

Date received	Date replied	Questioner	Responder	Question	Answer
13/09/2023	22/09/2023	Lee Scordis	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>What standards do we set for our contractors to repair pavement and roads and how are these enforced if the works are not completed to an acceptable standard?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. We have a range of KPIs that form part of our contractual arrangement with our delivery partner which include areas such as defects being repaired right first time. We hold regular meetings where the results of these KPI's are discussed.</p> <p>Any failures of repairs are repaired at no further cost to ECC. We also check and investigate any quality issues that are brought to our attention.</p> <p>Some of the major funded capital schemes delivered by Supply Chain Partners have some additional checks, in that we issue a completion certificate before final payment is agreed and made.</p> <p>Should you have specific examples of repairs that you believe to not be completed to an acceptable standard, please provide me with some information and we will investigate.</p>

24/09/2023	25/09/2023	Cllr Kerry Smith	Cllr Peter Schwier	<p>For the sake of six inches; would the cabinet member agree with me it is better to disregard six-inches of driveway so that someone can purchase an electric vehicle and be able to charge it? If so, would you use your portfolio to change the policy on driveway applications where only a few inches are in question if it were for the purchase of an electric vehicle?</p>	<p>Thank you for writing to me about Essex County Council policy on dropped kerbs.</p> <p>We have to take into account the needs of all users of footways and highways, and so have a robust policy in place that specifies a minimum depth of 5 metres space for a vehicle to park clear of the highway.</p> <p>The Essex Parking Standards were written by the Highways Authority in consultation with Local Planning Authorities, based on evidence that footways were being obstructed by poorly parked cars. One of the reasons for this is the depth of parking spaces. Our guidance clearly lays out that the minimum parking space should be 5 metres (depth in front of building) x 2.9 metres (width). We have not permitted any applications where the frontage is less than these requirements since the specifications came into place.</p> <p>We are very committed to exploring alternative charging options for residents who own or are looking to purchase EV vehicles, specifically those residents who do not have off street parking. We have a team within our Sustainable Travel</p>
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					<p>working on an EV strategy where The council's primary role will be to work with our local authority partners, lead by example and ensure best practice is applied to the roll out of publicly funded EV charge points. We will enable the delivery of infrastructure, mainly by others and sometimes directly, through guidance, policy, securing government funding and engaging with key public and private organisations. This strategy was out for public consultation between 15th June and 30th July, and we are in the process of collating the responses to see what our residents think of our proposed strategy.</p>
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14/09/2023	25/09/2023	Cllr Ross Playle	Cllr Lee Scott	<p>To ask the Cabinet Member for Highways to consider extending the DigiGo service to White Notley, thereby including it within the existing area which also covers Great Notley and Black Notley.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question around expanding the current DigiGo pilot to include White Notley.</p> <p>DigiGo is currently in its pilot phase until March 2024, using funds from the Department for Transport's Rural Mobility Fund. The pilot's aim is to improve access in rural and sub-urban areas and provide links to key services. During the pilot, we have been evaluating its progress, developing and improving it over time. We value constructive feedback and will bear it in mind when we consider other expansion areas post-pilot.</p> <p>White Notley is already on our list for consideration post the pilot phase, following a few requests from local residents. Should it be determined in the future that the service would expand into White Notley, I would be happy to arrange a meeting with you and the DigiGo team to better understand the potential demand and usage of the service in that location.</p> <p>I would also encourage you and local residents to respond to the Council's local bus consultation. The consultation includes a number of proposals to withdraw</p>
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					supported services in the Braintree/Chelmsford area, and expanding DigiGo in their place. This closes on the 5 October 2023.
12/08/2023	03/10/2023	Kerry Smith	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Can the Leader please confirm that the proposed parking charges that Thurrock Borough Council sort to impose on the Westley Heights car parks are not going to happen on land owned by Essex County Council?	Essex County Council remains of the position that no parking charges should be introduced on ECC owned land by other parties without our permission, including on those areas of Langdon Hills park that are in Basildon. Furthermore, we have no evidence to suggest that Thurrock has any such intention around parking charges.
07/09/2023	05/10/2023	Cllr Marie Goldman	Cllr Chris Whitbread	Please can you confirm whether all buildings owned or leased by Essex County Council have been inspected and assessed to check for RAAC, when those inspections last took place, what the outcome of those inspections was, and what, if any, mitigation plans the Council has in place to ensure the integrity of those buildings?	<p>Thank you for your question, and my apologies for the delay in responding.</p> <p>In 1999 ECC undertook a large mapping exercise to identify where RAAC existed across its estate and following this, surveys were undertaken to establish its condition. This survey primarily resulted in the identification of RAAC in a number of schools with only two non-school sites being identified.</p> <p>Maintained school sites:</p> <p>Works to address RAAC were then initiated, prioritised based on the condition information</p>

