

WILL QUINCE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Matt Sterling
Rowan House,
33 Sheepen Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
CO3 3WG

July 2022

Dear Matt Sterling,

Letter of Support for Colchester's Levelling Up Fund

I am pleased to write in support of Colchester Borough Council's submission for the second round of the Government's Levelling Up Fund.

I'm confident the work proposed in this bid will make a real and lasting contribution to achieving some of our 12 Levelling Up Missions. I know the bid, which has been prepared with Essex County Council, has strong local support and is highly deliverable.

To my mind this bid not only makes a much-needed and deliverable contribution to our Levelling Up agenda, but also builds on the ambitions Colchester expressed in our submission for City status, the award of which has been well received and builds on the vital urban regeneration schemes initiated by the Town Fund.

This work will give a much-needed boost to the vibrancy of our city centre economy, creating jobs and making Colchester more attractive to investors; improve safety and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour; improve accessibility, particularly for sustainable travel methods; protect and showcase our significant historic assets; and boost civic pride.

I do hope the Government is able to support this award.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Quince'.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR COLCHESTER

Westminster Address: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Telephone: 020 7219 8049
Constituency Address: First Floor, 4 Wyncolls Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 9HU Telephone: 01206 545990
www.willquince.com will.quince.mp@parliament.uk

Councillor David King
david.king@colchester.gov.uk
ref:
Date 23 June 2022

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP,
The Secretary of State,
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities,
2, Marsham Street,
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Mr Gove,

Ref: Colchester and DLUHC's Levelling Up Fund Round 2

As you may know, we are currently preparing Colchester's £20m application to DLUHC's Levelling Up Fund Round 2.

My officers are working closely with Essex County Council and your officials and will soon make a compelling and factual case on behalf of our MP, Will Quince and our residents.

I write in support, as many other stakeholders will, to make clear our deep appreciation for the opportunity Levelling Up provides. We know it will make a huge difference to a very neglected part of our town (and city to be) and to the life chances of some thousands of our residents.

Our LUF bid addresses key and longstanding infrastructure failings too significant for any local authority to address alone, which blight the air quality, health, and the life and economic prospects of many.

We know a successful bid would provide a step change. From neglect to renewal, connecting our great heritage sites to our town centre. Enabling pedestrian and cyclist access and boosting footfall at a critical time (as iconic brands depart). As important in difficult times a successful bid will help civic pride and confidence, as well as attract other investment, residents, and visitors.

Simply put, LUF bid success would be life changing for many. It has my full support as the Leader of the Council, as it does other key stakeholders, and other political parties across our Borough.

Thank you for the opportunity to bid.

Yours sincerely



Councillor David King
Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Textphone users dial 18001 followed by the full number that you wish to dial.
Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester Essex CO3 3WG

Essex County Council
Cabinet Office
County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1QH



Cllr David King – Leader, Colchester Borough Council

Rowan House
33 Sheepen Road
Colchester
Essex CO3 3WG

20 July 2022

Dear Cllr King,

Colchester Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Bid

I am writing to express Essex County Council's strong support for Colchester's Levelling Up Fund bid. The projects included in the bid will transform eastern areas of the city centre and improve the life chances and opportunities for the residents of Colchester.

ECC recognises the importance and opportunity a successful Levelling Up Fund bid would be to Colchester and how it will enhance the existing Town Deal projects to create a stronger, more sustainable and inclusive centre, more conducive of its new City status.

Colchester faces challenges, including pockets of significant deprivation, and as a result it is one of our priority places for levelling up in the county. Disparities in wealth and opportunity have been exacerbated by the pandemic, with deprived communities and young people disproportionately affected. However, Colchester is also a place of opportunity, the rapidly growing borough has great strategic importance to the wider Essex economy, especially within the North East of the County, due to its growing clusters of businesses in high-value sectors and highly respected educational institutions. Additionally, its heritage and cultural significance provide a draw to visitors and residents alike.

The strategic programme of investments put forward in this Levelling Up Fund bid will be key to building on these strengths whilst tackling the growing inequality that has been seen in pockets of the town.

