



Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:30	Thursday, 18 May 2023	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

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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 20 April 2023.	5 - 9
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 on the day before the meeting (Wednesday 17 May 2023)	
4	Work Programme and Communications Review To receive an update (PSEG/13/23) on the current Committee Work Programme.	10 - 15

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| 5 | Draft Electric Vehicle and Charging Strategy
To consider a report (PSEG/14/23) and presentation from Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport. | 16 - 23 |
| 6 | Member-led Pothole Scheme
To consider the outcome of the Task and Finish Group (PSEG/15/23) and receive a response from the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport. | 24 - 34 |
| 7 | Highways Maintenance Update
To consider a report (PSEG/16/23) and presentation from Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport. | 35 - 47 |
| 8 | Date of Next Meeting
To note that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday 22 June 2023 at County Hall. | |
| 9 | 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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| 10 | 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	Chairman
Cllr Jane Fleming	
Cllr Dave Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Simon Crow	
Cllr Paul Gadd	
Cllr Paul Honeywood	
Cllr Dan Land	
Cllr Richard Moore	
Cllr James Newport	
Cllr Lee Scordis	
Cllr Mick Skeels	
Cllr Mike Steel	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Marshall Vance	
Cllr Holly Whitbread	

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, 20 April 2023

Present:

Members:

Councillor S Crow	
Councillor J Fleming	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor R Moore	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Steel	Chairman
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor S Barker	Substitute

Officers:

Louise Fitton	Head of Culture, Heritage and Green Space
Erica Gilson	Marketing and Business Development Manager
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Emma Hunter	Democratic Services Officer

Cllr Graham Butland, Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture

Cllr Mark Durham, Deputy Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture

Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Mike Steel, the acting 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 D Blackwell, Cllr P Gadd, Cllr A Goggin and Cllr H Whitbread. Cllr S Barker was substituting for Cllr A Goggin and Cllr M Steel was chairing the meeting in his absence.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The Matters Arising report and the following points were noted:

- An update had been requested on the proposed LHP 'tracking tool' and planned LHP member training.

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

4. Work Programme

The updated Work Programme was noted.

5. Arts, Culture and Creative Sector including the new Cultural Strategy

Cllr Graham Butland introduced the report (PSEG/09/23) 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 Council was looking to work with education establishments to promote BFI (British Film Institute) courses.
- KPIs for the Cultural Strategy would be developed with current targets focused on participation numbers and attracting match-funding.
- A 'mapping process' of cultural hubs and venues was planned.
- In response to concerns about the spatial pattern of the projects awarded funding under the Arts and Culture Fund (Year 2), it was confirmed that work was underway to address this and support those organisations that had not received funding (including smaller organisations).
- The criteria for awarding funding were outlined including how the bids supported the Everyone's Essex strategy and the 'Levelling-up' agenda.
- It was reported that the quality of applications to the Fund was extremely high, and this meant only 10% of applicants had received funding. Feedback had been given to those organisations that were not successful.
- It was agreed that officers would report on progress to support arts and culture outside of established clusters (e.g., around cities) including in more rural and disadvantaged communities.

- The work of the Film Office was outlined, and it was noted that there were huge opportunities in the sector including an ambition for a Film Studio in Essex.
- A budget of £1.5m had been in place since 2021 to support the arts and culture in Essex over the next 5 years. This was being delivered through the Arts and Cultural Fund, a newly formed Cultural Development Team and the Essex Film Office.
- It was agreed that going forward County Councillors would be asked to help promote and distribute information on the Arts and Cultural Fund.
- It was noted that location filming could bring significant benefits and the Council had worked closely with various production companies including TOWIE (The Only Way is Essex).

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 18 May 2023, 10:30am at County Hall.

7. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

Chairman

PSEG – Matters Arising (May 2023)

Date of Meeting:	Agenda Item	Action	Status
April 2023	Arts, Culture and Creative Sector including the new Cultural Strategy	It was agreed that officers would report on progress to support arts and culture outside of established clusters (e.g., around cities) including in more rural and disadvantaged communities	Added to Work Programme (date tbc) – to include general update on sector and progress with Cultural Strategy
March 2023	Minutes and Matters Arising	Enquires would be made with officers on the s106 process and the perception that Essex Highways demanded less for sustainable transport provision compared with contributions for improvements aimed at car traffic.	Issue discussed at Scrutiny Board meeting on 3rd April. CPSC will now lead on the issue (picking up the points raised at PSEG) with a joint committee briefing session planned for 29 th June.
	Booking System Trial at Recycling Centres	Officers to provide information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data on missed appointments (from the Rayleigh trial) - reductions in waste tonnage during Rayleigh trial (Rayleigh site vs other non-trial sites) - further detail on cost 	Request sent to officers (outstanding at time of publication)
	Local Highway Panels	Commitments given at the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers confirmed that the new tracking tool for members to monitor LHP schemes would be available from April. 	Email sent to members 10 th May.

		<p>- Officers further confirmed that the training on LHPs referenced in the report would be devised and ready in April.</p> <p>Subsequent request for information on LHP budgets for 23/24.</p>	<p>Opportunity for update / questions at May PSEG meeting (see below)</p>
January 2023	Highways Maintenance Performance Update	<p>Committee requested additional information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers to establish whether it was possible to provide comparative statistics for the number of outstanding defects from previous years. • Officers to report back on the number of miles of road and footways in each district so that the number of outstanding defects could be seen as a ratio against this. <p>Repeat request for the Annual Road Condition Survey (2021-22).</p>	<p>Responses originally scheduled to be included in the Highways Maintenance Performance Update in April 2023. Cabinet Member unavailable for April meeting so now included in Work Programme for May 2023.</p> <p>Officers have confirmed that this report has not been completed (at time of publication).</p>

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: 18 May 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 in order 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 on 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**.

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 – May 2023

Provisional Dates (2023)	Topic Title	Lead Contact / Cabinet Member	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Cross-Committee Work Identified (where applicable)
18 May (then quarterly)	Highways Maintenance Update	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To receive a quarterly performance report on Highways Maintenance including the latest budget situation	Link to the performance/budget monitoring work of the CPSC
18 May	Member-led Pothole Scheme	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To receive a formal update on the plans for the new Member-led Pothole Scheme	
18 May	EV Strategy	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To consider the EV strategy	
22 June	Local Transport Plan (LTP 4) including Space and Movement / Road Hierarchy Strategy Review	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To consider the LTP4 and related issues	

22 June	Climate Change	Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Tsar	To receive a presentation on Climate Change work across ECC including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Link to the performance/budget monitoring work of the CPSC
20 July	Cycling Strategy / Countywide LCWIP	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To receive an update	
20 July	Economic Growth	Cllr Wagland, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning	To receive an update on activity to attract high-quality jobs to Essex and retain graduates	
19 October	Community Safety	Cllr Louise McKinlay, 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	
TBC	Minerals Local Plan Update	Cllr Wagland, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning	To consider the latest developments including feedback on the public consultation and 'call for sites' engagement	

TBC	Waste Strategy	Councillor Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	To consider the emerging strategy	
TBC	LHP Task and Finish Group	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To review the new LHP system following the recommendations of the LHP Task and Finish Group	
TBC	Recycling Booking System Trial	Councillor Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	To evaluate the trial and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member	

Topics being pursued jointly or via the Scrutiny Board

- s106 (funding for sustainable transport projects) – Board is scoping a review of the s106 process to include the points raised at PSEG.

