

## MDC INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

### Public Attendance at Meetings Returns

Following the relaxation of Covid rules, Maldon District Council's Corporate Leadership Team has made a decision using emergency powers to bring back public physical access to meetings in the Council chamber. Maldon District Council's Head of Paid Service, Richard Holmes said: "The Council chamber has limited public space, some of which has been used for equipment to enable web streaming throughout the time restrictions have been in place and for future use.

"I can advise that we are able to accommodate six members of the public in the chamber and will provide an overflow room for viewing too. To secure your place for attendance please register at <https://forms.office.com/r/ymDp8Wgnavu> . Spaces will be allocated to members of the public who have registered first and then on a first come, first served basis.

"We invite all members of the public attending meetings to wear a face covering and complete a lateral flow test for the safety of themselves and others.

"We will continue to run the YouTube stream during this period and encourage the public to view the meetings live in this way visiting <https://www.maldon.gov.uk/watchlive>"

This decision made by Officers will be in place until the 25 February. Councillors will consider a full report on this matter at the next Council meeting on 24 February 2022.

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Following the recent changes to COVID rules, the decision has been taken that public access to meetings in the Council chamber can resume. Space is limited so people wishing to attend are invited to register first to secure their place. [Public Access to Meetings Returns](#)

The [Notice of Referendum on the adoption of the Langford and Ulting Neighbourhood Plan](#) has been published. The referendum takes place on 3 March 2022.

HMRC is reminding families that they can get up to £2,000 a year to help with childcare costs. Tax-Free Childcare provides eligible families with up to £500 every three months (or £1,000 if they are disabled) towards the cost of holiday clubs, before and after school clubs, and childminders and nurseries.

Go to [Tax-Free Childcare](#) to find out more

The Transport East consultation on the future of transport in the region closes on 30 January so time is running out to have your say. Find out more by going to [Future of Transport in the East](#)

A new booking system for vans is being trialled at recycling centres across Essex. From 28 February, anyone visiting Maldon Recycling Centre with a van, pick-up or large trailer will need to book a slot in advance by going to the [Love Essex website](#).

Essex Police have shared their Marine Unit Newsletter for January plus two updates regarding marine crime and dog thefts – all attached.

Latest Covid Cases - [Latest data: Cases in Essex by district, per 100,000 per week - Essex County Council](#).

### Latest Government Information re COVID-19

England returned to [Plan A](#) on Thursday 27 January - You can read [the full guidance](#) here which outlines all the changes.

A reminder that letting fresh air in to any enclosed space is still important to disperse COVID particles - graphic attached.

From 11 February if you are fully vaccinated you no longer need to take a COVID-19 test either before or after you arrive in the UK. Check the latest rules for travel at [Travel to England from Another Country](#)

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Bags of Taste is running another course in Maldon District and are currently taking referrals at [maldon@bagsoftaste.org](mailto:maldon@bagsoftaste.org). The course is funded through the Maldon Livewell fund and is therefore free for participants. The mentorship course teaches participants the skills to cook healthy meals on a budget to feed themselves and their families for below £1 a portion. The FREE bag of ingredients is delivered to the referred persons door and the referred client can cook the three meals in their own time

Many of our beneficiaries have multiple and complex challenges and a large majority have mental health issues. We are specialists in getting these people to make lasting change to their eating habits and this impacts hugely on their overall health and future well-being.

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1. The Statement of Persons Nominated have been published for the two **by-elections** taking place on 24 February. If you wish to share this, please use the links below:

**Facebook**

post: <https://www.facebook.com/227019360780492/photos/a.609507059198385/2127703330712076>

Twitter post: <https://twitter.com/MaldonDC/status/1488437063095574530>

Press release: [https://www.maldon.gov.uk/news/article/6730/by-election\\_news\\_-\\_statements\\_of\\_persons\\_nominated\\_published](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/news/article/6730/by-election_news_-_statements_of_persons_nominated_published)

2. Local groups/residents are being encouraged to take part in the **Festival of the Sea** which is happening in June 2022 as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events. People can get involved both on and off the water, for example through coastal walks, boat races or coastal art trails. The Lord Lieutenant's office is inviting local groups to register their interest in an event. The communications team are currently reviewing marketing activities for this which will be shared in due course.

