

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HHH

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER



**ROAD SURFACING?
WE'VE GOT IT
COVERED**

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

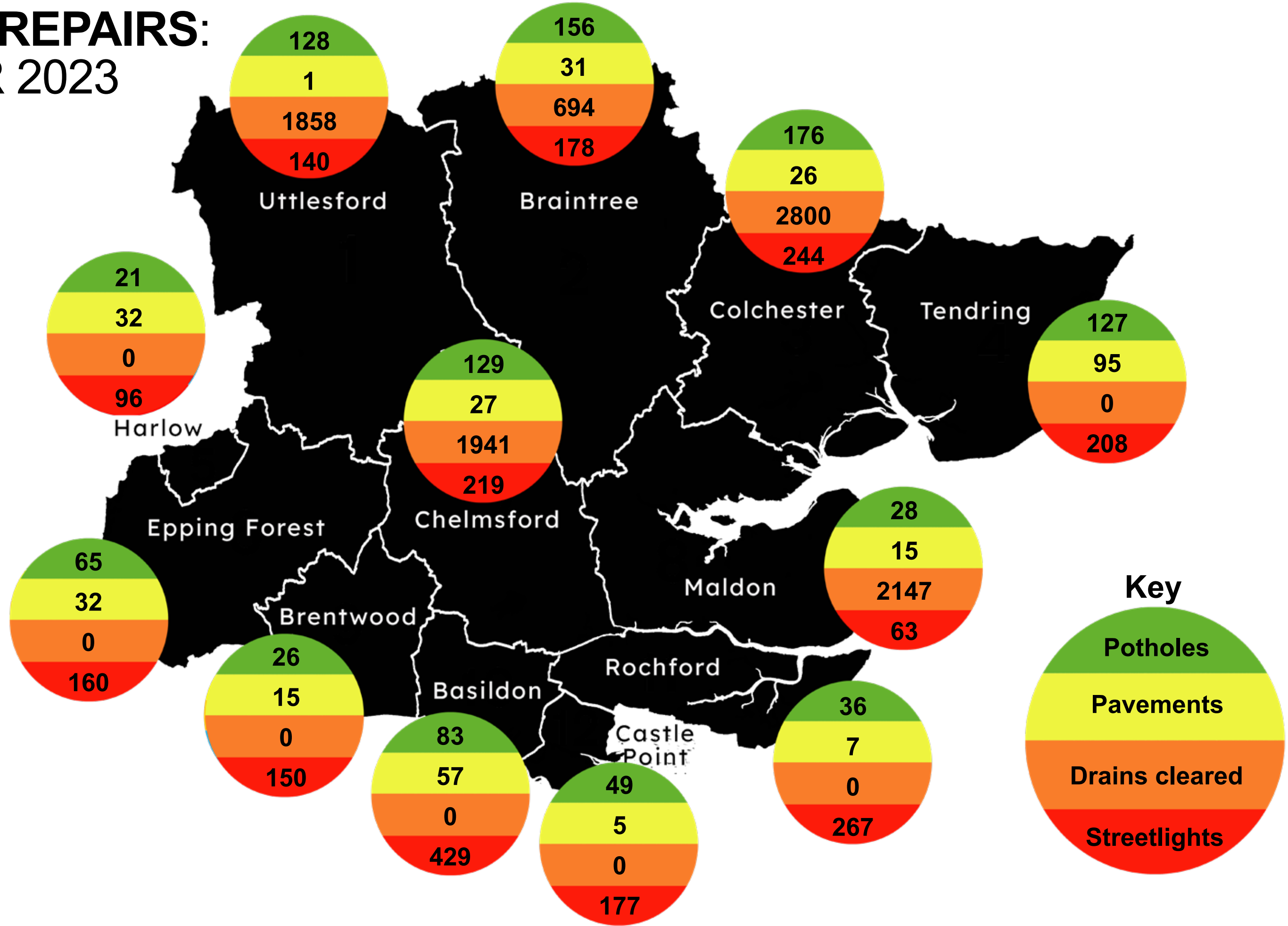
Welcome to the final edition of Highways Highlights for 2023. And a great way of drawing the year to a close was with the news that central Government has committed to making funding available for pothole repairs until 2031. This is important recognition that support for road repair and maintenance is very much needed.

You will have noticed that the winter conditions are very much with us and the gritters have been out making the roads of Essex safe to travel on. The winter is a challenging time of year for the service as the focus shifts from resurfacing and preparing the roads for improvements and maintenance next year, to battling the weather and keeping the roads as free from ice, flood water and damage from other elements as possible and understandably this means only emergency repairs can be carried out. I'd like to take the chance to thank the crews for their tremendous work this year and for keeping Essex moving over the challenging winter months, and I'm very much looking forward to meeting more Essex Highways operatives in the New Year.

