

A City fit for the Future

Colchester City Council's
Three-Year Plan

April 2023 to April 2026



Respond to the climate emergency

Deliver Modern Services for a Modern City

Improve health, well-being, and happiness

Deliver homes for those most in need

Grow our economy so everyone benefits

Celebrate our city, heritage and culture



Our city deserves the very best our Council can deliver.

Together with our partners we must respond to the challenges of our times whilst focussing on what matters most to the people of Colchester. To recognise the distinctive qualities of our rural and city life, our many communities and identities and our culture and heritage.

Our new Three-Year Plan continues to provide a framework, sense of direction and the key outcomes we will address, deliver or influence in the coming years.

Central to all we do will be the discipline and professionalism we can apply, with our partners. To ensure in the most challenging times for our country, as well as our city, that our finances are managed well, that we do all we can with and through others. That our sense of optimism, and ambition show in all we do, to make life better. As Councillors, officers and full Council, for all those that live, and work or visit the great City of Colchester.

Our Three-Year Plan will shape what we do and the outcomes we seek to achieve, mindful of the challenges we face in post Covid-19 world within a cost-of-living crisis.



Respond to the climate emergency

Priorities

Reduce our carbon footprint

Conserve and enhance our biodiversity

Continue to be a leading council in our waste and recycling collections

Outcomes

Remain on track for the council to be net zero by 2030

Improved biodiversity across all areas of the city by delivering the council's Woodland and Biodiversity Plan. This includes transforming Cymbeline Meadows into a nature reserve

Simplified waste and recycling services and progress towards government recycling collection targets of 70%

Deliver Modern Services for a Modern City

Priorities

Colchester Council and supporting organisations work together to a shared and ambitious vision for the future of our city

Put communities, and their needs, at the heart of our vision and supporting local areas as they help shape and deliver the services which are most important to them

Work closely with local partners, charities and organisations to add value (including but not only; Essex County Council, The NHS, The Garrison, and The University of Essex)

Outcomes

Closer and more effective work between Colchester City Council, Colchester Commercial Holdings Limited (CCHL) and Colchester Borough Homes (CBH)

Colchester Borough Homes continues to deliver quality social homes and services for its tenants and leaseholders

Land and building assets owned by the council are valued, and rationalised. Whether by sale, transfer to community partners and/or use in support of centre regeneration

Work with Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd (CCHL) and Colchester Borough Homes (CBH), to ensure funding is in place to continue investment in the homes the council owns and commercial opportunities to increase income to support services for residents

Deliver some of our services in a different way, working with our communities and residents to co-design service provision, where appropriate, in a community setting – putting residents and communities in the driving seat of what services they need and how they could be delivered





Improve health, well-being, and happiness

Priorities

Tackle the causes of inequality and support the most vulnerable people in Colchester

Work with residents and partners to address quality of life and issues of happiness

Outcomes

Improving the lives of Colchester residents and those most in need, working with the NHS, charities and others

Reducing the challenges of the cost of living crisis for Colchester residents
Improving the sense of wellbeing of our residents



Deliver homes for those most in need

Priorities

Increase the number, quality and types of homes on offer

Prevent or assist those facing homelessness

Increase affordable housing using buildings or land the council own

Outcomes

Building more council homes to a high standard with improved energy efficiency

Ensuring developers apply beautiful and sustainable design to all house builds across the city

Increasing the number of affordable homes in-line with government targets (seeking 30% where we build)





Grow our economy so everyone benefits

Priorities

Work with partners to create a vibrant city which people want to live in and visit, whilst attracting investment

Outcomes

Developing a longer-term vision and plan to make the most of Colchester's modern city for the benefit of all residents, including young people

Continuing to develop Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Community and ensure Colchester communities benefit from the project as much as possible

Delivering the Town Deal projects to improve the lives of residents and support businesses

Working with partners, such as Colchester Business Enterprise Agency (Colbea) and the North Essex Economic Board to support local businesses to start up, thrive and grow, whilst making the most of the opportunities that come with modern city status



Celebrate our city, heritage and culture

Priorities

**Strengthen Colchester's
tourism sector and welcome
more visitors each year**

**To make our city a better
place in which to live and
work and visit**

Outcomes

Delivering a 12-month programme of events and activities across the city in 2023, called a Year of Celebration

Confirming a Masterplan for a transformed, attractive and more accessible city centre that makes the most of our public spaces, heritage and cultural assets (in partnership with Essex County Council)

Marketing Colchester as a destination

