

ECC Report March 2020

Head of Communications Update

ECC Comms team remain linked into the situation via colleagues from Public Health within ECC and daily comms briefings sent from the regional PHE communications team.

Communications activity continues to be led by PHE with ECC focusing on comms locally, internally and to schools over the past week.

A joint PHE and ECC statement was issued on 1 March when news broke of the Essex case. This was shared on our website and social media channels. Cllr John Spence did interviews with local media – BBC Essex, Look East, Heart FM. Our statement and content can be viewed via

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/coronavirus-latest-information-and-advice>

Emails have been issued to line managers and to all staff over the course of the last week, re-iterating national advice. An internal news story has been published which points employees towards the official national advice, as well as business continuity information. Tailored advice to front line workers is being included in newsletters to adults and children's services staff. Hand hygiene reminder posters are also being placed in toilets across the ECC estate.

ECC renews Essex Highways partnership

Essex County Council's Cabinet has approved an extension to the authority's current Essex Highways contract with Ringway Jacobs for another five years from 2022 to 2027.

In 2012, Essex County Council entered into partnership with Ringway Jacobs to upkeep and maintain its Highways division, looking after the 5,000 miles of roads, 4,000 miles of pavements, 4,000 miles of public rights of way, 127,000 streetlights and 1,500 highways structures such as bridges.

The contract was initially signed for 10 years to 2022 and contained an option for Councillors to extend the contract for a further five years if desired.

On Tuesday 25th February, a meeting of Essex County Council's Cabinet approved the take up of an option to extend the contract for another five years, allowing investment in the network of approximately £700m over that time period.

All ECC cabinet decisions are subject to a three-day call-in period. This means that if a councillor who sits on a scrutiny committee asks for the decision to be reversed or reviewed it must be looked at by a Committee.

The three-day call-in period ended on Friday 28th February and as no call-in has been received, the extension is now approved

Secondary school places offer

Over 85% of pupils who are due to start secondary school in Essex in September 2020 have been offered their top preference of school.

On 2nd March 2020 families of more than 16,000 pupils discovered the outcome of their secondary school applications, with those who applied online getting confirmation by email or via the Essex County Council website.

Thanks to investment in school places, 85.45 per cent of pupils have been offered their first preference of school.

A further 7.99 per cent have been offered their second preference, meaning 93.44 per cent have been offered either their first or second preference.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "I am delighted that, once again, we have been able to offer so many pupils their preferred secondary school place. It is an exciting time for pupils across the county and I hope they enjoy their last few months at Primary and Junior School before they set out on their next academic adventure."

Statistics:

Full breakdown of figures for 2020

- 85.45% of parents offered 1st preference school
- 7.99% of parents offered 2nd preference school
- 2.43% of parents offered 3rd preference school
- 1.11% of parents offered 4th preference school
- 0.49% of parents offered 5th preference school
- 0.16% of parents offered 6th preference school
- 2.37% of parents could not be offered any of their preferences and have been offered a place at the nearest school with space

Total number of applicants = 16,078

Full breakdown of figures for 2019:

- 84.24% of parents offered their first preference
- 8.58% of parents offered their second preference
- 2.71% of parents offered their third preference

- 1.38% of parents offered their fourth preference
 - 0.67% of parents offered their fifth preference
 - 0.30% of parents offered their sixth preference
 - 2.12.% of parents could not be offered any of their preferences and have been offered a place at the nearest school with space
- Total number of applicants = 16,101

Essex County Council successful in two Department of Transport funding bids

On Friday 28th February it was been announced that Essex County Council has been successful in two funding bids from the Department for Transport.

The only authority in the country to have two successful bids, ECC will receive £380,000 to support with costs associated with the removal of the Army and Navy flyover in Chelmsford and £1million to invest in maintenance of Braintree town centre.

Dates released for latest Army and Navy flyover removal works

As part of ongoing works to remove the Army and Navy flyover in Chelmsford, details have been released for the next phase of the project, including daytime lane restrictions on two Sundays next month.

