



AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT **2021**

December 2021



Planning Policy
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All references to the county of Essex are to Essex as it is currently constituted i.e., without the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unless stated otherwise.

All references to 'Colchester' refer to Colchester Borough unless stated otherwise, e.g., Colchester town.

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| Key Headlines from the 2020 – 2021 AMR |
|---|
| <p>Section 1 Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation 27 August to 9 October 2020</p> <p>Section 1 Local Plan Inspector's Final Report issued on 10 December 2020, recommending subject to his modifications the Section 1 Local Plan is sound and legally compliant</p> <p>Section 1 Local Plan adopted by Full Council 1 February 2021</p> |
| <p>Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan Examination commenced in August 2020. The Examiner issued his report recommending the plan cannot proceed to referendum in October 2020</p> <p>West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation held from 23 October to 11 December 2020</p> <p>Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan submitted to CBC in accordance with Regulation 15 in December 2020</p> <p>Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation held from 22 February to 5 April 2021</p> |
| <p>741 new dwellings were built in Colchester Borough</p> |
| <p>40 new build affordable units were delivered across the Borough</p> |
| <p>Colchester has been awarded £19.2m from the Government's Town Deal Fund</p> |
| <p>A Climate Emergency was declared by the Council in July 2019. 14,000 trees have been planted during this monitoring period by the Council as part of the Colchester Woodland Project. The Council also received funding to purchase 25 electric cargo (eCargo) bikes and 5 electric trailers to be used for Council fleet operation and local businesses in the previous monitoring period and these continue to be successfully used.</p> |
| <p>64 additions were made to the Colchester Borough Local List in August 2020, bringing the total number of assets to 780</p> |
| <p>The Council' No Idling Campaign – CAREless Pollution – was launched in October 2020</p> |

1. Introduction

Background to the Report

- 1.1 This Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) contains information about the extent to which the Council's planning policy objectives are being achieved. The monitoring indicators and monitoring of policies cover the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. However, further information from outside of this period is included, particularly within the overview and context sections, to reflect the latest information.
- 1.2 The Localism Act removed the requirement for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to produce an annual monitoring report for Government, but it did retain an overall duty to monitor planning policies. Authorities can now choose which targets and indicators to include in their monitoring reports as long as they are in line with the relevant UK legislation. Their primary purpose is to share the performance and achievements of the Council's planning service with the local community. The monitoring report also needs to demonstrate how councils are meeting the requirement to cooperate with other authorities on strategic issues.

Monitoring Information

- 1.3 The AMR includes information on the progress the Council is making on a number of key areas. The information provided reflects the monitoring requirements set forth in the Localism Act 2010, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated regulations and guidance. The format focuses on key areas of delivery, including monitoring progress in plan making and in assessing the success of policies concerned with delivery of housing and employment development.
- 1.4 Additionally, the AMR includes relevant measurable indicators for the thematic areas covered by the Local Plan of transport and accessibility; environment and rural communities; and energy, resources, waste water and recycling.
- 1.5 Changes have been made to Use Classes from 1 September 2020. This includes use class A1/2/3 and B1 now being treated as Class E. As a result, Class A, Class B1 and Class D have all been revoked. In April and August 2021, new permitted development rights were introduced to reflect the revised use classes.

Local Plan Progress

- 1.6 Information on the timetable for preparation and adoption of the Development Plan Documents is contained in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is updated on a regular basis, most recently June 2021. While the Council is in the process of examining a new Local Plan, the AMR measures progress on the adopted Local Plan. Although the Section 1 Local Plan has been adopted in February 2021, there is not sufficient data available to cover the one month period that the Plan has been adopted for during this monitoring period. Upon adoption of the Emerging Local Plan, the monitoring indicators will require review in order to reflect the policies and targets within the new Local Plan. This is likely to occur in the AMR 2022.

- 1.7 The overall strategic policies for Colchester contained in the Core Strategy were found to be 'sound' by a government appointed Inspector and the Document was adopted by the Council in December 2008. Two further Local Development Documents; Development Policies and Site Allocations were found sound and adopted in October 2010. Selected Core Strategy and Development Policies were modified by a Focused Review in July 2014.
- 1.8 The development of a new Local Plan has involved an initial Issues and Options consultation, carried out in January/February 2015; a Preferred Options document consultation, carried out from 9 July - 16 September 2016; and a Publication Draft Consultation carried out from 16 June – 11 August 2017. The plan is comprised of a strategic Section 1 which provides policies shared by Braintree, Colchester and Tendring Councils along with a locally specific Section 2 which contains policies and allocations specific to Colchester. Both sections of the Local Plan were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2017.
- 1.9 The Shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan 2013 to 2033 was adopted in February 2021.
- 1.10 The Section 2 Local Plan is currently being examined by a government appointed Inspector. Examination Hearing Sessions were held over a two week period in April 2021. The Inspector has recommended the modifications to the Section 2 Local Plan he considers necessary for the plan to be considered 'sound'. These modifications were subject to public consultation for six weeks from 4 October to 18 November 2021. The Council are now awaiting the Final Report from the Inspector.
- 1.11 Further information regarding the progress of the Section 2 Local Plan can be found in Chapter 4.

2. Statistical Profile of Colchester

2.1 The Borough of Colchester is located in the north east of Essex, bordered by Braintree District, Tendring District, Maldon District and Babergh District Councils. The borough is diverse with the main town being Colchester, other large settlements include Stanway, Tiptree, West Mersea and Wivenhoe, and large areas of countryside. Table 1 below summaries key statistics for the Borough of Colchester.

Table 1: Statistical Profile of Colchester

| Indicator | Data | Source |
|--|--|--|
| Total Population (2020) | 197,200 | Population estimates, ONS |
| HOUSING | | |
| Number of dwellings | 82,527 as at 1 st April 2020 | Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) live tables |
| Total new homes delivered for the year 2020-21 | 741 | Colchester Borough Council |
| Affordable Homes delivered for the year 2019 - 20 | 101 (of which 59 homes were acquired by the Council). | Registered Providers Returns |
| Average household size (persons) | 2.33 | 2011 Census |
| Average household price (£) | £338,193 as at April 2021 | Hometrack |
| Lower quartile house/flat price (£) | £230,000 as at April 2021 | Hometrack |
| Total Empty Properties ¹ (classified as empty for Council Tax purposes) | There were 1,851 empty properties as at April 2021 (1,734 privately owned or owned by Registered Providers and 117 owned by CBC) | Colchester Borough Council |

¹ These figures also include properties that fall under the exemption categories. Empty properties may be exempt if they:

- are owned by a charity (these are exempt for up to 6 months)
- are left empty by someone who has gone into prison
- are left empty by someone who has moved to give personal care, or who has moved to receive personal care
- are waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted (after someone has died) and for up to six months after
- have been repossessed
- are the responsibility of a trustee on behalf of someone who is bankrupt
- have no-one allowed to live in them by law
- are waiting to be lived in by a minister of religion.

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

| Indicator | Data | Source |
|---|--|---|
| Length of time Total Empty Properties have been empty | 0 – 6 months | 899 |
| | 7 – 12 months | 360 |
| | 1 – 2 years | 365 |
| | 2 – 5 years | 147 |
| | 5+ years | 80 |
| Households on the Housing Register | As at 31 st March 2021 there were 3,009 households | Gateway to Homechoice |
| Homelessness households | For the year 2020-21 CBC accepted a full homeless duty for 185 households. Action was taken to prevent homelessness for 187 households and relieved homelessness for 136 households. | Colchester Borough Council |
| Households in temporary accommodation | As at 31 st March 2021 there were 209 households in temporary accommodation. | Colchester Borough Council |
| Further information on housing in Colchester | Colchester Housing Strategy | https://www.colchester.gov.uk/info/cbc-article/?catid=strategies-and-statistics&id=KA-01436 |
| EMPLOYMENT | | |
| Economically active population | 101,900 (June 2021) | Annual population survey, ONS |
| In employment | 97,100 | As above |
| Total employees | 86,100 | As above |
| Self-employed | 10,500 | As above |
| Unemployed (model-based) | 4,200 | As above |
| Universal Credit (including Job Seekers Allowance) | 4,750 (3.8% of individuals aged 16-64) (September 2021) | Claimant count, ONS |
| Economically inactive population | 24,900 | Annual Population Survey, ONS |
| Full-time employees | 52,000 (2020) | Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS |
| Part-time employees | 31,000 (2020) | As above |
| Number of businesses (total) | 7,515 Enterprises (2021), accounting for 8,795 "Local units" | Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) |

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

| Indicator | Data | Source |
|---|--|---|
| Visitor trips numbers | 3,276,000 Day trips; 107,000 Staying visitor trips; 346,000 Staying visitor nights. | Cambridge Model to measure Economic Impact of Tourism on Colchester Borough 2020 |
| Visitor spend/value | £171.6 million | Cambridge Model to measure Economic Impact of Tourism on Colchester Borough 2020 |
| Tourism related employment | 4,612 | Cambridge Model to measure Economic Impact of Tourism on Colchester Borough 2020 |
| Further information on Colchester's economy | Colchester Economic Strategy Annual Economic Report 2019/20 | https://www.colchester.gov.uk/info/cbc-article/?catid=our-council-strategies&id=KA-01485 FC59322 CAER 2019 20.indd (colchesterultraready.co.uk) |
| ENVIRONMENT | | |
| Area of Ancient Woodland | 573 ha | Ancient Woodland Inventory |
| Number of houses at risk from surface water flooding within Critical Drainage Areas | 418 (1 in 100 years event risk level) | Surface Water Management Plan Action Plan Update 2018 |
| Number of Neighbourhood Plans | 5 adopted (Myland and Braiswick, Boxted, Wivenhoe, West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green) 5 being prepared | Colchester Borough Council |
| Number of Air Quality Management Areas | 3 (Central Corridors, East Street and Lucy Lane North, Stanway) | Colchester Borough Council |
| Number of Conservation Areas | 24 | Colchester Borough Council |
| Number of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments | 1,608 | Historic England |
| Number of listings on Heritage at Risk Register | 8 | Historic England |

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| Indicator | Data | Source |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Number of Historic Parks & Gardens | 3 | Historic England |
| Nationally designated sites Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | 8 SSSIs- Marks Tey Brickpit, Upper Colne Marshes, Roman River, Abberton Reservoir, Blackwater Estuary, Tiptree Heath, Bullock Wood and Cattawade Marshes | Natural England |
| Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) | 1 (Dedham Vale AONB) | Colchester Borough Council |
| Internationally Designated Sites (Special Areas of Conservation – SAC and Special Protection Area – SPA) | Essex Estuaries SAC | Environment Agency |
| | Colne Estuary SPA | |
| | Abberton Reservoir SPA | |
| | Blackwater Estuary SPA | |

3. Duty to Cooperate

3.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that the LPA's monitoring report must give details of what action has been taken during the monitoring year to satisfy the duty to cooperate. CBC has met this requirement by holding a number of meetings on cross-border, sub-regional and regional issues with relevant stakeholders.

Colchester Local Plan

3.2 The [Duty to Cooperate Statement \(October 2017\)](#) details the measures the Council has undertaken to co-operate with relevant public sector bodies on strategic matters. While the format of the statement primarily considers the Duty to Co-operate in the context of the joint approach to strategic plan-making found in Section 1, the statement also fully addresses the requirement for the Council to demonstrate cooperation in its own right in relation to Section 2. Partners include but are not limited to district/borough/city councils, the County Council, Essex-wide bodies such as the Essex Planning Officers' Association and Essex Chief Executives' Association, North Essex Garden Communities Ltd. Board and the Haven Gateway Partnership covering north-east Essex and south-west Suffolk.

3.3 In November 2016, Colchester Borough Council signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Braintree and Tendring District Councils and Essex County Council confirming that the Councils are collaborating on joint Local Plan work to identify an agreed strategic approach to the allocation and distribution of large scale housing led, mixed use development, including employment opportunities and infrastructure provision, in the form of Garden Communities.

3.4 As part of the evidence gathering work for the Local Plan, the Council has met with providers of key infrastructure to identify any major constraints or issues to consider in the generation of growth options and the identification of a preferred option. The Council has spoken to providers of roads, rail network and rail services, bus services, education, health, water and sewerage, environmental protection, electricity, and gas.

3.5 Cooperation around the production of an evidence base has also included the Council's participation in Essex-wide work on population forecasts and on a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The Council jointly commissioned work to establish an [Objectively Assessed Housing Need](#) target along with Braintree, Chelmsford and Tendring to provide a consistent approach to the development of identifying housing need across local authority boundaries.

