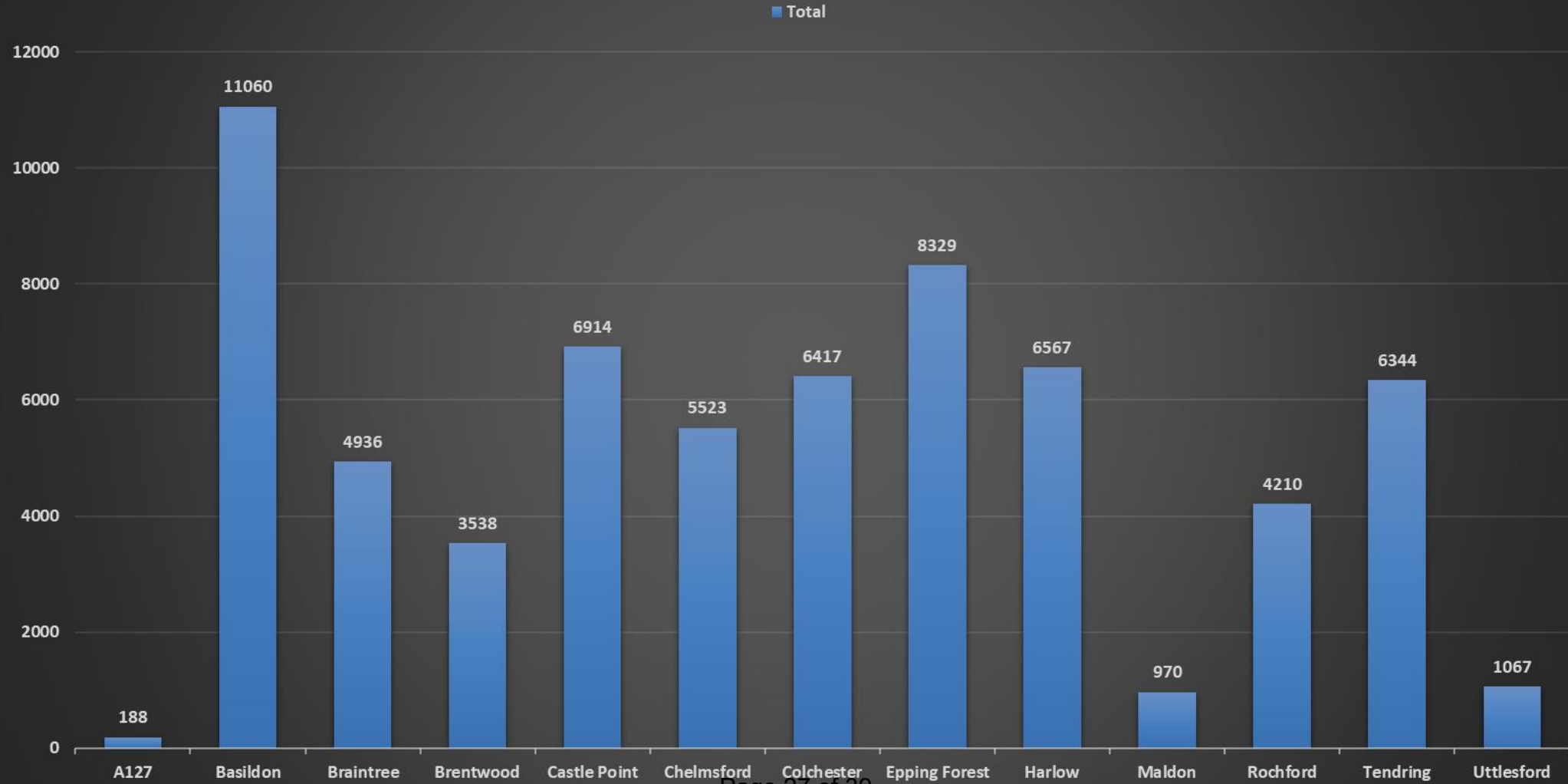
Outstanding Footway Defects (30th June 2023)



Outstanding Defects by Priority (30th June 2023)