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: Draft Electric Vehicles and Charging Strategy	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Tracey Vickers – Head of Sustainable Transport	
Date: 18 May 2023	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Tracey Vickers – Head of Sustainable Transport, Tracey.Vickers@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Introduction

The Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee's (PSEG) remit includes scrutiny of Strategic Highways and Transportation as well as associated areas such as Climate Change. The presentation gives an overview of the Draft EV (Electric Vehicle) and Charging Strategy.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the presentation and identify any follow-up scrutiny activity.

3. Links to Everyone's Essex

The Draft EV strategy supports several of the commitments including those on the Environment and delivering a step change in sustainable travel across the county.

4. Next Steps

This is an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the Council's activity in this area.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport

Tracey Vickers – Head of Sustainable Transport

5. Appendix

Presentation – Essex's Draft EV and Charging Strategy: Phase 1 2023-25

ESSEX'S DRAFT EV & CHARGING STRATEGY: PHASE 1 2023-2025



May 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Phase 1 short term strategy** up to 2025 to help plan for rapidly evolving EV landscape
- Bottom-line is '**Right Charger, Right place**' focusing on 6 objectives:
 - Residents, businesses, and visitors will be able to use electric vehicles and be assured there is an accessible, reliable, easy-to-use, safe, and fairly-priced charging network
 - Supporting communities with the socio-economic inequalities of using and charging an EV
 - Tackling the environmental priorities of reducing car travel and decarbonising vehicle emissions across the county
- Strategy won't install multitude of charging points by itself
- Subsequent strategy phases will focus on other vehicles (buses etc) and fuels (hydrogen)
- Electrifying the ECC employee and commercial fleet are separate projects



Figure 1: Strategy Objectives

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- EVs are **part of the solution** for transport decarbonization and **must not** be seen as the panacea – can't make it too easy for people to use EVs for trips that can be made more sustainably
- ECCs role is to **enable** a transition to EVs, **leading by example**, applying best practice and ensure there are no gaps in the charging network
- The private sector will play a pivotal role in infrastructure roll out – but likely to focus on profitable sites only
- Only 300+ public EV charge points (EVCPs) in Essex – behind national average
- Thirty-fifty percent of Essex households do not have off-street parking and no current (legal) means of charging their car using their electricity supply
- In 2021 Essex had **18.5k** registered zero emission Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) – estimated by 2025 there could be **30k-55k** and **120k-220k** by 2030.
- Greatest demand is likely to be in **Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester & Epping Forest**

FUNDING SITUATION AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Strategy is a framework to access funding - currently 3 different funding avenues:

1. Internal ECC

- EV strategy and fleet allocated £400,000 from the climate reserve - £100K spent so far developing the strategy, writing the ORCS bid and, on the MITIE, (property) project
- Further expenditure is expected on the strategy consultation, action plan implementation, telematics within the commercial fleet and installation of charging points at ECC offices. Full cost implications will become clearer as work is developed.

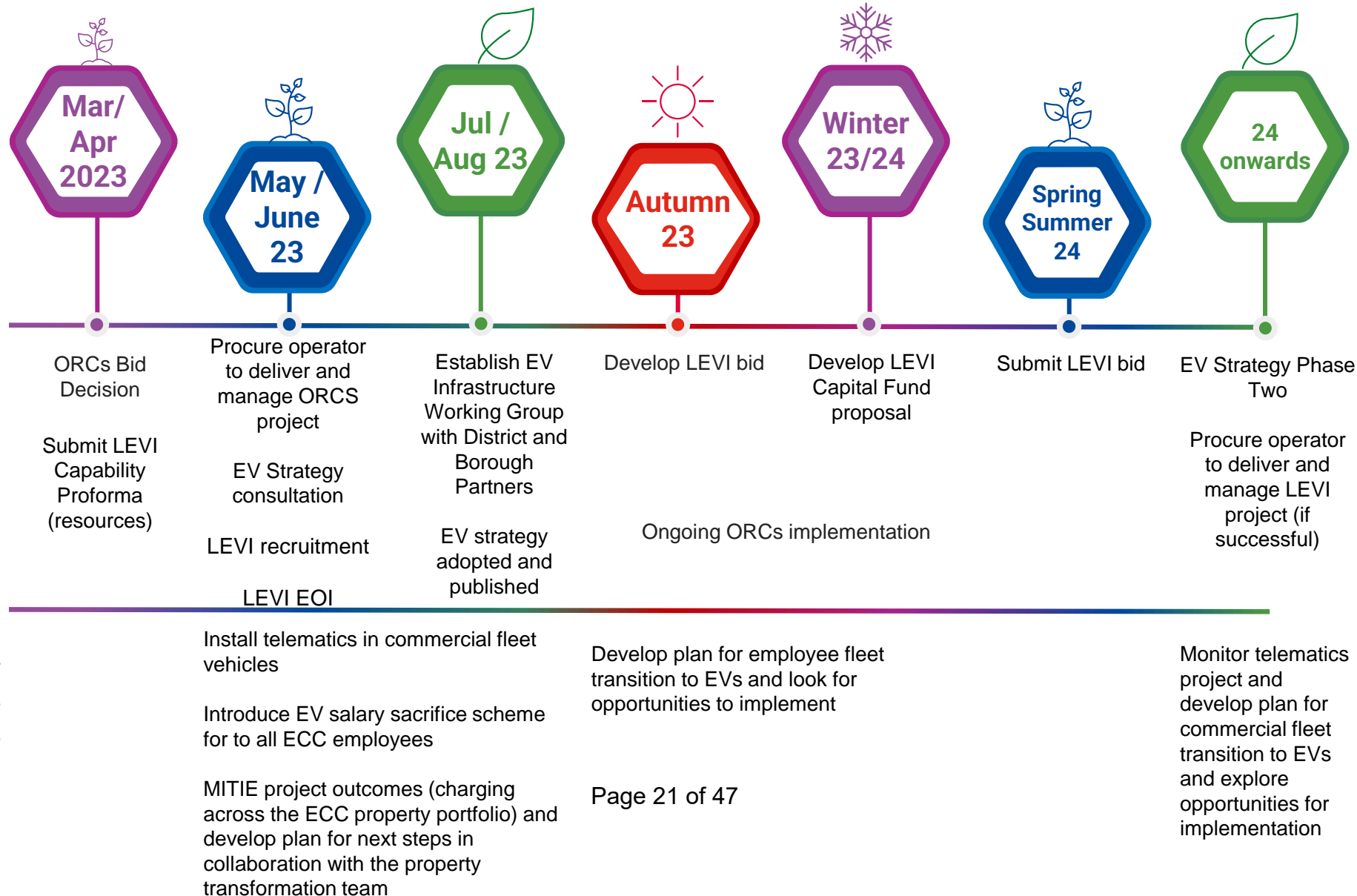
2. External Central Government e.g., Office of Zero Emission Vehicles, ORCs, LEVI

- There is no limit on how many ORCS bids ECC can submit
- March 2023: Successful ORCS bid of £236,210 covering 60% of the costs to install 66 EVCPs in 30 locations across Essex. The remaining 40% and any additional costs will be paid for by a Charge Point Operator (8–12-year contract).
- LEVI capability fund: Secured a further £129,600 for resource funding (2023/24)
- LEVI capital fund: Indicative allocation of £8,382m (capital) and £590,400 (revenue) (2024/25)

3. External Commercial funding e.g. chargepoint operators, developers, OEM's

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TIMELINE



SCRUTINY REQUESTS

We ask Scrutiny to:

- 1. Note and comment on the objectives and timeframes for the draft EV Strategy**
- 2. Note and comment on the priorities for the next 12 months – strategy consultation and adoption, recruitment, ORCS, LEVI, telematics, On-street charging trials, EV charging points at ECC offices**



Report title: Review of the Member-led Pothole Scheme	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer / Emma Hunter, Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 18 May 2023	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at justin.long@essex.gov.uk Emma Hunter, Democratic Services Officer at emma.hunter@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report summarises the review carried out by the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) into the Member-led Pothole Scheme on 20 April 2023.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to

- note that the Conclusions and Recommendations (Paragraph 4) have been referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.
- consider the response of the Cabinet Member (**Appendix 1**).

