

Cabinet Agenda



12 September 2023 at 7pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Chelmsford

Membership

Councillor S J Robinson (Chair and Leader)
Councillor M C Goldman (Connected Chelmsford
and Deputy Leader)

and Councillors

Councillor N Dudley (Active Chelmsford)
Councillor L Foster (Fairer Chelmsford)
Councillor I Fuller (Growing Chelmsford)
Councillor R Moore (Greener and Safer Chelmsford)

Local people are welcome to attend this meeting remotely, where your elected Councillors take decisions affecting YOU and your City.

There is also an opportunity to ask your Councillors questions or make a statement. These have to be submitted in advance and details are on the agenda page. If you would like to find out more, please telephone Dan Sharma-Bird in the Democracy Team on Chelmsford (01245) 606523 email dan.sharma-bird@chelmsford.gov.uk

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THE CABINET

12 September 2023

AGENDA

PART 1 – Items to be considered when the public are likely to be present

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

All Members must disclose any interests they know they have in items of business on the meeting's agenda and that they must do so at this point on the agenda or as soon as they become aware of the interest. If the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they are also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting.

3. Minutes and Decisions Called in

Minutes of meeting on 6 July 2023. No decisions at that meeting were called in.

4. Public Questions

Any member of the public may ask a question or make a statement at this point in the meeting. Each person has two minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes is allotted to public questions/statements, which must be about matters for which the Cabinet is responsible. The Chair may disallow a question if it is offensive, substantially the same as another question or requires disclosure of exempt or confidential information. If the question cannot be answered at the meeting a written response will be provided after the meeting.

Any member of the public who wishes to submit a question or statement to this meeting should email it to committees@chelmsford.gov.uk at least 24 hours before the start time of the meeting. All valid questions and statements will be published with the agenda on the website at least six hours before the start time and will be responded to at the meeting. Those who have submitted a valid question or statement will be entitled to put it in person at the meeting.

5. Members' Questions

To receive any questions or statements from councillors not members of the Cabinet on matters for which the Cabinet is responsible.

6. Fairer Chelmsford Item

6.1 Proposed Amendment to Housing Allocations Policy

7. Greener and Safer Chelmsford Items

7.1 Hylands Park – Public Spaces Protection Order

7.2 Food Plan

7.3 Environmental Crime Fixed Penalty Notice Level of Fine

8. Growing Chelmsford Item

8.1 North Essex Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan

9. Urgent Business

To consider any other matter which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency and which does not constitute a key decision.

10. Reports to Council

The officers will advise on those decisions of the Cabinet which must be the subject of recommendation to the Council.

MINUTES OF CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL CABINET

on 6 July 2023 at 7pm

Present:

Cabinet Members

Councillor S Robinson, Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor N Dudley, Cabinet Member for Active Chelmsford
Councillor M Goldman, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Connected Chelmsford
Councillor L Foster, Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford
Councillor I Fuller, Cabinet Member for Growing Chelmsford
Councillor R Moore, Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford

Opposition Spokespersons

Councillors J Jeapes, J Raven, M Steel, S Sullivan, A, Thorpe-Apps, P Wilson and R Whitehead

Also present: Councillors H Clark, C Davidson, J Hawkins, R Hyland, B Massey, V Pappa and A Sosin

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eley and S Goldman.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members of the Cabinet were reminded to declare at the appropriate time any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any of the items of business on the meeting's agenda.

3. Minutes and Decisions Called-in

The minutes of the meeting on 14 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. No decisions at that meeting had been called in.

4. Public Questions

No public questions were asked at the meeting.

5. Members' Questions

One question was asked by Councillor Steel at this point of the meeting, other questions were asked by Councillors under the relevant items. Councillor Steel asked about the second consultation from National Grid about the Norwich to Tilbury Powerline. Councillor Steel stated that on the last round, the Council missed the response deadline, despite other Council's managing to meet it and asked if the latest deadline could be met. In response to the question, the Leader of the Council stated that previously, they had wanted to ensure that all members could express their view and therefore the matter had gone to the Policy Board. The Cabinet heard that the Council opposed the plans along with many others and that the latest proposals had not really changed. It was noted that the Council would aim to respond during the consultation period.

6.1 Hylands Park – Public Spaces Protection Order (Greener and Safer Chelmsford)

Declarations of interest:

None.

Summary:

The Cabinet considered a report asking them whether to commence consultation on a Public Places Protection Order for Hylands Park. It was noted that this would restrict areas where dogs were allowed, where dogs are allowed off the lead and restrict the number of dogs that could be walked by an individual. It was noted that this is intended to help provide a safe environment for all park users. The Cabinet heard that there had sadly been a local and national increase in the number of dog attacks, with 33 reported in Chelmsford last year. It was noted that this was just the first part of the process and comments would be welcomed during the consultation period if agreed by the Cabinet. If any objections were received then they would be considered at the September Cabinet meeting, before a final decision.

Options:

1. To consult on the making of the Public Spaces Protection Order
2. To consult on the making of the Public Spaces Protection Order with amendments
3. Not to proceed with the making of the Public Spaces Protection Order

Preferred option and reasons:

To consult on the making of the Public Spaces Protection Order and to hear any objections to it at a future Cabinet meeting. This would allow the public their opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Discussion:

In response to points raised, the Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford stated that the number of four as a maximum for professional dog walkers was a recommendation from the RSPCA. It was also noted that if approved, enforcement would be key and to begin

this would take the form of advice, with literature being circulated and available in the park, alongside a communications plan. The Cabinet also heard that one dog attack was too many and that data may indicate the requirement for similar proposals in other areas.

RESOLVED that;

1. the Director of Public Places be authorised to consult on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order.
2. If following the consultation, no objections are received the Director of Public Places be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford, to make the Public Spaces Protection Order.

(7.04pm to 7.15pm)

7.1 Treasury Outturn Paper (Leader)

Declarations of interest:

None.

Summary:

The report to the meeting detailed the findings of the annual review of the Council's Treasury Management function and the rates of return on investments in 2022/23. It was noted that the report had come from the Treasury Management and Investment Sub Committee and would then go on to Full Council.

Options:

The report was factual and no options were presented.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Outturn report for 2022/23 be noted and that the Council be recommended to endorse it.

(7.16pm to 7.18pm)

7.2 Capital Programme Update and Provisions Outturn 2022/23 (Leader)

Declarations of interest:

None.

Summary:

The report to the meeting detailed capital expenditure incurred in 2022/23 and the resources used to finance it; set out variations to approved capital schemes and the Asset Replacement Programme; and presented a budget for asset replacements in 2023/24.

Options:

Approve or revise the proposals for the replacement of assets in 2023/24.

Preferred option and reasons:

The capital programme and the amendments to it ensured that services would be able to proceed with the capital schemes and replacements required to continue to deliver services.

Discussion:

The Leader of the Council stated that the Capital Programme highlighted how the Council could continue making a difference to the City, in areas such as supporting businesses, the High Street, Theatre along with investments to prevent homelessness.

In response to a question on the £13m of grant money, officers confirmed that this had been spent and a report on the bridge element of the Waterside scheme would be provided at the July Full Council meeting. A further question queried whether the Beaulieu Railway Station and North East bypass projects remained on schedule and budget. The Leader of the Council stated that both projects were Essex County Council led and their negotiations continued with Homes England. In response to another question, it was noted that some tree planting costs came under capital and some under revenue and at the end of the year costs were moved between the two if required.

RESOLVED that the following be approved;

1. the latest proposed budgets for the Capital Schemes a net increase of **£183k** from £123.876 to £124.059m shown in **Appendix 1** and detailed in **paragraph 3.1** which includes;
 - a. the cost of the increased schemes £495k
 - b. the net reduction in the outturn of the completed schemes, -£257k
 - c. the budget removed as the spend was transferred to revenue, -£55k

2. Approve the proposed Asset Replacement Programme for 2023/24 a net increase of £222k from £5.013m to £5.235m shown in **Appendix 4** and detailed in **paragraph 4.2** which includes;
 - a. the rephasing of spend from 2022/23 £176k and
 - b. increases in budgets £46k.

RECOMMENDED to the Council that it:

1. approves the method of funding the capital expenditure incurred in 2022/23, as set out in the table in **paragraph 5** and as recommended by the S151 Officer to be the most cost effective;
2. note that changes to the budgets for the Chelmer Waterside Infrastructure project are not contained in this capital update report but dealt with in a separate report to be taken to July Council;
3. notes the proposed budget for the Capital Schemes, £124.059m and the risks associated with those budgets;
4. note the Asset Replacement Programme for 2023/24, £5.235m

(7.19pm to 7.26pm)

7.3 Budget Framework – Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/45 (Leader)

Declarations of interest:

None.

Summary:

The Cabinet received a report providing them with a framework to manage the Council's 2024/25 budget and to update the financial strategy.

Options:

1. Agree to the Budget Framework Medium-Term Financial Strategy, or
2. Propose other amendments to the Framework

Preferred option and reasons:

Approve the framework as it enables a flexible response to the risks the Council faces.

Discussion:

The Leader of the Council highlighted the continued inflationary pressures facing everyone and stated that normally at this point the full Medium Term Financial Strategy would be presented. The Cabinet heard that due to the amount of uncertainty, it had been decided to split it into two documents. Therefore the Cabinet had before it a short broad framework, to detail how the process to set a balance budget in February 2024 would start alongside a more detailed report to the Autumn Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet heard that there was a shortfall for all Council's, despite some good news recently regarding lower energy costs.

RESOLVED that the following be approved;

- 1) The carry forward of budgets of £146k from 2022/23 for audit costs and initiatives which were delayed, as detailed in Appendix 4.
- 2) That a financial forecast of both revenue and capital is to be reported to Cabinet in the Autumn as part of the process to produce a balanced 2024/25 budget.

RECOMMENDED to the Council that it:

- 1) approve the Actions in Appendix 3 as the basis of financial management
- 2) Council notes Financial Risks and Potential Upsides (Appendix 1)
- 3) approve the approach to reserves in Appendix 2 of the report
- 4) approve the budget guidelines in Appendix 4

(7.27pm to 7.29pm)

7.4 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution (Leader)

Declarations of interest:

None.

Summary:

The Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Constitutional Working Group arising from its reviews of the City Council's Constitution.

Options:

To either accept or reject the recommendations being made by the Constitutional Working Group and the Governance Committee to the Council.

Preferred option and reasons:

To recommend the proposed changes to the constitution for the reasons set out in the report and appendices.

RECOMMENDED to Council that it approve the amendments to the Constitution detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

(7.30pm to 7.31pm)

8. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

9. Reports to Council

RESOLVED that Items 7.1,7.2,7.3 & 7.4 be the subject of reports to the Council.

Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for item 10 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A to the Act (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information).

10. Proposed Land Purchase (Fairer Chelmsford)

Public interest statement: It is not in the public interest to release details of this report at present, on the grounds that the report contains information that is commercially sensitive and to place the information in the public realm will be detrimental to the negotiations to be.

Declarations of Interest:

None

Summary:

The Cabinet was requested to approve the purchase of a property on the terms outlined in the report. The report set out the proposed purchase and detailed the opportunity it provided the City Council to secure the property as a community asset in perpetuity.

Options:

Proceed or not proceed with the purchase

Preferred option and reasons

To proceed with the purchase which would secure the property as a community asset in perpetuity.

RESOLVED that approval be delegated to the Director of Public Places to conclude negotiations and acquire the property.

(7.31pm to 7.44pm)

The meeting closed at 7.44pm

Chair



Chelmsford City Council Cabinet

12th September 2023

Proposed Amendment to Housing Allocations Policy

Report by: Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford

Officer Contact: Paul Gayler, Strategic Housing Services Manager
Email paul.gayler@chelmsford.gov.uk Telephone 01245 606375

Purpose

To seek approval for an amendment to the Council's policy for the allocation of homes from the Housing Register for those wanting to downsize to a smaller home.

Options

- 1) Amend the existing policy to allow applicants in three- and four-bedroom homes to be considered for general needs homes with two as well as one-bedroom homes
- 2) Amend the existing policy to allow applicants to apply for any home smaller than their existing home
- 3) Await the decision of the Gateway to Homechoice Board to see if the Council can join this consortium which would then create this change in policy

Preferred option and reasons

Option 1) is the preferred option as it would be the quickest to implement and would retain the largest affordable homes for those families to whom the Council is struggling to meet our legal duties to, those that are homeless and living in temporary accommodation.

Recommendations

Option 1) is approved and implemented as soon as possible and that this is monitored with a report to this Cabinet in 12 months reporting on its effectiveness and impact on the housing options of others.

The wording of the policy would be changed to:

The applicant is a tenant of a registered provider within Chelmsford and is giving up a two-bedroom general needs property to move to a one bedroom property, or giving up a three or four bedroom general needs property to move to a one or two bedroom property.

1. Background

- 1.1 The majority of the supply of affordable rented homes should always be from the re-letting or 'churn' of the existing stock. In common with many other areas we have seen this churn reduce over the last 20 years, in 2022/23 148 of the 351 homes that were let were new-build. It is not sustainable to rely on such a large proportion of new homes nor is the number of re-lets adequate to meet current and future levels of need.
- 1.2 Whether new-build or re-lets, it is not just the number of lettings but the size of the homes that is critical. The supply of homes must reflect the need in terms of size as well as tenure if the Council is to be able to meet its legal duties to those who are homeless. The table below shows the current imbalance between the supply of smaller one- and two-bedroom homes and larger 3- and 4-bedroom homes

House size	Number in temporary accommodation March 2021	Number in temporary accommodation March 2023	Lettings 2022/23
1-bed	100	137	141
2-bed	70	111	147
3-bed	51	94	61
4-bed	22	55	2
Total	243	397	351

- 1.3 As shown in the table above, despite the rising number the number of lettings for one- and two-bedroom homes still exceeds the number of households in temporary accommodation, indicating there is some capacity to meet the additional demand from applicants who want to downsize. The supply of three-

bed homes is now less than households in temporary accommodation and the supply of four-bedroom homes is far from adequate.

- 1.4 This shortfall in the supply of larger homes not only creates a backlog in the need of homeless families who have to wait for years in temporary accommodation, it also means there are very few opportunities to resolve problems of overcrowding and in the worst cases these are now reaching the highest levels of priority above those who have become homeless. The inability to resolve overcrowding means that the supply from the existing stock is reduced even more, compounding the shortfall in supply.
- 1.5 The Council's Housing Strategy seeks to increase the supply of new three- and four-bedroom homes but the preparation of sites and the construction of new homes takes time. The significant gap between the need and supply of these larger homes could be reduced by allowing those under-occupying larger affordable homes to downsize into smaller ones and amending the current policy to allow movement to homes with two as well as one bedrooms would give more choice. This could then create an additional supply of larger homes, supplementing the planned supply.
- 1.6 Research by the Smith Institute suggests that developing a chain-lettings approach, adopting a strategic approach to use allocation policies to stimulate supply from the housing stock as well as meeting immediate need, could deliver between 50% to 150% improvement in the number of households housed from the supply of new homes. Linking this to the housing need and aspirations of older tenants creates the greatest potential.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 It is not possible to provide a precise indication of the improvement of supply that would result from the proposed change to policy but it is obvious that more people would be interested in downsizing to a larger property as these would include houses as well as flats, provide space for family and carers to stay, and reduce the impact of moving to a smaller home.
- 2.2 Registered Providers have been consulted in accordance with the Council's legal duties under the Housing Act, a list of those consulted and their response is provided in the Appendix to this report.
- 2.3 If agreed, all existing applicants would have their applications amended to allow for them to apply for two- as well as one-bedroom homes. We would then work with Registered Providers to promote this change to policy to all other tenants of larger homes as many will not have applied to the housing register if currently restricted to a one-bed home.
- 2.4 Monitoring will be put in place with CHP in particular as the largest Registered Provider in Chelmsford to track increase in demand for downsizing over the

next 12 months, the net increase in supply of homes as a result of anyone who does downsize and any negative impact this has on those the Council has a legal duty to prioritise especially those who are homeless and in temporary accommodation.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Consultation with Registered Providers

Background papers:

Housing Allocations and the Vacancy Chain – The Smith Institute 2022

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: The Council has complied with its legal requirements for any proposed change to its allocation policy by consulting with Registered Providers. Ensuring an adequate supply of affordable homes is essential to the Council's ability to meet its other legal duties as a local housing authority.

Financial: There are no direct cost implications in changing the policy. Improving supply should reduce the rising need and cost of temporary accommodation especially for those needing larger affordable homes.

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: none

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: none

Personnel: there is adequate capacity to implement the proposed change and work with Registered Providers to promote and monitor its implementation and impact.

Risk Management: lack of affordable housing suitable to meet the most urgent housing need is a high corporate risk, as is the rising need for temporary accommodation and the impact this is having on applicants and staff.

Equality and Diversity: an improved supply and opportunity for housing will benefit those with protected characteristics such as disability and age.

Health and Safety: none

Other: none

Consultees: Registered Providers with housing stock in Chelmsford

Relevant Policies and Strategies: Chelmsford City Council Housing and Homelessness Strategies

Registered Providers consulted on proposed amendment to allocations policy

Organisation	Comment
CHP	Welcome proposal, very supportive and would like to work closely with the Council to identify those under-occupying larger homes who may be interested in downsizing communicating change which may encourage more movement within the existing housing stock.
Clarion	No comment
Sanctuary	Would like Registered Providers to retain the final decision as to whether nominations made by the Council comply with their policies, concerned that change could create more work.
Swan Housing	No comment
Eastlight Housing	Already working to similar policy in other areas
Habinteg	Support proposals
Sage	No comment
Moat	No comment
Hastoe	Support proposal and do not see any problems.
Cottman	No comment
English Rural	No comment
Guinness	No comment
Home Group	Do not see a problem
London and Quadrant	No comment
Notting Hill Genesis	No comment
Origin Housing	No comment
Legal and General	Acknowledged receipt but no further comment



Chelmsford City Council Cabinet

12th September 2023

HYLANDS PARK – PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Report by:

Cabinet Member for a Greener and Safer Chelmsford

Officer Contact:

Paul Brookes, Public Health and Protection Services Manager

01245 6096436, paul.brookes@chelmsford.gov.uk

Purpose

Following a public consultation to consider a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) restricting areas of Hylands Park where dogs are allowed, where dogs are allowed off the lead, and restricting the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual, thereby providing a safe environment for all park users.

Options

1. To make the Public Spaces Protection Order as presented
2. To make the Public Spaces Protection Order with amendments
3. Not to proceed with the making of the Public Spaces Protection Order

Recommendations

1. The Director of Public Places be authorised to make the Public Spaces Protection Order as presented.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 6th July 2023 Cabinet agreed to consult on a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) restricting areas of Hylands Park where dogs are allowed, where dogs are allowed off the lead, and restricting the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual, thereby providing a safe environment for all park users. The consultation ran from 13th July 2023 until 11th August 2023. Within this report there is some duplication of the 6th July 2023 report as the information is required for Cabinet to properly determine whether or not to make the PSPO.
- 1.2 This report considers the need for the PSPO taking into account the responses received during the public consultation.
- 1.3 The proposal to introduce a PSPO (appendix 1) is to help provide a safe environment for all users of the park whilst accommodating all activities currently taking place.
- 1.4 The PSPO will not apply to assistance dogs as defined by the Equality Act 2010. Whilst the majority of assistance dogs will have been trained by Assistance Dogs UK, Chelmsford City Council recognises that assistance dogs can be trained by other organisations or by individuals.

2. Public Spaces Protection Orders

- 2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a variety of powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour including Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO).
- 2.2 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order can be used to deal with likely future problems.
- 2.3 A local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:
 - That activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect, and
 - that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

- 2.4 A PSPO lasts for 3 years, but at any point before it expires the PSPO can be extended for a further 3 years. A PSPO can be varied at any point, variations are most likely to be made to close any legal loopholes which offenders may be exploiting to avoid enforcement action, or the PSPO is having unintended or unforeseen consequences.
- 2.5 The penalty for breaching a PSPO is a £100 fixed penalty notice or prosecution in the Magistrates Court, although in line with good practice informal and formal warnings will also be used when enforcing the PSPO. Government has recently consulted on whether the fixed penalty notice for breaching a PSPO should be increased to £500 although no announcement has been made on this increase being introduced.
- 2.6 Whilst some of the issues proposed to be controlled by the PSPO can already be controlled through existing legislation, control by the PSPO is clearer and more effective, and closes some loopholes that make enforcement of existing legislation ineffective.

3. Rationale for PSPO

- 3.1 Complaints to the Council about dog-on-dog attacks or dog on human attacks have increased year on year, the latest figures up until 1st July 2023 were 78 complaints, an increase of 36% on the previous year. National police data shows a 34% rise over the last 5 years of dog attack causing injury.
- 3.2 Whilst the Council's data shows that the complaints are not focused on any one location Hylands Park is being considered for the PSPO for two main reasons, firstly, the risk to small children is significant due to the park being heavily used during nice weather for family picnics with the park allowing children to be under less parental supervision as the risk from hazards from nearby roads, cycle paths, and water features are less in Hylands especially in the 'bowl' area between the fort play area and Hylands house. These hazards which are more prevalent in other parks, particularly Central Park are also why dogs will tend to be kept on the lead more in other parks. Secondly, Hylands, due to its size, allows for restrictions to be introduced without disadvantaging any section of the public. Approximately 85% of Hylands would still be available for people to walk their dog off the lead.
- 3.3 Hylands Park needs to balance the competing needs of all members of the public that use the park for various activities and events. Whilst for the majority of time there is no conflict unfortunately there have been times where members of the public are subject to alarm, distress and sometimes injuries from dogs not being under control. The park is particularly popular for organised pack walks for both breed specific and general breeds, these walks tend to be off lead walks and can result in a number of dogs acting aggressively.
- 3.4 It is recognised that many dog walkers like to walk their dog off the lead and Hylands Park provides an ideal opportunity to do so, however, walking a dog

off the lead if not under full control of the owner can cause alarm and distress even if the dog is not dangerous. For people scared or nervous around dogs the often heard phrase “don’t worry they won’t hurt” doesn’t provide much reassurance.

- 3.5 The proposed PSPO will allow people who are nervous around dogs, or nervous when dogs are around their children, and those dog walkers who wish to keep their dog on the lead to walk within the park with confidence that they can enjoy the park without the risk of being subject to aggressive behaviour from dogs not under control. The PSPO also allows dog walkers plenty of space to walk their dog off the lead if they prefer.
- 3.6 Limiting the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual is aimed at professional dog walkers. Keeping a large number of dogs under control is difficult and it does lead to an increase in dog fouling as the dog walker is unable to watch all the dogs at the same time. Restricting the number of dogs that can be walked at one time to 4 or below should not impact on members of the public but will help mitigate issues caused by professional dog walkers. The RSPCA recommends that no more than four dogs are walked at any one time [RSPCA Professional Dog Walkers' Guidelines](#).
- 3.7 Prohibiting dogs from small areas of the park is mainly replicating existing by-laws that are difficult to enforce and are in place to protect children whilst playing in the play area, preventing accidents in the car park, protecting livestock, and preventing conflict around Hylands House.

4. Public Spaces Protection Order

- 4.1 The proposed PSPO is attached at Appendix 1. The PSPO prohibits:
 - Dogs being off the lead in the orange hatched areas shown on the map in appendix 2
 - Dogs being off the lead after 9.00am in the black hatched area shown on the map in appendix 2
 - Dogs being within the red blocked areas shown on the map in appendix 2
 - An individual walking 5 or more dogs at one time
- 4.2 The areas to be covered by the PSPO in respect of dogs being off the lead
 - All car parks within Hylands Park
 - Access route from Widford Church
 - The lake
 - The area between the fort play area and the Hylands House car park
- 4.3 The areas to be covered by the PSPO are Hylands Park and in respect of dogs not being permitted in the area
 - The fort play area
 - The fenced area for grazing cattle
 - Area immediately around Hylands House

- The walled garden
- Hylands House, pavilion and courtyard

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The consultation ran from 13th July 2023 until 11th August 2023.
- 5.2 Consultation was carried out as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The consultation was advertised on the Council's website from 13th July 2023 to 11th August 2023. The following consultees were written to; Essex Police, Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council's Parks and Green Spaces, and Writtle Parish Council. An extension was provided to Writtle Parish Council to accommodate their meeting dates.
- 5.3 231 consultation responses were received from the public 37% were in favour of the PSPO, 60% were against the making of the PSPO, and 3% expressed views for and against, or no view. All consultation responses from members of the public are attached at Appendix 3, the numbering of the responses relates to the order in which they were received. The responses have been anonymised. Responses on behalf of an organisation are attached at Appendix 4 .
- 5.4 Whilst the majority of responses are against the PSPO a significant proportion are supportive of the restrictions. A proportion of the responses against the PSPO are due to dog walkers being inconvenienced due to their usual dog walk being affected by an area that would require their dog to be on a lead, or appear to be under the misconception that walking with dogs is being prohibited. The PSPO is not preventing dogs being walked, owners can either walk their dogs on the lead or choose to use the 85% of the park that will have no restrictions in place. It is important to note that the PSPO does not introduce any new areas where dogs are prohibited, dogs are already prohibited from these areas.
- 5.5 Many responses question whether the PSPO should only apply at certain times of the day and/or at certain times of the year. The reason for the PSPO existing all year round is although the risk is greater during the spring and summertime there is still a significant risk during autumn and winter when families are still using the park but in a different way. Taking into account the consultation responses it is proposed to allow dogs off the lead in the area between the fort play area and Hylands House (black hatched area of the map attached at Appendix 2) up until 9.00am each day.
- 5.6 In response to some of the consultation responses the map has been amended to show more clearly that the area around the fenced off area for grazing cattle near to Widford Church is not affected by the PSPO, except for the Northern edge which requires dogs to be kept on leads.
- 5.7 Some responses , particularly from professional dog walkers, object to the limit of no more than 4 dogs being walked by an individual. The limit of 4 is in accordance with the RSPCA's advice for professional dog walkers, and whilst

the Kennel Club refer to Government guidance of 6 dogs, this is a maximum for any situation and the Council believes Hylands Park, as a well used shared public park, justifies the use of the lower number as recommended by the RSPCA.

- 5.8 Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner are in favour of the PSPO.

6. Enforcement

- 6.1 A number of responses ask how the PSPO will be enforced. If approved there will be a period of time before the PSPO is enacted to provide time for appropriate signage to be displayed. Once the PSPO is enacted there will be approximately 8 weeks where enforcement is advisory unless there is failure to follow advice provided or an individual repeatedly breaches the order. The majority of enforcement will be intelligence led although a significant number of proactive patrols will take place particularly during busy periods.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 There have been numerous complaints about dogs being dangerously out of control, and numerous incidents of dog-on-dog attacks, normally where one dog is off the lead. Whilst the incidents are not location specific Hylands Park presents a significant risk due to the number of visitors and mix of families and dog walkers.
- 7.2 The proposed Public Spaces Protection Order enables everybody to enjoy the park in the manner they wish to. Introducing areas where dogs must be on the lead enables other park users not to be at risk from out of control dogs and providing areas where dogs can be off the lead ensures no group is discriminated against.
- 7.3 Limiting the number of dogs an individual can walk at one time will assist in managing issues caused by professional dog walkers when they are walking more dogs than they can control and manage.
- 7.4 There was an excellent response to the consultation with 231 responses. The consultation responses covered a range of views both for and against the PSPO. It is important to note that the PSPO is not preventing dogs being walked, owners can either walk their dogs on the lead or choose to use the 85% of the park that will have no restrictions in place.
- 7.5 Whilst there are currently no plans to introduce similar restrictions in other parks or public areas this will be kept under review.

List of appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Public Spaces Protection Order
- Appendix 2 – Map showing restricted areas
- Appendix 3 – Consultation Responses (Public)
- Appendix 4 – Consultation Responses (Organisations)

Background papers:

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
[PSPO Cabinet Report 6th July 2023](#)

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: None
Financial: None
Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None
Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None
Personnel: None
Risk Management: None
Equality and Diversity: Impact assessment not required
Health and Safety: None
Digital: None
Other: None

Consultees: Detailed in the report

Relevant Policies and Strategy:

Chelmsford City Council

Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order - Hylands Park 2023

Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act') - Section 59

NOTICE is hereby given that Chelmsford City Council ('the Council') is proposing to make a Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO') which will apply to the public places ('the restricted area') hatched in orange, hatched in black and blocked in red on the plan attached at Schedule to the Order, which comprises of land within **Hylands Park**.

Under section 74(1) of the 2014 Act 'public place' means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

The effect of this PSPO, if made, will be **to prohibit** within the restricted area the following activities:

- Within the orange hatched areas walking a dog off the lead
- Within the black hatched area walking a dog off the lead after 09.00am each day
- A dog(s) being within the red blocked areas
- Within Hylands Park an individual walking 5 or more dogs

Assistance dogs as defined by the Equality Act 2010 are exempt from any restrictions within this PSPO.

"assistance dog" means—

- (a) a dog which has been trained to guide a blind person;*
- (b) a dog which has been trained to assist a deaf person;*
- (c) a dog which has been trained by a prescribed charity to assist a disabled person who has a disability that consists of epilepsy or otherwise affects the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects;*
- (d) a dog of a prescribed category which has been trained to assist a disabled person who has a disability (other than one falling within paragraph (c)) of a prescribed kind;*

It is proposed that the PSPO (if made) would have effect for a period of 3 years from the date of making. The duration of the PSPO could be extended for a further period (not exceeding 3 years) in certain cases.

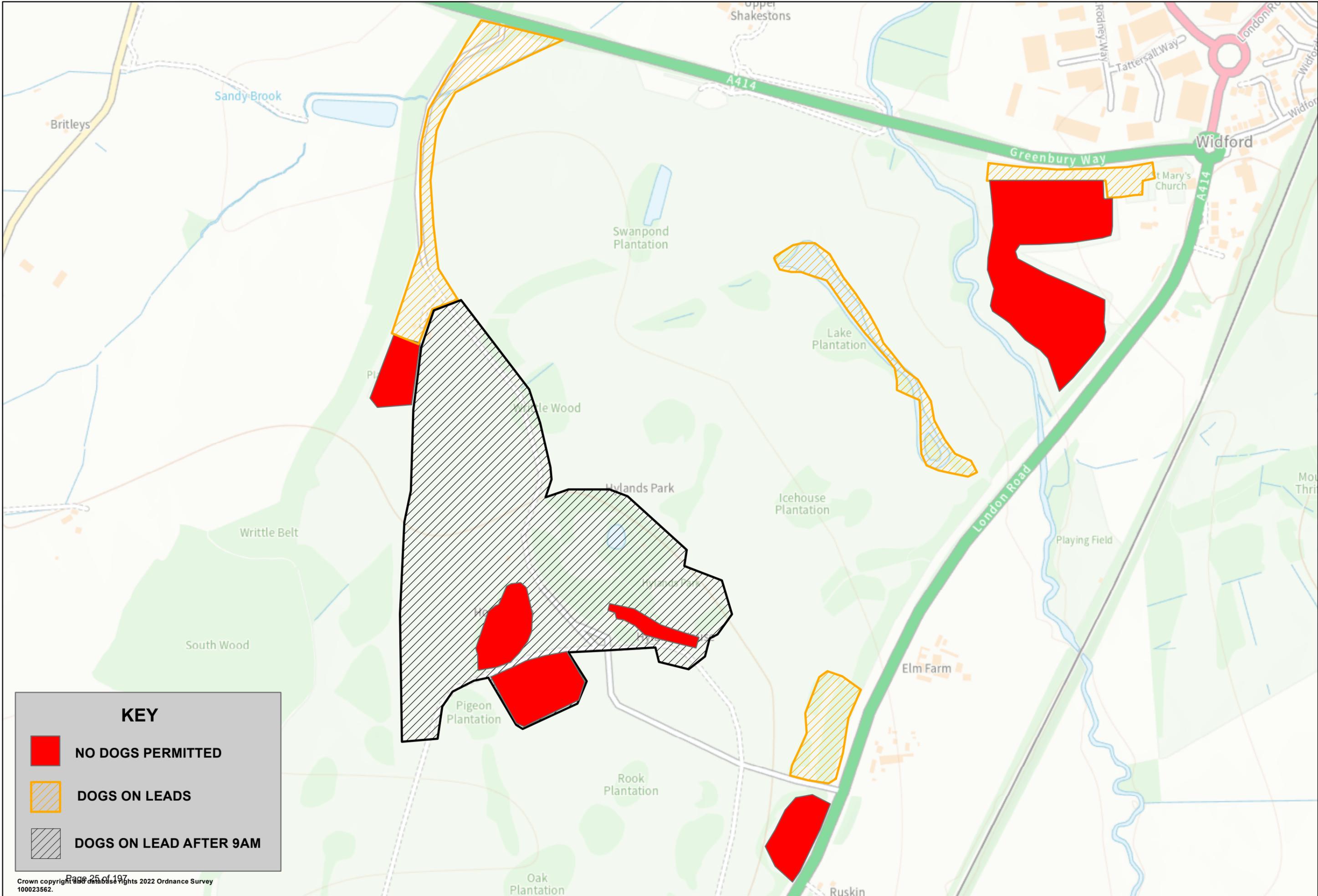
Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with the prohibitions and requirements imposed by this PSPO (if made) is a summary criminal offence under section 67 of the 2014 Act. A person guilty of an offence under section 67 of the 2014 Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000).

A constable or authorised person may under section 68 of the 2014 Act issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence under sections 63 or 67 of the 2014 Act in relation to this PSPO.

Signed.....
Director of Public Places on behalf of Chelmsford City Council

Chelmsford City Council
Civic Centre
Duke Street
Chelmsford CM1 1JE

Dated



KEY

-  **NO DOGS PERMITTED**
-  **DOGS ON LEADS**
-  **DOGS ON LEAD AFTER 9AM**

Number	Support the PSPO?	Comments
1	N	I walk my dog regularly over hylands and I am unsure which areas are ok for walking of lead as the map is not all that clear We are also being penalised by having to pay for parking
2	N	It's very restricting for dog walkers, you have allocated a massive area where dogs wont be able to run free off the lead. This is very unfair to the majority of safe dogs and responsible dog owners who use the park daily.
3	Y	The areas as designated (no dogs; on lead; off lead) seem to me to be reasonable .
4	Y	It still leaves plenty of space and areas available for dog walkers. As a young family and with a child with a visual impairment (can't see the small dogs and trailing leads) it makes it safer and a lot less stressful having to deal with inconsiderate dog walkers. They still allow their dogs to access areas off a lead, with terrible recall, where there are current restrictions so hopefully this will help with that issue.
5	N	Absolute ridiculous proposal, dogs walking should be allowed in all areas and not required on the lead. We pay so much council tax that we shouldn't have any restrictions over places open to the public.
6	Y	We are a family of 4 with two young children and we have stopped going to Hylands because we cannot enjoy it with the dogs running upto the children etc. One dog got quite nasty when we were having a picnic. I would support restrictions being introduced.
7	Y	I think it's a great idea. We have stopped coming to Hylands park, not because of the parking charges but because of the number of dogs which are not under control, the 'owners' seem to think they don't need to have any responsibility for their dogs actions once they are off lead. It would be lovely to have some space that dogs are kept out of, or at least need to be on leads, so we can also enjoy the space without being approached by dogs all the time. In fact I would like to see more than 15% of the park as dog free zones
8	Y	Seems like a totally reasonable request for people to walk their dogs with sensible precautions.
9	Y	I support the proposal as I think there are a lot of dog walkers now that don't, or can't, always control their dogs. People should be able to enjoy the park without having to keep an eye on other people's dogs. My only concern is enforcement. Putting up signs isn't really enough and it will lead to responsible dog owners who can control their dogs being forced out of these areas whilst irresponsible dog owners will ignore the signs and carry on as they are. I'd also like to see the scheme extended to the writtle belt.
10	Y	In theory this sounds like a good compromise for everyone. I have agreed end with dog walkers having more dogs than they can handle in public spaces. Also it will help separate off lead dogs with people who don't like dogs. Fully supportive.
11	N	Having certain areas will only mean that families with dogs will not be able to enjoy all parts of the park. Designated secure off lead area would be more beneficial.
12	N	It's such a shame.....we have been going to Hylands park with and without dog for over 30 years.

		<p>We have never had a problem with other people or dogs. The on lead area seems excessive and the free to roam is in areas where we don't often go.</p> <p>I strongly oppose these plans and this would severely restrict my visits...I have a season ticket for parking.</p>
13	N	<p>My friends and I visit Hylands to walk our dogs every week and have done so for the past nine years.</p> <p>We visit when it's quiet and first thing in the morning, with the parking charges and now this it is very restrictive.</p> <p>I understand when it's peak times school holidays and weekends, but to have these blanket restrictions just seems ridiculous.</p> <p>We support both coffee shops and like to visit Hylands as this is central for us as two ladies are front Chelmsford and two from Brentwood. Please consider those that visit at the quieter times and still support the businesses when making these dramatic decisions, or we will have no choice but to go elsewhere</p>
14	Y	<p>I am absolutely in favour of this proposal. As a child I had cynophobia so walking at Hylands would have been off limits to me. My children are very nervous of dogs they don't know and I take them to Hyde Hall to run around in open space because there are no dogs allowed. Not everyone likes dogs and I'm glad the council is considering this proposal because then those of us that don't want people's dogs bounding over to us can enjoy the park in peace.</p> <p>However. This is totally pointless if you don't enforce it. Dog owners are often quite happy to ignore restrictions on where they can walk their dogs so please employ a warden during certain hours and issue fines for repeat offenders.</p>
15	Y	<p>Hylands Park is a dog toilet, and anything that contains the problem is welcome.</p>
16	N	<p>Serious lack of thought for people and businesses</p>
17	Y	<p>It is in the best interests of all concerned</p>
18	Y/N	<p>I partly support the new proposal. As one of your regular dog walkers I understand the need for an area for people who don't like dogs. I have a sensible proposal listed below after some comments. Please read the proposal as quite a few people think it is a good idea.</p> <p>Your alleged reports of dog attacks do not seem to have any police or medical reports, therefore you can only consider them as alleged. How easy is it for a person to phone the Council and say they have been attacked with no evidence, and malice in their thoughts? How much of your evidence is based on facts that stand up in court?</p> <p>I suspect most of these problems occur at weekends when there seems to be the larger number of untrained dogs and mostly untrained humans. I often avoid Hylands at weekends because of them. Is your new dog warden going to be there at weekends as that is when they will be needed?</p> <p>Already many regular walkers are talking about going elsewhere. You forget that it is dog walkers keeping the cafes open and money in the car park during the autumn and winter months. Not families picnicking.</p> <p>A sensible proposal would be to follow the actions of intelligent Councils who have dog rules on beaches.</p> <p>Why not make it seasonal? Dogs on leads between May and September and even weekends. People only picnic in good weather.</p>

		<p>There isn't a single person on the proposed fields during autumn and winter. Only dog walkers and the boot camp at weekends.</p> <p>Many people think this is a good proposal and it will help keep your winter revenue</p>
19	N	<p>I strongly object to a council enforcing restrictions on well behaved dogs in need of vigorous exercise seemingly being punished for the few. We have to stop living in fear and motivate people to train their pets to be safe which is surely a better solution. This has the potential to only to deploy attacks to other areas. What happens when an attack is reported in an area where dogs are allowed off the lead ? Is this the beginning of the park being a completely dogs - on - leads 🐕</p> <p>There are approx 12 million dogs in the UK an increase since 2020. I acknowledge attacks rising are inevitable with so many new to owning a dog. What has the council done to educate people to speak dog? Dogs on leads are in protective mode of their walker and are more likely to be aggressive.</p> <p>Facing a dog head on is threatening to them and more likely for the dog to be defensive.</p> <p>Dogs not socialised may develop aggressive behaviour, dogs on leads kept apart may reinforce a dogs insecurity and aggressive behaviour. Walking as a pack, one out of control has the potential for all to be out of control with a pack mentality.</p> <p>Can I suggest this council works with a dog behaviour expert and runs an advertising campaign with advice and motivation for the owners to act, where to find advice and classes; educating children not to approach dogs without asking.</p> <p>If you know your dog has issues please use a muzzle.</p> <p>If the council receives news of an attack that incident needs to be properly investigated and the dog dealt with in an appropriate manner. Can you lobby government for better enforced training on rogue dogs ?</p> <p>We don't assume people are dangerous without cause, please don't do the same to dogs.</p>
20	N	<p>I understand the people and animals injured have been by dogs off leads so how will still allowing dogs off leads prevent this happening again? How will this hammer to crack a nut scheme be policed and what would be the cost to taxpayers of policing it?</p>
21	N	<p>I can completely understand having certain areas where dogs must be on leads e.g. around the house, stables and car park but it would be such a shame to restrict elsewhere just for the sake of a few. I go to Hylands park daily and absolutely love seeing all the dogs running around especially around serpentine lake. It would be such a shame to change that and I would probably discontinue my parking ticket and going to Hylands park if I was so restricted when walking my dog.</p>
22	N	<p>Has anyone surveyed how many dog walkers use Hylands park safely? I walk there most days.. where are these incidents? Really probably in the order of 0.001% of visits. Please fix the ruts and tractor tread marks on the upper field near South Woods before you spend money on blindingly obvious signage. That has hidden ruts from Creamfields, covered by long grass and dangerous for dogs and people. Isn't it obvious we won't let our dogs off on the few days a year there are picnics around.</p>

		<p>Are you seriously telling me I can't walk my little westie up the field from the Adventure Playground to the pleasure gardens on a wet day in Winter when the only people there are dog walkers???</p> <p>Dogs only sweat by panting and through their paws. On hot days they need access to water and will find it. You'll end up having to deal with dogs with heat stroke if they are banned from the lake.</p> <p>People never obey rules, so please how can you police this? All the reasonable and well behaved dogs and owners punished again for a few idiots.</p> <p>Have you taken into account at least half of the year, the cold and wet bit, you make parking charges and cafes are kept going by dog walkers. Mauros will struggle of their community of dog walkers find better places to go.</p>
23	N	<p>The woods surrounding Hylands are great to let dogs explore and stay shaded from the heat. There's also the streams that help them to cool down. This section of the woods looks to have been labelled as dog on lead (based on a visit to the park 14/07/23) this makes Hylands no longer a viable option for exercising a large dog.</p>
24	N	<p>But, If it does go ahead, it would be better if it was "seasonal" as in the winter time, it's mainly only dog walkers that use the park anyway, especially during the wet /cold weather.</p> <p>I'm happy for the limit of 4 dogs or less per dog walker though, as it's not possible to let so many dogs out of 1 car, with the dogs all heading in different directions, and then keep your eye on all 4 or more whilst they all poop 🐞!</p>
25	N	<p>I oppose this. I have a car parking season ticket and use the park twice a day walking my dog and I don't see why responsible dog owners have to pay the price for irresponsible dog owners. If this does go ahead which I believe it will is it not possible to make this a seasonal thing? or to be the same time as the car parking between 9&6 as I walk 7.30 in the morning and there is certainly no families about having picnics just people walking their dogs in the peace and quiet! and in the winter the majority of the people up at Hylands are dog walkers.</p>
27	N	<p>I am and have been a regular dog walker at hylands house for over 10 years. I would like you to consider several points:</p> <p>Firstly I would like to clarify that I understand the desire to balance all park users needs and I realise that many users of the park are not dog owners and some do not like dogs. I also realise that some dog owners are at best thoughtless and at worst reckless in the way they manage their dogs, however I think your proposed measures will do little or nothing to address these poor owners and will instead inconvenience responsible dog owners who use the park for virtually 365 days of the year.</p> <p>I would like you to consider altering this order to take account of busy times in the park as during the autumn, winter and some spring months there are few people there apart from dog walkers.</p> <p>I wonder if you have thought about the possibility of either a seasonal restriction on dog off lead areas, a weekend only restriction or a time based restriction (e.g from 10am?) most public beaches around the country that have dog restrictions have seasonal restrictions from Easter to September which allows everyone to enjoy the facilities.</p>

		<p>If you are not a regular dog walker the restrictions may seem reasonable but they effectively prohibit the ability to walk on either the tarmac or the cinder path from the writtle entrance with dogs off lead- I can tell you from personal experience that in the depths of winter these are the only ways to walk without being completely bogged down in the park. I know there are several elderly dog walkers who rely on these hard surfaces to walk safely during the winter.</p> <p>I very much hope this decision has not been firmly made and that you consider a flexible approach to the problem.</p>
28	N	<p>I have to say no at the moment because the areas where dogs are allowed off lead are not particularly suitable at present . The grass is too long meaning it can be unsafe for dogs as they can easily pick up grass seeds which can be very dangerous for them. There could also be ticks in the grass which can be fatal.</p> <p>It's also very unpleasant for those of us who suffer from hay fever so I cannot support this at this time.</p>
29	Y	<p>Most dog owners are unable to realise and understand that many people are not dog-friendly. Thus dog walkers often do not realise than free-running dogs can unsettle others who are, perhaps, walking and/or running - whatever their age an/or mobility. They can be unintentionally inconsiderate. Such comment isn't criticism but emphasising a need for consideration for others. So, on the face of it, a PSPO for dog walking is a very good idea.</p> <p>However, an unintended consequence could be that non dog-friendly people will avoid, in future, those areas of HP that are unrestricted for dogs because they regard such areas as more likely to be populated by unrestrained dogs. Is that fair.</p>
30	Y	<p>I am a dog owner and I think dogs should definitely be on a lead in the busy areas of the park.</p> <p>A few years ago we had a picnic next to the lake and we had to fend off endless dogs from trying to steel our food and then one dog ran across and did a wee on our blanket. We have not had a picnic at hylands since.</p> <p>With the number of young children around in the busy areas of the park I definitely think dogs should be on a lead.</p>
31	Y	<p>I am particularly in favour of a limit on the number of dogs which may be walked by one person and creating zones where dogs must be on leads. It's important that these rules are then enforced. Currently, there are an increasing number of inconsiderate and irresponsible people walking dogs at Hylands with no regard for other park users. Some rules and limits are welcome.</p>
32	Y	<p>We have 2 dogs and suffered dog on dog incidents when our dogs were on a lead. Owners take no responsibility- it's only playing they claim. I believe ALL dogs should be on a lead for everyone's safety. It doesn't have to be only a metre long so dogs can move away from owners on a longer lead, but still be under control. 4 dogs per one person is still too many. 4 dogs make a pack which can be dangerous. I stopped using the park and one of the reasons is because of loose dogs.</p>
33	N	<p>I will begin by saying that dog owners and dog walkers are being penalised more and more, with restrictions on access, with assistance (all types of assistance dogs) dog owners being turfed out of taxis and shops, by restrictions planned such as this. The large meadow that has now been turned over to 'cattle grazing' was an ideal space not</p>

		<p>often used by children and families due to its distance from car parks and play areas. We were told that cattle grazing helps the biodiversity of the grassland. I - under FOI - want to see a report, from Hylands not some generic response, that gives a true picture of how the environment has been enriched by having 6 cows there for 3 months of the year.</p> <p>The enclosure left a narrow pathway that would no DOUBT cause issues for walkers, joggers, dog walkers who all wish to avoid one another at the end of the day.</p> <p>We have been squeezed out of many areas of South Wood with ridiculous dead hedging. In most areas it has left extremely narrow pathways. Feedback has come from residents and staff at the estate over this situation. There is NO HOPE to avoid a pack of dogs - me with my 2 dogs do not like going anywhere near dog walkers with their many dogs, and we do not like kids and we do not like cyclists - who are not supposed to use the PRoW through the estate. Are they ever challenged? NO. They zoom up on all other users of the estate with no warning bell or yell.</p> <p>YET AGAIN, the majority of decent dog and respectful dog owners are potentially being penalised by a few ignorant idiots.</p> <p>DO NOT forget the idiot cyclists who should not be there.</p> <p>DO NOT forget the scum who continue to litter and it yet again, left to people like myself, to pick their crap up.</p> <p>DO NOT forget HOW MUCH we have to pay now in order to USE the estate.</p> <p>With regard to your proposal - this potential PSPO will have a detrimental effect on me and my use of the park!!! ---</p> <p>2. Public Spaces Protection Orders 2.1 A local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met: · That activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect</p> <p>I, for one, will move to another council, and pay their car park fees, in order to walk my elderly dogs.</p>
34	Y	<p>Sadly, Hylands seems to have been taken over by the 'love my dog' brigade ..</p> <p>Having been mawled as a very young child, my fear of dogs is exacerbated by them running around off lead - whether they have recall or not, I don't want to find out .. I feel totally alienated from using all parks in the City which is annoying as Hylands is walkable for me .. I've come across many dogs in the Ornamental Gardens over recent years and even been verbally abused when I've pointed out they're not allowed there .. My point is that any restrictions need to be 'policed' so the dog free areas can be enjoyed again by those of us who do not want to be jumped on or tread in poop ..</p> <p>I'm looking forward to visiting again</p>
35	Y	<p>I would prefer dogs to be on a lead at all times, but this is a step in the right direction.</p> <p>Had a bad experience a few years ago.</p>
36	N	<p>Dogs have the rights to be exercised properly as children do and dog walkers have the rights to enjoy the full park with their dogs and friends / family. I have never seen any issues / threatening situations</p>

		caused by dogs or their owners in Hylands Park and I am a frequent visitor to the park.
37	Y	What is the penalty?
38	Y	Hylands park is huge, there is plenty of space for dogs to run off the lead outside the proposed areas, the proposals are entirely reasonable. Not everyone likes dogs and dog owners often do not respect this as their dogs run up to strangers, jump up at them etc. Non-doggy people have the right to enjoy the park as much as dog owners. If dog owners have not got control of their dogs, the dogs should be kept on leads. In respect of limiting the number of dogs, this is a good idea, how can one person keep track of where dogs defecate if they have got half a dozen running all over the place. No doubt many dog owners will be up in arms about the proposals but the council should stick to its guns. However, such a scheme is only as good as how it is implemented/policed, and this needs to be properly actioned and resourced.
39	N	While I agree that Hylands is a space for everyone to enjoy, it saddens me that as in all aspects of modern life, a few rogue dogs and owners ruin it for the many. My children are grown up now, but when they were little they used to ride their small bikes and scooters all round the gardens surrounding the house. They were courteous to walkers and others. Their memories of picking up conkers and feeding the ducks on the pond will live with them forever. Children are now not allowed to ride their bikes or scooters in these areas. We have walked our dog around Hylands since she was a puppy and the area fenced off at the top of the park near Widford church was always a favourite. I see that is proposed to be a no dog zone. Why? As you say in the car parks dogs should be on leads, but as with the children on their bikes, dogs are being penalised with these proposed changes. Dog walkers like refreshments but you will be banning them from the Stables area. Potentially this might mean the same irresponsible dog owners will leave their dogs in hot cars while they visit anyway. The responsible dog owners will go away taking their money with them.
40	N	Looking again at the map the gravel paths are all included. In the winter when it is really wet and the park is actually quiet the gravel paths are the best option due to the extensive waterlogged areas of the park. My dogs walk close to heel along these paths so now I've got to keep them in leads for the whole walk if the ground is wet. I e been walking my dogs for 8 years in the park and never had a problem with other walkers. 99% of dog walkers are mindful of what their dogs are like and are courteous. Can these areas be implemented perhaps at weekends when the park is busier rather than wholesale when during the week the park and/or winter months the park is much quieter.
41	Y	I support this
42	N	AS I have said on many occasions the people running Hylands Park are anti dog, the introduction of the ban within the stables area was the first little test by these people to see if they could make the park a dog free zone, we have had the second phase where they have made it nearly impossible for dog walkers to use the park on a daily basis by the introduction of the very high car parking charges and although they will not admit to it, it has had a bad effect on number of visitors to

