

Team Colchester Regeneration Board Meeting

27 November 2025

(Hybrid meeting)

Decisions and Actions



Councillors present:

Colchester City Council (CCC) - Cllr David King (Chair), Cllr Julie Young, Cllr Paul Dundas, Cllr Chris Pearson, Cllr Andrew Ellis

Essex County Council (ECC) - Cllr Lee Scott

Others present:

CCC - Matthew Sterling, Daniel Barton, Scott Gray-Chick, Matthew Brown (part), Simon Thorp (notes)

ECC - Robert Willis, Ian Turner, Andrew Burgess, Alex Jeremy, Ashley Heller

Jacobs – Graham Dean, David Miles, Virginia Hernandez Jara

Apologies:

CCC – Pam Donnelly, Lindsay Barker, Simon Cairns, Richard Block

ECC – Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deborah Toseland



1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

1.1 **Apologies** were noted from Cllr Kevin Bentley, Pam Donnelly, Lindsay Barker, Simon Cairns, Richard Block and Deborah Toseland.

1.2 There were no **Declarations of Interest**.

1.3 The Register of Interests will be updated periodically and published to the CCC website.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1 Context. The Board met, in accord with the Terms of Reference [here](#), to monitor progress and give feedback and direction to Team Colchester officers, from Essex County Council and Colchester City Council.



3. Minutes of meetings

3.1 Board **approved** the minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2025.

3.2 Board **noted and agreed** that minutes and agreed actions for this and future meetings would be maintained by Simon Thorp, Programme Manager.

4. City Centre Programme Update

4.1 Board **noted** an advance [update](#).

4.2 Shopfront Grants - Board **agreed** that a list of grants beneficiaries, purpose of grants, values and status of improvements should be provided at the next meeting.

5. Levelling Up Programme Update

5.1 Board **noted** an advance [update](#).

5.2 Board **noted** that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had confirmed to Colchester City Council (the Accountable Body) a revised deadline for programme completion of March 2028. Levelling Up and Town Deal programmes have now been brought together as one 'Local Regeneration Fund'.

5.3 Board **noted** the intention to complete all projects by 2027 unless delaying completion was helpful in avoiding pinch points and funding risks.

5.4 Board **noted** that the time extension allowed by MHCLG would be helpful to phased completion and funding of Walking and Cycling Route LCWIP 4 (City Centre to Greenstead and University) beyond the original Town Deal grant.

5.5 Board **noted** that the Jumbo and Balkerne Gate phase 2 Project was transitioning from Town Deal enabling to Heritage Fund construction phase. Cost pressures mean that North Essex Heritage are undertaking a value engineering and scope review.

5.6 Board **noted** that early clarity on any ECC funding contribution to the Jumbo project - to avoid scope reduction including public highway - would be helpful. Cllr Scott **agreed** that he would investigate this but could make no firm commitment.

6. Transport Interchange Feasibility

6.1 Board **noted** an advance [update](#).

6.2 Board **agreed** that a review of options, messaging and decisions required should take place at the next meeting.

6.3 Board **agreed** that ECC stakeholder engagement about transport interchange options – and the fact that no preferred option has yet been selected - could be shared, including with Colchester MP and Civic Society. But they must be asked to treat in confidence pending public communications, likely January 2026. Such open spirit of engagement should equally apply regarding the wider activities of Team Colchester.

7. St Botolphs Circus funding

7.1 Board **agreed** that remaining budget originally set aside for the Kerbless Street project (£900,000) and Vineyard Street archaeology project (£499,250) should be redirected to the St Botolphs Circus project.

7.2 This decision, when also taking account of ECC Section 106 contributions, increases St Botolphs Circus project budget from £9,286,031 to £13,199,250.

7.3 Board **noted** that Cllr Scott was optimistic that any remaining project funding gap would be bridged by ECC's capital programme review and project prioritisation.

8. City Centre Parking Strategy

8.1 Board **noted** an update on the city centre parking strategy and repairs to St Johns and St Marys Car Parks due to be completed by March 2026 and phased plan for widening parking bays.

8.2 Board **agreed** that a timeline and costs for information would be helpful.

9. Team Colchester Forward Plan

9.1 Board **agreed** that meetings should be scheduled for 2026, in line with the Board's terms of reference.

10. Decisions, Recommendations and Points Noted

10.1 Minutes, Register of Interests and Actions Arising to be recorded and published. **[Action: Simon Thorp]**

10.2 Shopfront grants. A list of grants beneficiaries, purpose of grants, values and status of improvements to be provided at the next meeting. **[Action: Daniel Barton, Vincent Geaves]**

10.3 Jumbo and Balcerne Gate phase 2 project. Cllr Scott to confirm whether an ECC funding contribution can be made. **[Action: Cllr Lee Scott]**

10.4 Transport Interchange Feasibility. A review of options, messaging and decisions required to take place at the next meeting, with ECC stakeholder engagement about transport interchange options – and the fact that no preferred option has been selected – to be sensibly open, including with Colchester MP and Civic Society. **[Action: Ian Turner, Ashley Heller]**

10.5 St Botolphs Circus Funding. Re-allocate remaining Kerbless Street £900,000 and Vineyard Street Archaeology £499,250 budgets to St Botolphs Circus project. **[Action: Simon Thorp]**

10.6 City Centre Parking Strategy. A timeline and costs for information to be provided. **[Action: Richard Walker]**

10.7 Team Colchester Forward Plan. Meetings to be scheduled and documents updated in line with Board terms of reference. **[Action: Alex Jeremy, Daniel Barton]**

11. Next meeting

11.1 The dates of all meetings in 2026 to be confirmed.