

Chelmsford North East Bypass

Safeguarded corridor update

March 2017



Image supplied by Google

WHY IS A NORTH EAST BYPASS NEEDED?

The mid and north Essex strategic road network is essential to supporting our businesses, jobs and future. The A12, A130, A131 and A120 are key roads that create effective travel routes across the county. However there is a missing strategic link connecting the network together across north Chelmsford.

In 2007 Essex County Council and its partners laid out a long term plan for a Chelmsford North East bypass and safeguarded the land. Over the passage of time circumstances have changed and we now need to update this alignment.

North Chelmsford has long been identified as an area suitable for building new homes and businesses, and the bypass is essential to achieving long term sustainable growth across Chelmsford.

However, new development will inevitably create demand for additional road, cycle and rail use.

The bypass is part of the County Council's integrated approach, which aims to identify the infrastructure needed for future development at an early stage. This will make sure improvements or new roads are in place before significant developments are completed, keeping our economy and roads moving.

This future growth will support the continued economic success of the city and make sure there are jobs and homes for future generations.

In light of this, Essex County Council proposed a bypass between Boreham Interchange on the A12 and Deres Bridge junction on the A131. The bypass would close the gap in Essex's strategic road network. This will help ease congestion and reduce journey times in and around Chelmsford.

Updating the safeguarded corridor demonstrates good practice and will help to support the future development of the scheme.

2015 / 2016 REVIEW

In 2015 the County Council identified additional funding to allow work to be undertaken, including a review and update of the highways design and safeguarded corridor.

The work undertaken in 2015 has allowed the County Council to identify a more realistic footprint of the scheme and the land required to deliver the preferred route for the Bypass.

The proposed safeguarded corridor will generally reflect a 100m boundary, which is wide enough to ensure the bypass can be built, connect to the local road network, and provide land for environmental mitigation. In addition, the proposed safeguarded corridor would update the land required for junctions, structures and other key highway features, such as local road diversions.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION

The scheme options were put to public consultation in 2006. In 2007 Essex County Council selected a preferred route. A further public consultation took place in 2008, focusing on the junctions at the Boreham Interchange on the A12 and the Deres Bridge junction on the A131. The safeguarded corridor was included in Chelmsford City Council's 2008 Local Development Framework.

In late 2008, due to economic challenges and reduced funding for local authorities, the scheme was put on hold.

With a new Local Plan being proposed for Chelmsford there is an opportunity to update

