

ECC Report September 2017

Mobile library services to fit people's lives - consultation set for launch

With seven of its fleet of nine mobile libraries coming to the end of their working lives, Essex County Council is asking residents for their views on how library services to locations outside of town centres should be delivered.

Over the past seven years, use of mobile libraries has declined by nearly 50%.

The council has no plans to scrap mobile libraries entirely. Instead it is looking at a range of ways to reach people in more isolated places, including mobile libraries and encouraging more people to get involved through volunteering.

This involves helping support the creation of community libraries, staffed by volunteers, in local halls, shops or pubs and extending the Home Library Service, which delivers books to people in their own homes and helps combat social isolation.

The council wants to hear what people think of how it proposes to redraw routes and to share their own ideas for bringing libraries to more remote places.

Councillor Sue Barker, Cabinet Member for Libraries, said: "We know how much people value their mobile library service. But we also know that in recent years, fewer and fewer people have been taking advantage of it.

"Combined with other factors, such as vehicles which are coming to the end of their working lives, we have reached a point where the right thing to do is look again at how we provide these services.

"This is why we are consulting with residents on how we create a mobile library service which is a better fit with people's lives.

"We want a service which is available at a place and time which suits users; a service which is flexible enough to help volunteers set up a community library in a village hall, pub, sports club or shop. We want a service where volunteers deliver books directly to the door, and can stop to chat with the residents so that we contribute to ending social isolation, and a service which is able to respond to different local needs and settings.

"We don't want a service which wastes money by having mobile library buses parked in locations at times when no one visits."

The consultation begins at 9am on September 19 and lasts for seven weeks. To have your say, visit <http://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/mobile-library-service-consultation> or complete a paper survey available from a mobile library or in your

local library. Please note this webpage will not be live until 9am on Tuesday, 19 September.

Notes:

A video interview with Councillor Sue Barker, Cabinet Member for Libraries, is available online at <https://youtu.be/EJaoUeVGOTM>

1. Of the 5.7 million people who visited Essex Libraries in 2016/17, 64,289 used mobile libraries, down 47% from 120,578 in 2010/11, while loans of books and other items fell almost 50% to 130,702 (48%) in the same period.
2. Seven of the County Council's existing nine vehicles have reached the end of the working lives – at least one was off the road for repairs on 40 days last financial year (2016/17) and 13 days have been lost so far this year. If the council was to replace them, each new vehicle would cost £60,000 a year to lease and run.
3. The average number of visitors to a mobile library is 5.25 per stop, costing £7.95 per person per visit.
4. It is proposed to redraw current routes based on the following draft criteria:
 - That any mobile library stop is at least two miles or more away from a library
 - That the stop has been consistently used over the previous six months
 - That there are no other stops nearby serving the same community. Where two or more stops serve one community, the most popular and/or accessible stop will be kept.
5. There are 180 mobile library stops within two miles of the nearest library.
6. 35 mobile library stops had no visitors at all during a recent 12-week monitoring period (8 May to 29 July 2017)?

Essex pass rate in line with national average as delighted students collect A-Level results

Sixth form students across Essex are celebrating after collecting their A-Level results today.

About 4,850 students took exams at the county's schools this year and initial data shows Essex is in line with the national average pass rate with 97.7 per cent of all grades awarded A*- E.

77.5% of the grades awarded in Essex were A*-C, while 26% of grades awarded were A*-A.

Students also performed well in vocational level 3 subjects, with 75.9% of passes graded as distinctions or better.

ECC is committed to ensuring young people in Essex get the best possible education and the results of our County's students have again achieved is great news.

If any students are unsure what to do next, help finding education, employment or apprenticeship opportunities is available from Essex County Council's Employment and Skills Team by calling 0800 707 6384.

Alternatively, visit the team's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/esuessex

Today's A Level results come as Essex continues to outperform other local authority areas both regionally and nationally in the retention of young people in post 16 education, employment and training.

Latest figures show the percentage of young people in Essex who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose education/employment status is unknown is just 4.8% compared with an East of England average of 5.2% and national average of 6.3%.

Some 92.8% of Year 12s and 87.2% of Year 13s are currently participating in education, employment and training in Essex.

The achievements follow rigorous tracking processes from Essex County Council's Employment and Skills Team, which works hard to identify and reengage young people with learning opportunities.

Council congratulates Essex pupils on GCSE results as new grading system is introduced

Thousands of school pupils in Essex are celebrating after collecting their GCSE results.

In the first year since a new numerical grading system was introduced, about 15,000 young people were entered into GCSEs at schools in Essex this year.

Provisional figures released by Essex County Council show 66.2% achieved at least level 4 (a pass at grade C under the old system and regarded by the Department for Education as a standard pass) in English and maths.

While direct comparisons cannot be made with last year's results, the figure for Essex this year is above standards for 2016 A* to C in English and Mathematics.

English language, English literature and maths are the first subjects to be graded under the new 9 to 1 scale, with others continuing to be graded A* to G.

Most other subjects are expected to adopt numerical grades by 2019.