3. The **Omicron Hospitality and Leisure grant** is open to hospitality and leisure businesses and provides eligible businesses with a one-off grant of up to £6,000. The closing date is 13 February. If you wish to share this, please use the links below:

**Facebook**

post: <https://www.facebook.com/227019360780492/photos/a.609507059198385/2127189080763501>

Twitter post: <https://twitter.com/MaldonDC/status/1488167105111511045>

**Press**

release: [https://www.maldon.gov.uk/news/article/6727/omicron\\_hospitality\\_and\\_leisure\\_grant\\_%E2%80%93\\_application\\_form\\_now\\_live](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/news/article/6727/omicron_hospitality_and_leisure_grant_%E2%80%93_application_form_now_live)

4. Essex County Council has launched a **consultation** about the proposal for a new **420 place primary school** on the Limebrook Way development in Maldon. If you wish to share this, please use the links below:

**Facebook**

post: <https://www.facebook.com/227019360780492/photos/a.609507059198385/2128608267288249>

Twitter post: <https://twitter.com/MaldonDC/status/1488890081653972992>

5. The Boundary Commission for England has published more information on the secondary consultation on the proposed new map of constituencies across England. The consultation will take place from 22 February to 4 April 2022 and feedback can be given by email or letter or in person at a public hearing. The communications team are currently reviewing marketing activities for this which will be shared in due course.

6. **Latest Covid Cases** - [Latest data: Cases in Essex by district, per 100,000 per week - Essex County Council](#).

## Vegan Market Arrives in the Maldon District for the First Time!

On Saturday 19 March 2022, Maldon's Promenade Park will be lined with a handpicked selection of ethical and sustainable vegan food stalls and street vendors.

The Maldon Vegan Market promises to offer something for everyone to enjoy and will feature a huge variety of vegan street food, artisan bakes and craft cheeses. It will also offer handmade cosmetics, ethical clothing and jewellery, arts and crafts and charity stalls.

Organised by the Vegan Market Company (VMCO), the event will run from 10.30am to 4.00pm and has been designed to make veganism more accessible and inclusive for anyone interested in living a more sustainable lifestyle. VMCO's founder, Lewis Beresford said: "We are so excited to be coming to Maldon for the first time. We work hard to find the country's leading vegan producers, from street food vendors and bakers, to ethical clothing and cosmetic producers.

"We also work with many local businesses and can't wait to give all of these fantastic producers the platform they deserve and to introduce them to the wonderful people of the Maldon District.

"It is our mission to showcase some of the country's best ethical and sustainable producers and make it our mission to make veganism accessible and inclusive.

"We are also proud to be promoting sustainable lifestyle choices with our events and supporting local communities to discover veganism and ethical shopping."

Zeb and Harriet, owners of the Gnome Café in Maldon said: "As a newly opened vegan business in the heart of Maldon High Street, we are so excited to be joining many other like-minded businesses for this event.

"We hope the vegan market continues to drive the conversation of environmental ethics and sustainability in Maldon and gets people to try something new!"

Details about the market will be published by Visit Maldon District through [www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk](http://www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk), and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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## £250,000 Social Enterprise Accelerator Fund Launches in the Maldon District

Maldon District Council is working in partnership with Social Enterprise East of England (SEEE) to deliver a brand-new [Social Enterprise Accelerator Fund](#).

Grants of up to £50,000 will be available to social enterprises, community focussed organisations and social entrepreneurs to enhance the economic, social and cultural life in the Maldon District. These activities will develop a resilient social economy for the benefit of residents and local communities.

Ongoing support and advice will also be available from SEEE for organisations to work together in a local social enterprise network.