I will sign off by wishing you all a peaceful festive season, particularly those colleagues working over the Christmas period to keep our roads safe.



ROUTINE REPAIRS: OCTOBER 2023



Key

- Potholes
- Pavements
- Drains cleared
- Streetlights

ROAD SURFACING? WE'VE GOT IT COVERED



Although some road surfacing is completed all year round, it is very weather dependent. Therefore, our major resurfacing programme begins with the new financial year and warmer weather from April.

Now that the nights are truly longer and darker and we've all forgotten what sunshine feels like, our resurfacing programme is all but over. So, we thought we'd give you a roundup of all the resurfacing work we have completed between April and October.

We've attended 130 sites and resurfaced 884,259 square metres of road, which is the same as...



58,754 times larger than the the area of the Royal Standard flown above Buckingham Palace.



The floor space occupied by 112 St Paul's cathedrals.



36 times the deck area of MSC Loreto, the world's largest container ship.

SURFACING TECHNIQUES

1. **Surface dressing** is used where the surface is in reasonably good condition, but needs sealing to stop water ingress which can last up to ten years. We can cover a large area very quickly at relatively low cost. We use surface dressing on most of our surfacing programme.
2. **Micro surfacing** is a slightly more durable and more expensive process which places a thin layer of a completely new surface on the road. It takes longer to cover a given area than surface dressing but is used where roads are busier, and the road needs more levelling off.
3. **Machine resurfacing** is where the existing surface is removed, and completely new depth of surface is laid as a replacement. It is a more expensive and slow process but is a great treatment to use in places where the road is badly worn and is required to take heavy traffic.
4. **Insitu-recycling** is only used in limited areas where the road is very badly out of shape. A very durable new surface can be laid, and logistics make it easier to re-use existing materials rather than bring in new stone. It is marginally more expensive treatment per area covered than resurfacing or other treatments.



£121m FUNDING FOR ROAD REPAIRS ANNOUNCED

Essex is to receive £121 million of funding for road repairs and resurfacing between now and 2034, the Government has confirmed. The funding is a reallocation of monies to Local Authorities from the HS2 scheme, helping ensure that our road network will receive repairs while maintaining the condition of roads across the county. ECC already receives funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) each year, including the additional funding the Chancellor announced in March in the Budget for pothole repairs, which is available this financial year and next. The new funding announced will ensure there is financial support for road repairs until 2034. It allows Essex Highways to deliver repairs and resurfacing for priority routes and defects, as per the current strategy to target the most unsafe issues. This follows the additional investment ECC allocated to highways in this year's budget of £17.4 million, currently being spent providing additional works across the county that might not have otherwise taken place.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, said: "The Government has recognised that well maintained and repaired roads are a priority for Essex residents. ECC made an important commitment to delivering more road maintenance works this year, allocating additional financial support for highways, and I'm pleased to see that extra repairs are being delivered up and down the county thanks to that support. The Government funding will help us continue with the repairs Essex Highways works hard to deliver."

Essex's allocation includes:

- £30.6 million existing annual allocation 2023/24 (highways maintenance block funding, Pothole Fund)
- £7.6 million of additional funding over the next two years
- £121 million of funding between 2023 and 2034

[Click here for Further information](#)



VIDEObRIEF: CLLR CUNNINGHAM DISCUSSES THE ROADMENDER TRIAL



WALKING AND CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS FOR KEY CHELMSFORD ROUTES

Work to improve a key walking and cycling route in Chelmsford city centre will start next month.

Improvements are being made to Bunny Walks. This connects Broomfield and Springfield to the city centre. New surfacing and tactile paving will be laid, improving safety for walkers and cyclists.

Works on the first section between Victoria Road and the first bridge crossing will start on the Monday 4 December. These will be completed

before Christmas. The section to Hillview Road will begin in January and take around six weeks. Works on the bridges will be undertaken in February and March, depending on weather and water levels.

Diversion routes for pedestrians and cyclists will be via Victoria Road, Bunny Walks, Brook Street, New Street and vice versa.

[Click here for updates on the scheme.](#)



USEFUL CONTACTS

With Winter now upon us, the likelihood of fallen trees, power outages and flooding following weather events increases. Help and support can be found below:

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you think there's a risk to public safety, do not report it online, please call us immediately on 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use our text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

FALLEN TREES

To report a fallen tree that is obstructing a highway please contact Essex Highways:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/trees-hedges-and-weeds>

To report a fallen tree on a highway that is a risk to public safety call:
0345 603 7631

POWER CUTS

In the event of a power cut in your area, report to UK Power Networks by calling 0800 31 63 105 or simply 105. You can also report and check power cuts in your area at ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut

FLOODING

You can keep an eye on flood warnings here;
<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>

Essex County Council is the local flooding authority:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/floods-emergency-planning>