

Report for Parishes Regarding Essex County Council , December 2018

Cllr Penny Channer – Maldon Division, Essex County Council

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL IN THE TOP TEN FOR OUTCOMES FOR RESIDENTS

In a recent survey of 150 councils Essex County Council came seventh out of 150 councils for spending money most effectively and getting the best outcomes for residents.

The survey by iMPOWER, an independent consultancy that focuses on delivering better public services, was developed to show which councils are the most productive - achieving better outcomes for residents from a less-than-average spend per head.

The results show that Essex County Council has improved its productivity, moving from 23 place in 2017 to seventh in 2018. The results are drawn from performance measured against six different areas: children's social care, older people, disability, health and social care, housing and homelessness, and waste and recycling. Each council is scored for productivity and is ranked accordingly.

Local government is still facing incredible financial pressures, so the need to carefully account for every pound spent while at the same time, providing the best possible services and improving people's lives as a result.

So it is a welcome independent endorsement of our approaches, which recognises Essex for the way we offer value for money as well as serving residents well.

Could you support the refugee resettlement scheme?

While Syria and the Middle East may have dropped off the news agenda the crisis is still very real to those families fleeing conflict. Essex County Council is appealing for private landlords or those who may own a second home to consider letting their property to support the Essex

response to the Government's UK wide initiatives that require suitable, self-contained housing to help resettle those who have fled torture, displacement and conflict.

Supported by non-profit organisation Essex Integration, landlords – or potential landlords – will be guided through the process of renting out their properties to families. Essex Integration can act as rent guarantor, secure deposits, advise on health and safety and rental agreements, and facilitate contact with families. Landlords will be paid rent near to the Local Housing Allowance rate which although may be less than market rate the tenancy brings with it security from Essex Integration and a long lease – properties are required for two years minimum to allow families the time to settle and integrate into the community.

As well as practical support Essex Integration can also facilitate introductions with the families, support landlords getting their property to rental standard and carry out bi-monthly checks on the property.

[Task Force says 'all options on the table' in joint effort to tackle A127 congestion](#)

A new task force has met for the first time in a bid to create a collaborative vision to tackle issues in, along and around the A127.

Representatives from local councils, Transport for London and local MPs (James Duddridge and Stephen Metcalfe) met for the inaugural A127 Economic Growth Corridor Task Force at London Southend Airport Holiday Inn on Friday, 30 November.

The task force agreed a joint vision to: "Agree in principle to collaborate and contribute towards a long-term vision for the A127 economic growth corridor. This work will be carried out through proactive engagement with residents, businesses and transport users to ensure we develop a solution which works for everyone."

The A127 is currently one of the busiest "non-trunk" roads in the country – which means it is not overseen by Highways England. More than 78,000 vehicles use this route every day. The route was originally built in 1925 and upgraded to a dual carriageway in 1940.

Users of the road already experience a range of problems daily, and together these issues represent one of the main challenges to sustained economic growth in the area.

Everywhere in the region businesses and communities are growing, and the task force believes our transport network needs to support this. It is crucial that the region's infrastructure keeps pace, allowing us to create the conditions for our residents and businesses to thrive.

All options are currently on the table, including the potential for a M127 motorway to acknowledge the key strategic importance of this route. But the task force is not just limiting itself to roads. It will be exploring the bigger picture with a view to more sustainable solutions like walking, cycling, bus and train infrastructure which could all help to tackle problems along the entire route.

For more information, please visit www.A127.co.uk

Christmas Thoughts....

Essex Trading Standards is wishing residents and businesses across Essex a happy and safe Christmas

However please take care when purchasing goods online to be sure that you are purchasing from legitimate reputable websites - also be aware of the return policy before you buy.

Take extra care this year when purchasing electrical goods online especially if you can see the trader is based outside the EU – as there are often instances of safety issues particularly around plugs and chargers.

Adult Community Learning Courses

Grab 10% off a Creative & Cultural course

Until Monday 31st December, ACL have 10% off the Creative and Cultural Learning programme and there is something to suit everyone! There are courses in clothes making, eyebrow threading and cooking for the family on a budget. You can learn French, Spanish & German , or perhaps you've always wanted to learn about philosophy or write your own novel.