		<p>the park. We now have this new so called consultation re the banning of dogs in certain areas, I am totally against this as I see it as a lead into banning dogs from the park at a future date, if there is such a dangerous problem why have we not seen any dog wardens or police in the park, policing the anti social behaviour and issuing fix penalty fines. The park was left for the residents of Chelmsford to enjoy and use, but it has now become a money making exercise for the people running Hylands estate and the council, with all the things which are held at Hylands Park I would have thought they could charge more for the hire re the weddings and shows which go on there, I am totally against any further restrictions to the freedom of the park and I would add the parking charges should be cancelled as soon as possible to allow more people to use the park, not just those who can afford the high parking charges.</p>
43	N	<p>I do not own a dog, but cannot see the benefit of this and i strongly disagree with the proposals. i have no problem with dogs off leads in the main areas. i do agree they should be kept on leads around the main house. you are wasting peoples council tax and time by doing this consultation. if the new rules come into place it is not mentioned who will ensure the dog walkers are obeying the new rules. will you have to employ a traffic warden style person to constantly walk the grounds? this again will cost more of the tax payers money. in the summer the grounds are open from 7.30am to 10pm, will you have someone monitoring the park for all these hours? you will be discouraging people from visiting the park and income generation will fall against the cost of anyone employed to monitor the new rules resulting in a loss of profit. you should be encouraging visitors to the park, this will do nothing but stop them from coming.</p>
44	Y	<p>Support in theory especially the 4 dog rule. However I have some comments that I would like you to take into account. I am a regular walker at Hylands with 2 cocker spaniels. Oldest one has excellent recall and trots along beside me so I dont put her on a lead usually but will do so in areas that are stipulated as required. Younger one I put on a lead near roads the lake for example as her recall isnt 100% but is good. I do however get lost a bit in Hylands its a big area and I struggle with knowing where I am so dog restricted areas would need to be well signposted to avoid accidentally entering one. Also I have Osteoporosis so favour walking on level areas and I can see these areas being the most restricted. My 2 dogs being different ages walk at different speeds and I have concerns about turning an ankle over in uneven ground which could result in a breakage if walking with 2 dogs on leads different speeds. One of the reasons I tend to favour walking my younger dog on a lead on occasions when best to but letting the older one trot beside me. Can a route be marked out showing the more level areas where leads arent required for walkers such as myself. Alternatively I suppose I could ask a friend to hold one of my dogs in leaded areas and I walk with other one if a friend is available but of course someone wont always be available</p>
45	N	<p>There will always be irresponsible dog owners and this PSPO unless it is backed up regular police patrols of the park and car park, along with on the spot fines, will not will not change anything. The majority of dog owners are responsible and know when to have their dogs on the lead, so this PSPO is only aimed at the minority who do not - and</p>

		these people will sadly still not follow the rules unless they are rigorously re-inforced so it's all a waste of time and effort.
46	Y	I'd like to see it in all public parks and areas. I look after a dog and she has twice been bitten by another larger dog off lead whilst she has just been walking on lead. Neither of these incidents were reported. It has made her nervous and makes me think twice about taking her for a walk in the park as not all dog owners are considerate. If a dog on a lead is approached by another dog not on a lead it causes difficulty - any experienced dog owner knows this. Yes please to the proposals.
47	N	I have lives in Chelmsford for over 40 years and in that time have had dogs. Hylands park used to be a lovely place to visit with the dogs. You could visit the cafe and have a coffee and mix with other dog owners. The council then decided to discriminate dog owners at the cafe so we all had to go round the back and be served through a hatch. Limited seating and unable to choose from the selection of cakes on display. We have also been stopped from going in the new diversity garden at all with dogs so that is now out of bounds. On top of that the council decided we had to pay park , something that was against the wishes of Mrs Hanbury who used to own the estate. You have cited in your report that there were 33 incidents. However you do not state how many were at Hylands nor the circumstances. Whilst it is very upsetting to have your dog attacked by another dog , it is impossible to prevent this. The majority of owners are responsible. There are a handful of people who will not put their dogs on the leads regardless of any enforcement put in place. If you do this , you will need to police this which would cost money and resources which could be better spent elsewhere. Hylands used to be a lovely place to visit but it is turning more into a children's playground than a free park for the community. I am fed up with being discriminated against because I own a dog. I have golden retrievers who are friendly with everyone. I put my dogs on the lead in busy areas anyway as do most responsibilities owners. You are judging all dog owners by the few that won't follow rules anyway. Totally unfair
48	Y	I fully endorse Chelmsford City Council's introduction of the new PSPO for dog walking at Hylands. The park and estate should be a place for all (humans and animals) to enjoy in harmony and tranquility.
49	Y	I have regularly had dogs jump up at me at Hylands, usually down by the lake. A large dog can easily knock someone over, especially when they jump up behind you and you do not know they are there. If this happened to an elderly person, they can do a lot of damage falling over and a dog can split their skin which then takes many weeks to heal. It's also extremely frightening to someone who is not used to dogs. It would also be good to have a large fenced off area where you can train dogs without them being able to escape.
50	N	I have never seen an incident involving dogs at hylands, my dog is well behaved and enjoys swimming in the lake.
51	N	It seems to me that a valuable resource serving Chelmsford and its environs is gradually being eroded and a 'hostile environment is being created. Anecdotally, I see a significant decline in the footfall at the park and this proposal will drive more people away. I propose that there are no restrictions between the hours of 7 to 9 and in the evening from 6 onwards. I see some benefits in keeping the dogs

		away from picnic areas and the Pleasure Gardens but the lake is very popular for walkers from 3-Mile Hill parking area.
52	Y	This is an excellent idea. There are too many dog owners who are irresponsible in allowing their dogs to run amok anywhere off the leash & foul. I have had my picnics spoilt by dogs coming up & putting noses in food making it inedible as well as jumping up & soiling clothes. I would like to be able to take my grandchildren up to Hylands without feeling intimidated by dogs or ending up with dog excrement on our shoes & clothes. I would welcome a wider area of restrictions being imposed.
53	N	I think smaller dog-free zones should be created for the significant minority. One of the big draws of Hylands is the dog community and walking round the lake is a natural meeting point. Restricting this because of people who are intolerant of dogs isn't right. I completely agree with the red zones but please reduce the orange, particularly the lake.
54	Y	Yes please. I was bitten by a dog whilst walking on a footpath. My injuries required weekly visits to hospital over 6 weeks. The dog owner was served with a a public community order.
55	Y	This scheme should be extended to every park in the Borough.
56	Y	Hylands Park should be accessible and useable for all people, children, adults, cyclists, walkers, dog walkers, kite flyers and all other people able or disabled. Dogs off their leads in high traffic areas can be a real problem for safety. Not everyone is comfortable being approached by a dog and I think people's wishes needs to be protected. With designated areas for "dogs off lead" you have the choice to avoid those areas.
57	Y	Fully agree.
58	N	Yet more draconian restrictions at Hylands. As if the parking charges didn't drive enough people away, this will diminish footfall even further. It almost seems a deliberate ploy by the council to reduce numbers using Hylands
59	N	A few fenced off areas as big as needed would suffice for picnic areas near playgrounds/ house etc gardens need to remain on lead as people sit there responsibly with their dogs also a fenced off area similar to wildflower ones would be brilliant for dogs with poor recall /prey drive etc for responsible owners that do not let off lead cyclists need to be reminded about being courteous around people as do joggers approaching from behind people it's everyone s responsibility to share park on events days creamfields flower show stewards were also guilty of driving to fast with dogs and children around recent food show was terrible with vehicles approaching the field using path between toilets cafe and playground gaps in pathways with children and dogs crossing not aware path being used bandsman either end but no one taking vehicles up path spoke to show manager said health and safety approved using path (obviously your own people no way a independent would of done)basic lack of duty of care if everything got to be safe from dog walking people towards park users (what I agree with) got to work both ways shows and events at park which you earn from is also a accident waiting to happen. Are you also applying these restrictions in other parks in borough much worse in admirals Park Central Park with cyclists knocking down children/dogs otherwise smacks of discrimination/you manage

		Hylands left to you for people of Chelmsford appears you can see pound note signs since lockdown charge for Hylands but not chelmer admirals etc
60	N	It's very disappointing that these restrictions are being proposed which on top of paying for parking and part of the woodland being taken over by Go Ape make having a dog walk in a beautiful park even more of a challenge and as a Chelmsford resident I do not agree with these restrictions
61	Y	However, to counter balance this I would like to see "dog friendly" signs around other areas of the park, so it's clear dogs are allowed off lead. I would also like to see the grass cut or pathways cut through long grass in other areas of the park, as the only cut grass is currently in the areas proposed for "dogs to be on lead" (some dog walkers have mobility issues and trudging through long grass is more difficult). I would also like to see some secure (fenced) dog areas for off lead play and training. These are becoming popular in other council parks. Also to note a lot of revenue generated through recent parking charges is from dog walkers who use the park regularly. When the park is closed for commercial (revenue generating) events e.g. Creamfields, we should have a part refund for that period
62	Y	I walk with small young children on the paths, in the gardens and not on the grass area to avoid dogs. However, on quite a few occasions large unleashed dogs have run up to the children nearly knocking them over and the owners seem to think that it's okay as they say their dog is friendly and sometimes the owner is not even with the dog. Hylands estate is large enough for all to enjoy and dogs should be kept on leads in certain areas.
63	Y	I do approve of all the recommendations. I am very fond of dogs, but unfortunately some owners seem to have little control over their animals, or simply do not care. Dogs running up to small children can be very alarming for them, and fouling of the grass areas is very unpleasant. It has been a great initiative to separate the cafe areas, as too often owners think that because they love their dog, you would wish to be having tea with the animal's head on your lap. It is sensible to try to accommodate all park users in a safe environment.
64	N	Re path from Writtle Car Park up to house. This is the only level and dry path available for lots of elderly people to walk their dogs, especially during the winter months, when walking is impossible on the muddy ground. The need to keep them on a lead will make it difficult for them and others, to give their pets the exercise they need. I consider the proposed off lead ban to the south of the main field too extensive, surely it could be stopped along the line of the piped underground stream, that cuts across this field.
65	N	The on lead area covers the footpath which is the only safe place to walk my dog off lead whilst pushing a pram. Otherwise, the pram has to be dragged through the mud and grass and increases risk of my walking toddler falling on uneven ground. At the moment, Hylands is the only local place where it safe for me to walk my dog off the lead whilst pushing the pram with my baby and allowing my toddler to walk safely along the path away from roads and carparks. I would like to suggest that this proposal is changed to only 'on peak' times such as weekends and event days, to allow myself and others to continue our dog walks as usual during the week where the park is already considerably quieter and predominantly only dog walkers anyway.

66	N	<p>I am an annual paying member for the car park at Hylands Park where i come on a daily basis with my dog (this is under my husband's account). I've lived in Chelmsford for over 3 years now and have come almost everyday to the park. We walk and run with our dog, and have never had any issues. If these new proposed changes were implemented, we would strongly re-think if we were to pay for Hylands Park parking as we feel this would take enjoyment out of our daily walks. We come to Hylands park when there are no children in the playground as it's either before school hours or after where there aren't any kids. It seems unfair that we would almost be penalised if this was introduced. I strongly believe that the majority of annual payers to park at Hylands Park are dog owners/walkers, and think they would also have the same views as myself. The shaded area where you're proposing to have dogs on lead is a large area from the car park which would result in a 10-15 minute walk to get outside of the leaded only area to the back of the park which i feel would put us off coming. I think it's an unfair statement and misleading when you say - 'Last year, we received 33 reports of dog-on-dog or dog-on-human attacks in Chelmsford' This is in Chelmsford as a whole, not specifically in Hylands Park, and it's misleading statistics to have this in the same proposal. As a result, I have made an FOI request to understand how many specifically have been reported in the park, not in Chelmsford as a whole If you were to implement this, my recommendation would be to consider who actually is your biggest payer of car parking charges since it was implemented. I strongly feel this would be majority dog owners/walkers. This would unlikely to be families with kids as they would only really be able to come regularly at the weekends/school holidays, whereas dog owners/walkers come every single day. If there was potentially to be a compromise, perhaps the order could only be enforced at the weekends when there are more people there, including more children. If this was to come in permanently 7 days a week, you'd upset and annoy your majority customer, which is dog walkers/owners, and frankly are likely not to pay to come anymore.</p>
67	N	<p>Once we get heavy rain in Autumn, the area on YOUR MAP outside Mauro's, on on the hill going down to the trees at the bottom of the hill and also outside the Adventure Playground, becomes a sticky muddy quagmire. It doesn't drain. It only improves as we get dry weather in Spring towards Summer. It has been the same forever. Very often there will be lakes forming at the bottom of the hill where there used to be a stream (now piped underground). No one is going to use it for picnics or games, until it dries out again the next year. I can't imagine what possible point there is in restricting the use of this area FOR DOGS!!! I know, because I have become part of it, there is a whole community of fellow dog walkers, whom use both cafes and I meet walking around the park. If this restriction is brought in then there will be less income for the cafes and less income from parking charges.</p>
68	Y/N	<p>I support the majority of the proposals with the exception of the path through the woods from the main entrance and the section of grass from the car park alongside the coffee shop and adventure playground as from what I can see there isn't the option to let the dog off the lead directly from the car park</p>

69	N	<p>I do not agree with the no dogs area near St Mary's Church and wonder why this is proposed?</p> <p>I walk my dogs weekly in Hylands and understand the need for some of the on lead areas but would it be possible for the PSPO to only be active during school holidays or bank holidays. At most other times of the year the vast majority of people using the park are dog walkers and it seems a shame to restrict them during term time.</p>
70	N	<p>I have had my own dogs all my life and lived in Chelmsford all my life and used hylands for over 15 years for personal and professional use, I'm currently a dog walker and I start my morning group walk at 8.30am I head right to the back of hylands in a big loop round in all the years I have walked profession over 6 years I can say I only see maybe one other person with dogs at that time and this tends to be in the nicer weather in the winter I do not see anyone, if I go back and do a second walk about 11.30ish it pretty much the same might see a few more people, in all the years I have been walking professionally I have never seen or been involved with any dog on dog attacks or any dogs attacking a person,</p> <p>Being a professional dog walker you must be aware of the surroundings and any on coming people with dogs,</p> <p>I always keep a wide birth of any other solo walkers and my dogs are on leads and only let off when I can see I'm on my own, none of the dogs I walk are out of control as they would not be able to come out in a group,</p> <p>The proposal is just another way to control peoples movements using the 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford, even though none of these happened at hylands, the country heading toward a dictatorship and these changes are just the tip in my opinion, This is all about money for the council they can make more money with the go ape and concerts and fairs</p> <p>Than that can with the people just wanting to walk there dog in the only big park in Chelmsford.. The councils lining their pockets, this is really what it's all about.</p>
71	N	<p>Before one can make a decision to support the idea one would need to know how CCC plan to enforce the PSPO. Will there be enforcement officers patrolling the park, will fines be given to dog walkers who allow their dogs to a) be off the lead in areas where they should be on a lead and b) in an area where no dogs are allowed or do CCC expect the public to self-enforce (this would lead to confrontation with dog walkers).</p>
72	N	<p>As a regular visitor to the park, a dog owner myself and holder of an annual permit, I believe it is essential to address the limitations that hinder the overall enjoyment and accessibility of the park for both dog owners and their beloved pets.</p> <p>First and foremost, it is important to emphasise the numerous benefits that dogs bring to public spaces such as parks. Dogs provide companionship, encourage physical activity, and contribute to a vibrant and inclusive community atmosphere. By placing excessive restrictions on dogs in the park, it feels as though the park management is excluding a significant portion of the population and neglecting the needs and rights of dog owners.</p> <p>It appears that these restrictions are disproportionately favouring the interests of children and families, while disregarding the rights and needs of responsible dog owners. The proposed limitations are overly</p>

		<p>restrictive. While it is crucial to ensure the safety of park visitors, it is equally important to recognise that responsible dog owners are capable of maintaining control over their pets without the need for being on the lead. Allowing well-behaved dogs to roam freely in designated off-lead areas would enable them to engage in natural behaviours, burn off energy, and enjoy a higher quality of life. While children and families have playgrounds, parks, and other designated areas to engage in recreational activities, dog owners are left with limited options and are frequently excluded from public spaces. This disparity perpetuates the notion that the needs and desires of dog owners are of lesser importance. The new Go Ape adventure playground which is currently being constructed in ancient woodland within the park already means further restrictions on dog walkers and while I understand the importance of maintaining a safe and clean environment, I believe the proposed restrictions go beyond what is necessary and fair. I kindly request that the park management reevaluates the proposed restrictions on dogs in the park and considers implementing more inclusive and balanced policies that respect the rights and needs of dog owners.</p>
73	N	<p>Unfortunately most people that go to Hylands park are dog walkers. Since bringing in the parking charges we haven't seen many of our dog walking friends (this includes older people who's only reason to go out is to walk Thier dogs over Hylands and this is part of Thier routine). Most people that visit Hylands that aren't dog walkers only tend to stay in the populated areas e.g. the play park. This shouldn't effect the areas that people walk their dogs. Obviously you would like to think that any aggressive dogs would be kept on leads anyway. Rather than limit dog walkers to certain areas off lead you could always make a segregated area that people can hire if they have agressive dogs.</p>
74	N	<p>I find this new proposal ludicrous. I pay a hundred pounds a year to walk my dogs there. Half the time it's closed for various festivals etc. The main reason I use the park is for the dogs to swim in the serpentine lake. Saying no dogs off lead around here is ridiculous. Why?!! I've never seen or heard of a dog being attacked at Hylands. And I am a professional dog Walker that has been walking here for 5 years. The only problems I've ever encountered are over bearing mums that scream at friendly dogs, massively exacerbating their children's fears even when the dogs are no where near them! This park was given over for the use of the public. The lady who originally donated would be turning in her grave. Firstly at your greed of parking being £5 a day. A DAY! And secondly by these ridiculous proposals to stop groups is dogs having the time of their lives over there.</p>
75	N	<p>I'm not sure of the need to select areas for dogs on / off the lead or how many dogs people can walk . I'm a dog owner myself and to be honest in the whole time I've used Hylands (15+ years) I've seen dogs have arguments but never a dog attacking a human. Plus I often need to walk my elderly mums dog and my sisters dogs which takes me to 5. Dogs love Hylands, I love Hylands and the freedom it offers to both myself and the furry ones. The wooded area is a godsend, it's beautiful, offers shade and can be mesmerizing. It's a shame we've lost part of it to go ape but that's going to bring revenue so well done. I'm not going to mention loss of area for events because again they bring revenue which can only be a positive thing. I'm not pleased with</p>

		parking charges as I feel you've lost a great way to ensure that people who desperately need outdoor space, can access it as they can't afford to pay the parking costs. That's a moral issue though! So in answer to your question no I don't agree with your proposal about dog restrictions
76	N	This will cause financial stress for dog walkers running a small business. It feels like a small minority are being penalised due to Chelmsford councils desire to make green spaces less accessible. Also how many of the dog attacks quoted occurred at hylands specifically? How many can be attributed to dog walkers and their business? Please think carefully about how this affects small businesses and the clients that rely on these services.
77	N	I have been walking my dogs over hylands for 15 years. Not once have I had or seen an unpleasant event or situation there. I have four well trained toy poodles who will now be limited in where they can walk and where they can run off-lead. I only recently went from five dogs to four - I cannot believe that these new rules would have meant I could not walk all my dogs at once. I often take my friend's dog for a walk with me. This will no longer be possible. I do not understand who these new rules will benefit. I walk my dogs at hylands most week day mornings and barely see another soul. Sadly, yet again, the bad behaviour of a few punishes the many. These plans are ill thought out and unnecessary. Perhaps a more sensible system would be to limit dog walkers just at weekends or issue licences to responsible dog owners. Hylands House was left to the people of Chelmsford and the surrounding areas to enjoy. It is not the job of Chelmsford Council to ruin Hylands for the many dog walkers and their dogs that enjoy it.
78	N	It would be good to understand why there is a need for this PSPO rather than just an enforcement of the current laws of the land (Animal Welfare Act 2006). If people are worried about unruly dogs, then there are laws in place to deal with that already, what additional benefit is anyone receiving from the PSPO? Each year in festival season the car park at St Mary's Church is opened to allow dog walkers to use that end of the park whilst the festivals are on. There is currently a big red no dog area on that field now. Will that be relaxed during this period or are we no longer able to walk dogs anywhere at Hylands when festivals are on? I find the 4 dogs per walker a very arbitrary number, could you explain how this number helps? 5 Dachshunds are much easier to walk than 3 German Shepherds, but you are imposing a number restriction rather than reminding people they should already be adhering to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which advises on conduct in public spaces already. All in all, I see that most of the areas for on lead and no dogs allowed are actually already in place, so again, it seems that this legislation is not really value for money, outside of the above changes what additional benefit are the people of Chelmsford receiving from this? In reality if there have been complaints about dogs with no enforcement then taking place, this is a marketing exercise as I see no additional provision for extra staff or buy in from local law enforcement which will make any difference to the actions taken after a complaint, but potentially more things to complain about..!
79	N	I strongly disagree with this. To my understanding Hylands Park was left to everyone in Chelmsford. I do not understand why you would put

		a policy in place that will alienate the vast majority of people that use highlands, I voted for the LibDem party because I believe there is a party for everyone, not just for the Karens.
80	N	Definitely not ..the park is for everyone. Dog walkers should not be pushed to one side. Bad enough we now pay parking we should be expected to change our dog walk. NO
81	N	I walk dogs at Hylands park, and pay annually to use the car park there solely for that purpose, Most of the year the park is only used by dog walkers, and to restrict it's use all year round seems like a Draconian measure to tackle a non existent problem - it is already illegal to fail to control your dog in a public place; as is so often the case, better enforcement of existing legislation would be more appropriate.In particular the restrictions in the area surrounding the serpentine where dogs like to swim seems needless most of the time
82	N	This is utterly unnecessary and restricts access to a safe space to walk your dog. Furthermore by restricting the areas dogs can access you are increasing the chances of negative incidents as dog owners won't be able to space out in the way they currently can. There will be NO way to enter Hylands with your dog unless you drive and pay the parking fee. This is not acceptable. Firstly, it's just another way for the council to tax people (forcing them to pay for parking) and secondly, it negatively impacts the environment by making people drive to Hylands rather than walk - a stupid thing to do! From the St Marys church (temporary car park) area there is no way to get into the park unless you're prepared to take your chance down Greenbury Way which doesn't have a footpath. The A414 route is not safe and doesn't have a sufficient footpath the entire way to an entrance so again is not an option. The city council is discouraging people to visit hylands and making Chelmsford an unattractive place to live as it's becoming like a Nazi state. There are FAR more important things the council should focus on - speeding vehicles, littering, homelessness, empty shops in the centre, general safety, fly-tipping and open drug and alcohol misuse in the city centre, rather than terrorising dog owners
83	N	We have walked dogs off lead at I have walked dogs in Hylands for 15 years and during that time have always been aware of picnics during the summer months. The majority of the time the only people in the park are dog walkers and we have never come across unpleasant off lead dogs, your proposals are without findings . Before I had dogs I brought up in Writtle and spent all my summer holidays as a child in the park, I never experienced anything unpleasant from a dog. This council is completely woke .
84	N	This is. WAY TOO restrictive for dog owners. I Can't understand why you are making it so difficult at the area 7 and 8 on the map.? Who else uses this apart from dog walkers ? I also walk my dog very early inthe mornings. To have to put my dog on a lead at 05.30 is pointless. If this system is approved it should be between 9-6 when most families are there.
85	Y	I 100% support this! The last two times I've walked in Hylands Park, I've had a dog jump on me whilst I sat on a bench, an Alsatian jump up at me, and (worst) a dog run straight at me and bite me three times on the leg. Through trousers it caused bruising that lasted for weeks. If I'd been a child, the bites would have been on the face or arms. For the latter incident I rang the police and they're circulating the owner's photo. In all cases the owners were unconcerned that

		their animals were aggressively approaching strangers. All dogs were off lead. Please make the whole park a lead required area!
86	N	We regularly walk our dog at Hylands and find the other dog owners to be very considerate and sensible in respect of other park users and dog owners, in fact this is the best place to walk a dog knowing that other people are respectful of everyone else. I think the space being made dog lead walking is far, far too much and think that the way the park is run at the moment is just right. Of course dogs should not be allowed into the children's play areas or near the other farm animals. It is also fine that dogs are not allowed into the new stables deli area - this gives non dog owners a place to sit and not have dogs there. Dogs should already be on their leads in the gardens which I also agree with. I think the rules already set out are very sensible and I strongly disagree with the new proposals and it will really spoil our enjoyment when visiting Hylands!
87	N	Ridiculous idea, punishing responsible dog owners for issues caused by a handful of irresponsible owners. There have been fewer than 3 issues per month in the whole of Chelmsford over the last year (according to the council).
88	Y	I walk my dog on lead all round Hylands Park. Off lead dogs frequently run up to me with their owners unaware. The owners also can't see when they're pooping if they are running around on their own so I support the proposal.
89	N	Totally unnecessary. There are already restrictions on dog walkers around the playground and stables. Having more would be too prohibitive.
90	N	No one wants to see injuries or anxiety but I wonder if this will have a significant effect. Will less responsible dog owners comply? Will out of control dogs recognise the orange zones? Most of the week, especially out of summer season it is only dog walkers in the park. The joy of walking your dog off lead and access to the lake are huge and many many kind responsible people with gentle friendly dogs will be denied this pleasure in full. I'll probably get used to it but Hylands will not be the same destination of choice for this dog owner.
91	N	I go to Hylands park and this is not required as I have never experienced any issues and these restrictions are unwarranted.
92	N	I walk my 3 Labradors twice a day at the park and as a responsible dog owner I always put them on leads when I need to. They are trained and well behaved. I walk early and vary rarely see anyone other than other dog owners who also enjoy the park and the freedom to walk their dogs as they please. By restricting you will push dog owners into areas which will mean more chance of incident as naturally there will be more people and dogs in those areas. Why not align this if you are determined to do it to the car park charges times ie before 9am the park is open to all and dogs are allowed to walk off lead as they are currently and after 6pm the same. Also you could align to seasons ie in winter relax the rules as during those dark mornings I often see no one. Be sensible and proportionate, and with a little thought you could achieve what you want without alienating dog walkers who are just as entitled to access the park as joggers and cyclists.
93	N	I do not believe that the dog walking restrictions are in anyway necessary. In all my time walking our dog in Hylands Park, I have seen no incidents to warrant this.

94	N	This will stop me walking in Hylands, I have a small dog who never goes on the lead, unless it's in town. because of her size taking her to the bigger space is not practical due to the grass height. With the parking cost now and this its very disappointing idea to impose on the Chelmsford residents, even with this you will still get the odd problem.
95	N	My dog walker does an outstanding job walking out dogs with a group of more than 4 , I trust her implicitly. This is also her livelihood. She and the dogs she walks know how to behave in a public place with a total regard for safety . Personally I have not seen a single dog attack at Hylands .
97	N	1. Park is being turned into a no go area for dog walkers 2. How is it going to be made clear as to the area's dog walkers can go because you can't carry a map around with you. And I'd like to know the cost of policing it from 7am until 10pm in summer months. 3.Parking in area 1 is only for Go Ape this is purely a cash cow for council . 4. From October onwards during cold weather very few people go in weekday that are not dog walkers so I'd like avery good reason why Dog walkers cannot use all the park except the red area.
98	Y	Just had a boxer dog jump at my 4 year old granddaughter scratching her and reducing her to tears. Although the owner apologised she was totally irresponsible letting it off the lead. We then went past the lake and had a wet Labrador come towards her and leaving a dirty wet mud stain on her dress. We really need dogs kept on leads around the lake and more enforcement of the rules
99	N	The park has been an open space for hundreds of years , suddenly it is suggested it is "unsafe" . Why are dog owners and walkers being used as a scapegoat by the minority of of park users ? As a long term resident of Chelmsford , and , pre parking charges , a user of the park I am against this draconian suggestion.
100	N	Having already excluded many Hyland Park users due to the exhorbitant parking fees, now you are targetting dog owners/walkers. Some years ago dog owners/walkers were prohibited from entering the Stable yard area to purchase refreshments and were corralled in a small area at the back of the Stables. The introduction of parking charges has now resulted in the closure of the cafe. It would appear that Chelmsford City Council only wants Hylands Park used by those who don't mind paying £5 a day to park and visitors without dogs. Any pleasure derived from walking with dogs will be eradicated by having to be aware all the time of the dog free/lead required areas
101	N	I've purchased an annual season ticket so I can walk my dog at hylands. It's ridiculous that available spaces are being reduced. I am against this proposal.
102	N	We have a 5 day season ticket for parking and meet regularly with friends, twice a week, to walk our dogs. We always walk through the proposed pspo area as it it one of the few where the grass is cut and balls can be thrown for the dogs. We spend £10/15 at Mauro's cafe each visit. We will cancel our season ticket if this proposal is implemented. Please tell me how many how many a) dog on human and b) dog on dog attacks there have been within the proposed pspo area in the

		past year - I have never witnessed any. If there have been any such complaints, have they been investigated by the Council or simply taken at face value? We live in a society where people are too ready to complain about any minor issue and an increase in complaints within the whole of the Chelmsford area does not justify the restriction of everyone else's freedom in this way.
103	N	<p>I am local to Hylands and walk my two dogs there on a regular basis. As a locals we have already had to suffer the car parking charges, and now these restrictions will have further negative impact on our lives . For our own well being and also resisting driving everywhere in todays climate , we often choose to walk to Hylands through the “cow” field and round the serpentine lake. This has always been a pleasant and calm walk , and think if access is completely restricted for dogs is simply unfair. This is not a busy area for visitors to Hylands and us dog families are doing no harm to anyone.</p> <p>I agree with potentially you have some area with dogs on leads (such as playground) , but not an out right ban. I also do see the sense that there should be a limit to how many dogs a “dog walker” has. Dogs on leads around the cafe area is fair enough too. Living close to Hylands has always been a major benefit to where we live. Taking our dogs to a large park and allowing them to run freely is a benefit we appreciate . We are asked to accommodate the numerous events /road/park closures for concerts and now you want local people to be restricted further .</p> <p>Simply unfair , if you proceed with all the changes you will loose further locals and visitors - already since the parking charges, the park is much quieter. This is a park for everyone to enjoy , including dog owners . There is no need to punish the majority of good responsible dog owners because of a few irresponsible ones .</p>
104	Y	The proposal provides a 'safe space' for people not wishing to encounter loose dogs and a virtual perimeter for children to play in safety. In addition, it provide ample space for dog owners to run their dogs off the leash. I support this proposal.
105	N	You're going to do it anyway regardless of the public opinion
106	Y	We visited last week, was sitting by the house and a big dog not on a lead came right up to my 5 year old son who was very frightened. Dog owner didn't call him back or anything. Would be nice to enjoy the place without worrying.
107	Y	<p>Support the move but don't believe that the introduction of the PSPO will do much to protect sensible dog owners and the general public from those who own aggressive dogs and/or those who are not responsible in ownership.</p> <p>I would also be interested to know what percentage of the 33 attacks in Chelmsford happened at Hylands Park?</p> <p>Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there must be steps taken to improve the damaged boundary fence parallel to the A414 near to the cattle grazing area. It is dreadful that this has been in such a poor state of repair for so many years and presents a huge risk to dogs and vehicle occupants on the road in that an animal could easily bolt from the park and cause a significant road traffic accident. I have reported this on multiple occasions with no response. The introduction of the PSPO and a further (unnecessary) car parking facility next to St Mary's Church will increase dog walking - and therefore the risk of an incident - in this area. Please remedy asap.</p>

108	Y	Long overdue and a suitable response to so many dog owners taking little or no responsibility controlling their dog(s).
109	Y	<p>I agree whole heartedly with the proposals. Being a regular user of Hylands Park I am often dismayed and indeed somewhat distressed by the behaviour of some dogs and their inconsiderate and irresponsible owners. However I have two questions that have NOT been mentioned in your guidance leaflet:</p> <p>1) How do you intend to enforce the proposals? 2) What will be the penalty for dog owners who do not abide by the PSPO?</p> <p>If this is to be a voluntary code with no means of 'policing' and no severe penalty for those ignoring the PSPO then, its all a waste of time as the small proportion of irresponsible dog owners will just carry on to be just that.</p>
110	Y	Been walking our dogs in Highlands park for 45 years i think the Red zone is absolutely fine but don't think the orange zone is necessary Please No Orange Zone
111	N	<p>Hylands Park was left to the people of Chelmsford. Introducing measures to have dogs on leads or banned from whole sections of the park is completely at odds with this and completely curtails the rights of dog owners to enjoy this beautiful park with their animals. It is the dog walkers who are the main users of this park. They use it every day come rain, sunshine, snow, winds etc. The fair weather picnickers only come if it is sunny and maybe come a couple of times a year - not like the dog walkers who come every single day! It is not these infrequent fair weather people who should dictate how the park should be used or by whom. Car parking charges have already driven many regulars away from using the park. If these restrictions on dog walkers are introduced no one will use the park. The proposals are too extreme and unfairly impact those who use the park regularly to walk their dogs. It is the regular users that you should consider rather than just pandering to the occasional visitors who don't like dogs! The park is more than big enough to accommodate all user groups without restrictions rather than trying to penalise dog owners. People just need to use common sense and consideration towards other users rather than imposing unfair and restrictive rules.</p> <p>Maybe it would be better to clamp down on the littering and rubbish left behind by family gatherings or barbecues, people riding motorised vehicles across the fields, people fishing in Serpentine Lake or people riding mountain bikes at speed through the woods rather than imposing unfair restrictions on one user group ie dog walkers!!!</p>
112	N	It's a park that you have already stopped a number of people enjoying regularly because of the parking costs. A lot of people take their children to the play area and to run around the park and explore because they can take their dog with them, it's part of the fun. Dog walkers are the heart and sole of the park, start restricting them and there will be even less visitors to Hylands, such a shame you want to do this. It seems strange that you want to restrict dog walkers but you don't mind the park being trashed by the concerts.
113	Y	Great idea. Particularly the limit of dogs per owner. Far too many times have i been walking my one dog and my dog been chased by multiple dogs where their owners couldnt control them. Dogs on leads areas are good idea. Please make sure that therebare a good amount of signage which is clear for all.

114	N	It will be impossible to enforce. No dog is 100% off the lead. What is in place to stop a dog chasing a squirrel from an off lead zone to a on lead zone. Or a dog can simply wander over the line. There needs to be fencing to separate the on lead/off lead areas.
115	N	<p>Done <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> let's all protest !</p> <p>I've had my little rant!!!! I live very close to Hylands and walk my dog there on a regular basis.</p> <p>As a local I have already had to suffer the car parking charges, and now these restrictions will have further negative impact on my life For my own well being and also resisting driving everywhere in todays climate , i walk my dog in hylands on a daily basis and think if access is completely restricted for dogs is simply unfair. I walk my dog early in the mornings when it is not busy and do no harm to anyone. I agree with potentially you have some area with dogs on leads (such as playground) , but not an out right ban. I also do see the sense that there should be a limit to how many dogs a "dog walker" has. Dogs on leads around the cafe area is fair enough too. Living close to Hylands has always been a major benefit to where we live. Taking my dog to a large park and allowing him to run freely is a benefit we appreciate . We are asked to accommodate the numerous events /road/park closures for concerts and now you want local people to be restricted further . Simply unfair , if you proceed with all the changes you will loose further locals and visitors - already since the parking charges, the park is much quieter. This is a park for everyone to enjoy , including dog owners . There is no need to punish the majority of good responsible dog owners because of a few irresponsible ones. Perhaps dealing with the issues first ie identifying those responsible for committing these breaches and or offences would be a better way of resolving the issues.</p> <p>Also please could you tell how you plan to enforce these restrictions and the costs that this was involve</p> <p>Thank you I look forwarded to receiving your reply</p>
116	N	<p>You have already ruined our experience with the introduction of the parking fee. And now you want to restrict dogs even more. I would like to know how many incidents there have been in the previous 5 years? And if a similar number, why has this been left until now? The amount dogs that may attack is a very low percentage of dogs that are walked at Hylands. It's normally the owner and not the dogs fault. I used to get a coffee outside at the cafe but I see this is now a red area so I couldn't do this anymore with my dog. I feel for the retail. I understand the areas like the play park are red and gardens for leads but the main very large field, I disagree with. This is an amazing space for our dogs to run and burn off that excessive energy just like children. Most of us who are responsible dog owners do put our dogs on leads if children are around anyway. The main field, especially in the winter is a nicer walk as it is maintained better.</p> <p>Such a shame you want to introduce this due to such a limited number.</p>
117	N	33 reports in the whole of Chelmsford - how many specific to Hylands Park? How many in the most popular area between adventure playground and home farm? It seems a massive over reaction, which will deny a lot of people a lot of pleasure just in case of a minor incident. It makes as much sense to say only people with dogs are allowed.

		My wife and I are disabled, and we cannot walk to the outlying areas to walk our dog
118	N	If it is going to be introduced, it should be seasonal like beaches. There are no families or people picnicking in late Autumn, Winter or early Spring. The vast majority of people who use the park regularly to walk their dogs, are responsible owners who already avoid the busy areas and clean up after their dogs. The mess that people leave behind after their picnics is far worse.
119	Y/N	To start with the question do you support the PSPO only has yes or no there should be another option some of. The red areas is a yes. The orange areas such as walking up from the entrance to the Hylands Park , walking through the woods I don't see why the dog should be on the lead if walking up the sand pathway yes the dog should be on the lead. The stables courtyard is already dogs on the lead Home Farm and the car park there again the dog does need to be on the lead. If you don't want dogs to go into the Serpentine Lake make sure the clay pit pond has more water in it, we take our dog there every days but it could do with more water in it. The big area of orange from the writtle road car park nearly up to the clay pit I think is a bit to much the majority of people walk their dogs this why, I do realise there is still a large area of the park to be used but a lot of people who walk their dogs are older and some use wheelchairs I don't think this has been taken into consideration also to consider is the fact that visitors to the park have to pay is going to mean it gets even less visitors. I have lost count as to how many people have got to the machines and seen the cost have said to us as we get close how expensive and have gone back to their cars and driven away.
120	N	I completely disagree no need for any of this it's ridiculous!
121	N	Supportive of the play areas of course I am, and keeping dogs on leads in the formal gardens makes sense but as a dog owner with a yearly parking pass I object to having to keep my dog on lead in the woods and around the lake - everyone knows the pups love to play in the pond at the bottom of the lake. They can't do that on a lead and I would stop me from visiting
122	N	I have been going to Highlands Park with my family and with a dog since 1964. I think the park is adequate for humans to share with animals and wildlife without the need to put additional restrictions on it. I read too often about the dramatic reduction in the habitat around the world that humans are imposing on animals and wildlife. We need to learn to all live together freely in whatever space we have left.
123	N	I would like to express that I am not in favour of the new PSPO as the freedom for dogs has been taken away for many who are not responsible or at fault of the actions of others. Whilst safety is important, the onus has to be on the persons responsible of managing their dogs. The park has huge grounds which have been enjoyed by all including the dogs for many years without these issues. Therefore, it should continue that way going forward so as not to take away this privilege from the dogs and their owners who currently enjoy the use of the grounds. Whilst I personally do not own a dog, I have a close friend who is entirely committed to her lovely dog and she uses Hyland park almost everyday Along with others and if the proposed order were to be enforced, she like others would likely not use the grounds and therefore it would disadvantage these persons.

124	N	Not a big problem and it is a long way to go through to the proposed changes if you want a quick walk. Could do a time limit instead
125	N	It's not fair to shut off the open areas of the park due to a few small incidents. Most of the dog community have strong control over their dogs. Just because a select few cannot control their dogs, doesn't mean it is fair to ban dogs from areas of the park. Instead, educate children to not run at dogs and pet them without permission from the owner
126	Y	These are my second comments but with new observations. I've recently returned from my weekly walk at Hylands Park and again witnessed upsetting scenes. No mention is made of the huge potential threat to wildlife, at Hylands, from dogs that are not on a lead. This is perhaps best observed at the Serpentine Lake where unrestrained dogs are allowed (and indeed encouraged) to swim in the lake and thus present a massive risk to avian life. Dogs also threaten sheep on neighbouring fields as well as wildlife in wooded areas all over Hylands; just be being there.
127	N	I organise a dog meet up group once a month in the park we meet next to the stables car park walk down past the horses on the cinder path to the back field. We then head diagonally across to the woods where we walk through and then head back across the path back to the flint cottage. Within this walk we have dogs off lead who in the 8plus years i have run this group have never caused any issue. If I read your shading correctly the whole of our walk cones under the on lead requirements. We take this route as its just under an hour and therefore not too costly with the parking charges and walking on harder surface for alot of the walk. Another nail in the coffin for responsible dog owners instead of targeting those who cannot train their animals
128	N	I'm writing to strongly object to a public space protection order on hylands park . Hylands park is a big important open GREEN Space to myself , I'm am a local & lived in this area my whole life . I use Hylands park for my own personal space, with my own dog , as well as for my dog walking business most days of the year . Firstly I feel the order is victimising, discriminating ,and in a sense bullying professional dog walkers , by dictating only 4 dogs to be walked at one time . I am properly insured allowing myself to walk 6 dogs ,I am police checked & have first aid training in dog care . I do not walk dogs out of control, aggressive or otherwise . A lot of thought goes into the dogs I walk and with what group they walk with. I always pick up my dog poo, and often other peoples too as well as rubbish , a lot of this rubbish is from paid activity's organised by Hylands park , some of this rubbish is dangerous to both humans and animals . I doubt for one moment anyone has spoken with professional dog walkers or even bothered to approach them regarding this , or other people in this industry eg dog trainers/behaviours , By using the RSPCA as a marker is not a good indicator as it not within their remit , they are not dog walkers and there advice is only a recommendation . It has no back up , (due to them not being in the industry)it is not their job. While on the subject of 4 dogs , I know people who have more than 4 dogs as pets , so they would not be able to walk their dogs together , I have also spoken to people in the park who have more than 4 dogs