3.6 Various updates to the evidence base documents including those jointly commissioned, have occurred throughout the Local Plan process. A collaborative approach by Colchester Borough Council, Braintree District Council and Tendring District Council known as the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) continued throughout the examination of the Section 1 Local Plan.

3.7 The Inspector of the Section 1 Local Plan wrote to the NEAs on [8 June 2018](#) outlining areas of future work required to progress the emerging Local Plan and

three options for the NEAs to consider. The Inspector concluded in his letter that each of the NEAs had met the duty to cooperate in the preparation of the Section 1 Local Plan.

- 3.8 The NEAs decided to undertake additional work including an update to the Sustainability Appraisal; and continue the examination of the Local Plan, as outlined in a letter to the Inspector [19 October 2018](#). The NEAs continued to work in partnership during this process and published a number of additional evidence base documents to address the concerns outlined by the Inspector.
- 3.9 The Inspector held additional hearing sessions from 14 January to 30 January 2020. The collaborative approach engrained in the Section 1 Local Plan process continued throughout the examination with the NEAs continuing to work together during the additional hearing sessions.
- 3.10 In his letter dated [15 May 2020](#), the Inspector reaffirmed that the NEAs have met the Duty to Cooperate. The Inspector also concluded that no one's interests were materially prejudiced by the way in which the additional evidence base consultation was undertaken in Summer 2019.
- 3.11 In the Section 1 [Inspector's Final Report](#) (10 December 2020) he concluded that each of the NEAs has met the duty to cooperate in preparation of the Section 1 Local Plan. The Section 2 Local Plan Examination is currently ongoing as outlined in more detail in Section 4 below.
- 3.12 During the Section 2 Local Plan Examination, several [Statements of Common Ground \(SoCG\)](#) have been agreed between the Council and various stakeholders. During this monitoring period, a SoCG has been agreed between Colchester and the following:
- Environment Agency – March 2021;
 - Historic England – March 2021;
 - Natural England – March 2021;
 - Essex County Council – April 2021;
 - North Essex CCG, Essex Partnership University Trust and East of England Ambulance Trust - April 2021;
 - Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Essex County Council – April 2021;
 - O&H Properties – April 2021; and
 - Tollgate Partnership – April 2021 ²
- 3.13 Further information regarding the Section 2 Local Plan Examination can be found via the [Examination website](#) and in Section 4 below.

² Two separate SoCG have been signed with the Tollgate Partnership as these relate to two separate site allocations in the Section 2 Local Plan.

Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community DPD

- 3.14 Joint planning work is continuing with the preparation of Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community which will provide detail on location and design. An Issues and Options consultation for the DPD was held from 13 November 2017 to 2 February 2018. The study work and responses from that consultation form a starting point for the next phase of work, bearing in mind the changes during the intervening period.
- 3.15 Tendring and Colchester Councils have been working together to commission further evidence base and masterplanning work required to support the DPD. As with masterplanning work carried out for the Issues and Options stage, work has included focused consultation with stakeholders and existing communities in the vicinity of Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community. Local Plan Committee were presented with a proposal for the preparation of the DPD in July 2020. Regular updates are provided on the progression of the DPD as a standing item for Local Plan Committee.

4. 2020-21 Progress on Plan Preparation

4.1 The current Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the programme for plan preparation from 20221 to 2024. This is available on the [Council's website](#), see Appendix C – Local Development Scheme 2021-2024 for a summary chart. The LDS has not been revised during this monitoring period; however it was updated in June 2021. To reflect the most update to edition of the LDS, the table below summarises the progress of the documents in the June 2021 LDS and identifies key milestones.

Table 2: Local Development Scheme Progress

| Development Plan Document | Progress / Current stage Comments | Target Date/ Key Milestones |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| New Local Plan | <p>Issues & Options Consultation Feb/March 2015</p> <p>Preferred Options Draft and Consultation July-September 2016</p> <p>Submission Plan Consultation June- August 2017</p> <p>Submission to PINs 9 October 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section 1</p> <p>Examination Hearing Sessions from 16 January to 25 January 2018</p> <p>Additional Hearing Session 9 May 2018</p> <p>Letters from Inspector received 8 June 2018, 27 June 2018 and 2 August 2018</p> <p>Technical Public Consultation on updated evidence base documents 19 August - 30 September 2019</p> <p>Further Examination Hearings Sessions (Section One) from 14 - 30 January 2020</p> <p>Letter from Inspector 15 May 2020</p> <p>Main Modifications Consultation 27 August to 9 October 2020</p> | Section 2 Local Plan Adoption Winter 2021/22 |

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

| Development Plan Document | Progress / Current stage Comments | Target Date/ Key Milestones |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>Inspectors Final Report received 10 December 2020</p> <p>Adoption by Full Council 1 February 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section 2</p> <p>Examination Hearing Sessions from 20 April to 30 April 2021</p> <p>Main Modifications Consultation from 4 October to 18 November 2021</p> | |
| <p>Joint Strategic Growth DPD</p> | <p>Planning Framework Document related to strategic allocation for new development at the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community. Will need to be aligned with Section 1 Local Plan and comply with Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Issues and Options Consultation November 2017 to February 2018</p> <p>Ongoing engagement, evidence gathering and draft document preparation</p> | <p>Member approval for draft DPD Consultation (Regulation 18) Winter 2021/22</p> <p>Adoption Summer/Autumn 2023</p> |
| <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> | <p>Initial draft prepared for member approval for public consultation</p> <p>Presentation at Local Plan Committee December 2019</p> <p>Consultation 24 January to 9 March 2020</p> | <p>Following consultation, decision made to review and reconsult once Section 2 Local Plan adopted</p> |
| <p>Affordable Housing SPD</p> | <p>Initial draft prepared for member approval for public consultation</p> <p>Presentation at Local Plan Committee December 2019</p> <p>Consultation 24 January to 9 March 2020</p> | <p>Following consultation, decision made to review and reconsult once Section 2 Local Plan adopted</p> |

| Development Plan Document | Progress / Current stage Comments | Target Date/ Key Milestones |
|--|---|---|
| Self and Custom Build and Specialist Housing SPD | Initial draft prepared for member approval for public consultation Presentation at Local Plan Committee December 2019 Consultation 24 January to 9 March 2020 | Following consultation, decision made to review and reconsult once Section 2 Local Plan adopted |
| Climate Change SPD | Initial evidence gathering | Work to formally commence once Section 2 Local Plan adopted |
| Biodiversity SPD | Initial evidence gathering | Work to formally commence once Section 2 Local Plan adopted |
| Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) | Statement of Community Involvement Updated in July 2020 to reflect specific requirements arising from national guidance and procedures on dealing with Covid-19 implications. Subject to review following government regulation changes or new examples of best practise introduced. | No update currently required. Position to be reviewed annually or in line with national policy and guidance changes in relation to Covid-19. |

Section 1 Colchester Local Plan

4.2 As outlined above, The North Essex Authorities (NEAs) received a letter from the Section 1 Inspector on [15 May 2020](#). The Planning Inspector concluded that the Plan had been deemed to be legally compliant, the Sustainability Appraisal, subject to some issues on deliverability, had been accepted and he concluded that the Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) had been assessed correctly. The Inspector also reconfirmed his original position on housing numbers with a requirement of 920 houses per annum for Colchester, although this would need to be reviewed in the light of the 2018 household projections. The Inspector was also content with the range of delivery mechanisms and with road links and other infrastructure issues and with employment contributions.

4.3 However, there were significant issues on which he had not been convinced. He had not been satisfied that routes three and four of the Rapid Transit System were deliverable and he had expressed concern about the proposed annual rate of housebuilding. He had not accepted some of the work done by the NEAs on land values which had implications for his view on the viability of garden communities at Colchester Braintree Borders and West of Braintree. The Inspector therefore concluded that neither of these garden communities were likely to be delivered. However, he had concluded that the Section 1 Plan could be sound if those garden

communities were removed and the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community only was included.

- 4.4 The Inspector also stated that the Local Plan has met the legal requirements including the Duty to Co-operate. Local Plan Committee confirmed their position with regard to the Section 1 Emerging Local Plan, which is to proceed and consult on Modifications. This position was also confirmed at Braintree and Tendring District Councils.
- 4.5 The Inspector also asked for comments in relation to housing in light of the 2018 based household projections. The NEA's have submitted their response to this which is available on the [Examination website](#). This demonstrates that there is no meaningful change for Colchester.
- 4.6 The Inspector published the formal modifications and consultation was undertaken alongside the revised SA and HRA for a six-week period from 27 August to 9 October 2020.
- 4.7 Following the close of the main modifications consultation, the NEAs sent all valid representations received to the Inspector for his consideration. The Inspector issued his final report on the soundness and legal compliance of the Section 1 Local Plan on 10 December 2020. With the incorporation of the Inspector's final set of recommended Main Modifications (which include the removal of the Colchester Braintree Borders Garden Community and West of Braintree Garden Community), the Section 1 Local is sound and legally compliant.
- 4.8 Local Plan Committee on 14 December 2020, recommended to Full Council that the modified Section 1 Local Plan is adopted.
- 4.9 Full Council formally adopted the Colchester Borough Local Plan 2013 to 2033 North Essex Authorities Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan on 1 February 2021.
- 4.10 All correspondence mentioned above between the NEAs and the Inspector is available on the [Examination website](#).

Section 2 Colchester Local Plan

- 4.11 Following the Section 1 Inspectors Letter of May 2020, the Planning Inspectorate appointed two Inspectors to examine the Section 2 Emerging Local Plan. The Inspectors are Jameson Bridgwater PGDiTP MRTPI and Anne Jordan BA (Hons) MRTPI.
- 4.12 Following conclusion of the Section 1 Examination. The Section 2 Examination commenced. The Inspector issued Matters, Issues and Questions on 15 March 2021 to set out the topic of the hearing sessions, the issues of consideration and the questions which require further information. The Inspector requested hearing statements were received via the Programme Officer by 6 April 2021.

- 4.13 Hearing sessions were held for 6 days virtually via Zoom between Tuesday 20 April and Thursday 29 April 2021. Each hearing session was live streamed on the Council's YouTube channel, in a similar to the Council's virtual committee meetings.
- 4.14 The Inspector confirmed his recommended 'Main Modifications' he considers necessary for soundness to the Section 2 Local Plan in September 2021.
- 4.15 The Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector have been published for a six week public consultation from 4 October to 18 November 2021.
- 4.16 Officers have sent all valid representations to the Inspector for his consideration. The Council are currently awaiting the Inspector's Final Report.
- 4.17 Further information can be found on the Council's [Examination Website](#).

Neighbourhood Plans

4.18 Neighbourhood planning has remained high on the national government's agenda since regulations were introduced in 2012. Revisions to the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations in January 2018, the revised NPPF (July 2021) and changes to the National planning practice guidance in May 2019 continue to demonstrate the importance of Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) for housing provision and local planning matters.

4.19 A number of Neighbourhood Plans have progressed during the monitoring period. Table 3 summarises the current position of NPs within the Borough.

4.20 During the 2020-21 monitoring period the following has occurred:

- Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation held from 22 June to 10 August 2020;
- Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan Examination commenced in August 2020. The Examiner issued his report recommending the plan cannot proceed to referendum in October 2020;
- West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation held from 23 October to 11 December 2020;
- Great Tey Neighbourhood Plan Update and Consultation following 'Call for Sites' November 2020;
- Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan submitted to CBC in accordance with Regulation 15 in December 2020;
- Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation held from 22 February to 5 April 2021: and
- Continued work for a number of other Neighbourhood Plans.

4.21 The following key milestones have occurred in the next monitoring period (2021/22) but for completeness have also been recorded in this report:

- West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan submitted to CBC in accordance with Regulation 15 in April 2021;
- West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation held from 20 July to 3 September 2021;
- Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan Examination commenced in August 2021; and
- West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Examination commenced in October 2021.

Table 3: Neighbourhood Plans Progress

| Neighbourhood Plan | Area Designated | Current Stage |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Boxted | October 2012 | Adopted December 2016, part of the Development Plan used for decision making. |
| Myland and Braiswick | January 2013 | Adopted December 2016, part of the Development Plan used for decision making. Considering options for undertaking a plan review. |
| Wivenhoe | July 2013 | Adopted May 2019, part of the Development Plan used for decision making. |
| West Bergholt | July 2013 | Adopted October 2019, part of the Development Plan used for decision making. |
| Eight Ash Green | June 2015 | Adopted December 2019, part of the Development Plan used for decision making. |
| Tiptree | February 2015 | Examiner's Report issued October 2020 recommending the Plan cannot proceed to referendum. The Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan recommenced work at the Regulation 14 stage. Consultation anticipated Winter 2020/21 |
| Copford with Easthorpe | May 2015 | Regulation 14 Consultation anticipated Winter 2020/21 |
| Marks Tey | September 2015 | Plan submitted to CBC in December 2020 Regulation 16 Consultation held from 22 February to 5 April 2021 Examination commenced August 2021 |
| West Mersea | November 2016 | Regulation 14 Consultation held from 23 October to 11 December 2020 Plan submitted April 2021 Regulation 16 Consultation held from 20 July to 3 September 2021 Examination commenced October 2021 |
| Great Tey | June 2017 | Evidence gathering and plan preparation Update and Consultation with Residents following Call for Sites - November 2020 |
| Messing | July 2013 | Work abandoned. No active NHP group currently. |
| Stanway | June 2014 | Work abandoned. No active NHP group currently. |

5. Planning Applications

5.1 The level of planning applications provides a useful backdrop against which the effects of policies can be considered. Table 4 below summarises planning applications determined in this monitoring period.

