

Chelmsford North East Bypass

Safeguarded corridor

For inclusion in Chelmsford City Council's Local Plan:
final draft consultation

January - March 2018



WHY IS A NORTH EAST BYPASS NEEDED?

The mid and north Essex strategic road network has an essential role in supporting our businesses, jobs and future. Much of that network functions effectively, but we require a final strategic link to connect the network across the north of Chelmsford.

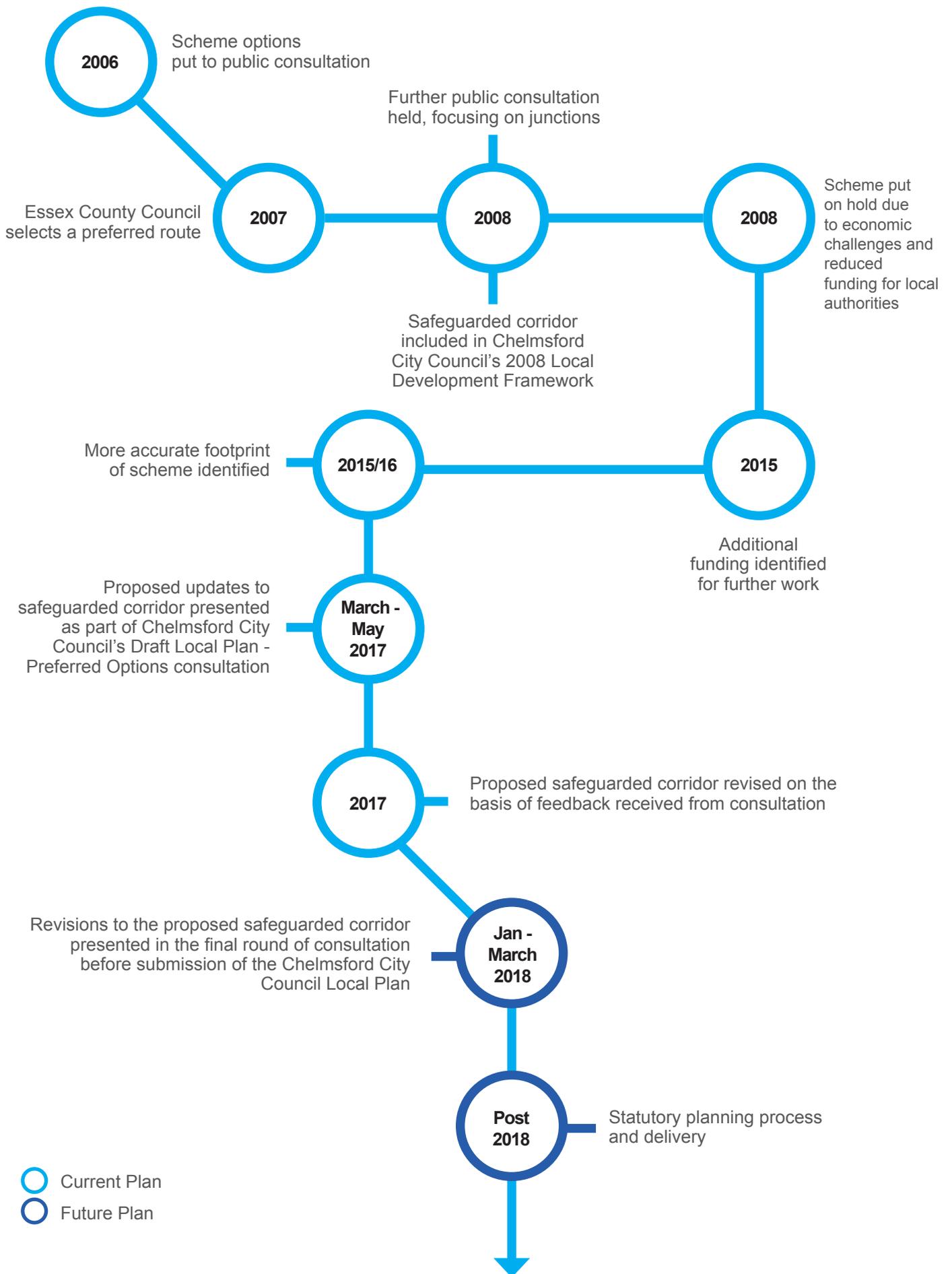
In 2007 Essex County Council and its partners laid out a long term plan for a Chelmsford North East bypass and safeguarded the land. Safeguarding is part of the planning process, and helps protect land set aside for infrastructure projects such as this one from being used for other purposes.

In 2008, due to economic challenges and reduced funding for local authorities, the scheme was put on hold. However, the corridor has been safeguarded since then, and the new Local Plan provides an opportunity to update the safeguarded corridor, by making sure there is sufficient space for the scheme and that no land is safeguarded unnecessarily.

