

A120 BRAINTREE TO A12

Essex County Council's Favoured Route Option

June 2018

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Essex County Council

CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Why does the A120 need improving?	4
Our favoured route option	6
How we decided on the favoured route option	8
What happens next	10
Anticipated timeline	11

FOREWORD

Today's announcement on a favoured route option for the A120 between Braintree and the A12 is the culmination of a lot of hard work to solve a problem anyone who has used this stretch of road will be aware of. Residents, businesses and road users have suffered for too long with a road that is simply not fit for purpose.

The A120 is an essential road for Essex residents, but it also holds the key to unlocking the UK's economic and housing potential. It is hard to believe that a single carriageway road is still relied upon to help move people and freight to and from some of our country's biggest ports and airports, including our hugely successful Haven Ports and London Stansted Airport.

We have studied all potential options for a dual carriageway A120 route; reducing the options from 68 down to five which we then consulted with the public on in early 2017.

Following further detailed study, today I am proud to announce that Essex County Council has chosen route option D as its favoured route option to recommend to Highways England and the Department for Transport.

We believe this option offers the best solution to the problems associated with the existing A120, not only for the people of Essex but to all users of this vital east-west link.

Once the decision clears the Council's statutory call-in process, we will present our technical work and favoured route option to Highways England and the Department for Transport to enable them to decide whether to include the A120 Braintree to A12 within the Road Investment Strategy 2, which is their next funding period. This announcement is expected in 2019.

If successful, a new A120 could be built as soon as 2026. But we must not be complacent and I would urge residents, businesses and road users to unite together behind our plans for an improved A120 to ensure it secures the funding it so desperately needs.

