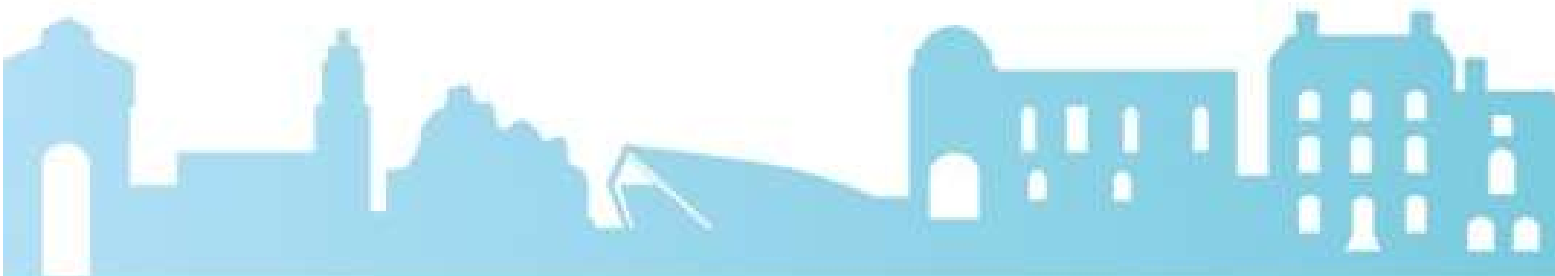




Colchester
City Council

AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT 2023





Planning Policy
Colchester City Council
Rowan House
33 Sheepen Road
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3WG

planning.policy@colchester.gov.uk
www.colchester.gov.uk

All references to the county of Essex are to Essex as it is currently constituted i.e., without the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unless stated otherwise.

All references to 'Colchester' refer to Colchester Borough and Colchester City unless stated otherwise, e.g., Colchester Town. On 23rd November 2022 Colchester Borough became Colchester City following City Status being awarded. However, this report continues to refer to both Colchester Borough and City as the date of city status fell inside the monitoring period.

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Key Headlines from the 2022 – 2023 AMR
Colchester awarded City Status with Colchester Borough Council becoming Colchester City Council on 23 November 2022
The King and Queen Consort visit Colchester during the Year of Celebration.
Section 2 Colchester Local Plan adopted by Full Council on 4 July 2022
In Colchester, the population size has increased by 11.3%, from 173,100 in 2011 to 192,700 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.
<p>Colchester City Council awarded £19.66m funding for Levelling Up to support improvements to Colchester's city centre.</p> <p>Colchester Museums awarded £228,850 Museums Estate and Development Fund Grant.</p> <p>Colchester City Council awarded £310,770 by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to fund schemes that aim to reduce air pollution and make Colchester's air cleaner for residents and visitors.</p> <p>Colchester City Council awarded a further £532,195 by DEFRA to strengthen the rural economy and rural communities via business growth and diversification and through community infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Colchester + Ipswich Museums to receive £1,194,048 grant from Arts Council England</p>
Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD) was subject to public consultation for 6 weeks from 14 March 2022 to 25 April 2022
100 E-bikes launched in Colchester
711 new dwellings were built in Colchester City
172 new affordable homes were delivered in Colchester (of which 42 homes were Council new builds or acquisitions)

Key Headlines from the 2022 – 2023 AMR
Colchester City Council has donated 23 bikes to Bridgeway Mission, Community360 and a local family, as part of its ongoing Community Cycle initiative.
Key headlines to be noted that occurred outside the AMR monitoring period:
The TCBGC Submission Plan Consultation ran from 15 May to the 25 June 2023. The DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent 'Examination in Public' by a Planning Inspector on the 21 September 2023.
Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan proceeded to a successful referendum May 2023 and is now adopted.
The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan Referendum took place on Thursday 21st September 2023 and is now adopted.
The Myland Neighbourhood Plan Examiner concluded that the Review Plan meets the Basic Conditions and is now adopted.

1. Introduction

Background to the Report

- 1.1 This Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) contains information about the extent to which the Council's planning policy objectives are being achieved. The monitoring indicators and monitoring of policies cover the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. However, further information from outside of this period is included, particularly within the overview and context sections, to reflect the latest information.
- 1.2 The Localism Act removed the requirement for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to produce an annual monitoring report for Government, but it did retain an overall duty to monitor planning policies. Authorities can now choose which targets and indicators to include in their monitoring reports as long as they are in line with the relevant UK legislation. Their primary purpose is to share the performance and achievements of the Council's planning service with the local community. The monitoring report also needs to demonstrate how councils are meeting the requirement to cooperate with other authorities on strategic issues.

Monitoring Information

- 1.3 The AMR includes information on the progress the Council is making in a number of key areas. The information provided reflects the monitoring requirements set forth in the Localism Act 2010, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated regulations and guidance. The format focuses on key areas of delivery, including monitoring progress in plan making and in assessing the success of policies concerned with delivery of development, protection of our environments and responding to climate change.
- 1.4 As the AMR largely reports on data over the last financial year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) the AMR measures progress on the adopted Local Plan for that time, which was the Section 1 Colchester Local Plan 2021, and Section 2 Colchester Local Plan 2022. Although 3 months of the monitoring period covers the Core Strategy 2010 (amended 2014), Site Allocations DPD 2010, Development Policies DPD 2010 (amended 2014) and Proposals Maps 2010 this has not been reported on as these indicators are no longer relevant having been superseded by adoption of the Section 2 Colchester Local Plan.
- 1.5 The indicators within the AMR have been updated this year to reflect the monitoring framework of the Section 2 Colchester Local Plan.
- 1.6 The Section 1 Colchester Local Plan was adopted in February 2021, indicators have been added were relevant although it is not possible to monitor the policies relating to the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) Development Plan Document (DPD) as it has not yet been examined and subsequently adopted. The AMR for 2025 is likely to be updated to include the remaining indicators from the Section 1 Local Plan relevant to the TCBGC.
- 1.7 Indicators relating to travel to work patterns have not been included as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) collected information for the Census 2021 which has been

impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which have affected the reliability of the data.

- 1.8 Under Section 102 of the Environment Act it introduces a strengthened duty under s40 of Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 for Councils to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Public authorities must periodically consider what actions they can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity and then take that action. A section has been included under the Environment chapter, setting out the first considerations of what action to take for biodiversity.

Colchester Local Plan

- 1.9 Information on the timetable for preparation and adoption of the Development Plan Documents is contained in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is updated on a regular basis, most recently February 2023.
- 1.10 The Shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan 2013 to 2033 was adopted in February 2021.
- 1.11 On 19 May 2022, the Council received the Inspectors' Final Report on the Examination of the Colchester Local Plan 2017-2033 (Section 2). The Inspectors' Report concludes that subject to a number of main modifications, set out in the Appendix to their report, the Colchester Local Plan 2017-2033 Section 2 is sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption.
- 1.12 Local Plan Committee on 13 June 2022, recommended to Full Council that the modified Section 2 Local Plan was adopted.
- 1.13 Full Council adopted the Colchester Borough Local Plan Section 2 Plan on 4 July 2022. Further information can be found on the Council's [Examination Website](#).
- 1.14 There is a Statutory requirement to review a Local Plan every 5 years. For Colchester this means by February 2026 based on the Adoption of Section 1. As a result, the Council have commenced evidence gathering and early engagement on Issues and Options for the Colchester Local Plan Review. Although this falls outside of the current monitoring period, further information regarding the Local Plan Review can be found [online](#).
- 1.15 Information on the timetable for preparation and adoption of the Development Plan Documents, including the Local Plan review is contained in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is updated on a regular basis, most recently February 2023. Further information is provided in Chapter 4 below.

2. Statistical Profile of Colchester

2.1 The City of Colchester is located in North East Essex, bordered by Braintree District, Tendring District, Maldon District and Babergh District Councils. The borough is diverse with the main town being Colchester, other large settlements include Stanway, Tiptree, West Mersea and Wivenhoe, and large areas of countryside. Table 1 below summaries key statistics for the Borough of Colchester.

Table 1: Statistical Profile of Colchester

Indicator	Data	Source
POPULATION		
Total Population (2021)	192,700	Population estimates, ONS
Population Rank	99 th out of 309 Local Authorities	2021 Census (ONS)
Population Density	587 people per square Kilometre	2021 Census (ONS)
Population Increase since 2011 Census	11.3%	2021 Census (ONS)
HOUSING		
Number of dwellings	84,199 as at 1 st April 2022	Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) live tables
Total new homes delivered (2022/23)	711	Colchester City Council
Affordable Homes delivered (2022/23)	172 (of which 42 homes were new built or acquired by the Council).	Registered Providers Returns
Number of households	79,700	2021 Census (ONS)
Average household price	£373,664 (February 2023)	Hometrack.com
Lower quartile house/flat price	£250,000 (February 2023)	Hometrack.com
Total Empty Properties ¹ (classified as empty for Council Tax purposes)	There were 1,982 empty properties as at April 2023	Colchester City Council

¹ These figures also include properties that fall under the exemption categories. Empty properties may be exempt if they:

- are owned by a charity (these are exempt for up to 6 months)
- are left empty by someone who has gone into prison
- are left empty by someone who has moved to give personal care, or who has moved to receive personal care
- are waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted (after someone has died) and for up to six months after
- have been repossessed
- are the responsibility of a trustee on behalf of someone who is bankrupt
- have no-one allowed to live in them by law
- are waiting to be lived in by a minister of religion.