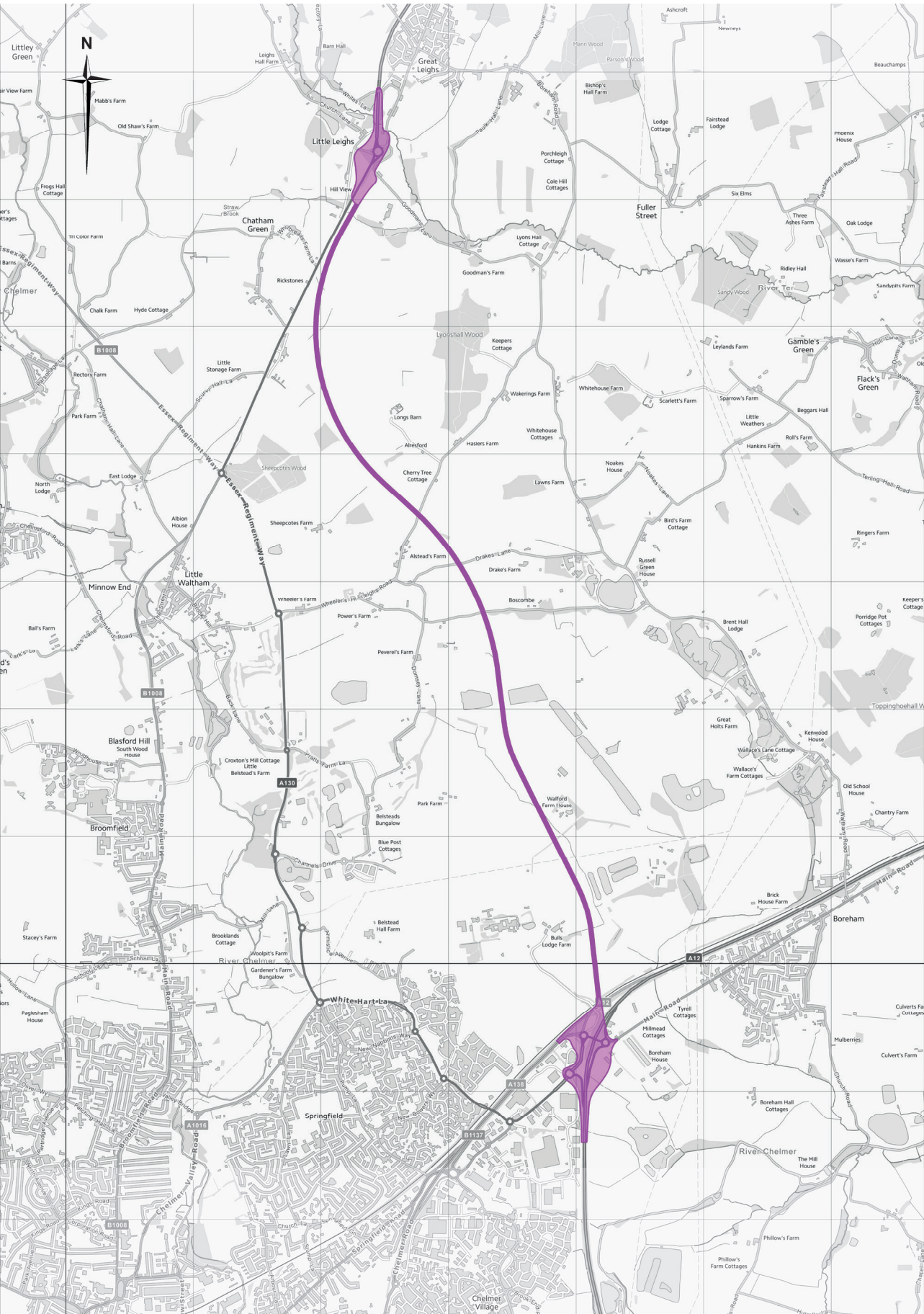
the safeguarded corridor, making sure there is sufficient space for the scheme, and that no land is safeguarded unnecessarily.