The Levelling Up Fund bid will support heritage and cultural regeneration projects around Britannia Yard and Vineyard Street Car Parks, delivering housing, public realm and helping showcase some of the nationally significant heritage assets present in the area, including the Roman Wall and St Botolph's Priory. Additionally, ECC would lead on the walking and cycling enhancements at St Botolph's Roundabout, strengthening a key gateway site for the city and addressing the currently limited access to this area for cyclists and pedestrians. These improvements in connectivity to the town centre will contribute to our efforts to improve outcomes for surrounding communities, empowering residents and levelling up the city. We agree to the use of £2.5m in available Section 106 funding held by my Council towards the St Botolph's scheme.

These schemes will deliver on the Government's key priorities for investment including supporting active travel, improving feelings of safety through reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour, bringing forward accessible community spaces and better showcasing key heritage assets. This will help boost civic pride and improve the visitor economy, bringing greater footfall and vitality to the new city centre and giving greater confidence to the private sector to invest in Colchester.

We look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with Colchester Borough Council, partners, businesses and local residents to support regeneration and recovery across Colchester. I strongly support this complimentary package of projects that will transform the city centre.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Bentley', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cllr Kevin Bentley
Leader of Essex County Council



We are Colchester

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Date: 1st July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Colchester Levelling Up Fund Application – Letter of Support

I write in strong support of Colchester Borough Council's application to DLUHC's Levelling Up Fund Round 2 funding call.

I am the chair of Colchester's "We are Colchester" board established in 2020 to lead Colchester's Town Deal programme.

Since the formation of our Town Deal Board, Colchester has prepared its Town Investment Plan, and subsequently prepared seven business cases which will now deliver priority projects across the Town with a strong focus on revitalising our core town centre.

A great deal has been achieved so far and is currently underway, but there is much more still to do! The Levelling Up Fund application addresses several long-standing issues in our town which currently prevent it from realising its full potential, notably in the visitor and night time economies, where safety and perceptions of safety, and the look of this part of the town centre are currently poor, coupled with incoherent access and connectivity.

The schemes proposed will transform the daily experiences of our visitors, businesses and residents and will stimulate significant further investment and development here, in tandem with our recently announced city status.

The Borough and County councils have a strong track record of delivery here, and the Town Deal board is now well established. For our Town Deal partnership board, I offer my full support to this application, and look forward to working hard to ensure the effective delivery of these specific schemes if this application is successful.

Kind regards.

Simon Blaxill.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

28th June 2022

Colchester Levelling Up Fund Letter of Support

Dear Matthew

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) are delighted to be given the opportunity to provide our support for Colchester's application to the Levelling Up Fund.

Colchester's application to the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 will focus on several areas that align with SELEP's strategic priorities as outlined in the SELEP Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy. With a focus on public realm improvement, housing growth, increasing town centre footfall, promoting heritage assets, and improving cycling and walking infrastructure.

The application builds on Colchester's successful collaborative working through the Town Deal. It supports one of SELEP's strategic priorities to 'Build Communities for the Future' by making significant infrastructure improvements to the St Botolph and Priory areas of the Town Centre that will promote and increase economic activity.

Public realm improvements will also assist to enhance the town's cultural and heritage assets and is in alignment with the recent Creative High Streets report that SELEP co-produced with the Arts Council England. Recognising the critical role that the cultural & creative sector has in the regeneration of town centres and high streets.

In addition to this, the proposed improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure in the Town Centre also support SELEP's ambitions on clean growth and net zero, in particular the outlined proposals in the Tri-LEP South2East Energy Strategy.

As such, we are delighted to be able to add our support to this application and look forward to its progress in support of SELEP's broader strategic ambitions.

Yours sincerely



Adam Bryan
Chief Executive Officer
South East Local Enterprise Partnership



Registered Charity 237885

Colchester Civic Society

43 Priory Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 2QB

30th June 2022

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing on behalf of the Colchester Civic Society to convey the Society's strong support for the application by Colchester Borough Council for Town Bid funding as part of the Government's Levelling Up programme.

Colchester Civic Society was established in 1964 to care for Colchester, its Heritage and its Future. The Society has worked continuously since that date alongside Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council, local residents' associations and individuals in order to achieve its aims. Our website (www.colchestercivicsociety.co.uk) shows many of our current achievements, some of which have been challenging to the Borough Council.

