



# CENTURION

YOUR NEWSPAPER FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL | NOVEMBER 2020



## A Turner on display at the Castle

For the first time in its history, Colchester Castle is currently home to an English masterpiece.

JMW Turner's classic painting 'Walton Bridges' is on display at the Castle until 28 March 2021, thanks to a generous contribution towards exhibiting costs from Friends of Colchester Museums.

Painted near Turner's home on the River Thames, it is the first oil painting by Turner to have been based on oil

sketches painted in the open air - a practice which was to become a significant element to his work, and one making this painting so significant.

The nationally important piece of art was in danger of leaving the country, following its sale to a foreign buyer.

However, a bid in July 2019 involving Colchester + Ipswich Museums and the Norfolk Museum Service helped save it for the nation.

With the help of major grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Art

Fund and a private donor, the painting was successfully saved for the East of England.

For more information on how Colchester + Ipswich Museums were involved in a bid to help save this masterpiece visit the [Colchester Museums website](#).

To pre-book tickets to see this historic picture call 01206 282939. Entry includes full access to Colchester Castle Museum and Turner At The Castle.

## Response to Covid-19: Council and its partners is doing the borough proud

Colchester Borough Council's leaders have praised the efforts of the council's staff and partners for ensuring residents and businesses were supported through the first national Covid-19 lockdown.

Throughout the national lockdown, council staff and members ensured the response to the needs of our communities and businesses was agile and effective. We worked with a range of organisations and continue to play a full part in the effort to stop the virus spreading and help those in need.

This included supporting those shielding and delivering food and other essentials to thousands of residents.

We became one of the first councils to help those struggling to pay their bills through providing financial advice, support and grants. We swiftly distributed over £33.6 millions of Government and council discretionary grants and supplemented this with advice to businesses and help to those in need.

The formation of a Community Response Team, working with Community 360 to give dedicated support and advice, has been very successful, as has the ongoing work with police, health, education, the business community and others



through the One Colchester partnership.

Our fast and co-ordinated approach to Covid-19, was among those highlighted by the District Council's Network as an example of good practice. You can find out more about our work with partners on page 8.

These efforts have provided a solid foundation for working with a range of partners to ensure businesses and residents are aware of the current lockdown restrictions - and the efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the borough.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Cory said: "I am proud of our work and the achievements of our hard-working council staff through the coronavirus lockdown and as we come out the other side.

"The work we and our partners have undertaken has been very important to our residents, communities and businesses.

"Lots of effort has gone into the support we have and are continuing to provide, in particular to ensure it is being taken forward in a sustainable and proactive way as we continue to balance the restrictions and ever-changing risks to our communities."

Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Julie Young, said: "While this has been a situation no one would have wanted it has been a tremendous example of how we can do things differently in response to a crisis.

"We are lucky to have so many great assets in the borough and our partnership working has never been better. It is a testament to all involved."

## Prestigious double national award wins for council

Colchester Borough Council has received two top national awards for its work with its commercial trading company Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd (CCHL).

The council was named 'Best Commercial Council' in the Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement Awards and 'Entrepreneurial Council' at the Local Government Chronicle awards. Both these annual awards mark the very best in local government.

The awards recognise the council's vision in setting up CCHL and its three subsidiary companies - Colchester Amphora Energy Ltd; Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd and Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd - and their ongoing work and success. CCHL's achievements include a £95 million borough-wide housebuilding programme combining private housing with 30% council-owned homes for affordable rent, the 76-acre Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Park, and providing ultrafast gigabyte broadband to new homes and businesses.

The judges at the MJ awards also recognised our employee Cezara Cosma in the 'Rising Star' category, with a 'Highly Commended' for her ambition to make a difference to people's lives and determination to best support the communities she serves.



@enjoycolchester

@yourcolchester

colchester.gov.uk

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Page 2 **Council's budget challenge** Page 3 **Town deal update**

Page 5 **CAReless campaign** Page 7 **Help keep Colchester litter free**

The publication is produced by Colchester Borough Council. To contact us please email [communications@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:communications@colchester.gov.uk).

# Help play your part in tackling Colchester Borough Council's Budget Challenge

Residents are being asked to help Colchester Borough Council understand what matters most to them as part of a survey launched as the council works to close the budget gap it is facing.

The online survey, launched on Monday 9 November, is designed to help us understand where residents think money should be spent and saved, ahead of councillors agreeing the budget next January for 2021/2022.

We are currently facing a gap of around £2 million this year – around 10% of our net budget - and £3.5 million next year which is around 17% of our net budget.

This is due to lost revenue from services such as leisure centres, museums and car parks, as a result of the first national lockdown and the Government's failure to fulfill its promise of ensuring councils were fully supported against the loss of any income.

Through changes to the way councils have been funded over recent years, we have lost around £11 million in funding from the Government.

The Government has encouraged councils to become more commercially focused, leading us to set up Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd. Through the companies under (CCHL) we make money from a range of activities including events, that help pay for essential services.

Throughout the first lockdown, we worked with partners to support vulnerable members of our community and businesses. However, the lockdown measures meant many of the ways we generate income were halted.

While we have received some Government support it has not covered the money we have lost and a full review of everything we deliver has been undertaken. Our initial plans to close this gap include smarter ways of working, raising income where possible and reducing costs - including job losses where these cannot be avoided. We will use reserves to help ease the funding gap we're facing this year – but once these are used, they can't be used again.

We will continue to lobby the Government to ensure they make good on their promise – but if they don't, difficult decisions will need to be made.

As part of the survey residents are also asked how well informed they feel about the council's budget challenge and to rank the council's services in importance to them.

The survey, which will run until Friday 4 December, can be found on our [website](#).



**SOME OF OUR KEY SOURCES OF INCOME AT CBC ARE...**

- WEDDINGS
- VIC
- COMMERCIAL RENTS
- EVENTS
- CAR PARKS
- LEISURE WORLD & AQUA SPRINGS
- MUSEUMS

**The Covid-19 lockdown meant much of this income stopped completely, and our costs have increased**

So this year (2020/21) we expect to have over **£10m** less than we were expecting, to pay for essential services...

The Government has since provided **£2m** in additional funding to the Council and we are claiming around **£1m** for furloughed staff...

However this still means that we have over **£1.5m** in losses to recover this year...

And an estimated budget gap of **£3.5m** for 2021/22

**THAT IS 10% OF THE NET BUDGET**

**THAT IS 17.5% OF THE NET BUDGET**

To address this we are working on a budget strategy, including

- reviewing our strategic **PRIORITIES**
- maximising **COMMERCIAL** potential
- driving **EFFICIENCY** in the way we work
- looking at our **SERVICE PROVISION**
- exploring **COMMUNITY** relationships

We will continue to lobby the Government to secure a better financial settlement for 2021/22

Difficult decisions may need to be made to balance the budget

**WE'LL MAKE SURE WE KEEP YOU UPDATED ON THIS JOURNEY EVERY STEP OF THE WAY**



# Ambitious We Are Colchester plan for £25m improvements submitted



An ambitious plan, seeking up to £25 million of Government funding for projects enhancing Colchester town centre and the surrounding area over the next 25 years, has been submitted.

Drawn up by We Are Colchester - a dynamic partnership involving public, private and voluntary organisations set up to develop a long-term vision for unlocking more jobs and prosperity for Colchester - it was submitted at the end of October.

The partnership - made up of Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council, local businesses and other organisations - was formed following last year's announcement

that Colchester was one of 100 areas being given the opportunity to bid for up to £25 million from the Government's Town Deal scheme.

The plan submitted was developed in consultation with over 1,000 residents and businesses as well as with the We are Colchester board, assembly and advisory group.

It looks to help overcome some of the challenges Colchester faces in ensuring its future economic growth including its reliance on retail and service sectors, the current transport infrastructure and continuing deprivation in parts of the borough.

A key part of the plan seeks to ensure

we better connect the borough's digital and transport infrastructure, grow the borough's economy in an inclusive way, and make Colchester an even better place to live. Projects that have been included in the bid are:

- the creation of digital work hubs
- transforming facilities for young people
- a digital skills hub at the Wilson Marriage Centre
- public realm improvements in the town centre
- restoration of Holy Trinity Church
- the first phase in restoring 'Jumbo'
- transformation of community facilities in Greenstead
- the accelerated introduction of 5G
- improved walking and cycling links across the town

The plan will also be used to lever in funding from other sources to help turn the vision into reality.

We Are Colchester is chaired by an independent representative from Colchester's business community - the managing Director of Kent Blaxill Group, Simon Blaxill.

Mr Blaxill said: "I believe that we have submitted a very strong bid for this money. The list of projects chosen, will make a long lasting, positive difference to our town.

"They will promote skills development, create jobs for local people, make our communities more attractive and with better facilities. The Town Deal provides Colchester with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make our town an even better place to live, work and visit."

A decision by the Government is expected by February.

## New parklets scheme to make High Street greener for all

A new project is seeking to make the High Street an even more vibrant place by converting some loading bays into open and green areas for shoppers and visitors to sit and relax.

Under a joint initiative between Colchester Borough Council and the Our Colchester Business Improvement District five 'parklets' will be installed in, various locations along the High Street.

These new areas, which will be designed and maintained by a local Colchester company, are aimed at transforming existing loading bays by creating new seating areas supported by the planting of trees and seasonal plants.

They will help provide additional footway space to help with social distancing.

It is hoped the 'parklets' will be sited outside Heavenly Desserts, Barclays, Moss Bros, Sharp's and Marc Jason Shoeworld.



## Work underway on four sites to help deliver new council homes

Work has started on the first of 24 new council homes for local people, at four sites across the borough.

Construction work has started on new homes in Hardings Close and contracts have been awarded to build the new homes at Buffett Way, Scarfe Way, and Military Road.

The homes are being delivered through our wholly owned housing development company Colchester Amphora Homes Limited and once built, they will be managed by Colchester Borough Homes to provide homes for families on the council's housing register. The projects form part of Colchester Borough Council's ambitious plans to deliver up to 350 new affordable homes by 2024.

These new homes could be supplemented through the redevelopment of Elfreda House, where 36 flats each with balcony or patio area,



shower room and fitted kitchen are planned to replace the existing outdated sheltered accommodation complex.

Other schemes helping to deliver much-needed new affordable homes include a £22 million scheme to buy an additional 100 homes for local families.

Under the scheme, the council will look to buy former council homes previously sold under the Right to Buy

scheme, or other properties depending on the market at the time.

The types of homes purchased will reflect the greatest needs of those on the housing register, and that can be adapted for wheelchair users and those with restricted mobility. They will also be made as energy efficient as possible, to contribute to our climate emergency commitments.

## Smarter Parking

Pay and stay the easy way with the MiPermit app.

Benefits include

- Contactless payments
- Parking offers
- Easily extend your stay

Get started with this short video!



MIPERMIT

Download for iPhone

Download for Android

# Colchester's Northern Gateway Sports Park opening Easter 2021



Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Park, the new flagship multi-million-pound state-of-the-art venue being developed by Colchester Borough Council, is on track to open at Easter 2021.

Designed to enable residents and visitors to shape healthy and active lifestyles for themselves and their

families, the 76-acre facility will include a one-mile floodlit cycle track, provisions for cycling for people with disabilities and those with special needs.

It will also house a multi-use sports centre, indoor cricket facility, a fitness suite, exercise and cycle studios, a café, meeting rooms and open green spaces

for families to enjoy - all of which will be managed by the council.

The Sports Park is part of a wider sport and leisure development project managed by Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd, one of the council's commercial companies.

This will also include a new state-of-the-art rugby facility which will become the home of the Colchester Rugby Football Club, two all-weather pitches, additional grass pitches and an archery range for local clubs to enjoy.

The £28.7 million development has received funding from multiple partners, including £590,000 from British Cycling and £100,000 from England and Wales Cricket Club.

It had been planned that the Sports Park would be opened in September 2020, however work had to be curtailed as a result of the lockdown regulations

introduced around coronavirus to ensure the safety of contractors on site.

As part of the development we are working in partnership with Highways England and Breheny Civil Engineering Ltd to deliver safer pedestrian and cycling routes at the nearby junction with the A12.

Until 15 January 2021 this will see the slip roads to and from Junction 28 closed overnight (between 8pm and 6am), with signed diversion routes in place and only slip roads on one side of the junction will be closed at any one time.

Anyone interested in finding out more about hiring the new sport facilities can complete an expression of interest form by visiting the [Northern Gateway Sports Park website](#).

For more information about the A12 roadworks please visit our [website](#).

HM Government **NHS**

**We must keep on protecting each other.**

**HANDS**

**FACE**

**SPACE**

**STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES**

## New Turnstone plans for Colchester Northern Gateway

A 12-screen cinema, up to seven restaurants and a 90-bed hotel are just some of the key attractions proposed as part of Colchester Borough Council's Northern Gateway leisure development.

The site could also include two drive-thru restaurants, two indoor active leisure units, a high-quality landscaped piazza and parking for 750 cars - including electric car rapid charging points.

The council is currently undertaking further due diligence on the scheme in the light of the impact of coronavirus on the leisure and hospitality sector. Any development would be project managed by Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd, one of the council's commercial companies set up in 2018 which has helped the council recently receive two prestigious national awards (see P1).

The Turnstone scheme forms part of a wider development at the site including the Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Park and up to 350 new homes, healthcare provision with older persons accommodation, and commercial floorspace.

The whole development would benefit from a carbon-reduction District Heat Network, using natural energy to provide heating and hot water for the whole area, and an integral digital network providing ultra-fast broadband to homes and businesses.



## Better Connected

Homes and businesses across Colchester are starting to reap the benefits of the drive to bring brand-new, gigabit broadband connectivity to the borough.

The work is being made possible after Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd (CATL) secured a £3.3 million investment from the Government's Local Full Fibre Network Fund (LFFN) to deliver the essential infrastructure.

Since work began in March, significant upgrades to core data distribution facilities have been carried out, including 12 nodes across suburban Colchester to bring gigabit broadband to all parts of urban Colchester. A very high capacity data link to London is due to be completed at the end of October.

The LFFN funding is part of a package of £13.5 million Government and private investment to help provide gigabit speed broadband across Colchester.

Over the next five years, a further 90km of network will be laid across the borough to enable around 25,000 more customers to get connected.

For more information visit the [colchester fibre website](#).

# New CAREless pollution campaign launched



Motorists are being urged to switch off their engines when stationary under a new campaign launched by Colchester Borough Council to improve the borough's air quality and the health of the borough's residents.

'CAREless pollution' calls on people not to leave their car engines running while they wait at traffic lights, level crossings or outside schools.

Most people are unaware that keeping their vehicle's engine running when stationary can affect them as well as the air quality of the local area. Air pollution inside the car can be up to seven times worse than outside the car

when the engine is left running.

There is strong evidence that air pollution causes the development of heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer, all of which lead to reduced life expectancy.

In Colchester one in 20 deaths is linked to air pollution and the main source of air pollution in the town is exhaust fumes.

Switching off your car engine is a simple action that brings an important health benefit to all residents, car drivers and their passengers.

During lockdown there were significant improvements in Colchester's

air quality. Local people are now being encouraged to keep up positive habits to support their health, such as switching from car driving to cycling and walking, as well as adopting new helpful driving habits.

Research shows that only 15% of people in Colchester regularly switch off their engine when their car is not moving and yet 87% are concerned about the air quality in town.

