

Colchester City Council

Locality Budget 2025/6 Report

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Locality Budget Overview

The 25/26 locality budget went live on 23rd **May 2025** and closed on **28th February 2026**.

More than 150 of our smaller communities and neighbourhoods across the City felt the benefit of awards totalling **£106,325.00**.

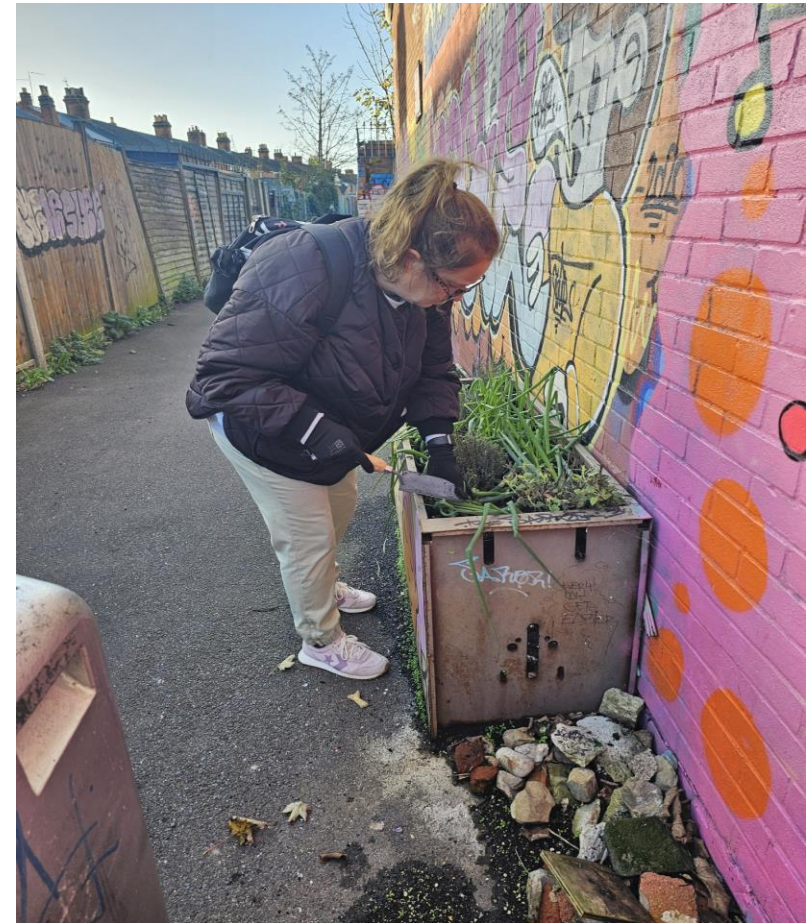
**Now let us demonstrate the reach of our City Council
Locality Budget ...**



£500 “Reclaim the Folley” Level Best

The trainees have sanded down the wooden planters ready for painting blue in the new year.

We have added new compost and added homemade seed bombs, which have already started to flower!



£1200 St Annes Community Fun Day.

Over 500 residents enjoyed free activities and soaked up the sun and enjoy the free event. We were able to offer free ice creams to the children alongside a Rodeo Bull, bouncy castle, face painting, a magic show and axe throwing.



£340 Winter Coats - Little Explorers Pre-School

It has allowed the children to have access to outdoor play daily in their lives, which is essential for their holistic development. From physical health to social skills and creativity, the benefits are numerous and lasting.



£400 Six new tables – Monkwick Foodbank

This meant we could continue serving hot meals and drinks safely and with dignity, giving people somewhere proper to sit, eat and warm up rather than just passing through.



£821 Speed limit sign – River Colne

The sign alone, taken together with other initiatives have contributed to a noticeable improvement in behaviour during 2025, with fewer recorded complaints and prosecutions.



£500 Dragon Soup – Start up

Thank you for helping us get set up, your assistance was very much appreciated. We held two events in 2025, raising £685 in total. Six local charities and organisations benefitted.