Councillor Kevin Bentley

Deputy Leader of Essex County Council

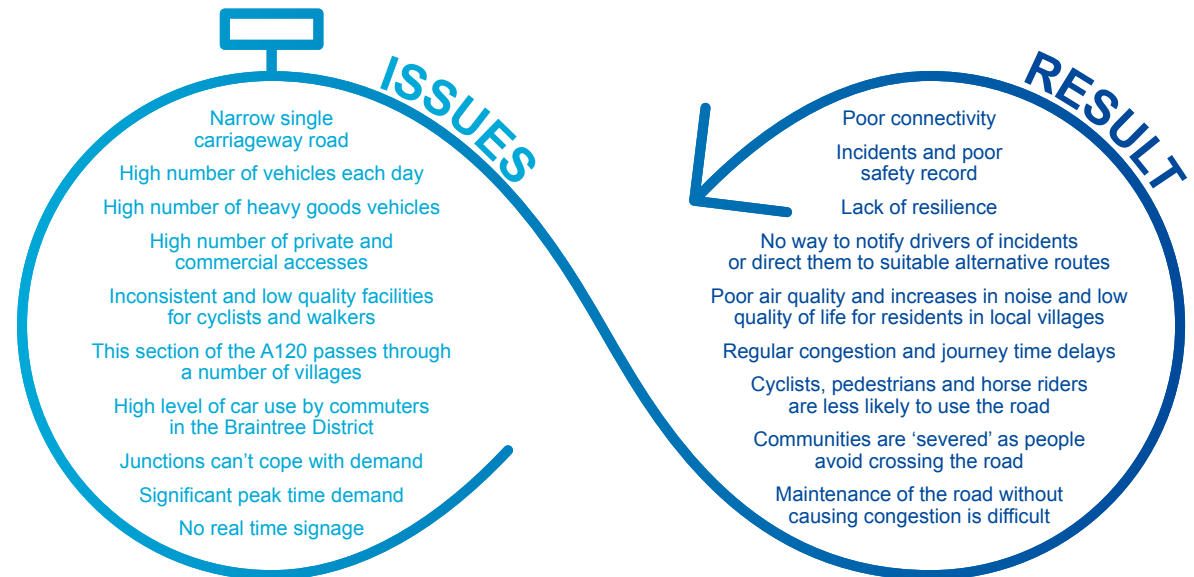


Councillor Kevin Bentley

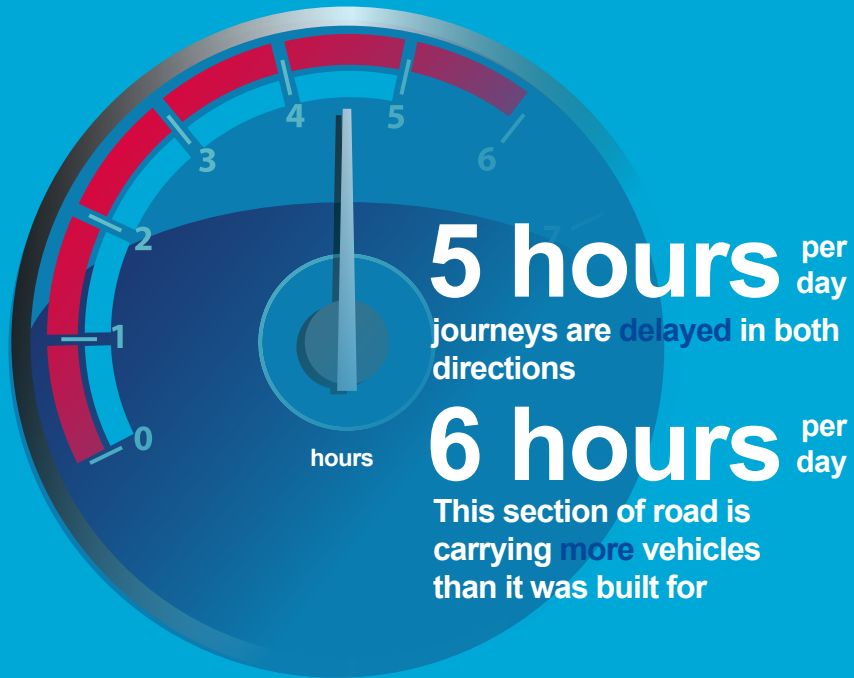
WHY DOES THE A120 NEED IMPROVING?



There is currently severe congestion at both ends of the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey during peak times. This section is one of the few remaining single carriageway sections on the A120, which is otherwise a dual carriageway route. The Galleys Corner and Marks Farm roundabouts in the west and the junction with the A12 at Marks Tey in the east, in particular, suffer from severe congestion, which is not only limited to peak times. North Essex suffers from a lack of good connectivity between major centres to cater for growth and support the economy.

There is also congestion at the junction with the B1024 Colne Road, Coggeshall. Journey time delays, low travel speed and capacity issues are in part caused by the high number of side road junctions as well as private and commercial premises.



Did you know?
A new A120 would reduce journey times and remove traffic from local towns and villages



In the evening peak vehicles travel
22 mph SLOWER 
and journeys are 14 minutes longer than in off-peak conditions




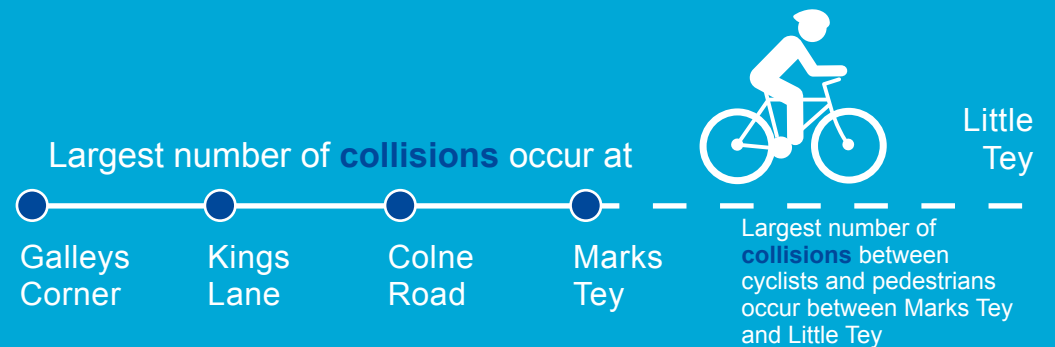
There can be **less than 90cm** between passing heavy good vehicles on some parts of the road – not including wing mirrors