The new CAREless campaign aims to set out the link between air quality and switching off engines while stationary with the hope of encouraging residents and those who regularly drive in Colchester to take action to improve the air we all breathe.

Backed by DEFRA funding, CAREless pollution will run until May 2021 and include events in and around Colchester working closely with local schools and businesses to change people's car driving behaviour.

New signs will also be appearing along main roads to remind drivers to switch off their engines.

The campaign also supports the work we are undertaking across the council to protect the borough's environment after being one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency.

To find out more about CAREless pollution visit the [website](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/cleanair).

## Stay at home, grow your own

A partnership between Colchester Borough Council and Abberton Rural Training (ART) launched during the first national lockdown has helped a scheme giving people everything needed to start growing small food produce at home take root.

Working jointly with ART, we provided 150 free planting starter kits in a scheme funded through a grant from Essex County Council Public Health – and all of them were snapped up in 24 hours.

While there are currently no further kits, free resources are available for those that want to start growing their own produce, e.g. using seeds from food such as tomatoes and peppers and food packaging to propagate the seeds.

Easy to follow online information is available on ART's YouTube channel and website.

The scheme also helps support the larger local growing scheme including the council's Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project and the 'Together We Grow CiC', a not-for-profit social enterprise helping local communities to explore food, the land, community and nature.

Find out more [here](#).



## Nominate your community heroes

A new community recognition award scheme has been launched by Colchester Borough Council to mark and celebrate individuals and community groups who have given their time and efforts to make a lasting impact within their communities.

The Together We Can awards have already attracted more than 40 different nominations and are open for anyone to nominate someone or a group who have helped enhance the quality of life for people living in their local area.

As well as celebrating residents' efforts, time and inspiration within their communities, the award scheme aims to support local Covid-19 recovery initiatives. This may be through improving mental health, tackling isolation and loneliness, or increasing physical activity and wellbeing by encouraging more outdoor activities.

It is hoped the scheme may also further help support communities by helping identify residents who may need additional support, for example,

with cutting their lawn.

Nominations for an award can be made by anyone - neighbours, community groups, councillors, community wardens – using the [special online form](#).

In recognition of their efforts,

residents who are nominated will receive a signed certificate by the Mayor of Colchester and community groups will receive a plaque. Recipients are encouraged to display these in their local area, to help boost community pride.

**Say Thank You!**

Know someone who has had a positive impact within your community?

Nominate them for a Community Recognition Award

Open to all, this award recognises great ideas and initiatives from litter picks to tackling loneliness.

[colchester.gov.uk/togetherwecan](http://colchester.gov.uk/togetherwecan)

## GET THE BEST PEST CONTROL

Reactive, preventative and monitoring services for:

- Rats • Mice • Fleas • Ants
- Cockroaches • Wasps

More than 20 years of experience and after the final treatment all work is guaranteed for a month\*

\*Terms and conditions apply

For advice and to book your appointment please [click here](#).

# Colchester's Climate Emergency Response

**July 2019**  
Climate Emergency Declared

**September 2019**  
57% less chewing gum on town centre streets

**October 2019**  
Joint top climate friendly area in East of England

**October 2019**  
Clean Air for Colchester survey with residents, schools and businesses

**February 2020**  
10,000+ trees given out

**January 2020**  
Climate Emergency Action Plan published

**January 2020**  
40% reduction in carbon emissions

**November 2019**  
Commit to end the use of glyphosate weed killer

**February 2020**  
Phasing out of plastics in Council operations

**March 2020**  
4,486 trees planted in 19/20 for the Woodland Project

**May 2020**  
Received funding for 25 electric cargo bikes

**June 2020**  
Colchester Orbital maps produced

**Sept 2020**  
Plan agreed to end using glyphosate-based weed killers by April 2021

~ UNTIL MARCH 2021 ~

## Winter Resilience

**WE WANT YOU TO STAY SAFE, WELL, WARM & CONNECTED**

**THIS WINTER THAT'S WHY WE ARE HELPING COLCHESTER RESIDENTS WHO ARE AT RISK FROM THE COLD CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE**

01206 505250  
 information@community360.org.uk  
 community360.org  
 @community360.org



## Electric cargo bikes take to streets of Colchester

A fleet of 25 electric cargo bikes and five electric trailers will soon be seen operating across the borough as part of Colchester Borough Council's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The three-year trial of the bikes has been funded by a successful bid for £136,912 funding from the Energy Savings Trust.

The zero-emissions bikes need less kerb space to make deliveries and collections and offer quicker access around streets where they can use bus lanes, cycle paths and other routes unavailable to cars and vans.

As well as reducing carbon emissions the bikes can also help to support a healthier workforce.

Ten local organisations and four of our council teams will be championing the eCargo bikes and

encouraging others to try them as well. There will be five eCargo bikes and one e-trailer available to local businesses and organisations to try out for short term loans.

To use the bikes people must be trained to Bikeability level 3. Bikeability is a cycle training programme which provides practical skills and understanding of how to cycle on today's roads.

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned cyclist, Bikeability provides the opportunity to learn new skills, improve knowledge and build confidence.

Any business or organisation wanting to find out more about trialing an eCargo bike should email [ecargobikelibrary@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:ecargobikelibrary@colchester.gov.uk)

## Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project takes root

Planting for the second year of the Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project will kick off in the new year, with planting including a new Community Orchard at Colchester Cemetery.