3. Background

- 3.1 Following the PSEG meeting of 16 March 2023, the Chairman (Cllr A Goggin) agreed that an all-committee Task and Finish Group should be established to conduct a one-off review of the existing member-led pothole scheme and make any necessary recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.
- 3.2 The Committee met on 20 April 2023 to conduct this review immediately following the conclusion of the formal public meeting of PSEG.
- 3.3 The Committee considered the results of the all-member survey on the scheme. This had been sent electronically to all ECC members and saw a response rate of just over 50% (39 members).
- 3.4 It was agreed that following the 20 April meeting, the Vice-Chairman (Cllr M Steel) would work with officers to summarise the discussion. This summary is outlined below ('Conclusions and Recommendations').
- 3.5 It was further agreed that this summary would be given to the Cabinet Member

for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport ahead of the 18 May PSEG meeting for his response. His response is attached as Appendix 1.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group

4.1 Conclusions and Recommendations from the Member-led Pothole Scheme Survey (see Paragraph 5 for a full summary):

- A majority of members would like to see the member-led pothole scheme continue and be extended (e.g., to include footways).
- Members would like to see a tracking system and a streamlined reporting system. Ideas in this area included a 'live' tracking system allowing members to see the status of each submitted pothole and incorporating the member-led scheme into the existing reporting system on the 'Tell Us' website to avoid duplication.

4.2 Recommendations from the PSEG Task and Finish Group discussion on 20 April:

- Reflecting the results of the survey, PSEG members would like greater clarity on whether the existing scheme provides value for money.

This should include information on the cost per pothole of the member-led scheme compared to a pothole repaired through the 'normal' Highways route.

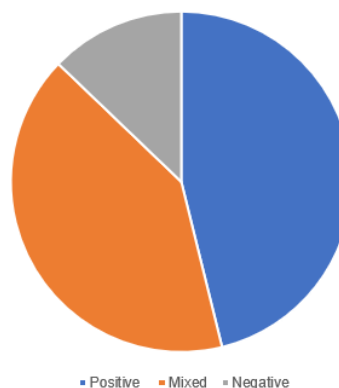
- Members should be provided with an annual scheme of work showing the planned scheduling of local repairs (including through s106 contributions) in their division. This could then be used by councillors to inform their choices for the member-led scheme.
- The timings for the scheme should be reviewed with some members suggesting that the deadline for submissions under the current scheme was too early, as many potholes only appeared after winter.
- Members would like to see greater clarity provided on the resource available and planned timetable for work to ensure that expectations match reality. This reflected members' disappointment that some repairs submitted under the existing scheme remain outstanding.

5. Evidence – Member-led Pothole Scheme Survey Responses

5.1 All Members were asked to complete a survey regarding the Member-led Pothole Scheme. 39 Members completed the survey, producing in the following results.

5.1.1 What is your overall experience of the member-led pothole scheme?

Positive	18
Mixed	16
Negative	5



5.1.2 What aspects of the scheme do you think worked well? *Summary of Comments:*

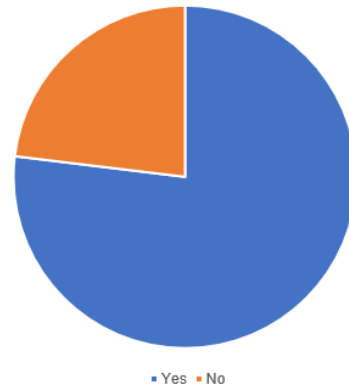
- Members being able to select the potholes for repair
- Getting repairs done quickly
- Being able to nominate potholes which were not eligible for repair outside this scheme
- Good amount of time from launch to close which allowed for consultation with Parish Councils

5.1.3 What aspects of the scheme do you think could be improved? *Summary of Comments:*

- An easier submission/reporting/tracking system
 - A 'live' report allowing Members to see the status of each pothole
 - Updating Members when potholes are repaired or rejected
 - Prevent duplication of work by using the existing reporting system on the 'Tell Us' website instead
- Having a larger allocation
- Amount of time it took to repair
- The quality of the repair
- The deadline was too early, as many potholes appeared after winter

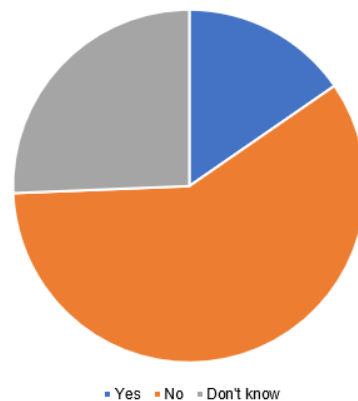
5.1.4 Do you think the objectives and operation of the scheme are clear to Members?

Yes	30
No	9



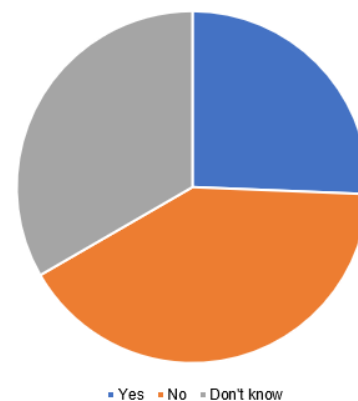
5.1.5 Do you think the objectives and operation of the scheme are clear to residents?

Yes	6
No	23
Don't know	10



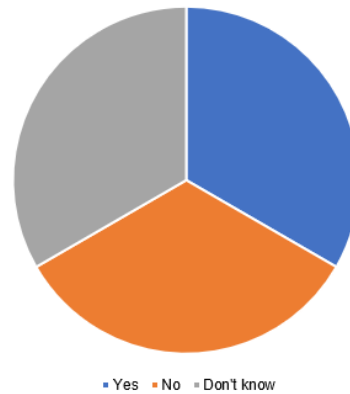
5.1.6 Do you think the objectives and operation of the scheme are clear to other groups, such as District or Parish Councils?

Yes	10
No	16
Don't know	13



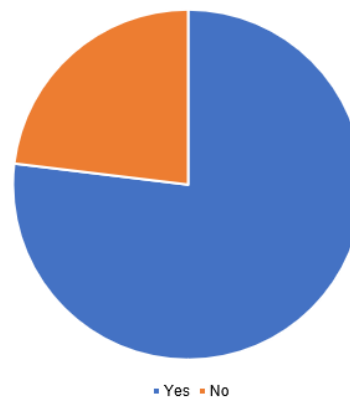
5.1.7 Do you think the scheme provides value for money?

Yes	13
No	13
Don't know	13



5.1.8 Did you use your full allocation of repairs this year?

Yes	30
No	9

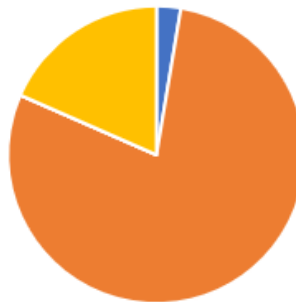


5.1.9 If you did not use your full allocation of repairs, why not? *Summary of Comments:*

- Complexity of submitting
- Losing track of how many had been submitted
- Struggled at the beginning of winter to find potholes

5.1.10 Looking ahead, the scheme could continue and be extended e.g. to include footway repairs. Which of the following best describes your view?