Between 2011 and 2015:

-  **172 collisions** between west of Galleys Corner and Marks Tey resulting in **266 casualties**
-  **The level of collisions and casualties was above the five year average for this section in 2014 and 2015**

- **Resilience is poor** - the road isn't built to deal with today's level of traffic and any unexpected condition or incidents
- If there is an **incident** then the carriageway is **too narrow** for other traffic to easily pass
- **Speed is slow** due to the number of vehicles and the narrow carriageway
- **No real time signage** to raise awareness of any incidents
- Few suitable **alternative routes** for road users



OUR FAVOURED ROUTE OPTION: D



offers more than **£1 billion** in economic benefits to road users



£1.1 billion in gross value added through new jobs, business and housing



has the **lowest impact** on the environment



saves up to **15 minutes on journey times** between Braintree and Colchester during rush hour



delivers the **best value-for-money** for the taxpayer

Bradwell Quarry
(Including planned extensions)

OPTION D

Option D provides best value for money:

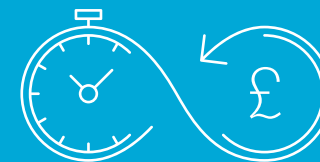
For every **£1 million** spent on upgrading the A120; residents, road users and businesses will see **£3,750,000** in benefits



£350 million
in benefits to freight traffic



lowest cost
option with lowest
overall cost risk








Journey Time Savings
£1.1 billion

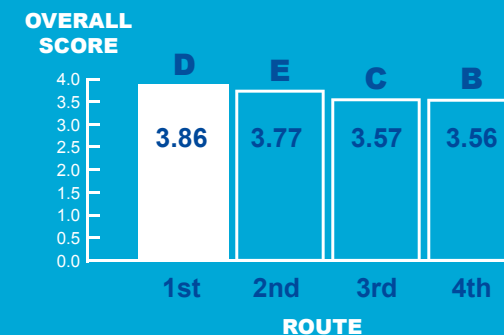
improvement in road
safety valued at
£24.8 million



improved local air quality and
reduced noise
impacts due to traffic



Option	Overall Ranking	Strategic Fit 	Economic Case 	Managerial Case 	Financial Case 	Overall Score 
Option D	1st	3.66	3.63	3.57	4.60	3.86
Option E	2nd	3.89	3.58	3.47	4.24	3.77
Option C	3rd	4.11	3.48	3.24	3.42	3.57
Option B	4th	4.01	3.42	3.08	3.71	3.56