Table 4: Planning Applications Summary 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

| Planning Applications from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 | |
|---|---|
| The number of applications received (major, minor and other) | 1,535 |
| The number of applications approved | 1,193 |
| The number of applications refused | 131 |
| The number of appeals made | 38 |
| The number of appeals allowed | 7 (0 Partial, 0 Withdrawn & 21 Dismissed) |
| The number of departures | 1 (for determinations within the period) |
| Minor applications decided within 8 weeks | 94% |
| Major applications decided within 13 weeks | 98% |

5.2 The total number of applications (major, minor and others i.e. change of use and listed building consent) received between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 of 1,535 shows a slight decrease on last year's total of 1,594. This figure however does not include all applications i.e. discharge of condition and preliminary inquiries. When these are added the total for the year is 2,673. This is higher than the figure of 2,475 for 2019/20.

5.3 Decision rates remain high with 94% of minor applications decided within 8 weeks; a slight increase from the previous figure of 93% as recorded in the previous three years (2019/20, 2018/19 and 2017/18).

5.4 Performance in the major applications category has increased from 95% in 2019/20 to 98% in this monitoring period. This is higher than the previous two monitoring years (2018/19 and 2017/18) of 93% and demonstrates that majority of applications are being determined within the specified decision time limits.

5.5 Overall, it can be seen that the Council's implementation of project management measures for applications, including pre-application advice and Planning Performance Agreements have and continue to enhance consistency and quality in processing applications.

6. Key Theme: Housing Indicators

Overview

6.1 In line with the NPPF, the Council is required to ensure sufficient housing land is supplied to meet local housing needs. The Council has developed an Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) target for the new Colchester Local Plan of 920 houses a year which takes into account the requirements of the NPPF 2012; and will ensure the Borough provides a 5 year supply of specific deliverable sites and identifies a supply of specific developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15.

6.2 The target of 920 homes a year reflects a comprehensive evidence base which includes the following:

- Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study produced by Peter Brett Associates (PBA) in July 2015 and updated November 2016 for Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester and Tendring Councils:
- Review of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) work in Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree and Tendring to bring it into compliance with the NPPF and PPG - HDH Planning and Development Ltd, December 2015.

6.3 In February 2021, Section 1 of the Local Plan was adopted. This included Policy SP4 which confirms the objectively assessed need for housing as 920 dwellings per annum.

6.4 The Council has published an updated [Housing Land Supply Annual Position Statement \(August 2021\)](#) for the current 5 year period. This demonstrates that Colchester has a sufficient supply of deliverable housing sites against the Local Plan target (920 dwellings per annum). A total of 5.75 years is deliverable within the period 2021/22 to 2025/26.

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Housing Indicator 1 | Housing Delivery | Indicator for Core Strategy Policy H1 |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|

6.5 Most of the housing programmed for delivery in the 2001-2023 period has already been accounted for by previous Local Plan allocations, housing completions and planning permissions. Colchester delivered 18,783 new homes between 2001/02 and 2020/21 at an average rate of 939 dwellings per year. During the last monitoring period, a total of 741 units were delivered within the Borough. See Table 5 and Figure 1 below.

Table 5: New Dwelling Completions in Colchester 2001/2 to 2020/21

| Year | Total Units |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 2001/2002 | 566 |
| 2002/2003 | 980 |
| 2003/2004 | 916 |
| 2004/2005 | 1,277 |
| 2005/2006 | 896 |
| 2006/2007 | 1,250 |
| 2007/2008 | 1,243 |
| 2008/2009 | 1,028 |
| 2009/2010 | 518 |
| 2010/2011 | 673 |
| 2011/2012 | 1,012 |
| 2012/2013 | 617 |
| 2013/2014 | 725 |
| 2014/2015 | 943 |
| 2015/2016 | 1,149 |
| 2016/2017 | 912 |
| 2017/2018 | 1,048 |
| 2018/2019 | 1,165 |
| 2019/2018 | 1,124 |
| 2020/2021 | 741 |
| Total from 2001/02 to 2020/21 | 18,783 |

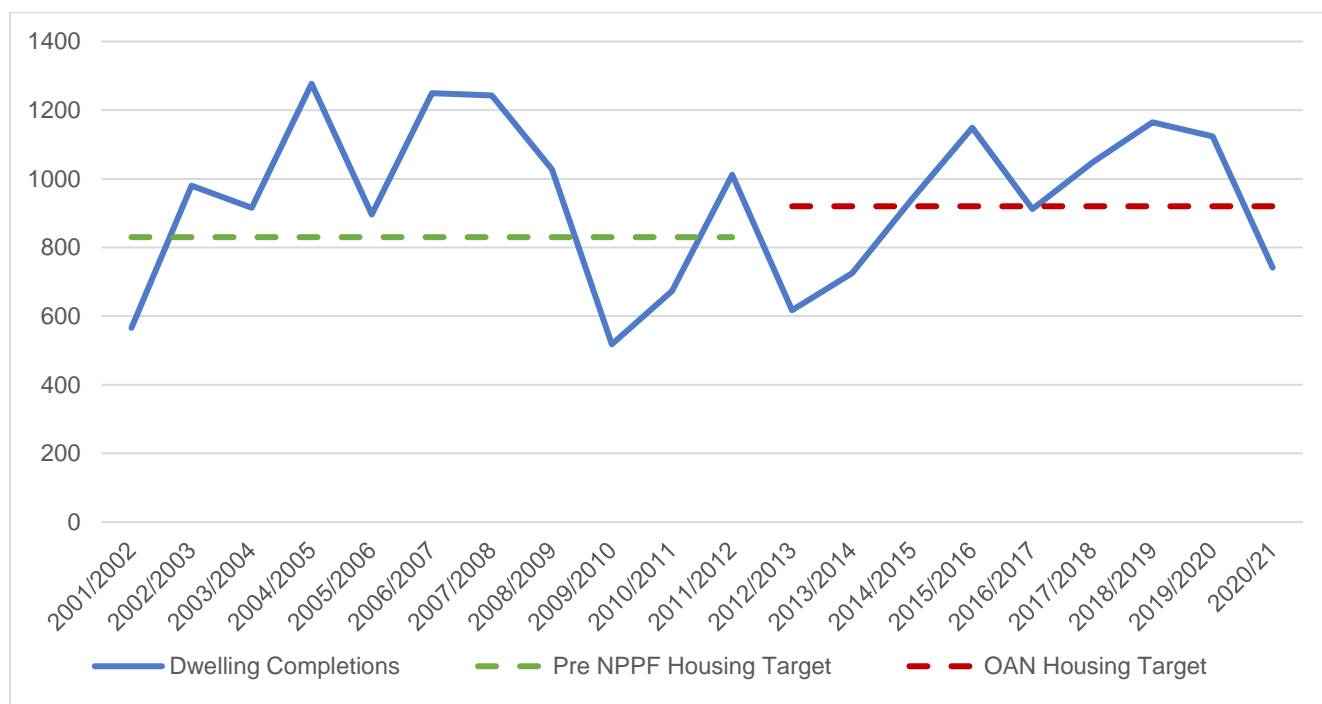


Figure 1: New Dwelling Completions in Colchester 2001/02 to 2020/21

6.6 Table 6 illustrates the context of delivery rates across other Essex authorities, Colchester continues to demonstrate a good track record against housing requirement.

Table 6: Essex Local Authority Housing Delivery

| Authority | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | Total Units |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Basildon | 678 | 816 | 412 | 341 | 340 | 471 | 356 | 3,414 |
| Braintree | 409 | 523 | 291 | 491 | 555 | 883 | 874 | 4,026 |
| Brentwood | 159 | 111 | 150 | 213 | 246 | 200 | 168 | 1,247 |
| Castle Point | 202 | 123 | 114 | 150 | 200 | 71 | 70 | 930 |
| Chelmsford | 826 | 792 | 1,002 | 1,008 | 1,256 | 832 | 829 | 6,545 |
| Colchester | 943 | 1,149 | 912 | 1,048 | 1,165 | 1,124 | 741 | 7,082 |
| Epping Forest | 229 | 267 | 157 | 526 | 426 | 223 | TBC | TBC |
| Harlow | 201 | 225 | 340 | 347 | 676 | 725 | 664 | 3,178 |
| Maldon | 68 | 230 | 243 | 166 | 306 | 462 | 426 | 1,901 |
| Rochford | 167 | 148 | 117 | 299 | 262 | 347 | TBC | TBC |
| Tendring | 267 | 245 | 658 | 565 | 915 | 784 | 574 | 4,008 |
| Uttlesford | 463 | 554 | 722 | 966 | 983 | 485 | 417 | 4,590 |
| Essex Total | 4,612 | 5,183 | 5,118 | 6,120 | 7,330 | 6,571 | 5,468 | 40,438 |

Source: Essex County Council, District/Borough and Unitary Councils

6.7 Colchester's build rate has been on target in recent years with the global pandemic causing a slight drop for this monitoring period. When taking an average of the past three years Colchester has provided a net additional 971 new homes per year, which provides reassurance on future target delivery. In addition to locational and market factors, this reflects the Council's willingness to work with developers to bring schemes forward. The Council accordingly expects to be able to continue a sufficient rate of delivery.

6.8 Of the 741 dwellings completed in this monitoring period, 377 units were from windfall sites. This is a high proportion of the overall units in comparison to previous years and is higher than the average delivery rate of 295 windfall units over a five-year period. See Figure 2 and table 7 below.

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

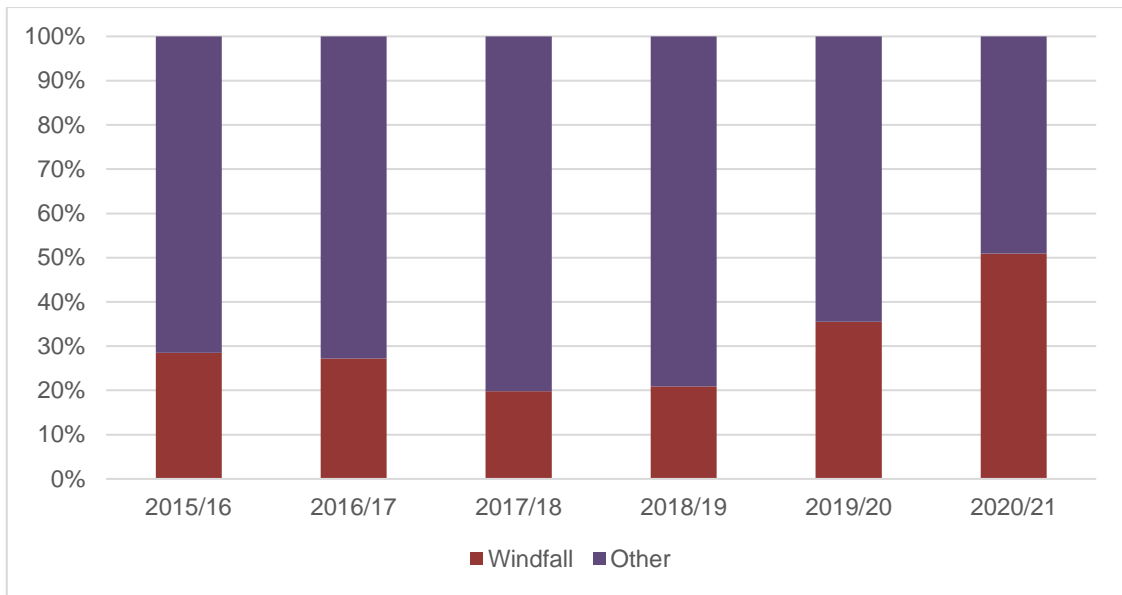


Figure 2: Percentage of Windfall Site Completions 2015/16 to 2020/21

Table 7: Colchester Historic Windfall Completions

| Year | 2016/2017 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | Average |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Number of Dwellings from Windfall | 248 | 207 | 243 | 399 | 377 | 295 |

6.9 The housing completions included in this report shows that a net of 741 homes were built between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. This is lower than the previous years' total of 1,124 homes but reflects a difficult year due to the pandemic. See Table 8 below.