Outstanding S1-S3 Defects (30th June 2023)





SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

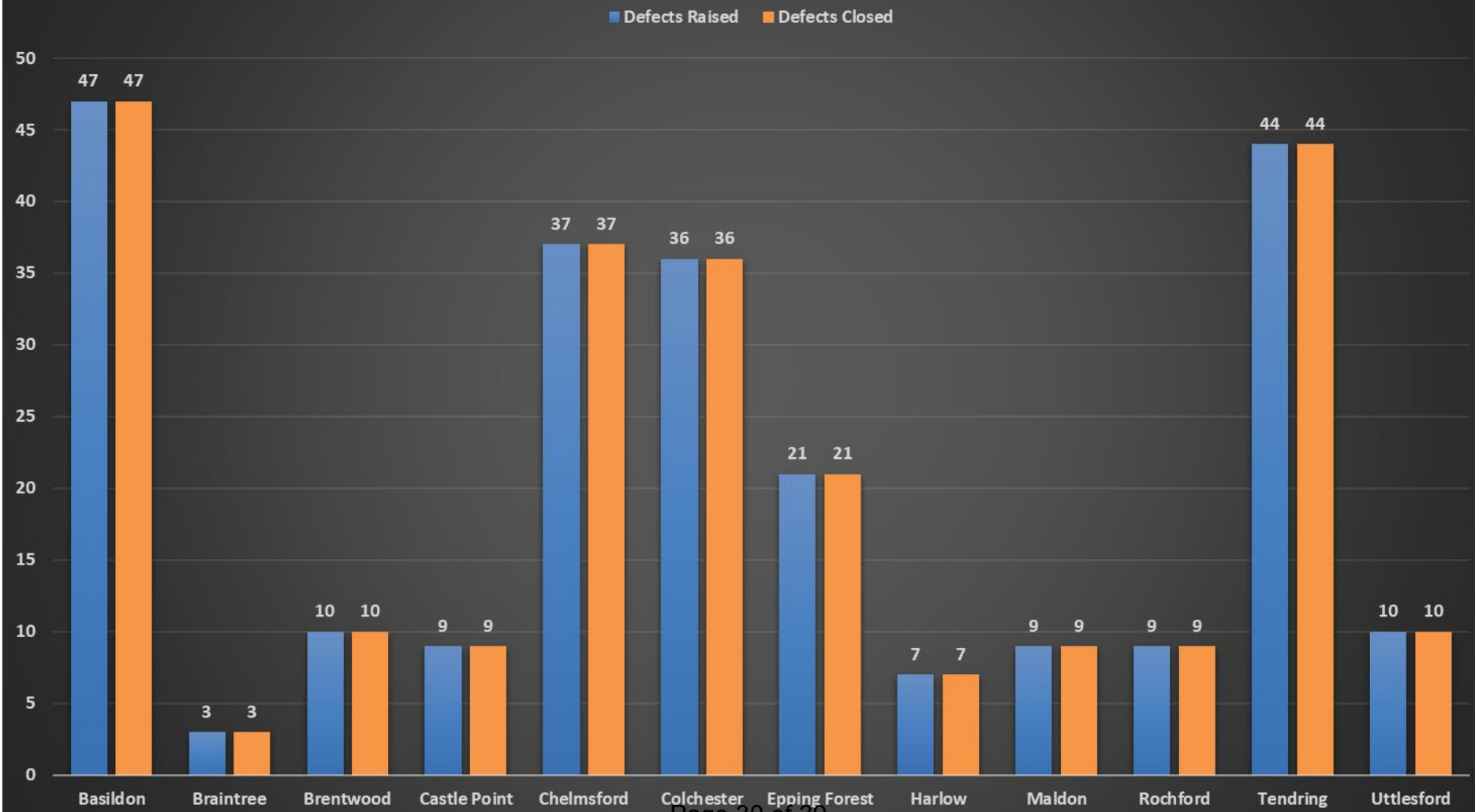


