

# NewsRelease



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## Business gives thumbs up for safer, greener, healthier revolution on city centre streets

### Release issued in partnership by Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council

Business leaders and health experts have welcomed ambitious plans to improve the safety, the environment and people's health in Chelmsford city centre.

The project has been drawn up as a direct result of the COVID 19 pandemic to allow people to travel safely by walking and cycling over short distances.

New lanes for cycling and walking are to be introduced to Chelmsford from next week (Monday 8th June) to ensure those areas of the city centre with some of the highest footfall are safe and healthy places to move through, following the easing of lockdown restrictions and the re-opening of shops and businesses.

Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council have been working together to design and implement one of the first projects to make city/town centre public spaces safer for people. Called 'Safer, Greener, Healthier', the schemes aim to provide bigger, safer spaces for city centre shoppers, residents, workers and visitors to maintain social distance.

A series of interim traffic measures which will create more shared space for walking and cycling will be introduced in the city centre starting from Monday 8th June. 20mph limits, temporary barriers and signs providing shared spaces will be introduced on Duke St, Victoria Rd, New St and Market Rd.

The project is funded by part of the initial £1.9m Emergency Active Travel Fund for Essex recently announced by the Government for such schemes.

The Chelmsford scheme, like others planned across Essex, is driven by immediate public health requirements such as social distancing, but in encouraging walking and cycling it will enable healthier and greener ways of getting around.

Bus routes, taxi bays, disabled parking and delivery access in the streets included in the scheme will be maintained wherever possible, although some non-disabled parking facilities may be suspended.

The total money that could be made available to Essex by the Government if further plans are approved is up to £9.6m.

Why not log your cycle ride on some of the enhanced routes for National Bike Week at [www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek/7daysofcycling](http://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek/7daysofcycling) and let others in Essex know what you're doing too at [www.lovetoride.net/essex?](http://www.lovetoride.net/essex?)

People can share comments on the measures with Essex and Chelmsford councils at [SGH.Routes@essex.gov.uk](mailto:SGH.Routes@essex.gov.uk)

Please see the full map and scheme details on our website at: [www.essex.gov.uk/safer-greener-healthier](http://www.essex.gov.uk/safer-greener-healthier)