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Table 8: Housing Completions (site by site basis) 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

| PLANNING REFERENCE | SITE LOCATION | 2020/21 |
|------------------------------------|--|---------|
| BERECHURCH | | |
| 187460 | 11-19 BLACKHEATH | 9 |
| CASTLE | | |
| 180045 | COWDRAY CENTRE, MASON ROAD, COLCHESTER | 12 |
| 145687 | 1-3 QUEEN STREET, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 172767 | 3 EAST STREET, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 180546 | CASTLE COURT, ST PETERS STREET, COLCHESTER | 10 |
| 170844 | 99 HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER | 7 |
| 188823 | THE CORNER SHOP, 59 BARRACK STREET, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 190809 | 1 TRINITY STREET, COLCHESTER | 13 |
| 192230 | SEATRADE HOUSE, NORTH STATION ROAD | 27 |
| 191216 | 21 MAIDENBURGH STREET, COLCHESTER | 3 |
| GREENSTEAD | | |
| 181309 | ELMSTEAD RD/ SWAN CLOSE, COLCHESTER | 62 |
| 160224 | SPORTS GROUND, BROMLEY ROAD, COLCHESTER | 4 |
| 180529 | 148 ST ANDREWS AVENUE, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 181289 | 160 ST ANDREWS AVENUE | 1 |
| 202772 | AVON WAY HOUSE, AVON WAY, COLCHESTER | 60 |
| LEXDEN & BRAISWICK | | |
| 172305 | 3 SPRING LANE WEST BERGHOLT | 3 |
| 193493 | RIDGEWAY, WEST BERGHOLT | 1 |
| MILE END | | |
| 100502 | FORMER SEVERALLS HOSPITAL PHASE 2, COLCHESTER | 61 |
| 150473 | CHESTERWELL, (Both Outlets) | 56 |
| 150600 | LAND ADJ 89 NAYLAND RD, COLCHESTER | 3 |
| NEW TOWN & CHRISTCHURCH | | |
| 170621 | GARRISON DEVELOPMENT - K1 (ASSITED LIVING) | 10 |
| 181281 | FMR BUS DEPOT, MAGDALEN STREET, COLCHESTER | 104 |
| 182528 | LAND R/O 9-23 IRVINE RD, COLCHESTER | 6 |

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| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----|
| 170331 / 171316 | 22-30 SOUTHWAY, COLCHESTER | 15 |
| OLD HEATH & HYTHE | | |
| 181552 | LAND ADJ 35 ABBOTS ROAD COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 150492 | CANNOCK MILL, OLD HEATH ROAD | 19 |
| 172355 | 19A DARCY ROAD, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 181552 | L/A 33 ABBOTS ROAD, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 182582 | 6 ARTILLERY STREET, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 190255 | 45 WINCHESTER ROAD, COLCHESTER | 2 |
| 192635 | 15A ABBOTS ROAD, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| ST JOHNS & ST ANNES | | |
| 187739 | L/A 42 PARSONS HEATH, COLCHETSER | 3 |
| 191774 | 60 COMPTON ROAD | 1 |
| 172057 | FORMER M & F WATTS | 3 |
| STANWAY | | |
| VARIOUS | LAKELANDS | 16 |
| 180873 | DYERS ROAD , COLCHESTER (MERSEA HOMES) | 45 |
| 171569 | DUGARD HOUSE, PEARTREE ROAD | 34 |
| 172272 | LAND R/O FIELD HOUSE, DYERS ROAD | 32 |
| 160696 | WYVERN FARM, LONDON ROAD, STANWAY | 2 |
| 181859 | WYVERN FARM, LONDON ROAD, STANWAY | 14 |
| MARKS TEY & LAYER | | |
| 195671 | 40 MALTING GREEN ROAD, LAYER DE LA HAYE | 1 |
| 152626 | L/A 172 OLD LONDON ROAD, MARKS TEY (NOT DUPLICATE) | 1 |
| 180042 | CHESTNUT FARM, ABBERTON ROAD, LAYER DE LA HAYE | 3 |
| 180759 | LAND OFF CLEARS ROAD, LAYER MARNEY | 2 |
| 182308 | "PHIPPS FARM" LOWER ROAD, LAYER BRETON, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 171984 | "BIRCHWOOD" BIRCH STREET, BIRCH, COLCHESTER | 1 |
| 190963 | CLEARS FARM, LAYER MARNEY | 1 |
| MERSEA & PYEFLEET | | |
| 145978 | 24 OAKWOOD AVENUE, WEST MERSEA | 1 |
| 160149 | FORMER LION PUBLIC HOUSE, MERSEA ROAD, LANGENHOE | 3 |
| 163155 | PLANE HALL FARM, SOUTH GREEN ROAD, FINGRINGHOE | 1 |

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

| | | |
|--|--|------------|
| 172601 | TWO BARFIELD ROAD, WEST MERSEA | 1 |
| 196524 | 6 UPLAND ROAD, WEST MERSEA | 3 |
| 190864 | 55 EMPRESS AVENUE, WEST MERSEA | 1 |
| 190010 | 95 FAIRHAVEN, WEST MERSEA | 1 |
| 204556 | 49 HIGH STREET, WEST MERSEA | 1 |
| ROWHEDGE | | |
| 144693 | ROWHEDGE WHARF (Bloor) | 13 |
| RURAL NORTH | | |
| 170997 | HILL FARM, BOXTED | 18 |
| 171595 | "HIGHBURY", EAST LANE, DEDHAM, COLCHESTER. | 1 |
| 118874 | LONG ACRE BUNGALOW, WAKES COLNE | 1 |
| 192220 | WAKES HALL, WAKES COLNE | 5 |
| 203902 | POST OFFICE, WORMINGFORD | 2 |
| TIPTREE | | |
| 122134 | GRANGE ROAD, TIPTREE | 8 |
| 130245/191414 | LAND ON NORTH EAST SIDE OF FACTORY HILL, TIPTREE | 12 |
| 161171 | L/A 58-60 MALDON ROAD, TIPTREE | 1 |
| 170292 | 84 MALDON ROAD, TIPTREE | 4 |
| 171250 | 63 NEWBRIDGE ROAD, TIPTREE | 2 |
| 191343 | 10 SELDON ROAD | 1 |
| 200733 | FACTORY HILL, TIPTREE | 1 |
| WIVENHOE | | |
| 180137 | 6 - 8 ANCHOR HILL, WIVENHOE | 1 |
| 190876 | 1 VALFREDA WAY | 2 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS COMPLETED | | 741 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Housing Indicator 2 | Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (brownfield) | Indicator for Core Strategy Policies SD1, H1 and UR1 |
|----------------------------|--|---|

6.10 This indicator has been removed from the AMR. The Council have defended a number of planning appeals over the last couple of years, which have been in conflict with key Policies SD1, H1 and ENV1 of the Adopted Local Plan in addition to other site-specific policies which may apply to each case. Regardless of the outcome of the appeal decision, a consistent conclusion of the extent to which elements of these key policies are up to date and consistent with the NPPF has emerged.

6.11 Policy SD1 is considered out of date in respect of the housing and job requirement figures and by requiring a sequential approach that gives priority to previously developed land (PDL). As a result, this portion of the policy is no longer required to be monitored. It should be noted that the remaining elements of the policy are considered up to date and consistent with the NPPF.

Brownfield Register

6.12 The Council has a statutory requirement to publish and maintain a Brownfield Land Register. The Council has published a register which provides up-to-date and consistent information on brownfield sites that local authorities consider to be appropriate for residential led development. The register is in two parts, Part 1 comprises all brownfield sites appropriate for residential development and Part 2 outlines those sites granted permission in principle.

6.13 The Council has granted planning permission on a number of brownfield sites via the traditional planning application process only. There a number of brownfield sites across the borough where building works have now commenced. No new sites have been submitted to the register in this monitoring period. The register is live and is published on the Council website and provides transparent information about sites within the register. The Council continues to have an open call for sites for the register as advertised on the Council website.

6.14 There are 27 sites on the current register and several sites are currently going through the planning application process. If applications are successful, these sites will be removed from the register as and when building works have commenced and progressed. The former Essex County Council Lexden Road hospital site was removed from the register during this period because building works have commenced for 118 units.

6.15 Further information can be found [online](#).

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Housing Indicator 3 | Affordable housing completions | Indicator for Core Strategy Policies H4 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

6.16 During this monitoring year 40 new build affordable housing units were delivered, 35 were affordable rent, and 5 were Shared Ownership. This amounts to 5.4% of all

new homes delivered. No new build social rent properties were delivered. The comparable figures for the previous three years were 202 (18%) in 19/20, 110 (9.4%) in 18/19, and 132 (12.5%) in 17/18. This demonstrates the lowest number of new build affordable housing units delivered in the last four years, the main reason for this being the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.17 All 40 of the new build affordable homes were delivered through section 106 obligations.

6.18 For the year 2020/21, no commuted sums were received for affordable housing.

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Housing Indicator 4 | Percentage of affordable housing in rural areas | Indicator for Core Strategy Policies H4 and ENV2 |
|----------------------------|--|---|

6.19 Zero new build affordable homes were delivered in rural areas during this monitoring period.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Housing Indicator 5 | Gypsy and Travellers Provision | Indicator for Core Strategy Policy H5 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

6.20 The Council worked with other districts to produce an Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to help provide an assessment of current provision and future need for pitches (Published in July 2014, with September 2014 revisions and a Colchester specific report in June 2017). The GTAA established that Colchester had 12 local authority pitches at Severalls Lane, 15 private pitches, and one site where the use was tolerated and considered lawful due to the length of time it had occurred.

6.21 Council monitoring established that in 2021 there were 47 caravan/mobile units across 10 sites within the Borough. This includes 20 on the Local Authority Site at Severalls Lane. The actual number of caravans present in the Borough may vary at any point in time and explain any differences between the number of caravans permitted by planning applications and the number of caravans recorded in the caravan count.

6.22 The Council amended Core Strategy Policy H5 (Gypsies and Travellers) in its Focused Review (July 2014) to clarify that it will use national policies to help determine planning applications for gypsy and traveller sites prior to the adoption of a new Local Plan.

6.23 The development of new policies and allocations for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people has been guided by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment work noted above, which found that the Council will need to provide an overall total of 15 further pitches to meet demand to 2033, including 2 pitches for nomadic travellers, and 13 pitches for those identifying as gypsies and travellers. This is outlined in Emerging Local Plan policy DM11.

7. Key Theme: Economic Growth

Overview

7.1 Colchester has a diverse and relatively resilient economy. This combined with significant investments from the Government's Town Deal (£19.2m) and private sector investments in Ultrafast Broadband and 5G, means that Colchester is well placed to support economic recovery. Complementary to this growth is a steadily growing population, estimated to be at 197,200 in 2020.

7.2 Future economic growth through job and business creation is outlined in the [Colchester Economic Growth Strategy \(2015-2021\)](#). A mid-term review of the strategy (2019) has highlighted the following priority sectors, classified as such due to high growth potential and high numbers of jobs:

- **Creative, Digital and Tech:** Publishing, software and games development and digital marketing enabled further by Ultrafast Gigabit broadband connectivity
- **Care:** The concentration of NHS and allied services and care homes together with demographic trends across North Essex offers opportunity for innovation and growth in the sector
- **Energy:** Colchester is well-positioned to benefit from the major projects coming on stream in the region including wind, nuclear and heat networks
- **Construction:** The North Essex construction pipeline is significant, including infrastructure projects, schools' expansion, major residential and associated commercial development. This will ensure growth in this sector for decades to come.

7.3 Other sectors are classified as 'core' to the local economy to support growth opportunities for the Borough and include the financial and business services, retail, tourism and advanced manufacturing sectors.

7.4 The North Essex Economic Strategy (NEES) 2040 has been developed in partnership with Braintree District, Colchester Borough, Essex County, Tendring District and Uttlesford District Councils. This provides a platform for strategic intervention at a scale which will achieve transformation in the overall economic prosperity of the North Essex area and compliment local economic activity delivered by the partners. The overall vision of the strategy is as follows:

“North Essex is a high-value, productive and sustainable economy. People choose to live and work locally, in new and established communities that are well connected and inspire innovation and creativity.”

7.5 To deliver this vision, four key missions have been identified that will focus the partners shared activity over the next five years:

- Driving innovation and technology adoption;

- Developing a skilled and resilient workforce;
- Creating a network of distinctive and cohesive places; and
- Growing a greener, more sustainable economy.