I would like the scheme to continue as it is	1
I would like the scheme to continue and be extended (e.g. to include footway repairs)	30
I would like the scheme to be scrapped and the money diverted into the general highways budget	0
Other	7



- I would like the scheme to continue as it is
- I would like the scheme to continue and be extended (e.g. to include footway repairs)
- I would like the scheme to be scrapped and the money diverted into the general highways budget
- Other

5.1.11 Are there any additional comments you would like to make on the member-led pothole scheme? *Summary of Comments:*

- A better reporting and tracking system would make the scheme easier to use
- Confusion between the Member led scheme and Highways reporting tool i.e. if a pothole was fixed through the tool or scheme
- Clarity and updates of how long it will take to repair a pothole after it has been reported would be helpful
- Having access to the status of potholes which have been reported both in the member-led scheme and the reporting tool would be helpful

- Should be extended to footways
- Make it clearer if multiple potholes count as one or more
- Overall the scheme has been a success and the fixed potholes have been appreciated by residents

Note – PSEG members discussed the results of the survey on 20 April. They agreed to make no specific recommendations on 5.1.5 (not seeing this as a key priority). They also discussed the cost-per-pothole of the scheme and would like clarification on this.

6. Update and Next Steps

This report has been presented to the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport ahead of the PSEG meeting on 18 May 2023. His substantive response will be made at the meeting and is included in Appendix 1.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Response to PSEG Review of Member-led Pothole Scheme.

Report title: Response to PSEG Review of Member-led Pothole Scheme	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Ken Kintrea - Head of Construction, David Forkin - Head of Maintenance and Operations	
Date: 10 May 2023	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Karina Grimwade, Senior Strategy Advisor – karina.grimwade@essex.gov.uk	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is in response to the review carried out by the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) into the Member-led Pothole Scheme on 20 April 2023.
- 1.2 A number of recommendations, outlined below, were put forward following this review. Responses to these recommendations are laid out below each point.
- 1.3 The Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport is attending the PSEG Scrutiny Committee on the 18 May 2023 where he will welcome further discussion.

2. Recommendations and Responses

- 2.1 **Recommendation:** A majority of members would like to see the member-led pothole scheme continue and be extended (e.g., to include footways).

Response: adding footways or other such extensions would add complexity to the jobs that are being delivered, which would result in further delays to timescales; delays in the jobs being completed was a specific point raised at previous PSEG Scrutiny meetings, and one that we are keen to avoid. The 2023/24 Member led pothole scheme will be pothole specific again; however, there are schemes that are going through the Local Highway Panels that focus on footway repairs.

- 2.2 **Recommendation:** Members would like to see a tracking system and a streamlined reporting system. Ideas in this area included a 'live' tracking system allowing members to see the status of each submitted pothole and incorporating the member-led scheme into the existing reporting system on the 'Tell Us' website to avoid duplication.

Response: The existing tracking and reporting system set up was to ensure submissions relating to the member-led pothole scheme could be managed as a standalone work stream within the organisation. This is the most efficient method of operation for the service and ensures budget is not spent on additional staff resources or new/alterations to IT systems.

The current system generates emails to the Member who submitted the report

at the following stages:

- When received into system
- If Rejected
- Planning the works
- When completed

This is in line with the 'Tell Us' reporting/submission system.

To provide any more information than this would require additional staff resources to be employed and charged to the ring-fenced budget available, therefore reducing the amount available for works on the Network.

- 2.3 **Recommendation:** Reflecting the results of the survey, PSEG members would like greater clarity on whether the existing scheme provides value for money. This should include information on the cost per pothole of the member-led scheme compared to a pothole repaired through the 'normal' Highways route.

Response: There is no difference in cost for 'normal' or Member led potholes repairs. The Member led scheme was programmed to ensure delivery teams went into specific areas with the plan being to complete everything available from Member submissions on these visits.

Costs per pothole is not an available option as the operational delivery is at a Task Order level and includes all staff, direct resource and Supply Chain Partner resource. Each pothole varies in size and so comparison is not always beneficial or a true reflection. A single submission may cover more than one pothole and could also rectify a number of defects.

- 2.4 **Recommendation:** Members should be provided with an annual scheme of work showing the planned scheduling of local repairs (including through s106 contributions) in their division. This could then be used by councillors to inform their choices for the member-led scheme.

Response: This is something that is being looked at across the Service and being managed by the Communications Team. Further information on any progress will be shared in due course. We have already rolled out a monthly update to all County Members that will show the planned works in their district for the month ahead. We would welcome all Members to share this information with the residents they represent.

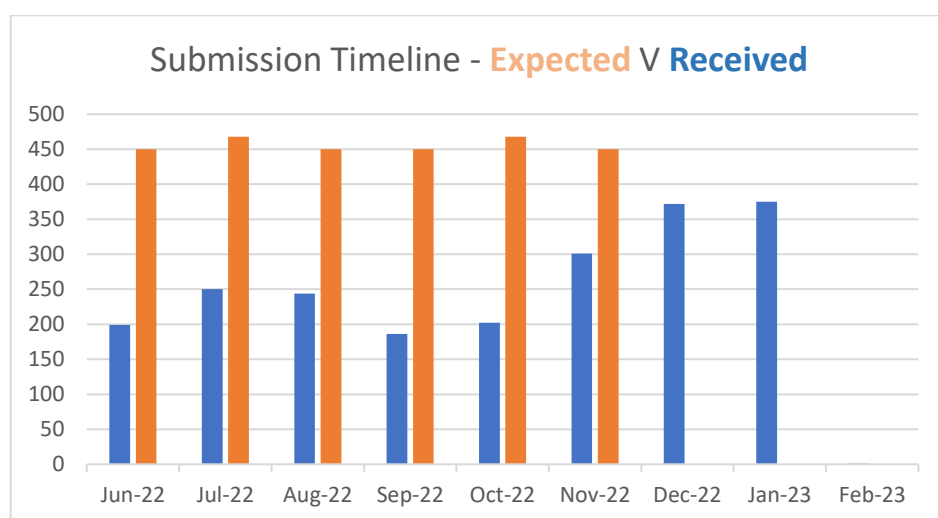
- 2.5 **Recommendation:** The timings for the scheme should be reviewed with some members suggesting that the deadline for submissions under the current scheme was too early, as many potholes only appeared after winter.

Response: The submission programme was shared in advance and was prepared to try and ensure there was a consistent and regular submission of potholes throughout the period of the scheme. This was to ensure that all resources, staff and operational delivery, were utilised efficiently over the course of the year. The graph below shows actual against programmed submissions.

It is important to stress that delays to submissions greatly impacts when the work can be completed, as the graph shows. The Cabinet Member extended submissions in 2022 to allow for some entries to be submitted as late as January, meaning that these are still being delivered now.

We are planning on starting the scheme as early as possible this year and so this will allow for potholes that have appeared during the winter season the be submitted when the first round opens for each Member.

There will not be an opportunity for extensions this year for submissions, and the Cabinet Member asks that Members support him in this and ensure that potholes are submitted on time to allow for the works to be completed according to the programme. This ensures the schemes operates in the most effective and efficient way possible.



2.6 Recommendation: Members would like to see greater clarity provided on the resource available and planned timetable for work to ensure that expectations match reality. This reflected members' disappointment that some repairs submitted under the existing scheme remain outstanding.

Response: Until specific locations of submissions are inspected it is difficult to give a timeline in advance. Each location is impacted by traffic volumes, road layout and position of pothole in the carriageway. If a road closure is required for example, this can take up to 13 weeks before approval is granted.

Individual reports would not be possible without additional staff resource being allocated. If there are any efficiencies or ideas on automation that can be identified during the above exercise on 'reports for future planned works', this could be considered.

