

HOUSING GROWTH IN NORTH ESSEX

Housing Infrastructure Fund:

Creating highways infrastructure which supports sustainable growth





“This bid is about delivering a step change in highway infrastructure in North Essex. Key to this is the provision of a high-quality A12 which will cater for the needs of existing and new communities alike for the foreseeable future - we want to ensure that the right infrastructure for all modes of transport is in place to support growth in the region.”

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Essex County Council
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

The A12 is part of the strategic road network and is a vital corridor in Essex and the wider East of England. It connects London to the east coast via major towns and cities such as Colchester and Chelmsford and supports the economy both nationally and internationally by providing access to major ports and airports, including Harwich International Port and London Stansted Airport.

There has been little investment in the trunk road system in North Essex for well over 30 years and yet growth in the economy and in the demand for travel has increased leading to delays and disruption.

Essex MPs, together with local county and district members, have successfully secured funding to widen the A12 between Chelmsford and Colchester. They have developed a favoured route to upgrade the existing single carriageway A120 between Braintree and the A12 to a dual carriageway – news on if Government funding has been successfully secured is expected later this year (2019).

But it is important that the county’s highways infrastructure keeps pace with the delivery of much-needed new jobs, businesses and homes proposed in North Essex.

This bid looks to add additional capacity and flexibility for the A12 between Kelvedon and Marks Tey in conjunction with that already proposed by Highways England, through the provision of more lanes and improved junctions.

We are working closely with partners including Highways England, North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC), and Local Planning Authorities to ensure the best outcome and will be consulting residents, businesses and road users as part of the process.

Enabling the delivery of housing

What are we proposing?

The main proposal is to **realign the A12 between Kelvedon and Marks Tey**. Moving the position of the A12 to the east of its existing alignment would facilitate and realise the growth potential of this part of North Essex.

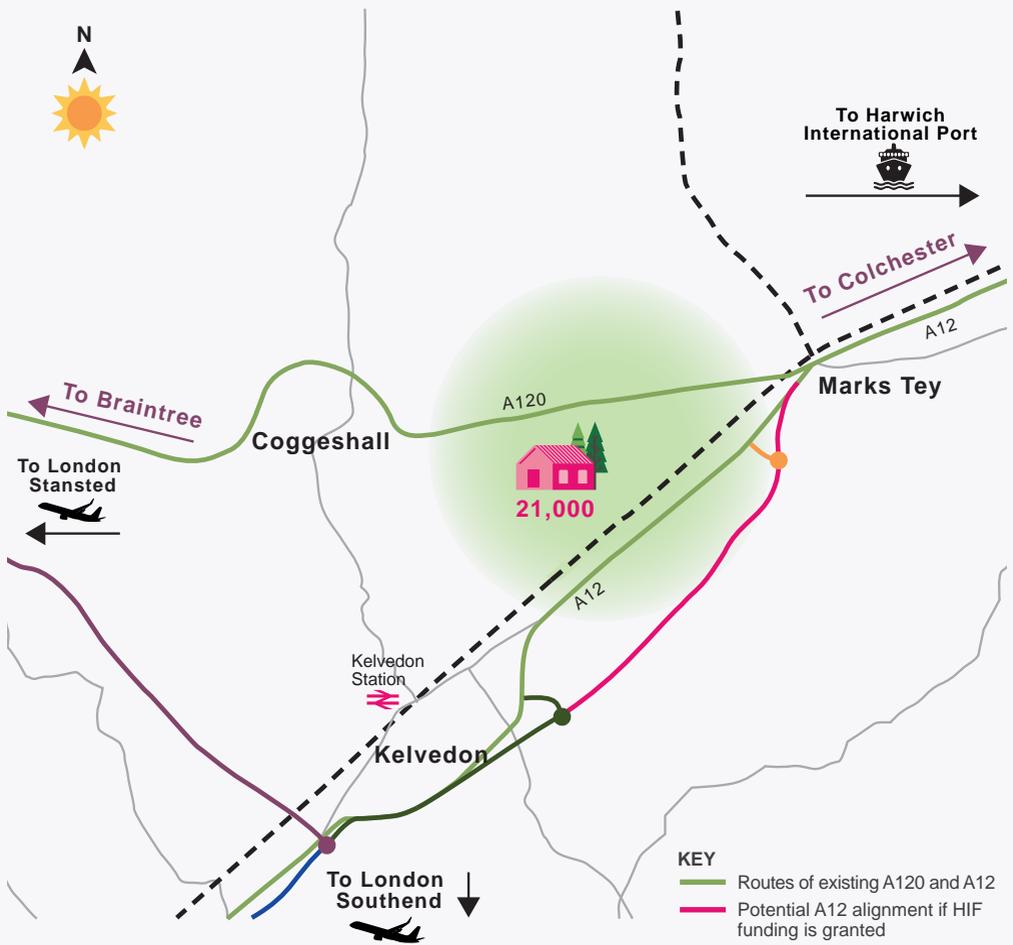
We plan to complement the realignment with a completely **new junction 25** which will provide direct access to the proposed Garden Community, **signalising junction 23** at Kelvedon where the A12 meets a new A120 to facilitate traffic flow and **widening of the Kelvedon Bypass** to four lanes in each direction to accommodate future traffic volumes.

What will this do for growth?

To put it simply, fulfilling these proposals will:

- Create quality environments attractive for existing and new communities
- Reduce traffic bottlenecks, making journey times shorter and more reliable
- Provide businesses with reliable journey times
- Enable new businesses to be set up and thrive
- Enable the development of much-needed homes





The exact location of the realigned A12 has not been finalised. Alternative alignments are being considered by Highways England.

KEY

- Routes of existing A120 and A12
- Potential A12 alignment if HIF funding is granted
- Potential A12 alignment south of Kelvedon shown by Highways England at public consultation
- Potential A120 alignment
- Upgraded Kelvedon Bypass
- New junction 25
- Great Eastern Main Line
- Local roads
- Proposed housing
- Airport
- Proposed Colchester Braintree Borders Garden Community



The case for Government funding

The East of England is one of the fastest growing regions in the country – in the next 20 years there will be a need for 180,000 new homes in Greater Essex alone. It is therefore vital that the infrastructure in the county and the surrounding areas can keep pace with this growth.

Investing in this infrastructure is vital for the future of housing in North Essex; the delivery of over 20,000 much-needed homes is dependent upon it.

Without funding from central Government for the A12 realignment and complementary schemes, it is possible that local economic growth will be stunted and have to be accommodated elsewhere in Essex. This will in-turn have a negative impact on the quality of life for residents and businesses in the area.

£229 million required to fund the A12 realignment and complementary schemes