HOW WE DECIDED ON THE FAVOURED ROUTE OPTION

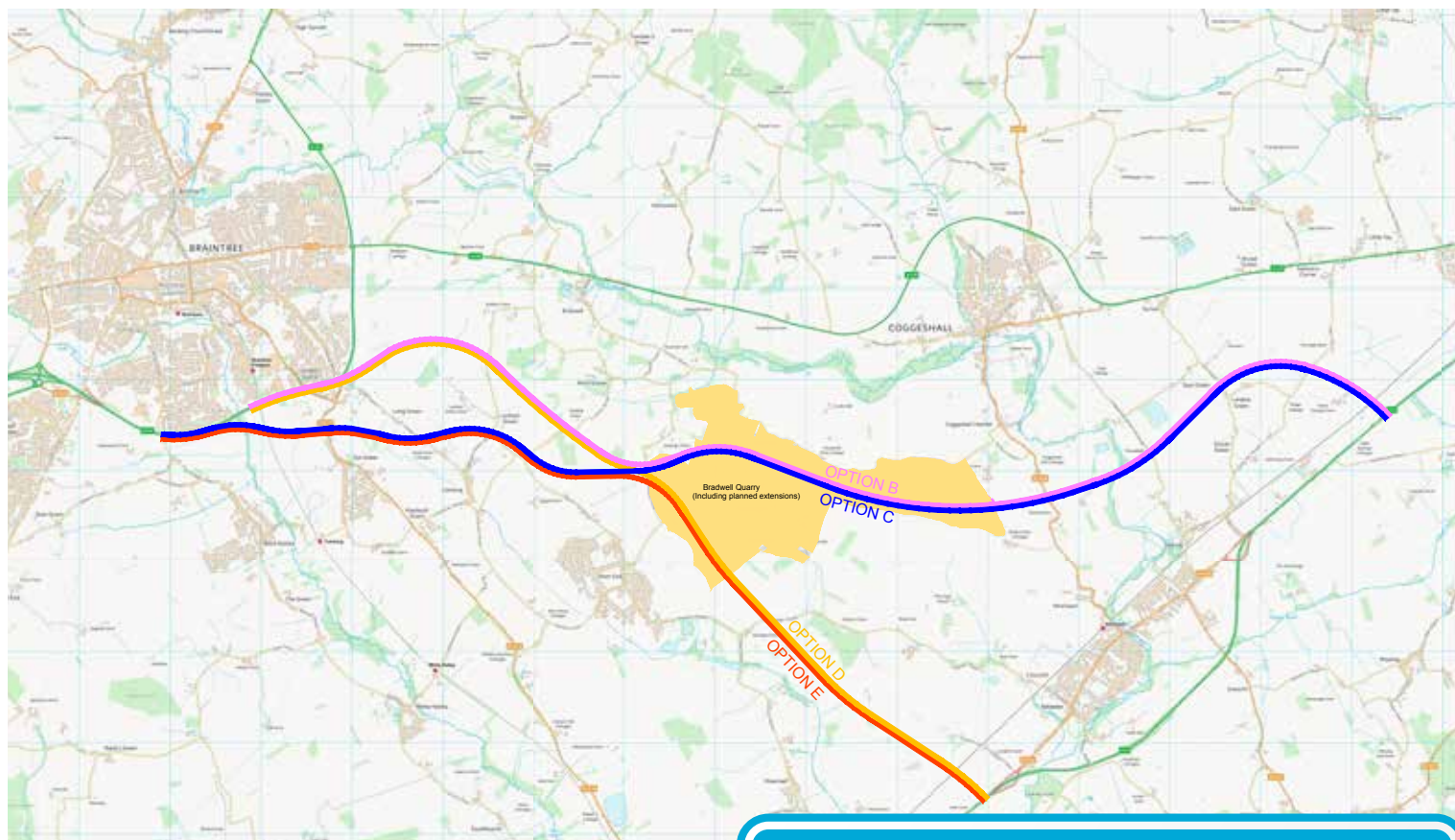
As the A120 is part of the Strategic Road Network and is managed by Highways England, Essex County Council has followed Highways England's process to reach this decision.

A key requirement for entry to Highways England's Road Investment Strategy 2 programme is the assessment of each route option against five cases in accordance with the Government's five cases Business Case model.