Launched in 2019, the scheme plans to plant 200,000 trees over the next few years. The project not only strives to make our borough greener but aims to manage our spaces without harming existing habitats, enhance environments to create more space for nature to grow and thrive, and to encourage our communities to love and care for our environment.

To further support our 'green' work this year we have already reduced our grass-cutting regime in areas across the borough, committed to the reduction of Glyphosate-based weed

killer, and encouraged residents and organisations to take part in seed-gathering activity and grow their own trees for the future.

As well as the Community Orchard, nine further planting events will take place this planting season, with an estimated 9,000 trees being planted, kindly donated by the Woodland Trust.

To ensure we can safely hold planting events and comply with social distancing rules, anyone wanting to come along and help plant will need to register via the website. Once registered people will be contacted with information about the day, and a time slot to come along and get planting.

To keep up to date with the project [click here](#).

**The Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project**

#bettercolchester

Greening the borough for now and the future

# Play your part in keeping Colchester clean and litter free

Residents and visitors to Colchester are being urged to play their part in keeping the borough clean and free from litter.

A new campaign has been launched by Colchester Borough Council calling on people to take responsibility for their own litter by taking it home or putting it in a bin rather than throwing it on the borough's pavements, verges and open spaces.

During lockdown the number of incidents of littering and fly-tipping increased across the borough. Since the lockdown restrictions have eased we have even seen furniture, household waste, asbestos and more dumped across the borough.

Not only is littering and fly-tipping unsightly, harmful to the environment and potentially dangerous, it takes

time and puts additional strain on our already stretched resources to clear up.

One of our key priorities is to keep our borough clean and an attractive place to live and visit. In a bid to crackdown on the increased levels of littering we have launched a new hard-hitting campaign, asking residents a series of questions via posters and social media posts.

These questions include – Does litter make you feel rubbish? What's your dirty secret? And are you a (litter) tosser?

It is hoped the new campaign will encourage more people to do their bit to keep Colchester clean and will influence people who litter to think differently about simply throwing their rubbish on the ground.



Leaving rubbish next to a bin is classed as fly-tipping and where there is enough evidence, anyone caught littering or fly-tipping faces a Fixed Penalty Notice and fine of £100 and could end up with a criminal conviction.

Several Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued recently due to fly-tipping, with perpetrators identified through items left in the rubbish.

Our campaign mirrors the steps being taken nationally. The District Councils' Network - which represents 187 district councils in England - has

also been calling on the public to act responsibly, disposing of litter correctly such as by taking it home if bins are full. It is also asking dog walkers to make sure they clean up after their pets.

Last month we also supported the Keep Britain Tidy Great British September Clean 2020. This saw 174 bags of general waste and a further 28 bags of recyclable material being collected at 23 special litter picking events.

Anyone seeing any acts of littering or fly tipping can report it to us [here](#).

**AVOID THE LINE!**



**Vote by post in next year's elections to help stop the spread of Covid**

**Please click here to sign up now.**

## Keeping tenants safe in their homes

The work of a dedicated team of Colchester Borough Council officers is helping ensure people renting properties in the private sector are living in safe and healthy homes.

Our Private Sector Housing Team works with residents, landlords, letting agents and property managers to ensure the borough's privately rented homes comply with all necessary regulations.

In the last year alone, the team carried out around 500 inspections of homes rented privately and removed over 400 serious hazards, helping to improve the safety of 167 homes.

The team also ensure shared accommodation in the borough meets safety and space standards and

is suitable for the number of occupiers. Also, all shared accommodation, including houses and flats, occupied by five or more people from two or more households and who share one or more basic amenity, must be licensed as a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

Anyone wanting to know whether the property they live in has been licensed or requires a HMO licence can do so [here](#).

If anyone living in a privately rented property is concerned about its condition or HMO licence they should contact the team at [Housing.private@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:Housing.private@colchester.gov.uk)

Information on the rights and responsibilities of tenants and their landlords can be found on the [website](#).



## First digital national census coming to Colchester

Every ten years a national census is undertaken to develop the most accurate estimate of the population of England and Wales.

For the first time the next census - planned for Saturday 21 March 2021 - will be carried out digitally.

The information collected helps the Government decide how services, such as doctors' surgeries, schools, emergency services, housing, and bus routes, are planned and funded in local areas.

It is important everyone in the borough completes the census as it could have a real impact on the day-to-day lives of people who live, work, and visit Colchester.

Most residents will get a letter with a unique access code to access the website, which can be done on any digital device. We are urging as many people as possible to fill in the online questionnaire.

For more information visit our census 2021 webpage, [here](#). The results from Colchester's 2011 census can be [viewed online](#).



# Who we are and what we do



Colchester Borough Council and local partners have been working together as One Colchester, to help the borough's most vulnerable people during the coronavirus outbreak and support the borough's recovery in a Covid-secure way.

Since lockdown began in March, the partners involved in One Colchester have been working hard to ensure the most vulnerable residents, businesses and community groups in Colchester receive the support they need.

One Colchester involves Colchester Borough Council, the voluntary sector, police, health, education, the business community and other organisations.