7.6 The North Essex Economic Strategy was recently approved by Cabinet on 20 November 2019. The Strategy can be viewed [online](#).

Business and Demography Growth

7.7 As of March 2021, Colchester had 7,515 enterprises consisting of 8,795 local units. The type of enterprise is defined by the number of employees. A micro enterprise would have 0-9 employees, small 10-49, medium 50-249 and large being above 250. Figure 3 below shows the type of enterprises in Colchester.

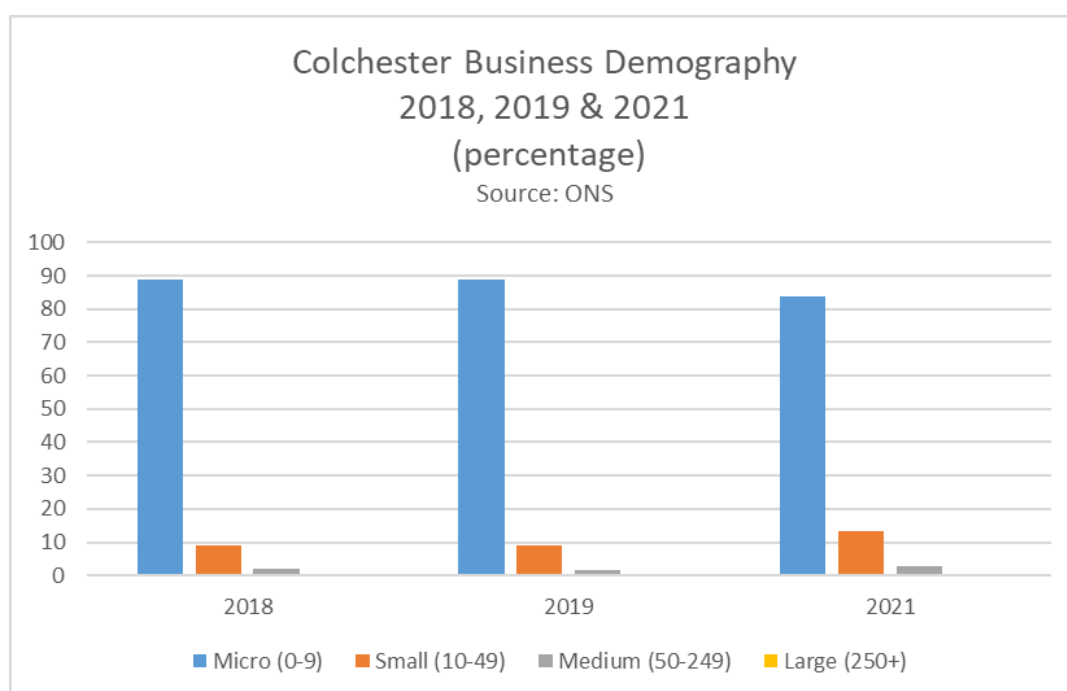


Figure 3: Types of Enterprises in Colchester

Micro enterprises are the most dominant across Colchester, making up 89% of total enterprises in 2021, and remaining largely the same as the 2019 figure of 88.8%. There is significant growth in the number of small businesses over the past year from 9% to 13.2%. The number of large enterprises continues to be below 1% of the total.

Employment Growth

7.8 The latest figures available from the ONS demonstrate that 101,900 people in Colchester were in employment, which included 52,000 (62.7%) full time workers and 31,000 (37.3%) part time workers.

7.9 In 2020, there were 126,200 people within the Borough considered as working age (age 16-64). This included 97,100 of this population in employment, with self-

employment comprising 10,500 people. Within the working age population, 24,900 people are economically inactive which includes students, sick, retired or homemakers and there are a further estimated 4,200 unemployed.

- 7.10 Although the number of people registered as claimants for out of work benefits appears high at 4,565 people (3.6% of the total working age population in Colchester), as Universal Credit is rolled out across the Country, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is likely to rise due to the broader span of claimants who are required to look for work than previously required under Jobseekers Allowance. However, the Colchester figure of 3.6% of the total population, does compare favourably with the eastern region figure of 4% and the Great Britain figure of 4.8%.
- 7.11 The total number of people unemployed has risen, from 3,600 in 2020 to 4,200 in this monitoring period. This represents 4.1% of the Colchester population and is below both the Regional and National averages of 4.3% and 5% respectively.
- 7.12 In 2020, 42,700 people aged 16-64 had achieved an NVQ Level 4+ qualification (degree or higher-level) representing 34.6% of the working age population in Colchester. Although, a decline in comparison to 2018 (38%). This is also lower than the regional average of 39.3% for the East of England and also significantly lower than the Great Britain figure of 43.1%.
- 7.13 In 2020/21, 800 apprenticeships were started; ranging from intermediate (280), advanced (320) and higher (200) levels. The apprenticeships also cover a wide age range with 200 apprentices aged 19, 220 aged 19-24 and 380 aged over 25.
- 7.14 In 2020/21 in Colchester 3,330 people were studying a course in a Further Education College, with a training provider, within their local community or are employees undertaking an Apprenticeship or other qualification in the workplace.

Key Programmes Update

- 7.15 Colchester Borough Council's commercial arm Colchester Amphora Trading is driving the development of the £200m Northern Gateway development which surrounds the Community Stadium, home of Colchester United FC. This landmark development is themed around health and leisure reflecting the need to keep the area's rapidly ageing population fit, active and healthy and encouraging participation in sport and leisure activities. Construction completed in Spring 2020, bringing 76 acres of new sport and leisure facilities to Colchester's booming population including a new cycling track, a new sports centre with café, gym, studio and sports hall and a new Club House for Colchester Rugby Club. New homes, a healthcare campus and potentially 500,000sq ft of new office space will also be developed to the south of the A12.
- 7.16 Such developments offer great opportunities to rethink supporting infrastructure and the Northern Gateway development is leading the way on the installation of a pioneering new heat network which is one of only nine flagship schemes in the UK to be funded by the Government. The network will significantly reduce carbon

emissions from heating buildings and is the largest scale project of its kind in the country.

7.17 Government funding has also been secured to install Gigabit fibre broadband to the development which is adding 1gb simultaneous connectivity to the town centre's existing gigabit fibre network. This connectivity is proving to be very attractive to existing Colchester businesses and new businesses seeking improved connectivity. Full fibre Ultrafast Broadband is critical to attract new businesses into Colchester for a growing population. It's also vital to help existing businesses looking to expand and grow, and is key to getting Colchester recognised as a hub for technology and digital businesses.

7.18 The University of Essex's £250m expansion plan is also spearheading local growth, which is well under way, servicing a double-digit rise in student population as well as the University's global ambitions.

7.19 2021 has seen the completion of the £11m Mercury Rising expansion project which has completely renovated, improved and extended The Mercury's theatre space, production and workshop facilities as well as building a new business incubation space to support local creative talent which complements the new creative business centre in Queen Street run by SPACE Studios.

7.20 Colchester has been awarded £19.2m from the Government's Town Deal fund. This will deliver a boost to economic growth through supporting a variety of improvement projects. Colchester is one of 101 places across the UK which have been awarded funding from this programme.

7.21 In September 2020 Colchester was awarded £1m to kickstart town centre improvements. This will be spent transforming St Nicholas Square (bounded by Three Wise Monkeys, the rear of the new St Nicholas Hotel and the former Co-op building). It will also complement the area around The Mercury Theatre and Balkerne Gate by redesigning space there also. This will provide a much better first impression coming over the bridge from St Mary's car park.

7.22 The £19.2m Town Deal fund will see Colchester becoming a healthier, greener place. A place which celebrates and respects its history and heritage. A place which is more equal than before and is actively recovering from the economic impact of Covid-19.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Economic Growth Indicator 1 | Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type (sqm) | Indicator for Core Strategy Policies CE1, CE2 and CE3 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|

7.23 For this monitoring period, data relating to employment uses across the Borough have not been reported as this not considered to provide a true and accurate representation. This is due to revisions to use classes introduced in September 2020 (Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2020) and the impact to employment and businesses due to Covid 19 and the temporary measures which have been introduced to enable local economies and businesses to adapt during these unprecedented times i.e., street furniture, outdoor seating, pavement diversions and extension of markets.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Economic Growth Indicator 2 | Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type, which is on previously developed land (PDL) (sqm). | Indicator for Core Strategy Policies SD1, CE1, CE2, CE3, UR1 |
|------------------------------------|--|---|

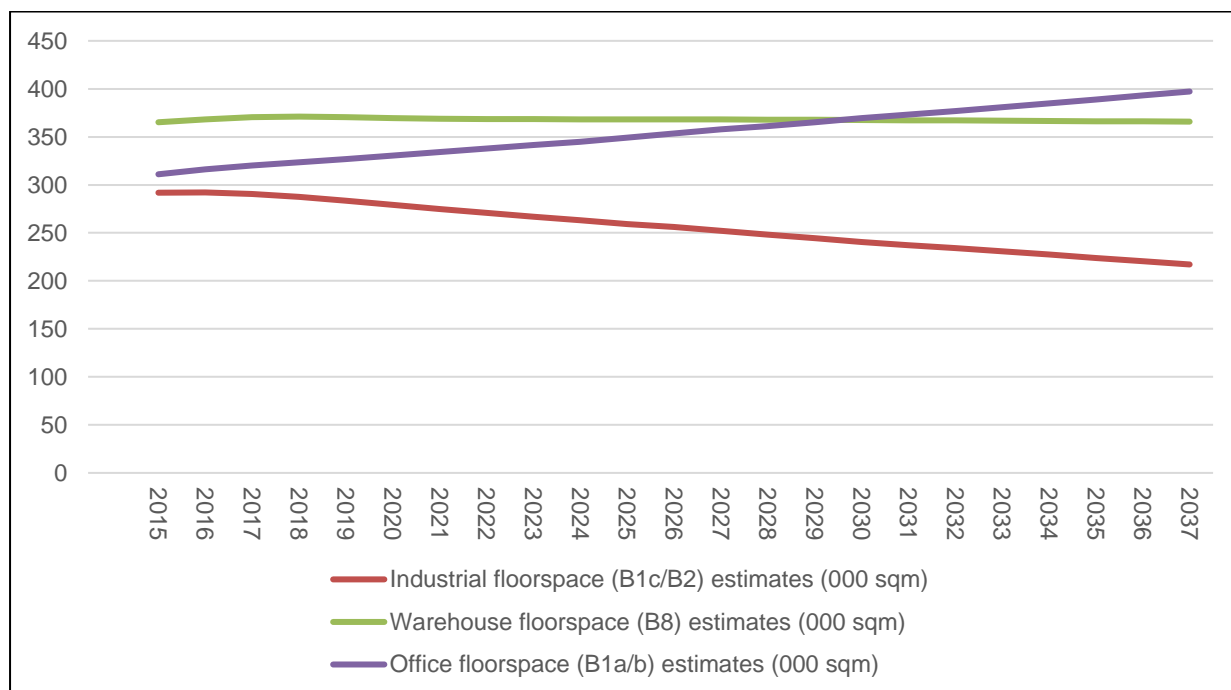
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| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Economic Growth Indicator 3 | Employment land available | Indicator for Core Strategy Policies CE1, CE2 and CE3 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|

7.25 Demand for commercial space is largely a derived demand from the levels of business formation and expansion in the economy. It is also subject to wider changes in working practices, such as flexible and homeworking in jobs leading to changes in the use of existing space.

7.26 The Council's [May 2017 Employment Land Supply Delivery Trajectory Report](#) provides an assessment of the availability and deliverability of sites identified by the council as having the potential to contribute towards meeting future office and industrial floorspace requirements identified in the Local Plan currently under examination, which covers the period to 2033. The report concludes that Colchester has sufficient employment space in overall quantitative terms to meet the needs associated with growth over the Plan period. The report considers 15 identified sites

in detail but also notes that there will be other sites that make some contribution to meeting future needs including emerging proposals for new Garden Communities.



Source: EEFM, January 2016

Figure 4: Projected Employment Land Use in Colchester 2015 – 2037

- 7.27 The Council’s evidence base for employment land is from three sources; 2015 Colchester Employment Land Needs Assessment, 2017 Employment Land Trajectory by NLP and North Essex Garden Communities Employment and Demographic Study April 2017. The range of hectares of employment land to be provided in the Joint Strategic Section 1 and then carried forward Section 2; was based on two of the four scenarios developed by NLP to consider future need for employment land.
- 7.28 The Section 1 Local Plan Policy SP5 (Employment) sets the overall range of employment land to be delivered within Colchester during the plan period as 22-30ha.
- 7.29 Policy SP9 of the Section 1 Local Plan outlines that the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community will allocate approximately 25ha of B use employment land, through the Development Plan Document (DPD). This is being further developed through detailed masterplanning work and additional evidence to support and inform the DPD.
- 7.30 In order to support the Section 2 Local Plan examination, the Council prepared a specific [Topic Paper](#) on economic growth policies to explain how and why the Council is suggesting amendments to certain policies in response to changes in national policy and legislation, recent planning permissions and comments received in representations. A further [Topic Paper](#) on Consequential Changes arising from

national legislation also explores the implications to employment policies arising from the changes in Use Classes Order.

