



## CHRIS SIDDALL - HALSTEAD DIVISION REPORTING BACK 24-25

### MY ROLES AT ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- Chairman of the Braintree LHP (Local Highways Panel), there are 12 panels in Essex which look at small schemes to improve road safety.
- Large schemes will now be referred to a newly formed Chairmans panel for consideration.
- Vice Chairman of the Audit Governance and Standards Committee.
- Member of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee.
- Member of the Transformation Board, looking at how the Council can change the way it delivers its services in the future.

### LGR (Local Government Reform) and Devolution coming soon

- 2026 you will most likely be voting for the Mayor of Essex as a first step for LGR.
- With the proposed LGR and Devolution the ECC 2025 elections have been postponed for one year, ECC request to be considered for LGR and Devolution has been accepted by central government and the final submission to central government has to be submitted by September 2025.

### GROUPS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED WITH ECC LOCALITY FUND

- Funding for grants is available from your Essex County Councillor to support initiatives from activities of the Parish council and community groups and I would be delighted to hear from any residents who have schemes they would like to put forward for consideration.

### ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND MORE TO COME

- Significantly more money has been invested this year to bring the road network up to scratch.
- The member pothole repair Scheme will continue, and be extended to give each Councillor a road repair crew for a full week. Several times per year.
- Essex County Council members can direct the crew to carry out the most important repairs to both Roads and Pavements in their division this scheme is proposed to continue in 25/26.
- Major improvements to road repairs has already been seen, such as on Colchester Road in Halstead, both quantity and quality.

### COUNCIL TAX INCREASE

- 1.75% for the general ECC council tax precept.
- 2 % Increase for Adult Social Care – costs have increased significantly, the total population of Essex is around 1.5 million, Essex County Council has a main budget of around £1 billion, with around half of this, £500 million is spent on 17,000 persons who are the most vulnerable in our society.

If you need to get in touch or need me help please email me at:- [cllr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk).