

Team Colchester Regeneration Board Meeting

23 July 2026

(Hybrid meeting)

Decisions and Actions



Councillors present:

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

Essex County Council (ECC) – Cllr Jeff Bray

Others present:

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

ECC – Andrew Burgess, Ashley Heller, Alex Jeremy, Robert Willis

Jacobs – Graham Dean

Apologies:

CCC – Lindsay Barker

ECC – none



1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

1.1 **Apologies** - Lindsay Barker.

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, to monitor progress and give feedback and direction to Team Colchester officers, from ECC and CCC.

3. Minutes of meetings

3.1 Board **approved** the minutes of the meeting on 16 April 2026.

4. City Centre Programme Update

4.1 Board **noted** an advance update.

5. Communications Update

5.1 Board **noted** an advance update.

5.2 Board **noted** that the Holy Trinity Church project which is governed by We Are Colchester Board awaits formal confirmation from Heritage Fund regarding a £2.65m funding application which will enable the project to proceed to construction phase.



6. Levelling Up Programme Update

6.1 Board **noted** an advance update, along with a brief verbal update. Future updates will include further high-level performance data.

6.2 Board **noted** that whilst forecast spend including contingencies is on budget with no expected variances, the Iran conflict remains a significant cost and supply chain risk which is being actively managed but likely to have a 'long tail' impact throughout Q3 and Q4 2026-27.

6.3 Board **noted** that interactions between St Botolphs Circus and East Hill LCWIP 4 Highways projects being delivered from Summer 2026 to Summer/Autumn 2027 are being closely managed, with good communication between contractors, traffic management consultants, officers and members.

6.4 Board **noted** that the Bike Hub and Shopfront Improvement projects are on track for completion by Q4 2026-27. St Botolphs Quarter project is being managed by CCC Corporate Landlord Team with planned tender issue in late 2026, contractor appointment and on site in Spring 2027. This is subject to final resolution of discharging planning conditions and basic asset protection agreement with rail operators.

6.5 Cllr Young commented that it would be helpful for Board to have sight of 'before and after' evidence of Shopfront Improvements, and to consider consistency of design.

7. Transport interchange

7.1 Board **noted** a presentation and recommendations regarding a timetable for progressing options to consultation and delivery (see 9.1).

7.2 Cllr Bray commented on Stanwell House and that it could form part of regeneration plans and/or be developed as housing, also questioning the approach to gender neutral proposed toilet facilities.

8. Team Colchester Regeneration Board Priorities and Budget

8.1 Board **noted** an update on priority workstreams and purpose, including staff spend and transport promotional campaigns.

8.2 Board **noted** a recommendation that it consider making a £100k joint contribution to the Jumbo project (which otherwise the City Council would cover), noting also that a decision was expected soon on North Essex Heritage's request for a grant uplift from Heritage Fund and that council contributions were viewed by the Heritage Fund as significant to their decision making.

9. Decisions, Recommendations and Points Noted

9.1 Transport interchange. Board **agreed** that the site preference should be progressed to public consultation on design options concepts, ensuring compelling visuals support this consultation. **[Action: Ashley Heller]**

9.2 Jumbo. Board **agreed in principle** to make a £100k contribution to the project in support of funding already secured, a final decision requiring a funding governance paper.

10. Next meetings

10 September 2026

19 November 2026