The steel and concrete structure is being removed section by section and transported away for dismantling and recycling, with five of the 15 spans now successfully removed.

The majority of the works are being carried out overnight between the hours of 9.30pm and 5.30am, Monday to Friday, to minimise disruption. Due to the crane and other heavy equipment needed to carry out the works, temporary lane restrictions and road closures are needed at various stages.

The proposed road restrictions for the next phase of works are as follows:

- **Nights of Wednesday 26, Thursday 27, Friday 28 February and Monday 2, Tuesday 3 March** - Full closure of A1114 Essex Yeomanry Way in both directions
- **Nights of Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 March** - Closures on Van Diemens Road inbound (towards roundabout) and A1060 Parkway in both directions (Parkway exit slip lane to A138 Chelmer Road will remain open)
- **Nights of Friday 6, Monday 9, Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 March** - Full closure of A1060 Parkway in both directions (Parkway exit slip lane to A138 Chelmer Road will remain open)

- **Sunday 8 and Sunday 15 March** - Daytime lane restrictions with carriageway reduced to one lane on roundabout and approaches/exits

Road users are encouraged to check signage and the Essex Highways website as these arrangements may change at short notice.

Appropriate diversions will be in place during any road closures. Some bus services will be impacted during the works. Please contact the bus operators for more information.

Pedestrian access will be maintained in the area throughout the works, which are on track to be completed in April 2020.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, said: “The flyover has been a well-known feature of Chelmsford for more than 40 years and we have already seen a big change to the city’s skyline following the works that have taken place so far.

“The project is progressing very well and I would like to thank people for their continued patience and understanding while these crucial works are completed.

“The Army and Navy is a vital gateway to Chelmsford and removing the flyover is an important step as we seek to make long-term improvements to the junction and create a lasting and sustainable legacy.

“With Chelmsford continuing to grow, other roads in the city centre already near capacity and a lack of space, we must encourage more people to think differently about how they travel, particularly for shorter journeys which are currently made by car.

“We understand people want a solution as quickly as possible and steps are being taken to speed things up wherever we can, however we must also follow Government processes and ensure we achieve the right scheme for Chelmsford.”

For the latest information about the flyover removal works, including latest details about proposed traffic restrictions, visit www.essex.gov.uk/highwayschemes and search: ‘A1060/A1114 Army and Navy Flyover’.

For further information about the long-term solution for the Army and Navy junction and to sign up for the project email newsletter, visit www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy.

Bradwell B public consultation

On Friday 21st February, the start of the first-stage public consultation into a new dual-reactor nuclear power station at Bradwell was announced by BRB, the ‘owning’ company for the project, with the consultation launching on Wednesday 4th March.

This note will provide you with some basic information which I hope will be helpful for you. If you receive any enquiries from residents, they can be directed back to BRB via the details in

the box below. Attached is a press release and a copy of the newsletter from BRB, which is being distributed to homes in the coming days. This also includes the exhibition venues.

Here are the key points:

- Bradwell Power Generation Company Limited, known as Bradwell B (BRB), is to develop a new nuclear power station on land next to the former decommissioned power station at Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex
- This is a joint venture between CGN (through its wholly owned subsidiary General Nuclear International Limited) and EDF who are partnering to develop the Bradwell B Project
- A new nuclear power station will be of national significance, and is known as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project or NSiP
- As such, any application will **not** be dealt with by Maldon District Council or Essex County Council. The application is made directly to the Government, examined by the Planning Inspectorate, and the decision to approve or refuse consent is made by the Secretary of State. Essex County Council is simply a Statutory consultee and are encouraging residents to make their views known to BRB, **not** ECC or Maldon District Council
- The consultation stages are an important opportunity for everyone to get involved and make their views known to Bradwell B on its proposals, so they can be taken into account as the plans are progressed. It is important that ALL enquiries are directed to the BRB team as outlined below:

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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

When the consultation launches on 4th March 2020, you will be able to find out more information about the project and give feedback by:

 www.bradwellb.co.uk

 01621 451 451

 feedback@bradwellb.co.uk

 @CGNBradwellB

 FREEPOST Bradwell B Consultation

The deadline for responding to our Stage 1 consultation is **11.59pm on Wednesday 27th May 2020**. After this date, we will collate the feedback received and use this to shape our proposals before further consultation in the years to come.