Indicator	Data	Source
	(1,870 privately owned or owned by Registered Providers and 112 owned by CCC)	
Length of time Total Empty Properties have been empty	0 – 6 months 1,065 7 – 12 months 412 1 – 2 years 301 2 – 5 years 134 5+ years 70	Colchester City Council
Households on the Housing Register	On 31 st March 2023 there were 2,561 households	Gateway to Homechoice
Homelessness Households	For the year 2022-23 CCC accepted a full homeless duty for 90 households. Action was taken to prevent homelessness for 209 households and relieved homelessness for 77 households.	Colchester City Council
Households in Temporary Accommodation	On 31 st March 2023 there were 285 households in temporary accommodation	Colchester City Council
Further information on housing in Colchester	Colchester Housing Strategy	<u>Housing Strategy 2022-27</u> <u>· Colchester Borough Council</u>
EMPLOYMENT		
Economically active population ²	101,600	Annual population survey, ONS
Total in employment	99,900	As above
employees	89,000	As above
Self-employed	10,900	As above
Unemployed (model-based)	2,800	As above
Universal Credit (including Job Seekers Allowance)	3,425	Claimant count, ONS
Economically inactive population ³	26,000	Economic inactivity, ONS
Full-time employees	50,000 (2021)	Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS

² People aged 16 and over

³ People aged 16 to 64 including students, sick (temporary and long term), looking after family/home, retired, discouraged and other

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Indicator	Data	Source
Part-time employees	31,000 (2021)	As above
Number of businesses (total)	7,440 Enterprises (2023), accounting for 8,640 "Local units"	UK Business Counts (ONS)
Visitor trips numbers	6,207,000 Day trips; 229,000 Staying visitor trips; 832,000 Staying visitor nights.	Cambridge Model to measure Economic Impact of Tourism in Colchester 2022
Visitor spend/value	£382.6 million	Cambridge Model to measure Economic Impact of Tourism in Colchester Borough 2022
Tourism related employment	7132	Cambridge Model to measure Economic Impact of Tourism in Colchester Borough 2022
Further information on Colchester's economy	Colchester Economic Strategy Annual Economic Report 2021/22	Colchester's Economic Strategy 2022 - 2025 (windows.net) CAER 2021 22-FINAL-ACTUAL.pdf (colchesterultraready.co.uk)
ENVIRONMENT		
Area of Ancient Woodland	573 ha	Ancient Woodland Inventory (2021)
Number of houses at risk from surface water flooding within Critical Drainage Areas	940 (1 in 100 years event risk level)	Colchester Surface Water Management Plan
Number of Historic Parks & Gardens	4	Historic England
Nationally designated sites - Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	9 SSSIs- Marks Tey Brickpit, Upper Colne Marshes, Roman River, Abberton Reservoir, Blackwater Estuary, Tiptree Heath, Bullock Wood, Cattawade Marshes and Wivenhoe Gravel Pit	Natural England

Indicator	Data	Source
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	1 (Dedham Vale AONB)	Natural England
Internationally Designated Sites (Special Areas of Conservation – SAC and Special Protection Area – SPA)	Essex Estuaries SAC	Natural England
	Colne Estuary SPA	
	Abberton Reservoir SPA	
	Blackwater Estuary SPA	

2021 Census

2.2 The first phase of data from the 2021 Census was released in June 2022. Further data has continued to be released since with the aim that all data is published within 2 years of the Census date.

2.3 In Colchester, the population size has increased by 11.3%, from around 173,100 in 2011 to 192,700 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.

2.4 Nearby areas like Maldon and Tendring have seen their populations increase by around 7.4% and 7.3%, respectively, while others such as Braintree saw an increase of 5.5% and Babergh saw smaller growth of 5.2%.

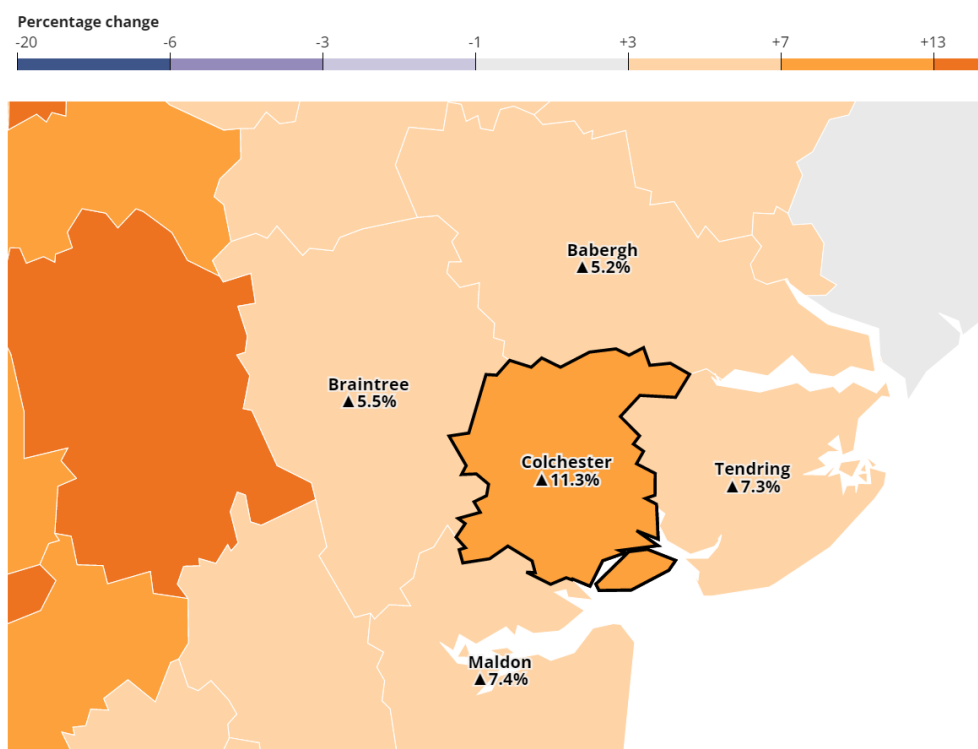


Figure 1: Population change local authority surrounding Colchester between 2011 and 2021

2.5 At 11.3%, Colchester's population increase is higher than the increase for the East of England (8.3%).

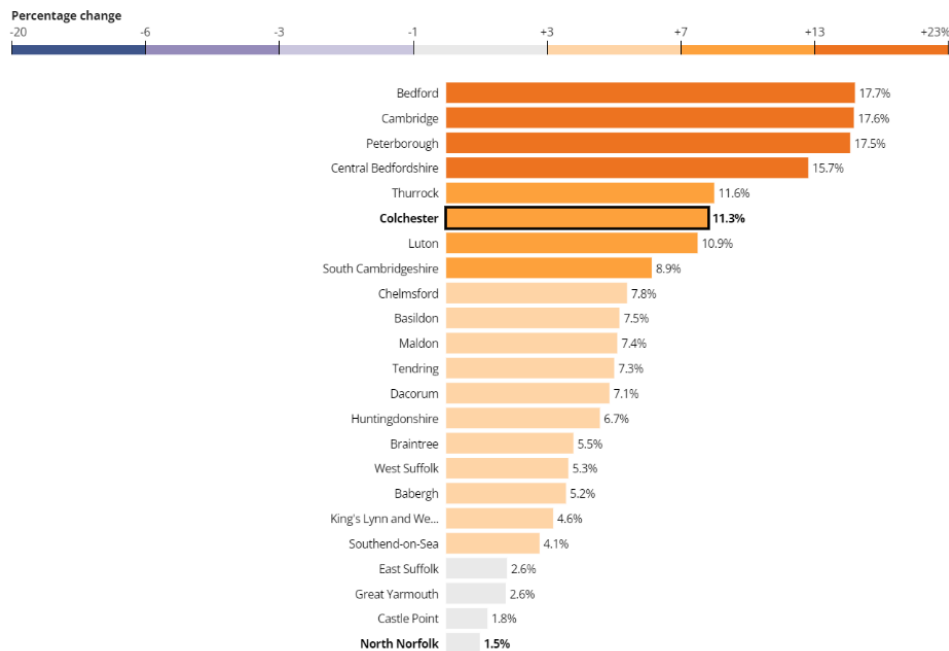


Figure 2: Population change of selected local authority areas in the East of England between 2011 and 2021

2.6 In 2021, Colchester ranked 99th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, moving up six places in a decade.

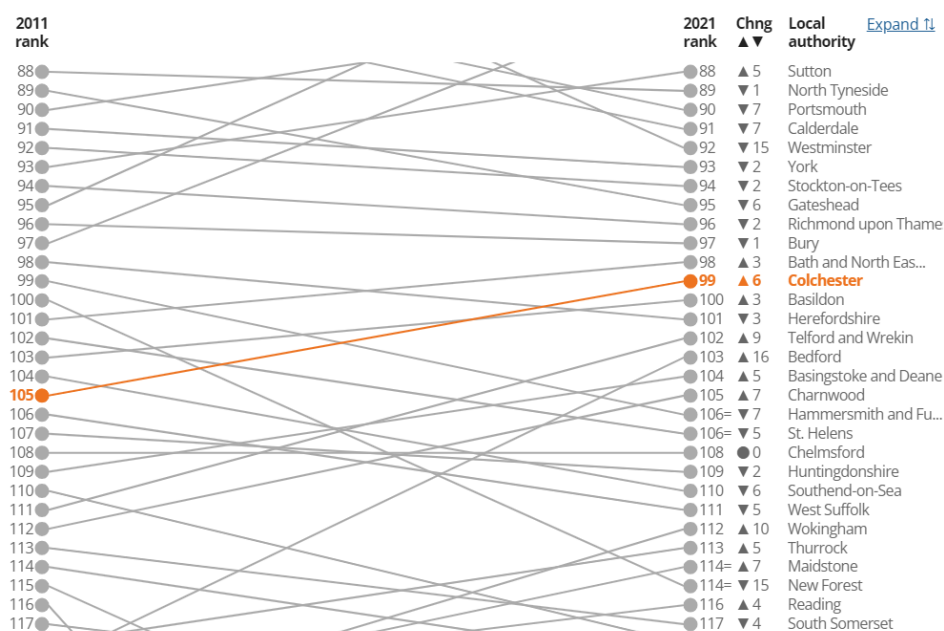


Figure 3: Population rank of Colchester at the time of the 2011 and 2021 Census.

2.7 As of 2021, Colchester is the 19th most densely populated in the East of England's 45 local authority areas, with around four people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

2.8 In Colchester there has been an increase of 25.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 7.0% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 15.3% in children aged under 15 years.

2.9 Further information regarding the first release of Census 2021 data for Colchester is available via the [Census Website](#).

3. Duty to Cooperate

- 3.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that the LPA's monitoring report must give details of what action has been taken during the monitoring year to satisfy the duty to cooperate.

Colchester Local Plan

- 3.2 The Section 1 [Inspector's Final Report](#) (10 December 2020) concluded that each of the Local Plan Authorities (Braintree, Colchester and Tendring Councils) has met the duty to cooperate in preparation of the Section 1 Local Plan.
- 3.3 The Section 2 [Inspector's Final Report](#) (19 May 2022) concludes that there are no other cross boundary issues with neighbouring authorities and other organisations which have not been considered through the Section 1 Examination. The Inspector found that the duty to cooperate in preparation of the Section 2 Local Plan has been met.
- 3.4 As work on the Colchester Local Plan Review progresses, further information will be provided on how the duty to cooperate has been satisfied.

Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD)

- 3.5 Following adoption of the Section 1 Local Plan, Colchester, Tendring and Essex Councils have continued to work together to prepare the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 3.6 Although published outside of this monitoring period, the [Duty to Cooperate Statement](#) sets out how Colchester City Council and Tendring District Council have met the requirements of the duty to cooperate in preparing the Development Plan Document for the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community. It follows the suggested format contained in the August 2015 Planning Advisory Service Duty to Cooperate Statement Template.
- 3.7 This Statement provides an overview of how cooperative working was approached between the Councils and prescribed bodies. It should be read in conjunction with the [Strategic Statement of Common Ground](#), which provides more detailed commentary on the topics and issues about which the Councils and prescribed bodies either agree or disagree.
- 3.8 Further details of progress of the DPD are outlined in Chapter 4 below.

4. 2023-26 Progress on Plan Preparation

- 4.1 The current Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the programme for plan preparation from 2023 to 2026. This is available on the [Council's website](#) and a summary chart is included at Appendix C.
- 4.2 The LDS was updated in February 2023. The table below summarises the progress of the Development Plan Documents and identifies key milestones in this monitoring period.

Table 2: Local Development Scheme Progress

Development Plan Document	Progress / Current stage Comments	Target Date/ Key Milestones
Local Plan Review	<p>This document will develop the overall strategic objectives and areas for growth in the city. The Local Plan will replace both the Section 1 and Section 2 Local Plan.</p> <p>Initial document preparation and evidence base collation has commenced. Early engagement has also commenced covering the themes of green networks and waterways, Call for Sites and the vision.</p>	<p>Member Approval of Preferred Options Autumn 2024</p> <p>Full Adoption Spring 2026</p>
Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (TCB GC DPD)	<p>Planning Framework Document related to strategic allocation for new development at the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community.</p> <p>Issues and Options Consultation November 2017 to February 2018</p> <p>Public Consultation on Draft DPD (Regulation 18) 14 March – 25 April 2022</p> <p>Submission Version Consultation (Regulation 19) 15 May 2023 to 25 June 2023</p> <p>The DPD along with other publication and submission documents was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent 'Examination in Public' by a Planning Inspector on the 21 September 2023.</p>	<p>Currently awaiting further details on Examination from Planning Inspector</p> <p>Adoption 2024</p>

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Development Plan Document	Progress / Current stage Comments	Target Date/ Key Milestones
Planning Obligations SPD	The scope of this SPD will be reviewed once further information has been provided by government on the proposed Infrastructure Levy (as set out through in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act)	Adoption Winter 2024
Affordable Housing SPD	Updated SPD adopted February 2023	Updated SPD adopted February 2023
Self and Custom Build and Specialist Housing SPD	Work programmed to begin Spring 2024	Adoption Autumn 2024
Climate Change SPD	Public Consultation 6 September to 4 October 2023 Revised draft to be considered for adoption in December 2023	Adoption December 2023
Biodiversity SPD	SPD adopted June 2023	Adopted June 2023
Active Travel SPD	Public Consultation 6 September to 4 October 2023 Revised draft to be considered for adoption in December 2023	Adoption December 2023
Shop Front Design Guide SPD	Public Engagement February 2023 Work ongoing including further engagement with specific bodies Exploring range of measures to compliment SPD to address wider related issues and further actions following implementation of Levelling Up Fund funding	Adoption Winter 2024
City Centre Masterplan SPD	Public Consultation 19 June to 31 July 2023 Revised draft to be considered for adoption to be considered in January 2024	Adoption January 2024
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	Statement of Community Involvement Updated in February 2023	Will consider need for review annually and/or in line with national policy and guidance.

Section 2 Colchester Local Plan

- 4.3 On 19 May 2022, the Council received the Inspectors' Final Report on the Examination of the Colchester Local Plan 2017-2033 (Section 2). The Inspectors' Report concludes that subject to a number of main modifications, set out in the Appendix to their report, the Colchester Local Plan 2017-2033 Section 2 is sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption.
- 4.4 Local Plan Committee on 13 June 2022, recommended to Full Council that the modified Section 2 Local Plan was adopted.
- 4.5 Full Council adopted the Colchester Borough Local Plan Section 2 Plan on 4 July 2022.
- 4.6 Further information can be found on the Council's [Examination Website](#).

Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD)

- 4.7 Following the approval from the members of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) joint committee at their first meeting in February 2022, a public consultation was held for six weeks for members of the public and stakeholders to have their say on a Draft Plan. The Consultation commenced on 14 March 2022 and concludes on 25 April 2022 (Regulation 18 Consultation).
- 4.8 The Draft Plan for the TCBGC contains policies, visions, and a preferred masterplan layout option for the development. The policies in the Draft Plan include: Development at the Garden Community; Land Uses and Spatial Approach; Community and Social Infrastructure; Buildings, Places and Character; Economic Activity and Employment; Movement and Connections; Sustainable Infrastructure; Nature; and Infrastructure Delivery and Impact Mitigation.
- 4.9 The Councils took into account the comments made, commissioned further evidence including a strategic masterplan and considered what updates are required to work towards the final submission draft.
- 4.10 In February 2023 the joint committee recommend to the Full Councils of both Tendring and Colchester that they agree for the Submission Version of the Plan be published for a six-week public consultation. Subsequently the Full Council meetings of Tendring (2 March 2023) and Colchester (23 March 2023) agreed that the DPD, SA and supporting evidence base be published for a six-week public consultation period. The Submission Plan Consultation ran from 15 May to the 25 June 2023 (Regulation 19 Consultation).
- 4.11 Although outside of this monitoring period the DPD along with other publication and submission documents was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent 'Examination in Public' by a Planning Inspector on the 21 September 2023.

- 4.12 On 13 October 2023, the Councils received notification that G Wyatt BA (Hons) MRTPI has been appointed as the independent Planning Inspector. The Councils are currently awaiting further communication from the Planning Inspector regarding the Examination.
- 4.13 All information and updates will be provided on the [Examination Website](#).

Neighbourhood Plans

4.14 Neighbourhood planning has remained high on the national government's agenda since regulations were introduced in 2012. Revisions to national policy, guidance and regulations continue to demonstrate the importance of Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) for housing provision and local planning matters.

4.15 A number of Neighbourhood Plans have progressed during the monitoring period. Table 3 summarises the current position of NPs across the administrative area.

4.16 During the 2022-23 monitoring period the following has occurred:

- Great Horkesley Neighbourhood Plan area designated in June 2022;
- Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation held from 4 August to 19 September 2022. Examination commenced in October 2022;
- Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation held from 30 August to 12 October 2022. Examination commenced in October 2022 concluding subject to modifications, the Plan can proceed to Referendum; and
- Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan review Regulation 14 consultation commenced in August/September 2022. Regulation 16 Consultation commenced 27 March 2022.

4.17 The following key milestones have occurred in the next monitoring period (2023/24) but for completeness have also been recorded in this report:

- Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan proceeded to a successful referendum and was made in May 2023;
- Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood plan review commenced its examination in July 2023. The Examiner issued his final report on 13 September 2023 and concluded that the Review Plan meets the Basic Conditions, and a referendum is not required. The plan was formerly made by Full Council on 17 October 2023; and
- Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan examiner concluded, subject to modifications it can proceed to referendum which took place on the 21 September 2023. The plan was formerly made by Full Council on 17 October 2023.

Table 3: Neighbourhood Plans Progress

Neighbourhood Plan	Area Designated	Current Stage
Boxted	October 2012	Adopted December 2016, part of the Development Plan used for decision making.
Myland and Braiswick Review	January 2013	The Myland and Braiswick Review was formally made by Full Council on 17 October 2023.
Wivenhoe	July 2013	Adopted May 2019, part of the Development Plan used for decision making. Considering scope of plan review.
West Bergholt	July 2013	Adopted October 2019, part of the Development Plan used for decision making. Considering scope of plan review.
Eight Ash Green	June 2015	Adopted December 2019, part of the Development Plan used for decision making.
Marks Tey	September 2015	Adopted March 2022, part of the Development Plan used for decision making.
West Mersea	November 2016	Adopted March 2022, part of the Development Plan used for decision making.
Tiptree	February 2015	Adopted May 2023, part of the Development Plan used for decision making.
Copford with Easthorpe	May 2015	Adopted October 2023, part of Development Plan used for decision making.
Great Horkesley	June 2022	Evidence gathering and plan preparation
Great Tey	June 2017	Regulation 14 Consultation held 15 th March 2023-28 th April 2023 Finalising plan and submission documents. Submission to Council anticipated Winter 2023.
Messing	July 2013	Work abandoned. No active NHP group currently.
Stanway	June 2014	Work abandoned. No active NHP group currently.

5. Planning Applications

Planning Applications Indicator 1	Record of planning decisions including appeals	Section 1 Policy SP1
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5.1 The level of planning applications provides a useful backdrop against which the effects of policies can be considered. Table 4 below summarises planning applications determined in this monitoring period.

Table 4: Planning Applications Summary 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Planning Applications from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023	
The number of applications received (major, minor and other)	1,722
The number of applications approved	1,284
The number of applications refused	219
The number of appeals made	61
The number of appeals allowed	11 (0 Partial, 2 Withdrawn & 38 Dismissed)
The number of departures	0
Minor applications decided within 8 weeks	96%
Major applications decided within 13 weeks	100%

5.2 The total number of applications (major, minor and others i.e. change of use and listed building consent) received between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 of 1,722 shows a decrease on last year's total of 1,982. This figure however does not include all applications i.e. discharge of condition and preliminary inquiries.

5.3 Decision rates remain high with 96% of minor applications decided within 8 weeks; a slight increase from the previous figure of 95% recorded in the previous year.

5.4 Performance in the major applications category has remained the same as the previous monitoring period 2021/22 at 100%. This is higher than the previous monitoring year (2020/21) of 98% and (2019/20) of 95% and demonstrates that year on year majority of applications are being determined with all applications being dealt with in this monitoring period within the specified decision time limits.

5.5 Overall, it can be seen that the Council's implementation of project management measures for applications, including pre-application advice and Planning Performance Agreements have and continue to enhance consistency and quality in processing applications.

6. Key Theme: Housing Indicators

Overview

- 6.1 In line with the NPPF, the Council is required to ensure sufficient housing land is supplied to meet local housing needs. The Council has developed an Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) target for the Colchester Local Plan of 920 houses a year which takes into account the requirements of the NPPF 2012; and will ensure the City provides a 5 year supply of specific deliverable sites and identifies a supply of specific developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15.
- 6.2 The target of 920 homes a year reflects a comprehensive evidence base which includes the following:
- Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study produced by Peter Brett Associates (PBA) in July 2015 and updated November 2016 for Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester and Tendring Councils:
 - Review of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) work in Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree and Tendring to bring it into compliance with the NPPF and PPG - HDH Planning and Development Ltd, December 2015.
- 6.3 In February 2021, Section 1 of the Colchester Local Plan was adopted. This included Policy SP4 which confirms the objectively assessed need for housing as 920 dwellings per annum.
- 6.4 The Council has published the [2023 Housing Land Supply Position Statement](#) for the current 5 year period. This demonstrates that Colchester has a sufficient supply of deliverable housing sites against the Local Plan target (920 dwellings per annum). A total of 5.17 years is deliverable within the period 2023/24 to 2027/28.

Brownfield Register

- 6.5 The Council has a statutory requirement to publish and maintain a Brownfield Land Register. The Council has published a register which provides up-to-date and consistent information on brownfield sites that local authorities consider to be appropriate for residential led development. The register is in two parts, Part 1 comprises all brownfield sites appropriate for residential development and Part 2 outlines those sites granted permission in principle. There are currently no sites in Colchester which has been granted permission in principle.
- 6.6 The Council has granted planning permission on a number of brownfield sites via the traditional planning application process only. There a number of brownfield sites across the city where building works have now commenced. The register is live and is published on the Council website and provides transparent information about sites

within the register. The Council continues to have an open call for sites for the register as advertised on the Council website.

6.7 There are 22 sites on the current register and several sites are currently going through the planning application process. If applications are successful, these sites will be removed from the register as and when building works commence. One site was removed and one site was added to the register during this monitoring period.

6.8 Further information can be found [online](#).

Housing Indicator 1	Housing Completions per annum	Section 2 Policy SG2
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6.9 Colchester has delivered 20,528 new homes between 2001/02 and 2022/23 at an average rate of 934 dwellings per year. During the last monitoring period, a total of 711 units were delivered across the City. See Table 5 and Figure 1 below.

Table 5: New Dwelling Completions in Colchester 2001/2 to 2022/23

Year	Total Units
2001/2002	566
2002/2003	980
2003/2004	916
2004/2005	1,277
2005/2006	896
2006/2007	1,250
2007/2008	1,243
2008/2009	1,028
2009/2010	518
2010/2011	673
2011/2012	1,012
2012/2013	617
2013/2014	725
2014/2015	943
2015/2016	1,149
2016/2017	912
2017/2018	1,048
2018/2019	1,165
2019/2018	1,124
2020/2021	741
2021/2022	1034
2022/2023	711
Total from 2001 to 2023	20,528

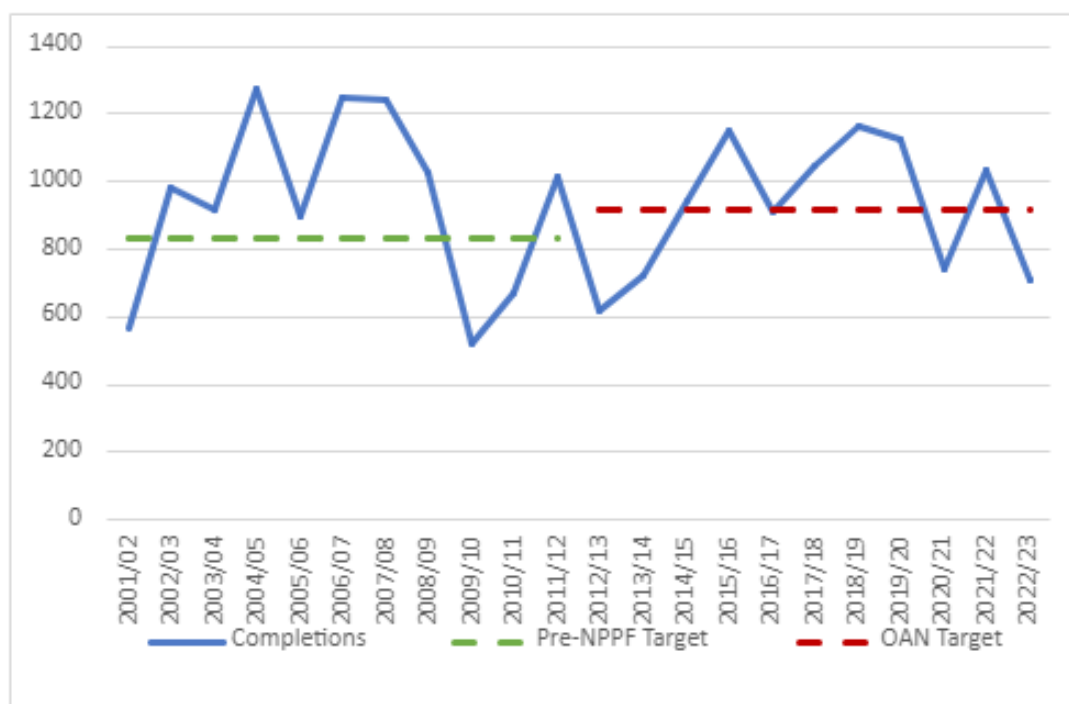


Figure 4: New Dwelling Completions in Colchester 2001/02 to 2022/23

6.10 Table 6 illustrates the context of delivery rates across other Essex authorities where figures are available; Colchester continues to demonstrate a good track record against housing requirement.

Table 6: Essex Local Authority Housing Delivery

Authority	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total Units
Basildon	412	341	340	464	317	438	222	2534
Braintree	291	492	534	883	861	1,064	1,097	5222
Brentwood	150	213	246	200	168	407	TBC	1384
Castle Point	114	150	200	71	166	205	TBC	906
Chelmsford	1,002	1,008	1,256	832	829	866	822	6615
Colchester	912	1,048	1,165	1,124	741	1,034	711	6735
Epping Forest	149	526	426	223	198	328	TBC	1850
Harlow	340	351	676	725	535	416	560	3603
Maldon	243	166	306	462	426	330	449	2382
Rochford	117	299	262	347	349	456	495	2325
Tendring	658	565	915	784	646	777	810	5155
Uttlesford	727	966	981	519	362	208	747	4510
Essex Total	5,115	6,125	7,307	6,634	5,598	6,529	5913	43,221

Source: Essex County Council, District/Borough and Unitary Councils

6.11 Colchester's build rate has been on target in recent years. A slight drop was seen in this monitoring period and in the 2020/21 monitoring period which was in part caused by a short delay to completion of a large student accommodation scheme at the University of Essex. When taking an average over the past five years, Colchester has provided a net additional 1,016 new homes per year, which provides reassurance on future target delivery. The Council accordingly expects to be able to continue a sufficient rate of delivery.

6.12 Of the 711 dwellings completed in this monitoring period, 143 units were from windfall sites. This is lower than previous years where we see an average delivery rate of 299 windfall units over a five-year period. See Figure 5 and table 7 below.

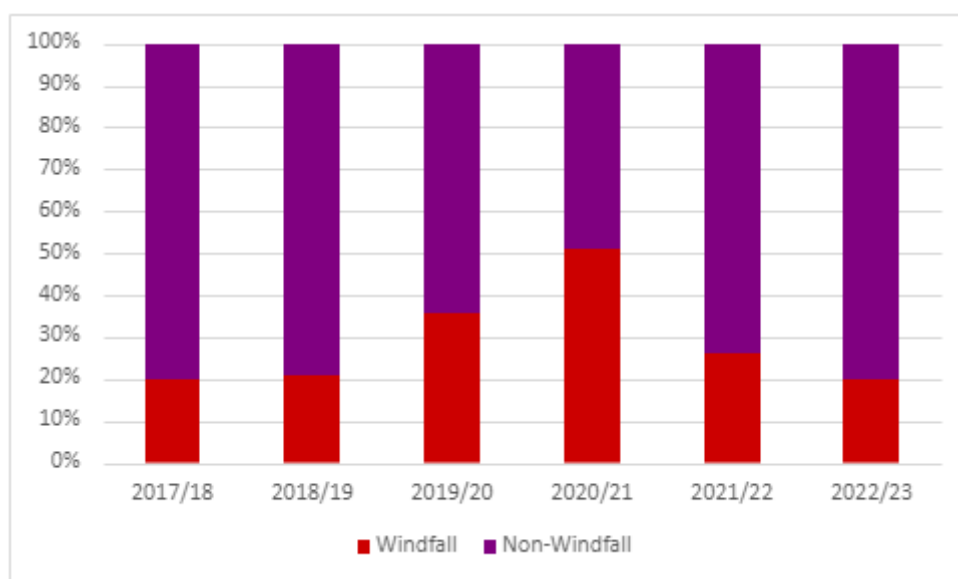


Figure 5: Percentage of Windfall Site Completions 2017/18 to 2022/23

Table 7: Colchester Historic Windfall Completions

Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	5 Year Average	2022/23
Number of Dwellings from Windfall	207	243	399	377	271	299	143

6.13 The housing completions included in this report show that a net of 711 homes were built between 1 April 2022 and 31st March 2023.

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Table 8: Housing Completions (site by site basis) 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Planning Reference	Site location	Windfall	22/23
Berechurch			
202025	BERECHURCH HALL ROAD (PERSIMMON)	No	19
Castle			
180045	COWDRAY CENTRE, MASON ROAD, COLCHESTER	No	73
191336	26 TRINITY STREET, COLCHESTER	Yes	1
211361	32 CROUCH STREET, COLCHESTER	Yes	27
201228	1 PELHAMS LANE, COLCHESTER	Yes	2
210112	1 EAST BAY, COLCHESTER	Yes	1
221865	58 PRIORY STREET, COLCHESTER	Yes	1
Greenstead			
192733	SCARFE WAY, COLCHESTER	Yes	6
192777	BUFFET WAY, COLCHESTER	Yes	6
Lexden & Braiswick			
152322	LITTLE PORTERS, PORTERS LN, FORDHAM HEATH	Yes	1
202596	LAND OFF HALSTEAD ROAD, EIGHT ASH GREEN	No	43
200987	114 BRAISWICK, COLCHESTER	Yes	2
191997	STABLE COTTAGE, COLCHESTER ROAD, WEST BERGHOLT	No	16
200332	THE TREBLE TILE, WEST BERGHOLT	Yes	2
Mile End			
100502	FORMER SEVERALLS HOSPITAL PHASE 2, COLCHESTER	No	60
150473	CHESTERWELL, (Both Outlets)	No	66
192890	MILE END ROAD, COLCHESTER	Yes	10
Old Heath & Hythe			
163197	RISING SUN PH & WAREHOUSES, HYTHE STATION RD, COLCH	No	16
Shrub End			
211058	MARETH PLAYGROUP, MARETH ROAD	Yes	4

Authority Monitoring Report 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Planning Reference	Site location	Windfall	22/23
190522	GOSBECKS PHASE 2, COLCHESTER	No	60
Stanway			
VARIOUS	LAKELANDS	No	94
172049	CHITTS HILL, STANWAY	Yes	39
181859	WYVERN FARM, LONDON ROAD, STANWAY	No	13
222814	THE SCHOOL ROOM, STANWAY	Yes	1
Marks Tey & Layer			
193057	CHURCH VIEW, THE STREET, SALCOTT	Yes	1
210829	132 HIGH ROAD, LAYER DE LA HAYE	Yes	1
192249	BROOK ROAD, GREAT TEY	No	15
210349	41 SCHOOL ROAD, COPFORD	Yes	2
Rural North			
160906	HORKESLEY HAMLET, GREAT HORKESLEY	Yes	13
210775	LAND EAST OF CARTERS HILL, BOXTED	Yes	1
222973	NOAKES FARM, STRAIGHT ROAD, BOXTED	Yes	2
192219	WAKES HALL, WAKES COLNE	Yes	8
221133	THE CARTLODGE, LITTLE CREPPING, WAKES COLNE	Yes	1
Tiptree			
122134	FLORENCE PARK, GRANGE ROAD, TIPTREE	No	39
191414	LAND ON NORTH EAST SIDE OF FACTORY HILL, TIPTREE	No	15
161462	SPRINGFIELD, KELVEDON ROAD, TIPTREE	Yes	4
180136	86 CHURCH ROAD, TIPTREE	Yes	6
210398	BARBROOK LANE, TIPTREE	No	39
Wivenhoe			
201955	75C RECTORY ROAD, WIVENHOE	Yes	1
CITY TOTAL NEW DWELLINGS 2022/23			711

Housing Indicator 2	Affordable Housing Completions	Section 1 & 2 Policies SP4 & SG2 and DM8
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6.14 During this monitoring period, a total of 172 affordable housing units were delivered as noted below.

