



# **WE ARE COLCHESTER**

## **BOARD MEETING**

### **17 February 2022**

## **DECISIONS & ACTION POINTS**

## **Present:**

**Simon Blaxill, Kent Blaxill (Chair)**

**Adrian Pritchard, Colchester Borough Council (Colchester Borough Council)**

**Adam Bryan, SELEP**

**Alison Jennings, Homes England**

**Ashleigh Seymour-Rutherford, COLBEA**

**Chris Rhodes, Hiscox**

**Tracy Rudling, Community 360**

**Cllr Paul Dundas, CBC**

**Mark Jarman-Howe, NE Essex Alliance**

**Rob Willis (for Steve Evison), Essex County Council**

## **Apologies:**

**Cllr Tom Cunningham, Essex County Council (ECC)**

**Lucy Johnson, University of Essex**

**Shona Johnstone, Homes England**

**Will Quince MP, Conservative Party**

## **Others attending:**

**Lindsay Barker (CBC), Mandy Jones (CBC), Paul Cook (CBC), Matthew Brown (CBC), Clare Ratcliffe (CBC), Amie Hall (ECC), Matthew Sterling (CBC), Simon Thorp (CBC).**

## **DECISIONS AND ITEMS NOTED**

**1. Apologies & declarations of interest. Apologies were noted from Steve Evison, Cllr Tom Cunningham, Lucy Johnson, Shona Johnstone and Will Quince MP.**

**2. Progress report. The Board noted a Programme Progress Report, together with a report and link to published Summary Document drafts which had been circulated in advance.**

**3. Engagement. The Board noted and update on activities, along with completed and scheduled project site visits.**

**4. Business Case Assurance. The Board noted an update from Colchester Borough Council's (CBC) Section 151 Officer and the scope of this statutory role. The update confirmed that all business cases have been checked and approved, with CBC having significant experience of strong financial management of capital projects. The Board also noted that this review included early input into the business cases and financial calculations. The Section 151 Officer, supported by finance business partners, also considered longer term cost implications and likely changes as projects move into delivery phase. Section 151 Officer will continue to work with the Board to monitor financial issues.**

**Supportive comments about the depth and robustness of business case preparation, with an offer to provide call outs to specific citizen groups to get involved in the projects, were offered by Tracy Rudling on behalf of Community 360.**

**5. Scrutiny. The Board also noted an update from Adrian Pritchard (CEO, CBC) regarding CBC's Scrutiny Panel meeting on 15 February 2022. The panel presentation was led by CBC Project Sponsors, Adrian Pritchard, Lindsay Barker, Pam Donnelly and Dan Gascoyne. Thanks were expressed to the Chair and Cllr Dundas for their support of this process, and to the programme and project management team for the discipline and rigour applied.**

**The Board noted that Scrutiny Panel had recommended without serious concern or challenge that the Panel should receive a timetable enabling future scrutiny by project or theme. The Panel also supported CBC Cabinet approving the business cases, alongside recommending strengthened engagement with, and mobilisation of, the voluntary sector during project delivery.**

**6. Future meetings. The Board noted provisional future meeting dates of 17 March 2022 and 26 May 2022. The meeting on 17 March is expected, subject to CBC Cabinet, to ratify submission of summary documents to government. Additional meetings may be required.**