The work it has undertaken includes the delivery of food, toiletries and medicine direct to people's doors, befriending phone calls to provide necessary advice, fast-tracking volunteer applications and coordinating the roles in the community, processing business grants, patrolling the towns' businesses and showcasing virtual theatre performances and poetry.

Here are just some of the highlights of the ways in which the One Colchester partnership has supported the borough through the Covid-19 outbreak between March and September.

- We've made sure that **3,223** households have enough food and medicines for people struggling to feed their families
- **95,762** phone calls, texts, visits, leaflets made to support vulnerable people who need to stay safe in their homes

- All whilst delivering poems, art packs, history fun, dance, exercise, theatre, grow your own packs and so much more to over **152,792** homes.

Cllr Martin Goss, Liberal Democrats Group leader, said: "Colchester's Neighbourhood's teams have carried out sterling work collecting waste and keeping our neighbourhoods safe and clean."



Cllr Tina Bourne, Labour Group Leader, said: "I was very impressed with Colchester Borough Homes' daily phone calls to tenants experiencing isolation and vulnerability."



Cllr Paul Dundas, Conservative Group Leader, said: "I have been very impressed, and very proud, of the outstanding work and commitment of all CBC & CBH staff during the pandemic crisis"



Cllr Beverley Oxford, Highwoods Independent Group Leader, said: "This pandemic has shown just how caring Colchester is. Thank you everyone who has helped and cared for all you have done and continue to do."



- We have given **£33,585,000** in grants to local businesses and **6,073** hours of police patrols, supporting the town centre safely

- **300** patients discharged after being treated for COVID-19 and **400** hospital video appointments delivered

Congratulations to the Amey family, who were the winners of Colchester Borough Council's rainbow competition. They produced this fantastic display to show support to the borough and nation's key workers, by adding a little piece to the design each day over several weeks as part of the 'lockdown laughter' activities.

They were awarded a family pass to visit Colchester Castle and a family swimming pass at Colchester Leisure World. The design also featured on the council's social media pages.



Pam Donnelly, Chair of the One Colchester Partnership, said: "I'm so pleased and proud of the way in which volunteers, organisations and charities have adapted to this changing situation and continue to support the people of Colchester during this difficult time. "The role of One Colchester was to bring everyone together, to share information, avoid duplication, enable and ensure our response was joined up making it so much more effective than working as individual organisations could ever have been."

If you need volunteer help, or would like to volunteer, please email [information@community360.org.uk](mailto:information@community360.org.uk) or call 01206 505250.

# Support for our older and vulnerable council tenants



Vulnerable and older residents across the borough received dedicated support throughout the coronavirus lockdown from Colchester Borough Homes' Older Person service.

Working from home to protect

vulnerable and self-isolating tenants, staff made thousands of calls each month - contacting all sheltered housing tenants weekly to check their health and wellbeing and making daily calls to the most vulnerable tenants.

Additionally, the team supported with GP referrals, food parcel and prescription deliveries (working with Community First responders and Community360), maintaining fire safety checks in sheltered accommodation and responding to tenant requests following activation of their pullcords.

They also introduced a bi-weekly newsletter outlining Government guidelines, updates on the service and advice on staying well at home including exercises, recipes and quizzes.

Communal facilities such as lounges were closed, and sheltered schemes received increased cleaning. Anyone reporting potential symptoms of Covid-19 received an arranged Covid-19 test and a deep sanitising clean was carried out.



**Homeowner with a spare room?  
Resident looking for affordable accommodation?\***

Colchester Borough Homes is now working with Solo Housing to provide accommodation for single residents. Homeowners can receive up to £7500 tax-free extra income. [Click to find out more.](#)

\*This service may be disrupted during Covid restrictions



# Rough Sleeper Outreach team provide crucial support to help vulnerable residents

Colchester Borough Homes' (CBH) Rough Sleeper Outreach team played a key role in supporting those sleeping rough across the borough during the first national lockdown introduced to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

On the 26 March, the Government called on all local authorities in England to house those who were rough sleeping or placed in hostels and night shelters.

During the first week following the Government's 'Everybody in' announcement, the team accommodated 38 people who had been referred to CBH as rough sleeping. In total 57 rough sleepers were provided with emergency accommodation as part of the drive.

Alongside this, the team helped move individuals out of emergency accommodation and into permanent housing with appropriate housing-related support.

One of the people the team provided valuable support to was Robin (name changed to protect his identity) who was rough sleeping in Colchester at the start of Covid-19.

Following a Streetlink referral, which was responded to on the day it was received, the team identified the support Robin would need and paired him to the relevant local services.

The Government's "Everybody



in" announcement gave the team an opportunity to bring Robin into emergency accommodation and they began targeted, intensive work to support him. This was easier while he was in accommodation and his movements and opportunity to buy alcohol and drugs was limited.

The team maintained daily contact with him to undertake welfare checks and ensure relevant appointments were attended. With continued support from the team when applying for housing, he was accepted for a supported tenancy.

Robin was reconnected with his estranged family and received help identifying what he would need when moving into supported housing. The team also worked with local agencies to support him with essential furniture

and white goods and continued to support him during the move to help reduce the anxiety of moving.

Speaking about the support he received, Robin said "The outreach team supported me before I was housed, making sure I was safe and well. If it wasn't for the team I would still be on the streets - the team go out of their way to help everyone."