6.15 130 new build affordable housing units were delivered, 49 were Affordable Rent, 20 were Social Rent, 10 First Homes and 51 were Shared Ownership. The comparable figures for the previous two years were 45 in 21/22, 42 in 20/201. Although delivery may have been impacted by the covid-19 pandemic and uncertainty within the housing market previously, the high level of affordable homes delivered this year demonstrates this is no longer the case.

6.16 100 of the new build affordable homes were delivered through section 106 obligations, with the remaining 30 units delivered via the Council's Development Company – Amphora Housing Ltd.

6.17 Outside of Section 106 and the Council's Development Company, a further 42 units have been delivered through the Council's acquisitions programme.

6.18 For the year 2022/23, no commuted sums were received for affordable housing.

7. Key Theme: Economic Growth

Overview

7.1 Colchester has a diverse and relatively resilient economy. This combined with significant investments from the Government's Town Deal (£19.2m) and Levelling Up Fund (£19.6m) and private sector investments in Ultrafast Broadband and 5G, means that Colchester is well placed to support economic recovery. Complementary to this growth is a steadily growing population, estimated to be at 197,200 in 2021.

7.2 Future economic growth through job and business creation is outlined in the [Colchester's Economic Strategy 2022-25](#) which has four themes for economic recovery and growth:

- People
- Partnerships
- Place
- Planet

7.3 The North Essex Economic Strategy (NEES) 2040 has been developed in partnership with Braintree District, Colchester Borough, Essex County, Tendring District and Uttlesford District Councils. This provides a platform for strategic intervention at a scale which will achieve transformation in the overall economic prosperity of the North Essex area and compliment local economic activity delivered by the partners. The overall vision of the strategy is as follows:

“North Essex is a high-value, productive and sustainable economy. People choose to live and work locally, in new and established communities that are well connected and inspire innovation and creativity.”

7.4 To deliver this vision, four key missions have been identified that will focus the partners shared activity over the next five years:

- Driving innovation and technology adoption;
- Developing a skilled and resilient workforce;
- Creating a network of distinctive and cohesive places; and
- Growing a greener, more sustainable economy.

7.5 The North Essex Economic Board's (NEEB) North Essex Economic Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 20 November 2019. The Strategy can be viewed [online](#). A review of this strategy has been undertaken and is in the process of being formally adopted by all NEEB member districts, which are: Maldon, Braintree, Uttlesford and Tendring District Councils and Chelmsford City Council as well as Colchester City Council.

Business Demography

7.6 As of 2022, Colchester had 7,415 enterprises consisting of 8,650 local units. The type of enterprise is defined by the number of employees. A micro enterprise has 0-9 employees, small 10-49, medium 50-249 and large has more than 250.

7.7 Micro enterprises are the most dominant across Colchester, making up 84% of total enterprises in 2022, and remaining largely the same as the 2019 figure of 88.8%. The number of small businesses over the past year has risen from 9% in 2021 to 13%. The number of large enterprises is 3.1% of the total.

Employment Growth

7.8 The latest figures available from the ONS (2022) demonstrate that the working age population of Colchester was 121,600 (people aged 16-64). Some 93,300 people were in employment, which included 50,000 (61%) full time workers and 31,000 (37.8%) part time workers.

7.9 In 2022, there were 94,600 people within the Borough were Economically Active. Self-employment comprises 11,700 people. Within the working age population, 33,500 people are economically inactive which includes students, sick, retired or homemakers and there are a further estimated 3,400 unemployed.

7.10 Although the number of people registered as claimants for out of work benefits appears high at 3,425 people (2.8% of the total working age population in Colchester), as Universal Credit is rolled out across the Country, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is likely to rise due to the broader span of claimants who are required to look for work than previously required under Jobseekers Allowance. However, the Colchester figure of 2.8% of the total population, does compare favourably with the eastern region figure of 2.9% and the Great Britain figure of 3.7%.

7.11 The total number of people unemployed was 2,800 in this monitoring period. This represents 2.7% of the Colchester population and is below both the Regional and National averages of 3% and 3.6% respectively.

7.12 In 2022, 38,412 people aged 16-64 had achieved an NVQ Level 4+ qualification (degree or higher-level) representing 27.2% of the working age population in Colchester.

7.13 In 2022/23, 560 apprenticeships were started; ranging from intermediate (150), advanced (390) and higher (310) levels. The apprenticeships also cover a wide age range with 190 apprentices aged 19, 230 aged 19-24 and 430 aged over 25.

7.14 In 2022/23, 3,740 people enrolled in a course in a Further Education College, with a training provider, in their local community.

Key Programmes Update

7.15 Colchester Borough Council's commercial arm Colchester Amphora Trading is driving the development of the £200m Northern Gateway development which surrounds the Community Stadium, home of Colchester United FC. This landmark development is themed around health and leisure reflecting the need to keep the area's rapidly ageing population fit, active and healthy and encouraging participation

in sport and leisure activities. Construction completed in Spring 2021, bringing 76 acres of new sport and leisure facilities to Colchester's booming population including a new cycling track, a new sports centre with café, gym, studio and sports hall and a new Club House for Colchester Rugby Club. New homes, a healthcare campus and potentially 500,000sq ft of new office space will also be developed to the south of the A12.

7.16 A review is currently underway as to how the remaining development at Northern Gateway could be brought forward in light of current economic uncertainty.

7.17 Colchester Amphora Trading, working on behalf of CBC and DCMS, completed the deployment of Colchester's Local Full Fibre Network programme. This government-financed scheme saw the creation of a Town Centre datacentre; dedicated, high-capacity fibre links to Telehouse (the UK's main internet exchange in London); and the build of a large fibre optic distribution network across the town centre and many of Colchester's suburbs. The target reach for the network is 25,000 properties, residential and business alike. The new networks are at the centre of several redevelopment programmes and will bolster Colchester's attractiveness to the creative and tech sectors in particular.

7.18 The University of Essex's £250m expansion plan is also spearheading local growth, which is well under way, servicing a double-digit rise in student population as well as the University's global ambitions. Spring 2023 saw the topping out of the £10.7m Parkside Office phase 4. The Grade A, 41,571 sq. ft. building is the largest headquarters style office currently under construction in the eastern region and will be completed later in 2023.

7.19 Following Colchester's award of £18.2m from the Government's Town Deal fund, a suite of regeneration and placemaking projects are now moving into their delivery phase. Colchester is working with partner organisations to maximise the opportunities this programme will bring. Coupled with the emerging City Centre Masterplan and a range of other initiatives, it will help to make Colchester a healthier, greener place which celebrates and respects its history, heritage and culture and brings access to opportunity for all.

7.20 A further £1m was awarded to Colchester in September 2020 from the Town Fund and has delivered the first phase of improvements adjacent to the refurbished Mercury Theatre and Balkerne Gate. The next project which will commence in 2024 will transform St Nicholas Square (bounded by Three Wise Monkeys, the rear of the new St Nicholas Hotel and the former Co-op building) into a high-quality square for the benefit of visitors, residents and in particular the adjacent businesses. Together these schemes boost impressions and sense of pride in our City Centre through enhancing its setting and sense of place.

7.21 Colchester was awarded £19.6m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund. This will enable the regeneration of the St Botolph's area of the city centre and will deliver a redesigned roundabout which brings balance to all road users and pedestrians,

shop front improvements in this area and a new heritage interpretation trail from the Castle to Colchester Town Station taking in key heritage assets such as the Roman Wall and St Botolph's Priory.

Economic Growth Indicator 1	Permissions granted for Employment and Leisure	Section 1 & 2 Policies SP5 & SG3 and SG4
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7.22 Colchester City Centre is the Borough's most significant centre in relation to the scale and mix of retail and non-retail uses, retailer representation, and its market shares of expenditure (particularly 'high street' comparison goods retail expenditure) secured from a sub-regional catchment. District Centres, whilst varying in terms of their scale and nature, each perform an important role serving their local populations as well as providing access to shops and services for a wider than local catchment (but not to a level comparable with Colchester Town Centre).

7.23 Demand for commercial space is largely a derived demand from the levels of business formation and expansion in the economy. It is also subject to wider changes in working practices, such as flexible and homeworking in jobs leading to changes in the use of existing space.

Table 9: Approved Changes of use in Economic areas between 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2023

7.24

Location	Original use	Changed use
Acorn Place, Heckworth Close	Office/Warehouse	Dog Grooming Parlour
The Tollgate Centre	Car parking spaces	Waterless hand car wash and valeting operation with associated canopies and portacabin.
Unit 4 Tollgate East	Car park	Windscreen repair kiosk, associated store and canopy to existing car park
The Pink Cottage, Stanway	Residential	Office
Lodge Lane, Langham	Mixed Employment site	Storage Containers
4 Davey Close	Retail Outlet	Take away
2 Moorside Business Centre	General Storage	Axe and Knife Throwing venue
100 First Floor, The Crescent	Office	Eye Clinic
10 Commerce Park, Commerce Way	General Industrial	Indoor Sports

8. Key Theme: Transport and Infrastructure

Overview

- 8.1 Continued engagement with the community has illustrated that transport, traffic issues and infrastructure are still very high on the public's list of priorities.
- 8.2 The City Council worked with Essex County Council and others to develop schemes which take forward the Colchester Future Transport Strategy. The Strategy's vision is to '*transform Colchester into a place which prioritises active and safe sustainable travel to bring about health, environmental and economic benefits*'. The Strategy is now being used to help prioritise investment across Colchester.
- 8.3 The Council continues to work with developers to ensure sustainable and active travel infrastructure is included within planned developments as well as linking them to destinations.
- 8.4 The Council regularly engages with key stakeholders and has been working with Transport East on higher level plans for the eastern region and responded to Transport East's Transport National Highways and Members consultations. The Council has also responded to the County Council's Supported Bus Service consultation, as well as the consultation of the Park and Ride service.
- 8.5 Accessible services and facilities are vital to the development and maintenance of communities. Community facilities should be located within or near centres and other accessible locations to maximise community access and build a sense of local community identity. The Council supports the retention and enhancement of existing community facilities that can provide a range of services to the community at one accessible location. In addition, the Council works with local partners, such as Parish and Town Councils to plan and manage community facilities.
- 8.6 The Council will safeguard existing facilities where appropriate and will work with partners including the local community to bring together funding from a variety of public and private sources to improve existing facilities and deliver new community facilities where needed. Development proposals will be required to review community needs (e.g., through a Health Impact Assessment) and provide community facilities or contributions towards them to meet the needs of the new population and mitigate impacts on existing communities.