The Department for Education will publish provisional GCSE data in October, with the county's local authority ranking and performance under the Progress 8 (average of all students' progress across eight subjects between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4) and Attainment 8 (school's average grade across the same suite of eight subjects) measures expected to be made available at that stage.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "These excellent results cap another excellent year for education in Essex and are testament to the hard work of schools, teachers and tutors and their pupils.

"New grading scales have begun to be introduced this year to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to help better differentiate between high performing pupils.

"While this is a positive step, pupils receiving their grades today will have received a mixture of both number and letter grades which I appreciate may have created some unease.

"I would therefore like to extend extra congratulations to all pupils for their achievements this year and wish them the best of luck for the future."

Adult learners are celebrating with excellent pass rates being achieved.

73% of those that took a maths GCSE achieved a grade 9-4 (A*-C) and a staggering 85% achieved the same result in English.

GCSEs at ACL will commence in September. English and maths GCSEs are free to those people who do not currently hold a grade (A*-C) in the subject already. Biology is also available at some centres. Those interested should call 0345 603 7635

If any pupils are unsure what to do next, help finding education, employment or apprenticeship opportunities is available from Essex County Council's Employment and Skills Team by calling 0800 707 6384. Alternatively, visit the team's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/esuessex

The council's Apprenticeship Promotion and Brokerage Service are working with a number of Essex and London based businesses who are still seeking to recruit summer school leavers.

For more information on the range of opportunities available, please contact the team on 03330 1399858 or email apprenticeships@essex.gov.uk

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Key stage 4 (GCSE) results were obtained from all state-funded schools in Essex on Thursday, 24 August 2017. The statistics referred to in this release are based on those results and provide a provisional summary of the Essex pass rates for English and maths in 2017.

9 things to know about the new GCSE grades -

1. GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade
2. New GCSE content will be more challenging.
3. Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s
4. English language, English literature and maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017
5. Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades
6. The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities
7. In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get a grade 4 or above as would have got a grade C or above in the old system
8. These changes are only happening in England. Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of their changes to GCSEs.
9. You can see how the 9 to 1 grades compare with the A* to G scale in the DfE's GCSE grading postcard

Campaign to tackle menace of fly-tipping in Essex

FLY-TIPPING in Essex is draining more than £1 million of taxpayers' money each year new figures reveal.

Love Essex, a partnership of councils, businesses and environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, is launching its *#CrimeNotToCare* campaign to remind residents they could unwittingly end up with a criminal record and face an unlimited fine, if a rogue trader dumps their waste illegally.

Cllr Simon Walsh, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, said: "There were 17,547 separate incidents of fly-tipping countywide last year, costing taxpayers' £1,093,907 to clear up – money that could have been better spent on vital services.

"Almost 50% of people don't know they're responsible by law if their rubbish is fly-tipped by a third party. We hope *#CrimeNotToCare* will educate people on how to dispose of their waste correctly to ensure they don't end up with a criminal record and a hefty fine."

Today a one-tonne fly-tipping haul was temporarily dumped in Central Park, Chelmsford to highlight to the passing public how big the epidemic is. Then on Friday, 8 September, a similar event will happen in Brentwood High Street between 10am and 1pm.

In Essex there were 17,547 incidents in 2016/17, a 16% increase on 2015/16.

The number of prosecutions of residents where fly-tipped waste has been traced back to them is also on the rise.

One man was fined £461 and ordered to pay £758 prosecution costs after pleading guilty to failing his household waste duty of care at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court last month.

An Essex resident had allowed a man who knocked at his door to take 40 black sacks of rubbish away for £70 cash, without checking he was authorised to transport the waste – rules he was unaware of.

That rubbish was then fly-tipped in a garage area in Loughton and traced back to the resident.

Keep Britain Tidy Chief Executive Allison Ogden-Newton added: "*#CrimeNotToCare* is an important campaign for our country and we are delighted that Essex County Council as part of Love Essex, is partnering with us.

“There are almost a million fly-tipping incidents in England every year and cleaning it all up costs us £50 million a year. It blights communities and our countryside and is a menace.”

Ensure you don't fall foul of the law, visit <http://www.recycleforessex.com/crimenottocare> for advice.

Local authority	Fly-tips in 2016/17	Fly-tips 2015/16
<i>Basildon</i>	5,762	4,239
<i>Braintree</i>	724	775
<i>Brentwood</i>	613	665
<i>Castle Point</i>	878	1,033
<i>Chelmsford</i>	503	376
<i>Colchester</i>	2,170	1,502
<i>Epping</i>	2,384	1,944
<i>Harlow</i>	2,191	2,571
<i>Maldon</i>	309	183
<i>Rochford</i>	688	635
<i>Tendring</i>	1,132	991
<i>Uttlesford</i>	193	189
<i>Total</i>	17,547	15,103

Top tips to dispose of waste correctly

1. If you use a trader to remove your waste ask to see their waste carrier registration number issued by the Environment Agency. It is illegal for them to take your waste if they don't have a permit. Check their credentials and vehicle details here <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>
2. Make sure you get a receipt or transfer notice before your waste is taken away
3. Don't be afraid to ask where your waste is going and request paperwork that shows where it will be disposed. A legitimate waste carrier will not object to this questioning.