		<p>as their pets , none of them are ever out of control and they happily run around with the dogs I'm walking and love socialising with each other . So again for a minority of people you are discriminating against a dog loving society.</p> <p>It works both ways , if someone is nervous around dogs , you just keep out of each others way.</p> <p>As for barring dogs from certain areas, eg playground etc Hylands shopping areas , that sounds like plain common sense & is in place already, it does not need to be policed, I do think you'll find the community cafe in the park is a focus for people to meet with friends and share a dog walk , and enjoy the open space , and yes of course if people are in the area , they should put their dogs on leads , why would you want to ban dogs from this area .</p> <p>So yes I object to the need to ban dogs from further areas and consider you are bullying people to use leads in other areas when their dogs are perfectly under control and are happily co existing at the park together.</p> <p>Please do not use the excuse of protecting wild life & animals , as Hylands has lots of paid activities and festivals at the park ,one being the music festival creamfields , this take place during the birds nesting seasons & the ducks hatching there young , this festival must scare the living daylights out of them , plus the rubbish afterwards does not get cleared up properly, I find myself picking it up and disposing of it responsibly. I feel that hylands parking charges has now deterred people from coming to the park and now It's let's get rid of some more & use dogs as a excuse ,</p> <p>Hylands / council will not be happy until every area , has something going on that needs to be paid for making them money , Taking green space away from the people ,</p>
129	Y	<p>Having seen dog walkers with too many dogs - who they are struggling to control- in Hylands park, seen my daughter chased by a dog when a dog walker lost control of one of her dogs, and become very frightened (with the dog walker herself screaming and in tears), and been caught with an owner being circled by their out of control dog, and on top of that being tired of dog poo being left in grass and paths... i am fully in support of the above plans.</p>
130	Y	<p>I believe the park should be safe for everyone to enjoy, and applaud the idea of areas where dogs should be on leads or not allowed. Whilst I realise that Hylands is big enough, in some areas, for dogs to be allowed off leads, I welcome the proposed limit of 4 dogs per person. I see so many professional dog walkers there with 6 dogs or more and find it quite intimidating.</p>
131	Y	<p>Fully support the proposals, it is important that people keep their dogs under control and ensure the Park is a safe space for both children and adults.</p>
132	N	<p>I consider it unnecessary restriction that would require enforcement to be effective. The current restrictions to have dogs on leads in certain areas of the park is not effectively enforced. I would however support the requirement to have all dogs on leads while in the park at all times as this would potentially reduce the number of incidents and would be easier to monitor / enforce.</p>
133	N	<p>Imposing yet more restrictions on people visiting Hylands is madness, firstly introducing parking charges and now proposing to restrict dog walkers. Hylands used to held up as the exemplar of how to run a</p>

		estate, this is just another nail in the coffin. Is the Council deliberately trying to run the estate down so that it can be sold for development....
134	Y	Are there going to be any wardens around to make sure the rules are adhered to?
135	N	Ridiculous proposal to get more people into the park. The reason why the park is so empty now days is because of the parking charges not dogs. All this will do is stop even more people using the park.
136	N	The figures are incorrect. It's 3 dogs that this issue is about At Hylands attacking not 33! Get your information correct and it's going to affect business too as dog walkers won't come now what with paying too and not many areas to bring dogs at Hylands and people feel discriminated towards. Totally unacceptable
137	N	There's something shady about using data captured outside of Hylands park, which has very little issues dog wise. From the news articles it's also clear that the people proposing this have next to no canine knowledge. Using some very out of date terminology. This is yet another step towards squeezing as much money out of Hylands as possible. It's losing its park status and being turned into a commercial enterprise.
138	N	Can you publish details of the instances where there has been dog attacks. Also what plans are you going to put in place when dog owners meet at the park when there can be more than 20 dogs in packs. I think this is more of of an issue with dog behavior and the amount of dog dirt left due to owners not monitoring there animals correctly. An additional issue is around the increase in undesirable breeds that are more common now. Particularly that of the American 'Bully' dog variety. How is CCC going to monitor all of this? Finally restricting dog walkers to four dogs is going to impact how they make a living, with the vast increase in the dog population since COVID, having dog walkers who are generally very responsible, is vital. CCC could put them out of business. In the 30 years I have been visiting the park, which is at least two day a week, winter and summer, I have never seen any attacks of any kind. That's why details of the 30+ instances should be published in full.
139	Y/N	I do support it in part, i.e. dogs on leads in carparks and around the house and cafe areas. But I would like to know how many of the 33 dog attacks occurred in Highlands park itself? And how many were dog on dog or dog on human? The information given is misleading by starting to talk about Hylands and changing to Chelmsford statistics.
140	N	Although not a resident in Chelmsford I am a regular user of the Hylands estate having purchased a yearly parking permit. The requirement for dogs on leads in the areas proposed are too restrictive. The area between the cafe and the old stables beside the house are almost empty of people during the week, the only people using it being dog walkers. I agree on warmer weekends/school holiday times later in the day this is used by families (some of which are dog owners) and owners should as always have their dogs under control. Suggesting the area around the Serpentine lake being a dogs on lead at any time is a major issue. Dog owners often use the lake to cool their dogs down and encourage dog swimming which has health benefits for dogs. Again I understand that wildlife uses the lake and it is important that dog owners respect this. One of the reasons given for the PSPO is dogs out of control and attacking other dogs/people

		and wild stock in neighbouring farmland. Please detail the number of incidents as I do not see these being reported in the Essex dog crime weekly update. Also I would expect the boundary fences be properly maintained. I also have concerns that the cafe will be further impacted as dog walkers move to other locations. The cafe has already suffered following the parking charges introduced post Covid. Please also advise what is being done regarding the cyclists that consistently ride at speed along the footpaths in the wooded areas of the estate which are hazardous to dogs and their owners.
141	N	I have never seen a problem with dogs being exercised off the lead in the wider area of the park. The only area it needs to be enforced is the formal gardens and children's play area. This proposal is unnecessary.
142	N	I use Hylands Park for my dogs walk regularly. Whilst I do not see the need for this PSPO myself I'm sure it will be adopted and hope that the new areas where dogs have to be on leads are clearly marked in the park so as not to fall foul of the new rules by accident.
143	N	I am a resident of Ingatestone, a Hylands Car Parks season ticket holder, a responsible dog owner who regularly walks in Hylands Park and regularly uses the cafes and attends events staged at Hylands. I consider myself lucky that I have those facilities on my doorstep. I am not, in principle, against extending the existing restrictions for dogs on leads in the park, however I do believe that the proposed restrictions are discriminating against the vast majority of park visitors with dogs. There are no bad dogs only bad owners and your proposals will not address those people. Those dog owners will ignore the restrictions just as they ignore the bad behaviour of their dogs. I usually walk in the park early in the morning or in the evening. My car is frequently the only car in the car park off Three Mile Hill. I often walk the park without meeting anyone. I would like to suggest that a much fairer proposition would be to introduce restrictions at peak times only, much as many coastal councils already have in place. If your current proposals are put in place, it is a genuine concern that those of us with well behaved, friendly dogs who mix together, will now have less area to share with aggressive dogs when the park is most busy. Restricting the numbers of dogs per person to 4 does not address the issue as the incidents described involved 4 dogs. Perhaps if 4 dogs are walked, they should all be on lead. I do need to add that it seems that Chelmsford Council does not value those of us who use the park in all seasons and support the on site businesses. The events this summer resulted in no access for us for 3 consecutive weeks but we are expected to pay the monthly car park costs. The introduction of Go Ape will restrict the beautiful wooded area and of course there are no toilet facilities for those who walk our dogs alone. I hope you will take my comments seriously. We are lucky to have Hylands Estate to share and we all want the best for all users.
144	Y/N	The correct answer is it depends, but of course you do not give that option. I agree that the number of dogs should be reduced, some less reputable dog walkers walk too many dogs which they cannot control, let alone see where all the dogs are pooing so they can pick it up. I have seen some walking 13 dogs which makes a pack that cannot be controlled in all circumstances. I have no objection you doing this but in the heat of the summer we do need somewhere the dogs can have water too cool off. If you take away the lake then you need to replace

		the facility. I am not sure from the map if the dog pond is in the restricted area or not. Either way it is not big enough in the summer and thus often gets various bacteria living there. I appreciate that this may cost some money but not much. It depends on how much you want to help. I know there are some streams there in the winter, but they dry out in the summer.
145	N	Maybe you could consider an area exclusively for dogs that's sectioned off and secure for them to run free and play with other dogs without having non-dog people intervene and try pet them, probably causing so-called attacks!! The fact shows only 3 so-called attacks out of 33 took place in the park. What you are considering is more likely to make dog walkers
146	N	Enforcing that one individual can only walk 4 dogs at any given time is ridiculous. I foster and rescue dogs and often walk multiple at a given time. I am responsible as are most dog walkers. Furthermore, it should be the owners' judgement whether or not to let their dog off the lead.
147	N	The park was given to all the people of Chelmsford and is the main stay for so many people as well as all the dog walkers. Limiting the number of dogs is simply ridiculous. Many of us help out our friends for dog care and that would mean we are not able to use the park. You are also taking so much of the park away from the dog walkers who are more than certainly the majority of users. It is also going to be completely unmanageable unless you are going to fence off all these areas. So don't alienate so many of the park users you need us and our support.
148	Y	I feel this is a sensible move. It doesn't restrict off-lead dog walking much beyond what is absolutely sensible. It also allows people like me to walk my rescue dog in an area where I know off-lead dogs won't come running up to him, as happens a lot in parks around here. This will mean I can take my dog somewhere I know he and I will be comfortable. I think limiting dog walkers to 4 dogs per person is sensible as it is unrealistic for one person to be fully in control of 5 or more dogs (regardless of size) at one time. I think this is an excellent idea and welcome these changes. I'd love to see more like this introduced in Admirals Park near the roads and Central Park in the main green area near the public paths. Last week I saw a dog almost hit by a car and an accident almost caused when someone with their dog off-lead didn't see them run out of Admirals Park onto the road and I've had countless dogs run at me and my dog in Central Park when we've been on the path. Dog owners here need guidance to stay safe.
149	N	If this has to be introduced, have the council considered applying it only at certain times of day and certain months similar to the way many beaches work. Surely it isn't necessary to control certain areas during the winter months when people are unlikely to be picnicking and when the grounds are nearly empty
150	N	Another ridiculous idea. While we're about it, let's ban kids with footballs, bikes and skateboards. And no-one should be allowed to chew gum, picnic or bring cans and bottles into parks or on the beach for fear of litter. Not sure how these bans might be enforced though! Perhaps the answer is to just do away with all open spaces and build on them. I wonder if this was a problem on communal land back in the Middle Ages! After all, think of the mess sheep, goats and cattle

		would have made! How long will it be before you ban dogs from all the parks. The cyclist who race through all the parks of Chelmsford are a problem along with the scooters and food delivery guys. The mountain bikes that go along the paths in the woods of Hylands forcing prose to jump out of the way. And lets not forget the drug dealers who are all too common in the parks. All of the above have little or no regard for the safety of the public, be it dogs owners or not. Surely the public need to be protected from the above. I guess the council will appoint a dog warden to patrol and enforce this. Why not have the police patrol the parks for drug dealers and users. Will there be a ban on groups of dog owners meeting up?
151	Y	Doesn't seem unreasonable to have some areas of the park excluded from dogs, it would be great if you could indicate on the map some for the consultation that the footway from the church near one mile hill will still be open to dog walkers, I was there today and several people were talking about the consultation and that they wouldn't be able to access from that point. I could see on your map that they could but it could be made clearer please. Thanks
152	Y	Yes, generally, as this isn't hugely different to the behaviour I undertake now. I have two observations/ comments - the Serpentine lake lead requirement is tricky as it is hard to tell where that starts and ends. If you are on the path around the lake, putting a dog back on the lead mid walk for a few metres doesn't feel great - with the front area from the writtle car park to the house, I understand on leads when this is busy, but could a time be considered? Eg 9-5 or 6? Often times outside that are much quieter, though I appreciate that might make it more confusing
153	Y	I think it is a good idea. Even with the restricted areas where dogs have to be on a lead the estate is big enough for dogs to be off the lead in the unrestricted areas I am nervous of dogs, especially large ones, and I will be happier knowing that the areas I use in Hylands Park dogs will be under control. Thank you
154	Y	An excellent idea
155	Y	Totally agree with the introduction of the new PSPO for dog walking at the Hylands Estate, this should have been introduced years ago.
156	Y	A great idea. Dog owners often feel that everyone loves their dog. How wrong they are.
157	Y	I think the new rules will make Hylands much more pleasant to visit... I know not all change is welcome but sadly people need rules to keep maintain an acceptable standard for all...
158	Y	I am the owner of a dog who loves to be off the lead but think the Council should press ahead with these plans. There is plenty of space in Hylands Park to let dogs off the lead and adults and children should have areas where dogs can't be a nuisance. Not all dogs are well behaved and obedient and it can be frightening and cause anxiety even if a dog wants to be friendly when off the lead.
159	Y	I have a dog-reactive dog and love to walk. We find many local places stressful and difficult to visit because too many dogs are allowed to roam free and cause trouble. I welcome the idea of walking where I know all other dogs will be on the lead, and wont approach us uninvited. Thank you for considering this proposal.
160	Y	i support the proposal

161	Y	The problem isn't the dogs it is their handlers. As an ex military dog handler I would never have a dog off lead at all in a very busy environment like Hylands
162	Y	I wish the whole area (/world) would turn dog free; dogs are bad for the environment (according to one estimate, owning a medium-size dog can have a similar carbon footprint to a large SUV) and are never 100% without risk to humans. Hylands has plenty of dog walkers that leave their dog's mess lying around, especially in the wooded areas (or... they don't know as their dog is off the lead!). So yes, as many dog free and dogs on the lead areas as possible. Thanks for considering these areas.
163	Y	I think it's a great idea. Having dogs on leads in small areas of the park shouldn't be that big of an issue
164	N	The extortionate parking charges is already a reason to be put off coming here: the dog restrictions would be a reason to stop completely. It is completely unfair to penalise dogs and responsible owners. Where are the details of these dog attacks?
165	Y/N	Of the 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford referred to in the information on your website, how many occurred at Hylands Park? Also, this form asks me to state whether I support the proposal... currently undecided, hence my question. Perhaps this question shouldn't be mandatory.
166	N	The proposed limitations on dog walkers freedom to use Hylands Park as they desire seems completely unnecessary and over the top reaction to the small number of dog related incidents. Given the council only reports 33 such incidents each year across the whole city, it seems reasonable to assume that only a very small number if any will have been at Hylands Park. Not including the actual number in the consultation is fundamentally dishonest on the part of the officials running this consultation, and as such it should be shelved.
167	Y	My daughter was attacked by an out of control dog whilst running at Hylands this morning. In my view dogs should be on a lead at all times at Hylands.
168	N	Ridiculous idea. Not only do we pay for parking, we are now possibly restricted to the area we can enjoy the park with our dogs. 33 dog incidents in CHELMSFORD, not hylands park, means the statistics of any form of incident are minute! If this rule is brought in then, I will be forced to look for alternative areas where I can walk my dog without having to pay for parking, nor having the fear of penalties due to my friendly dog having fun in an open park. I do hope common sense prevails
169	N	The problem is not with out of control dogs, but more with untrained owners! Most badly behaved dogs I have encountered are the result of clueless owners have zero idea of how to treat a dog correctly let alone train it adequately.
170	N	This is unnecessary. You state 33 reports of mainly dog on dog attacks in Chelmsford. This is not only a very small number but also for the whole of Chelmsford not Hylands Park so your statement is misleading. In all the years I have walked my dog in Hylands Park, I have never witnessed any dog incidents even dog on dog. Dogs nipping one another is very common but can hardly be classed as an attack. Hyland Park is wonderful, leave it alone. However, it is surprisingly low on wildlife. It needs rabbits and perhaps some deer.

171	N	<p>How many of the 33 dog attacks happened in Hylands Park. I have walked this park for many years and have seen no incidents. I would like to propose dogs on leads in the orange areas after 10 a.m. (much dog walking takes place earlier) and no dogs on lead restrictions during the winter months, say October until April. I have no issue with the proposed red areas as these are already in force. In recently years you have already introduced parking charges which has discouraged many.</p> <p>I have previously submitted comments but would like it noted that under the freedom of information act, it appears no dog attacks have taken place at Hylands Park over the past 5 years. So none of the 33 attacks mentioned in the proposal apply to Hylands Park.</p>
172	N	<p>Due to the minority of people who are not responsible dog owners the remaining majority, who are responsible, now need to pay the price. I appreciate that the proposal is looking to address these very few people but I feel that there should be further considerations, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could the restrictions be in force from 10am until 4pm each day? I walk my dog early in the morning and I never meet anyone who isn't a responsible dog owner early in the day. In fact, I never see families, children, etc using the park before 10am, even at weekends. It is purely sole people walking their dog. This would also mean any wheelchair users would be able to walk their dog off lead, whilst using the concrete pathways themselves, albeit they would be restricted to early or later hours in the day. - As the council now charge for the privilege of walking in a park that was gifted by Mrs Hanbury's family to the people of Chelmsford, could the funds be used to extend the areas of tendered, mowed lawns? This would mean off lead dogs could run in grass areas that do not pose a risk to their health (embedded grass seeds), and are safe for the owners too. The majority of the proposed off lead areas are long grass areas and they are almost impossible to walk in safely due to hidden uneven ground, and are a definite risk to anyone who is elderly or disabled. - I have noticed that there are less and less people using Hylands Park since the car park charging was introduced. Which is a real shame. Many, myself included at times, use alternative free parks to exercise themselves and their dogs. If the tariff was amended to have smaller incremental increases based on duration this may allow more people to use the facility, and in turn provide more income to support the park's upkeep.
173	N	<p>I have been walking my dog over Hylands for 8 years now and never seen or experienced any issues with other dogs. The best thing about Hylands is you can take your dog there and let them off the lead, that's the point. It's obvious when you should keep them on the lead, e.g. around the cafes, house, car parks etc. but completely banning them from certain areas is unnecessary. Hylands is for everyone, I agree, but it's huge draw for dog walkers. The introduction of parking charges was bad enough and now you want to restrict walkers even further. A definite NO from me.</p>
174	N	<p>The areas defined are too large an area. I would agree that it is sensible to have dogs on leads near the cafe and children's play areas and agree that 4 dogs per person is sensible, however there is no point in bringing in rules that cannot be policed. I am sure</p>

		irresponsible dog owners will be irresponsible rule breakers too and this only seeks to penalise the enjoyable walk for the walkers that are rule keepers and sensible with their dogs (which is still the majority).
175	N	<p>First of all, as a Parking Permit Holder for Hylands house I am surprised I did not receive an email informing me of the proposed changes and of this consultation. I estimate that at least 95% of Permit Holders like myself are dog walkers and walk at Hylands regularly. We should have received an email. I myself walk at Hylands 2-3 times a week and have done so for many years. I object to these proposals. I feel this is a this a complete over reaction. 33 Dog incidents over the whole of Chelmsford! I have never seen or heard (from other dog walkers) of serious incidents in the park. This isn't to say they don't happen but they must be rare. 39 weeks of the year when children are at school, there's hardly anyone at Hylands without a dog. During the winter months, it unusual to see anyone at Hylands without a dog! Yet the regular visitors, the dog walkers, the Permit payers are now to be restricted further: The main field in the centre of the map where you are proposing all dogs be on leads is far too big an area. Once you pass the children's adventure playground you will rarely see anyone walking up that field without a dog. In the winter when there are few people around, I walk up the paths on either side of that field to avoid the mud. I wouldn't want to walk it with my dogs on a lead and they wouldn't get any exercise. That means I'd be restricted to muddy fields either side. The dog bins are also located along those paths so I'd have to put my dogs back on a lead every time I wanted to use them. This is ridiculous. I don't want to buy an annual permit to walk there 2-3 times a week if I have to keep my dogs on leads to use the paths.</p> <p>Regarding the number of dogs with one walker, I think restricting this to a maximum of 4 dogs is not unreasonable.</p>
176	Y	I walk at least 4 times a week in the park and have done for a couple of years. On several occasions I have had dogs run at me barking and growling with little effort from there owners to control them. Thank you for the proposed restrictions - I do hope they go ahead and are monitored daily
177	N	<p>Firstly I hold an Annual Permit for Hylands, so it would have been nice to have received an e-mail regarding these proposals instead of a flyer attached to a gate! I believe the whole of the middle field which you wish to have dogs on lead is too much. The poo bins and paths run up the side of this middle field and its a place for the dogs to be exercised rather than lead walked. Also the park is mainly used by dog walkers not people sitting here. Maybe a smaller area can be nominated for people choosing to sit and picnic , but lets face it, the only time families may sit in this area is during school holiday time (summer) (spring) maybe, weather permitting which is only a few weeks during the course of a year. So to make it a permanent dogs on lead all year would be pointless. If you visit the park during the colder, wetter months this field is empty and usually only occupied by dog walkers. (who are, lets face it your main permit holders).</p> <p>I do agree though with the number of dogs to be walked by professional dog walkers.</p>
178	N	I do not support the introduction of the new PSPO. Regarding enforced dog on lead areas. Firstly, I feel that some of the areas are too ambiguous - especially the dogs on lead are "immediately around"

		<p>Serpentine lake. The large green areas surrounding the lake are particularly popular with dog owners wishing to throw balls and, without a clear definition of the proximity to the lake dogs have to be kept on lead, this wouldn't be possible without risking a fine.</p> <p>Secondly, a large number of the areas where dogs must be kept on lead are where the dog waste bins currently are (around the lake, in the field behind the adventure playground). As these rules will encourage dog owners not to use these areas, alternative waste bins should be installed further around the park. For example, a waste bin would be useful past the current ones in south wood as you walk further through. Regarding the dog free areas, I would appreciate some clarity on whether this would prevent dog owners from accessing the Stable's cafe. Currently, dogs are not allowed in the courtyard but can access the cafe through the side to order hot drinks etc. Overall, to be honest I find the reasoning behind the proposed PSPO to be tenuous. Of the 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford last year, how many occurred in Hylands? I am there almost every day walking my dogs and I have never encountered any dog violence (either dog on dog or dog on human). The vast majority of dog walkers in Hylands are courteous, respecting when another dog is on lead, and giving space to dogs that need it (including one of my own dogs). Year round, dog walkers make up a large percentage of the visitors to Hylands Park. We pay the parking charges, buy drinks in the cafes, and support the park no matter the season!</p> <p>I would support a ban in group meet ups such as those organised by breed specific groups but this could be organised differently and not through a blanket PSPO on all dogs.</p>
179	N	<p>I have a couple of observations. Firstly in your introductory information on the PSPO you mention specifically that there have been 33 instances of reports of out of control dogs in Chelmsford public areas, but since this is a PSPO is specifically for Hylands Park it would have been less "misleading" if you presented only the incidents that have occurred in the park. That way any improvement in the park brought about by the PSPO can be fairly judged. The incidents outside the park may not be directly comparable to the circumstances within the park and therefore may not be pertinent to the proposals for Hylands.</p> <p>It might have been very useful to include some information on the proportion of park visitors walking dogs. In the mornings, certainly before 11:00 am, it seems to me that dog walkers comprise by far the majority - maybe up to 80%. It is a much enjoyed local resource and is very well maintained by the Council.</p> <p>I have to say that mention of the deer is surprising to me. In all my visits to the park over more than 10 years I don't think I've ever seen a deer in the park. Talking to others I get the same response. One dog walker said he's seen only 2 muntjacs in over 50 years of visiting the park. Whilst I would never condone dogs attacking deer, I think it is a trivial hazard compared to the cars on the A414. There are numerous deer strikes on the A414.</p> <p>The PSPO proposals are not too severe, loss of access to the lake will be disappointing for some (dogs!). The park has several lakes and ponds but most are extremely muddy and unsuitable for dogs to swim or paddle in (or even drink from). If you do exclude dogs off the lead from the Serpentine Lake area, it would be good to nominate a</p>

		<p>different lake for dogs to use and to maintain that in a more suitable condition.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to many more peaceful hours spent walking dogs and making friends in the beautiful Hylands Park.</p>
180	N	<p>You state that last year there were 33 dog-on-dog or dog-on-person attacks in THE WHOLE OF CHELMSFORD. Were ANY of them in Hylands Park? And how many human-on-human attacks were recorded during that period in Chelmsford? Using your dubious logic, are you therefore planning to ban people from Hylands? It is becoming increasingly clear that there is a strong anti-dog element on the Council. First, they were banned from the cafe - despite years of happy co-existence before the Council decided that that could not be tolerated. What a miserable lot of killjoys.</p> <p>I have been bringing my dogs to the park for many, many years and have never once witnessed a dog attack.</p> <p>For goodness sake, turn your attention to something worthwhile which will benefit the City instead of just sitting there dreaming up yet more anti-dog schemes.</p>
181	N	<p>I have walked my dog for the past 7 years at Hylands and have never heard of any issues myself or from other people. The only issue I have had was with a child who asked to stroke my dog mum said yes. He then kicked my dog and run off laughing, mum said "boys will be boys" and walked off. My dog is a cav, small and gentle was yelping. Where is our protection? How do you intend to police this if brought in?</p>
182	N	<p>Another example of over control by this out of touch council using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Dog walkers (who can afford the extortionate car parking) make up a very large contingent of visitors to the park in all seasons and all weathers. The council should be focusing it efforts in controlling the littering in Hylands by non dog walkers. On a one hour walk with my dogs today I observed three discarded vapes and numerous cans and bags.</p>
183	Y	<p>I don't walk our dog at Hylands very often, but this seems reasonable. Looking at the map though, you will need plenty of signage and maybe even some markers or fencing at the boundaries of each of the zones. It's unreasonable to stick a few maps up online and/or in the car parks and expect people to remember where those boundaries are, especially the ones between off-lead and on-lead.</p>
184	N	<p>The new rules are another reason for not using Hylands Park. Firstly the introduction of exorbitant car parking fees for people just outside Chelmsford. Now banning dogs swimming in the Serpentine. Dogs love to swim. The ducks keep away and are not hurt. The dogs are in the water for a very short time and it is part of their enjoyment of the park.</p> <p>The cafes will suffer with lack of support as most of the people with dogs will avoid these areas. In holiday time I can understand the need for keeping dogs on the lead round the main car park for safety reasons. At other times most of the people using the park are dog lovers and keep their animals well under control. Why should the majority suffer when just a few incidents have happened.</p>
185	Y	<p>I think it's very important for all visitors to feel safe and I welcome these proposals. I would even extend the "dogs on a lead" zones to Admirals Park and Central Park especially along the main</p>

		<p>pedestrian/cycle route into town from Writtle. I have lost count of the times I have had to take evasive action even while walking but especially when cycling (on my old lady bicycle) as dogs let loose run randomly in front of me. I am not reassured by the constant bleating of dog owners who claim their massive uncontrolled animal wouldn't hurt me! I should be able to walk into town and into Hylands park without worrying about being knocked over as I am a small retired lady and vulnerable to fractures.</p> <p>However my husband is not in this category yet he is also constantly affected by careless dog owners who have caused accidents which damaged his bike by allowing dogs to chase each other. We have been Chelmsford residents for 40 years and chose to live within walking distance of the town centre because we are committed to green initiatives and similarly walk regularly to Hylands. Well done for thinking about us non dog owners.</p>
186	N	<p>The majority of dog walkers are responsible and use leads as and when needed. This feels like they are being punished for the very few who are not sensible and responsible dog owners. You already made the second class cafe area for dog owners and now want to limit enjoyment of Hylands even further. I wonder who will use the park if you continue to make its use difficult. This year I have observed far fewer cars in the car park. Dog walkers must make up a huge proportion of the Hylands visitors and car parking revenue.</p>
187	Y	<p>Seems like a sensible measure which should keep all park visitors happy (with or without a dog).</p>
188	N	<p>My wife and I have walked our dogs in Hylands park more than 40 years. We have never experienced a problem with the way things are at present. I do agree dogs should not be in some area ie children's play area. But we often walk round the lake during the week and only come across other dog walkers. We often meet professional dog walkers with more than 4 dogs and find they have more control over them than some people with only 1 or 2. I therefore think a blanket rule of only 4 is very harsh. Please leave things as they are but clamp down on the rare occasions when people do not behave properly and ruin it for the majority. Dog warden patrol would be good.</p>
189	Y	<p>I am a regular Hylands user and dog owner and, whilst this will restrict some of my regular walks, I do understand the want for these particular areas to be lead walks. My only comments are that I think this is fine provided you still cut the grass in areas where dogs are allowed off lead, my dog has allergies to the long grass and, as a permit holder, I walk her at Hylands most days and have done for the past 10 years and where I walk is dependent on the length of grass as well as looking for a low population area. Also, I think it may be worth looking at restrictions on a seasonal basis only, say April to end of September as when the weather is bad, and during the late Autumn and Winter, I am often one of only a handful of other die-hard dog walkers at Hylands during the day and prefer to stay near this central area for my own safety so as not to be isolated and I often walk this central section without seeing another person so we wouldn't affect anybody else if my very well behaved dog was off lead. Obviously I personally would prefer no restrictions as my dog is well trained and well behaved and prefers to avoid other people rather than approaching them, but I understand that not all dog owners are responsible or realistic about their dog's behaviour.</p>

190	Y	<p>Good day This was long due to be put in place at The Hylands We have small children that are afraid of dogs and could never play when dogs roam around free try to jump on them barking aggressively and catch their ball !</p> <p>The green space , the gardens are taken over by dogs all the time even the playground Too much about dogs only</p> <p>Thank you so much for doing this We are hoping to see great results!!</p>
191	N	<p>Of the 33 reports of dog-on-dog or dog-on-human attacks in Chelmsford how many were in the park? You are slowly killing off the park for public use. The park was given to the public for the public. It started with extortionate car parking charges and now this. The park is no longer for everyone, only those that can afford it. If the public abandon the park and vote with their feet where will you be then? As it stands we will not be renewing our annual parking. Good bye Hylands.</p>
192	Y	<p>I support this proposal. I like to walk but avoid Hylands as there seem to me to be too many dogs running around off their leads, not in the control of their owner/walker. I am afraid of dogs, especially if bounding towards me, so I stay away from Hylands so I do not have to deal with this situation.</p>
193	N	<p>The no dog zones are not acceptable. The limit to four dogs per walker is again not acceptable as my dog walker sometimes has 5 or 6 dogs making her day longer and more costly.</p>
194	Y	<p>I am a dog owner whose dogs were attacked at Hylands Park several years ago (police and council involved) and welcome the PSPO. There are owners who have their dogs off lead around the outside cafe area by the Fort with no thought for others. Last year there was also a personal protection company that let their dogs off lead from the Writtle road car park to let off steam. Only know this as the woman had a puppy and I offered it 'make friends with my dogs' to help socialize it and she explained they didn't want it to be friendly with other dogs :-)</p>
195	N	<p>I have walked my dog for years at Hylands, I agree with the red areas highlighted apart from number 7 , I also agree with the amber areas around the ape , the children's park and Hylands gardens. But the rest is unnecessary, the dog attacks are due to owners not controlling their dogs and other dog walkers should not be penalized, I would be better to have CCTV and prosecute accordingly</p>
196	N	<p>Of the 33 dog incidents in Chelmsford can you confirm how many took place within Hylands Park.</p> <p>Aside from within Hylands Park could you also confirm where in Chelmsford the dog incidents took place. And the number of complainants (members of the public)</p>
197	N	<p>How many of the reported incidents actually took place in Hylands as opposed to Chelmsford as a whole? I think that's a very important distinction given you're stating Chelmsford statistics yet implementing something specifically in Hylands. Whilst 33 cases is a concern (if genuine), I guess this pales in insignificance to drunk & disorderly reports in the town centre in a single weekend, but I guess that's a lot less important as banning alcohol would hit the council's pockets too hard!</p>
198	N	<p>I understand the desire that Hylands park is able to be utilised by families to be able to picnic and have fun. However the park is used on a daily basis by dog walkers the majority of whom are responsible</p>

		<p>dog owners . The dog walkers use the park ALL year round not just at weekends, or during the summer months. I strongly suggest that the restrictions in relation to areas where dogs are permitted off lead be seasonal and NOT operate during the winter month for example between 1 October and 30 March of each year. Most beaches in Essex restrict dogs on the beach during the winter months. The Council also needs to take into consideration the condition of the areas in which dogs can be walked off lead, many of the regular dog walkers are retired individuals who find it difficult walking in long grass on undulating surfaces. I would suggest that more of the area us mowed more frequently and repaired after events such as cream field and the proms. These areas are often left to nature to rectify but the damage often cannot be rectified by nature. Large whole are left in the paths and pothole and mud tracks on the grassy areas. The councils own data is clear that in 2022 there was 1 dog attach in hylands when a chil was knocked over by a dog, 2020 there were 2 dog attacks on either a child or an adult and in 2019 there were 3 dog attacks on either a chil or an adult. It is alarmist therefore in my view to print on a leaflet in relation to hylands park that there have been 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford- this may be accurate but does not reflect the position in relation to hylands park. Further if there is now a designated area where dogs can be off lead it may be wise to revisit the areas and to install further bigs for the dog excrement-at present within this area there are insufficient bins. It would also be wise for hylands staff to clear the horse excrement from the public areas. Horse excrement has been left in the field behind the children's play area for almost a week.</p> <p>In relation to dog on dog attacks this can occur whether a dog is on or off a lead and it is the responsibility of each dog owner to know their dog and to be able to stop any such attacks by controlling their dog. An attack is NOT 2dogs growling at each other.</p>
199	N	I have been walking in hylands both with and without dogs for more than 40 years, and my opion of the changes is that the ones who are likely to cause a problem with an out of control dog(s) are the ones that would ignore the regulations even if you try to impose them.
200	Y	Dogs should be on leads everywhere. Limit should be three dogs. Parking should be free for everyone
201	Y	As a dog owner I am disappointed that more rules need to be in place that take away responsible dog owners freewill choices, however providing there are still enough large areas that dogs can exercise, I feel the new rules could make those owners who are not currently respectful to others around them to take more care.
202	Y	The problem is that if people are forced to having dogs on leads all that will happen is they will drive out to the countryside and run their unruly dogs in "Our Back Garden" the end result is that they will then attack our dogs and children (it has happened to me on several occasions) then the law will change for all dog owners, most of which are sensible in the approach to handling dogs in public, this would be unfair, I believe an on the spot fine, cautions, and muzzling of unruly dogs (and owners!!) along with being told that particular animal has to be kept on a lead and the wardens can work with the owners to keep their dogs at heal.
203	Y	It will indeed help visitors and dog walkers enjoy the beauty of Hylands park in a safer way. As a regular visitor I am a witness of

		<p>incidents when dogs approach walkers sometimes in a very scary manner, even out of control, and their owners showing no consideration towards those who do not have a dog or are scared of dogs. I often complement those dog owners who are considerate and keep their animals under control. I really appreciate the Council's effort to make Highlands Park a place where everyone can enjoy! Thank you!</p>
204	Y/N	<p>I understand why this decision has been made, and overall support it, especially when it comes to the protection of children. However, I do think there's an argument to make this change seasonal, especially when it comes to the field directly coming off the Writtle Road carpark (opposite the play area, by Mauros). This area is one of the most common - and vast - areas of the park, making it ideal for dogs to be off lead as they can be clearly seen and kept an eye on.</p> <p>As I say, I completely respect why you want to keep this area an on-lead spot in the summer months, particularly the school holidays, as a lot of families will choose to picnic adjacent to the play area. But in the off-peak months, especially Oct - Mar, the park is much, much quieter and is practically absent of children, especially during the week.</p> <p>Some would even say the park is kept afloat largely by the custom of dog walkers during these months, for example who might let their dog off lead for a little run in clear sight around the field and then grab a drink at Mauros. many, and that most dogs pose no harm to children, adults nor other creatures. In the case that a dog has displayed violent, or even potential violent tendencies, they should of course be muzzled and kept on lead. My comment was in relation to dogs (the vast majority) that pose no threat, are trained responsibly, and are simply at the park to enjoy a walk and a little run...</p>
205	Y	<p>The proposals don't go far enough. The areas where dogs are allowed off the lead should be minimal, and remote from the heavily used areas, for the safety, and enjoyment, of the vast majority of park users.</p>
206	N	<p>I'd like to know why, according to your marked up plan, that a footpath has been removed from 'Area 7' adjoining the house close to the church. There is currently a footpath that runs between the cattle 'fenced off area' and the house boundary hedge - your map now indicated this is no longer there. Is this a mistake on the map or this an intentional ploy to remove this footpath. I'd be grateful for clarification on this point before 11th August please. Thank you</p>
207	Y	<p>Excellent idea but will probably need policing for sometime until dog owners get the message.</p>
208	N	<p>1) While I am supportive of the 4 dogs limit per professional dog walker, this seems at odds with the 6 dogs limit issued against those same licenses issued by CBC. All I can see from this measure is that local dog walking businesses will suffer and/or Hylands Park will lose the parking income.</p> <p>2) I walk my 2 dogs daily at Hylands Park, occasionally instead going to Weald Park, Thorndon Park or Discovery Centre. I use these parks because I need to let my dogs off lead to burn energy, as there will now be a lot of confusion as to where my dogs can and cannot be off lead and overzealous park wardens and public I will drop my parking permit for Hylands as I suspect will the other hundreds of dog walkers who go to Hylands and CBC can once again struggle for income to</p>

		<p>maintain the park, especially when the novelty of Go Ape and the summer holidays is over.</p> <p>3) I need to let my dogs off lead to expend the energy they have, otherwise they just run crazy in my back garden and disturb the neighbours, as a responsible dog owner I have never wanted my dogs to annoy anyone but this will be the outcome, CBC is shifting the issue from one place to another.</p> <p>4) Lots of people tell me to book one of the play fields available for dogs in the Chelmsford area, I tried doing this but there is no availability for weeks since everyone else block books, there simply are not enough of these places for the dogs owned. When I talk to current play area owners they tell me the CBC rules are so strict most people don't want to go through them.</p> <p>5) when I do use Hylands park I am always keen that my dogs should not upset anyone so keep them on lead around popular or busy areas such as the house, the stables, the children play areas and associated coffee shops and car parks. To me this would be a sensible limitation put on everyone, but the Serpentine Lake is well out of the way of these, I see no justification for having an on lead rule here, it is very rare anyone is there without a dog/s. In the summer this is also the only place for dogs to cool off that is clean, all other water areas in the park are covered in slime and stink. Either leave the Serpentine Lake off lead or fix the other water areas around the park.</p> <p>In summary, supportive of 4 dog limit, supportive of on-lead around house, stables, car parks, play areas and coffee shops. This will also be easy to explain and police. Not supportive of on-lead rule around the Serpentine Lake which is away from most non-dog walkers. Also I find when people react badly to dogs and think they are being 'attacked' it's because they either don't know how to handle themselves around dogs, or approach dogs without clearing it with the owner. I would suggest a few strategically places dog etiquette boards would be useful such as turning your back on a dog which is jumping up at you to play, asking an owner if it is okay to stroke your dog, etc.</p>
209	N	<p>I was so very sad and frustrated to hear of the PSPO the council are currently proposing.</p> <p>I feel it completely unjust, completely discriminatory and a real let down to the people of chelmsford.</p> <p>Please accept this letter as my absolute unequivocal objection to your proposal. My reasons listed below;</p> <p>Firstly, your reasons for the PSPO appear to be extremely misleading and of very little logic. You state 33 dog related incidences have occurred ion chelmsford. Upon requisition the real figures, only 3 of these were actually at Hylands. 3. Just 3.</p> <p>Your PSPO sounds extremely excessive and histrionic for just 3 incidences out of the thousands and thousands of people that enter our park yearly.</p> <p>It really seems such a huge nuclear reaction and makes me question your true intentions here. In fact it seems you are misusing and totally exploiting the use of a PSPO.</p> <p>The same number of incidences at Chelmer Park. Why are you not putting a PSPO on Chelmer park also? If your concern for public safety is based on these numbers then surely you need to be doing this there too?</p>

	<p>Please do let me know what the differences are.</p> <p>You also stated in your proposal that one of the incidents at Hylands involved a group walk where different owners bring their dogs, all of the same breed. An attack occurred during one of these. But by the rules of your PSPO, this type of walk and situation won't actually be stopped. These types of walks are still allowed to go ahead, open to another similar incident. Please explain why you have used this incident to propose a PSPO.</p> <p>Now onto the reasonings that truly effected me personally....</p> <p>As a professional dog walker of over 8 years and currently studying to become a fully qualified dog trainer and behaviourist, I was extremely offended by your accusation that I could not control more than 4 dogs at one time. I feel personally attacked and my own livelihood completely at risk during an already terrible time in this economic climate.</p> <p>To add insult to injury, it has come to light that several members of the council, including one who is very involved in this proposal actually use professional dog walkers for their own dogs. The dog walker(s) used walk more than 4 dogs at a time. Yet you have stated that no body is able to control any more that that amount of dogs. So why is it that you use these professional dog walker yourselves? I guess what im trying to point out is that your proposal is of very little logic and more a personal attack of dog owners and especially professional dog walkers.</p> <p>My dog walking business is my sole source of income. Its a job I have dedicated more time than I ever imagined and I take absolute pride in it. During the 8 years I have been running my business, I have never had a single dog related incident, be it dog on dog or dog on human. In fact the only attack going on is the council on us at present. By stating I can now only walk 4 dogs at once, you are respectively making me drop clients that I've had for years, let down the dogs whilst also giving me a pay cut in an already terrible economical crisis.</p> <p>Hylands is a huge place and one that the dogs love to visit as there is so much room for everyone. Us pack walkers do not walk in the areas where lots of people are, especially children. We certainly do not walk near the childrens play ground, the cafe or any other higher traffic area.</p> <p>Its common sense, something you need to trust us with.</p> <p>You also mentioned the wildlife in your proposal and the danger dog walkers pose to them. This fact really hit me hard. Mainly because I have felt for such a long time (and spoken out about) that Hylands park have an abundance of wildlife that is routinely put into danger by yourselves</p> <p>You held creamfields music festival at the most pivotal part of spring. Wildlife are raising their young. Stress can cause the loss of pregnancy, the mother to deliberately harm her young or abandon them. Two years ago, you put the festival car park right next to the lake. The lake that had goslings, ducklings and baby moorhens. Wildlife needs to be left alone during the time that Creamfields was on. You instead held a music festival! And allowed footfall of all car drivers to pass the lake and fill it with litter, human excrement etc. Further to this, you had rusty broken gates and fences dumped in that lake for many years. I asked many times for this to be removed. It</p>
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		<p>wasn't until the parking charges came into forces, that these objects were finally removed.</p> <p>The only danger posed on wildlife is by you and your money grabbing being placed over their wellbeing.</p> <p>If you come down to walk beside me, you will find birds (crows in particular) follow us as we walk the fields, ducks come straight to us. This because we feed them daily. I purchased duck food, bird seed etc especially for this.</p> <p>My pack of dogs are always under complete control during their time at our park. I would never in a million years allow them to jump into the water when there is wildlife there. I do however let them cool off in an area where there are no wildlife around. According to your proposals, dogs will not be allowed in the water at all. This is extremely dangerous during the summer months and will lead to health issues.</p> <p>I walk to the lake every single day throughout the year, sometimes more than once. I have even made a call to yourselves about a duck that I was concerned for. Nothing was done about it from your end. But do tell me more reasons why my profession is of detriment to the wildlife.</p> <p>The dog walking industry is fairly new and has grown since covid. As with all new things, there are questions, challenges and resistance from those with little knowledge of what the job involved. but this job is an important one. One I take tremendously seriously. It is worth respect and us professional dog walkers deserve respect and value. Instead we Arte personally persecuted by you.</p> <p>I am fully insured to walk up to 6 dogs. I am trained in canine first aid level 3 and continue to update my skills where necessary. I have attended seminars and webinars in canine body language, canine aggression and rehabilitation. I have read many a books on the subject of dogs and will continue to study throughout my life.</p> <p>I urge you to seek the advice of more esteemed and qualified professionals in the canine industry about your idea of only being able to control four dogs at a time. And NOT the RSPCA who have very little knowledge of the industry and no bearing in this debate. They are a well known charity organisation but they are not experts in the field.</p> <p>I also invite you to walk alongside me on one of my walks so I can show you that is is absolutely possible to control more than four dogs at a time.</p> <p>When speaking to the general public, I have not met one single person who is for this proposal. I have a feeling you will pass the PSPO regardless but I will be asking for full figures and numbers and will not rest as I truly believe you are proposing a PSPO unfairly and underhandedly.</p> <p>Over any of the reasons above, its the principle. You are taking yet another freedom of ours. At a time when life is already so very difficult. Do not let the people of chelmsford down yet again by passing this PSPO.</p>
210	Y	<p>I am a dog owner and fully support these proposals. I would be keen to see a PSPO for dog walking in other areas of Chelmsford too, such as the Beaulieu development and wider Chelmsford Garden parish. Thank you.</p>
211	N	<p>I am disabled and have a small elderly dog and it is easier for me to walk him off the lead. If this goes ahead the dog walkers will be in a</p>

		more concentrated area. The map was very difficult to read and i also need to walk on the paths and I think that the paths are on lead. I use a walker so this means that I won't be able to walk my very well behaved dog.
212	Y/N	I think you should have an option to say "maybe" as the answers will be nuanced. You also should have said how many of the 33 dog attacks have taken place in Hylands Park or, indeed, in any of the parks. I would largely support the introduction of this PSPO - by the way, it is not good practice to use jargon - if you were to set up an enclosed dog area (free of charge) to allow dogs to run free without the risk of them escaping, and if I didn't think that it would be likely to be extended to other parts of Chelmsford by stealth.
213	Y	I do support this but i have trained my dog so he does as she is told but disappointed people who can't do this . I do think more attacks will happen with dogs on leads in the surrounding play park areas as parents will be standing around with dogs and alot of dog attacks happen with dogs being defensive when they are on leads and owners think there dog has to say hello to every dog . My dog was attacked while both dogs were on the lead so it will still happen . I think all the areas around the play park should be no dogs as the owners will be standing around here and will make it a high area of attacks still .
214	N	This change feels like it's being pushed for reasons other than those being disclosed. It is disingenuous to push this as a way to lower dog attacks, the issue is not prevalent in Hylands and this "solution" would only cause more issues. Of the 33 dog related attacks in Chelmsford, only 3 of these are in Hylands. This number includes dog-on-dog attacks. By introducing these areas you will do the following: - Force dog owners into a smaller space within Hylands, causing dog walkers, walkers in these areas, and dogs to be in a closer proximity, with less ability to avoid each other. This will increase the number of dog attacks. - Make dog owners feel unwelcome. - Dog owners are likely the prime source of parking income at Hylands, considering their use of the park year-round, where holiday-goers and picnickers will only use the park in the Summer months, so this will reduce the income from park users. - Push dog owners to use the other available resources, such as Central and Admiral park (which will not generate revenue for the council) and put more people at risk of dangerous animals. - This will add more stress on the already struggling Essex police force in enforcement, which are already struggling to manage issues more severe than people walking their dogs in a park. There are more effective, cheaper, and less discriminatory ways to fix the issues of dog attacks, and it's incredible that none of them have been thought of before this irrational response. If Chelmsford council wish to make a productive effort they could: - Investigate lobbying for the ban of dangerous dogs, including the Bully XL which is the main cause of dog attacks in the UK. - Improve education around how to behave around dogs, how to determine if a dog is behaving dangerously, and how to effectively train dogs.

		<p>- Enforce dispersal orders for large groups and meet-ups (if this is an issue)</p> <p>- Lobby to introduce legislation/or enforce existing legislation around commercial dog walkers and the number of dogs they can walk at one time.</p> <p>In a first world country it should be obvious, the way to improving the situation is education, not blanket discriminatory fear.</p>
215	N	<p>There are limited areas I can go in a wheelchair due to the lack of suitable path ways, so implementing this ludicrous proposal will restrict where my dog can be allowed off lead. It would be more beneficial to place one of these orders in Admirals where cyclists and pedestrians share the path and isn't really suited to off lead dogs. This order is not going to stop the amount of fouling which is more of a problem for a wheelchair user. I would like to know how this will be 'policed' as there are going to be many who will ignore it. So for those that will follow the law and keep their dogs on leads will have dogs running up to them.</p> <p>I am disappointed that yet more restrictions are going to be placed on an area where there is ample room. There are plenty of other spaces you could place this restriction where they would be better suited.</p>
216	N	<p>I am dismayed to see the extent of the changes you propose. As a disabled wheelchair user with 2 cockapoos the pathways are the only way we can get through the park. My dogs and many other disabled people with their dogs love to go off lead once we reach the pathway to the left with hedges each side after the car park near the cafe with table tennis tables outside. The pathway which goes to the middle car park is the best one for wheelchair users. The grass around it is sometimes fine to go on but mainly our wheelchairs get caught and bogged down.</p> <p>I agree and understand the area around the house and cafe area being onlead only.</p> <p>I don't understand why the lake area should be lead only as the dogs love to cool off there? It is at the end of the path so no real problem? I feel when people are paying £5 to park to walk/run their dogs it is totally unfair to restrict alot of the dog popular areas to lead only! We tend to walk in all weather's where as a lot of people only come when the weather is ok!</p> <p>We have been asking for the sandy path from the house down to the lake to be resurfaced for ages as it is so uneven and difficult to manage. We have been totally ignored. Now you want to make this the main area for off lead!</p> <p>Basically it will not be worth alot of us coming if these changes happen which will then affect your income from car park and the cafe. Please reconsider.</p>
217	Y	<p>I agree with the proposed restrictions for dogs, agree that safety is paramount and would put a dog on the lead at the suggested areas. I also hope there will be Diageo's where I can let the dog off.</p>
218	Y	<p>Proposals are sensible and reflect a common sense approach to enable use of the park by all.</p>
219	N	<p>I agree with the red zones but feel that the large area in the middle and around the lake for lead walks only is unfair. I also feel that perhaps restrictions in the summer when families may be playing/picnicking is more understandable than year round rules. If the park isn't being used by families as much in the cooler months</p>

		then it seems a shame to keep dogs on leads. Can this be reviewed? The other thing is to be able to walk dogs in the woods which runs alongside the adventure playground in the summer when it's too hot in fields. Thank you
220	N	<p>We have paid for a parking season ticket since it was introduced because we use Hylands a lot to walk our dogs. I'm presuming that the reduction in areas we are allowed to walk will be reflected by a reduction in the cost of a season ticket. How will the restrictions be policed? Can you have the restrictions at peak times and not applicable very early in the morning when a lot of dog walkers are out?</p> <p>You should know that the introduction of parking charges caused a lot of anguish amongst the elderly community who rely on their dogs as a social lifeline for company, exercise and to boost their mental health. They can't afford charges so where do they go now? What price mental health? I have been dog walking at Hylands since 2013. You have managed to host the "v" festival, Fling, the 3 foot festival, Creamfields and various other events throughout that time with no need for restrictions, why now? I am not sure about the validity of this consultation as the restrictions clearly connected to the building and opening of the "Go Ape" facility which is up and running. What do you intend to glean from this consultation? You refer to over 30 dog related incidents in Chelmsford. Are they all in Hylands Park? I don't believe they are and it's disingenuous to suggest these restrictions are a reasonable response to this matter. The plan is short sighted and unreasonable. I will accept a reduction in the cost of the season ticket, so I look forward to hearing from you on this point,</p>
221	N	<p>Most dogs are treated as a member of the family Eg they go everywhere with the family</p> <p>Hylands park I assumed was a "family park" Also the loss of trade for the coffee bar/stables</p>
222	N	<p>Although I don't think the plans are too restrictive, I do think having a PSPO is totally unnecessary as you mention 33 reported incidents in Chelmsford - NOT just Hylands Park. How many dogs visit Hylands every single day?! Hundreds. So, although 33 is 33 too many (my own dog was extremely badly attacked, totally unprovoked, and left with huge lifelong scars, but not at Hylands - in our local pub, with both dogs on lead!) a PSPO is over-kill for Hylands. As you accept, most responsible people already put their dogs on lead in crowded areas, where people are picnicking etc. Those who don't, probably won't even with a PSPO in force. 😊 As usual, it is not fair to penalise the majority for those very few who are selfish and uncaring. Also, I would hope that with dogs off-lead banned from the area near Mauros cafe, you will mow another area where dogs are allowed off lead. This is a lovely area to throw a ball for dogs (without losing it in long grass or risking grass seeds getting under their skin - a real & potentially very serious threat). My very small dog cannot walk in the longer grass as his legs are too short, it's too tiring for him! Dog walkers do not always want to have to wear heavy wellies all year round, which is essential in long grass areas. I would suggest a ban on off-lead after, say, 10.00am and during the summer months only, as to have that area not used early in the morning and throughout the winter (when it's mainly dog walkers in the park) seems totally unnecessary. But more paths kept mown short through the other dog walking areas, so</p>

		<p>we can safely and easily walk through the longer grass, is also essential. Dog walkers are your mainstay of park users. They pay the most in car parking across 12 months, they spend money in the cafes throughout the year, not just on nice days! We often feel we are treated as 2nd class citizens as the only place to eat or drink is not adequately weather-proof, yet most of us walk in the worst conditions, unlike most families who mainly visit on "high days & holidays"! I have noticed that the rougher field areas are not being adequately maintained at the moment.</p> <p>(Just on another subject, a friend who has been walking her dogs in the park around 8.30/9.00pm the last few weeks, has seen teenagers (& on one occasion, grown men!) accessing Go Ape and using the equipment there (obv without harnesses). The danger to themselves is their choice but I'd be concerned about sabotage to the equipment endangering innocent users. She has reported this to Go Ape, who reported that they have already had to replace the locks on the doors once, but these miscreants appear to be climbing up the underside of the stairways. This just goes to show there is always an element of unlawfulness in certain people and no PSPO will eradicate that!)</p>
223	Y	<p>(Received by letter) I support the PSPO for dog walking at Hylands Estate. I have used the estate regularly for walks since 2020 and do not own a dog. I appreciate that it is a good place to exercise dogs but agree that the dogs should be under control. My own adverse experiences with dogs have limited my use and enjoyment of the estate which is a lovely place. In particular, I agree that the number of dogs walked by one adult should be limited, I do not think an adult should be able to exercise more if with a child (the SPO says 'walked by any one person'). Where leads are required, short leads would mean greater control (some people use very long leads). I do think it should be permitted to exercise dogs on the path around the cattle grazing area (outside the area) Tih is because when the river floods this the only part those of us who use the entrance by Widford church can get to (the map is a little unclear on this). I would like the Council to out details of which dog-related incidents should be reported please and how to do this so the situation can be monitored. [I have had several adverse experiences with dogs in the past year. These included a small dog jumping to the height of my chest and biting my hand – unsuccessful due to my thick glove and another dog nipping me from behind]. I did not know they could be reported.</p>
224	N	<p>Because of council policy of not repairing them park after events and there are a lot of events people with limited mobility will find it difficult to walk a dog off lead indeed the ground has so many deep lot hole it's impossible for a person with mobility problems to get a mobility car across the fields. You are stopping disabled people with dogs going into the formal gardens even if dogs are on a lead. There are no grazing cattle before June and after November.</p> <p>The park has minimal use from non dog walkers between mid October to mid March No guidance to the cost and enforcement of the Oslo And the cost of loss of revenue from people who Will not be able to take dogs over the park.</p> <p>Sadly you are turning the park into a park for the vocal minority</p>
225	Y	The PSO FOR HYLANDS IS DEFINITELY A GOOD IDEA
226	N	My name is ***, I am a Chelmsford resident, a Liberal Democrat voter, and I have run *****, a dog walking and pet sitting business