					<p>collected. These works involved either replacing the RAAC panels or installing a support system. Sites that had RAAC which was identified as being “poor” or “below average condition” were addressed as a priority and this work was completed by 2006.</p> <p>A rolling programme of monitoring surveys was put in place to manage any sites that had not been remediated. During this time some schools in Essex with identified RAAC became academies and the academy trust became the responsible body. The academy trust became the responsible body for school building maintenance.</p> <p>Remediation of RAAC assessed as being above average or good condition has continued on maintained school sites with the remaining sites currently being addressed.</p> <p>Non School sites:</p> <p>Due to the lack of non-school sites identified in the 1999 survey, and in light of the recent escalation of the risk associated with RAAC by the DfE, a review of the non schools estate was commissioned earlier this summer. The desktop stage of</p>
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					<p>this review has been completed, ruling out a large proportion of the non-schools estate. Those sites that could not be ruled out via this exercise are now being surveyed to determine the presence of RAAC. No new sites with RAAC have been found at this stage. Any sites identified will be managed accordingly.</p> <p>The two sites identified in the 1999 report were both libraries. Both of which have undergone remedial works to address the RAAC. One site had a full RAAC replacement so currently has no known RAAC. The other, Hatfield Peverel Library, had mitigations in place, however following surveys over the summer and further guidance on RAAC by the Department for Education, made the decision to temporarily close the site as a precaution while further surveys are conducted. We announced this closure online <a href="https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/temporary-closure-hatfield-peverel-library">https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/temporary-closure-hatfield-peverel-library</a></p>
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04/10/2023	09/10/2023	Stephen Robinson	Cllr Kevin Bentley	<p>In the light of this article <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/01/home-office-centre-for-disabled-asylum-seekers-care-home">https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/01/home-office-centre-for-disabled-asylum-seekers-care-home</a> will the Leader support Tendring DC in getting confirmation from the Home Office of funds for the residents of the site so they can secure the services of <a href="http://www.rama.org.uk">www.rama.org.uk</a> to continue their support and pay for urgent medical equipment?</p> <p>What services can the ECC provide to assist these vulnerable residents?</p>	<p>RAMA are an important organisation who do valuable work advocating on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers, and we are very happy to work with them to ensure people arriving from overseas are adequately supported. The Home Office has previously provided funding to the district council for this facility, at the level they do for all contingency sites, though it was based upon fewer numbers than are occupying the facility today.</p> <p>It is clear that the residents have a higher level of health and care needs than has been experienced in other contingency sites, and ECC is commissioning care for those residents who need it. However neither ECC nor the local health services have been provided with any funding to do this, which we are in ongoing dialogue with the Home Office about. I would be happy to join the local council and RAMA in campaigning for appropriate support, funding, conditions and facilities on the site, at the level the people living there deserve.</p>
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13/10/2023	20/10/2023	Aidan McGurran	Cllr Tom Cunningham	<p>Like many other members I receive a significant number of complaints about street lights which have not been working for some time. It seems many of these are due to cabling issues. Could the Cabinet member provide figures for how many of the county's street lights are presently not functioning because of cable issues and what the average time is to repair street lights with cable issues.</p>	<p>The LED upgrade has been substantially completed in the Basildon/Pitsea areas, but we know that there are cable faults in the district that need addressing before the full benefits can be seen.</p> <p>We currently have 490 units recorded as not working due to cable issues across Essex. We do not record the average time to repair lights with cable issues.</p> <p>We exclude the A127, A13 and A130 from these figures, we know that there are problems on these roads, but these faults are recorded as units that don't communicate on the system. All faults default to units that don't communicate on the system until we visit and make a further assessment and reclassify. The repairs times vary depending on who owns the cables.</p>
13/10/2023	03/11/2023	Aidan McGurran	Cllr Louise McKinlay	<p>Could the Deputy Leader give a breakdown of how much of the Local Community Fund (members scheme) was allocated for the year 2022/23. As well as the total figure allocated of the £375,000 that was available - it would also be useful to know how many councillors did not apply for funds and how many only applied for part of the £5,000 available to each councillor. Just to be clear I am asking for details of those that were</p>	<p>Information relating to last year's Locality Fund, in which individual councillors make recommendations for funding, can be found at the link I have sent you today by email. This includes the 'Locality Fund Report 2022 to 2023' which can be sorted by Councillor surname. It should be noted that Councillors were able to roll forward any unspent</p>

				significantly short of the £5,000 available not just a few pounds because the projects applied for didn't quite tally to the whole £5,000.	funding from 2021-22 and allocate this in the 2022-23 funding year.
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