TIME FRAME, COST AND FUTURE CONSULTATION

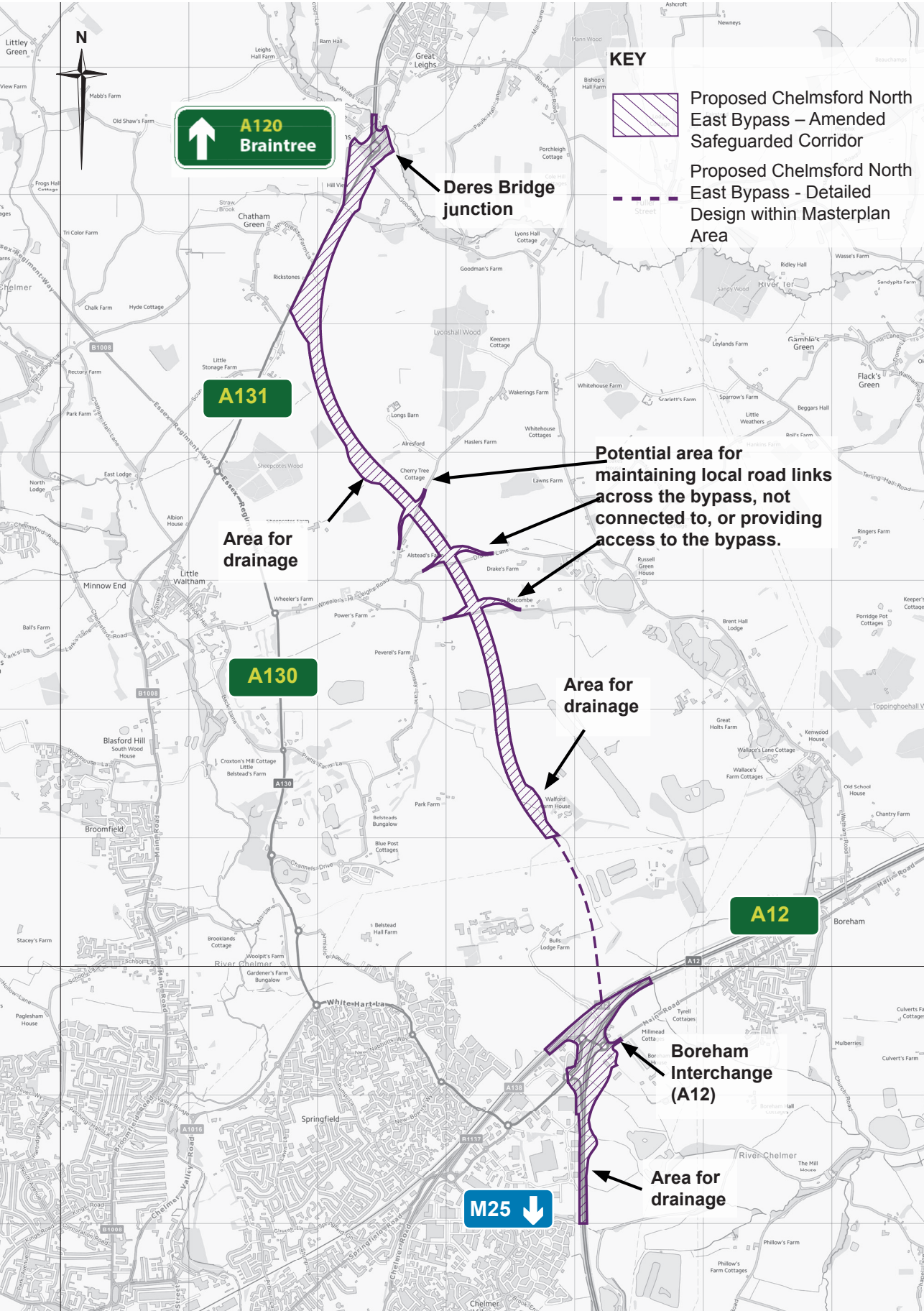
The time frame for the delivery of the scheme has not been determined, but the County Council is working closely with Chelmsford City Council to identify funding sources to deliver the bypass within the next Local Plan up to 2036. Identifying a funding source and promoting the importance of the scheme will remain key objectives going forward.

From this consultation the Chelmsford North East Bypass corridor will be updated and safeguarded within the next iteration of the Local Plan up to 2036. There will be further engagement as part of the statutory planning process before the scheme is finalised in the future. The scheme will be presented in detail as part of any formal planning application submission, providing the opportunity for further comments to be made and assessed.

CURRENT SAFEGUARDED CORRIDOR



PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE SAFEGUARDED CORRIDOR



THIS CONSULTATION

The safeguarded corridor will be allocated in Chelmsford City Council's new Local Plan.



The Council is consulting on the Draft Local Plan – Preferred Options from late March until mid-May, including the updated safeguarded corridor for the Chelmsford North East Bypass. It does not re-examine the case for the bypass, the preferred route or junction designs.

The updated safeguarded corridor is shown on the Proposals Map which is part of the consultation.

You can view the consultation documents on the Consultation Portal at:

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult

You can read and comment on any part of the whole document, or answer a simple questionnaire on key parts of the document.

You can also find out more, including other ways to respond, at:

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why is the scheme being reviewed?

Essex County Council believes that the bypass is essential in the long term and has undertaken a review of the scheme to update the technical information in order to make sure it safeguards the land needed for the future road network.

Q. Has the route changed?

No. The preferred route alignment, remains as endorsed by Essex County Council in 2007 and adopted by Chelmsford City Council in 2008. The decision on the final junction layouts are still being refined.

Q. When will we know when the scheme is going ahead?

On average it can take up to 10 years for a major road improvement to go from an idea to 'tyres on tarmac' (a fully operational road). Essex County Council has agreed a preferred route for the Chelmsford North East Bypass, so if the scheme was fully funded it could be operational in under 10 years. Currently Essex County Council is still progressing funding options and will make an announcement on further work in due course.



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