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# WE ARE COLCHESTER BOARD MEETING

**17 November 2022 – 12noon**  
**Microsoft Teams**





# AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's Welcome, Apologies & Declarations of Interest – Simon Blaxill**
- 2. Progress Report & Engagement – Simon Thorp & Clare Ratcliffe**
- 3. Issues, Risks and Mitigations - Programme  
Lindsay Barker**
- 4. Decisions – Simon Blaxill**
- 5. Project Spotlight – Walking and Cycling (Town Centre-Greenstead-University) – Ian Turner**
- 6. LUF, SPF update - Matthew Brown**
- 7. Closing remarks & future meetings – Simon Blaxill**



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# 1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

**Simon Blaxill**  
**Chair**



- **Welcome, apologies & declarations of interest**
- **Welcome new Board Members**





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# 2. PROGRESS REPORT & ENGAGEMENT

**Simon Thorp**  
**Programme Manager**

**Clare Ratcliffe**  
**Engagement Officer**



## **Progress highlights – Town Centre & Gateways**

- **Balkerne Gate phase 1 (accelerated project) completed**
- **St Nicholas Square (accelerated project) works on site due to commence January 2023**
- **Essex County Hospital public realm has been re-tendered and due to commence January 2023.**
- **Jumbo North Essex Heritage first stage application to Heritage Lottery Fund (expression of interest stage) approved so proceeding to full application Feb 23**
- **Holy Trinity Church - funded urgent repairs have been commissioned, due to complete end December 2022/early January 2023**



## **Progress highlights – Heart of Greenstead, Digital Connectivity, Transformed Youth Facilities, Physical Connectivity**

- **Essex Pedal Power launches Spring 2023**
- **Digital Skills Hub should complete Spring 2023**
- **Transformed Youth Facilities upgrades to Stanway and Highwoods Youth Centres are planned for Easter holidays 2023**
- **Heart of Greenstead plans for a Community Health and Wellbeing hub (including relocation of Hawthorn surgery) are progressing well (business case and appointment of architects), on track for delivery by 2026 as intended.**
- **Town Centre to Greenstead and University (LCWIP 4) walking and cycling route - good progress has been made on route design, with secured Active Travel Fund 3 contribution to complete the full route. The prioritised sections of the route starting engagement. (Spotlight)**



## Delivery, Time, Cost RAG Headlines

- Programme RAG status – **AMBER** (= time & cost for some projects may affect features)
- 5G, Digital Skills Hub, Essex County Hospital, Transformed Youth Facilities, Walking & Cycling Route, Essex Pedal Power, Liveable Neighbourhood – **ON TRACK**
- Spend v budget – **ON TRACK**
- Engagement – recent & forthcoming highlights – **ON TRACK**
- Digital Working Hub, St Nicholas Square (Balkerne phase 2, Jumbo, Trinity Square and Kerbless Street under review) – **COST ISSUES MITIGATED**
- Monitoring – DLUHC return in December (April/September 2022 reporting period) – **POSITIVE PICTURE (MONITORING CLOSE PROXIMITY POST-MITIGATED RISKS)**
- Cost escalation, legal (Highways permissions, land ownership) – **OPEN ISSUES & RISKS**





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# Recent Engagement

## **September**

- **BID networking breakfast & tour of Town Deal project sites**
- **Civic Society**
- **Jumbo Heritage Open Days**
- **Peer Review Team tour of Town Centre project sites**

## **October**

- **Pensioners Action Group**
- **HoG Board visit to new Stanway Community Centre**

## **November**

- **Historic England and National Lottery visits to Jumbo**
- **UoE Senior Manager tour of town centre project sites**
- **Walking & Cycling Route stakeholder engagement**



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# Upcoming Engagement

## **November**

- **Walking & Cycling Route public consultation begins**
- **CBC & ECC staff tour**
- **Jumbo schools' engagement planning**
- **Initial meeting with AIXR re engagement planning for Digital Working Hub**

## **December**

- **Liveable Neighbourhood workshop**

## **January**

- **Civic Society**



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# 3. ISSUES, RISKS & MITIGATIONS



**Lindsay Barker**  
**Programme Owner**



## **Top Programme Risks:**

- **Cost escalation – not all projects, particularly public realm projects. Estimating 30% uplift.**
  - mitigation: monitoring, re-scoping, capital support
  
- **St Nicholas Square – Accelerated project, still not on site. If Jan 23 start is to be met need to resolve legal permissions.**
  - mitigation: prioritisation of finalising all ECC Highways permissions promptly.