We would again stress the importance of the submissions being made on time, as delays in submission mean delays in the work being programmed and carried out.

3. Update and Next Steps

- 3.1 There will be a Member-led pothole scheme for 2023/2024. The scheme will function in much the same way as 2022/2023 scheme. We will be communicating with all Members when final details become available.

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: 18 May 2023	For: Discussion 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 Committee receive quarterly highways maintenance performance updates from the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport. This latest update covers the period January to March 2023.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider the performance update (Appendix) and identify any follow-up scrutiny activity.

3. Links to Everyone's Essex

Highways Maintenance performance links to a number of the ambitions outlined in including on Infrastructure, and Transport and Built Environment.

4. Next Steps

This is an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise highways maintenance performance.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member - Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.

David Forkin - Head of Maintenance and Operations.

5. Appendices

Asset Management – Scrutiny Committee Report

Asset Management

Scrutiny Committee Report
January – March 2023

5th April 2023

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER



This slide pack includes information on the following:

1. Information requested from Scrutiny Committee:

- Number of emergency repairs completed, by district
- Total defects raised and total defects completed, by district
- Ratio of reported defects to repaired defects, by district
- Total number of reported defects (rolling total for the year, split into quarters), by district
- Total number of repairs (rolling total for the year, split into quarters), by district
- Total outstanding carriageway defects by road classification, by district
- Total outstanding footway defects by footway classification, by district
- Total outstanding defects by priority classification, by district

This quarter's report also contains one additional slide (slide 11), as requested, showing the total number of defects S1-S3, with S4 (the lowest priority) defects removed.

You can find out more about carriageway and footway classifications and how they are prioritised for inspections [in our maintenance strategy](#).

Important information on this quarter's report.

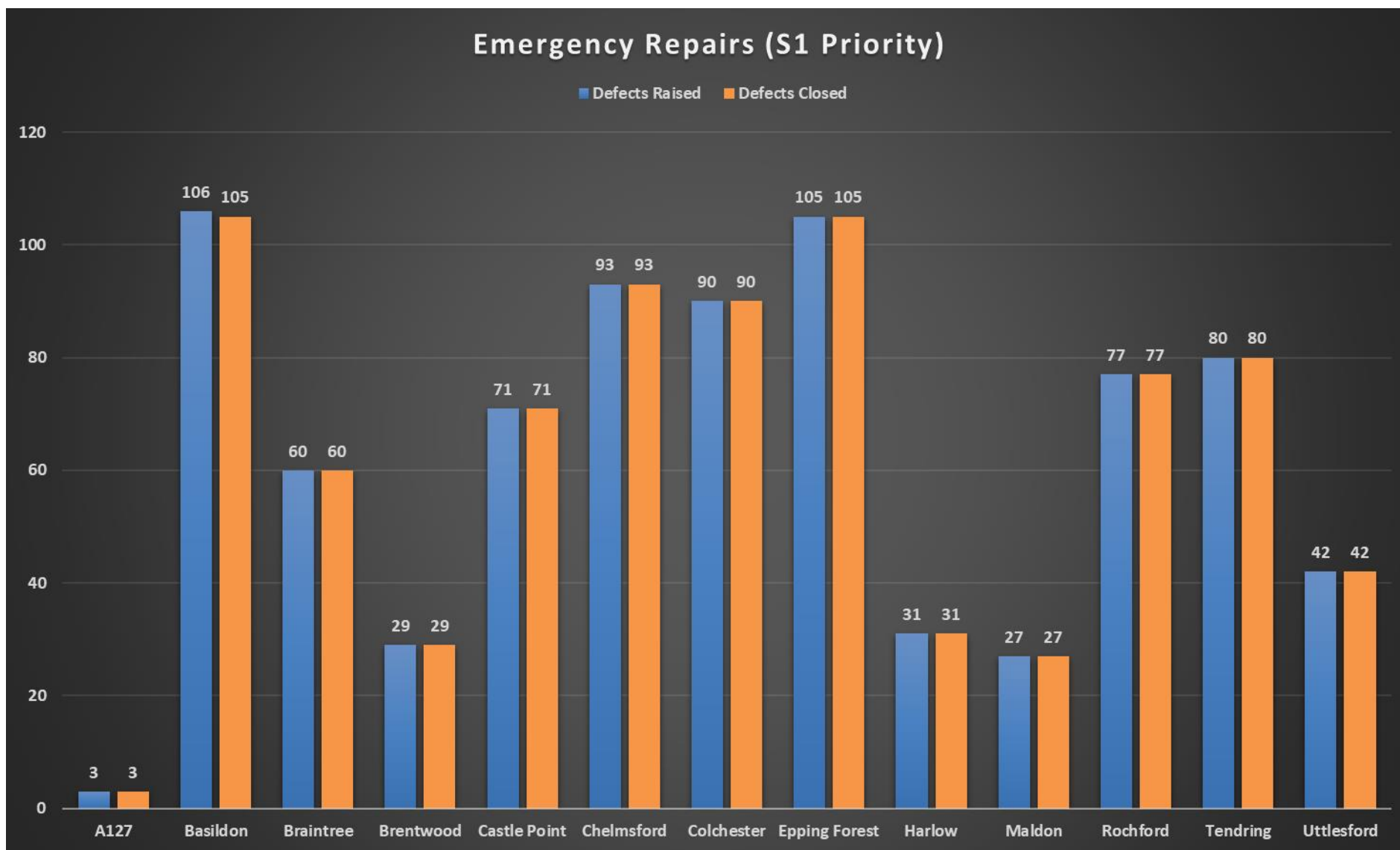
It should be noted that this quarter's figures show a large difference in the number of defects across the network since previous reports.