£350 Emmaus – New Town Christmas Market

Emmaus Colchester was able to deliver a meaningful and inclusive festive experience for over 100 children as part of our Operation Christmas initiative at the New Town Christmas Market. For some of the children we supported, this was their only opportunity to receive a gift from Santa.



£1000 Five Parish Show – Shipping Container

The purchase of a large ventilated shipping container, which has been sited very close to our Show Ground. The difference it made to the team, in building the Show (this takes 4 days!), and then taking it down. Storing everything away carefully, within walking distance meant we completed the take down in record time and, for the very first time, all in one place.



£700 Unite Against Racism – The Old Oak

The screening of 'the old oak' a film by Ken Loach intimately portrays the first year in the lives of a Syrian family arriving in the UK on the resettlement scheme that has seen around 70 families settle in Colchester. The discussion panel afterwards gave an opportunity to learn more about how, when these projects are done with heart, community and appropriate support, families at the worst point in their lives can restart and flourish in a new place.



£300 Tiptree – Community Christmas Lunch

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held on 16th December 2025, with 75 of our coffee morning members attending. A full Christmas dinner with desert was offered along with entertainment. The whole afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



£1000 Signpost – Colchester

The money helped us to hold off cutting back services for some time. Since the money arrived, we have seen 58 new visitors in Colchester and continued working with many others. We expect that around 20 of those will move into employment in the New Year.

Signpost Greenstead

Services



Signpost Greenstead, Colchester.

- Employability support
- CV & cover letter writing
- Job searching
- Interview techniques
- Digital skills
- Cost of living support
- Access to training courses
- Access to PCs & printers
- Access to the Internet & public Wi-Fi
- Signposting to other support

£1500 Freedom boat adventures – Mersea Island

As a direct result of this support along with other funds disabled people who may otherwise be excluded are able to enjoy coastal exploration, connection with nature, and shared experiences with friends, family, and carers. The project promotes independence, wellbeing, and inclusion, while strengthening Mersea Island's commitment to accessible outdoor recreation.



£100 Baby & Toddler Xmas Party – Wimpole Rd Methodist Church

The baby and toddler group at Wimpole Road Methodist Church has tried to help local families by running the group at no cost to them. On a weekly basis we provide drinks, toast and snacks and at key parts of the year: Easter, end of summer term and Christmas we provide a party or way of celebration.

Wimpole Road Methodist Church Hall
Mondays 9 – 11 am
During Term Time

Come and play, stay and chat!

Singing | Crafts | Refreshments | Soft baby area
Contact 07847 846292 for more information.



**Baby & Toddler
Group
Coffee morning**

£500 Speed Indicator Device – Wormingford Parish Council

The replacement Speed indicator device has been erected on the same site.

This equipment is making a difference in slowing traffic down. Thank you for all your help and support.



£250 Christmas wreath making– Greenstead

"I didn't expect it to be this well organised"
"This type of event is beyond making wreaths, it is very good for mental health"
"Can you please put this on next year?"
"I am very proud of what I have made".



£400 Christmas Gifts – Old Heath

The funding enabled us to provide a free festive gift experience for children from families who may otherwise be unable to afford a visit to Father Christmas. The initiative was well received by the community and succeeded in spreading joy and support at a time when it was most needed.



£300 Information Boards – Hillhouse Woods

All 3 noticeboards are now ready to play their part in enhancing the experience of both local people and visitors alike. There will be a range of posters displayed throughout the year: The first will be the guidance (including the relevant QR Code) so that those who wish to receive a video guide on their mobile phone can wander throughout Hillhouse Wood whilst being informed about the myriad of things that they may see.



£100 Be More Dandelion – Survivor Steps Programme

This contribution enabled more women within the local community to access a supportive, inclusive space, building their confidence, connection and participation, whilst also contributing to the wider community wellbeing.