## **Top Programme Risks:**

- **Heart of Greenstead – land acquisition.**
  - **mitigation: land ownership resolution, legal options, re-scoping/use of funds**
  
- **Holy Trinity Church – risk around the building, priority repairs, future funding and lease arrangements**
  - **mitigation: complete repairs by December 2022, enabling progression of HLF funding application to de-risk and Community360 to operate the hub.**





## **Top Programme Risks:**

- **Jumbo - full business case being prepared. Significant cost uplift being value engineered.**
- **Access and design work has identified options to link with Balcerne Gate public realm phase 2. Cost efficiencies also being explored**
- **Need agreement to explore how to connect the two projects and ensure the public realm is delivered**



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# 4. DECISIONS



**Simon Blaxill**



## **Decisions:**

- 1. Agree prioritisation of finalising all ECC Highways permissions for St Nicholas Square project promptly**
- 2. Agree to focus on Heart of Greenstead community health and wellbeing hub as phase 1 and continue to pursue land acquisition options.**
- 3. Agree the need to de-risk the Holy Trinity Church Community Hub project with CBC potentially leading the HLF submission work and re-engage Community360 to operate the building.**
- 4. Agree to explore the opportunity to link the Jumbo project and Balkerne Gate Phase Two project without putting at risk delivery or funding of either project.**
- 5. Agree to continue to seek routes to mitigate cost inflation for projects, pursuing options to attract extra finding, value engineer and tailor projects.**
- 6. Agree submission to DLUHC of Colchester's Town Deal Monitoring Return, with any further comments to Programme Office by 1 December 2022.**



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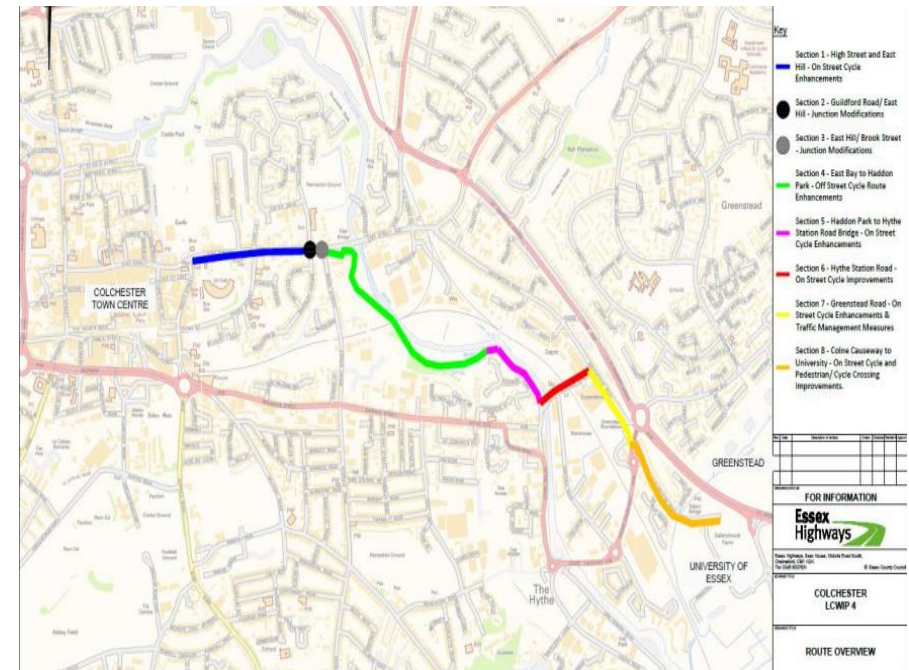
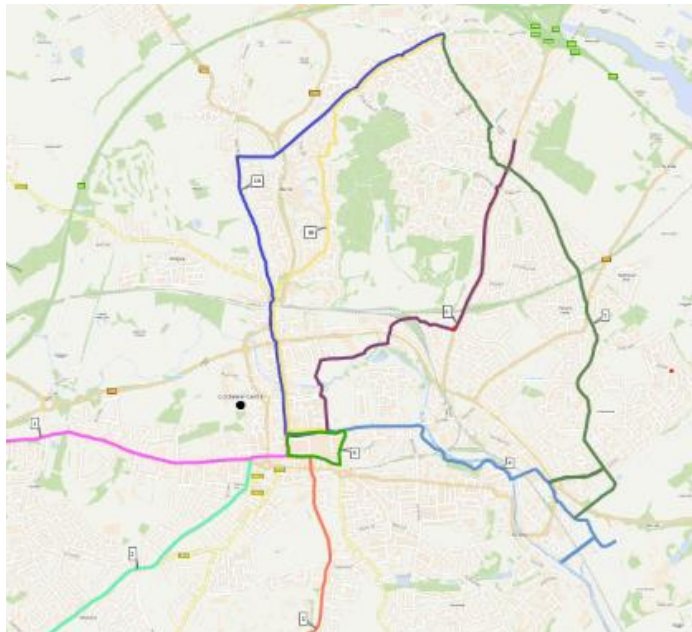
# 5. PROJECT SPOTLIGHT – WALKING & CYCLING



**Ian Turner**  
**Principal Transportation &  
Infrastructure Planner**  
**Essex County Council**



- Physical connectivity – walking and cycling links Town Centre/Greenstead/University £2.95M Town Deal Budget (total project value £4.646M). S106 and ATF3 funding secured.
- Reflecting the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Programme (LCWIP) Route 4 alignment - Provide a coherent, improved cycling link between the City centre, East Colchester, Greenstead, University and the new proposed Garden Community. The route will also link with the new Rapid Transit System and proposed LCWIP Route 7 (Severalls - Greenstead).