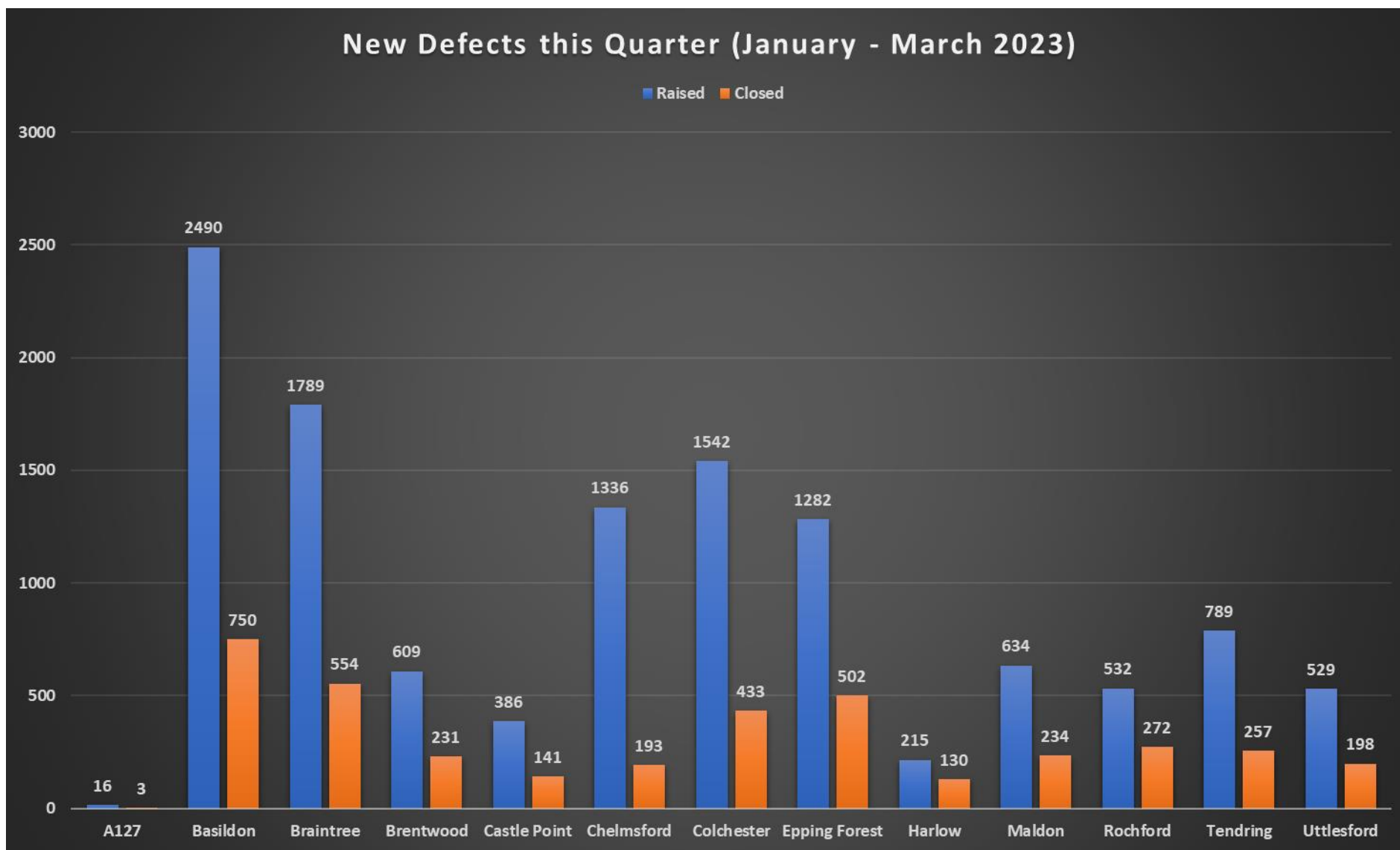
Please be aware that on top of defects repaired through programmed works etc, an ongoing project to cleanse Confirm (the system we use to record defects) of redundant and superseded data has occurred, which is responsible for the majority of the Defects figures. The data in question has been archived in Confirm and consists of:

- Historical defects from the old contract that have since been superseded around 2019.
- Enquiries that are plotted within close proximity of existing defects and have been linked up to avoid duplicating inspections.
- Enquiries relating to old initiatives such as Member Led Pothole Project 2020 and Ride London 2022.
- Old jobs that have been raised prior to 2021 and not undertaken (defects have been detached from these).

The total number of defects archived through the above project was 52,747.

This mean that the data we hold is now more reflective of the actual number of defects across the County.

