

Date	Date of reply	Asker	Responder	Question	Reply
17 March 2022	1 April 2022	Cllr Chris Pond	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>What progress has been made on the Essex Bus Shelter Replacement Project? Will he ensure any shelter erected in a conservation area or near a heritage asset is of a suitable design, and is discussed in good time with district conservation officers and town/parish councils?</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Pond,</p> <p>Thank you for writing to me regarding the Essex-wide Bus Shelter Project.</p> <p>In November 2021, I wrote to all County, District and Parish Councillors regarding the latest information on the Essex-wide Bus Shelter Project. A copy of this will be sent directly to you separately, confirming that existing requests remain on hold.</p> <p>As advised in my previous communication, this project will establish a long-term contract to create a better bus shelter estate, incorporating all maintenance, cleaning, replacement and supply of shelters – all paid for from the generation of income through advertising.</p> <p>Good progress has been made, with ongoing discussions occurring with District and City Council's across Essex. The contract is now likely to start in Autumn 2022 and if this changes, we'll issue a further update to all councillors.</p> <p>Specifically, in terms of conservation areas or heritage sites and whether shelters are of a suitable design, this would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with appropriate engagement at a local level. Every conservation area is unique with differing characteristics being protected.</p>

					<p>Thank you once again for writing to me about this matter.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Cllr Scott</p>
26 April 2022	10 May 2022	Cllr Dave Harris	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>Could I ask about quality control on Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, which is in the Shrub End part of my division.</p> <p>Twice in 5 years (the last being 12 months ago) a series of 3 drains at the side of the road have been repaired. Outside / near to 265a Berechurch Hall Road, and each time the drain grid and surrounding road surface has sunk.</p> <p>I know that Cllr Scott will be concerned about value for money, as I am, but would the portfolio holder raise this issue, at this location, as I can report to him that cars, vans, lorries, bikes all veer over the other side of the road to avoid this series of sunken drains.</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Harris,</p> <p>Thank you for writing to me regarding your concerns about the sunken drains near to 265a Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester.</p> <p>As you are aware, Berechurch Hall Road is a well-used link between Mersea Road and Layer Road with connection via Gosbecks Road across to the B1022 to Tiptree and the Stanway area.</p> <p>As you commented in your question, repair works have been carried out in this location, including some emergency repairs, but the location of the ironworks and the volume of traffic passing over it have caused the repairs to fail.</p> <p>I can confirm that engineers will look at the option of a specialist ironworks repair; these are costly compared to a standard type repair, but it seems that this location may benefit from this approach to ensure the longevity of the repairs; in turn ensuring value for money too.</p> <p>I can confirm that the site will be assessed by the end of June where engineers will look at all</p>

					<p>available options and then the plan for the works will follow.</p> <p>The timing of these works will depend on number of safety and planning aspects, including the possibility of a road closure approval, as the road is quite narrow at this point which makes it difficult to maintain a safe width for passing traffic.</p> <p>Thank you again for bringing this to my attention.</p>
6 May 2022	13 May 2022	Cllr Lee Scordis	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>Over a month ago I reported a drain leaking sewage to the cabinet member on the most flooded road in Colchester, Haven Road. Considering this is a serious health hazard, why has this still not been addressed?</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Scordis,</p> <p>Thank you for writing to me recently regarding some flooding on Haven Road, Colchester.</p> <p>My Officers attended this site on 04/04/22, and I can confirm that the catchpit is not contaminated with raw sewage. On this initial visit we discovered contamination with diesel/oil and followed the correct process of reporting this to Environment Agency for investigation.</p> <p>Once they had completed their investigation, a further visit took place on the 03/05/22. On this visit we attended with a tanker (to remove the contaminated waste) and a jetting unit.</p> <p>Whilst the officers were able to carry out substantial works on this visit, further work will be required here to repair and trace the pipework leading from the catchpit down hill on the opposite side of the road, in the direction of Albany Gardens.</p>

					<p>Because of the special engineering difficulties associated with the site including High voltage electricity underground and overhead with the substation adjacent, together with other underground services, we are currently reviewing all the information and considering the best course of action to take in this case.</p> <p>I hope this gives you a clearer understanding of the work already completed at the site, and the further work required.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Cllr Lee Scott</p>
6 May 2022	13 May 2022	Cllr Lee Scordis	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>Noting the recent cuts to bus services from First Buses, what action is the cabinet member taking to halt these cuts of an already poor bus service that many people depend on?</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Scordis,</p> <p>Thank you for your written question regarding the changes to bus services from First Busses, and the concern you have over this.</p> <p>First Bus' re-design of their Essex bus network includes investment in ticketing and vehicles as well as simpler and more reliable routes. Changes in frequency are intended to shape the network to current travel patterns but in a way that provides a secure foundation from which it can grow.</p> <p>Our Bus Service Improvement Plan which was published in October, sets out the measures that we are taking in partnership with bus operators and others to transform that network.</p>

