

Notice of the adoption of the Colchester City Centre Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document

In accordance with The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

The Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Notice is hereby given that (in accordance with above-mentioned legislation) Colchester City Council formally adopted the Colchester City Centre Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 15 January 2024 and revoked the St Botolphs Quarter Masterplan (2005) and the Better Town Centre SPD (2012).

The Colchester City Centre Masterplan SPD builds upon the Colchester Local Plan Section 2. The focus/scope of the Masterplan is on the core city centre area - the primary and secondary shopping areas as defined in the Colchester Local Plan, as well as the main city centre development allocations and gateways to the surrounding neighbourhoods. Design frameworks have been prepared for the main city centre development allocations and gateways.

The draft Colchester City Centre Masterplan SPD was published for public consultation between 19 June to 31 July 2023 in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Modifications have been made to the Colchester City Centre Masterplan SPD in response to the consultation.

The key changes made include:

- Updated strategic objectives to consider biodiversity, ecology and nature. This now reads as Provide a safe, healthy, green, active and accessible city centre. Additional changes to enhance biodiversity throughout the Masterplan added. These include developing a connected Roman Wall Park to deliver enhanced environmental and biodiversity benefits and enhancing the river Colne as a biodiversity corridor (page 40)
- Removal of the proposal to 'animate the River Colne' (and repurposing for promotion of biodiversity as above)
- Updates to St Botolph's Circus proposal to align with the revised design prepared by Essex County Council, following earlier consultation (page 87)
- Clarity provided to the proposals for the New Roman Wall Park (page 40)

- Clarify the Council will continue to support the retention and promotion of retail uses within the City Centre (page 48)
- Set out that detailed development proposals must be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment to consider wider townscape and heritage impacts (page 50)
- Inclusion of a Glossary to provide definitions of key words and terms used within the Masterplan to help wider understanding.

Any person with sufficient interest in the decision to adopt the Colchester City Centre Masterplan SPD may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of that decision. Any such application to the High Court must be made no later than 3 months after the date of which the Colchester City Centre Masterplan SPD was adopted [i.e. 3 months from 16 January 2024 – being the day after adoption]. In accordance with Regulation 14 of the 2012 Regulations, the Colchester City Centre Masterplan SPD and this Adoption Statement have been made available to view on the Council's website at www.colchester.gov.uk and at Colchester Town Hall. A copy of this Adoption Statement will be sent to all parties who made representations to the draft Colchester City Centre Masterplan SPD.

For further information please refer to the Council's website: www.colchester.gov.uk or contact the Planning Policy Team by e-mailing planning.policy@colchester.gov.uk.

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