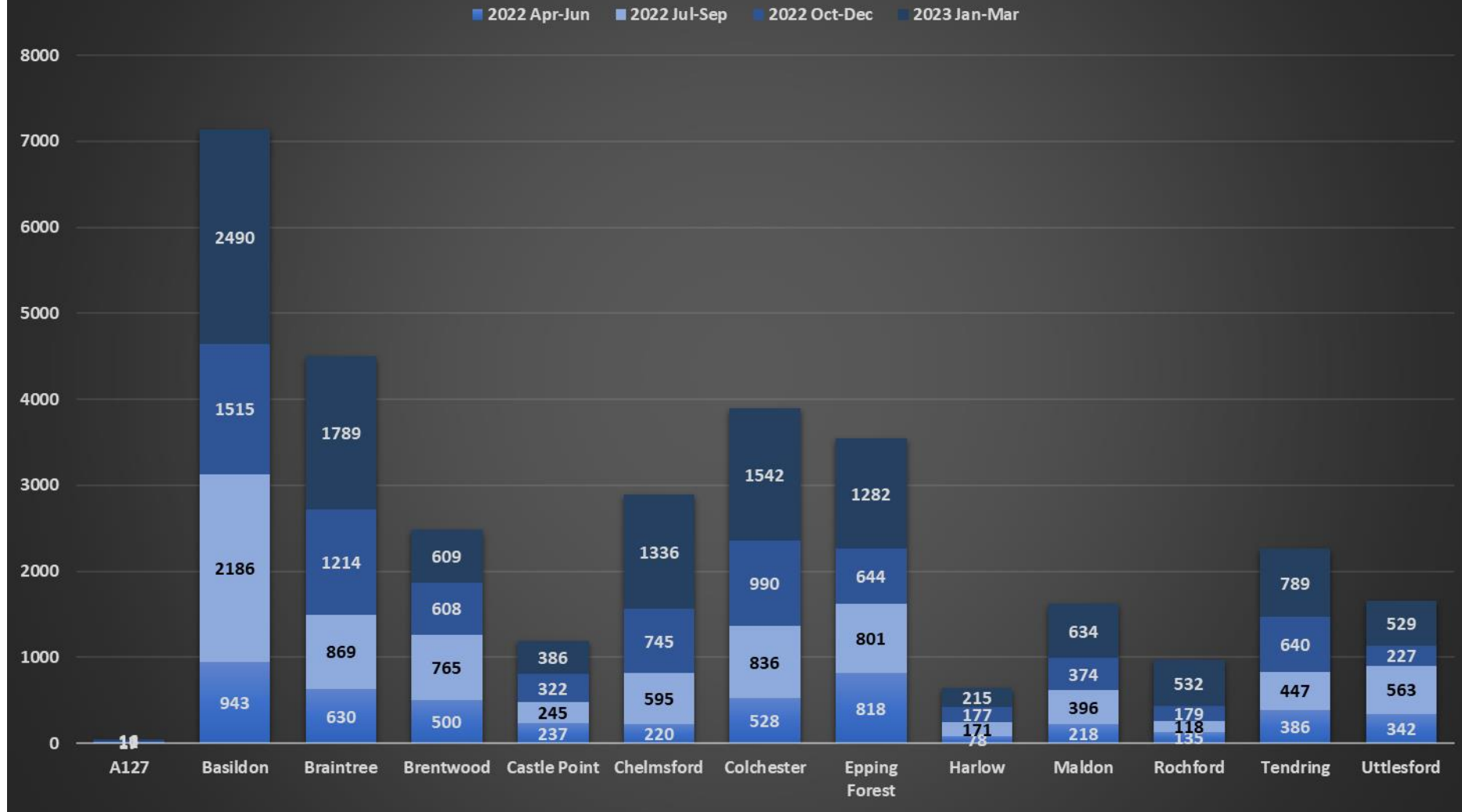




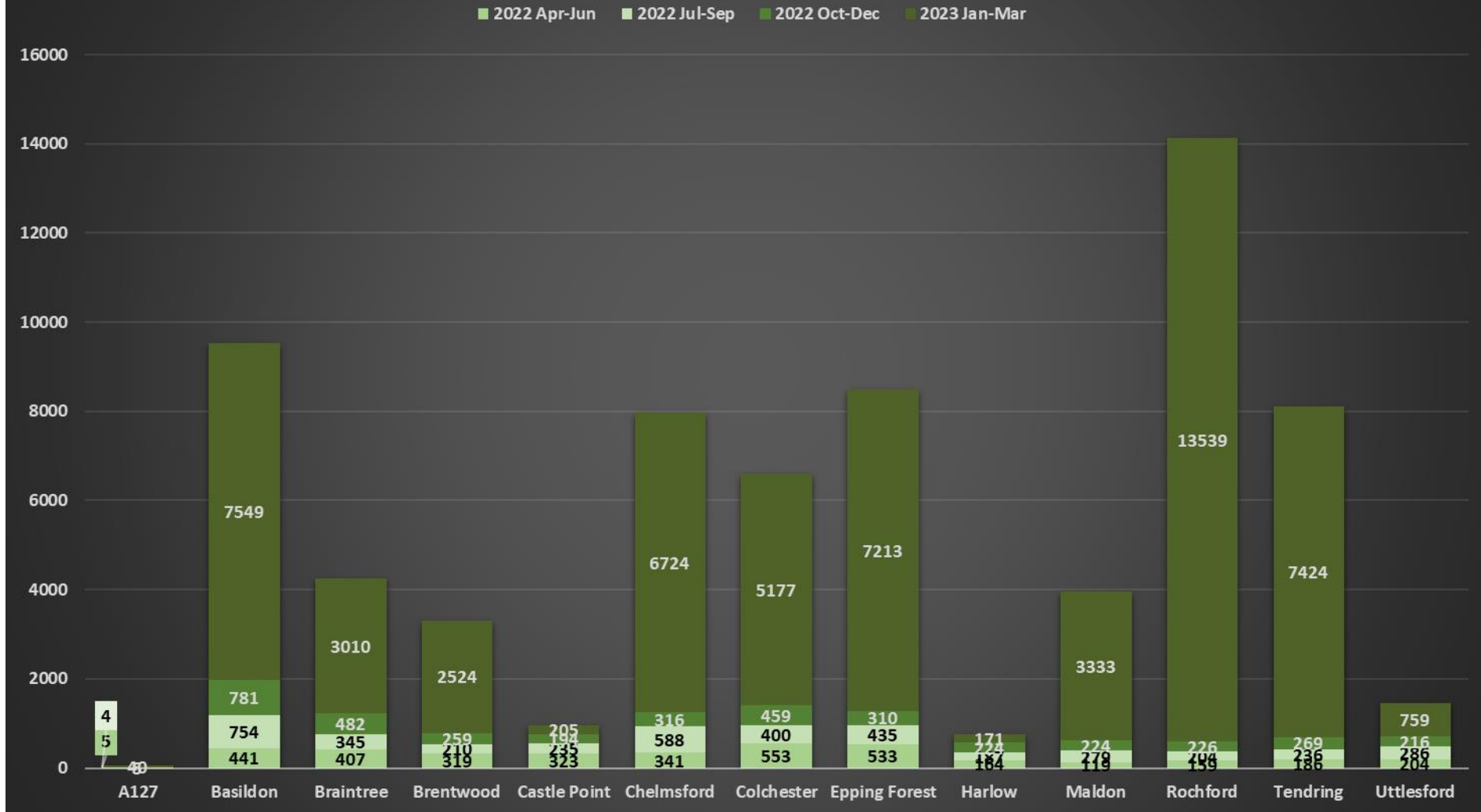
New Defects (January - March 2023)

District <input type="text"/>	Raised	Closed	% Closed
A127	16	3	18.75%
Basildon	2490	750	30.12%
Braintree	1789	554	30.97%
Brentwood	609	231	37.93%
Castle Point	386	141	36.53%
Chelmsford	1336	193	14.45%
Colchester	1542	433	28.08%
Epping Forest	1282	502	39.16%
Harlow	215	130	60.47%
Maldon	634	234	36.91%
Rochford	532	272	51.13%
Tendring	789	257	32.57%
Uttlesford	529	198	37.43%
Grand Total	12149	3898	32.08%

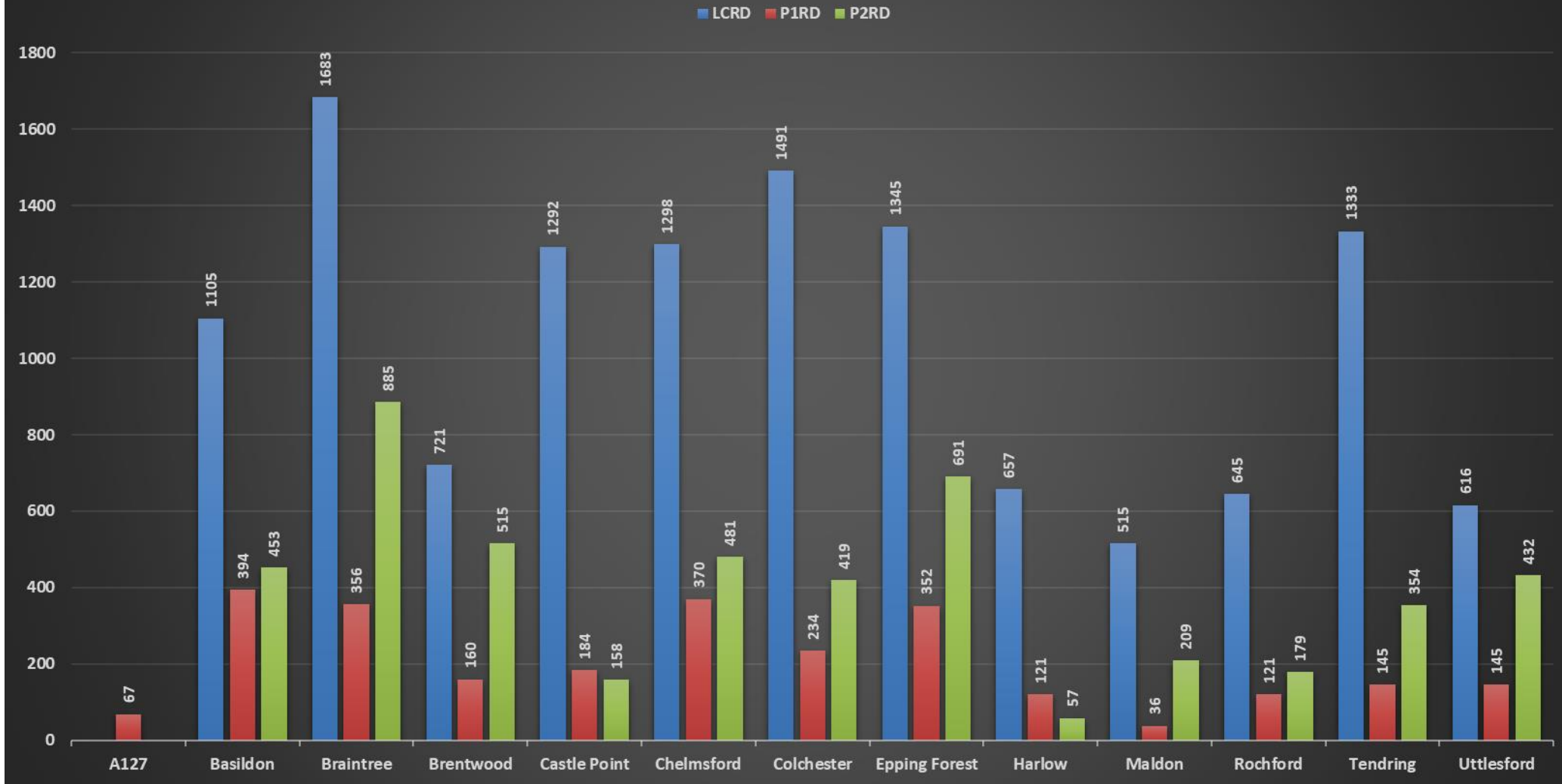
New Defects this Year (April 2022 - March 2023)