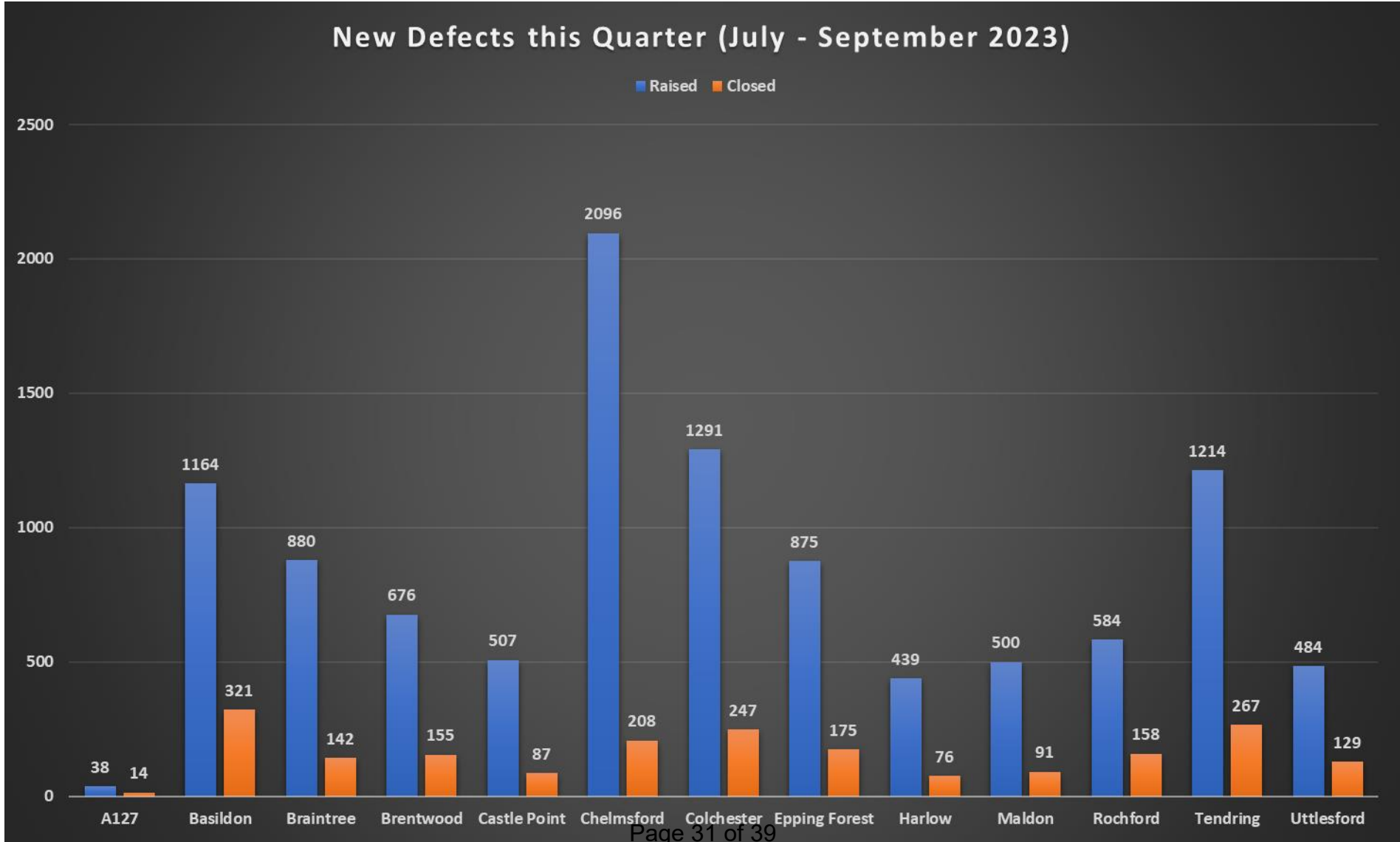
Asset Management

Scrutiny Committee Report
July – September 2023




Emergency Repairs (S1 Priority)