£100 Tiptree Churches – Foodbank

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to provide extra treats for the Christmas season, bringing a little joy to those struggling with difficult circumstances but, most importantly, ensuring that every parcel we give out contains a consistent and complete range of essentials.



£200 Greenstead with St Annes – Open Church

Most weeks we get up to 80 children (the last week of term we had 110 children in church!) who appreciate a drink and a snack on their way home from school. Some of the Academy children stay a while to sit together and chat in the safety and warmth of this space. Residents who are in great need pop in for Foodbank vouchers or signposting to other agencies and we have regular visitors who stay and gather in the warmth for tea and chat.



£200 Enoch House – Christmas Party

This event, combined with delicious food and high-quality entertainment, helped bring the community together. It offered tenants an opportunity to enjoy experiences they would not usually be able to access and created meaningful moments of connection that can make a lasting difference.



£600 C3 Church Ypres Road – Christmas hamper and gift collection

Some shared that they would not have been able to afford a Christmas dinner at all, while others told us this was the only way their children received any Christmas gifts. Your donation played a vital role in ensuring these families could experience dignity, provision, and joy during what would otherwise have been an extremely difficult time.



£693 C3 Church Ypres Road – choking prevention equipment

The donation enabled the purchase of multiple choking rescue sets. As discussed, one of these has been retained by C3 Impact, and the remaining sets were allocated for distribution by yourself to local schools as requested. For C3 Impact, having this choking rescue set on site provides reassurance for our team, volunteers, and the people who attend our hub.



£250 – En-form LEAF centre Priory Walk - 'Tales of the Forest'

"The grant enabled us to employ a professional storyteller to delight 8 children (4-11 years old) and their 5 accompanying adults with stories about the rainforest and its animal inhabitants. This was combined with a toy swap day that was well attended and promoted the ideas of recycle and re-use to many children 1-11 years old over the school summer holidays 2025.



£500 – Packing Shed Trust - Mersea Island

Our stated aim of promoting and educating the public about the oystering heritage of Mersea and Colchester, which is the sole reason for our existence. we needed help at the beginning of the year to pay for the licences and medicals for our Packing Shed launch drivers.



£100 Windrush Celebrations – The Minorities

The event successfully brought together residents of all ages and backgrounds through cultural performances, storytelling, food and educational activities, promoting greater awareness of Windrush history and encouraging intergenerational understanding.



£200 Elim Pentecostal Church – Youth Club

Part of the funding was used to provide our youth with a cooked Christmas meal, ensuring they felt valued, supported, and able to enjoy a shared festive experience. The grant also helped us purchase fun and educational equipment that encourages learning, teamwork, and positive social interaction during youth sessions. The remaining funds were put towards the cost of fitting out our back room to create a dedicated youth room.



£100 Preschool Play Group – Tiptree

We have been able to purchase some much-needed resources for our Preschool.

we purchased some small world figures and sensory activities for our Alien theme this week.

We have also purchased some art and craft resources that support our continuous provision.

Going forward the remaining money will be used on resources to support our curriculum and future themes.



£300 Veterans Choir – Garrison Church

By utilizing social media and raising our profile via performances, we have managed to engage some newcomers. We continue to meet fortnightly to sing and rehearse for various performances throughout the year. Funding is used to pay towards transport to get our members safely to practices and performances and for a musical director and musician.



£250 Colchester Pride 2026

Colchester Pride's main event is set to take place on the 15th of August at Colchester Firstsite - plans are underway for the next annual festival in August, expected to draw upwards of 1800 participants. The funding allocated to us from this budget is going to be put towards our accessibility budget, contributing to the hiring of BSL interpreters and provisions for neurodivergent attendees.



£100 St Lukes PTFA - Tiptree

"St Luke's PTFA is working towards a huge playground regeneration project across three phases to provide the children with new state of the art equipment and a brand-new friendship zone. The current playground is gradually falling into disrepair and with pupil numbers increasing, we need to act! The first phase of this improvement is planned for as early as February 2026."