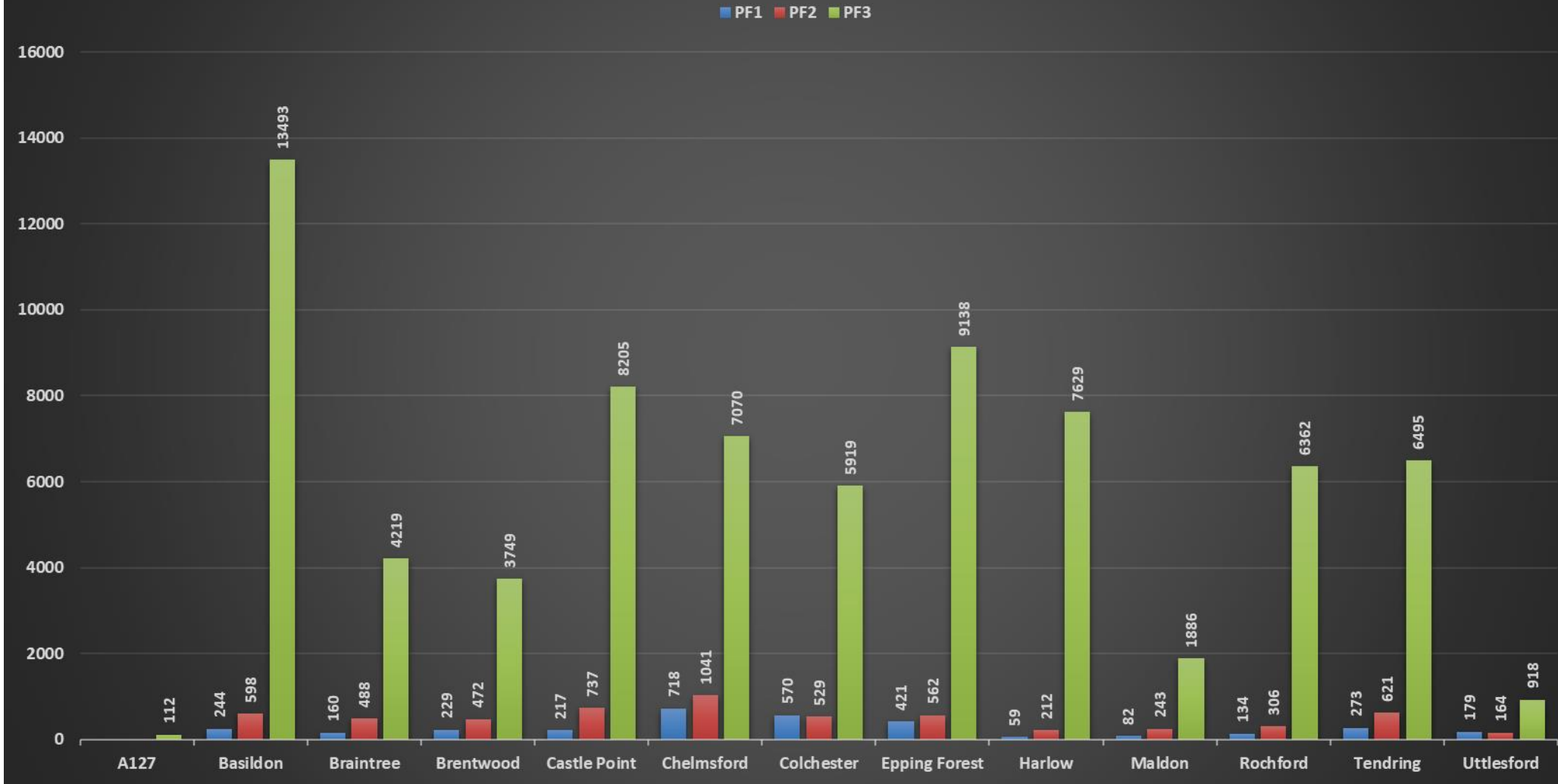
Defects Closed this Year (April 2022 - March 2023)



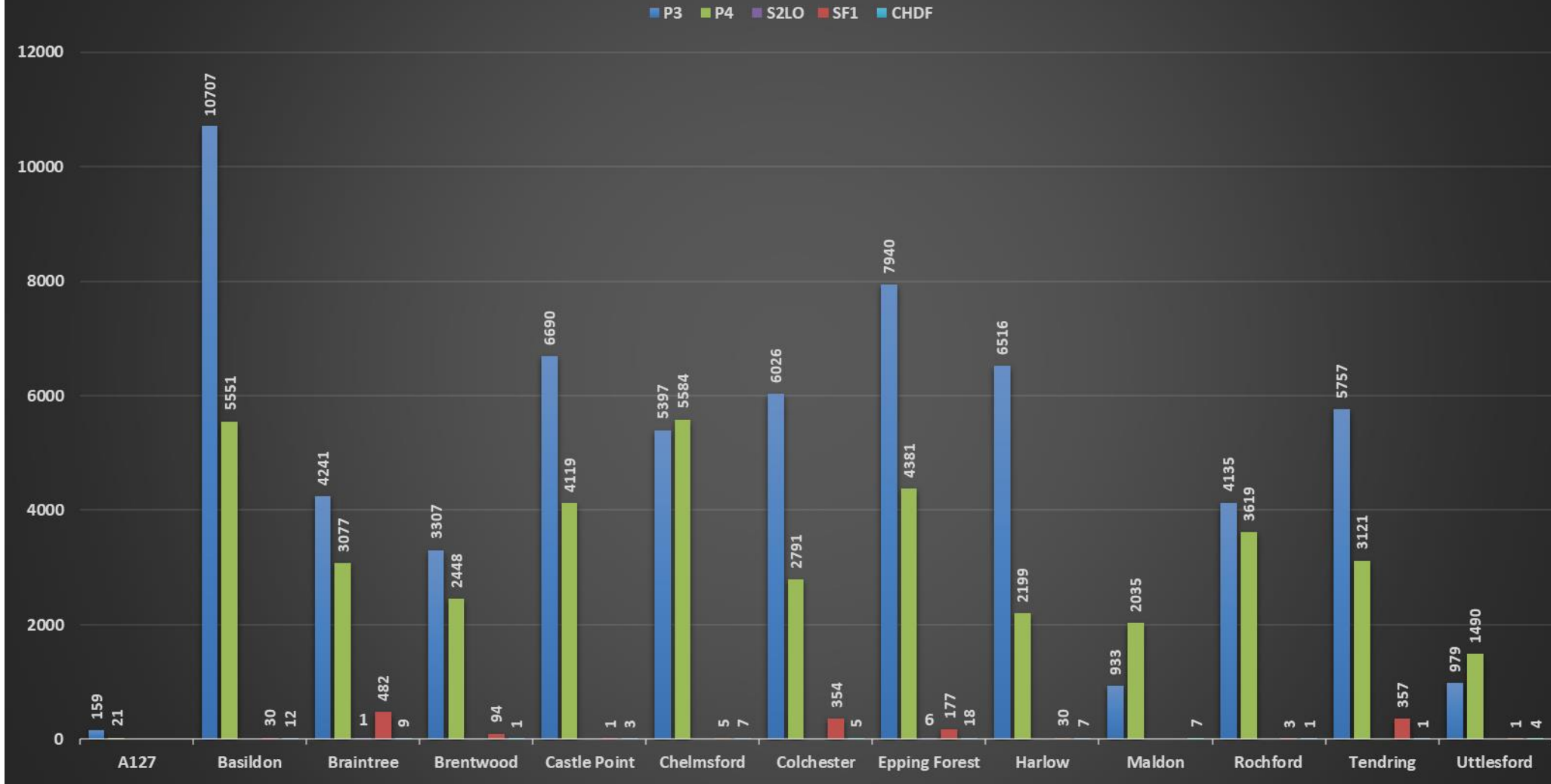
Outstanding Carriageway Defects (31st March 2023)



Outstanding Footway Defects (31st March 2023)



Outstanding Defects by Priority



Outstanding S1-S3 Defects (March 2023)