As Britain's oldest recorded town, Colchester has many important historic assets. Our recent designation as a city makes us all the more keen to make those assets more accessible and linked by better designed schemes. We wish to encourage a high standard of development and design in Colchester, as well as helping to preserve and improve local amenities and encouraging public interest in the beauty, history and character of the town and its surroundings. New housing schemes of high quality and in keeping with the town centre will certainly improve the vitality of the area and will encourage further investment. Improvements in the safety of pedestrians and cyclists are long overdue. A well-designed approach will help to reduce anti-social behaviour and enhance the town centre's appeal to everyone.

A successful bid would make use of and build on a long tradition of civic pride and involvement, of which we are part. We have recently had, in the Town Hall, our third meeting with the officers of the Colchester Borough Council to discuss details of the Town Bid. Around 30 members attend these meetings. Our team includes those with special interests such as access for all, cycling and public transport. We have had a frank and open dialogue throughout, and many of our suggestions have been incorporated into the proposals. That makes us all the more enthusiastic in supporting the bid.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Edwards

Jo Edwards
Chair, Colchester Civic Society



OUR COLCHESTER

A BID to make new history

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Date: 5th July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Colchester Levelling Up Fund Application – Letter of Support

I write as chair of Colchester's Business Improvement District (BID), Our Colchester, which was established in 2018 and covers the core of the town centre including the area subject to this application.

The vision for Our Colchester is to lead and enable a town centre that thrives in all aspects of bringing the community feel to the hub of the Colchester Borough whilst facilitating and allowing for businesses to thrive through increased footfall.

Myself and my fellow Directors of the Our Colchester board would like to support Colchester Borough Council's application to DLUHC's Levelling Up Fund Round 2 funding call, that aim to deliver the key objectives below to a deprived area of the town centre that urgently needs attention.

- Levelling up the area in question
- Improve Health and wellbeing
- Address the inequalities
- Address air quality.

Kind regards.

Simon Blaxill.



Lucie Breadman
Colchester Borough Council
Rowan House
33 Sheepen Road
Colchester
CO3 3WG
Lucie.breadman@colchester.gov.uk

22nd June 2022

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Sir / Madam,

Reference: Levelling Up Fund Round 2 Bid

I am delighted to be able to offer my support for this funding application to the Levelling Up Fund on behalf of the Safer Colchester Partnership. The Partnership consists of several statutory agencies and voluntary organisations, colleagues in the NHS, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Colchester Community Voluntary Service, Colchester Borough Homes, Colchester Garrison, Essex Probation and Essex County Council, who work together to reduce crime and disorder in Colchester.

Following an assessment of crime and disorder, the Partnership identified three specific priorities for 2022/2023 and it is evident that within this bid, the specific interventions meet those key priorities. The key objectives are:

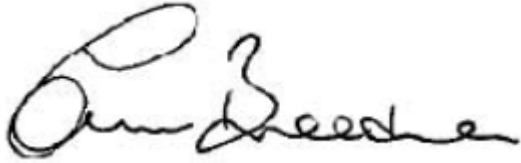
1. Tackling organized crime, gangs & county lines with an emphasis on Drug Trafficking
2. Driving down Anti-Social Behaviour and Violent Crime in public, focusing on Hate Crime and possession of weapons
3. Identifying & supporting the victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, focusing on reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Historically there has been and continues to be an elevated level of ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) within the St Botolph's and Priory area of Castle Ward, with much of this attributing to fear of crime particularly in the urban design of the underpass routes. In a consumer survey conducted by Colchester Business Improvement District, visitors to the Town Centre highlighted that these areas were often frequented by large numbers of individuals behaving in a manner that causes distress and a feeling of insecurity. The proposed development within the bid will provide the opportunity to design out crime, bring reassurance to residents regarding their personal safety, assist in reducing crime rates and improve the quality of life for the wider community.

Layout of communal spaces, use of lighting, perimeter security and landscape planting, highlight the design decisions that could increase the risk of crime and ASB, therefore the regeneration and development of this section of the Town will reduce these risks significantly. Alongside this, the new route proposed from Colchester Town Station through public spaces enables consideration to be given to the risk of Terrorism and implementation measures can be incorporated. This is particularly vital as Colchester is a Garrison Town.