Sustainable travel in Colchester

- 8.7 Colchester City Council continues to work with Essex County Council on the Colchester Cycling Action Plan and the Walking Strategy and as part of the Government's Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP). Following their successful bid to Government, ECC worked with CCC and the local community on implementing the Active Travel investment in line with LCWIP proposals.

8.8 In addition to this, free Adult Cycle training has been on offer funded through a Defra grant, offering Learn to Ride, Advanced Cycle Skills and Cycle Confidence sessions to adults and groups. 107 adults have been trained to March 2023.

8.9 The Council continued to offer local businesses the opportunity of an eCargo Bike short term loan. By March 2023 the overall eCargo Bike fleet including community business champions had ridden over 30,000 miles.

Shared Transport

8.10 A number of shared transport schemes have been supported or are in the process of being set up to help give residents and businesses transport choice and to encourage a reduction in car use and car ownership.

E-scooters

8.11 Colchester has continued to be part of the DfT trial for e-scooters in Essex. Tier have delivered the eScooter on street service during 2022/23. The trial was extended to May 2024.

eBike/Cargo bike hub

8.12 Progress was made with implementing a Defra funded City Centre run shared eBike/eCargo Bike hub which will be based in the Secure Bike Park in Portal Precinct and a community led hub which will be based on Old Heath Recreation Ground. Both hubs are expected to be launched later in 2023 following delays due to suitable storage arrangements.

E-Carclub

8.13 The first Defra funded electric car club car was launched in Priory Street car park in October 2022. The location for the second car is still being looked into. This is the start of a network of pay as you go cars that will be delivered through external, developer and other funding opportunities. Where appropriate car club cars continue to be requested as part of new developments.

Transport Infrastructure

8.14 Work continues on the design of the Rapid Transit route, which will link the new Garden Community with the town centre, rail station and the park and choose site. This route will also improve accessibility for active travel modes.

8.15 The Town Deal route linking the High Street to Greenstead and the University, has been subject to design work and a start date of 2023/24 is planned.

8.16 The City Council is working with partners on the town centre masterplan, which will set out how people access the town centre, including better bus facilities and managing car parking. The Council will continue to lobby for investment to realise the improvements needed to align with the Masterplan proposals.

8.17 The City Council continues to work with Greater Anglia, the rail operator, to help promote investment in the Colchester, Colchester Town, Hythe, Wivenhoe, Marks Tey and Chapel and Wakes Cone rail stations, allowing better access for all and encouraging rail use instead of the private car.

8.18 Work continued on the Fixing the Link project with measures to help encourage more people to walk from the Colchester rail station to the City Centre.

Transport Indicator 1	To obtain an agreed Travel Plan for all major commercial/community developments	Section 1 & 2 Policies SP6 & DM21
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8.19 The Colchester Travel Plan Club (CTPC) has continued to work closely with CTPC members and Essex County Council to further develop their travel plans, and to continue the process of gaining Modeshift STARS accreditations.

8.20 CTPC has continued to work closely with existing members, including The Oaks Hospital and The Maltings student accommodation. CTPC and CCC have also worked closely with East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust and the University of Essex who have both had further development on their sites that have resulted in Travel Plan reviews. New developments continue to join CTPC both through voluntary membership and planning conditions.

8.21 CTPC has worked closely with the Rowan House project teams across all three tenant organisations to ensure CCC's move back to Rowan House meets travel plan objectives, and that active and sustainable travel is embedded in working practices. This work will continue into 2023/24.

8.22 CTPC has continued to work with Colchester City Council officers to develop and facilitate CCC active and sustainable travel projects to benefit CTPC members. An important function of CTPC is to serve as a point of contact, knowledge sharing and consultation between CCC and CTPC members.

8.23 A Travel Plan has been requested for all major developments and existing Travel Plans provided have been reviewed to ensure they are robust and progressing to meet their goals.

8.24 The Council continues to work closely with the train operating company under the Station Travel Plan. The City continues to be an active partner in the Community Rail Partnership scheme. CTPC have lobbied bus companies for improved services and flexible fares to ensure convenient and reliable services. This also includes working with Essex County Council to promote the park and ride service and lobby on behalf of CTPC members for improved services. In particular, the Hospital, CCC and ECC are now offering free park and ride tickets to their staff in order to reduce congestion, improve air quality and relieve car parking pressures.

8.25 CTPC is now made up of 18 full members and 60 associate members.

8.26 A total of 140 Residential Travel Information Packs have been provided to new residents of residential developments in Colchester in 2022/23 as detailed below:

Table 10: Residential Travel Information Packs Issued 2022/23

Developer	Number of packs provided	Development name
Bloor Homes	100	Gosbecks Farm
Bellway Homes	40	Aspen Walk

Air Quality Indicator 1	Number of AQMAs	Section 2 Policy ENV5
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8.27 Colchester City Council has three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

AQMAs are declared when there is an exceedance or likely exceedance of an air quality objective. The areas are shown in the below table taken from 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR).

8.28 These air pollution hotspots have been declared due to emissions from road traffic causing exceedances of Nitrogen Dioxide concentrations at relevant exposure.

8.29 During 2022 work continued on a new Air Quality Action Plan as the current one expired in 2021. This is being produced in partnership with Essex County Council.

8.30 During 2022 Essex County Council installed nine new air quality sensors within the AQMA's with Defra funding, this is in addition to Colchester City Council's diffusion tubes and continuous monitoring station in Brook Street.

8.31 To reduce air pollution a number of projects are in place. In early 2022 the Council successfully secured a 4th Defra bid and were awarded a further £188k in funding to deliver a new eCargo Bike City Centre to support sustainable travel into the city centre by providing smart lockers for bikes and parking in car parks outside the AQMA to improve air quality.

8.32 Phase 2 of the CAREless Pollution campaign continued throughout 2022/23 working with residents, schools and businesses. The campaign was evaluated in 2023 through on street and school gate surveys. High level results indicated that 34% - 44% of people spoken to were switching off their engine either 'always' or 'most of the time' and a further 31-34% had on/off technology.

8.33 The roadside signage trial in Brook St and at East Gates that started in early 2021 (Air quality management area 1) finished in September 2022. Four messages based on psychological theory asking drivers to switch off their engines were tested. Data was collected from 150,705 vehicles over the course of the study. Evaluation showed a peak average engine switch off rate of 26%, an increase of 11% from the baseline. The most effective sign was the Health Threat alleviation message 'Exhaust fumes build-up in your car while you wait. Switch off your engine. Protect your health'.

8.34 In 2022, Colchester City Council measured one marginal exceedance of the Air Quality Objectives at relevant exposure. This exceedance is located at site CBC3 Mersea Road within the existing Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) 1 Central Corridors

AQMA Name	Date of Declaration	Pollutants and Air Quality Objectives	One Line Description	Is air quality in the AQMA influenced by roads controlled by Highways England?	Level of Exceedance: Declaration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Level of Exceedance: Current Year ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Number of Years Compliant with Air Quality Objective
Area 1 - Central Corridors	Declared May 2001 Amended February 2013 Amended June 2018	NO ₂ Annual Mean	High Street, Head Street, North Hill, Queen Street, St Botolph's Street, St Botolph's Circus, Osborne Street, Magdalen Street, Military Road, Mersea Road, Brook Street, East Street and St Johns Street	NO	65.9	40.3	Not Compliant
Area 1 - Central Corridors	Declared May 2001 Amended February 2013 Amended June 2018	NO ₂ 1 Hour Mean	High Street, Head Street, North Hill, Queen Street, St Botolph's Street, St Botolph's Circus, Osborne Street, Magdalen Street, Military Road, Mersea Road, Brook Street, East Street and St Johns Street	NO	Annual Mean > 60($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	No Exceedance	8
Area 2 - East Street and the adjoining lower end of Ipswich Road	Amended June 2018	NO ₂ Annual Mean	East Street and Ipswich Road	NO	45.2	No Exceedance	3
Area 4 - Lucy Lane North, Stanway	Declared January 2012, Amended February 2013	NO ₂ Annual Mean	Lucy Lane North, Stanway	YES	55.3	No Exceedance	3

Figure 6 - Air Quality in 2022 taken from the 2023 Annual Status Report

Infrastructure Indicator 1	Key Infrastructure projects delivered	Section 1 & 2 Policies SP6 & SG7
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8.35 Local Planning Authorities are required to publish an Infrastructure Funding Statement to provide a better understanding of how developer contributions have been or are planned to be used to deliver infrastructure.

8.36 Developer contributions in Colchester are secured through Section 106 planning obligations and unilateral agreements secured as part of the planning application process.

8.37 The Infrastructure Funding Statement covers the same period as the AMR (i.e., 1 April to 31 March) and is also published annually.

8.38 The Infrastructure Funding Statement can be found on the [Council's website](#).

9. Key Theme: Environment and Heritage

Overview

- 9.1 The natural environment of Colchester has been shaped by both physical process and land management over time. These processes have created the high quality landscapes and diverse habitats and biodiversity/geodiversity found throughout the City. These include internationally significant areas of coastal and intertidal habitats, mudflats and salt marsh and shell banks, which constitute some of the features of interest within the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- 9.2 New development has the potential to fragment or lead to the loss of habitat. The Council seeks to conserve and enhance Colchester's natural environment, countryside and coastline as well as preserving its archaeological and built heritage through the protection and enhancement of sites of international, national, regional and local importance.
- 9.3 The Council continues to direct development away from land at risk from all types of flooding and will also seek to ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flooding either on or off site through the increased use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Strengthened biodiversity duty

- 9.4 Section 102 of the Environment Act introduces a strengthened duty under s40 of Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 for Councils to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Public authorities must periodically consider what actions they can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity and then take that action.
- 9.5 Local Authorities must publish biodiversity reports, which contain:
- A summary of the action the authority has taken over the reporting period and plans for actions over the subsequent period.
 - A summary of the action taken by the authority in carrying out its functions under the biodiversity net gain obligation.
 - Information about any biodiversity gains resulting from biodiversity gain plans approved by the authority.
 - A summary of the authority's plans for carrying out those functions over the subsequent reporting period.
- 9.6 The first Biodiversity Report must be published no longer than three years after the day the strengthened duty comes into force (January 2023, so January 2026 at the latest). Subsequent reports must be published no longer than 5 years after the previous.
- 9.7 Below, the Council sets out its first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity.

