

Frequently Asked Questions

What does LCWIP stand for?

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

What is an LCWIP?

An LCWIP is a tool used by local authorities to help plan long-term cycling and walking networks. These networks enable people to have the opportunity to walk or cycle to their local destinations.

Why do we need LCWIPs?

The LCWIPs are designed to plan cycling and walking networks over time (usually a ten-year period) and are an important step, not only for Essex to become a safer, greener, and healthier county but also to enable residents to have the opportunity to become more active by cycling and walking.

What are the benefits of having an LCWIP?

An LCWIP is essential for securing government funding for walking and cycling schemes. This funding allows walking and cycling networks to be created linking residential neighbourhoods with key destinations but also ensures that there is a regular pipeline of schemes or routes which are undergoing detailed feasibility and design.

With improved infrastructure over time, there is likely to be an increase of people either walking or cycling which leads to improvements in public health and wellbeing. Furthermore, as the routes are developed there may be opportunities to not only enhance accessibility but also to help make streets attractive as thriving places.

How will the LCWIPs encourage more walking and cycling?

The LCWIPs will help identify key routes thereby enabling people of all abilities the opportunity to walk and cycle with confidence and comfort. By having high quality routes in place, we can unlock the potential to improve health and wellbeing and decrease air pollution and congestion whilst boosting local economy.

When will the LCWIP consultations take place?

The LCWIP consultations will launch in three phases. The first will cover Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Colchester and will launch on 31st July 2023 for eight weeks. The second will launch in Rochford, Basildon, Castle Point, Witham, and Uttlesford in Autumn 2023. The third will see the launch of a strategic Essex-wide consultation network as well as the remaining districts which haven't been covered in stages one or two. This will launch in early 2024.

How long will the LCWIPs last?

The LCWIPs are 10-year plans but reviewed around every three years as part of the Government's Gear Change strategy. Essex County Council is planning to approve the LCWIP networks in 2024.

We will ensure that residents are kept updated throughout the process and work with residents, communities and businesses so that they understand what is happening in their local area.

Where can I look at the designs for each of the proposed LCWIPs?

The purpose of these consultations is to help Essex County Council prioritise the routes along the identified networks in order to secure future government funding. The development of individual

schemes along the networks themselves is a separate process and will be subject to funding being made available. The design work will be undertaken on a scheme-by-scheme basis, with consultation on the proposed infrastructure being undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

How soon will the actual routes be built?

We are working up a pipeline of schemes, but delivery is dependent on securing the necessary funding and feasibility. We are expecting to make funding bids this autumn/winter 2023/24.

Why have some of the routes been revised since the original LCWIP strategy was developed in 2019?

The original LCWIP strategy identified corridors where improvements were needed for cycling and walking and this was supported by previous consultations. Since then, the Department for Transport has produced new design standards, LTN 1/20 and Active Travel England has been established, providing new guidance and tools. Therefore, we feel it is appropriate to review LCWIPs at regular intervals to align with new policy and best practice.

Does Essex County Council have plans to introduce Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs)?

Essex County Council has no plans for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) which limit “through” traffic in residential neighbourhoods. However, any initiative we undertake in future around increasing active travel in neighbourhoods will focus on understanding how infrastructure and design can encourage more walking, wheeling and cycling by making it safer and easier to move around.

Enabling more people to choose to walk or cycle where appropriate, rather than use their cars for shorter trips, encourages more physical activity, boosts both physical and mental health and helps everyone meet local and national climate objectives.

Why are you creating new walking and cycling routes when there are so many potholes that need repairing?

The funding we receive from Active Travel England (ATE) cannot be spent on pothole repairs. Potholes are funded separately. If you wish to report a pothole, please use the link below or contact your relevant county councillor.

[Potholes - Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](https://www.essexhighways.org)