Therefore, on behalf of the Safer Colchester Partnership, I fully endorse this Bid as I believe the measures within it will have a significant impact on public confidence in relation to crime and will reduce the opportunity for Crime and disorder in the parts of the Town Centre being addressed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucie Breadman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'B'.

Lucie Breadman

Chair of Safer Colchester



University of Essex

Matthew Sterling
Rowan House,
33 Sheepen Road,
Colchester,
Essex
CO3 3WG
matthew.sterling@colchester.gov.uk

24/06/2022

Dear Matt,

RE: Levelling Up Fund Round 2 – Letter of Support for Colchester Borough Council

I am writing on behalf of the University of Essex in support of Colchester Borough Council's application for funding from the Levelling Up Fund Round 2.

The University of Essex particularly welcomes the focus of the Council's proposal on regeneration of the south-eastern quarter – the area of the city closest to our campus. The receipt of these funds would contribute to regenerating our city, making it both more vibrant and safer, attracting investors and addressing access and other long-standing needs and deficits. The improvements would improve safety and would be expected to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. We would also be extremely supportive of the improvements in accessibility that these funds would provide in addressing the currently limited access to this part of the city for cyclists and pedestrians, many of whom are our students and staff. The area in question is of historical importance to the city that was Roman Britain's first capital; through these funds, these assets would be made more visible than currently, showcasing and protecting them, and also impacting positively on the lives of all those who live, work and study around them, and increasing civic pride.

For a number of years, we have also been working with business to further the economic growth and development of the region. The University's Knowledge Gateway research and technology park in Colchester continues to grow and is becoming the location of choice in the east for knowledge-based science, technology and digital creative companies. Organisations are being attracted to the park by the link to the University but also in large part by the rapid growth in population and scale of Colchester, in recent years backed by major regeneration efforts by Colchester Borough Council. Currently, however, there is a disconnect in the presentation and sense of place in the areas of the city located between the Knowledge Gateway and the St Botolphs and Priory area. Creating a more attractive channel into the eastern part of the city, linking the Knowledge Gateway with the centre, would be expected to augment the investment possibilities in the area.

All aspects of the proposal will help to make Colchester an even more attractive place to live, work and study and will therefore support the continued growth of the University of Essex at the Colchester Campus and the positive contribution this makes to the social and economic life of the city.

I have no reservation whatsoever in expressing the University's support for Colchester Borough Council's bid in relation to the Government's Levelling Up Fund, Round 2, and look forward to working with the Council as these projects develop.

Yours Sincerely

Bryn Morris
Registrar and Secretary

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Wivenhoe Park
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Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

27 June 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Colchester Levelling Up Fund Application – Letter of Support

I write in support of Colchester Borough Council's application to DLUHC's Levelling Up Fund programme as it prepares and submits its Expression of Interest to Government.

The Council and its partners have a strong vision for the St Botolph's area of Colchester's town centre which includes Colchester Town Station, which will bring step change transformation and overcome several long-standing challenges and issues.

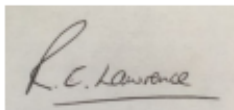
Along with proposed new mixed-use developments in close proximity to the station, these new features will boost footfall and improve the experience of rail passengers. This will boost levels of usage at this sustainable though largely overlooked key gateway site.

As a public corporation, LCR has a clear mandate to support the Government's drive to deliver new homes, jobs and public value, and the levelling up of the economy. Our skills in land assembly, placemaking, commercial development and asset management have delivered some of the UK's most significant regeneration schemes around stations. This includes the redevelopment of St Pancras International and King's Cross station, and the masterplanning of a new metropolitan centre at Stratford City.

In partnership with Network Rail, we are working to unlock development and regeneration opportunities across the UK's network of railway stations and their surrounding land, including working with Colchester Borough Council at Colchester Town station.

I am very pleased to endorse and support this application.