- The Council will continue to engage with Essex County Council as the Responsible Authority for the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) as part of our role as Supporting Authority.
- The Council adopted a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in June 2023. This SPD sets out the principles the Council expects to ensure that development proposals create space for nature. The SPD includes advice on protected species as a check of what information is likely to be required, with links to guidance and Natural England's standing advice. It explains the mitigation hierarchy and includes creating space for nature design principles. These are principles the Council expects applicants to incorporate into their proposals to enhance biodiversity. Advice for householder applications on measures householders can incorporate into their proposals to enhance biodiversity is also included.
- As part of the Local Plan Review, the existing green network and waterways in Colchester has been mapped. Key stakeholders and residents are going to be given the opportunity to comments on these baseline maps, as well as being able to propose new green spaces and suggest ways that these could be improved.
- The Local Plan Review Call for sites will include a green call for sites – green spaces and habitat banks for offsite biodiversity net gain.
- Officers have worked with other Essex Planners and Essex County Council to draft a template Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document.
- Numerous training sessions have been arranged for Planners, Sustainability Officers and Members regarding biodiversity net gain.
- Maintaining Site Management plans for each of our country parks and nature reserves that the Council manages, ensuring these continue to support biodiversity and public access to green spaces.
- The Council is exploring the opportunity to put forward habitat improvements occurring on its own green spaces for offsite biodiversity net gain. The Council intends to work with Essex County Council on this, as they have already developed some outline plans for delivering offsite biodiversity net gain on two of their owned sites.
- The Council has introduced a 'greening policy' which has involve phasing out the use of glyphosate on its owned green spaces, trialling other alternatives including hand weeding and other non-glyphosate weedkillers.
- Areas of green space are being trialled for rewilding approaches where they are mown less times throughout the year; reducing from monthly cuts to cut once a year in September. The Council has worked with town and parish councils, who are also leading on this work on their managed green spaces.

- Increase public awareness about the natural environment by involving them in tree planting events, encouraging residents to become ‘tree guardians’ to look after trees in their area by watering them and replacing stakes. ‘No mow’ signage has also been installed on our ‘nature recovery sites’ explaining how we are managing the sites for biodiversity improvements. The Council also run a yearly tree and shrub giveaway for residents, community groups and parish councils to support greening of their gardens and community green spaces.
- Working with local charities and schools to increase awareness of protection of the natural environment. For example, working with a special needs charity and a school to provide opportunities for tree planting on Council owned land, as well as conducting park maintenance tasks.

Environment Indicator 1	Number of planning applications approved contrary to Environment Agency	Section 2 Policy ENV1
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9.8 No applications were granted contrary to Environment Agency advice during the monitoring period.

Environment Indicator 2	Number of major schemes incorporating water management schemes (Sustainable Urban Drainage – SUDs).	Section 2 Policy DM23 and DM24
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9.9 All major planning applications received and determined during the monitoring period included Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) Schemes.

Environment Indicator 3	Number and area of sites/habitats within Colchester	Section 2 Policy ENV1
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9.10 In this monitoring period Colchester has:

- 73 Ancient Woodland Sites covering 577.97 hectares.
- 10 Local Nature Sites covering 262.10 acres and
- 175 Local Wildlife Sites covering 2061.3 hectares.

9.11 There have been no changes to the number of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) Local Wildlife Sites (LoWs) or Ancient Woodlands during the monitoring period.

Environment Indicator 4	Amount of development in designated areas (SSSI, AONB)	Section 2 Policy ENV1
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9.12 Policy ENV1 seeks to protect Colchester’s biodiversity within designated sites. During this monitoring period, 48 applications have been approved in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a further 61 applications within other designated sites (SSSIs (2), SAC (1), SPA (1), SINC (52), RAMSAR (1) sites.

Environment Indicator 5	Record number of visitors to habitat sites	Section 2 Policy ENV1
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9.13 Visitor numbers to habitat sites are not monitored annually, however it is recognised there is a need for this which will be explored through the Essex Coast RAMS.

Environment Indicator 6	Delivery of public open space, green infrastructure and streetscape improvements	Section 2 Policy DM17, DM18 and DM19
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9.14 The Council have taken on an additional area of 157,595.58m² of open space during the monitoring year 2022/23. This includes 87.16 m² at East Bay Mill, 2,587.11m² at Maximus Drive and 154,944.29 m² at Iron Latch Lane. All three areas have been legally formalised.

9.15 As of October 2022, across the borough 2.2% of land is used for outdoor recreation, and a further 8.0% of land is residential gardens. Of the total land within Colchester Borough, 10.7% of all land is developed, 89.1% of land is undeveloped and 0.2% is vacant.⁴

Environment Indicator 7	Recorded loss of listed buildings	Section 2 Policy DM16
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9.16 In the 2022/23 monitoring period, no Listed Buildings (Grade I & II) were lost due to demolition, development or dereliction.

9.17 No Scheduled Monuments were lost as part of development proposals in the monitoring period.

9.18 In February 2023 Local Plan Committee resolved that a six-week public consultation shall be carried out concerning the designated Colchester Conservation Area No 4: North Station and Environs.

9.19 The consultation exercise seeks the public's views on the following:

- The revised Character Appraisal and Management Proposals.
- A proposed minor extension to the boundary of the Conservation Area.
- The introduction of two Article 4 Directions (one Direction for dwelling houses and a separate Direction for commercial properties).

9.20 The consultation commenced on Friday 17 November 2023 and will close on Tuesday 2 January 2024. Further details can be found on the [Council's website](#).

⁴ Land Use Statistics England 2022 – Live Table P400a – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Table 11: Colchester Heritage Assets

Heritage Asset	2022/23	Comment
Grade I, II and II* Listed Buildings (National Heritage List for England)	1,560	<p>No change to the overall number during the monitoring period. One asset removed and one asset added.</p> <p>Outside of this monitoring period On 26 October 2022, Barrow Hill House, West Mersea became a Grade II Listed Building. List Entry number:1482436.</p> <p>On 8 March 2022, Quaker Meeting House was removed from the List.</p>
Scheduled Monuments (National Heritage List for England)	49	No Schedule Monuments added in this monitoring period.
Number of heritage assets on the National Heritage at Risk Register	9	<p>No changes during the monitoring period.</p> <p>Place of Worship Church of St Peter</p> <p>Conservation Area Birch</p> <p>Archaeological Sites Tudor blockhouse at East Mersea Roman villa South of Warren's Farm at Great Tey Remains of St Mary the Virgin's Church</p> <p>Buildings/Structures Municipal Water Tower (Jumbo) Former Church of Holy Trinity Ruins of Church of St Mary (North of Birch Hall Barn South of Marks Tey Hall</p>
Number of assets on Colchester's City's Local List	780	No changes during the monitoring period.
Number of Conservation Areas	24	No changes to the number of conservation areas during this monitoring.

Environment Indicator 9	Essex Coast RAMS mitigation contributions received	Section 1 Policy SP2 Section 2 Policy ENV1
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9.21 12 Essex LPAs have been working together, for several years, on a mitigation strategy to protect the internationally designated Essex Coast from the effects of increased recreational disturbance as a result of population growth throughout Essex.

9.22 The Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) sets out the necessary measures to avoid and mitigate the effects from increased recreational disturbance. The RAMS sets a per dwelling tariff, which is index linked with a base date of 2019 (£122.30 in 2019/20). For the year 2022/23, the tariff was £137.71 per dwelling. The tariff will be reviewed periodically and published accordingly. This tariff will apply to all residential proposals, even proposals for one dwelling. This is because the whole of the city is within the Zone of Influence and the RAMS seeks to avoid and mitigate the in-combination effects from all new dwellings.

9.23 In September 2019, the project become part of the 'Bird Aware' brand and launched a website: [Bird Aware Essex Coast](#). The Bird Aware brand was developed by a mitigation partnership on the south coast (Bird Aware Solent) to communicate the importance of the birds and their habitats that breed and winter at the coast. Joining the Bird Aware brand and launching the website is an early avoidance measure and will help to spread the message of the importance of the Essex coast and the need to protect the birds in a positive way.

9.24 Chelmsford City Council (CCC) became the Accountable Body for the project on 1 November 2020. As the Accountable Body, CCC hold all contributions from the 12 LPA partners, employ the project Delivery Officer and the Rangers. The Delivery Officer manages and co-ordinates the project. The Delivery Officer started in November 2021, and this launched the project into the delivery and implementation stage. 2022/23 was year 1 of the project. The Priorities for year 1 were to recruit the two Coastal Rangers and set up; to support the monitoring of nesting birds for the spring / summer; start collecting baseline year data on disturbance and recreational activities; audit existing recreational clubs and groups and start engaging coastal users and providing educational materials; developing first year campaigns and raising the profile of Bird Aware Essex Coast; and the starting of creating additional resource through volunteer recruitment.

9.25 The Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) Chief Officer's group are the Project Board, with the role of governing and overseeing the project. The Essex Coastal Forum form part of the governance arrangements and provide a high-level

elected member oversight into the project. A steering group of Officers is responsible for managing the project.

9.26 In 2022/23, the Council transferred £49,854 of RAMS contributions to Chelmsford City Council.

10. Key Theme: Climate Change

Overview

- 10.1 Colchester City Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, committing the organisation to become carbon neutral in all its operations by 2030. The Council worked with the Carbon Trust to measure the emissions from its operations, and those of related organisations, such as its wholly owned companies Colchester Borough Homes and Colchester Commercial Holdings Limited. In January 2020, the Council published its first Climate Emergency Action Plan, with updates to this made in June 2021, and the most recent update in January 2023, this is available to view on the [Council's website](#).
- 10.2 Several key actions have been achieved since the climate emergency declaration. For example, the Council's main office Rowan House received £528,250 of Government funding to help with reducing emissions from the building by replacing ageing gas boilers with air source heat pumps, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR) system, roof insulation and LED lighting, with the building reopening in July 2023. The Council has also started its transition away from diesel vehicles with the introduction of 6 electric vans, 5 electric cars and 4 hybrid cars in early 2022.
- 10.3 In 2022/2023, 125 street trees were planted as part of the Council's Woodland and Biodiversity Project, as well as planting of trees at the Stanway Lakelands Centre in partnership with special educational needs charity Market Field Grows alongside planting 22 Jubilee Oak trees with Town and Parish Councils. The Council has also supported tree planting projects with other organisations, including the planting of a 'tiny forest' working with The Conservation Volunteers at Unity Primary Academy. The Council continues to learn from the changes to maintenance and management of its green spaces where the Council is phasing out its use of glyphosate herbicide and reducing mowing of some of its green spaces in order to 'rewild' them and support enhancement of biodiversity including pollinators. The Council is working to share these approaches and collaborate with other organisations in the community such as Colchester Borough Homes and town and parish councils on this.
- 10.4 The Council has also been a key part of an electric cargo (eCargo) bike revolution in Colchester, as outlined in paragraph 8.9 above. For information regarding a Defra funded project regarding air quality, is outlined in Chapter 8.