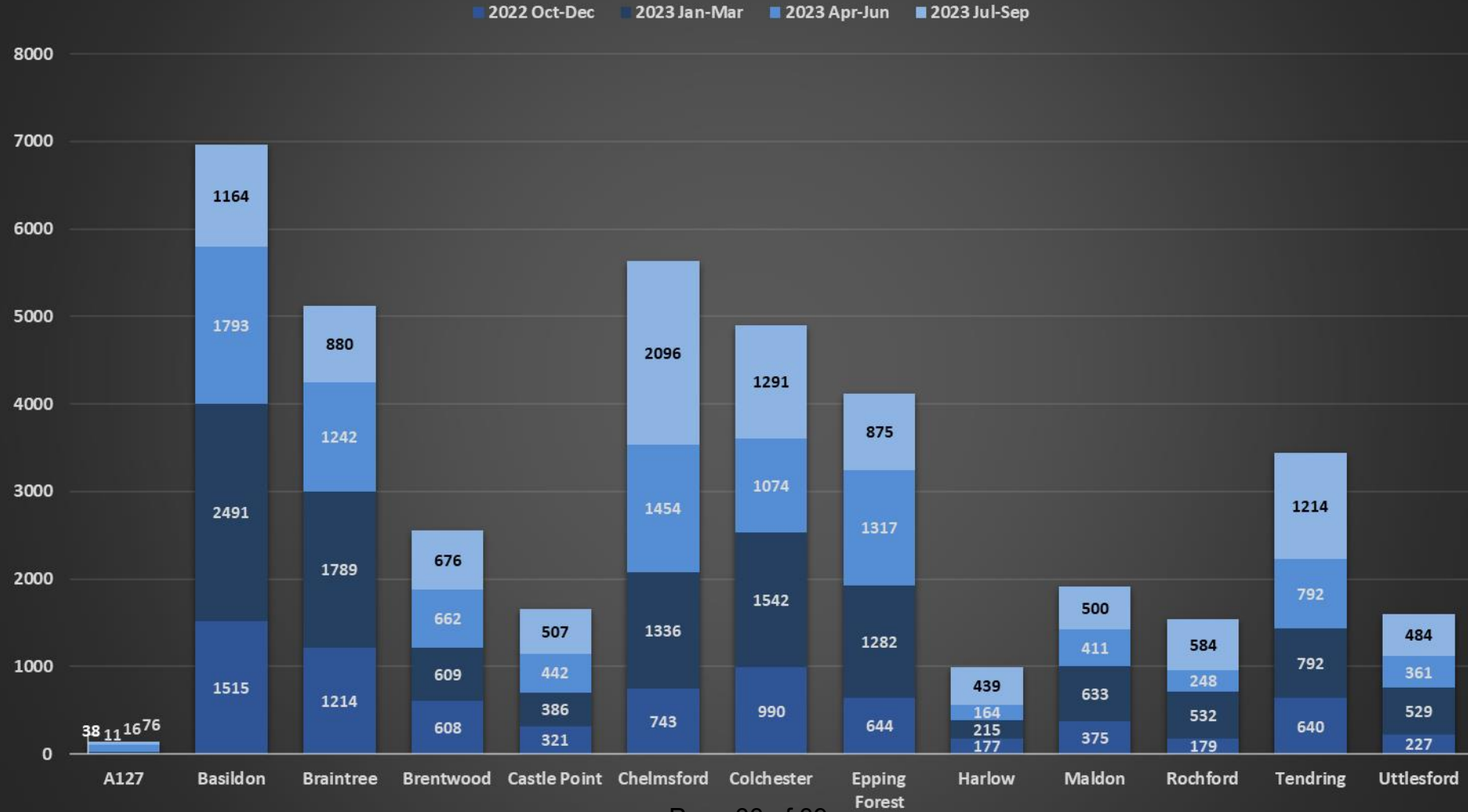




New Defects (July - September 2023)

District 	Raised	Closed	% Closed
A127	38	14	36.84%
Basildon	1164	321	27.58%
Braintree	880	142	16.14%
Brentwood	676	155	22.93%
Castle Point	507	87	17.16%
Chelmsford	2096	208	9.92%
Colchester	1291	247	19.13%
Epping Forest	875	175	20.00%
Harlow	439	76	17.31%
Maldon	500	91	18.20%
Rochford	584	158	27.05%
Tendring	1214	267	21.99%
Uttlesford	484	129	26.65%
Grand Total	10748	2070	19.26%