	<p>here for the past 11 years. I wish to outline my strong objections to the proposed PSPO at Hylands Park.</p> <p>While I agree that there should be areas that restrict dogs or require them to be on lead (as there already are), the proposal to extend these areas and limit the number of dogs walked is one that would impact me, my clients, my business, and my family. It will directly impact small businesses like mine and the cafes within the park who struggled to survive during COVID and who are finally getting back on their feet.</p> <p>It is clear that the impact on professional dog walkers or private individuals with more than four dogs has not been considered within this proposal.</p> <p>It is usual practice for professional dog walkers to have between six to eight dogs in a group on a walk. I regularly have this many dogs on my walks at Hylands, twice a day, five days a week for the past 11 years, without incident. I am well-known by the regulars, my dogs are kept under control, and I pick up after them – as well as picking up rubbish and dog excrement left by other park users. I am a professional, I choose my dogs very carefully to ensure they do not have aggression issues, that they are socialised and friendly. My business is fully insured, I am member of the Federation of Small Businesses and like many other professional dog walkers I also pay to park at Hylands.</p> <p>You quote the RSPCA as an authority on professional dog walkers, I question this. They are a rescue organisation, not experts in this area. The Kennel Club is the leading canine authority on dog access in both urban and rural areas and the only national organisation named by the Government as a body that local authorities should consider consulting when introducing restrictions on dog walkers. Have you consulted with them?</p> <p>They state on their website with regards to the maximum number of dogs that one person can walk:</p> <p>“An arbitrary maximum number of dogs that a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that will often displace and intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner depends on a number of factors relating to the dog walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used and the location where the walking is taking place. If a maximum number of dogs measure is being considered due to issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we instead suggest that councils look at accreditation schemes – as seen in places such as the East Lothian Council area. These can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice, rather than just curb the excesses of one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure that dog walkers are properly insured – which will typically cap the number of dogs that they can walk at any one time – and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners.”</p> <p>All of the above advice from the Kennel Club, outlines a more proportionate approach for Councils to consider.</p> <p>You state that there were 33 dog attacks within Chelmsford over the last year. Given your proposal to put a PSPO at Hylands, one would assume that the majority of the attacks happened in that location. However, from the information I received after my FOI request, only three took place at Hylands!!!! Given the number of dogs that use the park, this is a tiny percentage. Citing these numbers as evidence for</p>
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	<p>your PSPO is misleading and an extremely unbalanced and heavy-handed response.</p> <p>Hylands is a large space that can accommodate a number of different users and activities. If you implement a PSPO here, you risk displacing dog walkers to smaller parks – where there is less space for everyone, therefore potentially increasing the risk of incidents. There were two dog attacks at Chelmer Park, a much smaller park with less visitors than Hylands, yet you are not implementing a PSPO there. WHY??? Or is the intention to implement PSPOs in further parks across Chelmsford?</p> <p>In addition, the incidents detailed in the justification for this proposal, have all been dogs of private individuals, not professional walkers, and were not being walked in a group more than four – so again the proposal would not prevent this issue from re-occurring. There is no evidence that issues have been caused by professional dog walkers, therefore it is not appropriate or reasonable for this proposal to negatively impact them.</p> <p>There is mention of large groups of dogs at Hylands. These are groups of private individuals undertaking breed specific walks at weekends – sometimes 20+ dogs, but as each individual is walking less than four dogs, these would still go ahead under the proposed PSPO.</p> <p>Whilst licensing is not required by law, other Councils, for example the London borough of Wandsworth, have limited the number of dogs walked in public parks, but have also implemented licences for professional dog walkers to walk up to eight dogs. This is a more measured and reasonable approach, which acknowledges our experience and expertise. It provides the council with some checks to ensure that those licenced walkers have appropriate insurance, experience etc.</p> <p>In my experience, Hylands is mostly used at weekends or in school holidays, so rather than imposing a blanket one size fits all policy, have you not considered a more reasonable and measured proposal of having restrictions at the weekends or in school holidays? Other councils, for example Maldon, Southend have restrictions that are time based at particular times of the year, when areas are busier. However, over the past three weeks, I have counted how many people I have encountered on my walks over at Hylands. Considering it is the school holiday, which is usually busier, I have only seen five people. They have either been private individuals walking their dogs or other professional dog walkers. Where are all these members of the public that are being alarmed and distressed by our presence as you quote in your consultation? During winter, there are many days I only see one or two people at most!! I, and other dog walking professionals have the common sense to walk our dogs in areas where there are not lots of people or children. I have managed to do this for 11 years.</p> <p>Your other cited reason for the PSPO is due to concern for the wildlife at Hylands. I find this odd when you don't seem concerned about the wildlife when allowing the park to be used for numerous festivals and events, especially those during the breeding season. Hypocrisy at it's best, given the amount of debris left behind after these events, not to mention human excrement, drugs etc.</p> <p>In conclusion, I do not believe that this is proportionate and reasonable proposal, and wonder whether the Council has a hidden</p>
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		<p>agenda for Hylands Park. There are alternatives for you to consider that would not impact upon professional dog walkers or members of the public who use the park. I would hope that you will consider the measures that I have detailed above, but in particular, if you are going to introduce restrictions, I would hope that you will consider the advice from the Kennel Club, the possibility of implementing licensing arrangements for professional dog walkers and whether it is more proportionate to implement seasonal/time based restrictions. I would be more than happy to discuss any of the above in person.</p>
227	N	<p>Hello, as a local Chelmsford resident since 1973 and a responsible dog owner, I & my extended family have grown up as regular visitors to Hylands Park. We are very thankful to have access to the beautiful green spaces and facilities provided for the wellbeing of the community and outside visitors.</p> <p>Hylands Park is a wonderful resource for the community, and I totally appreciate that we all need to co-exist harmoniously across the 574 acres. I also totally agree and back the concept that if you have no or little recall then your dog/s most definitely need to be leashed at all times around any park for the safety of dogs & people !</p> <p>However, because of those few irresponsible dog owners, those that work hard to monitor and manage our dogs are being tarnished & restricted. Restrictions should not just apply to dog owners, but all park users need to take some responsibility in their surroundings and be aware and educated.</p> <p>Most hardcore and responsible dog owners walk their dogs without any recourse or incident in the early mornings and or late evenings, just to avoid others using the park and any incidents.</p> <p>This is especially the case for those with nervous, older or reactive dogs who too need the time and space to be exercised and to avoid interactions with people, crowds and dogs alike. With this proposal dog owners, especially of nervous/older/reactive dogs will be pushed out or forced to stop coming to the park.</p> <p>As you know the park is not accessible on foot from all directions and so in the main people must drive there. Dogs should definitely be off limits in the red zones and always leashed in the car parks. However, to exercise your dog of leash you are forced to walk further out just to get to the relevant areas, which can add an additional time resource to your walk and also to your parking fee requirements.</p> <p>Pushing dog walkers further out to surrounding areas will force more owners to coast along the closest perimeter around the proposed leashed zones, where owners will let their dogs run all over the place, especially in the wooded areas.</p> <p>This in turn will undoubtedly congest those areas and potentially exaggerate the likelihood of more dog-on-dog incidents and potentially dog on people incidents.</p> <p>Also, I appreciate that as stated there is approx. 480 acres to have your dog off leash, however getting to those acres is not always feasible. Dog walkers already spend 85% of the year in outdoor attire and wellington boots to walk through the mud as there are no trails/footpaths away from crowds. Now they will be forced to walk further through mud and uneven terrain to get to these parts of the park. This is not just inconvenient but a serious accessibility issue for a number of dog walkers. Not to mention the extra time element that would impact walkers having to go further in reduced light and darkness during the winter months.</p>

		<p>A practical solution may be to have a suitable time zone in place whereby dogs can be of leash (if they have recall) in agreed/suitable leashed areas of the park before 9.00am and after 6.00pm when the park is usually quiet and also to coincide with the parking restrictions. This will allow the whole community to utilise the park equally without being restricted and penalised and co-existing harmoniously. There is also the issue of how this will be monitored and enforced. Wardens and or cameras will undoubtedly bring with it some additional cost to the estate/council. Perhaps the consideration of a dog membership fee / dog tag system could be considered alongside the current parking fee. This would ensure only registered dogs that can be traced use the park and thus encourage responsibility and aid safeguarding.</p> <p>Another much needed requirement and an extra expense to consider would be additional dog poo bins in these outer areas, to avoid people dumping bags around the park.</p>
228	N	<p>I have walked regularly in Hylands Park for around 25 yrs and before you started charging, I used to walk my dog every day. I wrote to complain about the terrible damage the Council inflicted upon the park and its wildlife in their BLF bid some years ago and now I find myself writing again to complain about the ludicrous plans to stop people walking their dog/s in some areas and put them on leads in others. In all the years, I've walked the park, I've seen more problems between people arguing over their children than I have dogs behaving badly. The main regular users of the park are people walking their dogs and I'm sure I don't need to cite that thousands of dogs are walked every year and the problems referred to by the Council are less than miniscule. I won't bother to go into further detail as I can imagine many park users have already provided supporting factual evidence but I will say that you are now charging for use of only a portion of a park for some users... perhaps your focus might have been better put towards helping improve its use for those in wheelchairs or prams as the paths in places are pitiful. I'm not a wheelchair user but have seen these poor users struggling to negotiate pitted and awkward paths. If these plans are brought in, I will again seek alternative park space where my dog can run freely and enjoy the space unencumbered by badly considered rules and regulations clearly thought up by jobsworth Council worker/s with nothing better to do than think up ludicrous schemes to make people's lives more challenging!</p>
229	Y	<p>In principle I do agree to this. I would like to see the rules relaxed before 9am, as very few families are in the park at this time and it is mainly dog walkers before 9am.</p>
230	Y	<p>Unfortunately not all dog owners take full responsibility for their dogs. We need to ensure all users of the park feel safe be that humans, dogs or wildlife. Whilst not wanting to destroy businesses, I do support restricting the number of dogs walked by a single person i.e. dog walkers. The responsible dog owners will/do exercise their dogs off lead in the many acres still available to do this. I do hope however that there will be plenty of signage and in the early days staff to support anyone who appears unaware of any changes. A review in 6-12 months which the park users can participate in would be appreciated so that any tweaks to the arrangements can be made.</p>

231	N	<p>I have walked regularly in Hylands Park for over 10 years with my dog. I find myself writing to complain about the ludicrous plans to stop people walking their dog/s in some areas and put them on leads in others. In all the years, I've walked the park, I've seen more problems between families arguing over children than I have dogs behaving badly. The main regular users of the park are people walking their dogs and I'm sure I don't need to cite that there is tonnes of dogs who are walked every year and the problems referred to by the Council are few and far between. Perhaps your focus might have been better put towards helping improve its use for those in wheelchairs or prams as the paths in places are horrific. If these plans are brought in, I will have to seek alternative park space where my dog can run freely and enjoy the space unencumbered by badly considered rules and regulations that doesn't reflect the parks actual issues. Please spend time looking at actual problems instead of trying to make people's lives more challenging!</p>
-----	---	--

Paul BROOKES

From: Samuel Girdlestone INSP 42002914 <Sam.Girdlestone@essex.police.uk>
Sent: 20 July 2023 11:48
To: Lewis MOULD; Public Health and Protection Consultation Mailbox; Paul BROOKES; Spencer CLARKE
Subject: PSPO in Hylands Park (Dog Walking)
Attachments: 61-hylands-park-pspo.pdf; Chelmsford City Council.pdf

Good Morning,

Ref: PSPO in Hylands Park, Chelmsford (Dog Walking)

I am writing this e-mail in response to a letter received by the Essex Police Chief Constable, BJ Harrington, dated 13th of July 2023 concerning a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the area of Hylands Park, Chelmsford.

As the Community Policing Team Inspector for the Chelmsford and Maldon District, I believe a PSPO in this area will be a proportionate, necessary and justified proposal which will support Chelmsford Council, Essex Police and other partners with effectively responding and dealing with issues reported. Having consulted with my Supervising Officers, Constables and staff I am aware that they have had to deal with several complaints, incidents and reports concerning dogs within the estate and if a PSPO were in place it would have given us more effective options to consider, saving my team time and providing further reassurance to concerned members of the public.

Having consulted with the Essex Police Dangerous Dogs Manager, Sara Dean, she has explained to me that we have had a number of reports of dangerous dogs' incidents over the last 3 years at this location. Having spoken with the Essex Police resolution centre, they have provided me with data which shows 13 x investigations into dangerous dogs or dogs out of control have been reported for this location between May 2020 and July 2023. Out of these, 5 x of the investigations relate specifically to dangerous dog investigations on this area of the Hylands estate. The reference numbers for these investigations are: 42/270328/21, 42/109932/23, 42/137908/20, 42/18234/22 and 42/232523/22.

I am supportive of this proposal and happy to support Chelmsford Council with this application.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration

Inspector Sam Girdlestone



**WORKING TOGETHER TO
END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Police Inspector 2914
Chelmsford and Maldon Community Policing Team
North Local Policing Area Command | Safer Neighbourhood Partnership Hub, Duke Street, Chelmsford
| CM11JE

☎ Extension: 42030: [redacted] (work mobile)
✉ 2914@essex.pnn.police.uk
🌐 <https://www.essex.police.uk/>

Mr Paul Brookes
Public Health and Protection Services Manager
Public Places
Chelmsford City Council
Duke Street
Chelmsford
CM1 1JE

Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall,
Witham, Essex, CM8 3HB

Telephone: 01245 291600
Fax: 01245 291601
E-mail: pfcc@essex.police.uk
<http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk>

Date: 1st August 2023

By email: pspo.consultation@chelmsford.gov.uk

Dear Mr Paul Brookes,

Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:
Public Space Protection Order – Hyland’s Park – Dog Walking

The PFCC is supportive of this PSPO and recognises one of the substantial benefits is enforcement by both Police and council workers, enabling stronger partnership working and additional capacity to monitor and respond to the outlined behaviour. The PFCC is satisfied that Chelmsford City Council has reasonable grounds for the PSPO and that two conditions are met:

- activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect, and
- that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

The introduction of the PSPO will help provide a safe environment for all users of Hyland’s Park whilst accommodating all activities currently taking place and is proportionate, necessary, and justified. The PSPO will support the control of dogs and is in response to an increase in dog-on-dog, dog-on-human related attacks, and incidents. The PSPO will support Chelmsford City Council, Essex Police, and other partners to effectively respond in a timely manner with proportionate enforcement of those who breach the order.

It should be noted that the deployment of Essex Police operational resources remains at the discretion of the Chief Constable, however Community Policing team inspector for Chelmsford and Maldon is supportive of the PSPO and consultation with the Essex Police Dangerous Dog Manager highlighted a number of reports of dangerous dog incidents at this location.

Essex Police welcome additional powers/tools to address the issue and the deployment of police would be done where possible, subject to operational demand.

The PFCC works closely with Chelmsford CSP and is keen for activity to be driven by the Partnership. We note that the proposed PSPO would support the strategic priorities of the

Partnership, as well as our vision to keep Essex communities safe and secure. The PSPO targets behaviour in line with the PFCC's priorities as articulated in the Police and Crime Plan.

The PSPO, if made should clearly communicate the restricted areas, activities in question, definitions, outcomes, and appeal process. Consideration of how to publicise and embed this PSPO should be given, recognising some of the challenges it may present for those individuals or communities affected. The PFCC recommend obvious, large clear signage of the PSPO in the areas covered by the PSPO.

Overall, we feel that the PSPO seems proportionate to the detrimental effect that activities associated with dog attacks and incidents cause, and appropriate to prevent it from continuing or occurring in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Claire Hanrahan
Community Safety and Criminal Justice Manager
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Email: Claire.Hanrahan@essex.police.uk
Web: www.essex.pfcc.police.uk



THE KENNEL CLUB

Formal Response to Chelmsford City Council's Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Control Measures Consultation

Submitted on 3rd August 2023 by: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB, email: kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare, and training. Our objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners. We campaign for and advocate on behalf of dogs and their owners and, as part of our external affairs activities, engage with local authorities on issues such as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

The Kennel Club is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers and is considered the leading canine authority on dog access. As such, we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that PSPOs are necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. We also believe that it is essential for authorities to balance the interests of dog owners with the interests of other access users.

Response to proposed measures

Dog fouling

The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect. These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog faeces can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

On lead

We can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' Orders which can, when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way, include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic.



THE KENNEL CLUB

On lead by direction

The Kennel Club strongly welcomes 'On lead by direction' Orders. These allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst simultaneously giving the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control.

We recommend that the authorised officer enforcing the Order is familiar with dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. There exists the possibility that a dog, through no fault of its own, could be considered a 'nuisance' or 'annoyance' to someone who simply does not like dogs.

We encourage local authorities to make use of more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal, including Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can assist owners whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall.

Exclusions

We do not normally oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational facilities such as tennis courts or skate parks. It is important that alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity to avoid displacement or the intensification of problems in nearby areas. However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Dog owners are required to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including "regular opportunities to walk and run" – in most cases, this will be off the lead while still under control.

Seasonal/time restrictions

Where a seasonal restriction is proposed, we suggest that local authorities consider whether a time restriction would be an appropriate addition. For example, many playing fields are empty in the early mornings and late evenings, making this a key time for many dog owners to exercise their dogs. These are important local resources for owners to make sure their dogs get the required daily off-lead exercise and we see little reason why it should be restricted during times of the day when it is little used, even in the busy season.

Displacement

A common unintended consequence of restrictions is displacement onto other pieces of land, resulting in new conflicts being created. It can be difficult to predict the effects of displacement, and so the council should consider whether alternative sites for dog walkers are suitable and can support an increase in the number of dog walkers using them.



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Maximum number of dogs

An arbitrary maximum number of dogs that a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that will often displace and intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner depends on a number of factors relating to the dog walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used, time of day and the location where the walking is taking place.

As such we advise against the use of arbitrary numerical limits. Instead we suggest that the behaviour of individual commercial dog walkers is considered on a case by case basis, with Community Protection Notices used to tackle those behaving in anti-social manner.

If a maximum number of dogs measure is being considered due to issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we instead suggest that councils look at accreditation schemes – as seen in places such as the East Lothian Council area. These can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice, rather than just curb the excesses of one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure that dog walkers are properly insured – which will typically cap the number of dogs that they can walk at any one time – and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners.

Government guidance has been relatively consistent that the maximum number of dogs being walked should not exceed six dogs.^{1,2} This is in line with typical limits imposed by insurance companies, for which annual dog walking insurance for walking up to six dogs on or off lead, is readily available for under £100 per annum. Councils should be clear as to what behaviour they're aiming to address when introducing PSPOs to regulate the behaviour of commercial dog walkers. As there is a high chance rogue operators will make a financial calculation that the risk of being caught and maximum fine under a PSPO, is outweighed by the income generated by exceeding the numerical limit set out in the PSPO. Or indeed, it may encourage multiple dog walkers to share a single vehicle and walk in groups, resulting in larger groups of dogs being walked together.

Appropriate signage

It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 makes it a legal requirement for local authorities to –

¹ Defra / Welsh Government - Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership, Practitioner's manual, October 2014
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/373429/dog-ownership-practitioners-manual-201411.pdf

² Animal activities licensing: statutory guidance for local authorities March 2023 -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/home-boarding-for-dogs-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities>, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/dog-day-care-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/dog-kennel-boarding-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities>



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"cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to -

- (i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and
- (ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be)."

Regarding dog access restrictions, such as a 'Dogs on Lead' Order, on-site signage should clearly state where such restrictions begin and end. This can be achieved with signs that say on one side, for example, 'You are entering [type of area]' and 'You are leaving [type of area]' on the reverse.

While all dog walkers should be aware of their requirement to pick up after their dog, signage must be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation.

Assistance dogs

We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf>

We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found below from their 2020 PSPO which included the following exemption provisions on dog control:

Nothing in this Order shall apply to a person who –

- a) is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or*
- b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or*
- c) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which he relies for assistance*
- d) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the*





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reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability. or that of Northumberland County Council:

"(4) The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.

(5) The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation".



From: Writtle Parish Council Admin <admin@writtle-pc.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 August 2023 11:39
To: Public Health and Protection Consultation Mailbox <pspo.consultation@chelmsford.gov.uk>;
Lewis MOULD <Lewis.Mould@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Cc: Clerk to Writtle Parish Council <Clerk@writtle-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Hylands Park - Dog Walking Writtle Parish Council response

Thank you for agreeing the extension for Writtle Parish Council to respond to the consultation on the changes to the dog walking areas at Hylands Park. The proposals have been considered by our Planning and Development Committee and there are in principle no objections.

Regards

Justine Atterbury
Assistant Clerk
Writtle Parish Council,
Parish Office, The Green
Writtle, Chelmsford
Essex CM1 3DT
www.writtle-pc.gov.uk

From: Paul VAN DAMME <Paul.VanDamme@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Lewis MOULD <Lewis.Mould@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Cc: Paul BROOKES <paul.brookes@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Hylands PSPO Consultation

Hi Lewis,

Thank you for your email.

“The PSPO Dog walking at Hylands Estate is supported by the City Council Parks Service in a land management and ownership capacity. Whilst it formalises in part voluntary arrangements already in place, the PSBO will ensure that the arrangements, expectations and the different PSBO zones/areas are clearly set out and applied consistently. This will benefit all park users including those exercising dogs to ensure that all can enjoy the park in safe and balanced way commensurate with the wider park visitor activities and uses”.

Many thanks, Paul

Paul Van Damme
Parks & Green Spaces Manager
01245 605562

paul.vandamme@chelmsford.gov.uk

Chelmsford.gov.uk/parks

www.chelmsford.gov.uk



Chelmsford City Council Cabinet

12th September 2023

Food Plan

Report by: Cabinet Member for a Greener and Safer Chelmsford

Officer Contact:

Paul Brookes, Public Health & Protection Services Manager,
paul.brookes@chelmsford.gov.uk 01245 606436

Purpose

To approve a Chelmsford Food Plan

Options

1. Approve the Food Plan
2. Approve an amended version of the Food Plan
3. Not approve the Food Plan

Preferred option and reasons

Option 1 is the preferred option as the Food Plan as it will contribute to achieving the best possible environment for the health of residents and a thriving, sustainable local economy.

Recommendations

To approve the Food Plan

1. Background or Introduction

- 1.1 The Council and Livewell Chelmsford are committed to achieving the best possible environment for the health of residents and a thriving, sustainable local economy. To effectively prioritise efforts and allocate resources based on identified needs, the Council approved the Health & Wellbeing Plan in October 2022.
- 1.2 Within the Health & Wellbeing Plan a specific commitment was made to develop and implement a Food Plan with the core aim of raising awareness across the District of healthy eating, improving access to good-quality food, and promoting sustainable diets, all of which contribute to Chelmsford's vision of becoming a healthier and more sustainable District.
- 1.3 The Food Plan has been developed in line with the guidance provided by the 2021 National Food Strategy, which emphasises the importance of collaboration between local authorities and communities to develop food strategies. The Food Plan has been linked with other local strategies and plans, through extensive conversations and collaborations with various partners, creating a cohesive and integrated approach to addressing food-related challenges.

2. Food Plan

- 2.1 The Plan, attached in Appendix 1, identifies the significant role of food in people's lives, encompassing its social, cultural, and economic importance. It strongly emphasises the need for sustainable and healthy diets whilst acknowledging the challenges posed by cost-of-living pressures. The plan is centred around improving health and wellbeing, recognising the impact of food choices on individuals and the environment. Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic have shaped its development, reinforcing the commitment to a thriving and sustainable local economy.
- 2.2 The Plan is structured to provide a focused approach within the Health and Wellbeing Plan, specifically addressing the relationship between healthier diets and achieving healthier weights. It aims to raise awareness about the impact of food choices on personal health and the environment, empowering individuals to make informed decisions. The Plan's comprehensive approach includes initiatives to improve access to good quality food and enhance community nutrition.
- 2.3 The Plan, developed in partnership with Livewell Chelmsford, is aimed to inform and engage the community. It focuses on three fundamental areas: Healthy Eating, Food Poverty, and Sustainable Food. It is hoped that the Plan will empower individuals to make healthier food choices, improve access to affordable and nutritious food, and encourage sustainable diets that play a role in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. Through this approach, the Plan seeks to promote overall wellbeing, address food poverty, and foster a sustainable food system within the District.

- 2.4 An Action Plan contained within the Food Plan has been developed to support the implementation of the Food Plan. This Action Plan has been approved by Livewell Chelmsford, demonstrating its alignment with the objectives of the Food Plan. It will serve as a roadmap, outlining a collaborative approach that spans across the District to raise awareness on the three main focus areas of the plan. The Action Plan builds upon the existing commendable work and seeks to integrate the efforts of the Council with the broader community initiatives carried out by partners. Through this coordination, the Action Plan will facilitate collective action in pursuit of the Food Plan's goals.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The development of the Food Plan involved a thorough three-stage consultation process. In the first stage, engagement was initiated with local food aid organisations across the district to gain insights into their needs and identify existing gaps. Building on this initial feedback, the second stage of consultation focused on gathering input on the vision, aims, and objectives of the Food Plan. This stage commenced in January 2023 and involved soliciting feedback from both internal and external stakeholders. These stakeholders included provider organizations, the NHS Mid Essex Alliance, Primary Care Networks, Essex County Council, EPUT, Essex Wellbeing Service, and voluntary sector organizations within the district. The consultation process aimed to elicit valuable perspectives, encourage stakeholder participation, and gather information about existing initiatives and activities aligned with the Food Plan's objectives.
- 3.2 After the second stage of consultation, a draft copy of the Food Plan was produced. This draft was used to reconsult with organisations that had actively participated in its development. In addition, partners interested in contributing to the Action Plan were invited to engage in one-on-one discussions to explore collaboration opportunities aligned with the plan's objectives. Based on the outcome of these discussions, a draft Action Plan was formulated and shared with the partners who took part in the third stage of consultation. Their feedback and review were sought before presenting the finalised Action Plan to Livewell Chelmsford. On July 18th, 2023, the Action Plan was reviewed, approved, and endorsed by Livewell members.
- 3.3 Overall, the consultation process received a positive response from partners, indicating broad agreement on the ambition and objectives of the Food Plan. Partners enthusiastically expressed their commitment to supporting the plan's goals and outlined specific ways their organisations would contribute to their achievement.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Food Plan represents a significant step towards establishing a healthier and more sustainable food system in Chelmsford. It will serve as a catalyst, uniting various stakeholders to align and amplify efforts aimed at promoting healthy eating and sustainable lifestyles. By actively engaging with the community and fostering partnerships the Plan will support the Council's overarching objective

of empowering individuals to enhance their health and wellbeing. Through collaboration facilitated by Livewell Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Alliance, partners can pool their collective expertise and resources. This collaborative approach will maximise the potential for residents to lead healthy lives while fostering improved health outcomes.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Food Plan

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: None

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: Increasing the uptake of sustainably produced local food will reduce food miles

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: N/A

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees:

Livewell Chelmsford Delivery Partners

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Chelmsford Health & Wellbeing Plan



CHELMSFORD

FOOD PLAN

2023



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

THE AMBITION OF THE CHELMSFORD FOOD PLAN

Food is central to our lives; socially, culturally, and economically. Ultimately, food affects every part of society and can have immediate, long-term effects on our health as well as our local and global environment. From quality and appeal to general nutrition, food is a subject on which everyone has experience and an opinion.

The way we respond to food, and our everyday food choices, are inextricably linked to our social, cultural, and emotional experiences. Our physical and mental wellbeing, including behaviour, concentration, ability to learn, memory, and effectiveness in our daily lives, are all affected by what we consume. We all make food choices many times a day, regardless of our background or culture, where we grow up or where we live, and these choices can significantly impact our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the importance of resilient food systems and raised public awareness of the connections between food, health, poverty, consumption, supply chains and purchasing patterns.

Chelmsford City Council and Livewell Chelmsford are committed to achieving the best possible environment for the health of residents and a thriving, sustainable local economy.

We want Chelmsford, including the large urban areas of Danbury and South Woodham Ferrers and rural communities, to be a place where everyone can find healthy and affordable food that supports their health and wellbeing and that of their families, the environment, and the local economy.

The Food Plan (the Plan) aims to raise awareness across the district about healthy eating and sustainable diets to help Chelmsford become a healthier and more sustainable food city. Achieving this for all sectors of our society will be challenging. To reach its goal, the Plan must be meaningful and resonate with the people it is intended for: residents, communities, businesses, and local organisations. To be sustainable, the Plan must positively support and influence a sustained cultural change in attitudes to food. The Food Plan underpins the Chelmsford Health and Wellbeing Plan, a partnership plan with a shared set of aspirations for health improvement through collaborative partnership working, that Livewell Chelmsford and other key stakeholders support. The development and implementation of the Food Plan will be overseen by Livewell Chelmsford. However, we want and need all Chelmsford communities to take ownership of the document and help achieve its aims in the best ways they can. A consultation process supported the development of the Plan, with partners contributing towards its understanding of what is happening in the district and where opportunities lie in its broad focus areas.

To advance the plan's vision, an action plan is in active development. This comprehensive

action plan, detailed in Appendix 1 of the Plan, will provide a structured roadmap for translating the Plan's aspirations into tangible actions. This strategic approach will ensure a systematic and effective means of realising the Food Plan's objectives. This effort underscores a commitment not solely to envisioning change but to actively support positive transformation in Chelmsford's food landscape and enhancing the overall wellbeing of its vibrant community.

The Food Plan encompasses three broad focus areas:

- 1) **Healthy Eating:** Help people to make better food choices across the life course for better health.
- 2) **Food Poverty:** Improving access to healthier food for all
- 3) **Sustainable Food:** Promoting healthy and sustainable diets that contribute to addressing the climate emergency.

The Food Plan serves a number of functions:

- To help provide a focus for the Health and Wellbeing Plan relating to how healthier weight might be achieved through healthier diets.
- To give people access to information about how their food choices impact not only their health, but also the environment.
- To capture all linked activity that helps people get better access to better-quality food, or improves the nutrition of our community.

Our principles:

The Food Plan adopts the principles and ways of working outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Plan, which underpin all health and wellbeing work in Chelmsford:

- 1) **Partnership working:** Commitment to a holistic and collaborative approach to improving the health and wellbeing of people in the district, enabling statutory and voluntary sector organisations to work collaboratively and build on existing assets (A Mid Essex Asset Mapping report has been produced to support health and care partners in an Asset Based Community Development approach).
- 2) **Prevention and early intervention:** Focus on improving the social determinants of health that contribute to the causes of ill health, poor life choices and health conditions.
- 3) **Increase communication and make use of technology:** Ongoing and effective communication, co-production and engagement with people and health and care partners about health issues. We will raise awareness of local activities and events by using the Livewell platform for information and guidance to help communicate positive health and wellbeing messages.

The Food Plan also adds the following principle:

- 4) **Enabling:** We want to ensure it is possible for residents, communities, businesses, and local organisations to develop and implement programmes that contribute to the ambitions of the Food Plan.

CHAPTER 2

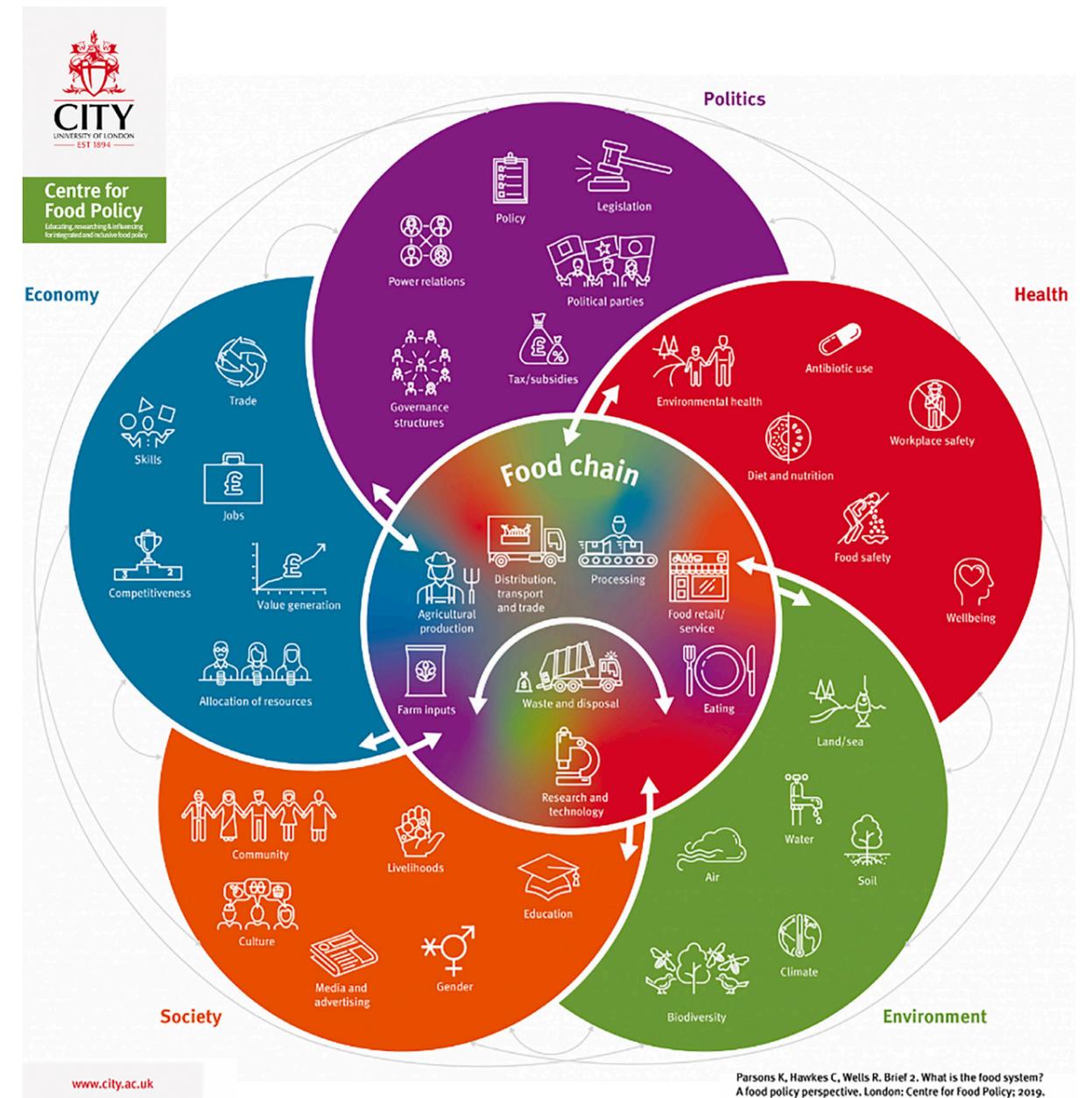
WHAT IS A FOOD SYSTEM?

In developing the Food Plan, it is important to provide a basic overview of the elements that comprise a food system. The production, processing, transportation, and consumption of food are all part of the intricate web of operations that make up a food system. The governance and economics of food production; its sustainability, the amount of food wasted, how food production impacts the natural environment, and the effects of food on both individual and population health are examples of issues that relate to the food system, as shown in the accompanying food system diagram.

Population health is a key area of consideration in food systems, particularly considering that diets are major contributors to the global burden of diet-related conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

The following model from the Centre for Food Policy displays the various interconnecting dimensions of the food system. These include:

- **Economics:** A food system is an economic system, as the food chain makes a significant contribution to most national economies.
- **Politics:** Food is political, in that there are policies which affect the food system and what people eat.
- **Environment:** Food production needs optimal environmental conditions, such as the air and climate, the sea, land, and the diverse flora and fauna which thrive on them. However, the modern food system is a major contributor towards the deterioration of the natural environment.
- **Health:** A food system influences diets, nutrition, and food safety and well-being. However, the modern food system is also associated with many health issues. Malnutrition and diet-related disease are among the world's largest causes of ill-health and early death.
- **Society:** Food can act as social glue, create community cohesion, and contribute to the regeneration of socially deprived areas. Food forms parts of people's identities and social aspirations, and links to important traditions and cultural representation.



Source: *The Food System*, Centre for Food Policy, 2019: depicting the interconnecting dimensions of the food system.

CHAPTER 3

THEME 1: HEALTHY EATING

HEALTHY EATING: WHY IT MATTERS

A healthy and balanced diet is the foundation of good health. Our diets can help us feel our best and make a big difference to our long-term health. The Food Plan aims to raise awareness across the district about healthier eating and accessing healthier diets, with the aim of reducing excess weight and obesity in children and adults. It is estimated that 58.1% of adults (18+) are classified as overweight or obese. The prevalence of excess weight and obesity among children in reception year is 21.7%. National levels of excess weight and obesity are still increasing and by 2050, foresight modelling indicates that 60% of adult men, 50% of adult women, and 25% of children under 16 could be obese.

Poor diet and obesity are leading causes of premature death and mortality and are associated with a wide range of diseases including cardiovascular disease and some cancers. In 2019, The Global Burden of Disease, noted diet as the fourth-highest risk factor for premature death.

Evidence also indicates that harmful diets which pose the highest risk are low in fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, fibre, and calcium. They are also high in sodium, red meat, sugar, processed meat, and trans-fat. Research shows that eating a healthy and balanced diet can optimise short and long-term health, and reduce the risk of many health conditions. The Institute for Health Metrics states that healthier diets can save one in five lives every year.

Research also shows that most people in the UK do not meet government dietary recommendations. It is estimated that on average, an adult's diet contains 200 to 300 more calories each day than are recommended. Meanwhile, children who are already overweight eat up to 500 more calories per day than required. The National Diet and Nutrition Survey, (NDNS), which is designed to collect information on the general population's food consumption, nutrient intake, and nutritional status, continues to show that overall, people consume too much saturated fat, added sugars and salt, and not enough fruit, vegetables, and fibre.

The main findings of the NDNS data, taken from 2016 to 2019, show:

- Free sugars intake exceeded the government's recommendation of providing no more than 5% of the total energy intake in people aged 2 years and over. The average intake was 9.4% for adults aged 65 and over, and 12.3% for children aged 11 to 18.
- Saturated fatty acids (saturated fat) intake exceeded the government's recommendation of no more than 10% of total energy intake in all relevant age groups. The average intake was 13.1% for children aged 4 to 10, 12.6% for children aged 11 to 18, 12.3% for adults aged 19 to 64 and 13.3% for adults aged 65+.
- Fibre intake was below the government's recommendations for all age groups.

This data underpins the government's call for the UK population to lead a healthy lifestyle by eating a balanced diet; based on the Eatwell Guide which shows the different types and proportions of food and drink needed for a healthy and balanced diet. Guidelines include eating a minimum of five portions of varied fruit and vegetables per day, choosing lower fat and sugar options, and drinking six to eight glasses of water each day. The Eatwell Guide can also be used to make healthier choices when deciding what to eat; whether cooking at home or eating out in a restaurant.

It is also important to understand that the relationship between food and health is very complex and there are many interrelating and personal factors to consider when supporting people to make healthier food choices. Among others, they include sociocultural norms, the local community, individual choices, and family environment. Understanding how to address inequalities and diet disparities in the focus area is also important, as adults and children living in lower-income households are more likely to have diets which are high in sugar but low in fibre, fruits, vegetables, and fish. Children from the 20% of least well-off families consume around 29% less fruit and vegetables, 75% less oily fish, and 17% less fibre than the most well-off 20%.

DATA INSIGHT: Chelmsford District Profile

-  **21.7%** of children in **reception year** are overweight or obese
-  **31.1%** of children in **year 6** are overweight or obese
-  **65.1%** of **adults** are classified as overweight or obese
-  **35.2%** of adults aged 16 and over meeting the **'5-a-day'** fruit and vegetable consumption
-  **67.2** per 100,000 (density of fast-food outlets in 2017)

RESIDENT INSIGHT:

What helps you make better food choices?

"Knowing what is healthy and monitoring my weight"

"Meal planning"

"Cheaper healthy food"

"Trying new things once then decide"

"Labelling, prices, nutrition info, availability"

"Parents and school"

SOME OF THE EXISTING INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE HEALTHY EATING INCLUDE:

Bags of Taste	A mentored course which facilitates life-long dietary and financial change by proving that cooking affordable, healthy meals can become a habit.
Livewell	A campaign shared across all 13 local authorities in Essex, supporting residents to improve their health and wellbeing.
The Eatwell Guide	A pictorial summary of government recommendations on eating healthily and achieving a balanced diet.
NHS Better Health	A national campaign to motivate and enable people to lead active and healthy lives. Better Health offers free tools and support to residents who want to plan towards healthier eating habits.
Introducing Solids Workshop	An Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service for people with babies aged 4-6 months. This two-hour workshop provides NHS-approved nutritional information and advice about how to introduce solid foods to babies.
My Weight Matters	A 12-week programme that focuses on healthy eating, portion management, and keeping active.
Essex Wellbeing Service (EWS)	EWS provides Essex residents (excluding Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock) with access to health checks, stop-smoking services, weight-management courses, and emotional health and wellbeing support. EWS also offers information about how to maintain a healthy weight to improve overall health and wellbeing.
C.H.I.M.P.S	A child weight-management programme that aims to change children's, parents', and carers' behaviour by increasing their skills and knowledge in nutrition and physical activity.
The BDA Food Fact Sheets	Downloadable resources written by dietitians, providing information on dietary best practices in order to stay healthy.
D.E.A.L.	A free, informative, and supportive programme for children at secondary school and their families.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE OUR EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING HEALTHY EATING INCLUDE:

Schools	Support schools to promote awareness of nutrition, increase cooking and gardening skills, and increase positive healthy eating behaviours.
TuckIN project	Increase uptake of the healthier eating project TuckIN by food businesses throughout the district.
Livewell Development Accreditation	Enhance the use of Health Impact Assessment on forthcoming strategic developments through the Livewell Development Accreditation.
Food Charter and Pledge	Develop a Food Charter, whereby organisations and local businesses can sign up to support one or more of its aims.
School Food Standards Pilot Project	A school standards compliance pilot led by the Food Standard Agency, designed to help children develop healthy eating habits, with knowledge about how to access healthier and more nutritious food.

CASE STUDY: BAGS OF TASTE

Name of project	Bags of Taste Home Mentored Cooking Course
Name of organisation	Bags of Taste
Project aims	To identify local residents who are struggling with their food budgets and show them how to cook delicious meals for less than £1 a portion.
Description of project	Local organisations including schools, social prescribers, and family support are contacted and asked for referrals.
	Students are interviewed and if accepted, receive a FREE bag of ingredients. They are then mentored via WhatsApp or phone over a two-week period while they cook three meals in their own time. They are then asked for feedback.
Key outcomes	To show people how to reduce their food budget, by encouraging them to cook low-cost, delicious meals using fresh ingredients that are easily available.
	To support them while they cook the meals. To offer ongoing support in a Facebook group when they have completed the three dishes.
Anything else to note?	The success of this method has been well-documented over the past three years.



CHAPTER 4

THEME 2: FOOD POVERTY

FOOD POVERTY: WHY IT MATTERS

The Food Ethics Council states that food poverty means: “an individual or household isn’t able to obtain healthy, nutritious food, they have to eat what they afford and not what they choose to.”

Food poverty is the inability of individuals and households to secure an adequate and nutritious diet. It can affect those living on low incomes, with limited access to transport, and poor cooking skills. Food poverty is also often described as food insecurity, which includes the practical and emotional struggle people can experience when they do not have enough money for food. An understanding of food poverty, its cause, and how it affects health, is an important part of the Food Plan.

Since the pandemic and the rising cost-of-living crisis, there has been an increase in food insecurity and poverty, with people on a low income being disproportionately affected. The Food Foundation highlights the prevalence of this, particularly in households with children. National research on the impact of the cost-of-living rise shows that two-thirds of UK households are cutting back on essentials, selling items or dipping into savings to cover essential shopping. There is also a significant increase in the number of people who are turning to food banks.

Recent findings by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) show that the proportion of consumers who could not afford to eat a healthy balanced diet has increased significantly. Additionally, the proportion of consumers using cheaper cooking methods e.g., slow cooker, instead of an oven to heat or cook food has significantly increased.

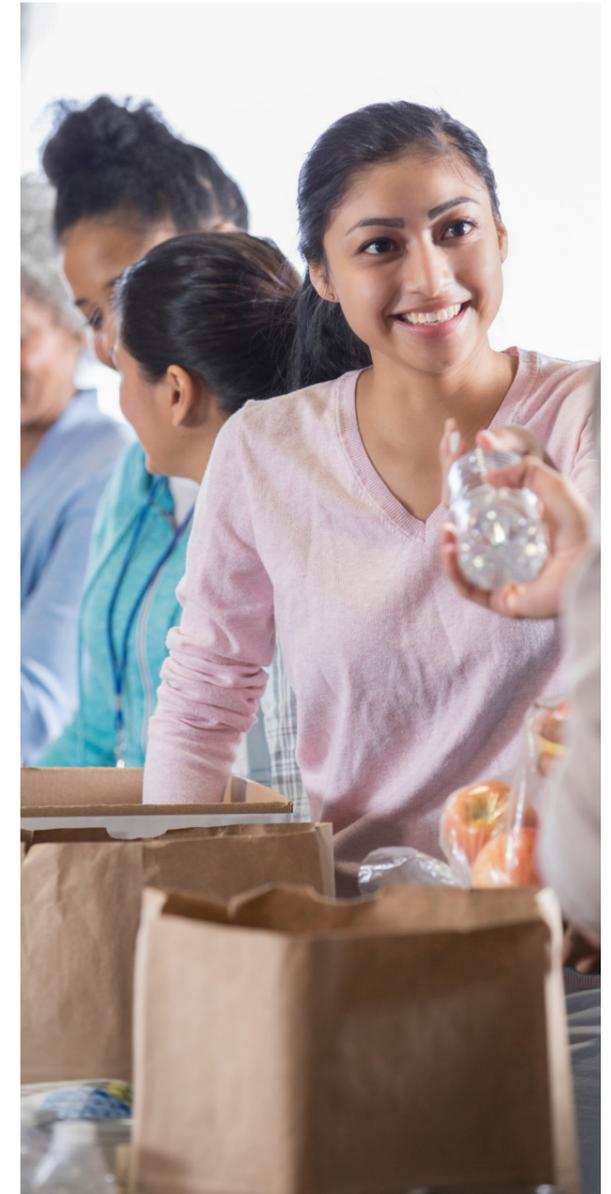
Evidence shows that price and affordability are major determinants of the food people choose to buy, especially for people on a low income. The Broken Plate Report (2022) indicates that healthier food options are nearly three times more expensive per calorie compared with less healthy options. The poorest fifth of UK households would need to spend 43% of their disposable income on food to meet the government’s recommended healthy diet.

The causes of food poverty or insecurity are complex. When a crisis in finance or personal circumstances hits, food budgets, are frequently the first to reduce to make room for other essential living expenses such as rent or fuel. Food poverty has a number of negative effects on people’s health and wellbeing, including an increased risk of dietary deficiencies because healthy and nutritious food is often more expensive than food high in fat, salt and sugar.

The latest Family Resources Survey shows that around five million people in the UK lived in food poverty between 2019-20. In 2020 this was 8% of the population, and data from The Food Foundation suggests food insecurity levels rose to affect 9% of the population in January 2021. The Trussell Trust has also seen an increase in food bank use of 123% over the past five years.

The above national figures show an increase in food poverty, and that anyone can be affected. Children who are unable to access free school meals during the holidays, individuals using food banks for the first time following a job loss, low-income parents who skip meals so their children can eat. All these instances are symptoms of inadequate and/or insecure incomes, increased living costs, rising debt, and financial problems for households living with disability and mental health issues.

Such symptoms, however, do not affect everyone equally. National figures show household food insecurity rose from 8% to 19% for ethnic minority households and 41% for households with three or more children. A 2020 study revealed that two out of every three households referred to a Trussell Trust food bank included one or more disabled people; a disproportionate impact that has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 outbreak. Bangladeshi (43%) and Black British (38%) groups, for example, were the most likely to report a loss of income since Covid-19, making them vulnerable to household food insecurity.



DATA INSIGHT:

Key issues impacting food poverty in Chelmsford



10.8% children live in poverty

3,484 children in the district



167 out of **312** Chelmsford ranked 167th least unequal local authority in England for income



Between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023 Trussell Trust distributed a total of

7,455 food parcels to **4,208** adults and **3,247** children.



21% of residents with less than **£125** discretionary income per month



8.3% of older people in poverty (income deprivation)



15% of residents in receipt of any working age benefit



67.2 per **100k** population Density of fast food outlets

RESIDENT INSIGHT:

Does anything impact your ability to buy healthy food?