The emergency hotel accommodation the team used to provide homes for rough sleepers has now been returned to the owner and work is continuing to resettle and support those remaining into more settled homes.

If anyone is concerned about the welfare of a rough sleeper, please alert us using the Street Link app or the [website](#).

## Generous and vital Local Council Tax Support Scheme proposed to continue

Colchester Borough Council is set to continue providing one of the most generous Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) schemes in the county in 2021-2022.

The scheme provides vital support for residents on low incomes needing help to pay their council tax.

Currently under the scheme we distribute £8.5 million in support to residents across the borough.

The scheme is being reviewed by the council next month, but it is being proposed that the same criteria would be used for next year's scheme. This is to enable us to be able to support those residents whose situation may have been adversely impacted by the pandemic and national lockdown.

We have also awarded 5,964 hardship payments this year, totalling £888,100. These payments provide discounts of up to £150 to working age residents in receipt of LCTS, as part of the Government's response to Covid-19.

To check if you are eligible for support through LCTS visit the [website](#).



# New vision to help build an even Better Colchester

A new strategic plan for Colchester Borough Council for the next three years has been agreed. Aimed at further building on the council's work to develop an even Better Colchester, as well as meeting the challenges arising from the coronavirus crisis and subsequent lockdown, it is split into five key themes. Under each of these themes are three key priorities including the goals the council is seeking to achieve which would be used as a way of measuring the vision's success. It also outlines what is aimed to be delivered this year. A copy of the vision can be seen on [website](#).

## The Better Colchester Strategic Plan

### 2020-2023

Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability	Creating safe, healthy and active communities	Delivering homes for people who need them	Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits	Celebrating our heritage and culture
---	---	---	---	--------------------------------------



Whatever your plans, Colchester has something great on offer...

**Visit Santa at Colchester Castle**

**£6.95 PER CHILD INCLUDES CHRISTMAS GIFT**

To book call 01206 282949  
Bookings must be made in family groups up to a maximum of 6 people  
[colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/events](http://colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/events)

Colchester Castle

**Helpline**  
There when you need us

**GET YOUR 12 WEEK FREE TRIAL**

**HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT, AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON**  
24/7 emergency home response and lifting service

Contact us for more information  
01206 769779 • [helplineplus.co.uk](http://helplineplus.co.uk)

Colchester AMPHORA TRADING

**LOVE THE CASTLE?**  
Get unlimited entry to Colchester Castle for a whole year with the Resident Pass!  
Voucher can be used up to and including 28th February 2021

**10% OFF**  
YOUR FIRST RESIDENT PASS ON PRESENTATION OF VOUCHER

#LoveColchesterCastle  
[cimuseums.org.uk/residentpass](http://cimuseums.org.uk/residentpass)

**COMING TO COLCHESTER – NEW SHOWS FOR 2021**

**Wedding Open Day**

Colchester Town Hall  
Sunday 11 April 2021  
11am - 4pm

**Milkshake! Live**  
Milkshake! Monkey's Musical

Sunday 25 April 2021 | Charter Hall, Colchester

**SMOKE AND FIRE FESTIVALS**

Colchester Castle Park | 20 - 22 August 2021

**OLLY MURS**  
SUMMER TOUR 2021

29 AUGUST 2021  
**COLCHESTER**  
CASTLE PARK  
[WWW.COLCHESTER-EVENTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.COLCHESTER-EVENTS.CO.UK)

**JASON DONOVAN**  
EVER MORE GOOD REASONS

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021  
CHARTER HALL, COLCHESTER

**Ben Fogle**

Friday 17 September 2021 | Charter Hall, Colchester

**JOHN BISHOP**

Tuesday 19 October 2021 | Charter Hall, Colchester

**Katherine Ryan**  
Missus

Thursday 20 January 2022 | Charter Hall, Colchester

**CASTLE PARK | COLCHESTER CASTLE | CHARTER HALL | TOWN HALL**

**ALL TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

For listings, tickets and to sign up for Colchester Events News visit: [colchester-events.co.uk](http://colchester-events.co.uk)

# Who provides your council services in Colchester?

Colchester residents benefit from and can access a wide range of council services across the borough. These services will either be delivered by Colchester Borough Council or Essex County Council. This is because in Colchester, like most other parts of Essex, the local borough or district council run services purely focused in their local area, while the county council provides services spanning the whole county. This is what is known as two-tier local government. Below is a guide to who provides what key services across the borough.