					<p>I hope this gives you all the information you require.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Cllr Lee Scott</p>
10 May 2022	25 May 2022	Cllr Paul Gadd	Cllr Malcolm Buckley	<p>The agenda pack for the February 2022 Full Council meeting at p.328 contains a statement that the Cabinet had resolved to work towards a zero waste to landfill by 2030 target and also to put carbon reduction at its core. I believe that these aims are mutually inconsistent - for residual waste unfortunately there are two alternatives, either to use landfill or to incinerate the residual waste, with or without prior treatment. Because of the high carbon content of residual waste, burning the waste produces a relatively high greenhouse gas impact.</p> <p>My question therefore is to ask for the greenhouse gas emission assessments that I assume have been produced prior to adopting the zero waste to landfill policy, and any other environmental assessments of the policy.</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Gadd,</p> <p>We do not believe the objectives of zero waste to landfill and reducing carbon emissions to atmosphere are inconsistent or mutually exclusive. For example, waste management techniques such as Energy from Waste (EfW) employing combined heat and power (CHP), reduces the emissions of carbon compared to landfill alternatives. Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCSU) techniques can also be used to dramatically reduce carbon emissions when used in conjunction with EfW producing electricity only, or EfW operating in a CHP configuration.</p> <p>As you are aware, the emissions of carbon associated with any particular waste management system are complex. It is for these reasons that the current work on developing a new waste strategy for Essex will include modelling to calculate the greenhouse gas emissions associated with EfW treatment of residual waste, EfW with CHP, and EfW with CHP and CCSU, as well as other waste management options. These results will be presented so that comparisons can be made with the current landfill situation in order to inform</p>

					<p>public and political choices over our future management of waste. The waste strategy workstream will also consider waste collection approaches and model options to minimise waste and increase recycling and composting rates.</p> <p>We also note that reducing reliance on landfill is a national objective, as enshrined in the waste hierarchy, and this can be achieved in a priority order that focusses first on waste reduction, then recycling followed by energy recovery.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Cllr Malcolm Buckley</p>
12 May 2022	26 May 2022	Cllr Chris Pond	Cllr Louise McKinley	<p>Prior to the pandemic, many Essex libraries would sell discarded stock to users. This was a very green thing to do, and prevented the unnecessary destruction of still-worthy material, as well as providing users with ongoing interest. Will the PFH restart this system, which was discontinued for understandable reasons during the pandemic?</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Pond,</p> <p>Thank you for your question about discarded library stock. The Library Service use a company called Better World Books Ltd for all discarded stock. Better World Books is a socially responsible charity which generates funding for literacy charities such as the National Literacy Trust and the National Adult Literacy Agency through the sales of its books. They also, work with a charity in East Africa to improve access to education in by renovating school libraries and providing educational materials.</p> <p>These aims align with our ambition to help improve literacy, plus, using Better World Book provides the service with a guaranteed income stream, is more efficient and avoids staff having to sort out and deal manually with discarded stock. This, in turn, enables</p>

					<p>them to focus on dealing with customers and other core library activities.</p> <p>Kind regards, Louise McKinlay</p>
4 May 2022	25 May 2022	Cllr Ivan Henderson	Cllr Louise McKinley	<p>Can you please provide details of the total amount of Hardship funds received from Government to deal with the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Can you also include:</p> <p>(a) A complete breakdown, pound for pound on how the council plans to spend the Government Hardship fund to support those Essex residents who are in desperate need as a result of the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>(b) A complete breakdown of the total amount of Government Hardship funding being made available to each county council division.</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Henderson, I have sent you a full response via email, as the answers included tables and other formatting to help make the information easier to review, which will not be displayed if submitting the answer to you through this system. Kind regards, Cllr McKinlay.</p>
27 June 2022	28 June 2022	Cllr Ivan Henderson	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>After the Governments decision not to support this councils bid to improve local bus services, it was decided at the full council meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 to write to the Department of Transport, asking them to provide additional support and resources to ensure that the full objectives of this councils Enhanced bus Partnership can be met. Can the portfolio holder please provide a copy</p>	<p>Dear Cllr Henderson,</p> <p>We went one step further than writing to the Department of Transport regarding additional support for the local bus services, and held a meeting with Baroness Vere of Norbiton, the Minister for Roads, buses and places on Thursday 16th June. This meeting was also attended Heads of local Essex bus companies, and myself, to discuss the key issues within bus services at the moment.</p>