"Cost"

"Price and availability"

"Money and other financial obligations, increased energy bills"

"Cost, availability, supermarket locations"

"Money and cost"

"Deals on bad foods"

SOME OF THE EXISTING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS FOOD POVERTY INCLUDE:

Food Banks	Providing emergency food and support for Chelmsford residents.
Chelmsford Food Alliance	An open collaboration between partners who provide meals, food parcels, and other assistance to hundreds of residents.
Holiday Hunger (Essex ActivAte)	Holiday activity sessions that support families with healthy meals; also promoting the importance of eating well and moving more.
Cooking Skills	An Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service (ECFWS) cooking booklet that aims to support low-income individuals and families with healthy eating.
NHS Healthy Start Vouchers	A scheme that helps eligible families to buy healthy food and milk.
Chelmsford Connects	A local activities website that helps residents get in touch with local charities, voluntary groups, and community sector services.
Chelmsford City Council	Planning policies seek to enhance and protect community facilities and explore ways in which important spaces could be used for valuable functions including education, food banks, and community supermarkets.
Community Fridge	A CHP initiative at Parkside Community Hub that helps local residents gain access to good food, donated by the local community and businesses, that would otherwise go to waste.
Sanctus	A community space where individuals with complex needs can access food and support, while also promoting collaboration with key service providers to offer an integrated assistance approach.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO ENHANCE OUR EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING FOOD POVERTY INCLUDE:

Social Supermarket	Launch of a social supermarket for Chelmsford offering discounted groceries to residents who are most in need.
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CASE STUDY: CHELMSFORD FOODBANK

Name of organisation	Chelmsford Foodbank
Project aims	We provide at least three days of emergency food to local people in crises. We are part of the Trussell Trust, whose vision is to see an end to hunger and poverty in the UK and we are working with them to see an end to the need for foodbanks.
Description of project	<p>People in need of food are referred to us via partner agencies who work with those who may be at risk of food poverty. The referral system works well to support people through their crisis, and voucher codes are issued immediately on an electronic system so there is no need for a delay between expression of need and access to food.</p> <p>When people come to our Foodbank centres – we now have seven open at a variety of times and across the city – they are welcomed, accepted, and treated with dignity, value, and respect. Each person has the opportunity to talk with a volunteer ‘Signposter’ who listens and will try to signpost people to further help and support as is required. In addition to the three days’ worth of food, people are able to pick up our available toiletries and household goods.</p> <p>All the food is donated by the public; churches, schools, businesses, and individuals have all got behind the project and the generosity that we witness is outstanding. The food is all collected at our warehouse on Beehive Lane, sorted, stored and made into boxes of nutritionally balanced food for around three days. These boxes are then transported by our van to the centres where they will eventually be decanted into bags for those accessing our service.</p> <p>We have recently started an initiative with Citizen’s Advice to offer Cost of Living Advisers in our centres so that people have the opportunity to gain some free advice and support towards positive change in their situations.</p> <p>We also house Peabody advisers at two of our centres and are developing a Community Money Advice centre to provide support with issues surrounding debt.</p>
Key project outcomes	Success for us would look like demand decreasing to the point where we feed fewer people. However, unfortunately, we have seen need rising over the last year, and particularly over the last few months. This year (Apr 2022 – Feb 2023) we have fed 6373 people; when last year during the same period we fed 4423. Previously, demand was only that high during the pandemic, when we fed 6200 from April 20-March 21.



CHAPTER 5

THEME 3: SUSTAINABLE FOOD

SUSTAINABLE FOOD: WHY IT MATTERS

The United Nations (2010) defines sustainable diets as: “dietary patterns that promote all dimensions of individuals’ health and wellbeing, have low environmental pressure and impact, are accessible, affordable, safe and equitable, and are culturally acceptable.”

Current evidence suggests that 15-30% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the UK come from food. Most occur from agriculture, food manufacturing, and transport, with meat and dairy consumption responsible for over 50% of emissions. More than a fifth of the food purchased by UK households (7.1 million tonnes annually) is reportedly wasted; most of which is avoidable fruit and vegetable waste.

Avoidable food waste has a significant effect on climate change and in the UK, 5-10% of GHG emissions come from food waste. In Chelmsford alone, 350 tonnes of food are thrown away every week. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for evaluating the science related to climate change, has identified food waste reduction as one of the key responses that can significantly contribute to climate change mitigation. Additionally, food waste has a notable financial impact on households, which is crucial in the context of food insecurity: on an annual basis, the cost of purchasing food that has not been consumed amounts to £470. Families with children may lose up to £700, and the average UK resident £200.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), EAT-Lancet, Fischer and Garnett from the Food Climate Research Network (FRCN) and The Association of UK Dietitians (BDA) Sustainable Diets Specialist Group, sustainable diets must be nutritionally adequate for the health of a population. Sustainable diets can be synonymous with healthy diets, which means as well as improving health, there is a significant opportunity to reduce GHG emissions from food systems.

However, caution is required. Not all healthy eating patterns are guaranteed to be sustainable, and a diet that has a low environmental impact may not be nutritionally adequate. For example, sugar has a relatively low environmental impact, whereas perishable fruits and vegetables can have a high environmental impact due to their high wastage, greenhouse energy use, and air freight.

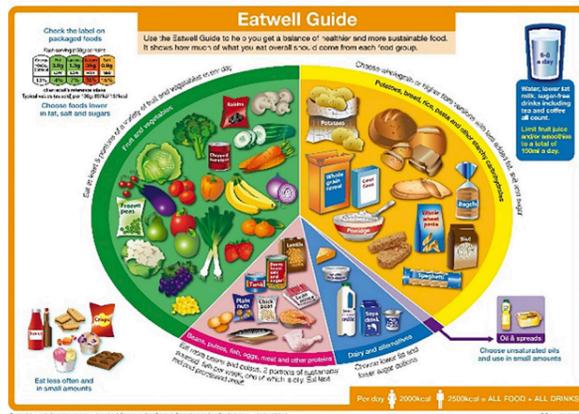
Overall, evidence consistently highlights similarities between sustainable and healthy diets. In general, less reliance on livestock products - particularly beef and dairy - is favoured, with a shift to more plant proteins such as whole grains, beans, nuts, and seeds, and less consumption of pre-packaged or highly processed foods, particularly those high in fat, salt, and sugar.

Red meat 	Red meat < 70g of cooked red meat/day or <500g/week 	Processed meats 
Plant proteins 	Prioritise beans and lentils, soya (beans, mince, nuts, tofu), mycoprotein (Quorn™) nuts and seeds. 	
Fish 	From sustainable sources and follow oily fish recommendations.	
Dairy 	Moderate dairy consumption. Use calcium fortified plant-based alternatives where needed. 	
Potatoes, bread, pasta, rice and other starchy carbohydrate foods	Recommend wholegrain. Recommend tubers such as potatoes. 	
Fruit and vegetables 	Seasonal + locally produced vegetables/fruit or use tinned/frozen. 	Air freighted, pre-packed and prepared fruit and vegetables. 
Portion control 	Animal proteins 	High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods 
	Dairy produce 	
Hydration 	Tap water and unsweetened tea or coffee over soft drinks 	
Reduce food waste 	Especially perishable fruit and vegetables. 	Any food waste should be recycled 

 Avoid  Reduce  Moderate  Increase

Source: Sustainable diet recommendations, One Blue Dot – the BDA’s Environmentally Sustainable Diet Project

According to the Carbon Trust report (2016), the Eatwell Guide is an example of a sustainable and healthy diet that produces environmental benefits. Following the Eatwell Guide recommendations could result in 31% reduction in GHG emissions, 17% reduction in water use, and 34% reduction in land use, thus increasing life expectancy if all recommendations are met and energy requirements are not exceeded. It may also prevent 17.9 million disability-adjusted life years over the current population's lifetime due to lower rates of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and colorectal cancer.



Source: Sustainable diet recommendations, One Blue Dot – the BDA’s Environmentally Sustainable Diet Project

Another universally-recommended diet for adults that is good for both people and the environment is The Planetary Health Diet, which is based on the EAT-Lancet findings. A planetary health plate should contain roughly half of the plate’s volume in fruits and vegetables, with the other half made up mostly of whole grains, plant protein sources, unsaturated plant oils, and (optionally) minimal amounts of animal protein.

This ‘diet’, which is based on health considerations and is compatible with many traditional eating habits, does not suggest that everyone in the world should consume the same foods. It merely suggests food groupings and intake ranges that, when integrated into a diet, would optimise human health. Local interpretations and adaptations of The Planetary Health Diet are required to account for variations in culture, geography, and demographics.



Source: The Planetary Health Diet, the EAT- Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets From Sustainable Food Systems.

The concept of ‘food miles’ is frequently used as a guiding tool for sustainability, with the common view that reducing food miles will have a positive environmental impact. However, without also considering other indicators, food miles may fall short of providing the most detailed picture of what’s going on behind the scenes. About 50% of the food consumed in the UK is produced abroad; food can even travel hundreds of miles within the UK to get to the consumer. Although transportation does have an impact on the environment, it often makes up a relatively small amount of overall GHG emissions (as little as 11%), with production making up a far greater portion.

According to DEFRA, importing food from regions with lower production impacts can be less harmful to the environment. For example, tomatoes grown in Spain have a much lower GHG output, even after accounting for transportation, than tomatoes grown in heated greenhouses in the UK. How we get our food also has an impact on the environment. It is estimated that car trips taken by UK consumers when purchasing food account for 48% of all vehicle miles and 13% of all GHG emissions associated with food transport. Therefore it is critical to eat not only locally, but also to consider which produce is currently in season.

For that reason, to reduce our environmental and social impacts, we must understand the distances, methods, and alternatives to our food choices.

DATA INSIGHT:

-  **15-30% of UK greenhouse gas emissions come from food**

-  with most of these occurring in **agriculture (45%), food manufacture (12%) and transport (12%)**

-  **meat and dairy consumption is responsible for over 50% of emissions**

-  **5-10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions come from food waste. 11.5 tonnes of food are wasted every year with 60% coming from households**

RESIDENT INSIGHT:

What is a sustainable diet and why do you think we need it?

- “To reduce carbon emissions”
- “Eating seasonally and locally”
- “Good for the environment”
- “Food that doesn’t destroy the environment”
- “Natural foods, sourced as locally as possible, less meat and fish, more fruits and vegetables, ideally in season”
- “Plant-based, local produce, no food waste. We need to stop global warming and conserve resources.”

SOME EXISTING INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DIETS INCLUDE:

Love Essex, Love Food	An Essex campaign that promotes ways to reduce, reuse and recycle food waste.
Love Food, Hate Waste	A campaign by the international climate action charity WRAP, raising awareness about the impact of household food waste with tips and advice to reduce avoidable food waste.
Love Your Chelmsford	A point of reference for 'all things green' in Chelmsford supporting residents to eat more sustainably.
Chelmsford City Council (The Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration)	Focus on reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions and on developing plans to create a more sustainable future for the area.
Tree and Woodland Planting	A greening programme to significantly increase the amount of woodland and tree coverage in Chelmsford.
Community Allotments	Promotion of several allotment sites (public, managed privately or by parish councils) to give residents the opportunity to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables.
Growing Project	An Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service growing project at Chelmsford West family hub, supported by RHS.
Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard	A community focal point that brings local people of all ages together to plant and cultivate local varieties of fruit trees.
FareShare	A UK-wide charity that fights hunger and food waste by redistributing food that would otherwise go to waste to the food aid network in Chelmsford, supporting vulnerable people.
Too Good To Go	An app that helps reduce food waste by selling unsold food from businesses to nearby residents. Unsold food can be purchased for as little as £2.

SOME OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO FURTHER ENABLE SUSTAINABLE DIETS INCLUDE:

Grants	Award small grants to community groups and schools to support food-growing activities
Green Spaces	Promote healthy placemaking principles such as access to green spaces and community facilities.
Built Environment	As part of the Review of the Local Plan, an Open Space Assessment update will be undertaken to help inform future needs for new allotment sites
Food Procurement	Raising awareness across the district, about the provision of healthy and sustainable local food in retail, catering, work, and public places.

CASE STUDY: LOVE YOUR CHELMSFORD

Name of project	Love Your Chelmsford [LYC] – Eating Green
Name of organisation	Chelmsford City Council
Project aims	To encourage people in Chelmsford to live more environmentally sustainable lifestyle, specifically in relation to their diet choices and food origins.
Description of project	<p>Currently, the global food system is one of the most damaging activities on our planet. This activity can be broken down into three key areas: how we grow our food, how we transport our food, and how much food waste we produce.</p> <p>Food takes vast amounts of water, land, and labour to produce, so we need to repair our relationship with food by enjoying and making the most of every piece.</p> <p>The LYC Programme has an ongoing campaign to encourage residents to 'Eat Green' by following more sustainable food habits. These include reducing our use of high-carbon foods, growing our own food or purchasing locally-grown.</p>
Key project outcomes	The campaign is ongoing and is a permanent fixture on the LYC website. We have had particular success with our Recycling and Sustainability Film, which features a section on 'Eating Green' and has received 70,000 views on social media. We've also received positive engagement from leftover Christmas food recipes.
Anything else to note?	<p>The most carbon-intensive food by a country-mile is beef. This is due to the land space required to keep cattle and because they belch methane [a gas more than 20 times more damaging to our environment than carbon dioxide]. It has been stated that the single best thing we could each do is to completely cut meat from our diets.</p> <p>This can make discussing 'eating green' challenging with some audiences, as diets are personal and the healthiness of a meat-free diet is still contested. However, choosing to eat locally-produced organic food not only cuts the carbon from transportation, but also clear positive health benefits.</p>



Source: Love Your Chelmsford

CASE STUDY:

FOODCYCLE CHELMSFORD

Name of project	FoodCycle Chelmsford
Name of organisation	FoodCycle
Project aims	<p>Connect communities: help strengthen and build resilient communities by bringing people together to share healthy, delicious meals.</p> <p>Support mental health, wellbeing and reduce loneliness: enhance the health and mental wellbeing of all by creating welcoming spaces for people from all backgrounds and walks of life to have conversations together.</p> <p>Nourish the hungry: improve nutrition and reduce hunger by cooking healthy meals for those in need, leading to improved food knowledge and changes in behaviour.</p> <p>Promote sustainability: change attitudes to food and society's impact on the environment by cooking with surplus ingredients.</p> <p>Inspire change: share the virtues of our community dining model and the voices of our guests to gain greater support and speed our expansion, enabling us to help more people and more communities.</p>
Description of project	<p>We are FoodCycle, and our vision is to make food poverty, loneliness, and food waste a thing of the past for every community.</p> <p>We connect communities to reduce loneliness and food poverty – working with thousands of volunteers and surplus food to help everyone who needs us. By creating welcoming spaces for people from all walks of life to meet, eat, and have conversations, and by offering a weekly telephone Check-in and Chat, we are supporting people's health and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>By cooking with surplus ingredients, we promote healthy, sustainable attitudes towards food and its impact on the environment and help people to learn more about healthy food.</p> <p>We aim to inspire greater change by sharing the impact of our community dining spaces and the voices of our guests to encourage more people to join and support FoodCycle, so we can help more people and more communities.</p>
Key project outcomes	Served 628 guests, gave away 81 takeaways, and saved 1,970kg surplus food in the last year.
Anything else to note?	We run every Thursday serving at 5:30pm at Springfield Park Baptist Church.



Source: FoodCycle

FOOD MAP

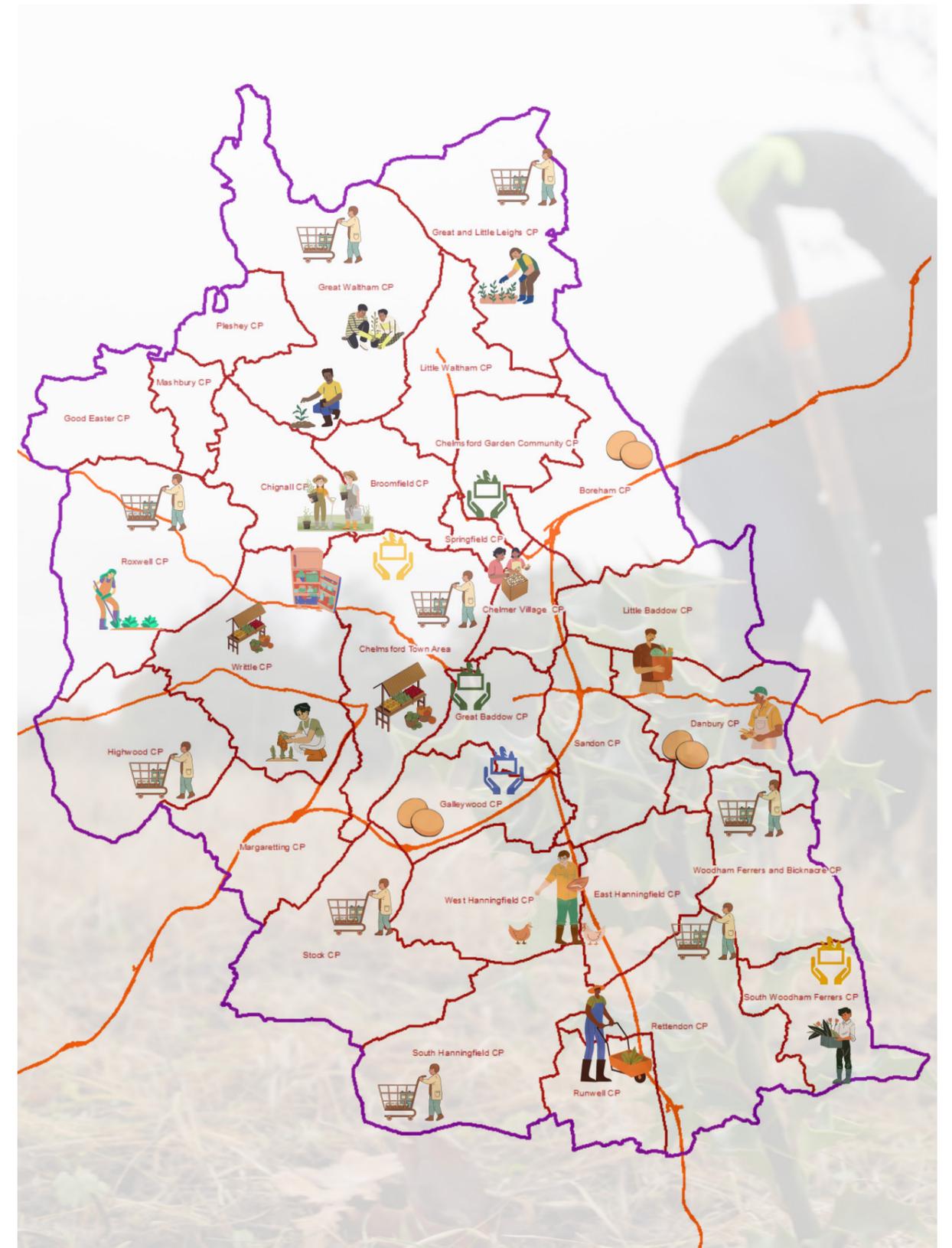
A local food map is being developed to capture community food resources for residents.

Categories will include:

- **Grocery stores** – supermarkets and convenience stores.
- **Allotment sites** – spaces where residents can come together to grow their own fruits and vegetables.
- **Markets** – places where residents can choose from a wide variety of fresh food support small, local, family-run businesses.
- **Farms** – where residents can experience how food is raised.
- **Free-range eggs** – local grocery stores that sell only free-range eggs.

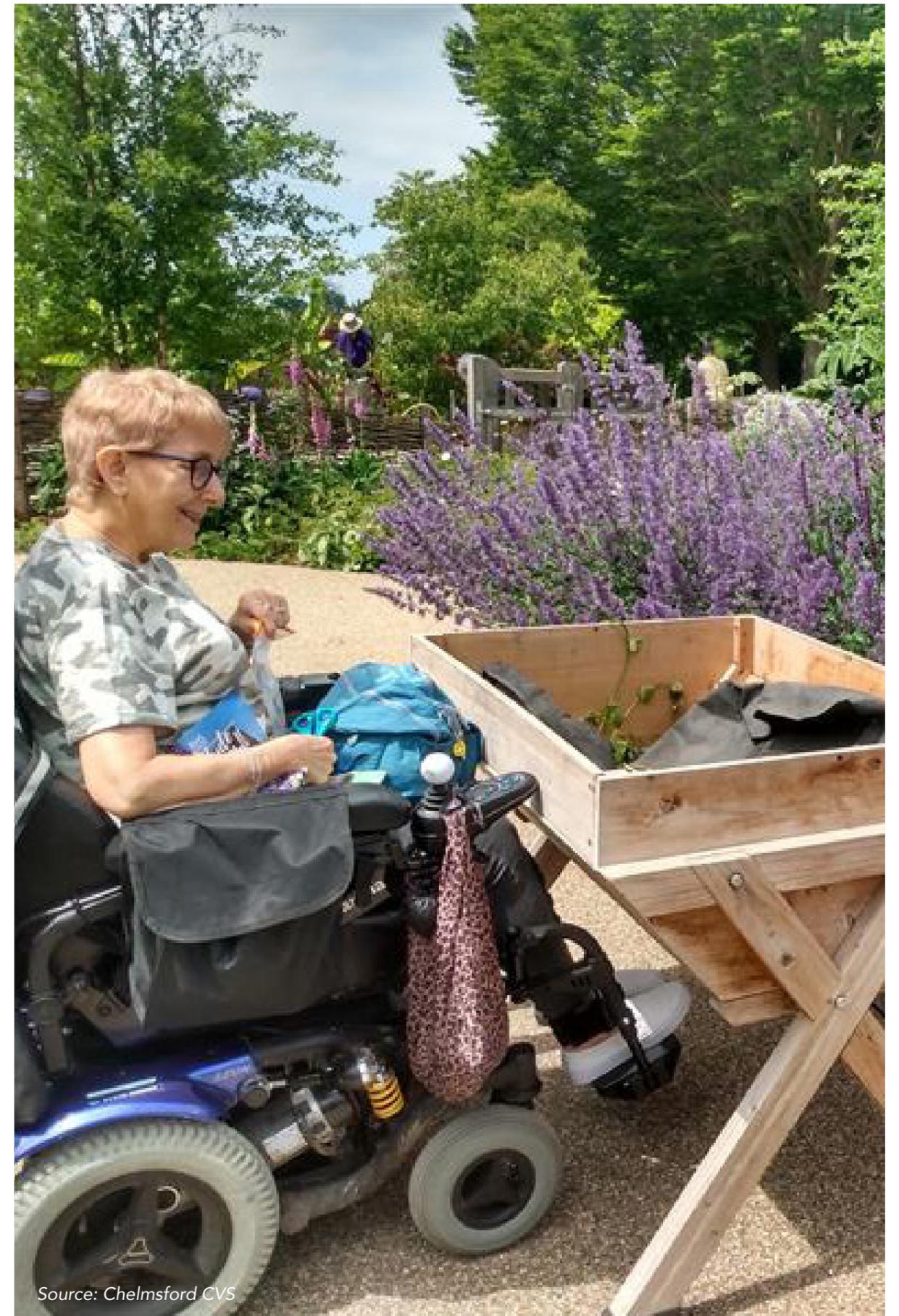
- **Food banks** – resources for individuals in need as well as those who want to help. A valid foodbank voucher is usually required to claim food.
- **Community meals** – locations providing free meals to residents in need and/or a chance of social interaction.
- **Community cafés** – locations that provide free meals to residents in need and/or a chance for social interaction.
- **Community fridges** – public spaces where residents and businesses can donate excess food to the local community: a resource both for those in need and who want to help.

Click on the relevant point in the map for more information and contact details.
You can view the map full-screen here:
<https://rb.gy/eigt7j>



GLOSSARY AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1 **The Global Burden of Disease**
The Global Burden of Disease is a tool that provides a comprehensive picture of mortality and disability across countries, time, age and sex.
- 2 **The Eatwell Guide**
The Eatwell Guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced diet.
- 3 **The Food Standards Agency**
The Food Standards Agency is a government department responsible for food safety and food hygiene in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 4 **The Trussell Trust**
The Trussell Trust is an NGO and charity that works to end the need for food banks in the UK.
- 5 **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) are gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat.
- 6 **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)**
DEFRA is a ministerial government department supporting our world-leading food, farming and fishing industries.
- 7 **National Diet and Nutrition Survey**
An annual survey designed to assess the food consumption and nutritional status of a UK representative sample of 1,000 people per year (500 children, 500 adults) aged 18 months upwards, living in private households.
- 8 **Chelmsford Health and Wellbeing Plan**
The Plan provides information on the health and wellbeing of residents, the contributions of Chelmsford City Council, services, key priorities, and collaborative efforts with partners to address these priorities.



Source: Chelmsford CVS

APPENDIX 1 - CHELMSFORD FOOD PLAN

OUR VISION: A Thriving Community with Nourishing, Accessible, and Affordable Food, Promoting Health, Sustainability, and Economic Growth.

In the pursuit of effectively implementing the Food Plan, an Action Plan has been developed. This Plan has been formulated to serve as a strategic roadmap, outlining a collaborative approach that spans the entirety of the district with the overarching aim to increase awareness across the three key focus areas of the Food Plan.

Built upon a foundation of commendable ongoing efforts, the Plan is designed to seamlessly integrate the Council's initiatives with the broader array of community-driven initiatives led by valued partners.

Aims	Outcome	Impact
1. Promote a preventative approach to healthy eating for residents' health and wellbeing	Healthier diets and reduced diet-related illnesses	Healthier diets
2. Encourage and support Individuals in adopting healthier food behaviours	Reduced risk of diet-related diseases	Healthier lifestyles
3. Encourage and guide the development of a Food Charter	A shared vision for a healthier and more sustainable food system	Sustainable food practices
4. Support food and nutrition education	Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables	Improved dietary knowledge
5. Promote and expand access to nutritious food in the district, celebrating its importance	Increased availability of nutritious food outlets	Long term wellness
6. Support collaborative approaches to addressing food poverty	Enhanced support services	Strengthened partnerships
7. Supporting healthy food accessibility for those in need with low-cost options	Reduced health disparities	Enhanced community wellbeing
8. Build Food Security	Access to adequate and nutritious food	Stronger community resilience
9. Coordinate food and climate efforts: integrating actions for a sustainable future	Enhanced sustainable practices	Enhanced environmental sustainability
10. Provide advice on the climate implications of food-related projects, promoting sustainability in council initiatives	Reduced carbon footprint	Community awareness
11. Support the development of food growing across the district	Sustainable land use	Healthier lifestyles
12. Provide information on sustainable food choices to the public	Reduced environmental footprint	Informed decision making
13. Local and seasonal food promotion	Empowerment of local farmers and producers	Reduced carbon footprint
14. Support residents to minimise, recycle and compost food-related waste	Reduced food waste	Community engagement

HEALTHY EATING

Help people make better food choices across the life course for better health.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ACTION PLAN:

- CCC: Chelmsford City Council
- ECC: Essex County Council
- CSAW: Community Sport and Wellbeing

1 Preventative approach (Support our residents by fostering knowledge about nutritious food choices across different environments, including schools and workplaces.)

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
1.1	<p>Identify potential opportunities for incorporating advice and support on diet and nutrition into the work carried out with individuals with disabilities and those living with long-term mental and physical health conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Essex Recovery College (Provide) - provision to offer cooking sessions that focus on healthy eating, aiming to promote mental wellbeing as a crucial component of a robust recovery process and overall wellness maintenance. ECC Public Health – work with Provide to increase the accessibility of tier 2 weight management services and materials. 	<p>CCC Public Health, Mid Essex Recovery College (Provide), Chelmsford CVS, Mid Essex Alliance, ECC Public Health</p>
1.2	<p>Promote food preparation and cooking knowledge and skills in diverse settings, including schools, communities, and early years programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health - explore the potential of commissioning additional projects, like the Bags of Taste initiative, to enhance cooking skills and to promote the adoption of affordable and healthy recipes. Encourage local schools to participate in the Bite Back program, scheduled to launch in September 2024, with the goal of improving the food environment within these educational establishments. Mid Essex Alliance - support promoting and disseminating healthy eating meal planners. Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service – promote family wellbeing through valuable guidance on infant feeding and affordable, healthy cooking (Infant Support group, Healthy Cooking booklet). Carers First - support cooking skills training sessions on topics such as meal planning, budget-friendly cooking, food storage, reducing food waste, and informed purchasing of locally sourced, healthy food by allocating a portion of the Carers group session for organisations to discuss nutrition and healthy eating. 	<p>Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Active Essex, Mid Essex Alliance, CCC Public Health, Carers First</p>

1.3	<p>Identify opportunities to engage frontline staff working with vulnerable communities, in training around food and nutrition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service – Introducing Solids workshop specifically designed for parents with babies aged 4-6 months providing NHS-approved nutritional information and expert advice on introducing solid foods to infants. 	<p>CCC Public Health, Action for Family Carers, Chelmsford CVS, Carers First, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service</p>
1.4	<p>Promote impactful healthy eating campaigns that target diverse audiences, encouraging the adoption of healthier eating habits and positively impacting individuals' dietary choices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECC Public Health - provide practical nutrition tips in ECC premises, e.g., ECC café. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Comms</p>
1.5	<p>Support food education and school engagement through holistic programmes encompassing various activities (such as growing opportunities, cooking, raising awareness on allotment sites and enhancing meals and dining culture).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC CSAW – explore using the smoothie bike as a fun and interactive way to promote events centred around the consumption of fruits and vegetables, encouraging healthy habits among students. Active Essex – in partnership with other organisations, organise cooking workshops for children, teaching basic cooking skills, healthy meal preparation, and the use of local and seasonal ingredients, with guidance from professional chefs, nutritionists, and local food experts. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC CSAW, Active Essex, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service</p>

2 Encourage and support individuals in adopting healthier food behaviours

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
2.1	<p>Further promote services, which support people to change their lifestyles including healthy eating advice, weight management support, physical activity sessions, health walks and smoking cessation support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Essex Alliance (NHS Integrated Care Board team) - provide local weight management service providers or commissioners with the opportunity to present at Mid Essex primary care forums, enabling them to promote their services and raise awareness among healthcare professionals. ECC Public Health – collaborate with Provide and EWS to efficiently promote current commissioned tier 2 weight management services to ECC staff, referring agencies, and Essex residents, aiming to increase engagement, particularly in areas with limited uptake and health disparities linked to deprivation. 	<p>CCC Public Health, EWS, ECC Public Health, Livewell Chelmsford, Mid Essex Alliance (NHS Integrated Care Board team)</p>

2.2	<p>Promotion of the Sugar Smart Campaign that is aligned with the national campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health – raise awareness about the risks associated with excessive sugar consumption and promote healthier choices within the community. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Comms</p>
2.3	<p>Promote culturally relevant and accessible healthy eating options, actively engaging with and supporting ethnic minority communities in adopting and maintaining healthier dietary habits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health – collaborate with community leaders, influencers, and organisations in ethnic minority communities to promote healthier eating habits through information dissemination, events, and success stories. Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service – in school-age drop-in clinics, provide advice on healthy eating and weight management that consider the traditional food preferences, cooking methods, and cultural practices of diverse ethnic minority communities, ensuring the information is easily comprehensible and applicable to their specific dietary needs. Chelmsford CVS – foster peer support networks: Facilitate the formation of peer support networks or cooking clubs within ethnic minority communities. 	<p>Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, CCC Public Health, Chelmsford CVS</p>
2.4	<p>Explore the potential of fruit and vegetable stalls in areas of the city with little or no access to fresh food.</p>	<p>CCC Economic Development</p>

3 Encourage and guide the development of a Food Charter

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
3.1	<p>Develop a comprehensive food charter that embodies the Food Plan's vision for the district and encourages organisations to take action in making it a reality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health – encourage organisational commitments: encourage organizations to sign on to the charter and outline their commitments, resources, and timelines for implementation. Consider developing a system to recognise and celebrate the commitments made by organisations. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, CCC Environmental Health</p>
3.2	<p>Investigate and promote quality, healthy, sustainable and ethical food accreditations.</p>	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, CCC Environmental Health</p>

4 Support food and nutrition education: create opportunities for learning about healthy eating habits

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
4.1	<p>Increase public understanding of food, health and sustainability through campaigns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love Your Chelmsford – provide practical tips and resources: offer practical tips, guidelines, and resources that help individuals make informed choices related to food, health, and sustainability. Signpost to step-by-step instructions, recipes, meal plans, shopping guides, or online tools that facilitate behaviour change and make sustainable practices more accessible. CCC Comms – support in designing campaigns that encourage active participation and action from the audience. Create compelling and engaging content that captures attention, sparks curiosity, and encourages action. CCC Public Health – measure campaign impact: use surveys, and interviews, to assess changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours Livewell, CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, ECC Public Health, Mid Essex Alliance, Love Your Chelmsford related to food, health, and sustainability. Monitor engagement levels, reach, and feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign and make improvements for future initiatives. ECC Public Health – offer practical nutrition tips at ECC premises, such as the ECC café. Collaborate with weight management providers to develop nutrition education campaigns, that direct to local weight management services. 	<p>Livewell, CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, ECC Public Health, Mid Essex Alliance, Love Your Chelmsford</p>
4.2	<p>Provide free or low-cost cookery courses, encourage family cooking and dining, and offer cooking skills training to residents, schools, and community groups, focusing on locally sourced and healthy food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health – secure funding and resources to support the provision of free or low-cost cookery courses. Support schools in setting up cooking clubs or organising cooking competitions to engage students in hands-on learning experiences. South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group – promote community participation by advertising cookery courses and family cooking session opportunities through various channels, such as community newsletters, and social media. · Carers First - support cooking skills training sessions on topics such as meal planning, budget-friendly cooking, food storage, reducing food waste, and informed purchasing of locally sourced, healthy food by allocating a portion of the Carers group session for organisations to discuss nutrition and healthy eating. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, CCC Environmental Health</p>

5 Promote and expand access to nutritious food in the district, celebrating its importance.

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
5.1	<p>Identify processes to engage with food eateries to develop good practices on food, health and sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Environmental Health – promote the adoption of healthier choices by independent local takeaways, cafes, restaurants, and sandwich bars through the TuckIN pledge. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Leisure, CCC Environmental Health</p>
5.2	<p>Encourage the inclusion of healthy food options and the reduction of food waste and packaging at district-wide festivals and events, collaborating with organisers to integrate a 'healthy food' offer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Leisure – introduce a commitment to healthy options provisions in leisure centre cafes and provide healthier catering guidance to support food businesses in providing healthier options to customers. Active Essex - In partnership with other organisations, explore the inclusion of new food tastings and cooking courses in holiday programs, focusing on the educational aspect of healthy nutrition and offering workshops on healthy cooking. ECC Public Health – implement a healthy advertising policy. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Leisure, CCC CSAW, Active Essex, ECC Public Health</p>
5.3	<p>Keep up-to-date information on where local and sustainable food can be purchased and make it available to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health/ CCC GIS Team – establish a system to regularly update the Chelmsford Food Map to reflect any changes in the community food resources; encourage community feedback to help maintain the accuracy and relevance of the information. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC GIS Team, Chelmsford CVS</p>

FOOD POVERTY

Improving access to 'healthier food' for all.

6 Support collaborative approaches to addressing food poverty

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
6.1	Foster partnerships to pool resources, share expertise, and coordinate efforts towards addressing the issue collectively; collaborate with community organisations, food banks, non-profit organizations, and charitable foundations working in the field of food poverty.	Chelmsford CVS, FoodCycle Chelmsford, CCC Public Health, Chelmsford Foodbank, Active Essex, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Mid Essex Alliance
6.2	Foster collaboration and cooperation among various organisations and initiatives to ensure the efficient and effective provision of services, preventing duplication of efforts and promoting equitable distribution of resources throughout the community.	Chelmsford CVS, CCC Public Health, ECC Public Health
6.3	Identify and leverage existing community assets, such as community gardens, or local food aid organisations and initiatives to enhance food security and promote self-sufficiency.	Chelmsford CVS, CCC Public Health, CCC GIS Team

7 Supporting healthy food accessibility for those in need with low-cost options

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
7.1	Engage with community members, organisations, and relevant stakeholders to gather insights, identify gaps in existing services, and develop a shared understanding of the local context.	CCC Public Health, Mid Essex Alliance, South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group, Chelmsford CVS
7.2	Support the implementation and development of social supermarkets aiming to provide a more sustainable, longer-term provision of low-cost, healthy food. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECC Public Health – Link with community supermarkets to support increased availability of healthy food. 	CCC Economic Development, Chelmsford CVS, ECC Public Health

7.3	Facilitate the sharing of best practices, resources, and knowledge among organisations and initiatives working on food poverty to maximise the impact of interventions through the exchange of successful strategies, program models, and innovative approaches.	Chelmsford CVS, FoodCycle Chelmsford, CCC Public Health, Chelmsford Foodbank, Active Essex, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service
7.4	Explore the potential of establishing a collaborative network involving local organisations, community groups, non-profits, and stakeholders to collectively enhance food access through collaboration, resource sharing, and joint funding applications.	Chelmsford CVS, FoodCycle Chelmsford, CCC Public Health, Chelmsford Foodbank, South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group
7.5	Promote and support local food redistribution initiatives that collect surplus food and distribute it to people in need.	Chelmsford CVS, CCC Economic Development, CCC Public Health

8 Support collaborative approaches to addressing food poverty

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
8.1	Support the community to develop social eating, food growing and/or cooking skills in community provision. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health – engage with local farmers and producers by facilitating connections between the community and these stakeholders, organising activities such as farm visits, farmers' market trips, and collaborations to raise awareness about local food sources, seasonal produce, and the significance of supporting local food systems. Action for Family Carers – help disseminate resources and training materials to young people, including cookbooks, recipe cards, and online resources that emphasise healthy eating, seasonal cooking, budget-friendly meals, and sustainable food practices. Active Essex – explore the idea of incorporating cooking workshops into the holiday program, where children and families can learn basic cooking skills, nutrition education, and meal planning, while also gaining hands-on experience in preparing healthy and budget-friendly meals using locally sourced ingredients, guided by skilled instructors. CCC CSAW – partner with other organisations to explore the inclusion of basic cooking techniques sessions and nutrition education within Play in the Park, by collaborating with local culinary experts, nutritionists, chefs, or cooking instructors who possess expertise in working with children and families. 	CCC Public Health, Action for Family Carers, Active Essex, CCC CSAW

8.2	<p>Map out existing social eating opportunities in the city (those run by faith organisations/ community groups) and ensure that these are promoted to those most in need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chelmsford CVS – through Chelmsford Connects shares local activities on healthy eating and facilitates connections with local charities, voluntary groups, and community sector services that provide community food resources. • CCC Public Health/ CCC GIS Team – enhance the Chelmsford Food Map by including additional information about each community food resource that would assist users in making informed decisions. • CCC Public Health – actively engage with local community organisations, businesses, and residents to actively seek their feedback and input on the food map, gathering valuable insights to ensure its comprehensiveness and usefulness by including additional resources or information based on their recommendations. 	Chelmsford CVS, CCC Public Health, CCC GIS Team
8.3	Promote the uptake, knowledge, and awareness of Healthy Start vouchers, which are designed to support access to nutritious food and essential vitamins.	CCC Public Health, CCC Comms
8.4	<p>Identify opportunities to engage frontline staff working with vulnerable communities, in training around food and nutrition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Public Health – collaborate with local community organisations, social service agencies, healthcare providers, and non-profit organizations that work directly with vulnerable communities to identify training needs and develop tailored programs for their frontline staff. 	Chelmsford Foodbank, Chelmsford CVS, Mid Essex Recovery College (Provide)

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Promoting healthy and sustainable diets that contribute to addressing the climate emergency

9 Coordinate food and climate efforts: integrating actions for a sustainable future.

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
9.1	<p>Carry out processes to identify actions on food and sustainability to feed into either the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan or the Food Plan and ensure the Plans are complementary and properly integrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Public Health – engage with council departments, community organisations, environmental groups, food-related businesses, farmers, and residents to gather input and perspectives on bridging the gap between the two plans and ensuring integration, fostering a cohesive and comprehensive approach. • ECC Public Health – engage with climate and sustainability colleagues to align efforts and plans between obesity and climate change e.g., joint ambition to increase consumption of plant-based products. 	CCC Public Health

10 Provide advice on sustainability for council projects.

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
10.1	<p>Provide advice on the climate implications of decisions around food-related projects and programmes to inform work across the ambitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love Your Chelmsford – offer comprehensive guidance on climate-friendly alternatives and best practices for food-related projects and programs, including suggestions for sustainable sourcing options, waste reduction strategies, and other measures aimed at mitigating climate impacts while simultaneously maintaining or enhancing project outcomes. 	CCC Public Health, Love Your Chelmsford

11 Support the development of food growing across the district

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
11.1	Identify opportunities to develop food growing strategically including linking across the district.	CCC Public Health, Love Your Chelmsford
11.2	Provide opportunities to increase knowledge, skills and food growing in schools through programmes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Public Health – collaborate with schools to establish and maintain school gardens, fostering garden-based learning, nutrition education, and hands-on experiences in food production, while encouraging partnerships with local farmers or community organisations to enhance learning opportunities. 	Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Active Essex, Mid Essex Alliance, CCC Public Health, Carers First
11.3	Promote the benefits of allotment sites and provide support for sites through the process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Public Health/CCC Comms – develop targeted awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of allotment sites. Highlight the advantages of community ownership, increased access to fresh produce, physical activity, mental well-being, and social connections. 	CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, Love Your Chelmsford
11.4	Promote and encourage community involvement in grass roots and food related activities through improved access to support networks, and resources, through the promotion of assets and allotments for community use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Economic Development – allocate funding to support ecological and green initiatives, aiming to promote environmentally friendly practices and projects. 	CCC Public Health, Love Your Chelmsford, CCC Economic Development

12 Provide information on sustainable food choices to the public.

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
12.1	Utilise council communication channels to disseminate messages promoting the advantages of reduced meat and dairy consumption, as well as seasonal eating, incorporating campaigns that are linked, where applicable, to Sustainable Food Places initiatives.	CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, Love Your Chelmsford, ECC Climate team, ECC Public Health

13 Reducing food waste and packaging waste.

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
	Identify opportunities for reducing food waste in businesses and raising awareness about the importance of minimising food waste and promoting sustainable practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Public Health – facilitate partnerships between businesses and local food recovery initiatives to ensure safe and efficient food redistribution. 	CCC Public Health, Love Your Chelmsford, CCC Economic Development
13.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love Your Chelmsford – provide information on the benefits of composting, guidelines for setting up composting systems, and connections to local composting facilities or service providers. • CCC Economic Development – support the dissemination of educational materials through the business e-bulletin, highlighting the importance of minimising food waste, provide practical strategies for waste reduction, and outline the environmental implications of food waste. 	
	Foster a reduction in food wastage among residents by raising awareness of sustainable food practices and promoting the adoption of food waste reduction apps like “Too Good to Go”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers First – educate carers about the “Too Good to Go” app during carer group sessions, highlighting its benefits in reducing food waste and providing cost-effective food options. 	CCC Public Health, Carers First, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, CCC Comms
13.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Public Health/CCC Comms – develop educational materials to inform residents about the environmental impact of food waste and the benefits of sustainable food practices. • CCC Comms – utilise various communication channels, such as community newsletters, websites, and social media platforms, to disseminate messages and tips on reducing food waste and introduce the “Too Good to Go” app. 	
	Signpost residents and businesses to guidance on reducing the environmental impacts of their packaging choices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Public Health – gather educational materials from reliable sources that offer guidance on reducing the environmental impact of packaging choices, including fact sheets, guidelines, toolkits, infographics, and case studies that highlight sustainable packaging options and practices. 	CCC Public Health, Love Your Chelmsford
13.3		

13.4	<p>Promote local recycling and composting programs, engage residents and businesses in national campaigns like WRAP's Love Food, Hate Waste, and support efforts to distribute surplus food, encouraging sustainable waste management practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love Your Chelmsford – disseminate information to residents and businesses regarding local recycling and composting programs, offering comprehensive details on accepted materials, collection schedules, and drop-off locations, while emphasising the significance of adhering to proper disposal and recycling practices for packaging waste. CCC Public Health – promote national campaigns through various channels including social media, websites, and local media outlets, sharing campaign materials, videos, and tips to raise awareness and encourage residents and businesses to actively participate in adopting sustainable food management practices. 	<p>Love Your Chelmsford, CCC Public Health</p>
13.5	<p>Develop links with the food industry to improve the redistribution of surplus food to reduce unnecessary waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health – partner with local food banks, charities, and community organisations to facilitate the collection and distribution of surplus food, while promoting donation programs for businesses to redirect excess food and reduce waste while supporting food security initiatives. 	<p>CCC Public Health, FoodCycle Chelmsford, Chelmsford Foodban</p>

14 Local and seasonal food promotion

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
14.1	<p>Provide support to producers within and around the city by increasing awareness of local and seasonal products and promoting their utilisation among the general public, food businesses, and institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health/CCC Comms – collaborate with local media outlets to feature stories, articles, and interviews highlighting local producers, seasonal products, and successful initiatives, aiming to showcase the value and diversity of local food and encourage media coverage of related events. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Comms</p>

15 Reducing food waste and packaging waste.

Aim	Actions	Key Actors
15.1	<p>Promote sustainable practices by encouraging residents to purchase food with minimal packaging and the recycling of food containers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love Your Chelmsford – raise awareness about the environmental benefits of reducing packaging waste and provide practical tips on sustainable purchasing choices through public awareness campaigns, specifically highlighting the importance of buying food with minimal packaging. CCC Public Health – support community-led initiatives focused on reducing packaging waste and promoting recycling by encouraging residents to participate in zero-waste or plastic-free challenges. 	<p>Love Your Chelmsford</p>
15.2	<p>Support businesses with dedicated resources containing advice on waste reduction to promote zero waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC Public Health – signpost businesses to waste management resources, including links or downloadable guides, templates, and tools such as waste sorting guidelines, waste reduction checklists, recycling signage, and waste tracking spreadsheets, to support effective waste management practices. Love Your Chelmsford – inform businesses about local recycling and composting programs, including collection services, facilities, and material-specific recycling guidelines, to promote proper waste management. CCC Economic Development – facilitate the distribution of educational materials via the business e-bulletin, providing businesses with advice and resources to comprehend and implement effective waste reduction strategies. 	<p>CCC Public Health, CCC Comms, Love Your Chelmsford, CCC Economic Development</p>



Civic Centre, Duke Street
Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 1JE



Chelmsford City Council Cabinet

12th September 2023

Environmental Crime Fixed Penalty Notices – Levels of Fine

Report by:

Cllr. Rose Moore, Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford

Officer Contact:

Paul Brookes, Public Health & Protection Services Manager,
paul.brookes@chelmsford.gov.uk 01245 606436

Purpose

To approve the levels of fine for fixed penalty notices issued for littering, graffiti, fly tipping, and breach of household waste duty of care.

Options

1. Approve the proposed levels of fine.
2. Amend the proposed levels of fine.
3. Retain the current levels of fine.

Preferred option and reasons

Option 1 is the preferred option as the increased levels of fine reflect the seriousness and consequences of the offences, whilst taking into account people's ability to pay.

Recommendations

The levels of fine be increased to the amount shown in Table 3 below.

1. Background or Introduction

- 1.1 Littering, graffiti, fly tipping, and breach of household waste duty of care are all criminal offences, for which district councils, as enforcing authorities, may bring prosecutions in the magistrates' courts, or may issue fixed penalties in lieu of prosecution. If the fixed penalty notice is not paid within 14 days prosecution proceedings are commenced.
- 1.2 Fixed penalties are useful as they provide enforcing authorities with an effective and visible way of responding to environmental crimes, provide a lower-cost alternative to prosecution in the magistrates' courts, and are a useful tool in inducing behaviour change.
- 1.3 The enforcing authority does not have to issue a fixed penalty notice and for the most serious cases, or for serial offenders prosecution in the magistrates' court can be the most appropriate course of action.
- 1.4 The purpose of a fixed penalty notice is not to raise revenue but to effect a positive behaviour change.

2. Proposed Increase in Level of Fine

- 2.1 On 31st July 2023 the maximum level of fine was increased, and enforcing authorities given the discretion to set the rates that offenders should pay, up to the maximum permitted.
- 2.2 Enforcing authorities are permitted to discount the amount payable if the fixed penalty notice is paid within a set time, this cannot be longer than 14 days and is normally set at 10 days. The discounting of fixed penalty notices encourages quick payment and is accepted practice for a range of fixed penalty notice offences.
- 2.3 Table 1 shows the current level of fixed penalty notice fine and current discounted fine for littering, fly tipping, and breach of household duty of care. Table 2 shows the maximum levels now permitted.

Table 1 Current Levels of Fixed Penalty Notice Fine

Offence	Fixed Penalty Amount	If Paid Within 10 Days
Littering	£150	£100
Graffiti	£150	£100
Fly tipping	£400	£250
Breach of Household Waste Duty of Care*	£400	£180

Table 2 New Maximum Levels of Fixed Penalty Notice Fine

Offence	Fixed Penalty Amount
Littering	£500
Graffiti	£500
Fly tipping	£1000
Breach of Household Waste Duty of Care*	£600

*Residents have a duty of care to ensure their household waste is disposed of correctly, most offences occur when waste is taken by an unlicensed waste contractor (usually for a small fee) who subsequently fly tips the waste.

3.Setting the Level of Fine

- 3.1 Chelmsford City Council has the discretion to set the fine level up to the maximum permitted, and whether or not to set a discounted rate and if so at what level.
- 3.2 As discussed above, the discounting of fixed penalty notices encourages quick payment and is accepted practice for a range of fixed penalty notice offences. It can be assumed that a discounted rate set at an appropriate level reduces the amount of cases progressing to court which are resource intensive for the Council to take, whilst still encouraging behaviour change to prevent recurrence of the offence. It is recommended that a discounted rate remains for the three offences under consideration.
- 3.3 If it is accepted that a discounted rate remains, it is the level of discounted rate that is important as the maximum rate will only be paid if the fixed penalty notice is not dealt with in a timely manner, therefore the maximum rate can be set at the maximum level allowable.
- 3.4 Fly tipping, breach of household waste duty of care, and graffiti offences are serious, pre-meditated offences that require clearing or cleaning at large expense by public authorities. It is proposed that the maximum amount of fine be set at the maximum allowed with a discount to make early payment attractive without diluting too much the financial penalty for such offences.
- 3.5 Littering is a serious problem that is both unsightly and expensive to tidy up. The fixed penalty notice is in lieu of a prosecution in the magistrates' court. If the person who upon the fixed penalty notice does not agree with the service of the fixed penalty notice they can choose not to pay it and then the original offence will be heard in the magistrates' court. The risk of a high level of littering fine is that the offender ends up in the magistrates' court because they cannot afford to pay the fixed penalty notice and not because they wish to object to the service of the fixed penalty notice. There is, therefore, a risk that people facing financial hardship could be disadvantaged by a high level of fine. Heavily discounting the maximum level of fine for early payment would reduce the risk of this inequity,

whilst still maintaining an effective financial penalty that encourages behavioural change.