## Strategic and Policy aims:

- National
  - Net Zero/Decarbonisation strategies – Gear Change, ATE, Highway Code changes, New design guidance (LTN 1/20, Manual for Streets update, etc),
- Local
  - Climate Action Plans – Promotion of sustainable travel measures,
  - Local Transport Plan – Provide sustainable access and travel choice / Improve safety / Reduce carbon emissions through lifestyle change
  - Local Plan – Strategic Priorities for Colchester - Promoting sustainable travel and behaviour
  - Colchester Future Transport Strategy – Improve sustainable transport modes / Provide safer transport environment,
  - Masterplan for Colchester City Centre – Supporting and improving sustainable permeability and connectivity,

## Update:

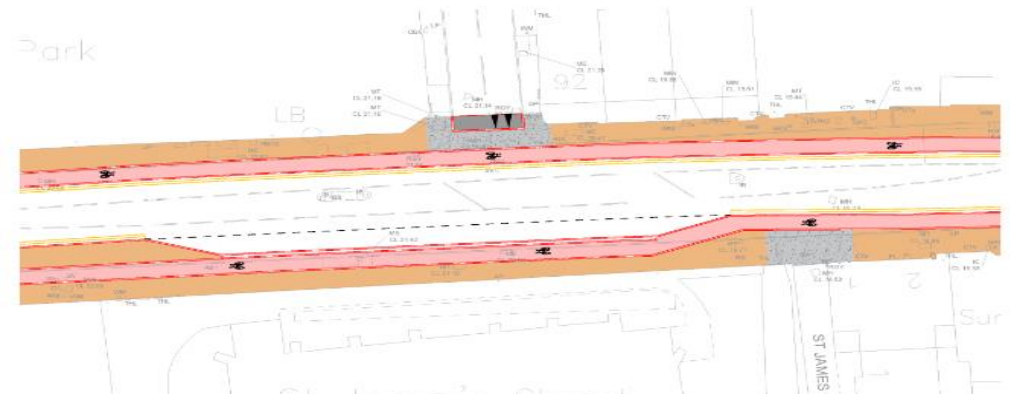
- To deliver the scheme in the most effective way, the design and construction of the scheme have been split into a number of sections which are scheduled to be fully delivered by 2025/26. The first of these being the East Hill Section (2023-24).
- The East Hill section will provide:
  - Segregated cycleways to meet design standards,
  - Raised tables installed at the junctions with side roads to improve walking accessibility,
  - Crossing points upgraded with parallel zebra crossing,
  - Provide safe space and improvements to the junctions for cyclists while still balancing traffic capacity,
  - New cycle-friendly floating bus stops and bus borders to address conflict at stops,





## Changes to parking:

- To create the required space to provide the cycle lanes and still allow traffic to move unhindered in both directions we need to remove the existing 30-minute parking bays/off-peak parking on East Hill.
- With input from CBC-NEPP & Accessibility Groups we have looked proactively at the future strategy for parking;
  - The ability to create replacement offline parking, relocated near St James Church. Fewer spaces in total, but replicating some of the existing provision on the corridor (30minute/off-peak parking),
  - Loading/Unloading and blue badge parking requirements still achieved through allowances provided under double yellow lines,
  - Better promotion of the parking provisions available - Car parks off Roman Road and Priory Street,
  - Proposed cycle parking added.



## Engagement:

- January 2022 – LCWIP 4 - Initial stakeholder briefing/ walk over.
- February 2022 – October 2022 design development.



- Started with stakeholder presentations this week, followed by public engagement for 6 weeks,
- Widely publicised, feedback will be sought specifically on the East Hill section.
- Other sections of the route covered at a strategic level - Further engagement planned at future date(s) as the design develops,
- Engagement provides opportunities for feedback on all key aspects (cycleways, bus stops, parking),



## **Next Steps:**

- Engagement and consolidation/review of feedback – Target completion Jan 2023,
- Focus on detailed design and delivery of the East Hill as the first section for delivery - Procurement March 2023 – June 2023, Construction July 2023 – November 2023
- Progress and develop remaining sections – particular focus on land matters and opportunities through the 'Moors' section – Programme to be developed

## **Other related work:**

- LCWIP 7 (Greenstead – Severalls) – Progress feasibility stage and alignment refinement,
- Rapid Transit section C (Clingoe Hill) – Develop detail design, including connection to LCWIP 4 and LCWIP 7





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# 6. LEVELLING UP FUND AND SHARED PROSPERITY FUND BIDS UPDATE



**Matthew Brown**  
**Economic Regeneration Manager**



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# 7. CLOSING REMARKS & FUTURE MEETINGS



**Simon Blaxill**



**To Note:**

**Note Progress Report, including Issues, Risks and Mitigations**

**Note Update regarding Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Fund bids.**

**Note Project Spotlight update regarding Walking & Cycling project.**



**Future meetings:**

**Thursday 23 February 2023 – 12 noon**

**Thursday 25 May 2023 – 12 noon**