A Council Spokesperson said, "Our communities have been hit hard during the pandemic, but their resilience has shone through. This fund will support the growth of community focused enterprise and provide organisations with a catalyst to develop and grow further. By working with Social Enterprise East of England, we are drawing on recognised, industry expertise which will be invaluable."

Debbie Lee, Managing Director, Social Enterprise East of England, said, "SEEE is delighted to be partnering with Maldon District Council to deliver this accelerator programme for social enterprises. The funding recognises the exciting and innovative way social enterprises have responded to societal challenges caused by the pandemic and comes at a time when the demand for services the sector is providing has never been greater. This, together with the support we will be providing not just to those awarded the funding but to other social enterprises in the District, has the potential to really make a difference for local people."

For further information on the new fund and how to apply, visit [www.seee.co.uk/maldon](http://www.seee.co.uk/maldon).

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Report to Parish Councils of Mayland Ward – 8/2/2022

The Strategy and Resources Committee met on 3/2/2022 and considered reports on Supplementary Estimates, Virements, Procurement Exemptions and use of reserves. Also reports on Capital and Investment Strategies for 2022/23 and Minimum Revenue Statement for 2022/23; Discretionary Fees and Charges for 2022/2023; Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/2023 to 2024/25 and revised 2021/22 Estimates, Original 2022/23 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2022/23.

The Full Council Meeting of 24 February 2022 will set the budget/Council Tax for the Financial Year 2022/23. A report covering a review of Memorials in Cemeteries, Parks and Open Spaces Policy went before the Strategy and Resources Committee and a recommendation will go to Full Council regarding the issue of benches /memorials in that the updated policy be implemented no later than 1/4/2022 and the new scheme regarding benches/memorials be introduced with effect from 1/4/2022.

The Government has released its Levelling up White Paper. It is a moral, social and economic programme for the whole of the country. The Government sets out how it will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It summarises the elements of the 12 missions relevant to local councils and provides details of the Government's improvement and support offer for areas looking to take forward a devolution deal. Essex Local Authorities will all be looking at the detail, the options, what it may mean and what needs to be considered.

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MDC can accommodate up to six members of the public in the chamber and will provide an overflow room for viewing too. To secure your place for attendance please register at <https://forms.office.com/r/ymDp8Wgnavu> Spaces will be allocated to members of the public who have registered first and then on a first come first served basis.

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MDC communities have been hit hard during the pandemic, but their resilience has shone through. This fund will support the growth of community focused enterprise and provide organisations with a catalyst to develop and grow further. By working with Social Enterprise East of England, MDC are drawing on recognised, industry expertise which will be invaluable.

SEEE is delighted to be partnering with Maldon District Council to deliver this accelerator programme for social enterprises. The funding recognises the exciting and innovative way social enterprises have responded to societal challenges caused by the pandemic and comes at a time when the demand for services the sector is providing has never been greater. This, together with the support that will be provided not just to those awarded the funding but to other social enterprises in the District, has the potential to really make a difference for local people.

For further information on the new fund and how to apply, visit: [www.seee.co.uk/maldon](http://www.seee.co.uk/maldon)

### [Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant](#)

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant gives local councils funding to support to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses with a one-off grant.

The amount of the grant depends on the rateable value of the business premises.

Eligibility: The aim of the grant scheme is to support businesses in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors that offer in-person services and where the main service and activity takes place in rated premises.

You should not apply for this grant if your business: does not operate from a property that is rated or is a retail business or offers hairdressing, barber or beauty service or is a gym/sports business where physical exercise or training is conducted on an individual or group basis

Definitions: These are general descriptions. *For further details read the MDC policy on the web site:*

Hospitality -This is a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption of food and drink.

Leisure -This is a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events, days and nights out, betting and gaming.

Accommodation- This is a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel and other purposes.