3.6 Table 3 shows the proposed levels of fixed penalty notices.

Table 3 Proposed Levels of Fixed Penalty Notice

Offence	Fixed Penalty Amount	If Paid Within 10 days
Littering	£500	£150
Graffiti	£500	£375
Fly tipping	£1000	£750
Breach of Household Waste Duty of Care*	£600	£450

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The allowable maximum level of fixed penalty fine for littering, graffiti, fly tipping, and breach of household waste duty of care has been increased. As an enforcing authority Chelmsford City Council has discretion to set its fixed penalty amount for each offence up to the maximum allowed. It also has discretion to offer a discount for early payment of a fixed penalty notice.
- 4.2 The discounting of fixed penalty notices encourages quick payment and is accepted practice for a range of fixed penalty notice offences.
- 4.3 The proposed levels of fine are shown at Table 3. The discounted amount if paid within 10 days is set at a level that should act as a deterrent or help change behaviour, and reflects the seriousness and consequences of the offence whilst taking into account people's ability to pay.

List of appendices:

None

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: This decision falls to Cabinet to determine and the recommendation is consistent with the amendments to the Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties)(England) Regulations 2017.

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None
Risk Management: None
Equality and Diversity: N/A
Health and Safety: None
Digital: None
Other: None

Consultees:

Legal Services

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

None



Chelmsford City Council Cabinet

12th September 2023

North Essex Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan

Report by:
Deputy Leader

Officer Contact:

Stuart Graham, Economic Development & Implementation Services Manager, 01245 606364 stuart.graham@chelmsford.gov.uk and Jennifer Gorton, Economic Development Lead, 01245 606367 jennifer.gorton@chelmsford.gov.uk

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to set out progress on the collaborative working across the North Essex Economic Board area and to present the North Essex Economic Board Strategy and Delivery Plan for adoption.

Options

The following options are available:

- a) That Cabinet adopts the North Essex Economic Board Strategy and Delivery Plan, or
- b) That Cabinet does not adopt North Essex Economic Board Strategy and Delivery Plan

Preferred option and reasons

The preferred option is Option A. The City Council has been a partner of the North Essex Economic Board since 2020 and the partnership has been successful in delivering a range of economic development initiatives alongside the other partner authorities, sharing resources, expertise and delivering positive outcomes. The

adoption of the North Essex Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan will cement this partnership and lay the foundations for continued joint working across the North Essex Economic Area. The Strategy aligns with the City Council's corporate, economic and spatial planning objectives and will also assist in shaping any economic activity that emerges from the devolution agenda and associated discussions.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet adopts the North Essex Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan and continues to support the work of the North Essex Economic Board.

1. Background or Introduction

- 1.1. In 2019 Tendring, Colchester, Braintree, Uttlesford and Essex County Councils agreed to develop an economic strategy that would set out the opportunities within the North Essex economic corridor. A North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) was established to oversee the development of the Strategy. The Board has no decision-making authority but operates on an informal basis with the Board comprising Leader and/or Cabinet Member representatives from each authority. An officer Steering Group oversees activity.
- 1.2. Chelmsford City Council and Maldon District Council were invited to join NEEB in May 2020 and the Board now covers over half of the second-tier authorities in Essex. The Board is currently chaired by the Deputy Leader of Chelmsford City Council.
- 1.3. During the pandemic the seven authorities combined some of its COVID business support grant funding resources to deliver a co-ordinated programme of business and skills support across North Essex. This comprised in the region of £1.6m of support.
- 1.4. Across the North Essex area, this programme supported over 1,300 businesses and 295 residents with a range of business support and skills development. In Chelmsford, 105 businesses and 72 residents were supported (including 10 employment starts).
- 1.5. The programme delivered by NEEB demonstrated the effectiveness of collaborative working, sharing resources and expertise to deliver successful outcomes for businesses and residents.
- 1.6. Subsequent to this activity, the North Essex authorities (with the exception of Uttlesford) have agreed to use part of their UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocations (totalling circa £425,000) to maintain a programme of business support across the area during 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. This was

particularly important at a time when the Government Funding of Growth Hubs was uncertain.

- 1.7. Alongside the activities described above, the NEEB decided that a refreshed Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan should be commissioned, to take account of the current economic climate and to refresh current opportunities given that Chelmsford and Maldon had now joined the partnership.
- 1.8. Henham Strategy Ltd were appointed, via a thorough and a robust procurement process, to deliver the refreshed strategy and delivery plan. Extensive evidence gathering consisting of strategic analysis, data scrutiny and stakeholder workshops facilitated the development of the refreshed strategy and delivery plan. Officers from the partner authorities have been involved at every stage of this work to ensure parity in representation of need and opportunity.
- 1.9. Cabinet will recall that in January 2023 it was agreed that the City Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the other North Essex Councils to work together on a broader basis. The Strategy being presented within this report and the work of the North Essex Economic Board is the economic strand of this agreed approach to shared working.

2. The North Essex Economic Strategy and Action Plan

- 2.1. The North Essex Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan is attached at Appendix 1. It comprises 3 sections:
 - a) A strategic narrative
 - b) A delivery plan
 - c) An economic baseline

- 2.2. The overarching vision for the North Essex economy is for it to be:

“A proactive, productive and progressive North Essex that advances its economic potential through inward and outward-facing partnerships, with all residents, businesses and visitors benefitting from the region’s economic prosperity.”

- 2.3. Four strategic priorities are set out within the Strategy and are summarised below:

Innovative businesses and skilled residents - A resilient and outward-facing economy that builds on its incumbent strengths and is positioned to deliver economic opportunities for North Essex’s residents and drive inward investment to support businesses within the region’s critical growth sectors.

A greener and high growth economy - A forward-looking economy that utilises the diversity of its resources in a sustainable way that furthers North

Essex's clean energy strengths, boosts growth, and promotes residents' prosperity through net zero commitments.

A dynamic and connected region - A well-connected and digitally-linked region that provides residents with quick and reliable access to key services, encourages inward investment, and makes the most of ties to regional and international neighbours.

Prosperous and inclusive communities - A thriving and inclusive region where all residents and businesses have the opportunity to contribute and prosper, exemplifying the region as a great place to live, work and visit.

- 2.4. The Strategy is supported by a two-year Delivery Plan that identifies a range of practical interventions and actions that can deliver against these strategic objectives, which are being developed into practical and deliverable actions through a series of officer workshops. The Delivery Plan and associated actions will be overseen by the Board and the officer Steering Group and refreshed. Proposed actions are set out at pdf pages 33 to 38 of Appendix 1.

3. Linkage with Chelmsford City Council's Corporate, Economic and Spatial Planning Objectives

- 3.1. The Strategic Objectives of the North Essex Economic Strategy align well with the Our Chelmsford: Our Plan, the adopted Local Plan (May 2020) and the Council's wider economic objectives. It also aligns well with some of the activities and priorities of the City Council's partner organisations, including our further and higher education colleges/universities and third sector partners. For example, the Strategy could provide a useful framework through which the Essex Local Skills Improvement Plan could be delivered alongside the further education delivery partners.

- 3.2. The linkage between the NEEB Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan is set out below:

Fairer and inclusive Chelmsford – aligns with the prosperous and inclusive communities objective of the NEEB strategy.

A safer and greener place – aligns with the green and high growth economy objective of the NEEB strategy.

Healthy, active and enjoyable lives – aligns with the prosperous and inclusive communities objective of the NEEB strategy.

Connected Chelmsford – aligns with the dynamic and connected region and innovative businesses and skilled residents' objectives of the NEEB strategy.

4. Conclusion

4.1. The North Essex Economic Board has successfully delivered a range of economic support activity since 2020. To enable the partnership to consolidate its work, a new Economic Strategy and two-year delivery plan is a logical next step. There are many advantages in this form of collaborative working and the Strategy and Delivery plan set out how further opportunities can be identified and delivered. The work of the NEEB fits well with the wider North Essex Authorities discussions in the context of devolution and puts the seven partner authorities in a good position to continue to work together in the coming years.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1: North Essex Economic Strategy & Delivery Plan

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional:

None

Financial:

None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment:

The Strategy and Action Plan has as one of its strategic objectives to develop a greener and high growth economy and a number of the actions in the Delivery Plan reflect some of the opportunities to work across the North Essex area.

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030:

The Strategy and Action Plan has as one of its strategic objectives to develop a greener and high growth economy and a number of the actions in the Delivery Plan reflect some of the opportunities to work across the North Essex area.

Personnel:

Support for the NEEB work is being delivered from within existing resources and there is some central resources (project management and communications) that is currently funded by the partner authorities.

Risk Management:

N/A

Equality and Diversity:

N/A

Health and Safety:

N/A

Digital:

N/A

Other:

None

Consultees:

All NEEB local authorities and a range of stakeholders have been consulted in developing the Strategy and Delivery Plan

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Our Chelmsford: Our Plan

Chelmsford Local Plan (May 2020)



NORTH ESSEX'S STRATEGIC NARRATIVE



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The North Essex Vision

A proactive, productive and progressive North Essex that advances its economic potential through inward and outward-facing partnerships, with all residents, businesses and visitors benefitting from the region's economic prosperity.

The NEEB's 'Delivering for North Essex' plan has been underpinned by a robust and comprehensive review of the region's key opportunities and challenges, outlined within the local strategies and initiatives of the seven NEEB authorities and collated through extensive engagement with councillors, officers and key external stakeholders, including local businesses, HE and FE institutions, and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

'North Essex's Strategic Narrative' has been developed in partnership with Henham Strategy, with it providing greater detail on the opportunities and challenges we are seeking to action and address through our plans to deliver for North Essex. These opportunities and challenges are presented under the key strategic priority for which they apply.



Working together, we can leverage North Essex's core strengths...

Our innovative and thriving SME community and cutting edge HE and FE institutions, delivering good, local jobs

Our dynamic and competitive renewable energy generation strengths, driving net zero progression

Our unique strategic location linked to regional and international partners, supporting inward investment

Our proud urban, rural and coastal communities, focused on supporting prosperous residents and businesses

North Essex's Strategic Opportunities and Challenges

1. Innovative Businesses and Skilled Residents

With North Essex's substantial SME community driving entrepreneurship and innovation; three highly successful Higher Education institutions leading cutting-edge research in areas including computer and data science; and thriving Further Education institutions delivering the technical skills and qualifications that form the backbone of any resilient economy, now is an exciting time for the region as it looks to ensure its residents and businesses benefit from increased inward investment that helps establish the region's prosperity-enhancing growth sectors.

Innovative Businesses – Opportunities

North Essex is positioned to build on the high proportion of SMEs operating within the region, with a real opportunity to further develop incumbent strengths in the construction and real estate sectors. Alongside reinforcing existing strengths, progress within the region's key growth sectors can add to the region's innovative business landscape, building on the excellent work that has already been delivered to date.

Construction and Retrofit – Building on the region's incumbent construction strengths, Braintree has led work on delivering progress within the advanced construction sector through 'I-Construct'. Using European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding, this programme included the establishment of a 'Construction Innovation Hub' that has been used to support businesses in construction – and construction-related – sectors, nurture early-stage SMEs and facilitate the commercialisation of new ideas, technologies and research. This programme has supported 350 businesses, launched 150 new products and services, and created up to 130 jobs across the South East¹.

Clean Energy – Building on the region's renewable electricity generation strengths, Longfield Solar Farm is a proposal for a new solar energy and battery storage farm within Chelmsford and Braintree that will help meet the UK's need for low carbon energy and achieve the 2050 net zero target. The plans around battery storage will help deliver efficiency, with the energy generated able to be stored during times of low demand and released when needed².

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering – Based in Chelmsford, the company Teledyne e2v is a technology manufacturer that develops specialised components and subsystems in the medical, science, aerospace, and defence sectors. Specifically, this company is looking to help drive the next generation of systems in signal chain semiconductor devices, full spectrum imaging, and high-power radio frequency solutions³.

Digital Tech – Building on the University of Essex's computer and data science strengths, Colchester launched the AIXR: Centre for Immersive Innovation in June 2022. This new centre will position Colchester as a global focus for all immersive innovation in the XR industry, and will form AIXR's base of international operations, institutionalising the technology for decades to come. This centre is open to all within the community who want to learn about XR, grow within XR, and connect with the most passionate people within the immersive world. (For

¹ I-Construct. Source: [I-Construct](#)

² Longfield Solar Farm. Source: [Longfield Solar Farm](#)

³ Teledyne e2v. Source: [Home | Teledyne e2v \(teledyne-e2v.com\)](#)

background, XR is the umbrella term for all immersive technologies, including Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality, Spatial Audio and Haptics/Senses)⁴.

Life Sciences – With its proximity to Cambridge and the Life Sciences ‘Golden Triangle’, Uttlesford is playing a leading role in the UK’s life sciences sector through the Chesterford Research Park. This research park offers advanced laboratory and office space set within 250 acres of idyllic parkland, with the modern, dynamic and flexible facilities ideal for biotechnology, pharmaceutical and technology R&D companies of all sizes⁵. Braintree’s Manufacturing Innovation Centre at CGT Catapult will also play a vital life sciences role, working in collaboration with the cell and gene therapy industry to accelerate manufacturing innovation for therapy developers, technology companies and service providers⁶.

These are but a few examples of the excellent and innovative work that is planned and underway within the region to support North Essex’s key growth sectors. The benefits of continuing to develop the region’s early progress in supporting its key growth sectors is seen when looking at the potential impact these growth sectors could have in terms of jobs within the region.

Focusing on the ‘Clean Energy’ growth sector, LG Inform⁷ forecasts demonstrate the number of jobs the region is likely to benefit from as this sector continues to develop. As the table below demonstrates, the region is expected to see significant growth in the number of jobs within key Clean Energy areas, and it is vital the region continues to build on the excellent work already underway to support not only the Clean Energy growth sector, but also North Essex’s other key growth sectors.

North Essex Clean Energy Job Growth – LG Inform 2030 Forecasts						
Area	Braintree	Chelmsford	Colchester	Maldon	Tendring	Uttlesford
Low Carbon Electricity	74	2,258	163	318	90	173
Low Carbon Heat	422	494	534	183	459	242
Alternative Fuels	95	192	135	41	54	39
Energy Efficient	386	452	488	168	420	221
Low Carbon Services	61	189	189	38	37	101
Low Emissions Vehicles and Infrastructure	216	253	220	80	129	112
Total	1,254	3,838	1,729	828	1,189	888

⁴ AIXR: Centre for Immersive Innovation. Source: [AIXR Centre for Immersive Innovation to Open in Colchester UK - AIXR](#)

⁵ Chesterford Research Park. Source: [Chesterford Research Park](#)

⁶ Catapult Cell and Gene Therapy. CGT Catapult Braintree. Source: [Braintree - Cell and Gene Therapy \(catapult.org.uk\)](#)

⁷ LG Inform. Local green jobs – accelerating a sustainable economic recovery. Source: [Local green jobs - accelerating a sustainable economic recovery in Braintree | LG Inform](#)

North Essex Clean Energy Job Growth – LG Inform 2050 Forecasts						
Area	Braintree	Chelmsford	Colchester	Maldon	Tendring	Uttlesford
Low Carbon Electricity	177	5,476	359	760	201	414
Low Carbon Heat	635	743	803	276	690	364
Alternative Fuels	140	315	220	66	88	60
Energy Efficient	407	477	515	177	443	233
Low Carbon Services	170	532	532	106	105	283
Low Emissions Vehicles and Infrastructure	376	488	396	140	252	199
Total Jobs	1,905	8,031	2,825	1,525	1,779	1,553

North Essex Clean Energy Job Growth – LG Inform 2030 and 2050 Forecasts

If the region is to make the most of the opportunities its growth sectors present, North Essex must ensure that businesses working within these sectors have the space and resources to scale up effectively and establish themselves within the region. There has already been some excellent work progressed in this space, whether that be through Tendring's work delivering 24 new affordable business units in Jaywick Sands, or Braintree's plans around the Horizon 120 business innovation and logistics park that will provide in excess of 750,000 square feet of hi-tech, industrial, office and logistics space. Phase One of Horizon 120 was completed in June 2022, with 'The Plaza' providing approximately 30,000 square feet of flexible SME workshop space where individual rooms – as well as conference and event spaces – are available for hire⁸.

Braintree's Free Funding for Young Entrepreneurs

Braintree's initiative to provide funding for young entrepreneurs is helping to stimulate business growth within the authority, helping to provide Braintree's youngest and brightest business minds with the first step up required to establish a business. Alongside funding for their idea, this initiative provides 16-30 year olds with invaluable business plan training and presentational experience that helps them develop career enhancing skills. This initiative should be provided across North Essex to stimulate entrepreneurship, innovation and investment – three criteria critical to productive and proactive business growth.

Innovative Business – Challenges

If the region is to fully seize the opportunities within North Essex's incumbent strengths and realise the benefits of its key growth sectors, challenges will need to be overcome that are currently inhibiting the region's innovative businesses from making further economic progress.

Despite the progress being made in the delivery of new commercial sites, like those being delivered in Tendring and Braintree, there is much progress to be made. The lack of commercial sites compared to other areas around the country is one of the main reasons holding back the scale up of many of North Essex's innovative businesses. It is vital that the region continues to focus on ensuring businesses have the necessary commercial space to

⁸ Horizon120. Source: [Horizon 120 Business Park, Braintree, Essex - Office, Logistics & Distribution, Hi-Tech, Light Industrial](#)

grow, positioning North Essex to benefit from the economic growth that comes with SMEs further establishing themselves within the region.

There is also a challenge in collating the existing initiatives that are underway within North Essex to support business growth and ensuring that key stakeholders are aware of what they are each doing to drive business growth in the region. There have been some excellent further examples of initiatives planned and underway to support business growth within the region including:

- The **Colchester Business Enterprise Agency's (Colbea)** business support delivered in partnership with Tendring, which is helping to catalyse business success within parts of Essex⁹.
- The partnership established between **CB Heating and EDF Energy** in Tendring to support the installation of heat pumps within the region, exemplifying effective local and national business partnerships¹⁰.
- The **University of Essex's 'Knowledge Gateway'**, a research and technology park on the Colchester Campus, providing a unique home for businesses to cultivate ideas, increase motivation, generate ambition and invigorate success. This is helping innovative SMEs establish themselves further, with peer-to-peer relationships established to facilitate business growth¹¹.
- The **South East LEP's (SELEP) Enterprise Adviser Network** which aims to pair senior business volunteers with schools and colleges to build employer engagement plans in order to create powerful, lasting connections between local businesses and the schools and colleges in their area. This is helping to demonstrate employment pathways for students, increasing motivation to progress and secure career enabling opportunities¹².
- The **Essex Local Skills Improvement Plan** that is providing an employer voice and perspective on the region's local skills needs, ensuring residents are developing skills that are most likely to help them secure good jobs of the future¹³.

The NEEB has a role to play in occupying an overarching viewpoint over initiatives being delivered, ensuring duplication of activity is avoided and best business growth practice promoted and scaled up to support further businesses across the North Essex region.

Skilled Residents – Opportunities

To support the ambitions of North Essex's innovative businesses, the region should work on building on its skills strengths, with successful, innovative businesses dependent upon a highly skilled and motivated workforce.

⁹ Colbea. Source: [Office Space Colchester | Office Rental | Business Support \(colbea.co.uk\)](https://colbea.co.uk)

¹⁰ EDF investment partnership with heat pump installer CB heating, EDF, May 2022. Source: [EDF investment partnership with heat pump installer CB Heating | EDF \(edfenergy.com\)](https://edfenergy.com)

¹¹ Knowledge Gateway. University of Essex. Source: [Knowledge Gateway | University of Essex](https://knowledgegateway.org.uk)

¹² Enterprise Advisor Network. SELEP. Source: [Enterprise Advisor Network - The South East Local Enterprise Partnership \(southeastlep.com\)](https://southeastlep.com)

¹³ Local Skills Improvement Plan. Essex Chamber of Commerce. Source: [Essex Chambers of Commerce and Industry Ltd -](https://essexchamber.com)

When considering North Essex's skills strengths, a clear place to start is the region's Higher Education institutions, with the region benefitting from the excellent research and training delivered by the University of Essex, Anglia Ruskin University, and Writtle University College. All three Higher Education institutions have their specific strengths – the University of Essex has strong foundations in the computer/data science and hospitality sectors; Anglia Ruskin University in social work and sport science; and Writtle University College in animal and land-based sectors. These institutions play an important role in driving up skills within the region, with the University of Essex's 'Skills Fest' – an annual exhibition of the skills development opportunities available to students and staff of the university – an excellent example of the work put in to supporting skills development across the region.

It is essential that the region's Higher Education institutions continue to receive the support they need, given the R&D spend of the East of England's Higher Education institutions in 2019. As can be seen in the table below, the East of England ranked third – behind London and the South East – in terms of Higher Education R&D expenditure, investing £968 million in 2019. This suggests that the region's Higher Education institutions are playing a leading role in driving innovation and productivity improvements¹⁴. North Essex's three Higher Education institutions are central to this expenditure and should continue to be supported with these endeavours.

Regional Higher Education R&D Expenditure – 2019 (£ millions)								
London	South East	East of England	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	South West	West Midlands	East Midlands	North East
2,196	1,361	968	733	610	474	470	353	251

Regional Higher Education R&D Expenditure – 2019 (£ million)

The University of Essex

The University of Essex is a North Essex Higher Education strength, ranking first in the UK for its Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) which bring together the needs of businesses with the university's knowledge and expertise. This strength needs to be built upon, facilitating the spin out of businesses from the university's research. A sector where this is clearly possible is Computer Science, with the university ranking in the UK's top 10 for this subject and acting as host to the Institute for Analytics and Data Science as well as the UK Data Archive. This case study has been included to illustrate the potential of North Essex's Higher Education institutions. It is vital they partner with businesses and investors to drive innovation and business growth within North Essex.

Alongside North Essex's Higher Education institutions – and given the region's incumbent strengths within the construction sector – the region's Further Education offering is also critical to the region's long-term economic growth potential. In particular, there are several Further Education institutions that represent the region's strengths in this area:

¹⁴ ONS. Gross domestic expenditure on research and development, by region, UK. (2019). Source: [Gross domestic expenditure on research and development, by region, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/government/statistics/gross-domestic-expenditure-on-research-and-development-by-region-uk)

- **The Colchester Institute** – Critical to this institute is its ambition to provide education, professional development and technical skills training to young people and adults across North Essex. Vocational learning is an integral part of all the courses offered by the institute and there are two main campuses in North Essex based in Colchester and Braintree. The Colchester site has recently delivered improvements to its main buildings, enabling the provision of new facilities that include Business, Accounting and Computing, Sport and Public Service and Health and Social Care facilities. The Braintree site has a speciality in Digital, Media and Engineering¹⁵.
- **Chelmsford College** – Based across two campuses, Chelmsford College is a general Further Education college that offers a variety of courses, both vocational and professional courses. Like the Colchester Institute, Chelmsford College has undergone redevelopment in recent years which includes a brand new Electrical and Engineering block, a new Art, Design and Media Centre, as well as new welcome areas on both campuses, complete with internet cafes and landscaped areas for students to relax and socialise¹⁶.
- **Stansted Airport College** – With Stansted Airport based in Uttlesford, it is important to acknowledge the partnership the airport has established with Harlow College. Stansted Airport College is the first of its kind in the country, and offers a unique opportunity for those interested to get the first step up into a career within the aviation industry¹⁷.

The importance of these exemplar Further Education institutions is evidenced when reflecting on the diversity of skills attainment across the North Essex region. Some authorities are made up of a greater proportion of higher skilled workers and others a greater proportion of lower skilled workers, evidenced in the table below¹⁸. It is crucial that everyone within North Essex feels they have an opportunity to progress in their careers – irrespective of skills backgrounds – and the provision of Further Education courses is essential to this.

Skills Attainment (2021) – Lower and Higher Skilled Workers Divergence Across North Essex		
District	NVQ Levels 1,2 and 3	NVQ Level 4
Braintree	47.2%	25.8%
Chelmsford	43.1%	33.9%
Colchester	44.6%	32.2%
Maldon	45.9%	25.4%
Tendring	43.8%	19.9%
Uttlesford	42.3%	36.6%

Skills Attainment (2021) – Lower and Higher Skilled Workers Divergence across North Essex

Skilled Residents – Challenges

Whilst there are clear opportunities to support the upskilling of North Essex through collaboration with the region’s Higher Education and Further Education institutions, there are several challenges that are front and centre when supporting economic growth within the region.

¹⁵ The Colchester Institute. Source: [Colchester Institute - Education & Training Courses in Essex](#)

¹⁶ Chelmsford College. Source: [Chelmsford College | Our College](#)

¹⁷ Stansted Airport College. Source: [Stansted Airport College - Home](#)

¹⁸ ONS. Education: Highest level of qualification (Census 2021). Source: [Highest level of qualification - Census Maps, ONS](#)

The first challenge is encouraging and facilitating opportunities for residents to participate within skill programmes delivered across the region. Despite the NEEB running some successful skills programmes – including those in partnership with the Shaw Trust – others have proven less successful in generating resident interest. Whilst part of the explanation for the lack of engagement with some recent NEEB delivered skills programmes could be the lack of regular and reliable transport links between the North Essex authorities, there could also be other reasons for this, including a lack of confidence amongst some residents to engage, as raised by the Essex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). Equally as important as delivering quality skills programmes, the NEEB and other stakeholders should carefully consider the audiences they are looking to reach, understanding how they can effectively facilitate resident engagement. As highlighted by the Essex LSIP, Essex employers find that employees lack skills across a range of issues, including soft skills, and often struggle with staying positive and aiming high. Ensuring North Essex’s residents do not fall into these categories will be vital to delivering skilled residents within the region.

Another challenge, is the struggle retaining graduate talent from courses delivered within North Essex. Whilst many choose to study within North Essex – 51,425 students were enrolled at the University of Essex, Anglia Ruskin University and Writtle University College for the 2020/21 academic year¹⁹ – fewer choose to remain in North Essex following their studies. This is particularly seen within the University of Essex’s Hospitality programmes, with many students moving to larger UK and global cities to apply their skills post-training. To mitigate this from happening, there is a need to better advertise North Essex as a great place to live and work. Further collaboration between the region’s businesses and Higher/Further Education institutions is required to more effectively advertise the good jobs available within North Essex to students.

A final skills challenge relates to North Essex’s UK positioning. For many in the region, one of the main attractions of living within North Essex is its close proximity to London. There are normally 147 trains per day travelling between Colchester and London, and the average journey time is 59 minutes²⁰. This relative ease of travelling to London means many in North Essex live within the region but work within the capital, leading to much of the region’s talent contributing economic growth to other parts of the country. This ‘out-commuting’ phenomenon builds the case for action around promoting good jobs within the region, and facilitating inward investment to draw further good jobs to North Essex.

2. A Green and High Growth Economy

With North Essex’s renewable energy strengths in offshore wind, onshore wind and solar power, alongside innovative partnerships being established between local and national businesses working to deliver net zero commitments, now is an opportune time to focus on promoting the importance of a green and high-growth North Essex economy. This includes facilitating the delivery of the green jobs and skills of the future and building further positivity behind the hand-in-hand relationship of the region’s rural and coastal characteristics and its net zero potential.

¹⁹ HESA. Higher Education Student Statistics: UK 2020/21 – Where students come from and go to study. Source: [Higher Education Student Statistics: UK, 2020/21 - Where students come from and go to study | HESA](#)

²⁰ Trainline. Trains from Colchester to London. Source: [Trains Colchester to London from £10 | Greater Anglia Times & Cheap Tickets | Trainline \(thetrainline.com\)](#)

Opportunities

The North Essex region is positioned to build upon infrastructure already in place that is supporting renewable electricity generation. The region is effectively utilising its urban, rural and coastal characteristics to benefit from greener energy sources. Colchester is leading the way with solar power generation, Maldon with onshore wind, and Tendring with offshore wind. With the number of green jobs expected to increase in the lead up to 2030 and 2050, it is important to ensure the region's renewable electricity generation opportunities result in not only improved environmental outcomes, but also better outcomes for residents through good, career progressing jobs within the region's ever developing green sectors.

The work planned to enhance North Essex's solar power capacity shows North Essex's green potential. Alongside the proposed Longfield Solar Farm in Chelmsford and Braintree, Maldon also has plans to boost its solar power capacity through the proposed Dengie Solar Park – a British Solar Renewables project that plans to build a new 78-acre solar park in the area²¹. These plans to boost solar power capacity are supported by the 'Solar Together' initiative led by Essex CC which – in partnership with the region's six district authorities – is supporting residents to group buy solar PV and battery storage systems to drive demand for this renewable energy source²².

Away from solar power, there are also opportunities for the region to build on the example set in Braintree around EV charging infrastructure. The GRIDSERVE Braintree EV Forecourt is an exemplar for other areas to follow and is the largest of its kind in Europe with 12 high power charges, 12 medium power charges, 6 low power chargers and 6 Tesla super chargers²³. Braintree demonstrates North Essex's EV potential, and there is a real opportunity for the region to promote itself as an exemplar for others to follow within this green economy sector.

In addition, there are many other examples of broader work underway by leading North Essex businesses and initiatives, driving forward green technology and techniques essential to achieving North Essex's net zero transition. Tevva and Global Marine in Chelmsford are respectively driving forward the technology required to electrify HGVs and offshore wind efficiencies, whilst the I-Construct programme mentioned previously has facilitated new construction and technology ideas that will be central to delivering net zero critical retrofitting activities.

Alongside this – and to the benefit of many of North Essex's green businesses – Freeport East represents a critical opportunity to boost North Essex's green and high-growth economic ambitions. Located on Harwich Port, a 112-hectare site is being dedicated to the development of green energy, taking advantage of transport links available from the port and the close proximity to the North Sea's wind farms. The new green energy hub will focus on the manufacture of wind turbine components. This builds on the 2011 designation of Bradwell B as a site for a potential nuclear reactor. Should this come to fruition, Bradwell B will provide an estimated 3,000 construction jobs for local and regional workers and deliver 900 jobs once completed²⁴. Freeport East's Harwich site will create an estimated 3,478 new jobs in offshore wind and provide 77,900 square miles of manufacturing and office space²⁵.

²¹ British Solar Renewables. Source: [BSR | About \(britishrenewables.com\)](https://www.britishrenewables.com)

²² Solar Together. Source: [Group-buying for solar | Sussex \(solartogether.co.uk\)](https://www.solartogether.co.uk)

²³ GRIDSERVE. Source: [GRIDSERVE | Braintree](https://www.gridserve.co.uk)

²⁴ Bradwell B [Benefits - Bradwell B Project Site](https://www.bradwellb.co.uk)

²⁵ [Harwich \(freeporteast.com\)](https://www.freeporteast.com)

Despite the need to build on the excellent progress made to date in delivering North Essex's net zero transition, the importance of maintaining a balance between the development of green economy infrastructure – like solar panels and EV charging – whilst protecting the region's outstanding natural beauty for the benefit of residents and the region's visitor economy is acknowledged. As the region continues its net zero transition, it will be important to continue the promotion of the importance of progressing the region's new Garden Communities that strike a balance between delivering greener homes and further active travel opportunities, alongside maintaining and promoting the region's natural beauty. One of North Essex's key green economy strengths is the opportunity to promote the region's rural and coastal characteristics with it important that areas like Maldon's Promenade Park and Hythe Quay are appropriately protected and promoted as the region continues its net zero transition.

Chelmsford/Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Communities

Both the Chelmsford and Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Communities demonstrate how North Essex is best managing the importance of delivering on its net zero commitments, alongside maintaining the region's important rural characteristics.

The Chelmsford Garden Community will create a community of around 10,000 new homes and include new employment opportunities in north-east Chelmsford. In addition to the new homes to be delivered, the Garden Community will create a new country park, enhanced walking and cycling routes and facilitate new multi-functional green infrastructure that will support North Essex in achieving its net zero ambitions. In 2021, an agreement was signed between Chelmsford City Council, Countryside Zest and Homes England to deliver 80 Net Zero Carbon-ready homes as part of the new community.

Meanwhile, the Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Community will be large enough to accommodate new homes and supporting community facilities and services, alongside employment land for businesses and industrial use. It will be served by a network of green and beautiful spaces to promote wildlife, attractive places, healthy living, recreational activity, sustainable drainage and to tackle the climate emergency; new services, facilities and infrastructure, including a new Rapid Transit System (RTS) and a new dual carriageway Link Road between the A120 and the A133.

Challenges

Despite the opportunities to build on the region's green economy strengths, there are challenges that need addressing through collaborative working across North Essex.

The first challenge is the rural/urban divide when it comes to some green economy infrastructure, and the accessibility challenges faced by some residents and businesses. As the tables below demonstrate, it is the more urban North Essex authorities – Colchester and Chelmsford – that have the closest number of EV Charging devices, compared to Braintree, within North Essex. The more rural authorities – particularly Maldon – have less EV charging infrastructure and relatively few rapid charging devices²⁶.

²⁶ DfT. Electric vehicle charging devices by local authority. Source: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/ev-charging-map/index.html>

The lack of EV charging infrastructure across North Essex is impacting the transition to electric vehicles within the region. It is not practical for many to move away from internal combustion vehicle engines. If North Essex is to achieve its green economy ambitions, further work is required to consider how best to ensure EV charging infrastructure is evenly delivered across the region, ensuring all residents feel it possible to transition to electric vehicle use. Some movement will be seen with Tendring's REPF funding contributing to EV infrastructure in the district, but more will still need to be done.

EV Charging Devices (2023)					
Braintree	Colchester	Chelmsford	Tendring	Uttlesford	Maldon
82	62	44	37	33	14

Rapid Charging Devices					
Braintree	Colchester	Chelmsford	Uttlesford	Tendring	Maldon
82	62	44	37	33	14

EV Charging Devices and Rapid Charging Devices (2023)

Away from the divergence in coverage of some of the region's green infrastructure, another challenge the region faces is ensuring businesses know of the work already ongoing to deliver progress with the region's net zero ambitions. Despite some effective partnerships being established to deliver green improvements in the region – for example the partnership between CB Heating and EDF Energy to support heat pump installation – many businesses seem unaware of such partnerships being established. The NEEB wants to work with partners across the region, using its convening role to ensure that those involved in delivering the region's net zero ambitions collaborate regularly, and work together to scale up effective partnerships already established within the region.

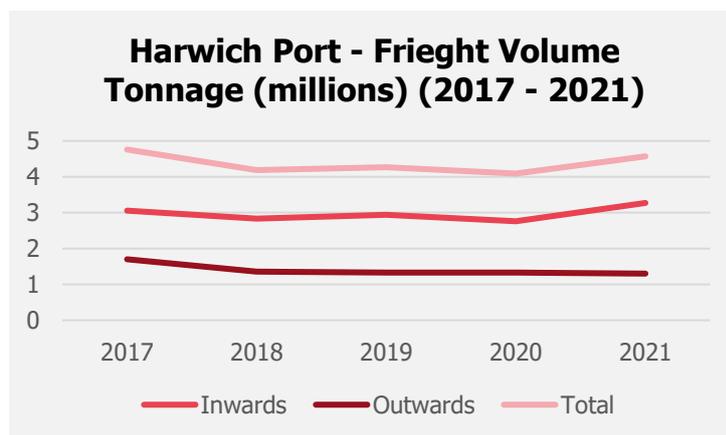
A final challenge is ensuring the region's residents benefit from the jobs that will become available as the region continues to deliver on its net zero commitments. There is a divergence in skills attainment across the region, and it is vital that North Essex's residents have an awareness of the good low and high skilled roles the region's green economy will offer looking ahead to 2030 and 2050. The Essex LSIP found that across the county, there is a paucity of green skills, and this may be partly attributed to a lack of awareness of and engagement with the opportunities available. Achieving this awareness will involve green businesses engaging with the region's schools, and Further Education and Higher Education institutions ensuring school children and students are aware of the forthcoming green economy opportunities and positioned to gain the skills required to secure the good jobs to follow.

3. A Dynamic and Connected Region

With North Essex's outward facing transport terminals forming important strategic trading links for the UK and best practice work delivered in the rollout of superfast broadband across the region, it is now imperative the region focuses on how it can drive infrastructure improvements. Specifically, the region should be focusing on how it can increase the region's roads' capacity; improve authority-to-authority public transport links; and boost ultrafast broadband availability. These improvements will further North Essex's economic growth potential, through greater inward investment and businesses establishing themselves in the region.

Opportunities

Starting with the region's transport infrastructure, one of the key opportunities for the region is to build on its external facing transport terminals – Harwich Port and Stansted Airport. As the region moves on from COVID-19 and looks to build on the post-Brexit landscape, these two international transport terminals will play a leading role in supporting economic growth in the region. Starting with Harwich Port, this international transport terminal plays a vital trade role in the region.



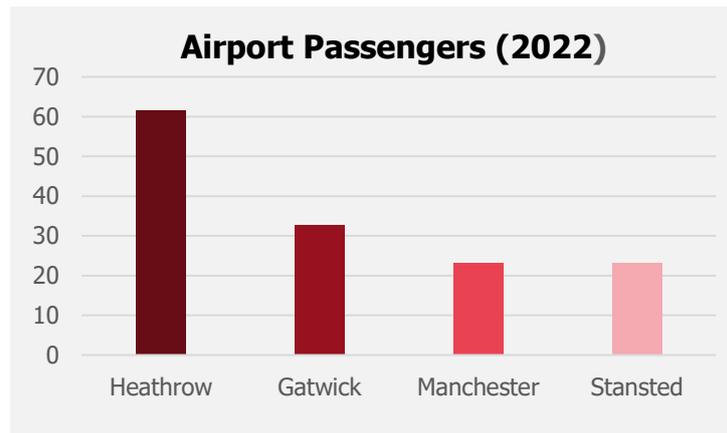
Harwich Port – Freight Volume Tonnage (Millions) (2017 – 2021)

It plays a critical role for the UK when it comes to both inward and outward freight trade, importing 3.27 million tonnes of freight and exporting 1.30 million tonnes in 2021. Also of note is the route analysis of the freight's start and end destinations, with the majority of Harwich Port's freight trade coming from, and going to, the EU. This is evidenced by the observation that, in 2021, 98.4% of the port's freight trade went to and from the EU²⁷. As the UK continues to build its relationship with the EU post Brexit, Harwich Port and the North Essex region will play an important role in facilitating prosperous trade links.

Moving to North Essex's other international transport terminal, Stansted Airport also plays a vital outward facing role for the region. As the graph outlines below, the airport ranks as one of the busiest in the UK, with 23.3 million passengers passing through the airport in 2022²⁸. Alongside passenger demand, the airport – like Harwich Port – also plays an important role in transporting freight across the globe, with its vital trading links best utilised.

²⁷ DfT. Maritime statistics: interactive dashboard. Source: [UK maritime statistics: interactive dashboard \(dft.gov.uk\)](https://www.dft.gov.uk/maritime-statistics)

²⁸ UK Civil Aviation Authority. Annual Airport Data 2022. Source: [Annual airport data 2022 | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/annual-airport-data-2022)



Airport Passengers 2022 (Millions)

Away from the region's international transport terminals, there is an opportunity for the region to build on the internal transport infrastructure improvements underway. With the A120 planned to be widened where it meets the A12, and the A12 itself planned to be widened between junctions 19-25 and 25-29, the region's road infrastructure is already being improved to accommodate local residents' and businesses' needs. With broader transport infrastructure improvements either planned or being made across the region, including the upgrade to the Army and Navy roundabout, the A131 road improvements, and the delivery of the new Beaulieu Park train station (expected to open in late 2025), there are reasons to be optimistic about the region's internal transport network. The NEEB is keen to work with partners to see how further improvements can be delivered to best support North Essex's residents and businesses.

Whilst transport infrastructure improvements will be critical to supporting the region's economic growth ambitions, an increase in active travel initiatives will also be vital in ensuring residents and businesses can quickly and efficiently move around North Essex. The region's new Garden Communities will have active travel at their core, and there are other initiatives and projects underway within the region to boost and promote active travel. Significantly, Colchester secured £19.7 million through round 2 of the Government's Levelling Up Fund for its 'Co-Creation: A Contemporary Colchester City Centre' programme, with parts of this funding to be used to help improve active travel within the city. Specifically, the scheme includes plans to improve walking and cycling routes in the city centre by including a new road layout and removing underpasses at St. Botolph's roundabout. In addition, the scheme will provide a convenient new hub for storing and hiring bikes, e-bikes, e-cargo bikes and e-scooters²⁹. Investment like this – alongside schemes such as Essex Pedal Power – means North Essex has a real opportunity to promote active travel within the region.

Finally – and away from transport infrastructure – it is important to note the success of the Superfast Essex programme and how this has driven an increase in the number of premises across the region that have access to superfast broadband. All of the North Essex authorities benefit from over 90% of their premises having access to superfast broadband due to the success of Superfast Essex. As the region looks to address some of the ultrafast broadband challenges seen across the region, it will be important to learn from Superfast Essex's successes, with collaborative working key to further ultrafast broadband progress.

²⁹ Colchester City Council. Colchester awarded £19.66m funding for Levelling Up (2022). Source: [Colchester Awarded £19.66m funding for Levelling Up | Colchester City Council](#)

The Superfast Essex Programme

This programme led by Essex County Council illustrates what can be achieved through effective collaboration between central Government, local authorities and the private sector. Funded by Essex County Council, central Government and network operators (Openreach and Gigaclear) the Superfast Essex programme is working to make superfast and ultrafast broadband available to as many homes and businesses across Essex as possible. To date, significant strides have been made with the delivery of superfast broadband across North Essex and it is imperative the programme continues at pace with the delivery of ultrafast broadband across the region. This includes a focus on some of North Essex's rural authorities that are currently lagging behind their more urban neighbours.

Challenges

Away from the infrastructure opportunities present within North Essex, there are also challenges that need addressing to help support economic growth across the region.

The first critical challenge – which is understood by the need to deliver road improvements across the region – is the significant volume of congestion residents and businesses experience when commuting. With the high number of SMEs and a significant level of car use when travelling to work, North Essex's critical roads – including the A120, A12 and A131 – all experience high levels of congestion during peak demand hours. Data presented as part of the A12 Chelmsford to A120 planned widening (junctions 19 – 25) scheme outlines that this stretch of road has 90,000 vehicles passing through it every day, with 9% to 12% of this traffic the result of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), given the importance of this stretch of road to both Felixstowe and Harwich Ports³⁰. Added to this, the data presented below shows Essex as the county with the highest estimated traffic in 2021³¹. Congestion within the region must be reduced to ensure residents and businesses do not continue to lose time in transit and suffer the productivity losses that result.

Highest Estimated Traffic (millions) (2021)	
County	Vehicle Miles
Essex	8.5
Hampshire	8.5
Kent	8.4
Surrey	7.4
Hertfordshire	7.6

Highest Estimated Traffic in 2021 (Billions)

In addition to the high levels of congestion on the region's roads, there are clear rural/urban divides when it comes to both transport and digital infrastructure. There is a clear difference in the travel time to key services within the region's more urban authorities – Colchester and Chelmsford – compared to more rural authorities – Maldon and Uttlesford. Alongside the travel time to key services, there is also a rural/urban divide when considering the rollout of ultrafast

³⁰ National Highways. A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme (junctions 19 to 25). Source: [A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme \(junctions 19 to 25\) - National Highways](#)

³¹ DfT. Road Traffic Statistics. 2021. Source: [Road traffic statistics - Local authorities across Great Britain \(dft.gov.uk\)](#)

broadband, with Tendring particularly affected by the different levels of ultrafast broadband rollout across North Essex. If the region is to fulfil its economic potential, it is essential that all parts of North Essex benefit from the same standard of infrastructure, with the NEEB aware of the need to work with partners to ensure the region's more rural areas benefit from the same standard of infrastructure as the region's more urban areas.

4. Prosperous and Inclusive Communities

With North Essex's successes in securing central government levelling up funding; its thriving third sector; and its distinct urban, rural and coastal characteristics, there is a real chance to advance pride in place and boost residents' confidence and economic engagement within all North Essex authorities. Combining the region's outstanding rural and coastal landscapes with fulfilled and motivated residents and businesses will have a significant impact on the visitor economy, with now the time to begin further promotion of the North Essex opportunity.

Opportunities

Opportunities to build on central Government funding, secured as part of the levelling up agenda, is an important way to deliver prosperous and inclusive communities within North Essex in pursuit of further economic growth. The excellent work of North Essex's authorities has resulted in successful bids for various levelling up funding pots, and there is a real opportunity for the region to build on this funding to boost economic growth.

Firstly, two of North Essex's authorities – Colchester and Tendring – secured funding through round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund in January 2023. As outlined under the infrastructure strategic priority above, Colchester secured £19.7m of funding to deliver its 'Co-creation: A Contemporary Colchester City Centre' programme and, alongside this, Tendring secured £19.9m for its 'Clacton Civic Quarter' bid. This funding will rejuvenate a key area of Clacton, delivering 28 new affordable homes, a community hub including a new library, an adult community learning space for upskilling residents, and a space for public sector partners including a proposed University of Essex Centre for Coastal Communities³². In addition to Tendring's Levelling Up Fund round 2 success, the authority is also set to benefit from the Levelling Up Partnerships workstream and an additional £6.7m of funding to support regeneration projects around Dovercourt, announced during the 2023 Spring Budget.

This funding success builds on Colchester's £18.2m Towns Deal and the authorities' UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund allocations, with all funding being put towards boosting pride in place and enhancing prosperous and inclusive communities within North Essex. The NEEB is keen to work with partners to promote the success of this funding as projects and programmes are delivered, taking the opportunity to make the case for continued central government and wider investor support to enhance communities within the region, boosting pride in place and furthering economic growth.

Alongside the opportunity to build on the successes in securing central Government funding, there is the opportunity to build on the existing initiatives being delivered within the region to enhance community and wellbeing. The region benefits from a strong third sector involvement, with it important to explore how further collaboration with this sector can boost community and wellbeing to drive economic growth. Existing initiatives include:

³² Tendring District Council. Clacton Levelling Up Fund Bid. Source: [Tendring District Council | Clacton Levelling Up Fund Bid \(tendringdc.gov.uk\)](https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk)

- **'Community 360: One Colchester'** – A multi-agency group that provides a local strategic framework to target issues affecting local communities within the authority, with the ultimate outcome of encouraging communities to take charge of their own destiny with an emphasis on community self-help, health and wellbeing; stable homes; safety; prosperity and other outcomes deemed appropriate within the partnership³³.
- **Let's Talk Uttlesford** – This aims to be a safe and trusted online community space where residents can get information and share thoughts and ideas about local issues and initiatives. This includes the Uttlesford Net Zero Hub which provides information on how residents can help support making the authority carbon neutral³⁴.
- **Chelmsford CVS** – An independent support and development organisation set up to champion, support and strengthen local charities, voluntary and community groups. This organisation runs a number of different projects. A particular success story was Chelmsford 100 – a festival which brought together a wide range of individuals and local community groups, asking them to share stories about what living in Chelmsford meant to them³⁵.
- **One Maldon District** – A senior level partnership, working together to ensure a healthier and prosperous Maldon District in relation to place, prosperity, community and safety. One Maldon District seeks to maximise collaboration to ensure there is an abundance of opportunities for enhanced health, wellbeing, community safety and feeling of safety within communities across the district³⁶.

With strong foundations already in place in relation to delivering prosperous and inclusive communities across North Essex, there is ample opportunity to ensure successful existing authority-specific initiatives are scaled up to other parts of the region. The NEEB has an important convening role here and will look to work with partners across the region to achieve this.

Finally, it is worth noting how the success of the region's visitor economy links to prosperous and inclusive communities. With its mix of urban, rural and coastal characteristics, North Essex has foundations to build upon when it comes to its visitor economy, with the sector's further success dependent upon the health, wealth and pride of the residents and local businesses that call North Essex home. For the sector to flourish, residents and businesses need to feel engaged with their local areas, demonstrating a willingness to promote North Essex as a visitor destination. Recent central Government investment secured will help achieve this – boosting pride in place – but there is an important role to play in promoting the region's visitor economy, and the need for more community investment across the region, to strengthen this sector further. There is a strong North Essex opportunity here and collaborative working is critical to strengthening North Essex's visitor economy.

³³ Community 360: Together We Thrive. One Colchester. Source: [One Colchester - Community 360](#)

³⁴ Let's Talk Uttlesford. Source: [Let's talk Uttlesford](#)

³⁵ Chelmsford CVS. Source: [Chelmsford CVS - Inspiring Voluntary Action](#)

³⁶ One Maldon District. Maldon District Council. Source: [One Maldon District | One Maldon District | Maldon District Council](#)

Maldon District Community Container

Exemplifying the work that is ongoing across North Essex to support prosperous and inclusive communities, the Maldon District Community Container is supporting residents in need of help through the creation and running of a storage container stocked with items including food, childcare and household items, cooking equipment, warm packs, supermarket vouchers and other essentials. The container was created following a formal partnership agreed between Maldon District Council, Maldon & District Community and Voluntary Service (CVS), Salvation Army, local Housing Association, Citizen Advice Bureau and other key stakeholders. The Maldon & District CVS ensures items are topped up and use a network of supporting volunteers to manage the container's use. This container has supported many across the authority, including refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine following the devastating recent events within these countries.

