

### 150/2025 3) Response to Consultation on Essex Transport Strategy

Councillors will recall that we responded to the first round of consultation on this Strategy (see Min.Ref.121/2024). We were critical of its failure to address the issues caused to rural roads as a result of congestion on the Main Road network and the impact on quality of life and well being for those living along rural roads. Local roads are increasingly used for rat running by through traffic on journeys where the origin/destination lies outside the local area the roads were designed to serve.

The current consultation comprises a number of documents including a Strategic Implementation Plan for the whole County and area based Plans that include one covering Braintree and North Essex and another covering Colchester Urban Area.

[https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/better-connected-essex/user\\_uploads/consultation-document---a-better-connected-essex.pdf](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/better-connected-essex/user_uploads/consultation-document---a-better-connected-essex.pdf)

[https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/better-connected-essex/supporting\\_documents/colchester-implementation-planpdf](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/better-connected-essex/supporting_documents/colchester-implementation-planpdf)

[https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/better-connected-essex/supporting\\_documents/braintree-and-north-essex-implementation-planpdf](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/better-connected-essex/supporting_documents/braintree-and-north-essex-implementation-planpdf)

Aldham, along with our neighbouring parishes, lies on the border of both the two area based plans and there is little or no reference to the issues we have raised as a direct result of congestion on the A12 and A120. The Plan is already out of date as it predates the announcement not to fund the A12 or include the A120 in any future Road Programme. The Strategy also ignores decisions on the Colchester Local Plan Review that are likely to include a major expansion of the six villages west of Colchester, and makes no commitment to mitigating the impact on the transport network of the potential doubling in population of these villages over the next 15 years.

The document comprises a list of worthy and commendable objectives for transport in the county but it certainly does not amount to an implementation plan and does not address the key issues of traffic and congestion faced by residents in the rural parts of the County on a daily basis.

Mike Lambert, Chair

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025