				<p>of the letter sent to the Department of Transport and their response to the council.</p>	<p>These meeting was focussed on the following agenda points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LTA's with no BSIP funding</li> <li>• Delivering low carbon technology in rural areas, and how Central Government may be able to provide support</li> <li>• Pressures on the bus industry and how Central Government may be able to provide support</li> <li>• Support mechanisms for HTS and coach operators with regards to operating overheads</li> <li>• Mechanisms to ensure legislation is both relevant and necessary to HTS and coach operations</li> <li>• Bus Marketing campaign by DfT</li> </ul> <p>As you can see, our first - and most poignant - point was regarding funding, and there was a lengthy discussion around Essex not being successful in the BSIP bid, other possible funding options, and what support there may be moving forward.</p> <p>Whilst we were not able to obtain exact details of further funding possibilities, we were reassured that there will be other opportunities in the future and that they were impressed with the bid put forward for Essex.</p> <p>I hope this helps to answer your query.</p>
28 July 2022	2 August 2022	Cllr Kerry Smith	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>For local authorities that pay ECC extra, like Basildon Borough Council, to keep the lampposts on all night (Part Night Lighting exemption) will they be</p>	<p>Dear Kerry,</p>



				<p>expected to pay extra due to the increasing cost of electricity? If so, by Borough/District how much extra will they be expected to pay during this present financial year?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question regarding any increases in cost for electricity for keeping lighting on throughout the night.</p> <p>There will be increases as energy costs are expected to rise dramatically from October onwards. Please see the below specifics on costings; This shows that with the budgeted prices, we would have assumed PNL contributions of circa £224k, but now for the second half of the year we are currently estimated this going up to £390k. It does need to be stressed however, that these are estimated forecasts and subject to change.</p> <p>Basildon: Original estimate £91k, Revised forecast £158k (movement £67k)</p> <p>Harlow: Original estimate £121k, Revised forecast £210k (movement £89k)</p> <p>Chigwell: Original estimate £12k, Revised forecast £22k (movement £9k)</p> <p>I hope this resolves your query.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Lee</p>
21 July 2022	3 August 2022	Cllr Mike Mackrory	Cllr Tony Ball	<p>Dear Tony,</p> <p>Springfield Primary School, where I am a governor, tell me they received 11 Afghan refugee children from five different families, a couple of months ago. None of them speak English and neither do their parents. I am told no additional funding has been made</p>	<p>Dear Mike</p> <p>Thank you for your email and I acknowledge the pressures faced by schools, such as Springfield Primary, who have admitted a number of children that have arrived from Afghanistan.</p> <p>In regard to the comments about funding, whilst the national Department for Education (DfE) did</p>

				<p>available or even support from ECC. This has put staff under enormous extra strain as you might imagine. Is there any help that can be made available as I understand they are likely to continue their attendance in the next school year?</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>Mike.</p>	<p>provide a limited amount of funding to support the admission of Afghan children in the 2021-22 financial year, no such funding has been forthcoming for the 2022-23 financial year.</p> <p>Essex, along with other local authorities has asked the question of the DfE as to whether there will be any more bespoke funding. The current position is that there is no confirmation of any further monies being provided.</p> <p>Accordingly, the usual per pupil funding based on the autumn term schools census will apply, as it would for any other school.</p> <p>In terms of any non-financial support that can be offered to the school, a member of our Specialist Education Services team will make contact with the Headteacher once schools return in September to discuss what may be possible.</p> <p>Kind regards, Tony - Cllr Tony Ball</p>
5 August 2022	16 August 2022	Cllr Chris Pond	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>Could the Cabinet Member kindly supply the consumption in kWh and cost to ECC of electricity for street lighting in each year since 2009, and the estimated cost, so far as is known and budgeted, for the same for future years? Could he kindly also supply the estimated savings of LED lighting over older forms?</p>	<p>Due to the way that the written questions responses are formatted, I cannot attach data tables to this response, but I will send a separate email that has tables showing usage, actual costs and the savings achieved via the phases of LED rollout and also a second table showing predicted usage and budgets for this year and a future year. You will appreciate that energy costs in the market have been increasing over the years, significantly so over the last year. Therefore it is not easy to predict future budgets and so this is just an estimate.</p>

					<p>I note that you have asked for information on this back to 2009. I have been able to provide the information back to 2017, however, earlier dates were reported on using a different reporting system and so the information is more difficult to locate, collate, and share. I hope that the details provided give you enough data to answer your query.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Lee</p>
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