Award amounts- If on 20 December 2021, your premises had a rateable value:

of exactly £15000 or under, you will receive £2667

over £15000 and less than £51000, you will receive £4000

of exactly £51000 or over, you will receive £6000

How to apply: MDC are required by government to complete additional checks before making any payment for this scheme. To allow this to happen the scheme will be open for applications until 28th February 2022.

*Please see the policy (on MDC website) and MDC web site for more detail*

[Additional Restrictions Grant](#): The additional restrictions grant gives local councils further funding to support to businesses impacted most severely by the Omicron Variant. The scheme opened on 7 February for a period of up to 3 weeks. Eligible businesses will receive a one-off grant of £1000. The funding for the scheme is limited and we reserve the right to vary the amount or the period that the scheme is open for.

Eligibility: Due to the limited funding available, the Council has decided that businesses who can apply for a grant under this scheme are those that have ongoing, unavoidable fixed property costs, have been severely impacted by the Omicron Variant and are either:

Businesses that are predominantly reliant on social indoor mixing ( hospitality, leisure, event/event management and accommodation sectors) or are in the supply chain for hospitality, leisure event/event management and accommodation sectors or are businesses that are not directly liable for business rates and whose business rates are included within rents (operating in shared spaces):

*Full details regarding the grant can be found on the MDC web site*

[HMRC is reminding families that they can get up to £2,000 a year](#) to help with childcare costs. Tax-Free Childcare provides eligible families with up to £500 every three months (or (£1,000 if they are disabled) towards the cost of holiday clubs, before and after school clubs, and childminders and nurseries.

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

If you've already registered, you can sign into your childcare account.

If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you'll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.

You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both.

[The Transport East consultation on the future of transport](#) in the region closed on 30 January.

The public consultation was on the draft Transport Strategy and draft Investment and Delivery Programme.

The Council has responded to the consultation.

Transport East will analyse all the responses and issue a report, before reviewing the documents. Final versions of both documents will then be published and submitted to the Department for Transport.

[Book your slot to visit a recycling centre in a van](#)

If you want to visit an Essex recycling centre in a van (including pick-up trucks and any vehicle towing a trailer with more than one axle), from 28 February 2022 you will need to book a slot in advance. Please remember, recycling centres only accept household waste.

There is no charge to book, but you need to make a booking each time you visit.

When making the booking, you will be able to select the recycling centre you wish to visit. Once you have chosen your recycling centre, a calendar will appear displaying the time slots. Fully booked slots will be greyed out, and available slots will be green.

You can also view the capacity of each slot in the bottom right-hand corner of the time slot so you can see how busy each slot is.

Once your booking is complete you will receive a confirmation email. Please bring the booking confirmation and proof of address. Only residents of the Essex County Council area will be allowed access.

Please note: Booking slots will be made available for a maximum of two weeks in advance.

Bookings cannot be made on the same day. Bookings will close two days in advance to allow for a detailed list to be provided to the sites and administrative teams.

To ensure fair usage, residents visiting a recycling centre in a van, car-derived van, pick-up truck or any vehicle towing a trailer with more than one axle will be limited to one booking per week.

Bookings will be for an hourlong time slot. You can arrive at your designated recycling centre at any point within this time slot. However please be aware you have 20 minutes to unload your vehicle once on site. If you are planning to visit towards the end of your time slot, please note you must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the end of your slot.

A booking slot does not allow priority access. If you arrive and there is a queue, please do not try and skip the queue as you will be refused access.

If you miss your slot, you will have to book another slot to visit on another day.

If you would like to cancel your booking, the booking confirmation email will contain a link called 'return to my booking'. If you click this link, you will be able to follow instructions to cancel your booking.

If you do not have access to the internet, bookings can be made free of charge on a public computer at a local library, where booking confirmations can also be printed.

Any vans that park up outside and attempt to walk waste in will be reported and refused entry.

If you are visiting in a car or as a pedestrian, you do not need to book a slot.

Normal site rules apply. Small recycling centres do not accept vans.

The booking system for vans is only applicable to the nine sites in Essex that accept vans (including pick-ups and large trailers).

