

We are Colchester / Town Deal Board. 1st Meeting
Wednesday 29th January 2020
Room G03, Rowan House, Colchester

ACTION NOTE

Town Deal Board attendees:

Adrian Pritchard – Colchester Borough Council
Adam Bryan – SE LEP
Simon Blaxill – Kent Blaxill
Ashleigh Seymour-Rutherford – COLBEA
Tracy Rudling – Community 360
Mark Jarman-Howe – St Helena’s Hospice
Cllr Mark Cory - Colchester Borough Council
Lucy Johnson – University of Essex
Chris Rhodes – Hiscox.

Town Deal Board apologies:

Shona Johnstone – Homes England
Mark Carroll - Essex County Council
Cllr Tony Ball - Essex County Council.

Other attendees: facilitators and observers:

Ian Vipond - Colchester Borough Council
Mandy Jones - Colchester Borough Council
Steve Evison – Essex County Council
Matthew Brown - Colchester Borough Council
Joshua Resoun - Essex County Council
John P Houghton – Independent facilitator.

Other apologies:

Paul Kitson – Homes England
Iain McNab – BEIS.

1. Welcome and introductions:

Cllr Mark Cory welcomed board members to the inception meeting of the ‘We are Colchester’ board, and noted apologies received as above.

2. Nomination of chair of ‘We are Colchester’ board:

The board were asked to agree with the nomination of Simon Blaxill as the chair. This was agreed, and thereafter Simon chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3. Governance approach:

Adrian Pritchard outlined the proposed draft governance programme to lead the programme and the development of the Town Deal that had been prepared by the lead officers. The board agreed to the key principles, including the establishment of three workstreams; “How we grow”, “How we live” and “How we connect” as the framework for our Town Deal and all work going forward including the development of a Vision for our Town Deal. The outline Terms of Reference for the Town Deal were presented to and agreed by the board. Overall structure and shape of the programme including the formation of an Advisory Group and strands of wider consultation were noted and agreed. The nature of the working relationship between the board and advisory group were discussed and agreed. The structure and parameters of a new and

bespoke programme office run jointly between the two local authorities Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council were also noted and agreed.

4. Setting the scene:

Ian Vipond presented some key information from the MHCLG prospectus including the geographic boundary that defines our area of impact / intervention for a Town Deal. Ian then presented a 'dashboard' – a profile of the trends in key social and economic factors affecting Colchester including for example levels of employment, educational attainment, occupational groups, and patterns of in-and-out commuting.

5. Framing the vision:

The independent facilitator John P Houghton presented the parameters of an exercise to begin to gather the essence of a vision for Colchester's Town Deal. The board then broke into 2 facilitated working groups and developed a list of the types of considerations that are important to Colchester and would be worked up further in the creation of a single vision and set of vision statements by the board.

6. Next steps and close:

The board noted and agreed the proposed overall programme plan for the development of the Town Deal through to a likely submission of our Town Investment Plan to government in July 2020, and key milestones for the board, the advisory group, and wider consultation and engagement.

Next meeting: Tuesday 10th March 2020, 4-6pm.