Challenges

Despite the opportunities present to enhance North Essex's prosperous and inclusive communities, there are challenges that need to be addressed to achieve this ambition.

Firstly, whilst there are ample examples of existing successful initiatives being delivered within the region to enhance community and wellbeing, scaling these up to become North Essex-wide initiatives can often be challenging and lead to gaps in provision. To ensure that community enhancements are best driving economic growth in the region, it will be important to identify what can prevent the scale up of initiatives, with the NEEB playing an important role in overcoming those challenges.

Additionally, as raised when discussing skilled residents, confidence and optimism in the job market is lacking across the region. North Essex faces issues around supporting inclusive employment, including providing mental health support for both employees and employers. These are significant barriers facing the region and raising morale through community engagement will have to be addressed in order to achieve inclusive economic growth within North Essex's communities.

Finally, the region faces particular challenges when promoting its visitor economy, impacting the extent to which this sector is contributing to North Essex's economic growth. Specifically, there is much regional competition within the East of England when it comes to the visitor economy, with Suffolk and Norfolk popular destinations for many choosing to holiday within England. Despite these regions' popularity, their offerings align to North Essex's urban, rural and coastal characteristics, with there opportunities for North Essex to rival Norfolk and Suffolk as a holiday destination. Alongside further investment to support the region's visitor economy, there is a need to promote North Essex's positive attributes; improve authority-to-authority transport links; and advertise holiday options all year round to boost the region's visitor economy. Once again, there is an important role for the NEEB to play here, ensuring these challenges are addressed when promoting the North Essex opportunity.



LORD ASH

The North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) is a partnership of district and county councils offering fully funded business support and skills programme to support economic growth across North Essex. The partnership consists of Maldon, Tendring, Braintree, Uttlesford District Councils, Chelmsford and Colchester City Councils, and Essex County Council. Find out more at www.neeb.org.uk Socials @neebgrowth

Henham Strategy is a public policy and economic development consultancy with a focus on local growth, trade and investment and higher education. We aim to connect local, regional and international actors to stimulate economic growth across the UK.



DELIVERING FOR NORTH ESSEX





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The North Essex Vision

A proactive, productive and progressive North Essex that advances its economic potential through inward and outward-facing partnerships, with all residents, businesses and visitors benefitting from the region's economic prosperity.

The North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) is proud to present our ambitious North Essex vision, ready to collaborate with partners to seize the region's significant and diverse economic opportunities.

Established in 2019, the NEEB represents the economic ambitions of seven North Essex authorities – Braintree District Council, Chelmsford City Council, Colchester City Council, Essex County Council, Maldon District Council, Tendring District Council and Uttlesford District Council – catalysing collective action to drive economic prosperity within all parts of the urban, rural and coastal region. It provides the strategic oversight of North Essex's diverse, inclusive and productive economic priorities, ensuring tangible actions are delivered to support residents' and businesses' goals and aspirations. Promoting the region's potential, the NEEB presents the strong strategic rationale for further central government and private sector investment, needed to deliver North Essex's long-term ambitions.

Much has been delivered by the NEEB to date – including the distribution of critical COVID-19 support funding and career-enhancing business and skills support programmes – and the partnership is now positioned to go even further and deliver even more for North Essex's residents and businesses. The 2-year delivery plan and ambitions presented below have been developed by Henham Strategy, utilising 'North Essex's Strategic Narrative' and 'North Essex's Economic Baseline' to identify the short-term actions and long-term ambitions that will deliver economic prosperity for North Essex's residents and businesses.



Working together, we can leverage North Essex's core strengths...

Our innovative and thriving SME community and cutting edge HE and FE institutions, delivering good, local jobs

Our dynamic and competitive renewable energy generation strengths, driving net zero progression

Our unique strategic location linked to regional and international partners, supporting inward investment

Our proud urban, rural and coastal communities, focused on supporting prosperous residents and businesses

The Economic Context

Much has changed since the NEEB published its 2019 economic strategy, with three critical events in particular shaping the opportunities and challenges of the North Essex economy.

Firstly, the UK's departure from the EU in January 2020 has changed the economic landscape of both North Essex and the country as a whole, with challenges still being worked through as the country seeks to prosper through its new post-Brexit economic position. For North Essex specifically, the region's significant number of SMEs are continuing to adapt to changes in the business and trading environment, changes that Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts suggest could lead to a decline in the UK's long-run productivity, relative to remaining in the EU.

Alongside Brexit, there are lasting impacts caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Whilst Government-mandated lockdowns and restrictions are a thing of the past, their economic impacts remain, including economic inactivity remaining stubbornly high and hybrid working patterns embedded across the country. This national picture mirrors what has been observed within North Essex, with the region's economic inactivity currently 1.9% higher than figures recorded pre-COVID-19 and a much greater proportion of residents working from home¹.

Finally, residents and businesses across the country have, most recently, been significantly impacted by cost-of-living pressures that have eaten away at disposable income and financial reserves. We know the damage inflation has had on many residents and businesses across North Essex – including the need to delay important life decisions² – with support for North Essex's residents and businesses at the forefront of our thinking as we look to progress actions to boost the region's economic growth.

North Essex's Strategic Priorities

Despite recent challenging economic circumstances, the North Essex economy stands ready to build on the fantastic opportunities within the region, with its diverse urban, rural and coastal characteristics differentiating the region from other parts of the country.

With these diverse characteristics in mind, this 'Delivering for North Essex' plan has been founded upon four key strategic priorities.

1. Innovative Businesses and Skilled Residents

A resilient and outward-facing economy that builds on its incumbent strengths and is positioned to deliver economic opportunities for North Essex's residents, and drive inward investment to support businesses within the region's critical growth sectors.

2. A Green and High Growth Economy

A forward-looking economy that utilises the diversity of its resources in a sustainable way that furthers North Essex's clean energy strengths, boosts growth, and promotes residents' prosperity through net zero commitments.

¹ NOMIS. Labour Market Profiles (Essex) (2022). Source: [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/labour-market-profiles)

² Essex Open Data. Cost of Living Qualitative Research (2023). Source: [Cost of living qualitative research | Essex Open Data](https://www.essexopen.com/cost-of-living-qualitative-research)

3. A Dynamic and Connected Region

A well-connected and digitally-linked region that provides residents with quick and reliable access to key services, encourages inward investment, and makes the most of ties to regional and international neighbours.

4. Prosperous and Inclusive Communities

A thriving and inclusive region where all residents and businesses have the opportunity to contribute and prosper, exemplifying the region as a great place to live, work and visit.



North Essex's Opportunities

1. Innovative Businesses and Skilled Residents

RESIDENTS

We want all North Essex's residents to have the opportunity to:

- Make the most of the region's excellent Higher and Further Education offerings.
- Benefit from good, career-enhancing jobs within the region's key growth sectors – construction and retrofit, clean energy, advanced manufacturing and engineering, digital tech, and life sciences.
- Engage with NEEB-led skills development programmes and those funded through UKSPF and DWP, building workplace confidence and the region's skills.
- Benefit from living and working within North Essex, with a desire to remain within the region and contribute to its economic prosperity.
- Retrain, ensuring the region's workforce has the ability to pivot towards jobs within the region's key growth sectors.

BUSINESSES

We want all our businesses to have the opportunity to:

- Start and scale up within North Essex, benefitting from cutting edge commercial space.
- Engage with, and benefit from, the opportunities around Freeport East and its associated tax relief.
- Collaborate with other innovative businesses, sharing best business practices and supporting business growth.
- Secure inward investment, implementing cutting-edge innovations within business practices and boosting local economies.
- Employ an appropriately skilled workforce within North Essex, supporting resident and business ambitions and locally-sourced talent.

The North Essex Snapshot

These opportunities reflect the region's incumbent business and skills strengths, with infrastructure and projects already in place that are driving innovative businesses and skilled residents within North Essex. Notably, North Essex benefits from a significant SME community, with current sector strengths including construction and real estate activities. Alongside incumbent sector strengths, the region is making positive strides towards seizing the opportunities associated with key growth sectors. This includes the excellent work being progressed in the Digi Tech sector through the AIXR: Centre for Immersive Innovation and the Life Sciences sector through Chesterford Research Park. Supporting growth sector progression are North Essex's leading Higher and Further Education institutions, including the University of Essex, Anglia Ruskin University, Writtle University College, the Colchester Institute, Chelmsford College and Stansted Airport College. Education strengths include the University of Essex's expertise in computer and data science and the 'first of its kind' aviation training offered by Stansted Airport College.

2. A Green and High Growth Economy

RESIDENTS

We want all our residents to have the opportunity to:

- Benefit from North Essex's net zero transition, securing good jobs within a green economy boosted by Freeport East and Bradwell B's potential.
- Positively contribute to current and future steps taken to achieve net zero within North Essex.
- Continue enjoying North Essex's rural and coastal characteristics, in conjunction with green infrastructure delivery.
- Benefit from North Essex's renewable energy strengths – offshore wind, onshore wind and solar power – providing cheaper, long-term energy sources and exciting employment opportunities.
- Benefit from the transition to electric vehicles, with a sufficient number of charge points available across all of North Essex.

BUSINESSES

We want all our businesses to have the opportunity to:

- Form effective partnerships to progress net zero objectives, with a focus on linking national energy suppliers with local North Essex businesses to drive forward the net zero transition.
- Learn from successful green measures adopted by other North Essex businesses, ensuring best practice is adopted across the board.
- Better understand the green jobs required to deliver net zero objectives and how to create them locally.
- Articulate the green skills North Essex needs to fill green jobs identified, ensuring these jobs boost economic growth and attract inward investment.
- Build on North Essex's renewable energy strengths – offshore wind, onshore wind and solar power – benefitting from Freeport East and Bradwell B's potential.

The North Essex Snapshot

These opportunities reflect the region's incumbent green economy strengths, with North Essex positioned to become a leader in several renewable energy sources. This includes offshore wind, onshore wind and solar power, with the region already generating a significant amount of electricity from these sources. Critically, North Essex's green economy strengths will be boosted by Freeport East which will see a 112 hectare area established in Harwich dedicated to the development of green energy. This green energy hub will focus on the manufacture of wind turbine components. Progress is also being made with the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) project, which will reinforce the high voltage power network in East Anglia between the existing substations at Norwich Main in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk and Tilbury in Essex. This will also connect new offshore wind generation, boosting North Essex's strengths in this renewable energy source. In addition, CB Heating's partnership with EDF Energy – and the Heat Pump Installer Network's Academy – means Tendring is playing a critical role in the education and delivery of heat pumps across the country.

3. A Dynamic and Connected Region

RESIDENTS

We want all our residents to have the opportunity to:

- Benefit from ultrafast broadband, building on the Superfast Essex programme's successful rollout of superfast broadband.
- Utilise digital services in all parts of North Essex, not simply the region's urban centres.
- Regularly travel between the region's urban, rural and coastal authorities, confident in the reliable and high quality public transport offering.
- Participate widely in active travel schemes, making use of walking and cycling infrastructure where possible.
- Access key public services (e.g. schools and hospitals) in a timely manner, not inhibited by where they live within North Essex.

BUSINESSES

We want our businesses to have the opportunity to:

- Benefit from digital accessibility across North Essex, positioning all parts of North Essex as accessible and attractive places to do business.
- Benefit from quick and reliable transport links, with business decisions not impacted by North Essex's current congestion challenges.
- Feed into discussions on North Essex's transport needs, ensuring alignment with business needs.
- Attract inward investment, with investors having confidence in North Essex's transport infrastructure.
- Develop links with regional and national partners, with infrastructure developed to facilitate links to other parts of the country.

The North Essex Snapshot

These opportunities reflect the region's incumbent infrastructure strengths and the need to go further to enhance some aspects of North Essex's digital and transport infrastructure. Incumbent strengths include the region's outward facing transport terminals – including Stansted Airport and Harwich Port. With 23.3 million passengers passing through Stansted Airport in 2022 and Harwich Port importing and exporting 4.57 million tonnes of freight in 2021, these transport terminals provide North Essex with excellent global links that are vital to supporting the region's economic growth. In addition, the success of the Superfast Essex programme, has resulted in all of the North Essex authorities benefitting from over 90% of their premises having access to superfast broadband – a significant recent improvement in the region's digital connectivity. Despite these strengths, further improvements are required, with North Essex's critical roads – including the A12, A120 and A131 – suffering from high levels of congestion and the region inhibited by rural connectivity blackspots, especially when it comes to ultrafast broadband.

4. Prosperous and Inclusive Communities

RESIDENTS

We want all our residents to have the opportunity to:

- Build closer connections with their local communities, helping boost pride in place.
- Participate more in community activities that help build a sense of North Essex belonging.
- Feed views into community developments, ensuring interventions best deliver for community needs.
- Understand how community progression can support their personal aspirations and goals.
- Benefit from a prosperous North Essex visitor economy through inclusive and year-round employment opportunities.

BUSINESSES

We want our businesses to have the opportunity to:

- Benefit from a confident and proud North Essex workforce, engaged in supporting North Essex's economic growth.
- Engage with local communities, advertising good jobs available to kickstart and restart careers within North Essex.
- Support local residents to secure good jobs, working with community partners and organisations to enhance the region's skills offering.
- Further understand North Essex's local communities, ensuring business decisions reflect local needs.
- Promote themselves as part of North Essex's visitor economy, benefitting from more visitors all year round.

The North Essex Snapshot

The opportunities above reflect the region's recent successes in progressing prosperous and inclusive communities within North Essex. Successes include authorities securing central government support to level up North Essex, with Colchester and Tendring to benefit from £19.7m and £19.9m of Levelling Up Fund round 2 funding. Tendring will also benefit through the Levelling Up Partnerships workstream, with £6.7m of additional funding announced during the 2023 Spring Budget. Alongside critical levelling up funding secured, North Essex benefits from effective initiatives aimed at boosting community cohesion and pride in place. This includes initiatives like Community 360: One Colchester and Chelmsford CVS that encourage communities to take charge of their own destiny, support and strengthen local charities, voluntary organisations and community groups. Further progress is required to enhance North Essex's prosperous and inclusive communities, ensuring all North Essex's residents feel pride in their communities and have the confidence to engage with the region's diverse and progressive economic opportunities.

North Essex's 2-Year Delivery Plan

Delivering against the four strategic priorities – and the associated opportunities that will catalyse economic growth within North Essex – the NEEB will lead on delivering an ambitious delivery plan. This will be delivered **over the next 2 years** in partnership with North Essex's residents and businesses.

1. Innovative Businesses and Skilled Residents

A. AUDITING DIGITAL SKILLS PROGRAMMES

The NEEB will review the delivery of its previous digital skills programmes, leading resident engagement to understand why some of the programmes previously run failed to stimulate demand. Audit outcomes will be fed into the region's Local Skills Improvement Plans.

Desired Outcome: Further understanding as to what makes a digital skills programme successful in North Essex, therefore adapting them better for the future.

Delivery Date: By Autumn 2023.

B. CONVENING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

The NEEB will establish a 'North Essex Business Forum' which will invite key businesses and support organisations from across the region to quarterly meetings, with discussions to focus on highlighting initiatives underway, support available and business needs, to drive business growth and skills, aligned with ECC's efforts.

Desired Outcome: Increase in partnership working between North Essex's businesses and support organisations, with business needs addressed, and best practices adopted across the region – advertised through business best practice toolkits.

Delivery Date: By the end of 2023.

C. PROMOTING NORTH ESSEX TO GRADUATES

Working with the region's Higher Education and Further Education institutions, the NEEB will develop promotional material advertising the region as a great place to work and live which will target the institutions' skilled graduates.

Desired Outcome: Promotional material on the benefits of living and working in North Essex shared during Further Education and Higher Education careers events and advertised through an online NEEB campaign.

Delivery Date: By the start of the 24/25 academic year (September 2024).

D. DELIVERING THE NEEB'S 23/24 AND 24/25 BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

Building on the success of previous business support programmes, the NEEB will deliver its business support programmes planned for 23/24 and 24/25.

Desired Outcome: Continued positive business engagement with the NEEB's business support programmes, with more businesses receiving generalist support that reflects broad business needs within the region.

Delivery Date: By the end of 23/24 and 24/25.

2. A Green and High Growth Economy

A. CONVENING GREEN BUSINESSES

Utilising the CB Heating and EDF Energy partnership in Tendring as an exemplar, the NEEB will convene local and national green economy businesses, highlighting the benefits of partnership working and encouraging further collaboration.

Desired Outcome: Further partnerships established between local and national green economy businesses that support delivery of North Essex's net zero commitments.

Delivery Date: By Autumn 2023.

B. ESTABLISHING 'GREEN CHAMPIONS'

Working with local community and volunteer groups, the NEEB will identify 'Green Champions' within each authority, whose role will involve delivering resident engagement focused on articulating the importance of the net zero transition and how local characteristics can be protected as part of this.

Desired Outcome: At least one 'Green Champion' established within each local authority with increased resident support for net zero actions.

Delivery Date: By the end of 2023.

C. PROMOTING NORTH ESSEX'S GREEN POTENTIAL

The NEEB will position itself as the region's green economy lead, lobbying central government for further funding and positioning the region as a green exemplar through maximising the benefits of Freeport East.

Desired Outcome: Dialogue with Government on the opportunities around securing future funding to deliver the region's net zero commitments.

Delivery Date: By mid-2024.

D. DELIVERING STUDENT GREEN ECONOMY ENGAGEMENT

Working with North Essex's schools, Further Education, and Higher Education institutions, the NEEB will deliver engagement activities promoting the future opportunities available within the green economy, advertising roles that require both academic and more technical strengths.

Desired Outcome: Seminars delivered by leading local green economy stakeholders within schools, colleges and universities, promoting job opportunities within the region's green economy.

Delivery Date: By the start of the 24/25 academic year.

3. A Dynamic and Connected Region

A. ESTABLISHING A TRANSPORT EAST PARTNERSHIP

To better promote and address North Essex's strategic transport needs, the NEEB will establish a strategic partnership with Transport East, providing a North Essex collective voice to shape transport strategic thinking.

Desired Outcome: Strategic partnership with Transport East established, enabling one North Essex voice to be presented within strategic transport thinking.

Delivery Date: By Autumn 2023.

B. CONVENING LOCAL TRANSPORT OPERATORS

The NEEB will convene the region's local transport operators to discuss changes that can be made to service timetables to ensure residents in more rural areas are able to travel more easily across authorities.

Desired Outcome: Dialogue with transport operators around how services can be better tailored to meet all residents' and businesses' needs across North Essex.

Delivery Date: By the end of 2023.

C. FACILITATING EFFECTIVE EV CHARGING ROLL-OUT

To ensure the region's EV charging disparities are not solely considered within authority and county specific strategies, the NEEB will work with regional (e.g. SELEP) and national (e.g. National Grid) partners to articulate the particular challenges North Essex faces when delivering EV charging infrastructure, ensuring these challenges are acknowledged in regional and national EV charging strategies.

Desired Outcome: North Essex's EV charging needs effectively considered within regional and national strategies.

Delivery Date: By mid-2024.

D. LEADING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To ensure the rollout of superfast and ultrafast broadband is effectively utilised within the region, the NEEB will lead resident engagement to educate and promote the benefits of digital use, focusing this engagement particularly on the region's elderly and digitally excluded population.

Desired Outcome: Increase in resident engagement with digital services available to them and an increase in digital literacy.

Delivery Date: By mid-2025.

4. Prosperous and Inclusive Communities

A. CONVENING LOCAL THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

The NEEB will convene a 'Third Sector Volunteers Forum' which will invite key third sector organisations from across the region to quarterly meetings, with discussions to focus on highlighting initiatives underway that are being delivered to enhance communities and further support the work of the organisations to help them grow in stature. This forum will include a focus on facilitating intergenerational engagement through a mentorship scheme.

Desired Outcome: Increase in voluntary initiatives delivered across the region, with mentorship programme established to support intergenerational engagement.

Delivery Date: By Autumn 2023.

B. DEVELOPING A NORTH ESSEX PRIDE IN PLACE EVIDENCE BASE

The NEEB will undertake a project to showcase the region's pride in place strengths and where further support can be best delivered. This will include a delivery plan on how North Essex can best improve critical community infrastructure across the region.

Desired Outcome: A well evidenced understanding of how North Essex can improve pride in place considerations, with a clear delivery plan outlining key partners' responsibilities published.

Delivery Date: By mid-2024.

C. DELIVERING A VISITOR ECONOMY PROMOTION AUDIT

The NEEB will undertake an audit of the visitor economy promotional material delivered in other parts of the country with a positive history of attracting visitors (e.g. Scotland, Norfolk and Suffolk), drawing together best practice and working with North Essex partners to implement such practices to boost promotion of the region's visitor economy in alignment with Visit Essex.

Desired Outcome: A well evidenced understanding of best practice implemented within other regions with leading visitor economy offers.

Delivery Date: By the end of 2024.

D. LEADING NORTH ESSEX'S VISITOR ECONOMY PROMOTION

Working with regional visitor economy partners, the NEEB will deliver promotional material that aims to promote the region's mix of urban, rural and coastal characteristics.

Desired Outcome: A coherent North Essex story presented that outlines how key partners will work towards boosting the region's visitor economy.

Delivery Date: By mid-2025.

North Essex's Ambitions

Alongside North Essex's 2-Year Delivery Plan, the NEEB is an ambitious partnership that has a long-term outlook for the North Essex economy. With devolved power ever more present across the country, we have considered our long-term ambitions for the North Essex economy, providing an exciting and aspirational outlook for the region's residents and businesses. We will work collaboratively with our neighbouring Essex partners to make the strong strategic case for further private and public sector investment and support to deliver our North Essex ambitions.

1. Innovative Businesses and Skilled Residents

- A. DELIVERING SKILLS UNIFORMITY** – The NEEB would like skills attainment across the region to become more uniform, with a focus on upskilling authorities currently with a higher proportion of low-skilled workers.
- B. SECURING FURTHER R&D INVESTMENT** – The NEEB would like to have greater influence over – and ability to drive – R&D investment into the region, focusing this investment on the region's key growth sectors.
- C. DEVELOPING COMMERCIAL AND INCUBATION SPACES** – The NEEB would like to be the go-to partnership for business support within North Essex and would like greater funding to deliver further commercial and incubation spaces within North Essex.
- D. AGREEING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS** – The NEEB would like to establish international partnerships with other regional economic development partnerships, universities and local government structures, promoting North Essex's businesses and potential to drive inward investment.

2. A Green and High Growth Economy

- A. FACILITATING FURTHER GREEN INVESTMENT** – The NEEB would like to lead on driving green investment into the region, drawing in more large energy companies and supporting innovative green start-ups within the region.
- B. SECURING LONGER-TERM GREEN SKILLS FUNDING** – The NEEB would like to secure longer-term funding to support green skills initiatives – like the 'I-Construct' programme – ensuring there is clear commitment to green skills investment within the region, giving confidence to businesses that North Essex is serious about delivering and benefitting from the green jobs of the future.
- C. LEADING THE EV CHARGE** – The NEEB would like to play a greater role in the delivery of EV charge points across the region, with further Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to help achieve these ambitions.
- D. LEADING ESSEX'S GREEN JOBS DELIVERY** – The NEEB would like North Essex to be the region leading delivery of Essex's green jobs, ensuring the county reaches its goal of delivering 18,000 green jobs by 2030.

3. A Dynamic and Connected Region

- A. SUPPORTING SUPERFAST AND GIGABIT BROADBAND UNIFORMITY** – The NEEB would like to see the availability of ultrafast broadband within North Essex’s premises match that currently seen (i.e. 90% plus availability) when looking at the region’s superfast broadband availability, and 85% for gigabit availability.
- B. SECURING MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES THAT CONNECT URBAN/RURAL AREAS** – The NEEB would like to see funding made available to deliver more public transport services (i.e. routes) between the region’s urban and rural authorities, making it easier for residents to travel across the region.
- C. ESTABLISHING A NORTH ESSEX EV CHARGING EXEMPLAR** – Building on Braintree’s GRIDSERVE EV Charging forecourt, the NEEB would like to see further EV charging points delivered across the region, positioning North Essex as an exemplar for other regions to follow.
- D. ENHANCING HARWICH PORT’S EU LINKS** – Supporting the UK’s trade ambitions, the NEEB would like to work with Harwich Port to identify ways to boost inward and outward freight trade with the EU, given the port’s incumbent links with this trading bloc.

4. Prosperous and Inclusive Communities

- A. INCREASING COMMUNITY INVESTMENT** – The NEEB would like to see North Essex have further powers over funding to invest in enhancing its prosperous and inclusive communities across, with a focus on local leaders knowing what is best for local areas.
- B. BOOSTING PRIDE IN PLACE** – The NEEB would like to see an increase in residents’ pride in place, with opportunities for residents to have greater input into the ownership and delivery of assets of particular local importance.
- C. CREATING CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES** – The NEEB would like to see further investment focused on increasing ‘soft skills’ across the region, ensuring more of the region’s residents are positioned to engage with North Essex’s economic opportunities.
- D. MATCHING OTHER AREAS’ VISITOR NUMBERS** – The NEEB would like to see North Essex rival other areas in the East of England (e.g. Suffolk and Norfolk) when it comes to the visitor economy, matching the popular visit destinations in terms of visitor numbers.



The North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) is a partnership of district and county councils offering fully funded business support and skills programme to support economic growth across North Essex. The partnership consists of Maldon, Tendring, Braintree, Uttlesford District Councils, Chelmsford and Colchester City Councils, and Essex County Council. Find out more at www.neeb.org.uk Socials @neebgrowth

Henham Strategy is a public policy and economic development consultancy with a focus on local growth, trade and investment and higher education. We aim to connect local, regional and international actors to stimulate economic growth across the UK.



NORTH ESSEX'S ECONOMIC BASELINE





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The North Essex Vision

A proactive, productive and progressive North Essex that advances its economic potential through inward and outward-facing partnerships, with all residents, businesses and visitors benefitting from the region's economic prosperity.

Alongside the North Essex Economic Board's (NEEB) 'North Essex Strategic Narrative', the partnership has undertaken a robust review of national, regional and local datasets to present 'North Essex's Economic Baseline', further informing the 2-year delivery plan presented within the NEEB's 'Delivering for North Essex' plan. This economic baseline has been produced in partnership with Henham Strategy, who have provided an independent voice to the evidencing and identification of the four key strategic priorities and the North Essex Vision. The four strategic priorities will deliver prosperity for the region's residents and businesses, with the 'Delivering for North Essex' plan outlining the short-term actions and long-term ambitions the NEEB will deliver.



Working together, we can leverage North Essex's core strengths...

Our innovative and thriving SME community and cutting edge HE and FE institutions, delivering good, local jobs

Our dynamic and competitive renewable energy generation strengths, driving net zero progression

Our unique strategic location linked to regional and international partners, supporting inward investment

Our proud urban, rural and coastal communities, focused on supporting prosperous residents and businesses

Methodology

In November 2022, Henham Strategy commenced work on developing a robustly evidenced North Essex economic baseline, underpinned by a comprehensive desktop and data analysis review process. This exercise allowed for an understanding of the region's economic opportunities, challenges and risks, alongside a comprehension of areas of collaboration that the NEEB could lead on to drive productivity, innovation and economic growth.

The economic baselines draw on existing material from NEEB authorities and their partners, alongside official statistics from the ONS, Essex Open Data, NOMIS, the Thriving Places Index, central government, and other sources. Data findings were also tested and developed through a series of workshops with councillors, officers, key local businesses and Higher Education and Further Education institutions.

The Data Analysis

To extend and deepen the evidence base and understand how North Essex's economy has comparatively performed in recent years, comparator geographies (and associated data) were used throughout the analysis. As well as using regional level data (at an East of England level) and national data (at an England level), we also analysed four other 'similarly-sized' Local Authority districts that were similar to the NEEB in statistical terms, based on a comparative analysis of publicly available Census 2021 data.

Our approach to the analysis of the four similarly-sized districts is outlined below:

- For each of the six North Essex districts (excluding Essex County Council), we looked at data on 'Population Density', 'Household Size (1 person, 2 people, 3 people, 4 people)', 'Distance Travelled to Work (less than 10km)', 'Distance Travelled to Work (10km and over)', '[Workers] Working Mainly From Home', 'Economically Inactive' and 'Economically Inactive'.
- For each dataset, we found the North Essex average to allow for a comparison to be made to districts across the country we may have wanted to include within our comparative analysis.
- Using the North Essex averages, we found the percentage differences in the statistics recorded for a long list of districts (identified through our strategy analysis stage and an initial analytical review of 'Population Density' data), before calculating the average percentage difference and using this as an indicator to demonstrate which districts were most closely aligned to the six that constitute North Essex.

With North Hertfordshire, Central Bedfordshire, Maidstone and Dover identified as the similarly sized districts, and an awareness of the need to analyse data on a regional and national level (East of England and England as a whole), we conducted our data analysis, bringing together district, county, regional and national level data (where possible) for the years 2017 – 2022. This timeframe was identified to help uncover potential COVID-19 and EU Exit impacts outlined within the datasets analysed.

The findings of the data analysis exercise made clear that there were four themes ('key strategic priorities') that united all seven authorities, from which a coherent and compelling 'North Essex Vision' could be built. These were:

1. Innovative Businesses and Skilled Residents

A resilient and outward-facing economy that builds on its incumbent strengths and is positioned to deliver economic opportunities for North Essex's residents, and drive inward investment to support businesses within the region's critical growth sectors.

2. A Green and High Growth Economy

A forward-looking economy that utilises the diversity of its resources in a sustainable way that furthers North Essex's clean energy strengths, boosts growth, and promotes residents' prosperity through net zero commitments.

3. A Dynamic and Connected Region

A well-connected and digitally-linked region that provides residents with quick and reliable access to key services, encourages inward investment, and makes the most of ties to regional and international neighbours.

4. Prosperous and Inclusive Communities

A thriving and inclusive region where all residents and businesses have the opportunity to contribute and prosper, exemplifying the region as a great place to live, work and visit.

Stakeholder Workshops

In order to test and refine the analysis underpinning the economic baseline, a series of six workshops were held with key local stakeholders, including councillors from each authority, lead council officers, local businesses, business representative groups, Higher Education and Further Education institutions, and others. The objective of each workshop was to test data findings, strengthen insights and conclusions, and understand their priorities for the 2-year delivery plan the NEEB will lead on. These workshops took place in February and March 2023.

The evidence baseline has then informed the 'Delivering for North Essex' plan, as well as the 'North Essex Strategic Opportunities and Challenges' document, which seeks to draw together North Essex's compelling vision around the four key strategic priorities above.

What has changed since 2019?

As part of the development of North Essex's economic baseline, a robust analysis has been undertaken on the key economic changes that have occurred since 2019, helping to develop an understanding of the current North Essex economic baseline. Predominantly, three key economic events have occurred since the NEEB published its last economic strategy – i) Brexit; ii) COVID-19; and iii) the current cost of living pressures. The impacts of these events on the North Essex economy have been detailed below.

Brexit

The first significant event that provides the economic context in which North Essex now finds itself in is the UK's formal departure from the EU on 31st January 2020. Over three years on from this moment, North Essex is continuing to adapt to the changing business and trading environment that has resulted. Essex Chamber of Commerce surveys have highlighted the extra challenges now placed upon North Essex's SME community, including the increased cost of purchasing from, and transporting to, the EU, artificially high shipping prices, an increase in paperwork and costs due to extra duty charges, and concerns around exports "standing still"¹. In addition, these surveys hone in on some of the recruitment challenges now faced as a result of Brexit, with North Essex businesses now finding it particularly challenging to recruit for 'semi/unskilled' roles².

With recent Office Budget for Responsibility (OBR) forecasts highlighting some of the negative Brexit consequences – including the UK and the EU's new trading relationship likely to reduce long-run productivity by 4% relative to remaining in the EU (as a result of increased trade barriers) – challenges are likely to remain as North Essex and the UK as a whole adapts to its new global position post-Brexit³.

Covid-19

The second significant event that provides the economic context in which North Essex now finds itself in is the onset of COVID-19 and the significant economic, health and social consequences that continue to impact the region and beyond. Unmatched in its impact, the pandemic has led to lasting economic behaviour changes that North Essex has had to adapt to, with these changes considered within the 'Delivering for North Essex' plan.

Like many other regions across the country, North Essex was significantly impacted by the restrictions enforced to protect people from the virus, with the restrictions' impact clearly evidenced by North Essex's claimant count across the pandemic period. Akin to other parts of the country, the region saw large increases in claimant count during the pandemic's onset, with this variable increasing sharply in all of the NEEB's constituent members in March 2020. As the pandemic's first year progressed – and with the furlough scheme's support – the region's claimant count remained roughly around the peak recorded in May 2020. As the Government progressed its roadmap out of lockdown, North Essex's claimant count started to gradually decline, with the rate observed lower than the rate of increase observed in March

¹ Essex Chambers of Commerce. 2022 First Quarter Economic Survey. Source: [EssexQ1QuarterlyEconomicSurveyMarch2022.pdf \(essexchambers.co.uk\)](#)

² Essex Chambers of Commerce. 2022 First Quarter Economic Survey. Source: [EssexQ1QuarterlyEconomicSurveyMarch2022.pdf \(essexchambers.co.uk\)](#)

³ Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). Brexit Analysis (2022). Source: [Brexit analysis - Office for Budget Responsibility \(obr.uk\)](#)

2020⁴. This reflects the difficulty people faced getting back into work over the reopening period as the furlough scheme began to wind down.

Whilst the claimant count has fallen across the North Essex authorities following the pandemic period, COVID-19 has left a worrying and long-lasting economic trend that has gained much attention. This trend is the rise in economic inactivity across the pandemic years (2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021) and the observation that economic inactivity rates across the country have remained high relative to pre-pandemic levels. This has been observed within North Essex, with **Figure 1** outlining how the North Essex average economic inactivity rate rose considerably at the start of the pandemic (rising from 16.9% to 20.2% between 2018 – 2019 and 2019 – 2020), and stayed above pre-pandemic levels in 2021 – 2022 at 19.5%. Whilst the majority of North Essex’s authorities have seen a fall in their economic inactivity rates in 2021 – 2022, Chelmsford (18.3%) and Tendring (32.1%) saw increases in this year, with Tendring facing particular challenges in reversing the economic inactivity pandemic trend observed⁵.

The cause of this rise in economic inactivity has been much debated, from an increase in early retirees to childcare costs making it unviable for parents to return to the workplace.

North Essex Economic Inactivity (%) (2017 – 2022)					
Area	2017 – 2018	2018 – 2019	2019 – 2020	2020 – 2021	2021 – 2022
Braintree	11.3	14.4	16.5	15.6	14.8
Colchester	17.8	12.0	17.1	20.0	18.3
Chelmsford	15.3	20.1	16.5	15.8	18.3
Tendring	17.1	20.7	31.3	31.3	32.1
Maldon	17.0	15.3	21.0	21.5	15.3
Uttlesford	19.4	18.9	18.8	24.3	18.0
Essex	18.4	19.7	20.2	20.6	18.9
North Essex Average	16.3	16.9	20.2	21.4	19.5

Figure 1: North Essex Economic Inactivity Rates (2017 – 2022)

⁴Essex Open Data. COVID-19 Economic Impacts Report (2022). Source: [COVID-19 Economic Impacts Report | Essex Open Data](#)

⁵ NOMIS. Labour Market Profiles (Essex) (2022). Source: [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)

Away from North Essex's changed economic inactivity picture, the final COVID-19 related change to note is the dramatic adoption and acceptance of hybrid working within workplaces across the region. With little choice during lockdowns, much of the working world switched to full working from home arrangements, with today's working arrangements for many businesses reflective of employees' desire to keep some element of home working, alongside commuting to collaborative office spaces. This change in workplace attitudes it illustrated when comparing Census 2021 and 2019 ONS working from home data. **Figure 2** below illustrates the Census 2021 data collated for the North Essex authorities, with Tendring the North Essex authority that recorded the lowest proportion of its workers working from home – 22.9% – and Uttlesford the highest proportion – 39.4% – in 2021⁶. These figures are significantly higher than the ONS data collated in 2019 for the East of England as a whole that outlined that only 5.5% of workers in this region worked mainly from home prior to the pandemic's onset⁷.

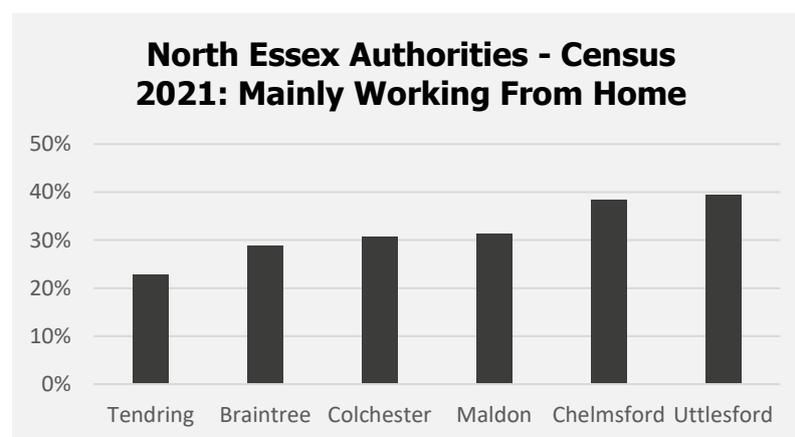


Figure 2: North Essex Authorities – Census 2021: Mainly Working from Home

The increase and continued retention of hybrid working patterns within the workplace has had a significant impact on the structure of regional economies, with commuting patterns, high street footfall and retail/leisure expenditure all still being impacted by the new ways of working. This impact has been considered during the development of the 'Delivering for North Essex' plan, with a strong awareness of the impact this critical change has had on the North Essex economy.

Cost of Living Pressures

The impact of the continued cost of living pressures within North Essex is best evidenced through published Essex Open Data⁸. Through in-depth interviews with 20 participants from across Essex, an understanding has been collated on experiences around the increasing cost of living; the impact this is having on people's day-to-day lives as well as bigger life decisions being made or considered; and what things may help ease pressures. Key points from this research include:

⁶ ONS. Percentage of workers who work mainly at or from home (Census 2021). Source: [Method of travel to workplace - Census Maps, ONS](#)

⁷ ONS. Coronavirus and Homeworking in the UK Labour Market: 2019. Source: [Coronavirus and homeworking in the UK labour market - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ Essex Open Data. Cost of Living Qualitative Research (2023). Source: [Cost of living qualitative research | Essex Open Data](#)

- **Some are experiencing the cost-of-living increase much more harshly than others.** Groups particularly impacted include those not working and in receipt of welfare (due to disabilities), families with children where only one parent is working, and single parent families.
- **The cost of living is impacting on day-to-day wellbeing, as well as life decisions and milestones.** Many residents across Essex feel they are 'surviving' rather than living due to the removal of non-essential spending from budgets, whilst some are struggling to even afford the essentials such as food and heating. Many are also postponing key life-decisions.
- **All are making lifestyle changes and cutbacks, but some residents have no other options to address cost of living pressures.** Essex residents are making lifestyle changes to save money, with these including small behaviour changes to more significant sacrifices.

The challenges many North Essex residents have faced in light of the recent cost of living pressures are widely acknowledged, with this macroeconomic impact a key difference considered since publication of the 2019 economic strategy.

North Essex's Strategic Priorities

1. Innovative Businesses and Skilled Residents

The data analysis was clear that North Essex has incumbent key sector strengths, growth sector potential and SME foundations that are robust building blocks for future economic growth.

In regard to North Essex's incumbent sector strengths, the most recent Gross Value Added (GVA) data, which measures economic contribution, demonstrates North Essex's several incumbent sector strengths. First and foremost, the region benefits from a strong 'Real Estate and Activities' sector, with this contributing £3.1 billion of GVA to the North Essex economy in 2020⁹. This sector produced the greatest output for all six North Essex authorities in 2020. **Figure 3** outlines the top three sectors – in terms of GVA – for every North Essex authority in 2020.

North Essex Authorities – Top 3 Sectors (GVA) in 2020					
Braintree			Chelmsford		
No.	Sector	Value (m)	No.	Sector	Value (m)
1	Real estate activities	£500	1	Real estate activities	£820
2	Financial and insurance activities	£433	2	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	£568
3	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	£374	3	Construction	£544
Colchester			Maldon		
No.	Sector	Value (m)	No.	Sector	Value (m)
1	Real estate activities	£726	1	Real estate activities	£235
2	Human health and social work activities	£548	2	Construction	£192
3	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	£492	3	Manufacturing	£188
Tendring			Uttlesford		
No.	Sector	Value (m)	No.	Sector	Value (m)
1	Real estate activities	£426	1	Real estate activities	£406
2	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	£250	2	Construction	£249
3	Manufacturing	£167	3	Transportation and Storage	£222

Figure 3: North Essex Authorities – Top 3 Sectors (GVA) in 2020

⁹ ONS. Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by industry: local authorities by ITL1 region (2022). Source: [Regional gross value added \(balanced\) by industry: local authorities by ITL1 region - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/regions/northern-england/northern-england-regional-gross-value-added)

Alongside North Essex's incumbent strengths in 'Real Estate Activities', the region also has strengths within the 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles', 'construction' and 'manufacturing' sectors. It is also important to note the diversity present within North Essex's economy – with Braintree having a specific incumbent strength within the 'Financial and insurance activities' sector and Colchester seeing a specific incumbent strength within the 'Human health and social work activities' sector.

Building on the understanding of North Essex's incumbent sector strengths, it is important to reflect on the number of businesses that operate within certain sectors, to provide a picture of where North Essex's most prominent employment opportunities can be found. Referring to ONS Business Count data, we see that the sector with the greatest number of businesses within North Essex, in 2022, was the 'Construction' sector, with a total of 6,885 businesses¹⁰. Aligning to this observation, the same data indicates that the 'Construction' sector saw the greatest increase in the number of businesses within North Essex between 2017 and 2022, with 1,305 businesses establishing themselves within this sector¹¹. **Figure 4** outlines the top 3 sectors that saw the greatest increase in businesses between 2017 and 2022 within North Essex.

¹⁰ NOMIS. UK Business Counts – enterprises by industry and employment size band (2022). Source: [UK Business Counts - enterprises by industry and employment size band - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/business-counts/enterprises-by-industry-and-employment-size-band)

¹¹ NOMIS. UK Business Counts – enterprises by industry and employment size band (2022). Source: [UK Business Counts - enterprises by industry and employment size band - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/business-counts/enterprises-by-industry-and-employment-size-band)

North Essex Authorities – Top 3 Sectors in terms of business increase (2017 – 2022)					
Braintree			Chelmsford		
No.	Sector	Number of Businesses	No.	Sector	Number of businesses
1	Construction	165	1	Construction	225
2	Administrative and support service activities	85	2	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110
3	Accommodation and food service activities	60	3	Transportation and storage	75
Colchester			Maldon		
No.	Sector	Number of Businesses	No.	Sector	Number of Businesses
1	Construction	450	1	Construction	100
2	Transportation and storage	250	2	Accommodation and food service activities	40
3	Administrative and support service activities	167	3	Real Estate Activities	20
Tendring			Uttlesford		
No.	Sector	Number of Businesses	No.	Sector	Number of Businesses
1	Construction	160	1	Construction	205
2	Transportation and storage	100	2	Administration and support service activities	100
3	Accommodation and food service activities	65	3	Accommodation and food service activities	25

Figure 4: North Essex Authorities – Top 3 Sectors in terms of business increase (2017 – 2022)

The large number of businesses operating within North Essex's 'Construction' sector reflects another important characteristic of the region's business landscape – the large proportion of SMEs delivering North Essex's economic output. The UK defines an SME as an enterprise that employs fewer than 250 employees, with **Figure 5** illustrating the high proportion of SMEs operating within North Essex. 90% of North Essex's businesses are defined as 'Micro', meaning they employ between 0 and 9 employees. Illustrating the importance of this North Essex characteristic further, there were only 95 businesses within North Essex defined as 'Large', meaning they employ over 250 people in 2022, with these businesses accounting for just 0.3% of North Essex's business population¹².

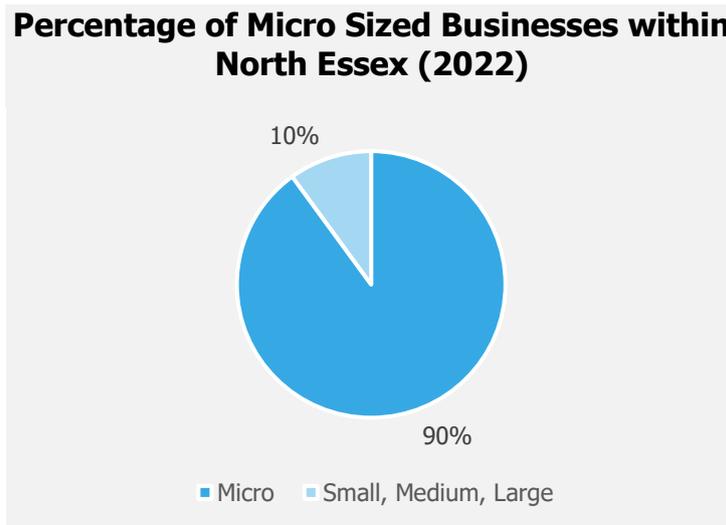


Figure 5: Percentage of Micro Sized Business within North Essex (2022)

Away from North Essex's incumbent business strengths and characteristics, Cambridge Insights' forecasts provide a view on the roles that are likely to see the greatest growth in terms of employment in the lead up to 2040. Given population growth and areas of North Essex having relatively high levels of elderly residents, it is no surprise that for some of the North Essex authorities – Chelmsford, Uttlesford and Maldon – 'Caring Personal Service Occupations' roles are expected to see the greatest employment growth over this time period. For Braintree and Colchester, employment growth over this time period is expected to be greatest within 'Skilled Agricultural Trades' roles, whilst for Tendring, the authority is expected to see the greatest employment growth in terms of 'Corporate Managers'¹³. **Figure 6** outlines the top three roles the Cambridge Insight modelling suggests will see the greatest percentage increase in employment growth leading up to 2040 for each North Essex authority.

¹² NOMIS. UK Business Counts – enterprises by industry and employment size band (2022). Source: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)

¹³ Cambridge Insight. East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM) (2019). Source: [Cambridgeshire Insight – East of England Forecasting Model \(EEFM\)](#)

North Essex Authorities – Top 3 roles in terms of expected employment increases (up to 2040)					
Braintree			Chelmsford		
No.	Sector	% increase	No.	Sector	% increase
1	Skilled Agricultural Trades	57	1	Caring Personal Services Occupations	34
2	Caring Personal Services Occupations	33	2	Corporate Managers	31
3	Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	27	3	Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	30
Colchester			Maldon		
No.	Sector	% increase	No.	Sector	% increase
1	Skilled Agricultural Trades	44	1	Caring Personal Service Occupations	40
2	Caring Personal Services Occupations	41	2	Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	33
3	Managers and Proprietors in Agriculture and Services	39	3	Customer Service Occupations	33
Tendring			Uttlesford		
No.	Sector	% increase	No.	Sector	% increase
1	Corporate Managers	39	1	Caring Personal Services Occupations	47
2	Caring Personal Service Occupations	38	2	Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	37
3	Customer Service Occupations	37	3	Health Professionals	37

Figure 6: North Essex Authorities – Top 3 roles in terms of expected employment increases, up to 2040. The percentage increase has been calculated by taking the number jobs in 2022 and finding the percentage difference between the expected number of jobs in 2040

This analysis links to the strategic analysis undertaken by the North Essex authorities within their own economic strategies, with Essex CC's Sector Development Strategy providing insights into the growth sectors that North Essex – and the broader county – are expected to prioritise over the coming years to boost economic growth and drive prosperity across the region. These growth sectors are expected to focus on 'Construction and Retrofit', 'Clean Energy', 'Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering', 'Digital Tech' and 'Life Sciences'¹⁴. These

¹⁴ Essex County Council. Essex Sector Development Strategy (2022). Source: [Plans and strategies: Sector development strategy - Essex County Council](#)

growth sectors build on North Essex's incumbent strengths outlined within the data above, and will provide new and career progressing jobs for many residents across the region.

Shifting focus to the skilled residents elements of this strategic priority, to secure the good jobs the North Essex region is expected to benefit from, North Essex's residents need to have the opportunities and confidence to develop requisite skills.

When looking at North Essex's current skills levels, it is clear there is a divergence in attainment across the region. The latest Census 2021 data has been used to establish the skills baseline for the NEEB's 2-year delivery plan, providing detail of the relative skills attainment levels across the North Essex region. **Figure 7** outlines the North Essex average in terms of skills attainment at differing levels, and how these figures compare to regional and national comparators.

Skills Attainment (2021) – North Essex, East of England and England as a whole				
Area	No Qualifications	Apprenticeships	NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3	NVQ Level 4
North Essex Average	18.1%	5.8%	44.5%	29.0%
East of England	18.1%	5.5%	42.0%	31.6%
England as Whole	18.2%	5.3%	39.9%	33.9%

Figure 7: Skills Attainment (2021) across North Essex, the East of England and England as a whole

North Essex performs relatively well compared to the East of England and England as a whole when it comes to mid-lower skills level attainment, with a higher proportion of its working age population involved in apprenticeships and having attained NVQ skills up to level 3 (equivalent to 2 or more A levels or VCEs, 4 or more AS levels) when compared to regional and national comparators. Despite this success, North Essex compares less favourably when considering the proportion of its working age population that has secured skills at NVQ level 4 and above (equivalent to a degree (BA, BSc) or higher degree (MA, PhD, PGCE)), with both the East of England and England as a whole recording higher percentages for this skills metric. This suggests North Essex has a relatively smaller proportion of high skilled workers compared to the regional and national comparators¹⁵.

