

**We are Colchester / Town Deal Board. 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**Room G03, Rowan House, Colchester**

**ACTION NOTE**

**Town Deal Board attendees:**

Simon Blaxill – Kent Blaxill (CHAIR)  
 Adam Bryan – SE LEP  
 Adrian Pritchard – Colchester Borough Council  
 Ashleigh Seymour-Rutherford – COLBEA  
 Tracy Rudling – Community 360  
 Mark Jarman-Howe – St Helena’s Hospice  
 Cllr Mark Cory - Colchester Borough Council  
 Cllr Tony Ball - Essex County Council  
 Chris Rhodes – Hiscox.

**Town Deal Board apologies:**

Shona Johnstone – Homes England  
 Lucy Johnson – University of Essex  
 Mark Carroll - Essex County Council.

**Other apologies:**

Iain McNab – BEIS.

**Other attendees: facilitators and observers:**

Ian Vipond - Colchester Borough Council  
 Mandy Jones - Colchester Borough Council  
 Lee Heley – Essex County Council (for MC)  
 Matthew Brown - Colchester Borough Council  
 Joshua Resoun - Essex County Council  
 John P Houghton – Independent facilitator  
 Simon Thorp – Colchester Borough Council.

**1. Welcome and introductions:**

Simon Blaxill welcomed board members to this the second meeting of the ‘We are Colchester’ board, and noted apologies received as above.

**2. Progress update since the inception meeting of the board on 29<sup>th</sup> January:**

Simon Blaxill advised that the initial meetings of Advisory Group and Town Assembly had now been held. An online survey has been held and completed. The project manager and engagement officer have been recruited to the ‘We are Colchester’ programme. The alignment of this work to relevance local, regional and national strategies have been assessed.

**3. Developing and agreeing the ‘We are Colchester’ vision:**

Note board members had been sent a suite of statements and sub-statements (for each of the How we Grow / Live / Connect themes) ahead of the meeting. In this session they were asked to rank these statements in order of prioritisation and/or alter, amend or propose new vision statements. This was completed. The facilitators and support officers were asked to collate these offline and prepare a final draft vision based on today’s meeting; see next page.

## 1/3 STRATEGIC VISION: HOW WE GROW

Colchester will be an engine for inclusive economic growth, personal opportunity and community wellbeing.

This means that:

...Colchester will be a destination of choice for businesses in the **creative, digital and knowledge sectors**, with a world class **education system** that helps support these sectors to grow.

...Colchester will be home to a **dynamic skills system** that adapts to changing business requirements, helping the town **attract larger firms** to the area.

...Colchester will be a place with a proud **entrepreneurial spirit**, where growing businesses can access **high quality and affordable business space**, advice and guidance.

## 2/3 STRATEGIC VISION: HOW WE LIVE

Colchester will be a place where people are proud to live in a historic town that is welcoming, healthy and unique.

This means that:

...Colchester will be a town that enables children and young people to have the best start in life.

...Colchester will be at the heart of a regional cultural, heritage and arts scene that provides alternative career opportunities for local people.

...Colchester will be a town with an unforgettable visitor experience, with high quality public realm that celebrates its' history and a town centre full of independent retailers, businesses and food outlets.

## 3/3 STRATEGIC VISION: HOW WE CONNECT

Colchester will be a place where people feel connected to each other.

This means that:

...Colchester will be a town that prioritises sustainable travel that remains affordable and accessible to all residents, with public transport seen as a key part of the campaign to make the town carbon neutral.

...Colchester will be home to digital and mobile technology that enables residents to create communities that foster social connections and inclusivity.

...Colchester will be a place where the natural environment is a prominent feature in the urban streetscape, helping give residents greater access to nature that improves their wellbeing.

**4. Framing and agreeing next (exploration) phase of the programme:**

Using the 3 vision statements provisionally agreed above – for each of these the board considered the extent of investment needed, the evidence base that would be needed to support / justify each potential intervention and identified the extent of local appetite and support for these.

**5. Next steps and close:**

Simon Blaxill set out the work that would be undertaken next by the Advisory Group, and how this would be fed back to the subsequent board meeting for its endorsement. Simon also reiterated the overall timeline and programme for development of the Town Deal.

**Next meeting:** Originally Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 4pm-6pm – **note this was reset to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 11am-12pm; and altered to focus on Economic Recovery in the light of Covid-19.**