



We are Colchester



Colchester  
City Council

# We Are Colchester Board Meeting

23 February 2023

## Decisions & Actions

**Present:**

Simon Blaxill (Chair), Adam Bryan, Lucy Johnson, Mark Jarman-Howe, Tracy Rudling, Alison Jennings, Cllr Tom Cunningham, Laura Eardley, Alison Andreas, Steve Evison, Shona Johnstone, Cllr Adam Fox (for Cllr David King)

**Apologies:**

Pam Donnelly, Will Quince MP, Cllr David King, Simon Mead

**Others Attending:**

Clare Ratcliffe, Iain McNab, Lindsay Barker, Mandy Jones, Rory Doyle, Amanda Rawlings, Matt Sterling, Matthew Brown, Louise Denyer, Amie Hall, Simon Thorp

## 1. Apologies & Declarations of Interest

Apologies were noted from Pam Donnelly, Will Quince MP, Cllr David King and Simon Mead.

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2. Progress Report & Engagement Update

The Board **noted** a Programme Report circulated in advance. There were no questions arising. The Board **noted** an update on progress highlights, funding, delivery/time/cost RAG headlines, DLUHC monitoring returns, programme level issues and risks, and recent/forthcoming engagement activity.

## 3. DLUHC update

The Board **noted** an update from DLUHC. Officers were commended for good programme management and progress, with assurances given regarding anticipated forthcoming payment for 2023/24. Colchester's successful Levelling Up bid was commended. The potential for Ministerial visits was also noted. An update on Essex devolution discussions was also shared.

The Board also **noted** a visit to Colchester by their Majesties The King and Queen Consort is scheduled for 7 March 2023.

#### 4. Levelling Up update

The Board **noted** that Colchester's bid for £19.66m was successful, with full details of the bid and projects made available. The Board also **noted** that projects must be delivered by 2025 and existing governance and operational structures would be used. The Board **noted** that governance for Levelling Up would be provided by Team Colchester, with updates being brought to this Board only for information and advice.

#### 5. Issues, Risks & Mitigations

The Board **noted** progress updates from Project Sponsors and Owners regarding projects where the Board had given direction at the last meeting: Town Centre (St Nicholas Square – resolution of issues and commencement of works), Jumbo & Balcerne Gate phase 2 (project synergies), Holy Trinity Church (urgent repairs), Heart of Greenstead (Community Health & Well Being Hub and Land Acquisition) and Programme-wide cost monitoring and mitigation.

St Nicholas Square. It was **agreed** that Cllr Cunningham would take steps to urgently accelerate resolution of outstanding Highways issues at Essex County Council. An apology for the delay in responding to a letter from the Chair to Essex County Council's Leader was also **noted**.

Jumbo. The Board **noted** that Colchester City Council had committed to providing additional funding to the Jumbo project over and above Town Deal monies.

## 6. Project Spotlights – Digital Connectivity

The Board **noted** with thanks positive updates on Digital Skills Hub Wilson Marriage Centre and Digital Working Hub Queen Street. Digital Skills Hub refurbishments and associated public engagement are on track to be completed in time for the new academic year (September 2023). Digital Working Hub demolition and archaeology are well underway. The Board expressed enthusiasm to be involved in any forthcoming site visits. The Programme Office will facilitate such visits from March 2023.

## 7. Decisions

No decisions from the Board were sought at this meeting. The Board **noted** the Programme Report, progress updates, Levelling Up updates and Project Spotlights.

## 8. Future meetings

**Thursday 25 May 2023 – 1200 – MS Teams or In Person (to be confirmed)**

Thursday 17 August 2023 – 1000

Thursday 16 November 2023 – 1000

February 2024 – to be confirmed

May 2024 – to be confirmed

August 2024 – to be confirmed