4. Protect yourself by being careful with your waste. Never leave rubbish, such as old washing machines or scrap metal on your drive or in the street as it could end up in the wrong hands. You can donate working items to reuse organisations or charity shops.

The campaign has been launched on 4th September 2017 for a period of six weeks.

- Love Essex campaigns are run by the Cleaner Essex Group, which consists of local authorities across the county, Essex County Council, Keep Britain Tidy and businesses, including McDonalds and KFC
- Keep Britain Tidy is a leading environmental charity that cares for the world on your doorstep. We campaign to eliminate litter, reduce waste and to improve our public spaces. We run programmes including the Green Flag Award for parks and green spaces, the Blue Flag and Seaside Awards for beaches and the Eco-Schools programme. To find out more about Keep Britain Tidy, our campaigns and programmes, visit www.keepbritaintidy.org
- Keep Britain Tidy carried out research to understand residents' attitudes to duty of care. This was a face to face omnibus survey conducted by Ipsos MORI in September 2016 on behalf of Keep Britain Tidy with 1,133 adults in England aged 18+.
- Partners for the *#CrimeNotToCare* campaign include:
 - Basildon Borough Council
 - Braintree District Council
 - Brentwood Borough Council
 - Chelmsford City Council
 - Colchester Borough Council
 - Epping Forest District Council
 - Harlow Council
 - Rochford
 - Tendring District Council
 - Uttlesford District Council
 - Essex County Council
 - Keep Britain Tidy

Quality of life for older people in Tendring enhanced by innovative partnership

Vulnerable older people in Tendring are seeing their quality of life improve dramatically thanks to an innovative partnership between Essex County Council (ECC), Tendring District Council (TDC) and the social housing sector.

Ashley House, a social housing developer, and One Housing, a not-for-profit care provider, worked with the county and district councils to create 130 new self-contained Independent Living homes for older people in the Tendring district. Rosebank Park, in Harwich, and Beaumont House, in Walton, enable people aged 55 or over with a care need to continue to live in a home of their own independently, with the benefit of 24 hour emergency support on-site.

I officially opened this great facility two months ago, deputising for the Chairman of ECC Cllr John Aldridge, and I was taken back by just what a valuable facility this is to the older residents of our district.

And now a video filmed at Rosebank Park this summer has captured, for the first time, how the lives of many vulnerable older people have been transformed. The video, published on ECC's YouTube channel, also reveals the challenges councils face to find housing solutions for older people that meet their changing needs and how ECC worked with its partners to develop and fund the new homes.

Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Adult Health & Social Care, ECC, said: "As a public body it is important we spend taxpayers' money wisely, on issues that matter to our residents – like having somewhere safe, pleasant and supportive to live in later life. We are constantly re-imagining how we deliver services and working tirelessly to secure investment in the county that can help make Essex an even better place to live and work. The partnership between us, TDC, Ashley House and One Housing to deliver these new homes for local people is a prime example of our innovative approach."

Doreen Rutson-Kemp is a resident at Rosebank Park. She said: "I saw it being built, but never imagined it was going to be anything like this. Everybody is so helpful, the people living here and the staff. There's always something to do. I'm living a different way of life because of the people I've met."

Paul Honeywood, Cabinet Member for Housing, TDC, said: "We are very fortunate to have two sites providing this added choice of Independent Living homes within our District. Working with ECC and One Housing has made this possible and I am sure that many vulnerable residents will benefit from this new approach."

Tony Walters, Chief Executive, Ashley House, said: "These schemes demonstrate how the public and private sectors can work effectively together to provide solutions for both the UK's housing crisis and the challenges surrounding our ageing population."

To be eligible an individual must be aged 55+, a resident in the Tendring District Council area, and have a care need requiring at least six hours of care per week. To find out more visit www.independentessex.co.uk, ring 0345 6037630 or email socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk

About ECC's Independent Living Programme

ECC is investing up to £27.7 million to meet increasing demand for housing options that can support and enable older people to live independently. The Independent Living programme will see 1,800 new Independent Living homes, with 24 hour care and support on-site, created around the county in the next five to seven years.

The investment will enable many more older people in the county - who would otherwise be housed in residential care, or receive domiciliary care in a home of their own that may no longer meets their needs - to live independently. Independent Living housing is also known as Extra Care or Assisted Living housing.

www.independentessex.co.uk

About Season – part of One Housing

Season offers retirement housing for sale and shared ownership across London and the South East. We build and manage homes that are affordable, vibrant and age-adapted in the UK's most desirable locations. We promote independence and active lifestyles, with the security of our skilled care and support service. We provide a tailored and personalised offering to meet your lifestyle expectations.

Season is part of One Housing – an award-winning housing provider for 50 years – providing housing care and support across London and the South East.

www.seasonhomes.co.uk

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About Ashley House plc

Ashley House is a leading Extra Care Housing and Health Property Partner working with providers and commissioners in the public, private and community sectors. The Company has 25 years of experience in providing innovative approaches in the resourcing, funding, design and development of flexible and efficient social and community health, care and supported living environments.

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