

A Better Connected Essex

Essex Transport Strategy

Summary Document

September 2026



Introduction

‘A Better Connected Essex’ is our new transport strategy, also known as our Local Transport Plan. It sets our vision for transport in the county.

Effective transport is essential for the efficient and effective movement of people and goods necessary to support and grow the local economy. Transport connects businesses to their customers and suppliers, and people’s homes to workplaces, schools and colleges.



All local transport authorities are required by law to develop a transport strategy, also known as a Local Transport Plan.



We (Essex County Council) are the local transport authority for Essex, which means we are responsible for maintaining, planning and overseeing transport in the county.

The current Local Transport Plan for Essex, [Essex Transport Strategy](#), was written more than a decade ago and adopted in 2011. The challenges we face and the way we travel have significantly changed since then, and it is now time to adopt a new strategy (Local Transport Plan 4).

The new Essex Transport Strategy:



Sets out our transport vision, showing what we are trying to achieve for transport in Essex.



States how we will deliver and manage a full range of transport services e.g. Park & Ride, and walking and cycling facilities.



Includes a full programme of transport investment, outlining what funding support is needed.



Will help guide the transport elements of other Essex County Council plans and strategies, so that all the different parts of the council are aligned.



Will enhance our relationship with our district, borough and city council colleagues in planning and delivering new homes and jobs.