Maldon Recycling Centre is included in the nine sites. Burnham On Crouch Recycling Centre is not.

[On Saturday 19 March 2022, Maldon's Promenade Park](#) will be lined with a handpicked selection of ethical and sustainable vegan food stalls and street vendors.

The Maldon Vegan Market promises to offer something for everyone to enjoy and will feature a huge variety of vegan street food, artisan bakes and craft cheeses. It will also offer handmade cosmetics, ethical clothing and jewellery, arts and crafts and charity stalls.

Organised by the Vegan Market Company (VMCO), the event will run from 10.30am to 4.00pm and has been designed to make veganism more accessible and inclusive for anyone interested in living a more sustainable lifestyle.

VMCO's founder has stated that they are excited to be coming to Maldon for the first time. The company informed that it works hard to find the country's leading vegan producers, from street food vendors and bakers, to ethical clothing and cosmetic producers.

It also works with many local businesses and can't wait to give those fantastic producers the platform they deserve and to introduce them to the Maldon District.

Owners of the Gnome Café in Maldon stated that as a newly opened vegan business in the heart of Maldon High Street, they are excited to be joining many other like-minded businesses for this event.

Details about the market will be published by Visit Maldon District through [www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk](http://www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk), and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

[Could you be eligible for up to £10,000 of free heating and insulation improvements?](#)

If you are an Essex resident, you could be entitled to up to £10,000 of free funding for energy efficiency home improvements, thanks to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme

Improvements can include insulation, heating and hot water systems, solar panels and lighting. Upgrading your home can reduce your energy bills, keep you warm and lower your carbon emissions.

The scheme is for properties with a D, E, F or G Energy Performance Certificate rating (EPC), and a total household income of below £30,000. However, if your household income is above £30,000 you may still be eligible if someone in your household claims benefits. If you know someone who might be eligible, why not suggest it to them?

Find out now if you can cut your energy costs. [Full Details on the Essex County Council web site.](#)

[Since February 2021, Essex residents and businesses have had the opportunity to register for 'Solar Together Essex'](#). This is a unique collective purchasing scheme, which helps residents and small businesses through the process of buying high quality solar panels, including solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage, at lower and affordable prices compared to the market, and from trusted suppliers in the area.

The scheme provides residents and businesses with a host of benefits, including the opportunity to save money on both installing solar panels and future energy bills. Essex County Council is working together with iChoosr - a group buying specialist to promote the scheme in the area. The scheme makes purchasing solar panels more affordable and accessible for residents and businesses in Essex.

It is estimated that the installations will result in reductions of 563 tonnes of CO2e per year, and 14,075 in the next 25 years. The scheme will play a vital role in helping Essex in the commitment to becoming net zero by 2050.

The next scheme opened on the 7th February, and in the meantime, you can register your interest. For more information about Solar Together Essex, please visit: [www.essex.gov.uk/solartogether](http://www.essex.gov.uk/solartogether)

[Essex Police reported about dog thefts in its monthly newsletter.](#)

From the first Covid lockdown up to the present, there has been a sharp rise in dog thefts. The reason being is the price of dogs has increased dramatically as the demand for dogs skyrocketed; this meant criminals could make lots of money.

The increase in demand is due to:

1. People feeling lonely and isolated, so wanted a dog
2. People need an incentive to get outside and exercise; dogs need regular walks several times a day
3. More people are now working from home instead of spending long days in an office, so can now get and train a puppy.

This means that more people wanted dogs, so demand outstripped supply, thus prices soared. A dog costing between £500-£1,000 pre-lockdown, is now selling for between £2,000-£4,000.

Criminal gangs therefore started steal dogs during burglaries, from gardens, from cars and in parks. The stolen dogs are then either sold on or used for breeding.

A dog is not like a car or any other valuable item, they are a member of the family and when they are stolen, it causes a lot of distress to their owners.