The proposed bypass road would go from Boreham Interchange on the A12 to the Deres Bridge junction on the A131. This will:

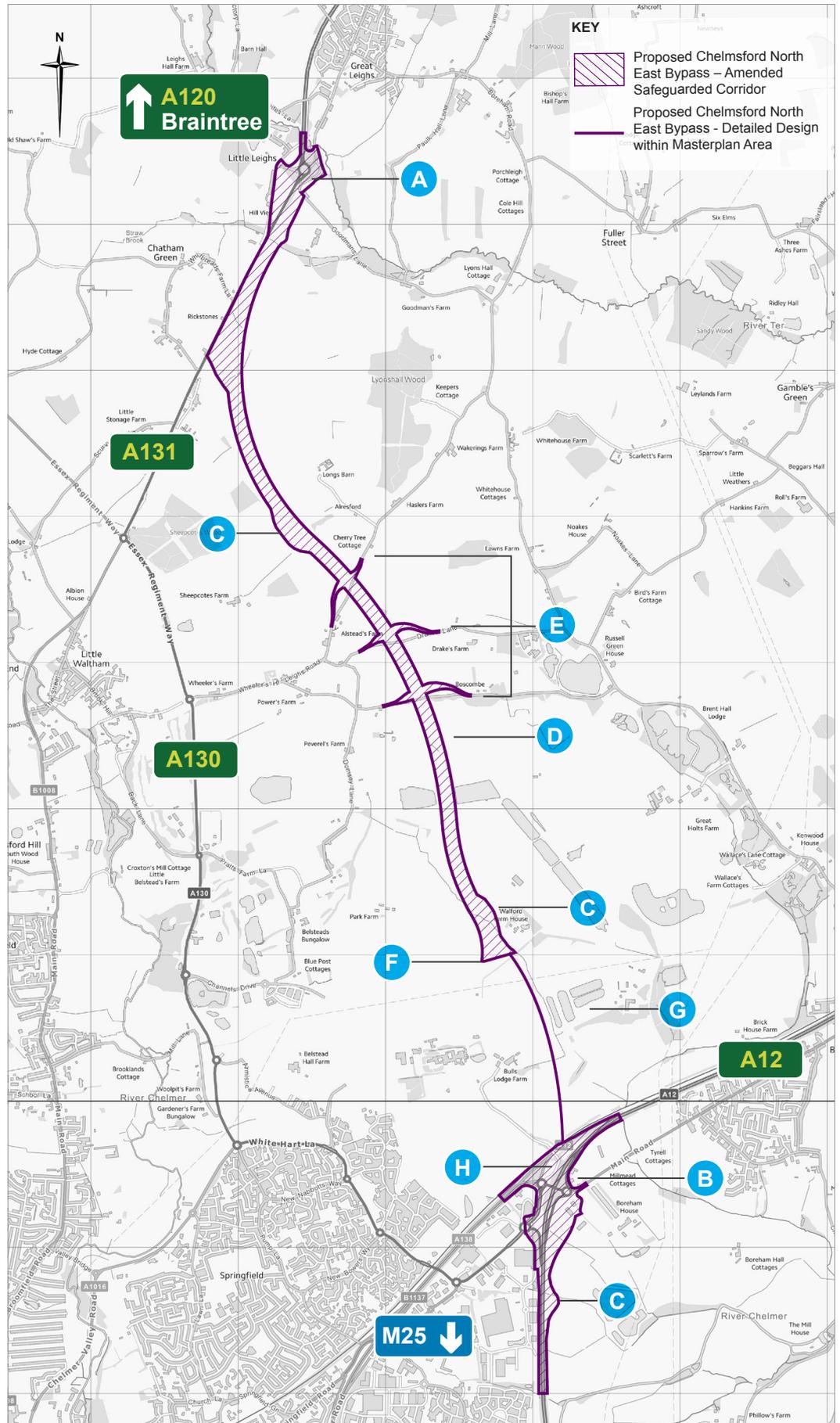
- Close the gap in Essex's strategic road network
- Ease congestion and reduce journey times in and around Chelmsford
- Support the continued economic success of the city
- Ensure that there is infrastructure in place to cope with future growth in the area
- Facilitate long-term sustainable growth across Chelmsford

The purpose of this document is to present our proposed updates to the safeguarded corridor, and seek feedback on them as part of the Chelmsford City Council Local Plan final draft consultation.



PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE SAFEGUARDED CORRIDOR

- A** Deres Bridge junction
- B** Boreham Interchange (A12)
- C** Drainage area
- D** Potential location for a junction connection to the bypass. This would be considered as part of the future scheme development.
- E** Potentially one or more of these three roads could be considered for closure at this location, with a possible conversion to a crossing point for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. These considerations would form part of the future scheme design development.
- F** Proposed corridor has been widened locally to allow for connection to the nearby area and to provide potential phased delivery opportunities for the bypass.
- G** Potential consideration of additional land for drainage and flood risk management in this area. This would be part of the future scheme design development.
- H** Potential grade-separated junction to connect to the Chelmsford North East Bypass.



CONSULTATION

The safeguarded corridor will be allocated in Chelmsford City Council's new Local Plan, so the updates to the Chelmsford North East Bypass safeguarded corridor are being presented in the final draft consultation. This consultation focuses on the compliance of the Local Plan with legal requirements and national policy. It does not re-examine the case for the bypass, the preferred route, or junction designs.



The consultation is running for six weeks from Wednesday 31st January 2018 and is the last opportunity to comment on the proposal for the safeguarded corridor updates before we begin the process of seeking legal powers to safeguard the land.

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

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

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult

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

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

There will be further engagement and consultation on the Chelmsford North East Bypass at a later date as part of the statutory planning process before the scheme is finalised. The scheme will be presented in detail as part of any formal planning application, providing the opportunity for further comments to be made and assessed.

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. Opportunities for 'phased' delivery of the bypass are also being explored and we are working closely with key stakeholders on exploring these opportunities. Developments within the new Local Plan will be required to contribute to the scheme delivery.



This information is issued by Essex County Council

You can contact us about this scheme in the following ways:

Essex County Council,
County Hall, Chelmsford,
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Sign up to Keep Me Posted email updates
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