**Climate Change
Indicator 1**

Green House Gas Emissions reporting

**Section 2
Policy CC1**

- 10.5 The Council monitors its greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis, with a new 'emissions baseline' set in financial year 2018/19 for which progress on the transition to carbon neutral by 2030 is measured. Due to an error in calculations made in previous financial years, greenhouse gas emission figures have been updated for all financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. Therefore, the emissions baseline for 2018/19 was 6196.26 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). The emissions for financial year 2022/23 are still being finalised but indicate a decrease

in emissions of approximately 10-11% on figures for 2018/19. Projects such as introducing electric vehicles into the fleet and replacing inefficient gas boilers with heat pumps or more modern boilers are helping to reduce emissions, alongside a gradual decarbonisation of the electricity grid.

Climate Change Indicator 2	Local Authority Carbon Management Plan	Section 2 Policy CC1
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- 10.6 The Council has a Climate Emergency Action Plan which is monitored routinely through reports taken to the Council's cross party Environment and Sustainability Panel approximately every 2 months. The aim is for the Action Plan to be updated annually, reviewing and updating existing actions, whilst also adding in new actions where relevant. The Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan, and implemented climate action has also been reviewed and 'scored' in the last 2 years by not for profit co-operative [Climate Emergency UK](#), who have published [Climate Plan Scorecards](#) in January 2022 and October 2023 respectively for all UK local authorities.
- 10.7 The Council had a Carbon Management Plan from 2016-2020 which identified a set list of 'priority' projects, alongside some 'aspirational' projects in order to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions. Many of these projects were completed, including extensive replacement of LED lighting in Leisure World and new efficient boiler installation in Town Hall amongst others. The Council has not had a Carbon Management Plan in place between 2020-2023 but is currently writing a new one for 2023-2030 to outline more projects for increasing the energy efficiency and decarbonisation of key Council buildings such as Leisure World, Town Hall and many of the Council's museum sites. This will be monitored, and updates provided accordingly to bring in new projects as and when they are developed.

Appendix A – Local Plan Policies

Section 1 Local Plan Policies

SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
SP2	Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)
SP3	Spatial Strategy for North Essex
SP4	Meeting Housing Needs
SP5	Providing for Employment
SP6	Infrastructure and Connectivity
SP7	Place Shaping Principles
SP8	Development and Delivery of a New Garden Community in North Essex
SP9	Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community

Section 2 Local Plan Policies

Sustainable Growth	
SG1	Colchester's Spatial Strategy
SG2	Housing Delivery
SG3	Economic Growth Provision
SG4	Local Economic Areas
SG5	Centre Hierarchy
SG6	Town Centre Uses
SG6a	Local Centre's
SG7	Infrastructure Delivery and Impact Mitigation
SG8	Neighbourhood Plan
Environmental Assets	
ENV1	Environment
ENV2	Coastal Areas
ENV3	Green Infrastructure
ENV4	Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ENV5	Pollution and Contaminated Land
Climate Change	
CC1	Climate Change
Place Policies	
PP1	Generic Infrastructure and Mitigation Requirements
TC1	Town Centre Policy and Hierarchy
TC2	Retail Frontages
TC3	Town Centre allocations
TC4	Transport in Colchester Town centre
NC1	North Colchester and Severalls Strategic Economic Areas
NC2	North Station Special Policy Area
NC3	North Colchester
NC4	Transport in North Colchester
SC1	South Colchester Allocations
SC2	Middlewick Ranges
SC3	Transport in South Colchester

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EC1	Knowledge gateway and University of Essex Strategic Economic Area
EC2	East Colchester / Hythe Special Policy Area
EC3	East Colchester
EC4	Transport in East Colchester
WC1	Stanway Strategic Economic Area
WC2	Stanway
WC3	Colchester Zoo
WC4	West Colchester
WC5	Transport in Colchester
SS1	Abberton and Langenhoe
SS2	Boxted
SS3	Chappel and Wakes Colne
SS4	Copford
SS5	Eight Ash Green
SS6	Fordham
SS7	Great Horkesley
SS8	Great Tey
SS9	Langham
SS10	Laver de La Haye
SS11	Marks Tey
SS12a	West Mersea
SS12b	Coast Road West Mersea
SS12c	Mersea Island Caravan Parks
SS13	Rowhedge
SS14	Tiptree
SS15	West Bergholt
SS16	Wivenhoe
OV1	Development in Other Villages
OV2	Countryside
Development Management	
DM1	Health and Wellbeing
DM2	Community Facilities
DM3	Education Provision
DM4	Sports Provision
DM5	Tourism, leisure, Culture and Heritage
DM6	Economic Development in Rural Areas and the Countryside
DM7	Agricultural Development and Diversification
DM8	Affordable Housing
DM9	Development Density
DM10	Housing Diversity
DM11	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
DM12	Housing Standards
DM13	Domestic Development
DM14	Rural Workers Dwellings
DM15	Design and Amenity
DM16	Historic Environment
DM17	Retention of Open Space

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DM18	Provision of Open Space and Recreation Facilities
DM19	Private Amenity Space
DM20	Promoting Sustainable Transport and Changing Travel Behaviour
DM21	Sustainable Access to development
DM22	Parking
DM23	Flood Risk and Water Management
DM24	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
DM25	Renewable Energy, Water Waste and Recycling

Appendix B – Glossary

Affordable Housing – housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:

- **Affordable housing for rent:** meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).
- **Starter homes:** is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household's eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.
- **Discounted market sales housing:** is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.
- **Other affordable routes to home ownership:** is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – The Authority Monitoring Report sets out how well the Council is performing in delivering the objectives of its Local Development Framework. It was previously called the Annual Monitoring Report.

Brownfield (also known as Previously Developed Land (PDL)) – Previously developed land that is unused or may be available for development. It includes both vacant and derelict land and land currently in use with known potential for

redevelopment. It excludes land that was previously developed where the remains have blended into the landscape over time.

Colchester Local Plan - The Colchester Local Plan includes all major planning policy for the District in a single document. This is in two sections with the Section 1 of the Local Plan including policies on strategic cross boundary issues including infrastructure and housing numbers including proposals for a new Garden Community, in partnership with Braintree District Council and Tendring District Council. Section 2 of each Local Plan considers the individual local authority policies and allocations.

Community Facilities – Buildings, which enable a variety of local activity to take place including, but not limited to, the following:

- Schools, Universities and other educational facilities
- Libraries and community centres
- Doctors surgeries, medical centres and hospitals
- Museums and art galleries
- Child care centres
- Sport and recreational facilities
- Youth clubs
- Playgrounds
- Places of worship
- Emergency services

Some community activities can also be provided via privately run facilities (e.g. pubs and village shops).

Evidence Base – The evidence base for Colchester's Local Plan includes all the documents used to inform its policies and allocations, including studies, strategies, and national, regional and local policies. Evidence Base documents can be viewed via the Council's website.

Flood Risk Assessment – An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

Greenfield – Land which has never been built on before or where the remains of any structure or activity have blended into the landscape over time.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) – This is the project plan for a three year period for the production of documents including the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans.

Natura 2000 – The European network of protected sites established under the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive (SPA, SAC).

Neighbourhood Planning - Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. The government introduced this new tier of planning through the Localism Act 2011.

North Essex Authorities (NEAs) – joint authorities working to progress large scale strategic development known as Garden Communities in North Essex. This includes Braintree District Council, Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council.

Planning Contributions – the principle of a developer agreeing to provide additional benefits or safeguards, often for the benefit of the community, usually in the form of related development supplied at the developer's expense.

Previously Developed Land (PDL) – See Brownfield.

Private Open Space – Open spaces usually in private ownership that can fulfil similar functions as public open spaces, but which tend to have significant access restrictions to the members of the public imposed through ownership rights or a requirement to pay to use facilities.

Public Open Space – includes all spaces of public value, usually in public ownership, which are generally accessible to the public and which provide important opportunities for sport, outdoor recreation as well as fulfilling an amenity function.

Public Realm – Public realm relates to all those parts of the built environment where the public has free access. It encompasses all streets, square and other rights of way, whether predominantly in residential, commercial or community/civic uses; open spaces and parks; and the public/private spaces where public access is unrestricted (at least during daylight hours). It includes the interfaces with key internal and private spaces to which the public has normally has free access.

Ramsar Site – An area identified by an international agreement which supports endangered habitats.

Town and Country Planning Regulations ('The Regulations') – The identification of a consultation stage in relation to a Regulation, i.e. Regulation 25, 27, etc. refers to the relevant section of the June 2008 amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. The Regulations cover the various stages in preparing and consulting on Local Plan documents.

Travel Plan – These provide information and incentives for new residential and employment sites to use public transport. Travel Plans typically include the issuing of travel pack to new residents and businesses which may include vouchers for 12 months free or discounted travel on public transport.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – A SSSI is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They include the best examples of the Country's wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – A site of European Community importance designated by the member states, where necessary conservation measures are applied for the maintenance or restoration, at favourable conservation status, of the habitats and/or species for which the site is designated.

Special Protection Area (SPA) – A site designated under the Birds Directive by the member states where appropriate steps are taken to protect the bird species for which the site is designated.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – This document sets out the standards that the Council intend to achieve in relation to involving the community and stakeholders in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of the Local Plan in the determination of significant planning applications.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) – The SHMA is a study carried out every few years to appraise the local housing market area and identify the need and demand for different housing types and tenures within that area.

Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) – The SLAA is a collective term for housing and employment land availability assessments. This is a process carried out as part of Local Plan preparation to identify new sites for housing and employment uses, required by national policy.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – A document produced by the Council to add further detailed guidance and information on a particular subject. An SPD is subject to a formal consultation period and then is used as a material consideration when determining planning applications.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) – A range of techniques for managing the runoff of water from a site. They can reduce the total amount, flow and rate of surface water that runs directly to rivers through storm water systems.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – An appraisal of the economic, social and environmental effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process, so that decisions can be made that accord with sustainable development.

Sustainable Development – Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Appendix C – Local Development Scheme 2022-2026