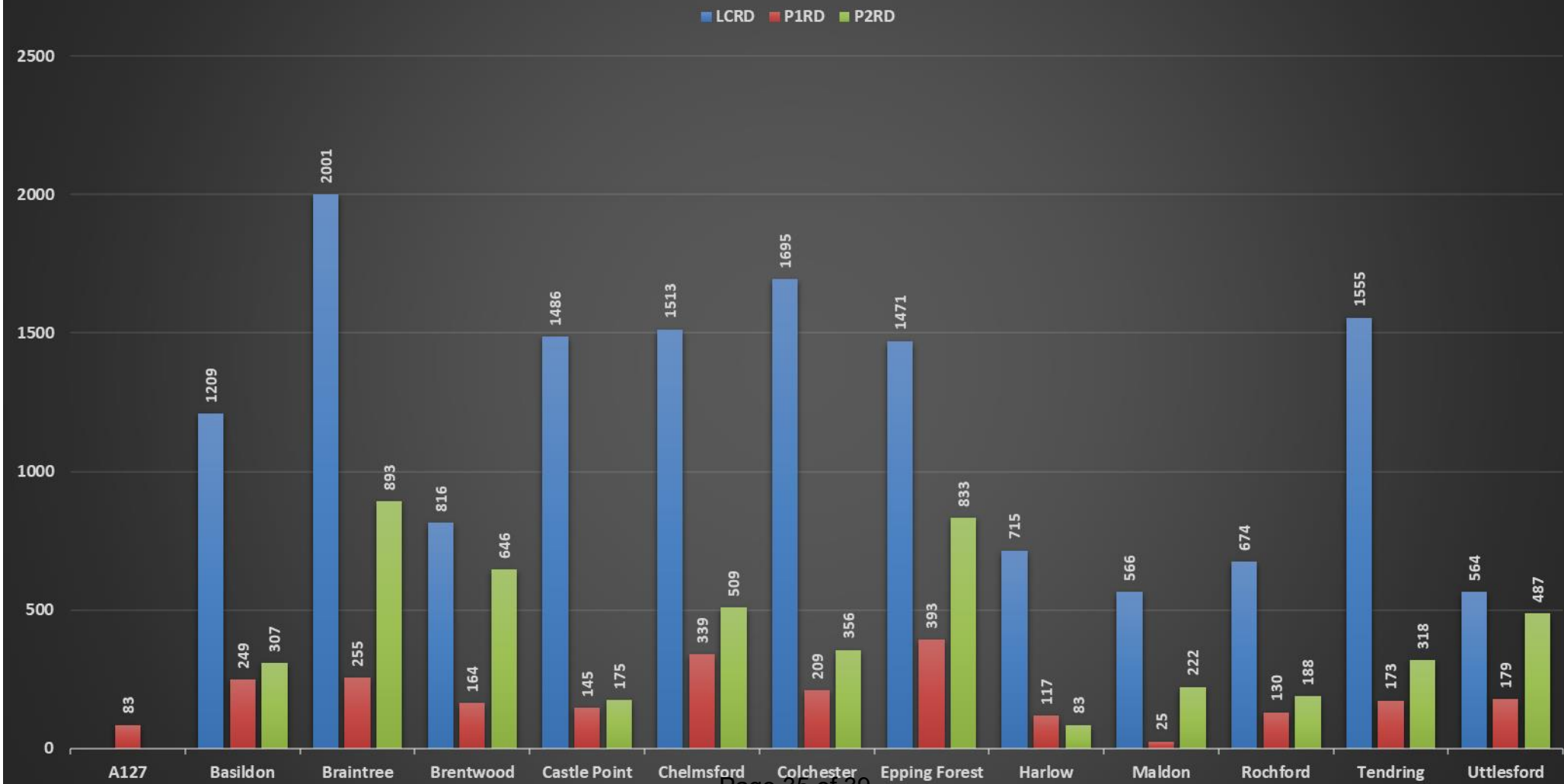
New Defects (October 2022 - September 2023)