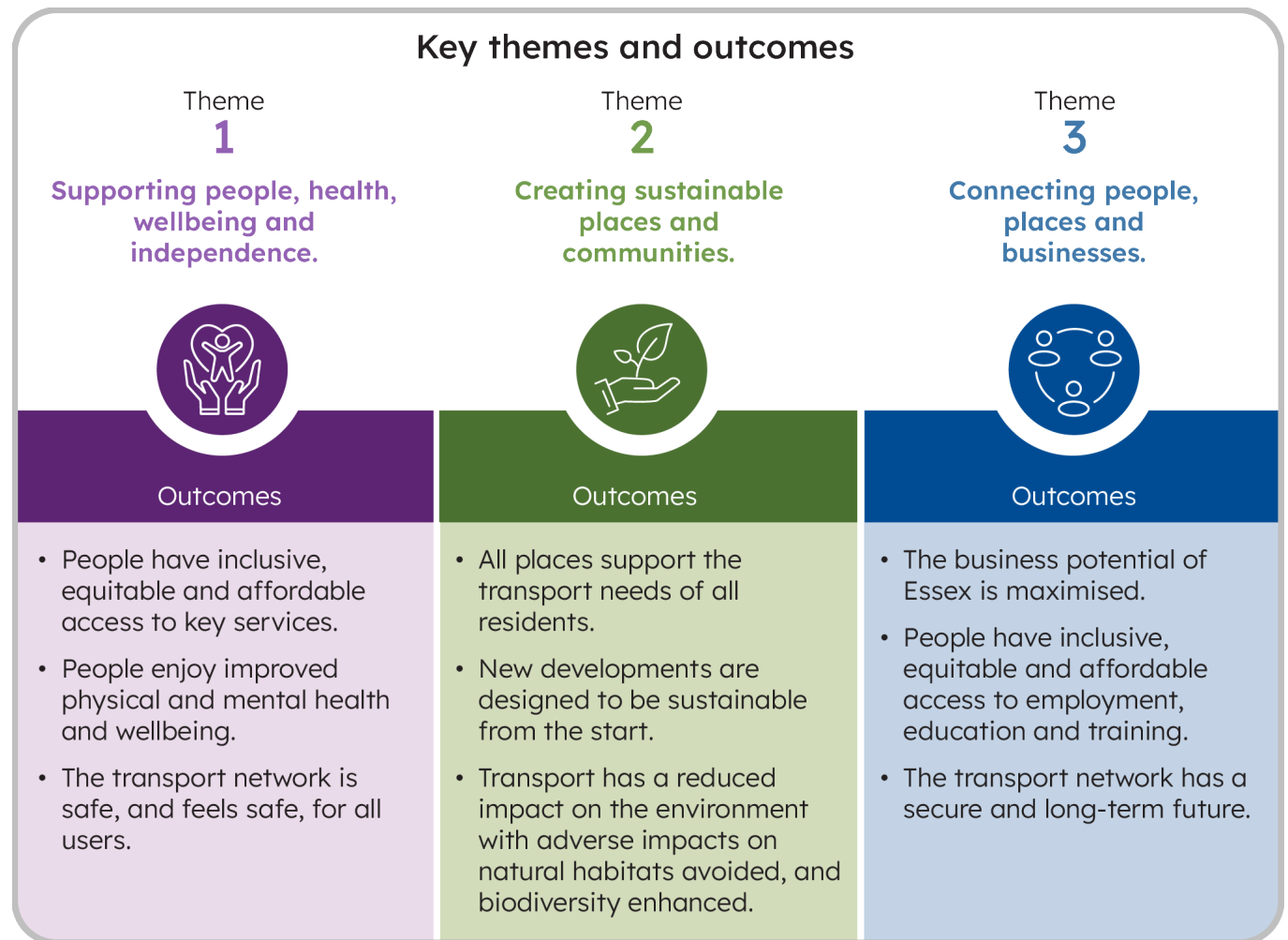
Vision, key themes and outcomes

Our new transport strategy is led by both our vision for transport in Essex and what evidence tells us we need to do and where.

‘Our vision is for a safe transport system that supports economic growth and prosperity; provides access to our homes, services, education, work and leisure; contributes positively to our places and people’s health; and enables more sustainable choices and journeys to be made.’

As part of the first stage in developing the strategy, we identified three key themes and a set of outcomes which will help us deliver the transport network Essex residents need and want.

We asked for feedback on these during our part one consultation, which took place in summer 2024. All three key themes were well supported, with each theme getting at least 83% agreement from people who responded to the consultation and each outcome receiving at least 75% agreement.