Yours faithfully,



Rick Lawrence
Relationship Director
rick.lawrence@lcrproperty.co.uk

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One Stratford Place
Montfitchet Road
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United Kingdom

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w greateranglia.co.uk

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

13 July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Colchester Levelling Up Fund application – letter of support

Greater Anglia, registered as Abellio East Anglia Limited is the operator of Colchester Town station and the passenger train services serving the City and wider region. We welcome and support the vision of Colchester City Council in seeking Levelling Up Fund (LUF) awards towards the ambition of regeneration of the St Botolph area of Colchester.

Greater Anglia is supportive in principle of the proposals to provide an attractive and heritage-rich new walking route directly from the platform of the railway station through a newly regenerated area with high-quality development and public realm.

We are well advanced in our programme to completely replace our fleet of trains, serving both Colchester and the rest of our network, with brand new ones. We have also been progressively improving station standards, so this initiative compliments those improvements and supports the wider sustainable economic development of the area.

We look forward to becoming an active partner in the project should LUF funding be awarded to Colchester.

Yours sincerely,



Simone Bailey
Asset Management Director

email simone.bailey@greateranglia.co.uk



Franklins



Matt Sterling
Strategic Economic Growth Manager
Colchester Borough Council
Rowan House
33 Sheepen Road
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3WG

29th June 2022

Dear Matt

Levelling up Fund Bid for Colchester Town Centre

I am writing to express my support for your Levelling Up Fund bid for Colchester.

Franklins is a family business with over 60 years history of trading in Colchester's Town Centre. We have been at our St Botolphs Street site for 40 years.

As a long-standing independent retailer we are extremely pleased at the prospect of improving the town centre in ways which will encourage higher numbers of visitors, as well as making it more attractive to investors.

Colchester has special historical significance and this should be preserved and enhanced for residents and visitors alike.

Colchester residents and visitors deserve a pleasant, safe environment – measures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour are vital in achieving this.

From a retailer's perspective it is also important to make Colchester Town Centre a shopping destination – a key aspect is accessibility for pedestrians, along with sensible parking arrangements for drivers.

I wish you all the best and look forward to a bright future for Colchester Town Centre

Sincerely
Laurence Franklin



Simon Thorp
Programme Manager – Town Deal
Colchester Borough Council
Rowan House
33 Sheepen Road
Colchester Essex
CO3 3WG

7th July 2022

Dear Simon,

Re: DLUHC's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 Submission

I am writing on behalf of the Mercury Theatre to offer our full support and endorsement of the above submission.

All of the projects and key themes outlined offer an exciting opportunity for Colchester to embrace its new status as a city and offer wider economic and social benefits for our residents and visitors alike.

Having recently benefitted from investment in our new theatre and public realm (£14 million gross), we know only too well how capital investment in the arts, culture, heritage can provide a much-needed boost to the local economy; our turn-over has increased by 20% in a year and we were able to create 25 new full time jobs as well as invest at least £10 million in the local economy through local procurement.

We feel confident that this model (and that of the recent Town Deal Programme) can be replicated with the projects as outlined in the submission offering a boost to the local economy, a greater sense of place-making and civic pride and the important protection of the significant historical assets that Colchester is famous for.

Along with others we continue to promote sustainability, access and inclusion as fundamental issues that need to be addressed as we all face the challenges of climate change and social cohesion against a challenging economic climate. We very much welcome how they are embedded in this submission alongside all our efforts to reduce antisocial behaviour and crime reduction.

Finally, we along with others locally and regionally remain proud of our ability to work in close partnership across a range of strategic initiatives. This submission offers a wide range of opportunities for us all to embrace from across the private, public and not for profit sectors that we can all utilise for our mutual benefit and continued future success.

All of us here at the Mercury look forward to working with you to help realise the ambitions within the submission.

Colchester Mercury Theatre Limited
Balkerne Gate Colchester
Essex CO1 1PT
www.mercurytheatre.co.uk
info@mercurytheatre.co.uk

Executive Director: Steve Mannix
Executive Producer: Tracey Childs
Telephone: (01206) 577006
Ticket Sales: (01206) 573948
Fax: (01206) 769607

MERCURY

If we can help further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Mannix
Executive Director

Colchester Mercury Theatre Limited
Balkerne Gate Colchester
Essex CO1 1PT
www.mercurytheatre.co.uk
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