If you have any questions about our emerging proposals, please do get in contact on **01621 451 451** or by emailing info@bradwellb.co.uk.

Ipswich Road South to reopen ahead of schedule

Ipswich Road south in Colchester has reopened on 21st February 2 weeks ahead of schedule.

Essex Highways workers will have to return in the future to complete the wall strengthening and planners are looking at how to minimise any future impact.

Essex County Council will continue to explore every possible way to minimise the impact of the works and reduce the traffic management cones and barriers.

Share your views and help us build for better care

As you may be aware, we are developing exciting plans to create an elective care centre for all of our patients who need planned orthopaedic surgery, such as hip and knee replacements. We have been working with our patients, carers, staff, stakeholders and other community groups to look carefully at where the new centre could be located and have chosen the Colchester Hospital site on Turner Road as our preferred option, subject to a public consultation which launched at 4pm today 18 February, and will close at 5pm on 1 April.

The centre would open in 2024 and would have at least 48 beds and up to six specialist operating theatres. It would bring a wide range of benefits to local people, including:

- a better experience for patients and carers
- fewer cancelled operations, as beds would be dedicated for planned orthopaedic surgery and could not be used by emergency patients
- shorter waits for surgery
- new and exciting ways of working, in turn helping to retain existing staff and attract new talent to our Trust
- increased capacity to treat all local people into the future

Every patient would stay at the centre in Colchester while having their surgery. All other care before and after the operation – such as x-rays, pre-assessments and physiotherapy – would be provided at either Colchester or Ipswich hospital, depending on which is closest to their home. Emergency orthopaedic surgery would also continue at the patient's nearest hospital.

Colchester has been chosen as our preferred option because:

- There is no affordable option at Ipswich Hospital.

- Building away from either hospital, such as at the Copdock roundabout, would not give patients the rapid access they may need to other important clinical services, such as diagnostics and intensive care.
- It would free up existing beds and specialist theatres at both sites to improve facilities for orthopaedic day surgery, spinal and emergency trauma surgery.
- There is space available on the Colchester site and other facilities would not need to move, while we would also be able to rebuild the day surgery unit.
- It would create much-needed clinical space at Ipswich Hospital so that the environment for other services can be upgraded over the next few years.
- Travel to Colchester Hospital is easier for more of ESNEFT's patients.

The proposal comes as part of our 'Building for Better Care' programme and is one of a raft of improvements taking place at both sites. This includes the recently completed new urgent treatment centre, Wellness Centre and Collingwood Centre for cancer care in Colchester, as well as an extensive revamp of the hospital's front entrance.

In Ipswich, a new £35m emergency department and urgent treatment centre has been granted planning permission, with construction beginning in autumn 2020. A new breast care centre, a redevelopment of the children's centre and relocation of dermatology, dietetics and neurophysiology from the Victorian north end of the hospital site are also planned.

We believe this proposal gives us an exciting opportunity to further develop our services so that we can continue providing first class care and the best possible experience for everyone living in east Suffolk and north east Essex. We are now holding a public consultation and would like to hear from as many people as possible so that we can ensure local people's views are taken into account when a final decision is taken in the summer.

We would like to hear your views so please do take a few minutes to respond to the consultation on line <http://www.esneft.nhs.uk/publicconsultation/> or by email hello@esneft.nhs.uk and contribute to a meaningful discussion about how we can do things better in the future. A series of social media chats and public meetings will also take place. Please feel free to forward this information to others to encourage them to get involved in the consultation.

All of the feedback we receive will be taken into account when North East Essex and Ipswich and East Suffolk clinical commissioning groups make a final decision on the proposal in the summer.