To try and prevent such dog thefts, the Dogs Trust developed specific advice preventing dog theft and what to do if your dog gets stolen? *The advice can be found in the Essex Police Monthly NewsLetter and the Dogs Trust Website.*

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## **Businesses Urged to Apply for new £1,000 COVID Grant Before Deadline**

Maldon District Council has been provided with an additional £145,000 from the Government to support businesses effected by the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

Funding from the current Additional Restrictions Grant scheme will be prioritised primarily for businesses who are reliant on indoor social mixing.

Applications must be made online by Monday 28 February. Eligible businesses will receive a £1,000 grant.

A Council spokesperson said, “Eligible businesses that have not already done so are also being encouraged to apply to the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme as soon as possible. This one-off grant of up to £6,000 is available to rated hospitality, leisure, and accommodation businesses. The deadline for applications for this grant has been extended to 28 February.

“The business community is still recovering from the effects of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant even with most restrictions now being lifted. We urge all eligible business to come forward and apply for these grants to help them recover and bounce back even better.”

For the full details and to apply visit <https://www.maldon.gov.uk/business>

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## **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED FOR NEW PARK ACTIVITIES**

Maldon District Council is inviting companies and organisations to come forward with new activities, events and concession ideas for its parks and open spaces – including the much-loved waterside Promenade Park.

Maldon District Council Spokesperson said: “Applications open today and close on 6 March, with interested parties required to fill in an online form with the full details of their proposed activity. Applications are particularly welcome for events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee weekend, sustainable/carbon neutral ideas, and concessions that will provide employment for people in the Maldon District.

“The Council aims to provide an exciting calendar of events and concessions for 2022 that will engage and entertain visitors of all ages; a wide range of possibilities will be considered, including activities for children, al-fresco eating and drinking, and proposals to improve the health and wellbeing of adults, including older people.

“As well as the popular Promenade Park, affectionately known as The Prom, which can attract more than 30,000 visitors in a single weekend, applications are also invited for other council-owned open spaces, including Riverside Park in Burnham-on-Crouch, Oak Tree Meadow in Maldon and Elms Farm Park in Heybridge.”

Before applying, interested parties should read the terms and conditions carefully. A scoring matrix will be applied to each application to assess how proposals fit in with Council priorities, with extra weight being given to projects that employ local residents or are based within the Maldon District. The Council hopes projects will:

- Promote civic pride and maintain the District's environmental quality
- Reduce impacts of waste disposal and pollution on the environment
- Enable future economic investment and new jobs
- Support existing local businesses
- Enhance and promote the District's visitor economy
- Help to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.

To read the full terms and conditions and put in an application for 2022 concessions, go to [www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/park-opportunities](http://www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/park-opportunities) or for further information and questions about applying, email [events@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:events@maldon.gov.uk). All applications must be received by Sunday 6 March.

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This week marks the mid-point of the Local Development Plan Review Issues & Options Document consultation, which started on 17 Jan 2022. There is now one month left for anyone interested in taking part in the consultation to do so before it closes on 14 March 2022. The format of the consultation is as a structured conversation across a number of topics or issues that face the District in the future which could be addressed differently through changes to the District's planning policies.

## Promotion

As previously advised, we have taken a number of steps to try and get the message of the consultation out to the public. There have been letters/ emails sent out to our public and business mailing lists, a press briefing to the media, and adverts in the M&B, Maldon Life, railway stations and libraries. We have also encouraged third party publications to also run articles/ adverts about it including school newsletters, etc. We are continuing to promote the consultation through a number of means, including our spoken adverts which are running across Radio Chelmer and Radio Caroline throughout February and our own social media promotion. In March, a further round of newspaper and social media advertising will happen reminding people to get their comments in on time.

It would be really helpful however if as many of the Parish Councils as possible could help us spread the word within their communities. We are aware many of you have active Facebook pages that your communities interact with. As a minimum, please just reshare our content so that we can ensure your communities are aware of what is going on. As this project deals with the revision of the District's statutory planning framework, every part of the District could be impacted in some way from the review, so it is important to us that word gets out and people are encouraged to engage.