£200 St Stephens Church

We had 15 children and their parents for a Christmas party at our toddler group - snacks, party music, crafts and a small gift given to those who attended. The Over 60's lunch club was a wonderful afternoon with a three-course festive meal for over 55 people, a Christmas quiz and a visit from a local school to sing some Christmas songs completed the afternoon! Christmas @ The Hub was an also a wonderful 3 Saturday mornings full of festive fun - from letter writing to Father Christmas, making tree decorations and ending with a North Pole Breakfast and a meet and greet with Father Christmas himself!



£100 Community First Responders – Tiptree

Community First Responders (CFRs) are trained volunteers who often arrive first at life-threatening 999 calls, providing critical care until ambulance crews arrive. They freely give their time, aiming to provide 24/7 support to their local community in times of greatest need.



East of England Ambulance Service Charity

£660 New Tennis nets & posts – Layer de la Haye

Layer de la Haye Parish Council wishes to thank the City Councillors for their contribution towards the cost of two tennis court nets and posts which are helping to rejuvenate a well-used community asset.



£510 Birch Parish – Memorial Cross

The project to refurbish our Memorial Cross has been completed. The Memorial Cross is an important landmark in Birch, situated in the Conservation Area close to St Peters Church. Services are held on Remembrance Sundays and other important occasions and are very well attended.



£1000 Wakes Colne Station – Bicycle Shelter.

The station adopters are very grateful for a very generous donation from the locality fund for this project.

The “Living Roof” is one project looking to make the railway station a haven for natural wildlife and encourage more people to ride a bicycle to the station.



£520 Anti-Choking Kits – St Annes.

The Anti- Chocking Kits are a much-needed addition to our Community halls as we have many elderly and young people attend the centre. Distributed to Willow Book Primary School and Nursery , Parsons Heath C of E Primary School, Friar's Grove Primary School, St John's Church of England Primary School and Roach Vale Primary School.



£280 Colchester Mercury Theatre – Young Company.

“The community that is fostered by Mercury Young Company is so supportive, there is no judgement, and it made it easier for me to accept myself. It is my safe space.”

Mercury is also central to this young person’s family life. She attends performances with her parents, her grandmother participates in the older company, and her sister progressed through MYC. They eventually performed together in the 15-17 company, strengthening their artistic and personal connection to the theatre.



£1372 Greenstead Community Centre – Coach trips.

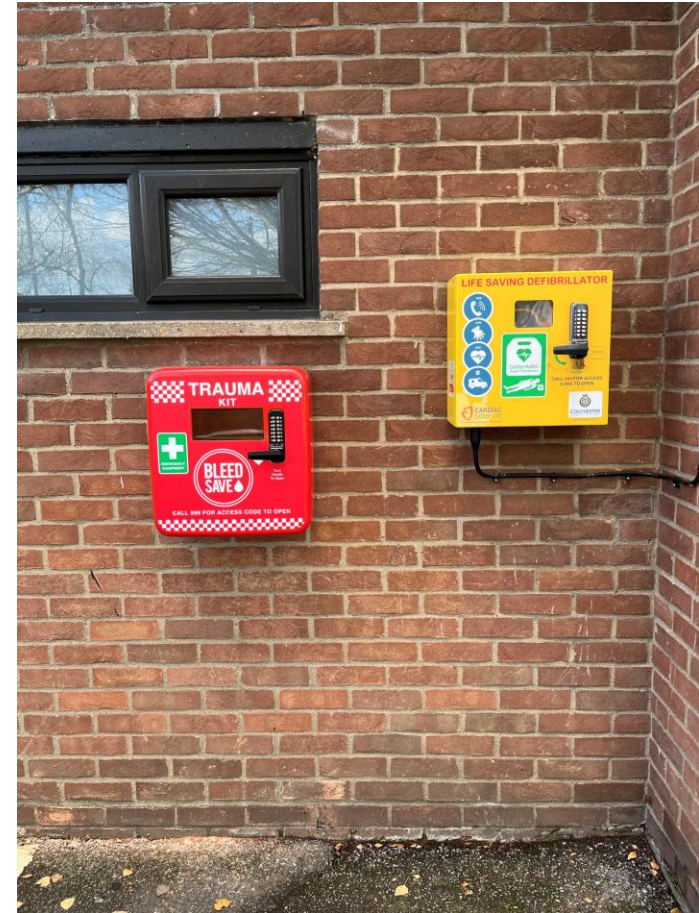
We took 149 people to Southend on the Thursday 14th August 2025; this has become an annual event for the local Greenstead Community and further afield. This is an opportunity for those of all ages who may no longer be able to manage the drive, or the trains or afford the cost normal travel. The funding allows us to keep the cost low and for ages from 8 months to 96 years to enjoy a day by the seaside. We also offer a lunch bag, so food is not a barrier.