- 7.31 Appendix 1 of the Economic Growth Topic Paper provides an updated analysis of Colchester economic growth statistics to add to the Local Plan evidence base. This review of employment growth patterns and resulting demand for land allocations produced figures which broadly align with the Council’s revised employment land allocations.
- 7.32 An additional [Topic Paper](#) and [Appendix](#) (Retail and Town Centre Uses) has also been prepared to support the Section 2 Local Plan examination, in particular the policies SG5, SG6 and SG6a. This includes an update to the 2016 Retail Study.
- 7.33 This confirmed that Colchester Town Centre is the Borough’s most significant centre in relation to the scale and mix of retail and non-retail uses, retailer representation, and its market shares of expenditure (particularly ‘high street’ comparison goods retail expenditure) secured from a sub-regional catchment. It further confirmed that the District Centres, whilst varying in terms of their scale and nature, each perform an important role serving their local populations as well as providing access to shops and services for a wider than local catchment (but not to a level comparable with Colchester Town Centre).
- 7.34 As a result of all of the above, the Inspector has proposed modifications to Section 2 Local Plan Policy SG3: Colchester Employment. This includes updating the figures to reflect the reduction in Stanway allocations, deletion of the Colchester Braintree Borders Garden Community and Reinstatement of employment land at Marks Tey. The Inspector will provide his final thoughts on this issue in his Final Report.

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| <p>Economic Growth Indicator 4</p> | <p>Total amount of floorspace for ‘town centre uses’ (sqm)</p> | <p>Indicator for Core Strategy Policy CE2a</p> |
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- 7.35 For this monitoring period, data relating to employment uses across the Borough have not been reported as this not considered to provide a true and accurate representation. This is due to revisions to use classes introduced in September 2020 (Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2020) and the impact to employment and businesses due to Covid 19 and the temporary measures which have been introduced to enable local economies and businesses to adapt during these unprecedented times i.e., street furniture, outdoor seating, pavement diversions and extension of markets.

8. Key Theme: Transport

Overview

- 8.1 Continued engagement with the community has illustrated that transportation and traffic issues are still very high up on the public's list of priorities. The Core Strategy sets out the Borough Council's approach to transport, which seeks to change travel behaviour to manage demand, especially of peak hour car traffic.
- 8.2 The Borough Council worked with Essex County Council and others to produce the draft Colchester Future Transport Strategy. The Strategy's vision is to 'transform Colchester into a place which prioritises active and safe sustainable travel to bring about health, environmental and economic benefits'. Following the consultation the Strategy is now being used to help prioritise investment in the borough.
- 8.3 The Council continues to work with developers to ensure walking and cycling infrastructure is included within planned developments as well as linking them to destinations.

Walking and Cycling in Colchester

- 8.4 Following the adoption of the Essex Cycling Strategy, Colchester Borough Council continues to work with Essex County Council on the Colchester Cycling Action Plan and the Walking Strategy and as part of the Government's Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan. A bid was successfully made to the Department for Transport for Active Travel investment and plans were drawn up to implement improved walking and cycling routes in line with LCWIP proposals.
- 8.5 In addition to this one to one Learn to Ride, Advanced Cycle Skills and Cycle Confidence sessions have been offered to adults and groups, and Bikeability to children during school holidays. A regular e-newsletter updating on local cycling matters is also sent out.
- 8.6 In August 2020, Essex County Council submitted a bid for funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) Active Travel Fund to create safe walking and cycling routes in Essex. The proposals built upon experience gained from emergency measures set up in 2020 to facilitate social distancing and as part of the safe reopening of the town centre. In November 2020, the DfT announced ECC was successful in its bid and was awarded funding to improve walking and cycling in towns in Essex including Colchester. In March 2021, ECC undertook consultation on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure (LCWIP) Plan network proposals for the towns. Consultation on the Active Travel Fund schemes was undertaken in May to July 2021.

E-Scooters

- 8.7 In February 2021 e-scooters were launched in Colchester with the aim to reduce the number of short car journeys made. This initiative is a joint collaboration with Essex

County Council, Spin, Colchester Borough Council and Essex Police which is being trialled until March 2022.

E-Carclub

8.8 A requirement to provide an electric car club vehicle on a pay as you go basis has been built into the Section 106 agreement for three developments in and close to the town centre; where there are already good public transport links and walking and cycling infrastructure to help support reduced car ownership and a less car dependent lifestyle. Colchester's car club network will be kick started with the provision of two eCarClub vehicles in the town centre funded by a successful bid to Defra that was awarded in March 2021. The network will then expand with the Section 106 funded car club cars as the developments are built over the next three years.

Transport Infrastructure

8.9 Construction was completed on the A133 Ipswich Road/Harwich Road improvement scheme. The scheme sees the replacement of the double roundabouts located at Ipswich Road and Harwich Road with a single roundabout at each location. The carriageway between Ipswich Road and Harwich Road junctions is also being widened to accommodate two formal lanes in each direction, and the scheme included upgrading existing pedestrian crossings and general improvements to the current off-carriageway cycle and footway provisions. The scheme improves the performance of the two key intersections on the A133.

8.10 The Borough Council lobbies for investment in St Botolphs roundabout to allow better walking and cycling environment and access from the east of the town centre.

8.11 The Borough Council worked with Greater Anglia, the rail operator, to help promote investment in the Colchester, Wivenhoe, Marks Tey, Hythe rail stations, allowing better access for all and encouraging rail use instead of the private car.

Air Quality

8.12 In 2020/21 Colchester Borough Council continued work in implementing the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2016-2021. The AQAP was produced in partnership with Essex County Council and outlines the ambitious set of measures the Council proposes to take to improve air quality in Colchester between 2016 and 2021.

Defra Funded Air Quality Project

8.13 In April 2019, the Council was awarded £249,100 to deliver an air quality behaviour change project aimed at reducing air pollution in Colchester's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)'s.

8.14 The project started with three months of community engagement which ran from October 2019 to January 2020. During this time the Council spoke to over 3,000 residents, schools and businesses to get a better understanding of what they knew

about air quality and the impact it has on health, whilst also exploring driving habits and how people could be encouraged to take action to lower pollution levels. The findings from the engagement were used to shape the project and saw the development of a no-idling campaign, targeted behaviour change work with residents and schools, the introduction of roadside signage and a review of the Bikeability cycling training.

- 8.15 Colchester Borough Council's No Idling Campaign, CAREless Pollution, was developed with local people in August and September 2020 before launching in October 2020. The campaign used insight from CBC's public engagement which found that 87% of respondents were concerned about pollution in Colchester. Yet only 15% of respondents regularly switched their engine off when stationary. The most common reason given for not switching off was '*not thinking about it*' (15% of respondents) with drivers not making the connection between their driving choices and the wider impacts.
- 8.16 A CAREless Pollution Campaign Advisory Group has been set up to facilitate sharing intelligence and resources. It includes representatives from Breathe Easy Colchester, the Business Improvement District, Colchester Mosque, Clean Air Colchester and EnForm. A 50 strong stakeholder group has also been established to help widen the reach of the campaign by sharing communication and resources amongst their networks.
- 8.17 Following the launch in October 2020, a community toolkit with resources including posters, myths and facts postcards, car stickers and frequently asked questions document has been produced. All campaign resources are available at www.colchester.gov.uk/cleanair. A Schools Toolkit has been developed throughout January 2021 and was trialled with four schools in February and March 2021.
- 8.18 Businesses with high vehicle usage such as utilities companies and delivery firms have been offered support to develop no idling policies. Drive Thrus have also been approached and in March 2021 Colchester Borough Council formed a partnership with McDonalds who have No Idling signage up in all car parks and drive-thrus across Colchester.
- 8.19 In March 2020, the Council received £59,785 in funding from DEFRA for a feasibility study into driver facing traffic light countdown timers and signage to encourage drivers to switch off their engines when stationary at traffic lights and rail crossings. These were two of the top interventions identified by the community engagement that would help residents get into the habit of switching off their engine when stationary. To deliver the signage project, the Council procured the services of the University of Essex who became the research partner on the project.
- 8.20 Planning permission was granted towards the end of 2020 for 9 signs positioned on Brook Street and East Gates, two of the most polluted parts of the borough. The messages on the signage built on findings from studies carried out in Norwich and Canterbury and were psychological messages devised to encourage behaviour change. The signage was introduced in February 2021. During this time a feasibility study into driver facing countdowns timers on traffic lights was conducted. The feasibility work found that a timer could not be integrated with the traffic light

management system currently in operation in Colchester.

8.21 A key objective of this project is to identify a resident area in Colchester that has a good walking and cycling route into the town centre, that we could work closely with to encourage and increase take up of walking and cycling instead of driving. CBC have used feedback from the initial community engagement to map responses against our cycle network and from this have identified Monkwick as a viable area to target. Stakeholder mapping and focussed research on travel behaviour is now underway.

8.22 The Council has partnered with Anglia Ruskin University and Essex County Council to undertake a review of the Bikeability Training currently delivered in schools. Feedback from parents and pupils will be used to identify suitable sustainable interventions that would encourage a bigger take up of cycling post training.

8.23 A third bid to DEFRA was submitted in October 2020 for £248,700 in funding to run the CAREless Pollution campaign for another 12 months, to deliver a winter home-burning campaign and for the development of two shared transport hubs which will include electric bikes, electric cargo bikes and ecarclubs. The Council, were successful in its bid and work has begun in Summer 2021.

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| Transport Indicator 1 | To obtain an agreed Travel Plan for all major commercial/community developments | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy TA1 |
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8.24 The Colchester Travel Plan Club (CTPC) has continued to work closely with CTPC members and Essex County Council to further develop their travel plans, and to begin the process of gaining Modeshift STARS accreditations.

8.25 CTPC has continued to work closely with existing members, including Colchester Institute and The Maltings student accommodation. CTPC and CBC have also worked closely with East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust and the University of Essex who have both had further development on their sites that have resulted in Travel Plan reviews. New developments including Elmstead Road, Avon Way and Hawkins Road student accommodations have joined CTPC as full members, and CTPC has been working with them and the University to create a joined-up approach to travel change behaviour at the University.

8.26 CTPC has continued to work with Colchester Borough Council officers to develop and facilitate CBC active and sustainable travel projects to benefit CTPC members. A Travel Plan has been requested for all major developments and Travel Plan's provided have been reviewed to ensure they are robust.

8.27 The Borough Council continues to work closely with the train operating company under the Station Travel Plan. The Borough continues to be an active partner in the Community Rail Partnership scheme.

8.28 A total of 122 Residential Travel Information Packs have been provided to new residents of residential developments in Colchester in 2020/21 as detailed below:

Table 9: Residential Travel Information Packs Issued 2020/21

| Developer | Number of packs provided | Development name |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Hills Residential Construction | 20 | King George's Park |
| Granville Developments | 15 | Parsonage Court |
| Bellway Homes Essex | 50 | Harvard Place |
| Persimmon Homes Essex | 15 | Castellum Grange |
| Rose Builders | 22 | Wakes Hall Park |

9. Key Theme: Environment and Heritage

Overview

- 9.1 The natural environment of the Borough has been shaped by both physical process and land management over time. These processes have created the high quality landscapes and diverse habitats and biodiversity/geodiversity found throughout the Borough. These include internationally significant areas of coastal and intertidal habitats, mudflats and salt marsh and shell banks, which constitute some of the features of interest within the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- 9.2 New development has the potential to fragment or lead to the loss of habitat. The Council seeks to conserve and enhance Colchester's natural environment, countryside and coastline as well as preserving its archaeological and built heritage through the protection and enhancement of sites of international, national, regional and local importance.
- 9.3 The Borough Council continues to direct development away from land at risk from all types of flooding and will also seek to ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flooding either on or off site through the increased use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

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| Environment Indicator 1 | Number of planning applications approved contrary to Environment Agency advice on flood defence or water quality grounds | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1 |
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- 9.4 No applications were granted contrary to Environment Agency advice during the monitoring period.
- 9.5 A new indicator monitoring the number of SuDS schemes will be developed for the new Local Plan.