We note that some of the Parish websites are currently not carrying any information about the LDP Review or the consultation and we would encourage you to think about this the next time you update your webpages. Could you include it in an e-newsletter/ news section; or could you add a subsection to any planning pages you have? If you would like help with content please get in touch.

We have also reviewed all of the parish council published meeting agendas and have seen that only around 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the parishes are currently looking to submit a formal response. For the same reasons in relation to promotion, we would encourage all parishes to respond so that your community considerations and issues are fully captured and understood as the LDP Review moves forward.

## Making Comments

The majority of commentators on the Issues and Options Document so far are local people and we are currently getting submissions being made every day. We have made changes to the consultation portal to ensure it is clearer about how people save their responses, if they do not want to do things in one sitting. To comment online, please can access it from our website: [www.maldon.gov.uk/issues-and-options](http://www.maldon.gov.uk/issues-and-options)

### **No Internet Access – Alternative Comment Arrangements**

For residents without access to the internet, or those people that need further support in making their responses, special arrangements were put in place from the start of the consultation. To access this, they just call the council on 01621 854477; their details will be passed to the Planning Policy Team and a policy officer will call back (usually the same day/ next working day) to scribe their comments for them instead. This service has already been promoted on our District adverts at railway stations, parish and library posters and it was also in the letter and email sent to our mailing list. We are happy for you to spread the word about this to people who may otherwise find it difficult to engage through no fault of their own.

We would encourage anyone falling into this category to access the document at their local library, so they are not commenting without the context. From there, they can also take away a summary leaflet they tells them more about the Issues and Options Document and can help them form their views. All of the libraries in the District have at least one copy of the consultation document, but we have also provided copies to South Woodham Ferrers and Tiptree libraries as we know some residents use these libraries instead.

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## **Bradwell B Update**

### **UK HPR1000 nuclear technology accepted for use in UK**

The Generic Design Assessment (GDA) for the UK HPR1000, the reactor technology proposed for Bradwell B, was [successfully completed](#) in February, with the issuing of a [Design Acceptance Confirmation \(DAC\)](#) from the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and a [Statement of Design Acceptability \(SoDA\)](#) from the Environment Agency.

This marks the end of a five-year process where the nuclear regulators have provided independent scrutiny of the proposed nuclear technology to ensure it meets the UK's standards of safety, security, and environmental protection. The DAC and SoDA are confirmation that the UK HPR1000 is acceptable for use in the UK.

The final versions of the Pre-Construction Safety Report (PCSR), Pre-Construction Environment Report and Generic Security Report are now available to view on the [UK HPR1000 website](#). These documents demonstrate that the design of the UK HPR1000 is suitable for its intended construction, commissioning, operation and ultimate decommissioning, on a generic site in the United Kingdom.



[Find out more about the Generic Design Assessment](#)

## New GDA animation

Following the completion of the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) for the UK HPR1000 we've produced a new animation explaining more about the UK HPR1000 and GDA process.



## Essex graduates called on to kick-start career in nuclear

China's top university – Tsinghua University based in Beijing – has opened its doors to scholarship applications for the 2022 International Master's Programme in Nuclear Engineering and Management (TUNEM). This is a chance for graduates to kick-start their career in the nuclear sector.

The two-year full scholarship master's programme, which includes paid tuition and accommodation fees, gives graduates the

chance to learn at one of China's top universities. It involves industry internships on some of the most innovative nuclear projects in the world.

Applications for the 2022 programme are open until 1 March 2022. The programme is open to UK students and is supported by the three major nuclear power groups in China, including CGN.



Working in nuclear is a highly-skilled, rewarding and interesting profession. Students on this programme will get a chance to experience working in one of the industries tackling the world's biggest problem, climate change.