£664 Stanway Victory Hall – Bleed Kit.

Our first Bleed Cabinet is located at the front of the Village Hall next to the defibrillator.

A bleed kit is a specialised first aid kit designed to control severe or catastrophic bleeding. The kits have been widely promoted in the UK after the Daniel Baird Foundation highlighted the need for public access to bleeding control kits following knife crime incidents. Whilst we sincerely hope it's never needed it is a valuable contribution to the Community.



£700 Silver Witch Green – Memorial Bench.

We have been able to replace our vandalised Covid Memorial Bench at Silver Witch Green. The bench is positioned in front of our Covid Memorial stone and will give residents a place to sit, reflect and remember those that were lost and give thanks to those that gave so much during the Covid 19 Pandemic.



£487 – Peldon & Wigboroughs Community Hall.

We were happy to have received funds for essential maintenance at the Peldon & Wigboroughs Community Hall. We will be purchasing a ladder and have already purchased a scaffold tower for safe high-level maintenance such as access to the loft areas, high level painting, curtain, blinds and stage lights adjustment. And a photo of the scaffold tower in action during the setting up of the hall for the Peldon Pantomime.

Once again, thank you for your assistance and generosity in helping the Peldon & Wigboroughs Community Hall.

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£200 Bridgeway Mission – Musical Therapy.

A music therapy project for refugee children and young people, providing instruments and structured sessions that support emotional healing, confidence, and wellbeing. Through group music activities such as drumming, rhythm games, creative expression, and using different Cultural musical instruments like drums and Ney Nay, the children have been able to safely express emotions, build friendships, and develop a stronger sense of belonging within the community.



£1000 Tiptree Medical Centre – Slipper Exchange.

The event will help improve safety and comfort at home by ensuring recipients have appropriate footwear designed to reduce the risk of slips and falls. It will also provide an opportunity to engage with older residents, raise awareness about wellbeing, and offer additional support or signposting where needed.

This initiative aims to support vulnerable individuals in the community by promoting warmth, safety, and overall wellbeing during colder periods.



£1000 Marks Tey Parish Hall – New noticeboard.

The new noticeboard, positioned on the outside wall of the Halls, will enable all passersby as well as hall attendees to peruse the information available. The new noticeboard will be a positive addition for community action, and the hope is that it will help raise footfall to the Halls.



£300 Hillhouse Wood – Install Nest Boxes .

Certain wooden nest boxes have deteriorated beyond repair and need to be 'upgraded'. We therefore decided to trial an Eco Barn Owl Nest Box also installed a couple of wren/robin boxes near the centre of the wood. In addition, as we know that Dormice were once resident in the Wood, we thought that a couple of 'Hazel Dormouse Nest Boxes' should be provided.



£2000 St Helena Hospice.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, and—most importantly—the people we care for, I want to thank you sincerely for your generous decision to donate your locality fund to St Helena Hospice. Please know that your wonderful contribution from the locality fund will make a meaningful and positive difference to the care we are able to provide.

