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RIDELONDON BRINGS £1 MILLION OF LONDON MARATHON CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDING TO ESSEX OVER THE NEXT YEAR

- Partnership between RideLondon and Essex County Council will see £1 million granted to inspire activity in Essex
- Essex preparing to welcome the world's greatest festival of cycling this weekend (Friday 27 to Sunday 29 May)

RideLondon, the world's greatest festival of cycling, arrives in Essex for the first time this weekend (Friday 27 May to Sunday 29 May) and with it will come £1 million of new funding to inspire activity across the county.

The £1 million funding will come from The London Marathon Charitable Trust (The Trust) and has been made possible thanks to RideLondon's partnership with Essex County Council, which means Essex is now one of The Trust's core funding areas.

The Trust is the parent charity of London Marathon Events (LME), the organisers of RideLondon. All surplus from the events LME organise is gifted to The Trust, which then makes grants to projects that inspire activity.

The Trust's funding will support organisations and projects that have impact right across Essex, creating more opportunities for everyone to participate in physical activity. Plans for the funding include promoting active travel (making journeys by walking or cycling) in schools and communities, including areas along the RideLondon-Essex event route; expanding the Essex Pedal Power programme, making cycling more accessible for everyone; and supporting a new county-wide open grants programme for projects that will help residents lead active and healthy lives.

Catherine Anderson, Executive Director at The London Marathon Charitable Trust, said: *"Essex is a brand-new core funding area for us, and we're thrilled to be able to award up to £1 million as part of our new funding strategy, and to celebrate the new partnership between Essex and RideLondon."*

"Organisations and groups across Essex are already doing fantastic work to help more people have greater access to sport and physical activities, and we can't wait to see the impact our partnership with Active Essex and The Active Essex Foundation will have over the next year."

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: *"We are delighted that through our partnership with RideLondon, Essex County Council has been able to unlock more funding to support cycling, sport and physical activity across the county."*

"This funding from The London Marathon Charitable Trust will lead to healthier communities and supports our Safer, Greener, Healthier Active Travel plans to make walking and cycling more accessible to Essex residents."

Through this new funding partnership with The London Marathon Charitable Trust, Active Essex and The Active Essex Foundation will deliver the grants programme and develop existing, successful initiatives, making a huge difference to people's lives.

RideLondon begins in Essex tomorrow (Friday 27 May) with the Start of the

(Saturday 28 May) starts at Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, and finishes in Epping.

On Sunday more than 20,000 riders will take part in the inaugural RideLondon-Essex 100, 60 and 30 mile rides that start in London and head to Essex before returning for an iconic finish at Tower Bridge.

For more information on RideLondon, visit ridelondon.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About RideLondon

- RideLondon, the world's greatest festival of cycling, was developed by the Mayor of London and his agencies. It was first held in August 2013 and is a legacy event from the London 2012 Olympics Games.
- More than 467,000 participants have taken part in the first seven editions of the world's greatest festival of cycling (2013- 2019) and the event has inspired more than 140,000 new or lapsed riders to start cycling.
- Since 2013, more than £80 million has been raised through RideLondon for more than 1,000 charities.
- RideLondon will partner with Essex County Council in 2022.
- Surrey County Council previously partnered with the event from 2013 to 2020.
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust.
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded grants totalling in excess of £95 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.

About The London Marathon Charitable Trust

- Each year, London Marathon Events gifts its surplus to The London Marathon Charitable Trust.
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded funding in excess of £95 million to more than 1,500 projects that Inspire Activity in London and across the UK.
- Due to the financial implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has paused accepting new applications for funding since April 2020, and during that time has been working on a new funding strategy, which will be formally launched soon. The two grants to Active Essex and The Active Essex Foundation are the first grants to be awarded under the new funding strategy.

For further information, please contact:

London Marathon Events

Ryan Goad | Head of Communications & TV | London Marathon Events Ltd

e ryan.goad@londonmarathonevents.co.uk | m +44 (0) 7950 708574



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