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| Environment Indicator 2 | Number and area of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) Local Sites (LoWs) within Colchester | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1 |
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- 9.6 No new Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) or Local Wildlife Sites (LoWs) were designated during the monitoring period.

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| Environment Indicator 3 | Amount of development in designated areas (SSSI, AONB) | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1 |
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- 9.7 Policy ENV1 of the Core Strategy seeks to protect the Borough's biodiversity within designated sites. During this monitoring period, 33 applications have been approved in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a further 58 applications within other designated sites (SSSIs (5), SAC (5), SPA (5), SINC (38), RAMSAR (5) sites.

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| Environment Indicator 4 | Increase in areas of public open space | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy PR1 |
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9.8 The Council have taken on an additional area of 21,972m² of open space during the monitoring year 2020/21. The adoption of this area is in the process of being legally formalised.

9.9 As of April 2018, across the borough 1.8% of land is used for outdoor recreational, and a further 7.6% of land is residential gardens. Of the total land within Colchester Borough, 10% of all land is developed, 89.5% of land is undeveloped and 0.5% is vacant.³

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| Environment Indicator 5 | Recorded loss of listed buildings Grade I and II+ (by demolition), Scheduled Monuments or nationally important archaeological sites and assets on the Colchester Local List to development | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy UR2 |
|--------------------------------|---|---|

9.10 In the 2020/21 monitoring period, no Listed Buildings (Grade I & II) were lost due to demolition, development or dereliction.

9.11 No Scheduled Monuments were lost as part of development proposals in the monitoring period.

9.12 At Local Plan Committee August 2020, it was agreed that the approach for additions to be made to the Local List be delegated to the Lead Officer: Planning, Housing and Economic Growth for an interim period prior to ratification by Committee. This is to enable heritage assets to be added to the Local List with immediate effect, which is especially important for heritage assets under immediate threat of damage.

9.13 It was also agreed that Colchester Local List should be renamed to the Colchester Borough Local List to reflect that the Local List relates to the entire Borough. There is currently a total of 780 heritage asset included on the Colchester Borough Local List.

9.14 In February 2021, Local Plan Committee confirmed that an Article 4 Direction be made for Mill Field Estate Conservation Area, this formally completes the Article 4 Direction procedure. An Article 4 Direction means that permitted development in longer automatically permitted (by Article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015) and must instead be subject to a planning application.

9.15 Although outside the monitoring period, A Roman Circus Management Plan has also been adopted as planning guidance document in June 2021. This provides an overarching strategy for the management of Colchester's Roman Circus including defining the roles and responsibilities of the Council and key stakeholders. The Plan

³ Land Use Statistics England 2018 – Live Table P400a – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. July 2020.

also sets out a framework for the conservation, enhancement, interpretation, presentation and celebration of the Colchester Roman Circus for the next five years.

9.16 Similarly, a Development Brief for the Abro site has been adopted as a planning guidance document in August 2021. The Development Brief provides planning guidance on the issues and opportunities associated with the site and provide a clear and robust development framework to aid the future delivery of a suitable development scheme at the site. The Council are currently undertaking further work for this to be upgraded to a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to increase the weight to be afforded to the brief in decision making.

Table 10: Colchester Heritage Assets

| Heritage Asset | 2020/21 | Comment |
|---|---------|--|
| Grade I, II and II* Listed Buildings (National Heritage List for England) | 1,560 | No changes during the monitoring period. |
| Scheduled Monuments (National Heritage List for England) | 48 | A group of barrows at Annan Road were listed in August 2020 and remains of an apsidal Roman building at Butt Road and Southway were listed in October 2020. |
| Number of heritage assets on the National Heritage at Risk Register | 8 | Includes 1 Conservation Area (Birch), 3 Archaeological Sites, 3 Buildings/Structures and 1 Place of Worship. |
| Number of assets on Colchester's Borough's Local List | 780 | At Local Plan Committee August 2020, 64 additions were made to the Local List. |
| Number of Conservation Areas | 24 | A four week consultation was held from 8 February 2021 to 8 March 2021 to extend the Garrison Conservation Area to include the Abro Site, Roman Circus House, adjacent open space and Artillery Folley. Following the consultation, Local Plan Committee agreed to extend the Garrison Conservation Area in June 2021. |

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| Environment Indicator 6 | Percentage of household waste recycled and composted | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ER1 |
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9.17 This indicator enables the identification of how much waste is being generated by households in the Borough, and how much of this is collected, recycled or composed. Table 11 below summaries the household waste activity for this monitoring period.

9.18 Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the waste service was severely disrupted towards the beginning of the financial year which has been reflected in the increase in amount of waste produced per household and a decrease in household waste reused, recycled, and composted.

Table 11: Household Waste Activity

| Activity | Achieved 2018/19 | Achieved 2019/20 | Achieved 2020/21 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Residual waste produced per household | 346kg | 351kg | 385kg |
| Household waste reused, recycled and composted | 53.71% | 53.34% | 51.67% |

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| Environment Indicator 7 | Essex Coast RAMS | Compliance with Habitat Regulations |
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9.19 Twelve Essex LPAs have been working together, for several years, on a mitigation strategy to protect the internationally designated Essex Coast from the effects of increased recreational disturbance as a result of population growth throughout Essex.

9.20 The Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) sets out the necessary measures to avoid and mitigate the effects from increased recreational disturbance. The RAMS sets a tariff of £127.30 per dwelling as of 2021/22. This is indexed linked, with a base date of 2019 (£122.30 in 2019/20). The tariff will be reviewed periodically and published accordingly. This tariff will apply to all residential proposals, even proposals for one dwelling. This is because the whole of the Borough is within the Zone of Influence and the RAMS seeks to avoid and mitigate the in-combination effects from all new dwellings.

9.21 In September 2019, the project become part of the 'Bird Aware' brand and launched a website: Bird Aware Essex Coast - [Home - Essex Bird Aware](#). The Bird Aware brand was developed by a mitigation partnership on the south coast (Bird Aware Solent) to communicate the importance of the birds and their habitats that breed and winter at the coast. Joining the Bird Aware brand and launching the website is an early avoidance measure and will help to spread the message of the importance of the Essex coast and the need to protect the birds in a positive way.

9.22 Chelmsford City Council (CCC) became the Accountable Body for the project on 1 November 2020. CCC will hold all contributions from the 12 LPA partners and employ the project Delivery Officer. The Delivery Officer manages and co-ordinates the project. The Delivery Officer started in November 2021, and this launches the project into the delivery and implementation stage.

9.23 Contributions have been collected since December 2018 and in November 2020, the Council transferred contributions to CCC for the first time, where it had confirmed that development had commenced. In 2021, £75,738.73 of RAMS contributions was transferred to CCC. The Council has secured a further £155,291.87 of RAMS contributions, which will be transferred to CCC to spend on the project once development has commenced.

9.24 The Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) Chief Officer's group are the Project Board, with the role of governing and overseeing the project. The Essex Coastal Forum form part of the governance arrangements and provide a high-level elected member oversight into the project. A steering group of Officers is responsible for managing the project.

9.25 More information regarding RAMS, is available on our [website](#).

10. Key Theme: Accessible Services and Community Facilities

Overview

10.1 Accessible services and facilities are vital to the development and maintenance of communities. Community facilities should be located within or near centres and other accessible locations to maximise community access and build a sense of local community identity. The Council supports the retention and enhancement of existing community facilities that can provide a range of services to the community at one accessible location. In addition, the Council will work with local partners, such as Parish and Town Councils to plan and manage community facilities.

10.2 The Council will safeguard existing facilities where appropriate and will work with partners including the local community to bring together funding from a variety of public and private sources to improve existing facilities and deliver new community facilities where needed. Development proposals will be required to review community needs (e.g., through a Health Impact Assessment) and provide community facilities or contributions towards them to meet the needs of the new population and mitigate impacts on existing communities.

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| Community Indicator 1 | Recorded losses of community facilities as a result of development | Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD1, SD2, UR1, PR1, TA3, and TA4 |
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10.3 No community facilities were lost as a result of new developments during this monitoring period.

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| Community Indicator 2 | Key infrastructure projects delivered (SD) | Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD1, SD2, UR1, PR1, TA3, and TA4 |
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Infrastructure and Community Project Delivery

10.4 Table 6d in Section 6 of the revised 2014 Core Strategy identifies a number of key infrastructure and community projects which have been subdivided into the categories 'necessary' and 'local and wider benefit'. Although a number of these have already been completed during the Plan period, Table 12 below provides a progress update of remaining projects during the monitoring period.

Table 12: Project Delivery Update

| Project | Progress |
|----------------------------|---|
| Collingwood Road Scout Hut | Covid has delayed some of the works/updates to the Scout Hut and these are still being completed. Budget is on task and there is no permanent delay, although these works/updates will now run into 2022. |
| St Cedds Church Hall | They have various projects of works/updates needed to improve the facility and this is for future S106 consideration. |

Contributions secured towards Community, Leisure & Recreation

10.5 Core Strategy Policy PR1 seeks to ensure the protection and enhancement of Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Community Facilities. Contributions are being collected, monitored and allocated to local projects for the benefit of the increasing residential numbers.

10.6 Over this monitoring period, a total of £117,541.04 has been received for leisure services maintenances, £1,092,254.32 for public open spaces and a Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP). A further £928,342.56 has been received for community facilities.

11. Key Theme: Climate Change

Overview

- 11.1 Colchester Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, committing the organisation to become carbon neutral in all its operations by 2030. The Council have been working with the Carbon Trust to measure the emissions from its operations, and those of related organisations, such as its wholly owned companies Colchester Borough Homes and Colchester Commercial Holdings Limited. In January 2020, the Council published its Climate Emergency Action Plan which sets out a strategy for how to reach the carbon neutral target. This can be viewed on our [website](#). In June 2021, the Council updated the Climate Emergency Action Plan and this version can be viewed [here](#).
- 11.2 Several actions have already been achieved since the climate emergency declaration. 4,486 trees were planted in the first year, and 10,000 trees were given to the public as part of the Colchester Woodland Project (a project to plant 200,000 trees between 2019-2024). In 2020/21, 14,000 trees were planted across the borough. The project has since expanded to ensure tree planting and management of green space is done in a way that conserves existing biodiversity and also looks to enhance biodiversity through approaches to reduce mowing and phasing out the use of glyphosate pesticide. The Council also received funding to purchase 25 electric cargo (eCargo) bikes and 5 electric trailers, which are being used for Council fleet operations and local businesses, to reduce emissions from travel. Further actions responding to the climate emergency, can be viewed in the Council's [Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021-23](#).
- 11.3 For information regarding a Defra funded project regarding air quality, please see Chapter 8 above.

| Climate Change Indicator 1 | Carbon emissions and Climate Change | Supporting Indicator for Policy SD1 |
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- 11.4 In 2018/19 the Council calculated a new carbon footprint baseline for the Council of 6004 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) emissions, a 40% reduction on emissions relative to 2008 levels, meeting the 40% emission reduction target set for 2020 one year early.
- 11.5 In 2019/20, emissions had reduced by 6% relative to the 2018/19 baseline. As part of setting the carbon neutral target, the Council will be measuring emissions from its waste production, water consumption and employee commuting, which will be included in the Council's carbon neutral target. In 2020/21, emissions decreased by 12.8% relative to 2019/20. However, this was a year where Council operations and activities were heavily impacted by Covid-19, with many buildings being closed during the 2020/21 financial year.
- 11.6 On the back of pathway modelling of the Council's emissions to 2030, the Council will be working to create a new Local Authority Carbon Management Plan to set out in detail new projects that could be carried out to reduce the Council's emissions to

carbon neutral by 2030. The Carbon Management Plan, alongside the Climate Emergency Action Plan will be our two main areas of work to deliver our zero net carbon target in a decade. Where possible, community engagement is carried out to help inform and involve the community in the development of our actions in response to the climate emergency.

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| Climate Change Indicator 2 | Climate Change Adaptation | Supporting Indicator for Policies SD1, ENV1 and ER1 |
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11.7 The Council’s wholly owned Energy Company (Colchester Amphora Energy Limited) promotes the use of more low carbon sources of heat and power through a range of projects and initiatives, delivering new energy choices for people in Colchester.

11.8 Working with the Council, CAEL is developing a low carbon District Heating scheme at the Northern Gateway and has so far installed and tested five boreholes from which water will be abstracted to be the heat source for a 800 kW heat pump which will deliver domestic hot water and space heating to offices, housing and healthcare facilities in the development. CAEL is also working on the feasibility of developing a micro grid for the development using solar PV to generate electricity for use in the development.

