

From: Cllr Kevin Bentley, Member CC <cllr.kevin.bentley@essex.gov.uk>

Sent: 05 June 2020 15:37

Subject: Walking and Cycling in Essex

Dear ECC Member,

Earlier today the County Council, in partnership with Chelmsford City Council and Colchester Borough Council, announced how we would be putting the £1.9 million we received last week from the Government to excellent use to create safer spaces for walking and cycling in both centres.

A Link to our initial communication is here: www.essex.gov.uk/news

We have been led by public health requirements and the key imperative to keep people socially distanced and as safe as possible in our plans and designs, with the ambition of making both centres and in turn all our major towns safer, greener and healthier places.

Work in Chelmsford begins on Monday and in Colchester on Tuesday, ready for Monday 15th June and the re-opening of town centre retailers.

We have undertaken this work in partnership not just with other councils but also with business and town centre representatives, local walking and cycling groups, disability groups and the police. This engagement has begun but will be ongoing. Local residents in both centres have also been written to.

It is very much our intention to seek to make the measures we have implemented permanent, subject to their effective operation. To do this, we will need to secure the further funding from the Government, but Essex is one of the first Counties in the country to implement schemes of this nature, so we will be well-placed to bid.

Chelmsford and Colchester are of course the locations where this work has started, and work is already underway to investigate the potential for similar schemes and other measures in town centres across the County. I will of course keep you updated on the progress of our planning over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Kevin Bentley

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

For advice on Essex County Council's response to the current Coronavirus situation please visit www.essex.gov.uk/coronavirus or our facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/essexcoronavirusactionsupport/>