

Chelmsford North East Bypass

Questions and Answers
November 2019

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1. What is the main purpose of the scheme?

The Chelmsford North East Bypass, which will run between the A12 and A131, will provide a strategic link between Chelmsford, Braintree, London Stansted Airport and the wider east and southeast of England, including South Essex and the Lower Thames Crossing.

2. Can the scheme ease traffic congestion?

Yes. Currently, there is only 4% space left on Chelmsford's roads during the morning and evening peak periods. The bypass will help to relieve traffic congestion on local roads now and with future planned growth.

3. Why is this still needed?

Essex County Council proposed the bypass between Boreham Interchange on the A12 and Deres Bridge junction on the A131 because the bypass would close the gap in Essex's strategic road network. The mid and north Essex strategic road network has an essential role in supporting local businesses, jobs and future. The bypass would also assist to ease congestion and reduce journey times in and around Chelmsford now and in the future.

4. Why was the scheme put on hold?

The scheme was put on hold in 2008 due to economic challenges and reduced funding for local authorities. However, funding has been approved via government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and we are now progressing with the design of the scheme for delivery.

5. Has the safeguarded corridor changed?

There have been no fundamental changes to the safeguarded corridor, however some updates were made in 2018 to ensure there is sufficient space for the scheme and that no land is safeguarded unnecessarily.

6. Why are we on site conducting surveys?

In August 2019 the council was awarded government infrastructure funding through the Housing Infrastructure Funds (HIF). Further design of the scheme therefore needs to be progressed and so during this phase, Essex County Council will undertake various site surveys to continue to inform our design.

7. How are surveys taking place?

Some initial surveys will be undertaken on foot, which commenced in October 2019 and will require several visits over the next few months to ensure that seasonal variations are accounted for. Over the next 9-12 months further surveys – environmental and otherwise are expected to be required.

8. Has the Chelmsford North-East Bypass been consulted on already?

Consultation on the route options and junction layouts took place in 2006, 2008 and 2018 respectively. The preferred route was determined in 2007 following consultation in 2006 but no decision has been made on junction layouts.

9. Will there be further consultations?

The last series of consultations took place in 2018 which was the last opportunity to comment on the proposal for the safeguarded corridor updates. However, we will continue to engage with the community and partners via the website and there will be further opportunity to comment via the formal planning application process.

10. What are the next steps now funding has been granted?

The scheme can now move forward towards the submission of a planning application. Further design work is currently being undertaken, including a number of surveys to inform the design.

11. Will there be further opportunity to comment on the scheme?

When the scheme is presented in detail as part of any formal planning application, there will be opportunity for further comments to be made and assessed. We plan to hold a public engagement event in early 2020 and in the meantime are in contact with land owners in the vicinity of the route to discuss how the scheme may affect them.

12. Has the route changed?

No. The preferred route alignment is protected and remains as selected in 2007. The decision on the final junction layouts are still being refined. For more information see website:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/highway-schemes-and-developments/highway-schemes/chelmsford-north-east-bypass.aspx>

13. When will the scheme be delivered?

Following submission of formal planning permission, the HIF Funding will provide the first phase (Phase 1) of the bypass by March 2024. This will consist of two sections: Section 1, a single carriageway between Beaulieu housing Development and new connections to A131; and Section 2, duelling of A131 between new roundabout and Great Leighs Bypass.

14. Why is the scheme delivering a single carriageway first?

A single carriageway is what is required to meet the traffic demands for the next 15 years or more. The design is purposely sympathetic to being widened to dual carriageway to cater for increases in demand in the future.

15. How much is the scheme costing and how is it being funded?

Essex County council was successful in being awarded £218M funding complementing the existing £22M funding from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership towards Beaulieu Station, from Homes England as part of the Housing infrastructure Fund (HIF). The money will enable construction of the Bypass and Beaulieu station.

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17. How is the Chelmsford North East Bypass linked with the Beaulieu Railway Station?

The new Beaulieu railway station will provide access to the Great Eastern Main Line (GEML). It will relieve crowding at Chelmsford railway station and act as a transport interchange to encourage sustainable travel by rail, bus, cycle, electric vehicles and on foot. The bypass will enhance access to and increase the catchment area of the station - it is therefore vital that these pieces of infrastructure are delivered at the same time.

18. Will this affect housing in the area?

This infrastructure will maximise the housing and economic opportunity in the area and sustain the continued delivery of hundreds of homes each year. In total the completion of over 10,000 new homes relies on Beaulieu Station and Chelmsford North East bypass opening.

19. What is being done to protect the environment and residents?

Essex County Council is committed to protecting the environment and minimising the overall impact and we will be in discussions with National bodies and Local Parties throughout the ongoing development of the project.

20. When can I see the plans?

Now. Current proposals are available on the Essex County Council website

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/highway-schemes-and-developments/highway-schemes/chelmsford-north-east-bypass.aspx>.

Chelmsford Local Plan can be found on the following page -

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-new-local-plan/new-local-plan/evidence-base/>

21. How do I find out more information?

You can follow developments on the Essex County Council website.

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/highway-schemes-and-developments/highway-schemes/chelmsford-north-east-bypass.aspx>

Alternatively, contact Essex Highways customer contact centre on 0345 603 7631 or email

CNEB@essexhighways.org.