Defects Closed (October 2022 - September 2023)

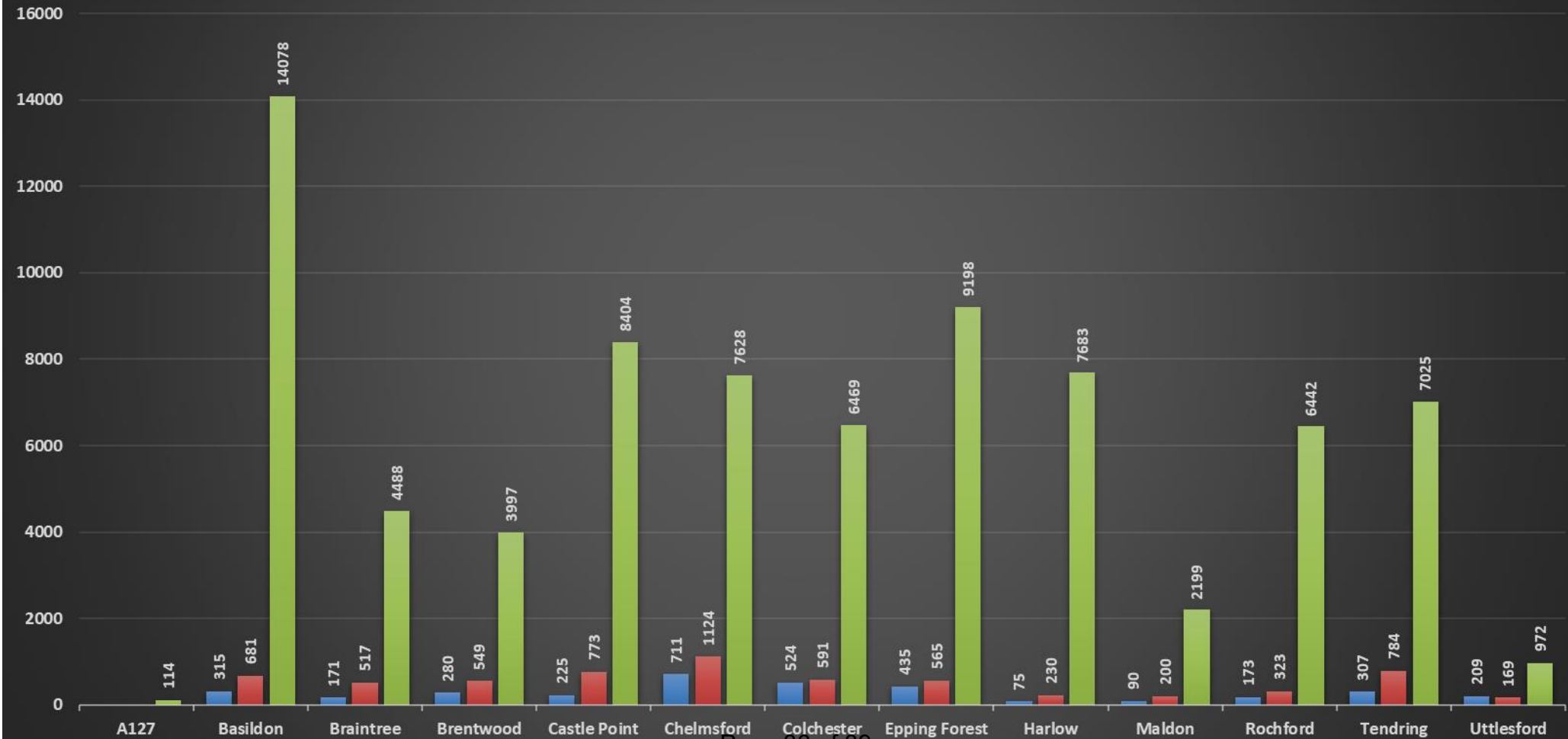


Outstanding Carriageway Defects (30th September 2023)