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| Climate Change Indicator 3 | Renewable energy installed by type | Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ER1 |
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11.9 Part 40 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2008 gives permitted development rights to the installation of domestic microgeneration equipment. Planning permission is only required for a limited number of renewable energy technologies. This means that the number of renewable energy installations may be higher than that indicated by the number of planning applications.

11.10 During the monitoring period, one application has been granted relating to renewable energy. This includes one solar application at Quaker Meeting House (201762).

11.11 This is a decrease of one application from 2019/20 where two applications were granted but continues to show an increase from no applications during the 2017/18 monitoring period. Although this remains below the 10 applications (9 solar and 1 biomass) approved in 2015/16, this does demonstrate a limited demand for renewable energy despite government reductions in tariff payments for energy produced from renewable sources. There is a potential for applications to increase in the future as Government spearheads a green recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic, and climate change continues to climb the national and international government agenda.

11.12 BRE has developed the Home Quality Mark (HQM) as part of the BREEAM family of quality and sustainability standards. HQM will enable developers to showcase the quality of their new homes and identify them as having the added benefits of being likely to need less maintenance, cheaper to run, better located, and more able to cope with the demands of a changing climate. The HQM demonstrates a home's environmental footprint and its resilience to flooding and overheating in a changing climate, highlights the impact of a home on the occupant's health and wellbeing, and evaluates the digital connectivity and performance of the home. This is a new scheme and the Council will support developers who choose to register under this scheme. Reference is made to the Home Quality Mark in Section 2 Local Plan Policy DM25.

11.13 Two schemes in the development planning phase, have completed Certified BREEAM assessments during this monitoring period. The Elmstead Road Student Accommodation was rated very good (68%) in November 2020 and Unit A1-A6, Unit C, Unit D and Kiosks as part of the Stane Park development were rated very good (57.5%) in April 2021.

Appendix A – Local Plan Policies

Core Strategy Policies

| | |
|---|---|
| Sustainable Development Policies | |
| SD1 | Sustainable Development Locations |
| SD2 | Delivering Facilities & Infrastructure |
| SD3 | Community Facilities |
| Centres and Employment Policies | |
| CE1 | Centres and Employment Classification and Hierarchy |
| CE2 | Mixed Use Centres |
| CE2a | Town Centre |
| CE2b | District Centres |
| CE2c | Local Centres |
| CE3 | Employment Centres |
| Housing Policies | |
| H1 | Housing Delivery |
| H2 | Housing Density |
| H3 | Housing Diversity |
| H4 | Affordable Housing |
| H5 | Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople |
| H6 | Rural Workers Dwellings |
| Urban Renaissance Policies | |
| U1 | Regeneration Areas |
| U2 | Built Design and Character |
| Public Realm Policies | |
| PR1 | Open Space and Recreational Facilities |
| PR2 | People Friendly Streets |
| Transport and Accessibility Policies | |
| TA1 | Accessibility and Changing Travel Behaviour |
| TA2 | Walking and Cycling |
| TA3 | Public Transport |
| TA4 | Roads and Traffic |
| TA5 | Parking |
| Environment and Rural Communities Policies | |
| ENV1 | Environment |
| ENV2 | Rural Communities |
| Energy, Resources, Waste, Water & Recycling Policy | |
| ER1 | Energy, Resources, Waste, Water and Recycling |

Development Management Policies

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|--|--|
| DP1 | Design and Amenity |
| DP2 | Health Assessments |
| DP3 | Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy |
| DP4 | Community Facilities |
| Centres and Employment | |
| DP5 | Appropriate Employment Uses and Protection of Employment Land and Existing Businesses |
| DP6 | Colchester Town Centre Uses |
| DP7 | Local Centres and Individual Shops |
| DP8 | Agricultural Development and Diversification |
| DP9 | Employment Uses in the Countryside |
| DP10 | Tourism, Leisure and Culture |
| Housing | |
| DP11 | Flat Conversions |
| DP12 | Dwelling Standards |
| DP13 | Dwelling Alterations, Extensions and Replacement Dwellings |
| Urban Renaissance | |
| DP14 | DP14 Historic Environment Assets |
| Public Realm | |
| DP15 | Retention of Open Space and Indoor Sports |
| DP16 | Private Amenity Space and Open Space Provision for New Residential Development |
| Transport and Accessibility | |
| DP17 | Accessibility and Access |
| DP18 | Transport Infrastructure Proposals |
| DP19 | Parking Standards |
| Environment and Rural Communities | |
| DP20 | Flood Risk and Management of Surface Water Drainage |
| DP21 | Nature Conservation and Protected Lanes |
| DP22 | Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| DP23 | Coastal Areas |
| Energy, Resources, Waste, Water and Recycling | |
| DP25 | Renewable Energy |

Site Allocations Policies

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|-------------------------------|---|
| SA CE1 | Mixed Use Sites |
| Housing | |
| SA H1 | Housing Allocations |
| SA H2 | Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation |
| Urban Renaissance | |
| Town Centre and North Station | Town Centre and North Station |
| SA TC1 | Appropriate Uses within the Town Centre and North Station Regeneration Area |
| East Colchester | |
| SA EC1 | Residential development in East Colchester |
| SA EC2 | Development in East Colchester |
| SA EC3 | Area 1: Former Timber Dock |
| SA EC4 | Area 2: King Edward Quay |
| SA EC5 | Area 3: Magdalen Street |
| SA EC6 | Area 4: Hawkins Road |
| SA EC7 | University of Essex Expansion |
| SA EC8 | Transportation in East Colchester |
| Garrison | |
| SA GAR1 | Development in the Garrison Area |
| North Growth Area | |
| SA NGA1 | Appropriate Uses within the North Growth Area |
| SA NGA2 | Greenfield Sites in the North Growth Area |
| SA NGA3 | Employment Uses in the North Growth Area |
| SA NGA4 | Transport measures in North Growth Area |
| SA NGA5 | Transport Infrastructure related to the NGAUE |
| Stanway Growth Area | |
| SA STA1 | Appropriate Uses within the Stanway Growth Area |
| SA STA2 | Phasing of Greenfield sites in Stanway Growth Area |
| SA STA3 | Employment and Retail Uses in Stanway Growth Area |
| SA STA4 | Transportation in Stanway Growth Area |
| SA STA5 | Open Space in Stanway Growth Area |
| Tiptree | |
| SA TIP1 | Residential sites in Tiptree |
| SA TIP2 | Transport in Tiptree |
| SA GAR1 | Development in the Garrison Area |

Section 1 Local Plan Policies

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|-----|---|
| SP1 | Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development |
| SP2 | Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) |
| SP3 | Spatial Strategy for North Essex |
| SP4 | Meeting Housing Needs |
| SP5 | Employment |
| SP6 | Infrastructure & Connectivity |
| SP7 | Place Shaping Principles |
| SP8 | Development & Delivery of a New Garden Community in North Essex |
| SP9 | Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community |

Appendix B – Glossary

Affordable Housing – housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:

- **Affordable housing for rent:** meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government’s rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).
- **Starter homes:** is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household’s eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.
- **Discounted market sales housing:** is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.
- **Other affordable routes to home ownership:** is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – The Authority Monitoring Report sets out how well the Council is performing in delivering the objectives of its Local Development Framework. It was previously called the Annual Monitoring Report.

Brownfield (also known as Previously Developed Land (PDL)) – Previously developed land that is unused or may be available for development. It includes both vacant and derelict land and land currently in use with known potential for

redevelopment. It excludes land that was previously developed where the remains have blended into the landscape over time.

Community Facilities – Buildings, which enable a variety of local activity to take place

including, but not limited to, the following:

- Schools, Universities and other educational facilities
- Libraries and community centres
- Doctors surgeries, medical centres and hospitals
- Museums and art galleries
- Child care centres
- Sport and recreational facilities
- Youth clubs
- Playgrounds
- Places of worship
- Emergency services

Some community activities can also be provided via privately run facilities (e.g. pubs and village shops).

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area.

Core Strategy – The Core Strategy sets out the long-term vision for the sustainable development of Colchester and the strategic policies required to deliver that vision. It provides for the enhancement of the environment, as well and defines the general locations for delivering strategic development including housing, employment, retail, leisure, community and transport, which are then given precise boundaries in the Proposals Map. The Colchester Borough Core Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2008, and a focused review in 2014 following publication of the NPPF in 2012.

Development Policies – A document that the council have produced alongside the Site Allocations document to guide future development within the Borough. The Policies contained within this Development Plan Document, along with other relevant national and Core Strategy Policies, replaced the 2004 Local Plan policies in the determination of planning applications.

Emerging Local Plan - The Emerging Local Plan will include all major planning policy for the District in a single document. Once adopted, this will replace the Core Strategy, Development Policies and Site Allocations. This is in two sections with the Section One of the Local Plan including policies on strategic cross boundary issues including infrastructure and housing numbers including proposals for a new Garden Community, in partnership with Braintree District Council and Tendring District Council. Section two of each Local Plan considers the individual local authority policies and allocations.

Evidence Base – The evidence base for Colchester's Local Plan includes all the documents used to inform its policies and allocations, including studies, strategies,

and national, regional and local policies. Evidence Base documents can be viewed via links on the Council's website.

Flood Risk Assessment – An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

Greenfield – Land which has never been built on before or where the remains of any structure or activity have blended into the landscape over time.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) – This is the project plan for a three year period for the production of documents including the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans.

Natura 2000 – The European network of protected sites established under the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive (SPA, SAC).

Neighbourhood Planning - Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. The government introduced this new tier of planning through the Localism Act 2011.

North Essex Authorities (NEAs) – joint authorities working to progress large scale strategic development known as Garden Communities in North Essex. This includes Braintree District Council, Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council.

Planning Contributions – the principle of a developer agreeing to provide additional benefits or safeguards, often for the benefit of the community, usually in the form of related development supplied at the developer's expense.

Previously Developed Land (PDL) – See Brownfield.

Private Open Space – Open spaces usually in private ownership that can fulfil similar functions as public open spaces, but which tend to have significant access restrictions to the members of the public imposed through ownership rights or a requirement to pay to use facilities.

Proposals Map – The Proposals Map shows all boundaries and designations specified in a Development Plan Document (DPD) such as the Core Strategy, Site Allocations or Development Policies. The Colchester Borough Proposals Map was adopted by the Council in 2010.

Public Open Space – includes all spaces of public value, usually in public ownership, which are generally accessible to the public and which provide important opportunities for sport, outdoor recreation as well as fulfilling an amenity function.

Public Realm – Public realm relates to all those parts of the built environment where the public has free access. It encompasses all streets, square and other rights of way, whether predominantly in residential, commercial or community/civic uses; open spaces and parks; and the public/private spaces where public access is

unrestricted (at least during daylight hours). It includes the interfaces with key internal and private spaces to which the public has normally has free access.

Ramsar Site – An area identified by an international agreement which supports endangered habitats.

Town and Country Planning Regulations ('The Regulations') – The identification of a consultation stage in relation to a Regulation, i.e. Regulation 25, 27, etc. refers to the relevant section of the June 2008 amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. The Regulations cover the various stages in preparing and consulting on Local Plan documents.

Travel Plan – These provide information and incentives for new residential and employment sites to use public transport. Travel Plans typically include the issuing of travel pack to new residents and businesses which may include vouchers for 12 months free or discounted travel on public transport.

Site Allocations – The Site Allocations document sets out the criteria for the boundaries shown on the Proposals Map and provides area and use specific allocations. The Site Allocations DPD was adopted by the Council in 2010.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – A SSSI is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They include the best examples of the Country's wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – A site of European Community importance designated by the member states, where necessary conservation measures are applied for the maintenance or restoration, at favourable conservation status, of the habitats and/or species for which the site is designated.

Special Protection Area (SPA) – A site designated under the Birds Directive by the member states where appropriate steps are taken to protect the bird species for which the site is designated.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – This document sets out the standards that the Council intend to achieve in relation to involving the community and stakeholders in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of the Local Plan in the determination of significant planning applications.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) – The SHMA is a study carried out every few years to appraise the local housing market area and identify the need and demand for different housing types and tenures within that area.

Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) – The SLAA is a collective term for housing and employment land availability assessments. This is a process carried out as part of Local Plan preparation to identify new sites for housing and employment uses, required by national policy.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – A document produced by the Council to add further detailed guidance and information on a particular subject. An SPD is subject to a formal consultation period and then is used as a material consideration when determining planning applications.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) – A range of techniques for managing the runoff of water from a site. They can reduce the total amount, flow and rate of surface water that runs directly to rivers through storm water systems.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – An appraisal of the economic, social and environmental effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process, so that decisions can be made that accord with sustainable development.

Sustainable Development – Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Appendix C – Local Development Scheme 2021-2024

LDS Timetable 2017 - 2024