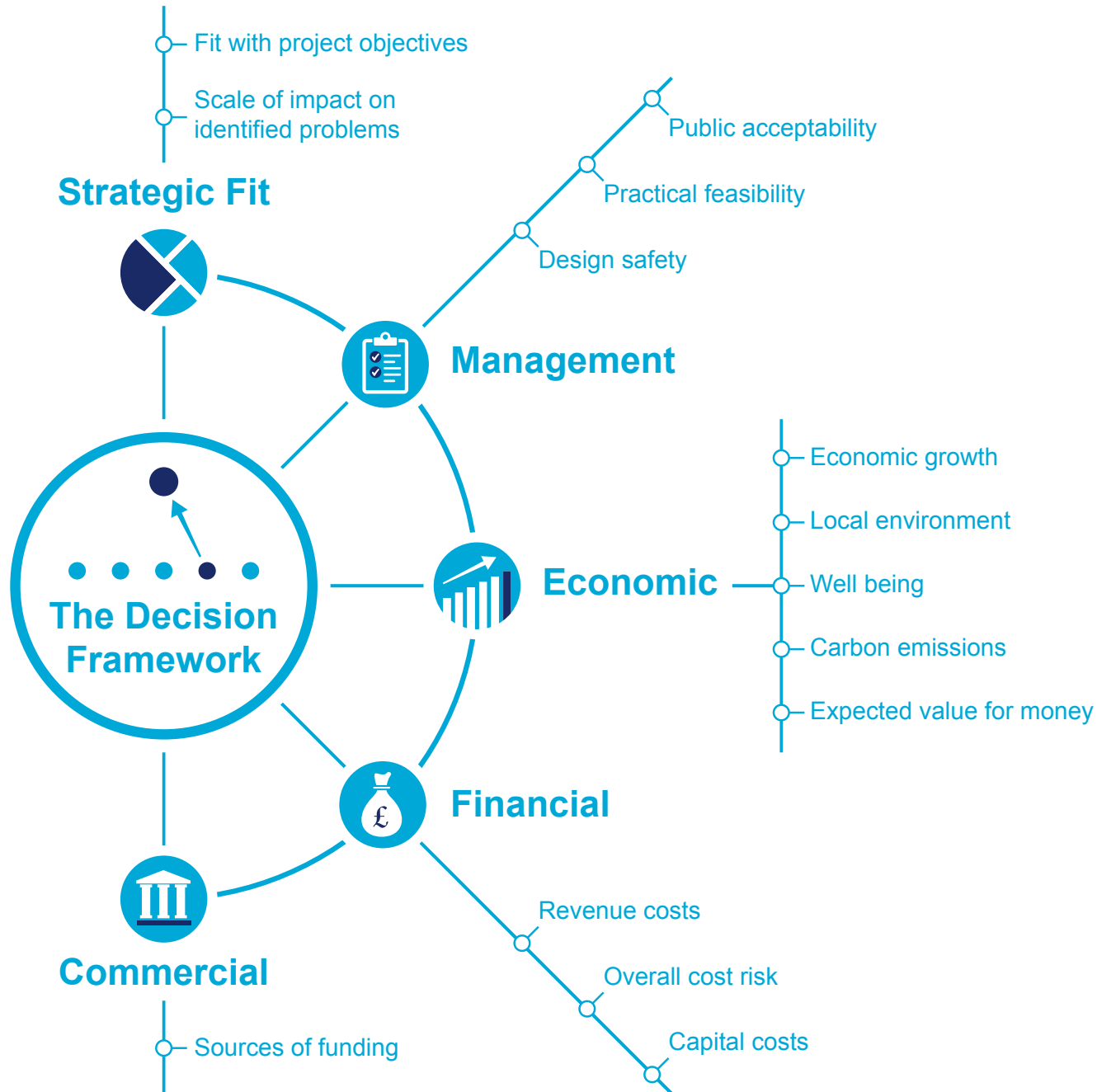
The cases are:

- Economic
- Financial
- Commercial
- Strategic Fit
- Management

We have therefore developed a Decision Framework to assess the relative performance of the options against these five business cases. The scores of the criteria are totalled up and an average taken to allow us to compare all five routes.



Did you know?
A new A120 would provide more than £1 billion in economic benefits to road users



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Essex County Council is committed to supporting local and regional growth through the improvement of local infrastructure to leave a long-term legacy of jobs, homes and strong communities for our children and future generations.

Although the A120 is part of the Strategic Road Network operated by Highways England, in 2015 the Government agreed that Essex County Council would lead on the work to determine the way forward.

During the past three years we have been following Highways England's processes to ensure that the project is fit for inclusion in the next funding period, the Road Investment Strategy 2, which runs from 2020 to 2025.

Essex County Council is determined to see the A120 secured in the Road Investment Strategy 2, however if the route does not gain funding for this period, the Council will continue to lobby the Government to include it for improvement at the earliest possible opportunity.

It is anticipated that if the A120 is to be included in Road Investment Strategy 2, it will be announced in 2019. It is likely that Highways England will have a Preferred Route Announcement in 2019 if the A120 scheme is included in the Road Investment Strategy 2.