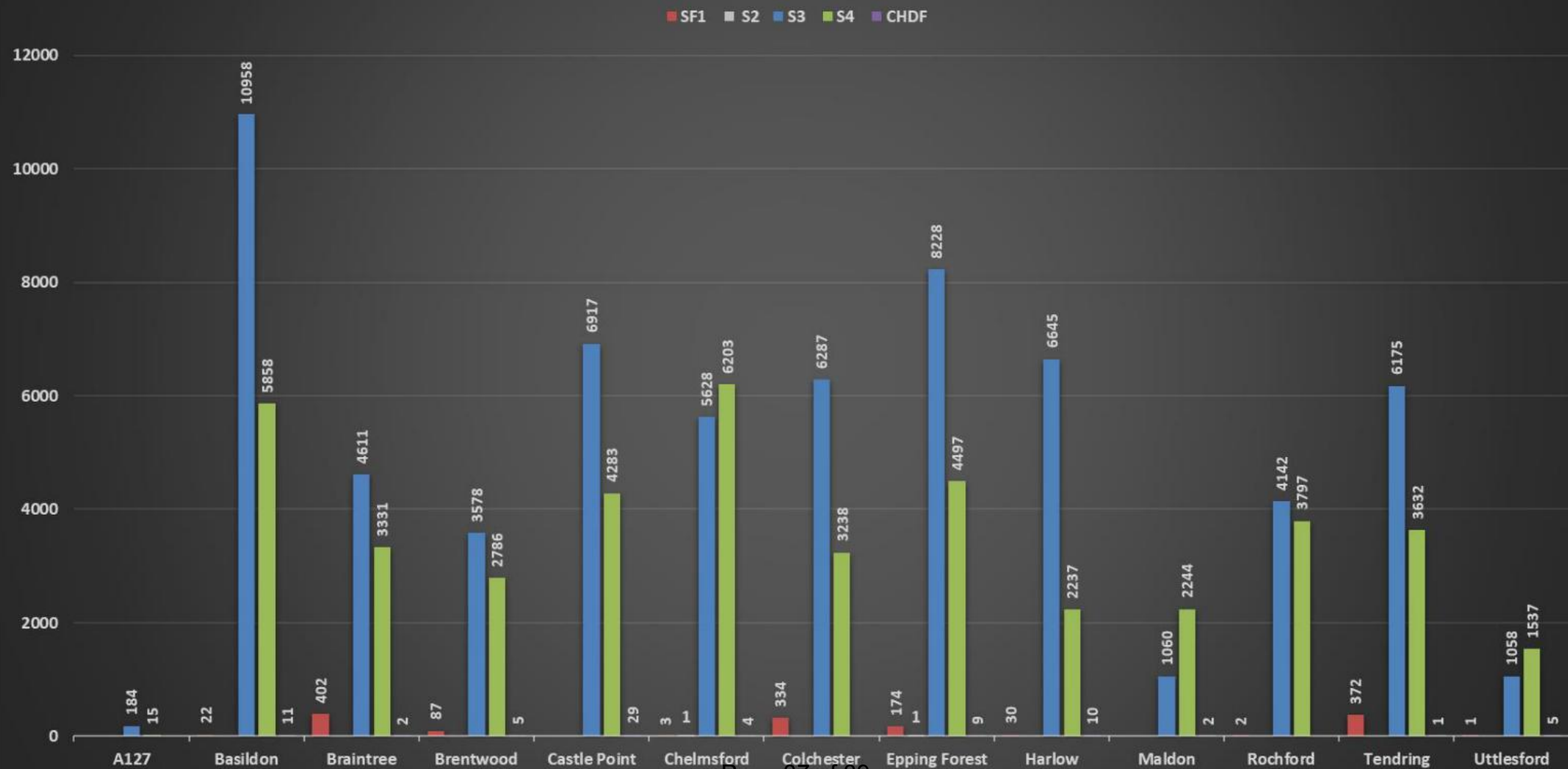


Outstanding Footway Defects (30th September 2023)

PF1 PF2 PF3



Outstanding Defects by Priority (30th September 2023)



Outstanding S1-S3 Defects (30th September 2023)