Alongside comparing the North Essex average to the regional and national comparators, it is also important to note the differences in skills attainment seen within the North Essex region. Taking the 'NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3' and 'NVQ Level 4' metrics, there is a clear divergence in the proportion of lower and higher skilled workers across the North Essex authorities. This diversity is highlighted in **Figure 8**.

¹⁵ ONS. Education: Highest level of qualification (Census 2021). Source: [Highest level of qualification - Census Maps, ONS](#)

Skills Attainment (2021) – Lower and Higher Skilled Workers Divergence across North Essex		
Area	NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3	NVQ Level 4
Braintree	47.2%	25.8%
Chelmsford	43.1%	33.9%
Colchester	44.6%	32.2%
Maldon	45.9%	25.4%
Tendring	43.8%	19.9%
Uttlesford	42.3%	36.6%

*Figure 8: Skills Attainment (2021) – Lower and Higher Skilled Workers
Divergence across North Essex*

Whilst there is some consistency to the proportion of workers across the North Essex authorities with skills attained up to NVQ level 3, there is a strong divergence when reviewing the proportion of working age populations within the North Essex authorities that have attained skills at NVQ level 4 and above. This divergence is observed by the difference between the highest ranking North Essex authority for this metric – Uttlesford – and the lowest ranking North Essex authority for this metric – Tendring – with a difference of 16.7% recorded¹⁶. This diversity in skills attainment across the region is an important consideration within the NEEB’s ‘Delivering for North Essex’ plan.

Whilst local authority data for T levels is not available, apprenticeship data provides some insight into the kind of vocational training available. The 2021 – 2022 data is shown in **Figure 9**. The number of apprenticeship uptakes are expectedly higher in Colchester and Chelmsford, as the urban districts, and lower in Uttlesford and Maldon, as the more rural districts. Tendring sees higher than expected levels of apprenticeship starts, closer to Braintree’s numbers. One significant trend is low, although similar, levels of vocational attainment across authorities¹⁷.

Apprenticeship Starts and Achievements (2021 – 2022)			
Area	Starts	Achievement	Participation
Braintree	870	360	1850
Chelmsford	1030	450	2240
Colchester	1060	440	2230
Maldon	360	130	790
Tendring	800	310	1680
Uttlesford	490	170	980

Figure 9: Apprenticeship Starts and Achievements (2021 – 2022)

Finally, on skills, it is worth noting the productivity of North Essex’s working population, with this being a key factor in driving economic growth. Referring to ONS data outlining the GVA per hour worked, the North Essex region has seen an increase in productivity since 2017,

¹⁶ ONS. Education: Highest level of qualification (Census 2021). Source: [Highest level of qualification - Census Maps, ONS](#)

¹⁷ GOV.UK. Apprenticeships and traineeships. Source: [Apprenticeships and traineeships, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

recording a figure of £32.4 in 2020¹⁸. **Figure 10** illustrates this increase and shows how the region compares to the East of England and England as a whole.

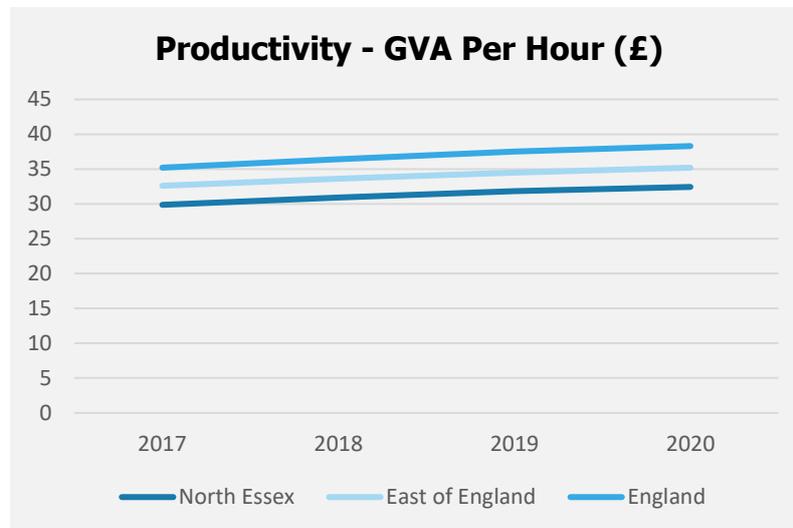


Figure 8: Productivity – GVA per hour (£) for the North Essex region, East of England and England as a whole between 2017 and 2020

Whilst North Essex’s productivity has been rising between 2017-2020, the region’s productivity has consistently ranked below that of the East of England and England as a whole. The differences in 2020 are quite significant, with the East of England’s GVA per hour £2.8 greater in 2020, and England as whole £5.9 greater¹⁹. With North Essex lagging behind regional and national productivity comparators, it is essential actions are delivered to drive up productivity to help boost economic growth in the region.

2. A Green and High Growth Economy

Local Authorities across the country are playing a vital role in supporting the UK to achieve its net zero objectives. In terms of establishing North Essex’s baseline for this area, data on the region’s renewable electricity capacity and generation has been collated, alongside data on attitudes towards the green economy and progress made in making households across the region more energy efficient.

Starting with renewable electricity capacity and generation, North Essex has the potential to build on its incumbent strengths in this space, positioning itself as a renewable energy exemplar. In 2021, the North Essex region had a renewable electricity capacity of 563.3 MW, with this capacity generating roughly 1 million MWh of renewable electricity in the same year²⁰. The regional renewable electricity strengths are driven by three main sources of energy – onshore wind, offshore wind and solar power, with **Figure 11** outlining the amount of renewable electricity each of the North Essex authorities generated from these sources in 2021.

¹⁸ ONS. Subnational productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district (2022). Source: [Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/subregional-productivity/labour-productivity-indices-by-local-authority-district)

¹⁹ ONS. Subnational productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district (2022). Source: [Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/subregional-productivity/labour-productivity-indices-by-local-authority-district)

²⁰ BEIS. National Statistics – Regional Renewable Energy Statistics. Source: [Regional Renewable Statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/regional-renewable-energy-statistics)

North Essex's Renewable Electricity Generation (2021) (MWh)			
Area	Onshore Wind	Offshore Wind	Solar Power
Braintree	132	0	31,720
Chelmsford	76	0	10,783
Colchester	85	0	83,745
Maldon	152,931	0	10,311
Tendring	28,122	513,080	71,442
Uttlesford	41	0	44,322

Figure 9: North Essex's Renewable Electricity Generation (2021) (MWh) from onshore wind, offshore wind and solar power sources

Both Maldon and Tendring have particular strengths when it comes to onshore wind generation, whilst Tendring – given its coastal characteristics – is the only North Essex authority to benefit from offshore wind renewable electricity generation. In contrast to these sources of renewable electricity – where there are clear divergences in generation – all of the North Essex authorities generate a good amount of renewable electricity from solar power, with Colchester leading the way when considering this energy source. Building on these renewable electricity generation strengths will be essential as the region looks to benefit from the green skills and jobs required to deliver net zero commitments.

Away from the region's renewable electricity capacity and generation statistics, another important aspect to understanding North Essex's green economy baseline is residents' attitudes towards the green economy and the extent to which residents are invested in supporting the delivery of net zero commitments. As a proxy for this measurement, data has been collated on the North Essex authorities' recycling rates, with a high recycling rate taken as an indication of residents' willingness to support the environment and avert negative climate consequences. **Figure 12** outlines the recycling rates for the six NEEB authorities²¹.

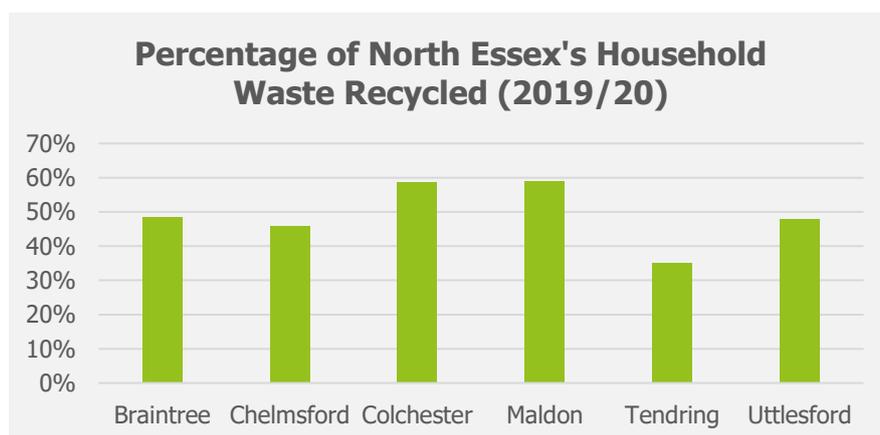


Figure 10: Percentage of North Essex's Household Waste Recycled (2019/20)

²¹ NimbleFins. Which English Councils are best and worst at recycling? Top 10 and bottom 10 revealed. Source: [Which English Councils are Best and Worst at Recycling? Top 10 and Bottom 10 Revealed | NimbleFins](#)

There is a divergence across North Essex in terms of household waste recycling rates, with Tendring having the lowest recycling rates, and Maldon the highest. Whilst an interesting perspective on the relative green engagement within North Essex, it is important to consider how these rates compare to other local authorities across the country, to have a view on how the North Essex region compares to other areas when it comes to green engagement. Reviewing broader local authority data available, all North Essex's authorities – aside from Tendring – ranked in the top 50% of local authorities in terms of household waste recycled, with Colchester and Maldon ranking in the top 25%²². This suggests there is a fairly positive engagement with green actions, when taking household recycling rates as a proxy for this engagement. However, it does appear that progress is needed with regards to attitudes towards the green economy, with Essex recording a relatively low level of conservation sites in positive management (36%) compared to some of its neighbours, including Norfolk who recorded a positive management rate of 74% in 2021/22²³.

In addition to household waste recycling rates and positive conservation site management, another important statistic to consider when understanding North Essex's green economy baseline is the extent to which its households are energy efficient across the region, with the type of central heating used within households a useful metric to consider when understanding a region's relative green impact. Using Census 2021 data, **Figure 13** provides a view on how the North Essex region compares to the East of England and England as a whole in terms of the type of central heating utilised within households²⁴.

Percentage Central Heating Source (2021) – North Essex, East of England and England as whole				
Area	Mains Gas Only	Electric Only	Oil Only	Renewable Energy Only
North Essex Average	66.0%	9.8%	10.5%	0.7%
East of England	70.1%	9.5%	7.2%	0.7%
England as Whole	74.0%	8.7%	3.2%	0.4%

Figure 11: Type of Central Heating (2021) – North Essex, East of England and England as a whole (main types of central heating – alongside renewable energy only source)

²² NimbleFins. Which English Councils are best and worst at recycling? Top 10 and bottom 10 revealed. Source: [Which English Councils are Best and Worst at Recycling? Top 10 and Bottom 10 Revealed | NimbleFins](#)

²³GOV.UK. ENV10 – Local sites in positive conservation management. Source: [ENV10 - Local sites in positive conservation management - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

²⁴ ONS. Housing. Type of central heating in household. (Census 2021). Source: [Type of central heating in household - Census Maps, ONS](#)

Whilst North Essex records a similar percentage to the East of England and England as a whole when considering renewable energy only and electric-only central heating, there are strong divergences when it comes to mains gas only and oil only. Less central heating is provided in North Essex through mains gas and more through oil, when compared with the regional and national comparators. The relatively high proportion of central heating systems being fuelled by oil only is largely explained by the relatively high proportion of this fuel being used within Maldon, Tendring and Braintree, as **Figure 14** demonstrates.

Percentage of Central Heating Fuelled by Oil Only in North Essex (2021)	
Area	Percentage
Braintree	10.8%
Chelmsford	5.3%
Colchester	6.2%
Maldon	19.8%
Tendring	4.7%
Uttlesford	16.3%

Figure 12: Percentage of Central Heating Fuelled by Oil Only in North Essex (2021)

Central to North Essex’s future economic prosperity will be the effective transition to a green and high-growth economy, with the data above illustrating how the region can look to build on its strong renewable electricity generation foundations, facilitate further resident engagement to promote the importance of green actions, and continue to work to consider how households can be made more energy efficient through the use of cleaner energy sources. This has all been considered within the development of North Essex’s 2-year delivery plan.

3. A Dynamic and Connected Region

With the green and high-growth economy strategic priority referencing key aspects of North Essex’s green economy infrastructure, it is appropriate that the next area central to the region’s baseline focuses on broader transport and digital infrastructure, critical enablers for economic growth.

Starting with transport, it is clear a rural/urban divide exists within the region, with those from the more rural authorities – in particular Maldon and Uttlesford – facing greater transport challenges when compared to the more urban authorities of Colchester and Chelmsford. This divide is best evidenced by 2019 data that illustrates the time it takes to get to key services by public transport/walking. As highlighted in **Figure 15**, the more rural authorities of Maldon and Uttlesford see the greatest time taken to get to key services by public transport/walking, with average journey times of 28 and 27 minutes respectively when travelling by these modes of transport. In contrast, North Essex’s more urban authorities – Colchester and Chelmsford – see much shorter average journey times, 19 and 18 minutes respectively²⁵.

²⁵ Department for Transport. Officials Statistics – Journey time statistics, England: 2019. Source: [Journey time statistics, England: 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/journey-time-statistics)

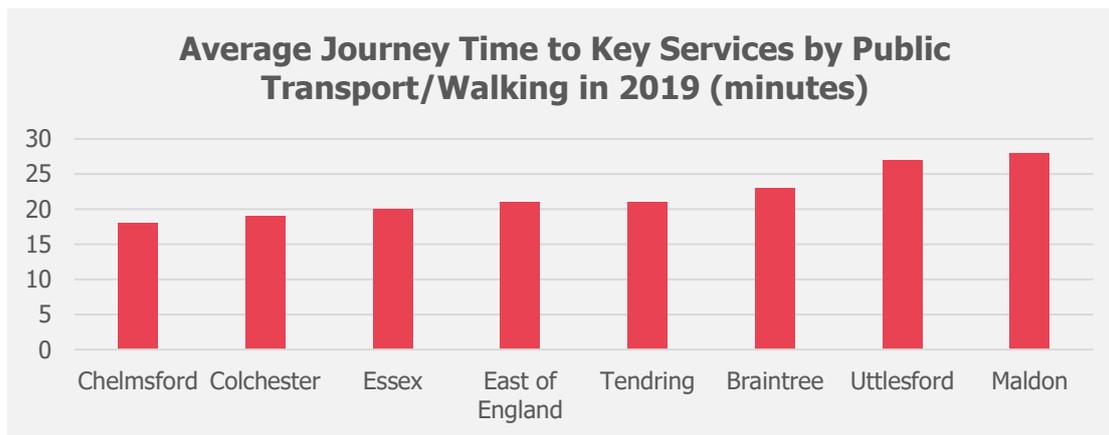


Figure 13: Average Journey Time to Key Services by Public Transport/Walking in 2019 (minutes)

In addition to analysing North Essex's public transport infrastructure – and the divergence in coverage across the region – Census 2021 data has been used as a way of understanding the demands placed on the different parts of the region's transport infrastructure when its residents travel to work. Whilst some of the travel to work Census 2021 data is likely to have been impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place during the first half of 2021, this data provides a proxy for the relative demand for different modes of transport when residents within the North Essex region are travelling to work.

The first Census 2021 travel to work data to note is the relative distances those living in different parts of North Essex travel to get to work. As **Figure 16** demonstrates, there is once again a rural/urban divide within North Essex, with a greater proportion of residents from the more rural North Essex authorities having to travel more than 10km to get to work, with Braintree the North Essex authority with the highest proportion when considering this metric²⁶.

Proportion of workers travelling more than 10km to get to work (2021)	
Area	Percentage
Braintree	29.7%
Maldon	28.8%
East of England	26.3%
Uttlesford	26.2%
Tendring	25.6%
Essex	22.6%
England	21.8%
Chelmsford	20.1%
Colchester	18.7%

Figure 14: Proportion of workers travelling more than 10km to get to work (2021)

²⁶ ONS. Work: Distance travelled to work (Census 2021). Source: [Distance travelled to work - Census Maps, ONS](#)

In a similar fashion to the average journey time to key services by public transport/walking statistics, it is only Colchester and Chelmsford that recorded statistics less than those recorded for Essex, the East of England and England as a whole – reflective of the authorities' urban characteristics.

Linked to the distances travelled to get to work, much of the congestion seen on North Essex's critical roads – including the A120, A12 and A131 – can be explained by the dominance of the use of cars/vans as the main mode of transport for getting to work in North Essex. As **Figure 17** demonstrates, car/van use is particularly prominent within Tendring, Braintree and Maldon as the main mode of transport to get to work, with these authorities ranking above the percentages recorded for Essex, the East of England and England as a whole. Once again, it is North Essex's more urban authorities – Chelmsford and Colchester – where we see the lowest use of cars/vans, with Uttlesford – likely due to the high proportion of its workers working mainly from home – also recording relatively low car/van use in journeys to work²⁷.

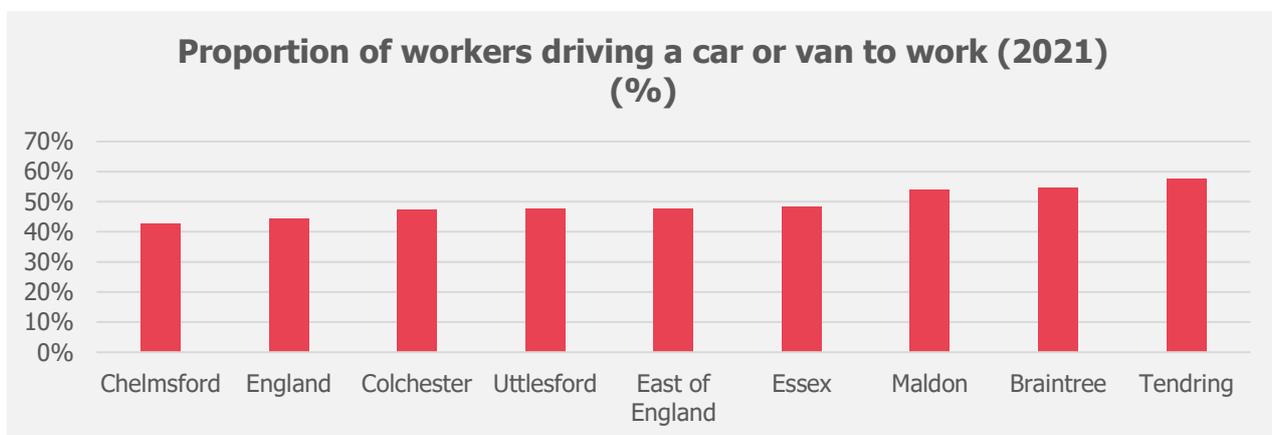


Figure 17: Proportion of workers driving a car or van to work (2021) (%)

From an active travel perspective, it is also worth noting that the only two North Essex authorities to rank above figures recorded for the East of England and England as a whole for the proportion of workers travelling to work on foot are Colchester and Tendring. As **Figure 18** demonstrates, the North Essex authorities with the lowest percentages of workers walking to work are Maldon and Uttlesford, with these two North Essex authorities ranking below the figure recorded for Essex CC²⁸.

²⁷ ONS. Work: Method of travel to workplace (Census 2021). Source: [Method of travel to workplace - Census Maps, ONS](#)

²⁸ ONS. Work: Method of travel to workplace (Census 2021). Source: [Method of travel to workplace - Census Maps, ONS](#)

Figure 18: Proportion of workers travelling to work on foot (2021) (%)

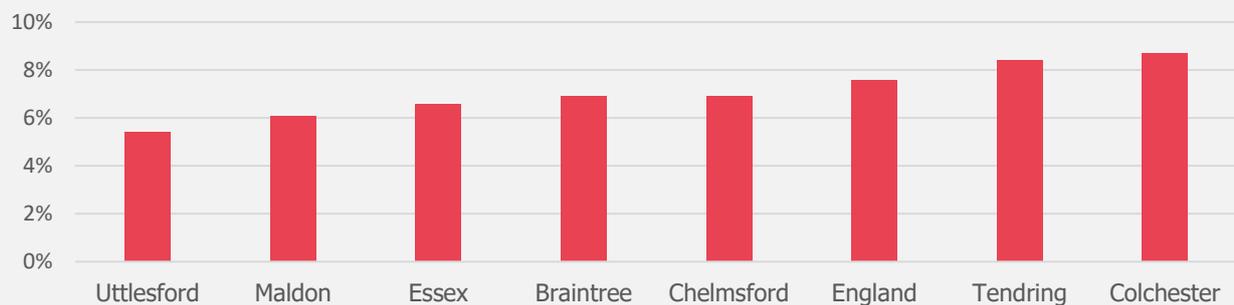


Figure 18: Proportion of workers travelling to work on foot (2021) (%)

Away from transport infrastructure, Ofcom data presented in **Figure 19**, has been reviewed to consider the region's relative digital connectivity, to understand the improvements that could be made to this economic enabler to help stimulate economic growth.

Starting with the number of premises with access to superfast broadband, the data shows that every North Essex authority performs well in terms of access to this broadband speed, with the lowest ranking North Essex authority – Uttlesford – still seeing 94.5% of its premises having access to superfast broadband. Tendring is the North Essex authority with the greatest proportion of its premises with access to superfast broadband, recording a figure of 97.8%²⁹. The high proportion of premises across North Essex with access likely reflects Essex CC's 'Superfast Essex' programme successes³⁰.

The story is a little different when considering statistics collated for ultrafast – or gigabit – broadband, with divergence across the region in terms of the number of premises with access to this level of broadband speed. The more urban North Essex authorities – Colchester and Chelmsford – recorded the highest proportion of premises with access to ultrafast broadband, with figures of 66.2% and 63.0% respectively. Whilst Colchester and Chelmsford were the North Essex authorities with the highest proportion of ultrafast premises, the authorities ranked below 3 of the 4 similarly sized authorities included within the comparative analysis undertaken, with North Hertfordshire, Central Bedfordshire and Maidstone recording figures of 75.7%, 71.1% and 69.4% respectively. This suggests the North Essex region is behind other parts of the country in terms of ultrafast broadband rollout, with this observation reinforced when considering the North Essex authorities with the lowest proportion of premises with ultrafast broadband availability – Braintree and Tendring – who recorded figures of 48.6% and 14.8% respectively³¹.

²⁹ Ofcom. Connected Nations 2022 (Superfast Broadband). Source: [Connected Nations 2022 - Ofcom](#)

³⁰ Superfast Essex. Source: [Superfast Essex](#)

³¹ Ofcom. Connected Nations 2022 (Ultrafast Broadband). Source: [Connected Nations 2022 - Ofcom](#)

Superfast Broadband		Ultrafast Broadband	
Authority	Premises %	Authority	Premises %
Tendring	97.8	Colchester	66.2
Essex	96.9	Chelmsford	63.0
Braintree	96.8	Uttlesford	59.4
Colchester	96.2	Maldon	58.7
Chelmsford	96.1	Essex	58.1
Maldon	96.0	Braintree	48.6
Uttlesford	94.5	Tendring	14.8

Figure 19: North Essex's Superfast and Ultrafast Broadband Coverage (2022) (%)

The transport and digital connectivity baseline has been considered within North Essex's 2-year delivery plan, with this infrastructure critical to North Essex's economic growth.

4. Prosperous and Inclusive Communities

Data indicators for North Essex's prosperous and inclusive communities have been considered to provide a robust understanding of how the 2-year delivery plan's actions can best facilitate economic growth for everyone within North Essex, ensuring no-one is left behind as the region looks to build on its incumbent strengths and seize future growth opportunities.

When understanding North Essex's community strengths, it is first important to understand the region's age demographics. **Figure 20** shows the North Essex authorities with the highest proportion of their populations aged 15 and under are Uttlesford, Colchester and Chelmsford, recording figures of 19.5%, 18.9% and 18.6% respectively. Tendring is the North Essex authority with the lowest proportion of its population aged 15 and under, recording a figure of 15.8%. Moving to those of working age, the more urban North Essex authorities – Colchester and Chelmsford – have the greatest proportion of their populations of working age, recording figures of 63.3% and 62.0% respectively. Once again, Tendring is the North Essex authority with the lowest proportion, with only 54.6% of its population of working age. Finally, it is North Essex's more rural authorities – Tendring, Maldon, Braintree and Uttlesford – that have the highest proportion of their populations aged 65 and over, recording figures of 29.6%, 25.0%, 20.4% and 20.2% respectively³². Clearly, a rural/urban divide exists when considering North Essex's demographics, with the region's more urban authorities (not considering Uttlesford) having a higher proportion of younger residents, whilst the more rural authorities have a high proportion of older residents. This is an important consideration, with there likely being differing demands across the region that reflects the contrasting demographics across the North Essex authorities.

³² ONS. Population: Age (Census 2021). Source: [Age - Census Maps, ONS](#)

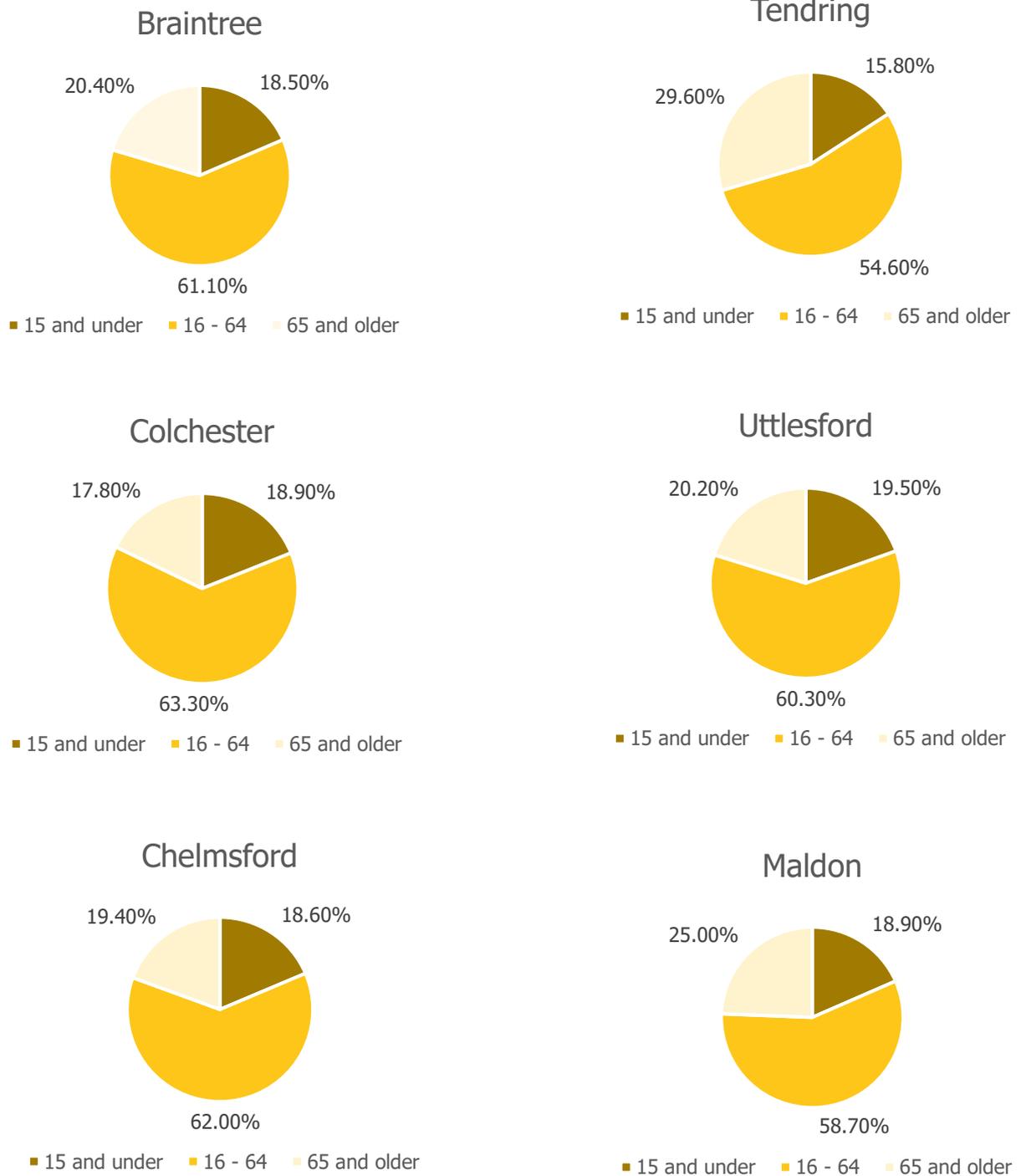


Figure 20: North Essex authorities' age demographics (ages 15 and under, ages 16 – 64 and ages 65 and under)

Building on the age demographics – and utilising the Thriving Places Index – critical community data provides a view of the region’s relative equality, local conditions and sustainability opportunities and challenges. Before exploring the metrics underpinning the three variables, it is important to note the scale used by the Thriving Places Index, with this critical to understanding the relative opportunities and challenges of North Essex’s authorities within these variables. This scale is outlined in **Figure 21**.

Thriving Places Index Scale				
Low	Low – Medium	Medium	Medium – High	High
<3.5	3.5 – 4.5	4.5 – 5.5	5.5 – 6.5	6.5<

Figure 21: Thriving Places Index Scale

Starting with the equality variable, 2022 Thriving Places Index data suggests that Tendring and Colchester are the most equitable North Essex authorities, with Uttlesford and Maldon the least. Only Uttlesford and Maldon ranked in the ‘Low – Medium’ category for this variable. Moving the focus to the ‘local conditions’ variable, Uttlesford and Chelmsford are the North Essex authorities that recorded the highest score for this variable, both ranking within the ‘Medium – High’ category. The only North Essex authority to rank as low as the ‘Low – Medium’ category was Tendring, with a figure of 4.2. The index suggests there is a gap between Tendring and the next North Essex authority on the scale, with Colchester recording a score of 5.4, falling just short of the ‘Medium – High’ category for this variable. In terms of sustainability, all North Essex authorities performed relatively well when considering this variable, with the lowest ranking North Essex authority – Chelmsford – recording a figure of 4.9 which put it in the ‘medium’ category. The North Essex authority with the highest figure recorded for this variable is Colchester, with a figure of 6.2 putting this authority in the ‘Medium – High’ category³³. **Figure 22** lists the figures recorded for all the North Essex authorities across the 3 categories.

Thriving Places Index					
Equality		Local Conditions		Sustainability	
Authority	Score	Authority	Score	Authority	Score
Tendring	6.0	Uttlesford	6.3	Colchester	6.2
Colchester	5.6	Chelmsford	6.0	Essex	5.9
Essex	5.0	Braintree	5.7	Maldon	5.4
Chelmsford	4.7	Maldon	5.5	Braintree	5.3
Braintree	4.7	Colchester	5.4	Uttlesford	5.2
Uttlesford	4.3	Essex	5.3	Tendring	5.1
Maldon	3.9	Tendring	4.2	Chelmsford	4.9

Figure 22: Thriving Places Index – Equality, Local Conditions and Sustainability scores (2022)

³³ Centre for Thriving Places. Thriving Places Index (2022). Source: [Thriving Places Index | Centre for Thriving Places](#)

It is clear that there is greater diversity across the North Essex region in terms of the equality and local conditions variables than when compared to the sustainability variable. This suggests there is greater work that could be done to increase equality within both Maldon and Uttlesford, and to improve Tendring's local conditions to ensure residents across the region feel a similar amount of pride in place and attachment to where they live.

Moving away from the Thriving Places Index, another important aspect when considering North Essex's community opportunities and challenges is consideration of housing data and the level of crime prevalent within the area. Linking this data to economic growth, house prices are a key form of wealth for many, with an understanding of house prices and form of tenure within a region useful indicators of relative wealth that can support economic growth. In terms of crime, a more deprived area is likely to see increased incidences of crime, proving a useful proxy for economic growth considerations.

Within North Essex, it is clear there is diversity in house prices across the region, with the more rural authorities of Uttlesford and Maldon seeing the highest average house prices in 2023. In contrast, the lowest average house price is recorded by Tendring, with a price difference of £180,892 observed between Uttlesford and Tendring³⁴. This suggests there is significant divergence in wealth across the region, which has been considered when developing actions included within the Delivery Plan. **Figure 23** provides a view of the different average house prices within North Essex and how these figures compare to Essex CC and the East of England.

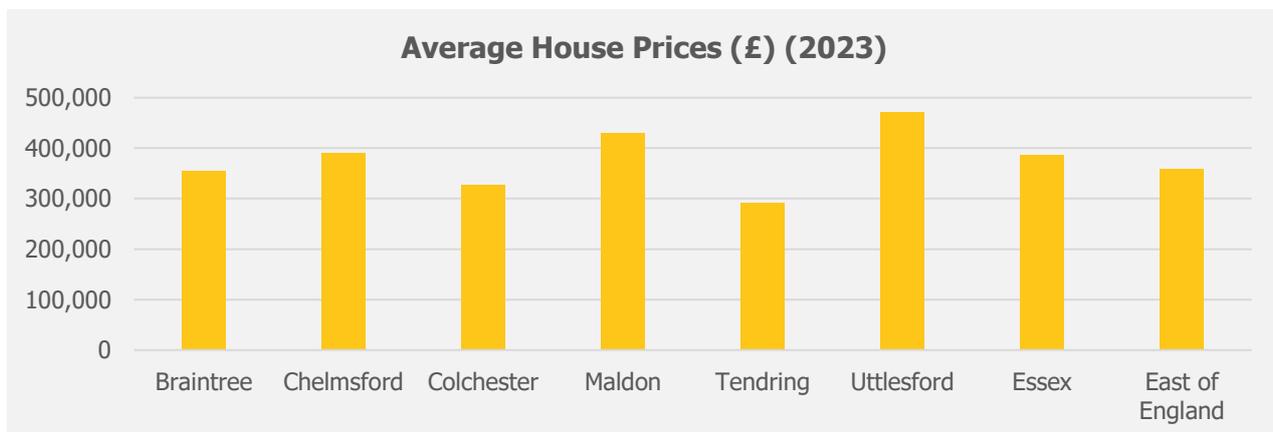


Figure 23: Average House Prices (£) (2023)

³⁴ UK House Price Index. House Price Statistics (2023). Source: [UK House Price Index \(data.gov.uk\)](https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/uk-house-price-index)

Building on the average house prices across North Essex to understand the region's relative wealth, it is important to consider the form of tenure. As **Figure 24** illustrates, there is a divergence in the proportion of home owners (both with and without mortgages) across the North Essex authorities, with Maldon the authority with the highest proportion of home owners and Colchester the lowest, according to Census 2021 data³⁵. Given the average house prices within both Uttlesford and Maldon – and the relatively high levels of home ownership within these authorities – it can be concluded that these two authorities are likely to see a higher proportion of wealthier residents when compared to other authorities across the region.

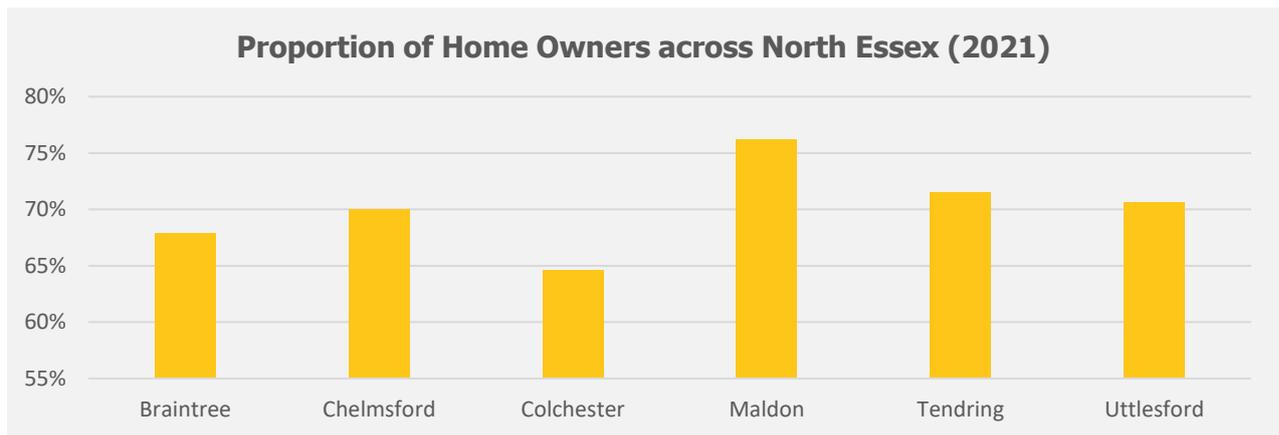


Figure 24: Proportion of Home Owners across North Essex (2021)

Away from house prices and home ownership, the region's crime statistics also provide a useful proxy for the region's relative wealth. As **Figure 25** demonstrates, Tendring and Colchester are the North Essex's authorities with the highest police recorded crimes per 1,000 population, both recording figures of 98.6 for this metric. Maldon and Uttlesford – the North Essex authorities with the highest average house prices – see the lowest crime rates, recording figures of 59.9 and 62.3 respectively³⁶.

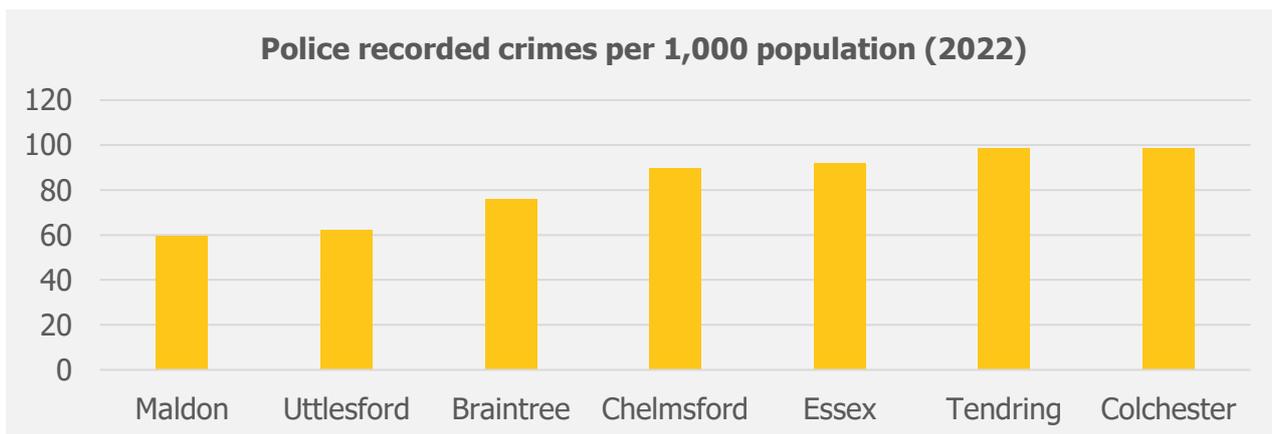


Figure 25: Police recorded crimes per 1,000 population (2022)

³⁵ ONS. Housing: Tenure of Household (Census 2021). Source: [Tenure of household - Census Maps, ONS](#)

³⁶ Police.UK. Compare your area. (2022). Source: [Compare your area | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

In addition to the data above, the prosperous and inclusive communities strategic priority has considered data that provides perspective on residents' views towards the North Essex region and pride and happiness they feel going about their everyday lives. This data is important to understanding this strategic priority, as it provides a view of North Essex's resident's engagement with their local communities, an important consideration when understanding how best to drive economic growth. ONS data has been presented below that provides a view of North Essex's residents' life satisfaction, happiness, anxiety, and a feeling that their lives are worthwhile.

Starting with life satisfaction, residents across North Essex feel fairly satisfied with their lives, with the North Essex authorities performing similarly across the board. As **Figure 26** outlines, Uttlesford recorded the greatest score for this statistic, recording an average figure of 7.9 out of 10, whilst Colchester recorded the lowest score at 7.4³⁷.

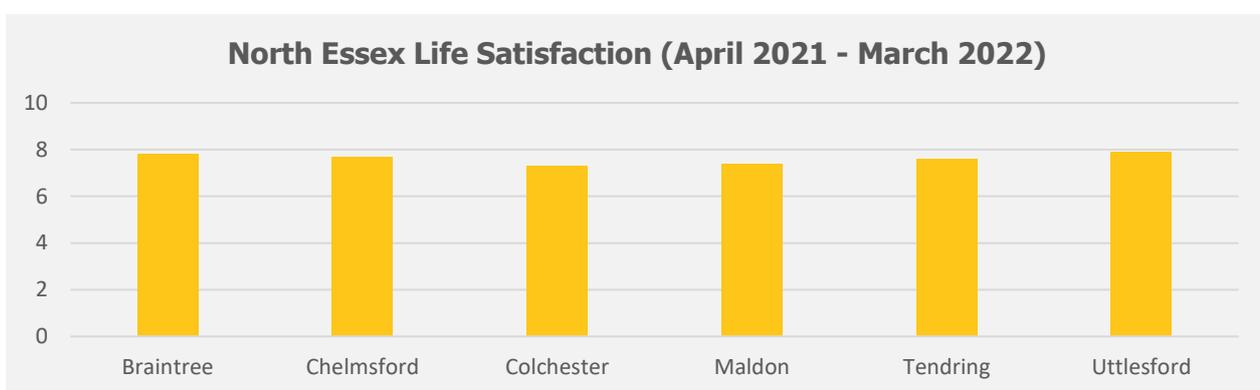


Figure 26: North Essex Life Satisfaction (April 2021 – March 2022)

When considering happiness, it can be seen that five of the North Essex authorities recorded average scores of above 7, with Braintree the authority that recorded the highest average score of 7.7. As **Figure 27** shows, Colchester recorded the lowest happiness average score, with a figure of 6.8³⁸.

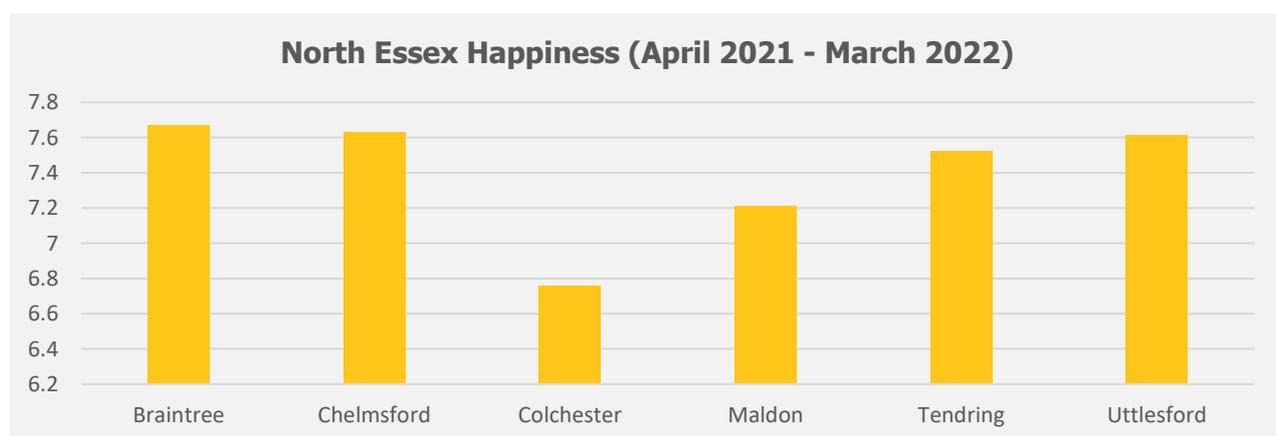


Figure 27: North Essex Happiness (April 2021 – March 2022)

³⁷ ONS. Personal well-being in the UK: April 2021 to March 2022. Source: [Personal well-being in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/personal-well-being)

³⁸ ONS. Personal well-being in the UK: April 2021 to March 2022. Source: [Personal well-being in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/personal-well-being)

Moving to anxiety, the North Essex authorities had similar average scores for this metric, with it important to note that the lower the score, the less anxious an authority is feeling. There is very little difference between the North Essex authority with the lowest anxiety levels – Braintree (3.0) – and the North Essex authority with the highest anxiety levels – Maldon (3.4)³⁹. This is exemplified in **Figure 28**.

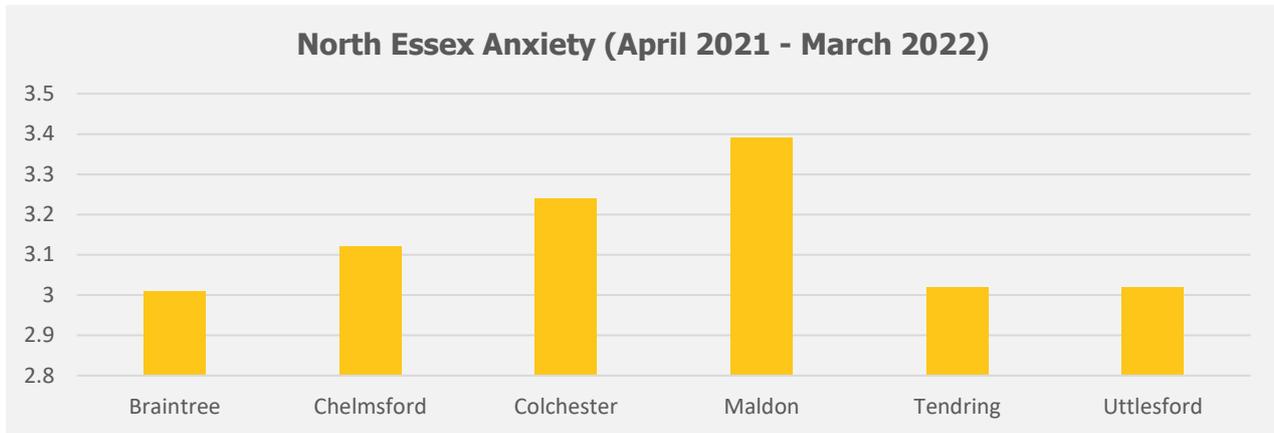


Figure 28: North Essex Anxiety (April 2021 – March 2022)

Turning to the extent to which residents view their lives as worthwhile, again, the data collated for the North Essex authorities is fairly consistent, with little difference observed between the authority – Braintree (8.1) – recording the highest score in terms of residents viewing their lives as worthwhile and the authority – Colchester (7.6) – recording the lowest score in terms of residents viewing their lives as worthwhile⁴⁰. This is exemplified in **Figure 29**.

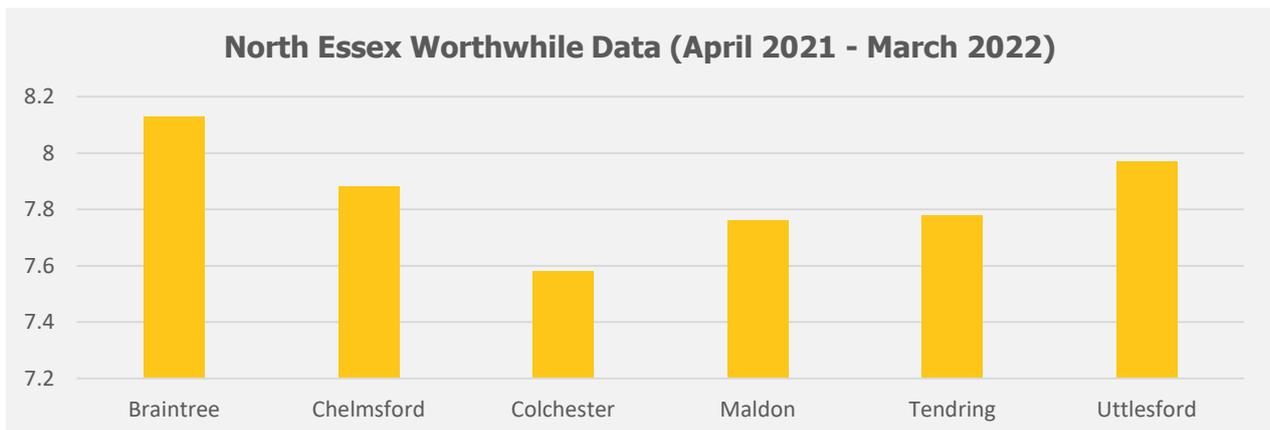


Figure 29: North Essex Worthwhile Data (April 2021 – March 2022)

³⁹ ONS. Personal well-being in the UK: April 2021 to March 2022. Source: [Personal well-being in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/personalwellbeing)

⁴⁰ ONS. Personal well-being in the UK: April 2021 to March 2022. Source: [Personal well-being in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/personalwellbeing)

The importance of these metrics to North Essex's 2-year delivery plan is understood when considering the impact life satisfaction, happiness, anxiety and perception of worthiness have on a resident's confidence and willingness to engage with economic opportunities available, such as those offered by the NEEB. As explored elsewhere, there is a need to further explore why some NEEB opportunities delivered have not seen the uptake expected from residents across the region. Accessibility is likely one reason for limited uptake in some instances, but there is also likely a confidence aspect to consider. The more that can be done to boost life satisfaction, increase happiness, reduce anxiety and advance the feeling of worthiness, the more likely the region's residents – in particular those that feel they are being left behind – will engage in economic opportunities available, supporting North Essex's economic growth ambitions.



The North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) is a partnership of district and county councils offering fully funded business support and skills programme to support economic growth across North Essex. The partnership consists of Maldon, Tendring, Braintree, Uttlesford District Councils. Chelmsford and Colchester City Councils, and Essex County Council. Find out more at www.neeb.org.uk Socials @neebgrowth

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