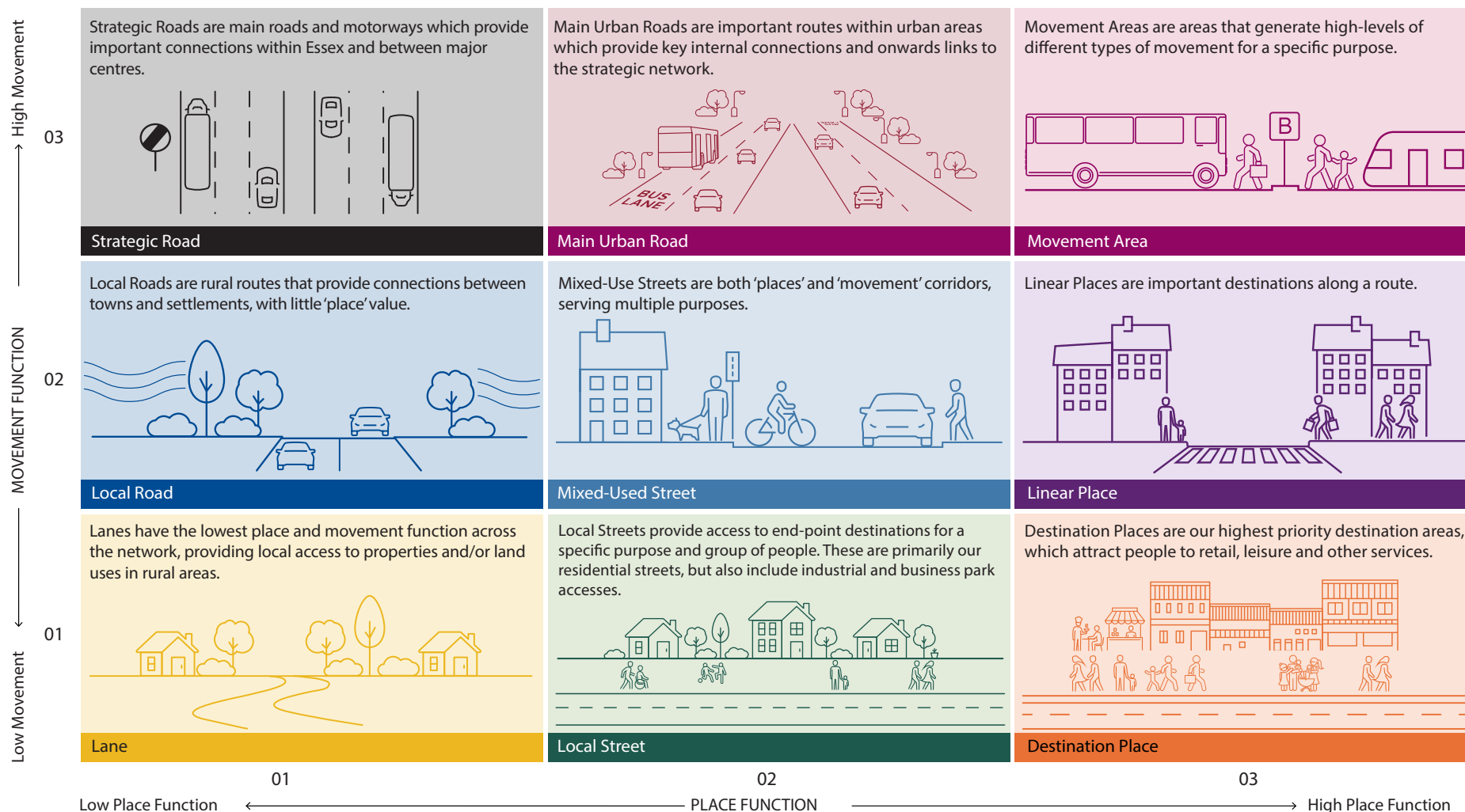
We will undertake monitoring of these outcomes to understand how our strategy is having a positive impact on people’s lives.

For more information about the key themes and outcomes, please see chapters 3-6 of our full Local Transport Plan.

Place and Movement Approach

Under our new Place and Movement Approach, all roads and streets in Essex will be grouped into one of the nine categories set out below, to help guide how we plan and manage the network.

A road's classification is determined by its level of 'movement' and 'place' function. While many of our roads will fit neatly into one of the categories, some will sit closer to the boundary with others and will be more difficult to classify. Using data and local insights, we will make an initial decision on these harder-to-define roads. All Essex roads will be regularly reviewed to make sure they reflect changing circumstances.



A three step approach to improving transport in Essex

To achieve our outcomes, we are taking a staged approach which strikes the right balance between managing the existing transport network, delivering improvements, and making more significant changes.

We won't be able to solve every problem straight away, so we will start with looking at our current network, and how we can make it safer and work better for people. We'll then consider introducing small scale changes or quick wins, working our way up to major transformational changes where necessary.



Place-based strategies

Alongside the transport strategy, we have developed 13 supporting place-based strategies. These plans set out how we aim to deliver our vision and outcomes in different parts of Essex.

The areas have been identified based on transport movements within and beyond Essex, recognising that transport of people, goods and services moves between and beyond boundaries.

The place-based strategy areas are:

- Strategic issues
- South Essex
- Basildon Urban Area
- Epping and Brentwood
- West Essex
- Harlow and Gilston Urban Area
- North West Essex
- Braintree and North Essex
- Tendring Coast
- Colchester Urban Area
- North East Essex
- Chelmsford Urban Area
- Mid Essex



Each place-based strategy includes an introduction to the area and current travel. They also set out our transport ambitions in the area and the outcomes we want to achieve. Finally, the place-based strategies outline our plan for improving transport in each area and an initial list of potential projects.

This information is issued by:
Essex County Council

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The information contained in this document can be translated, provided in print, and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

Published September 2026.