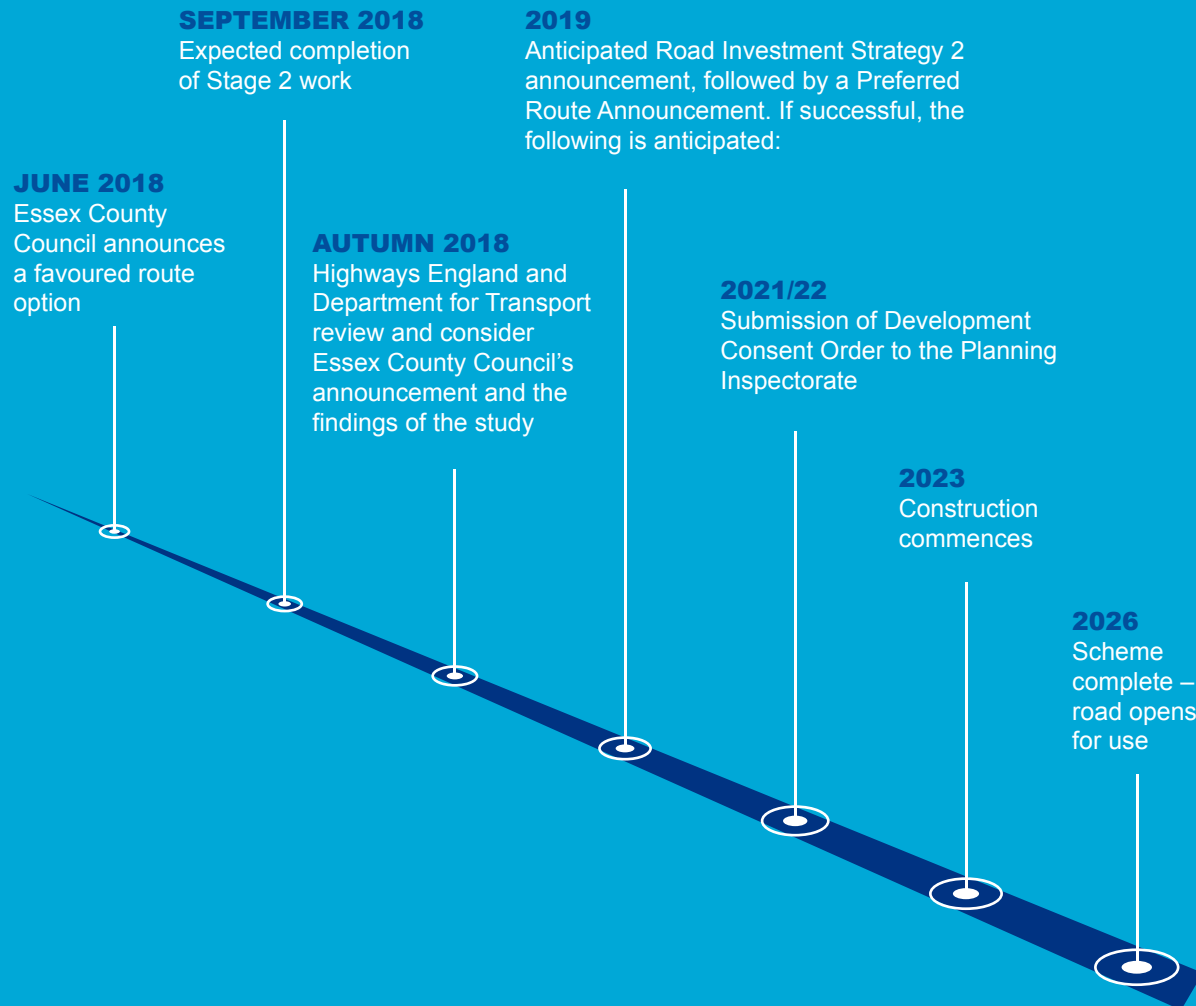
It is important to highlight that all work undertaken by Essex County Council is advisory at this stage, and a Preferred Route Announcement can only be made by Highways England in association with the Department for Transport.

Did you know?
A new A120 could unlock more than 12,000 jobs



ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

Based on the acceptance of the A120 Braintree to A12 project into the Road Investment Strategy 2






This information is issued by


Essex County Council


You can contact us about this scheme in the following ways

 www.a120essex.co.uk

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