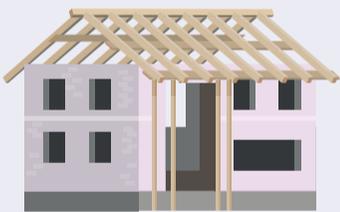
## Colchester



Recycling and Rubbish Collections



Housing

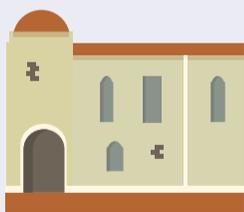


Planning and Building Control



Environmental and Animal Services

Including Neighbourhood Team, Food Hygiene, Licensing



Museums and Heritage



Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax



Parking



Leisure Services



## Essex County Council



Education and Schools



Highways  
(Improvements, Maintenance and Gritting)



Social Care



Children and Young People Service



Libraries



Waste Disposal and Recycling Sites



Trading Standards



Births, Ceremonies and Deaths

# Meet your councillors



Cllr Christopher Arnold  
Rural North  
Conservatives



Cllr Lewis Barber  
Lexden & Braiswick  
Conservatives



Cllr Nick Barlow  
Castle  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Lyn Barton  
Shrub End  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Kevin Bentley  
Marks Tey & Layer  
Conservatives



Cllr Tina Bourne  
Greenstead  
Labour



Cllr Roger Buston  
Prettygate  
Conservatives



Cllr Nigel Chapman  
Rural North  
Conservatives



Cllr Peter Chillingworth  
Rural North  
Conservatives



Cllr Helen Chuah  
St Anne's & St John's  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Phil Coleman  
Mile End  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Nick Cope  
New Town & Christ Church  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Mark Cory  
Wivenhoe  
Liberal Democrats  
Leader of the Council  
PFH - Strategy, Customers



Cllr Simon Crow  
Castle  
Conservatives



Cllr Robert Davidson  
Mersea & Pyefleet  
Conservatives



Cllr Paul Dundas  
Stanway  
Conservatives



Cllr John Elliott  
Tiptree  
Conservatives



Cllr Andrew Ellis  
Marks Tey & Layer  
Conservatives



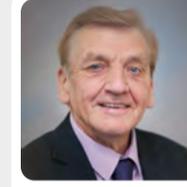
Cllr Adam Fox  
Old Heath & The Hythe  
Labour & Co-operative  
PFH - Housing



Cllr Mark Goacher  
Castle  
Green Party



Cllr Martin Goss  
Mile End  
Liberal Democrats  
PFH - Waste, Environment &  
Transportation



Cllr Dave Harris  
Berechurch  
Labour



Cllr Chris Hayter  
St Anne's & St John's  
Conservative



Cllr Pauline Hazell  
Shrub End  
Conservative



Cllr Theresa Higgins  
New Town & Christ Church  
Liberal Democrats  
PFH - Commercial Services



Cllr Mike Hogg  
St Anne's & St John's  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Brian Jarvis  
Lexden & Braiswick  
Conservatives



Cllr John Jowers  
Mersea & Pyefleet  
Conservatives



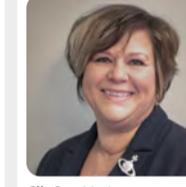
Cllr David King  
Mile End  
Liberal Democrats  
PFH - Business & Resources



Cllr Cyril Liddy  
Wivenhoe  
Labour & Co-operative



Cllr Michael Lilley  
Old Heath & The Hythe  
Labour & Co-operative  
PFH - Communities,  
Wellbeing & Public Safety



Cllr Sue Lissimore  
Prettygate  
Conservative



Cllr Derek Loveland  
Tiptree  
Conservative



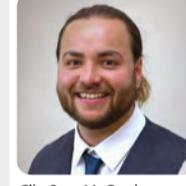
Cllr Andrea  
Luxford Vaughan  
Wivenhoe  
Liberal Democrats



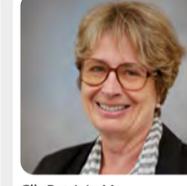
Cllr Fiona Maclean  
Stanway  
Conservatives



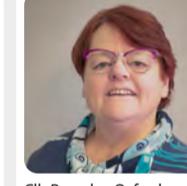
Cllr Jackie Maclean  
Marks Tey & Layer  
Conservatives



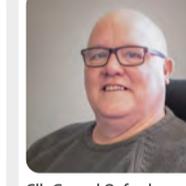
Cllr Sam McCarthy  
Shrub End  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Patricia Moore  
Mersea & Pyefleet  
Conservatives



Cllr Beverley Oxford  
Highwoods  
Independent



Cllr Gerard Oxford  
Highwoods  
Independent



Cllr Philip Oxford  
Highwoods  
Independent



Cllr Chris Pearson  
Berechurch  
Labour & Co-operative



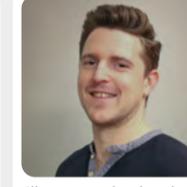
Cllr Lee Scordis  
Old Heath & The Hythe  
Labour



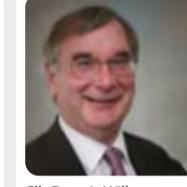
Cllr Lesley Scott-Boutell  
Stanway  
Liberal Democrats



Cllr Martyn Warnes  
Berechurch  
Labour & Co-operative



Cllr Lorcan Whitehead  
New Town & Christ Church  
Labour



Cllr Dennis Willetts  
Lexden & Braiswick  
Conservatives



Cllr Barbara Wood  
Tiptree  
Conservatives



Cllr Julie Young  
Greenstead  
Labour  
Dep. Leader of the Council  
PFH - Culture & Performance



Cllr Tim Young  
Greenstead  
Labour



One vacant seat  
Prettygate

PFH - means Portfolio Holder. The Cabinet has eight Portfolio Holders, each of whom is responsible for a specific area, known as a Portfolio.

**If you wish to contact your local councillor, please contact them using the following format:**

**(first name).(surname)@colchester.gov.uk**

For more information regarding your local councillor, please visit our [website](#).