Deng Zhengping, CEO Bradwell B

Visit the Tsinghua University website for more information

### What you've missed on social media

Hopefully you'll have discovered us already on social media channels, [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We post content on a daily basis and enjoy a fairly lively level of engagement from people with questions and views. Our social media team enjoy opportunities to explain our proposals, so if you haven't already, we'd love you to come and join the conversation. Below are just some of the things we've been talking about this month.





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1. The results of the two by-elections held on Thursday 24 February have been declared. These were for the Wickham Bishops and Woodham Ward of Maldon District Council where Simon Morgan was elected and the West Ward of Maldon Town Council where John Driver was elected. Go to [By-Election Results](#) for the full details.
2. Maldon Business Hub has organised a day of networking for local businesses on 2 March at OAKhouse Bar Café in Maldon High Street (8.30am – 6.00pm). The day offers the opportunity to hear about free business support and local economic recovery as well as being an opportunity to network. The afternoon session will specifically focus on the opportunities and challenges of the historic Maldon High Street.  
  
For more details and to share this, go to <https://www.facebook.com/MaldonBusinessHub>  
<https://www.facebook.com/maldondc/posts/325000212987544>
3. From Monday 28 February, anyone visiting Maldon Recycling Centre with a van, pick-up or large trailer will need to book a slot in advance by going to the [Love Essex website](#). This is because of a new booking system for vans being trialled at recycling centres across Essex.
4. Essex County Council would like your views on how the local bus network could be improved, as part of a county wide review of the Essex bus network. This consultation closes on 25 March. Go to [Bus Network Reviews Maldon](#) to take part.
5. The February update regarding the Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan is attached.
6. The referendum on the [Adoption of the Langford and Ulting Neighbourhood Plan](#) takes place on 3 March 2022.

## Latest Government Information re COVID-19

1. On 24 February the rules regarding COVID-19 changed. This included changes to self-isolation rules, the end of the requirement to take daily tests if you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 and the end of the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme. Go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest guidance from the government.
2. Latest Covid Cases - [Latest data: Cases in Essex by district, per 100,000 per week - Essex County Council](#).

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## Council Tax and Fees and Charges 2022/23

At the Full Council meeting held 24 February, Maldon District Councillors approved the council tax and fees and charges for 2022/23.

The average Band D property in the Maldon District will see an increase of just £5 per year or 9.6p per week, in the amount which is retained by Maldon District Council.

The income from the Council Tax, which is collected by the Council, is shared with Essex County Council, which is the largest proportion, Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the amount which is requested separately by the Town or Parish Council.

Government has recognised the pressures currently facing both Councils and residents and has introduced a £150 refund for those in band A-D properties as well as allocating money for a discretionary fund.

In presenting the budget to the Council, Leader, Cllr Penny Channer said, "This financial year has been a challenging one for Maldon District Council, again we have been impacted by the Covid-pandemic, but I'm proud to say a great deal has also been achieved.

"The Council has continued supporting the national response to the Covid Pandemic assisting the vaccination programme, by provision of the Maldon vaccination centre delivered by the NHS, at the District Council offices.

"We have continued to support our businesses distributing over £10 million of government support to local businesses to ensure that they, associated jobs and livelihoods are protected.

"Core services throughout the past year have been maintained amidst a worrying national driver shortage, and important new strategies came forward, including our Climate Action Strategy, entitled "Our Home, Our Future".

"The work to review our Local Development Plan which is a legal requirement, has begun by launching the Issues and Options consultation; a large programme of work that seeks views on place shaping and not just about the number of homes needed.

"It is incredibly difficult when you have the responsibility for setting the council tax knowing the pressure it will put on residents.

"Looking ahead to the pressures faced and the services needed, an increase of 9.6p a week council tax has been approved. With inflation at 5.5%, this council tax increase is well below at 2.41%.

"The Council will be reviewing corporate contracts including waste and leisure and will continue to identify where we can benefit from shared services and achieving more through our partnership working.

"Budgets need to be sustainable; it is not just about balancing budgets; it is important that use of reserves is not increasing year on year. We need to look ahead, prepare for additional pressures and continue to find ways to generate income from commercial activities."