



We are Colchester



Colchester
City Council

We Are Colchester Board Meeting

22 August 2024, 1000

Microsoft Teams

Agenda

1. **Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest - Simon Blaxill (5 mins)**
2. **Progress Report & Engagement Update - Simon Thorp (15 mins)**
3. **Project Spotlight: Essex Pedal Power impact evidence – Julian Sanchez (10 mins)**
4. **Issues, Risks & Mitigations - 'You said, we did' - Matt Sterling, Rory Doyle, Ellen Clark-Romain (40 mins)**
5. **Spotlight: City Centre Regeneration Map – Scott Gray-Chick (10 mins)**
6. **Levelling Up Programme update – Matt Sterling (5 mins)**
7. **Decisions and points to note - Simon Blaxill (5 mins)**
8. **Next meeting**



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Welcome, Apologies & Declarations of Interest

Simon Blaxill
Chair



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Progress Report & Engagement Update

Simon Thorp

Programme and Performance Manager

Headlines

3 projects effectively completed

- Balcerne Gate Phase 1
- Digital Skills Hub
- Essex Pedal Power
- Kerbless Street removed from the programme

Good progress continues to be made for

- 5G
- Digital Working Hub/Forum
- Transformed Youth Facilities
- Essex Pedal Power
- St Nicholas Square
- Trinity Square
- Jumbo
- Essex County Hospital



Progress highlights (1)

Town Centre & Gateways

- Jumbo – HLF stage 2 bid to be submitted mid-August
- St Nicholas Square – phase 1 works
- Trinity Church – HLF stage 2 bid preparation
- Trinity Square – progress towards on-site works
- Essex County Hospital – contractors on-site with utilities and planning issues resolved

Transformed Youth Facilities

- Highwoods – works completed.
- Townhouse – works due to start.
- Stanway – works starting August.

Walking and Cycling

- Colne Causeway completed.
- Progress towards ECC highway adoption and permitted development – off road.

Progress highlights (2)

Heart of Greenstead

- Essex Pedal Power bike handout continues
- Viable design campus approach agreed by HoG Board, using existing buildings.
- Liveable neighbourhood works expected to commence end of 2024.

Digital Connectivity

- 5G AR/VR tourism pilot (Castle) scope agreed with CIMS
- Digital Working Hub/Forum steel frame complete, concession negotiations in progress
- Digital Skills Hub (ACL Colchester) site visit by Councillors and We Are Colchester Board members

Delivery plan

Project	2024-25 Q2	2024-25 Q3	2024-25 Q4	2025-26 Q1	2025-26 Q2	2025-26 Q3	2025-26 Q4
St Nicholas Square							
Essex County Hospital							
Trinity Church							
Trinity Square							
Jumbo							
Balkerne 2							
Heart of Greenstead							
Liv Neigh							
Transformed Youth Facilities							
5G							
Digital Working Hub/Forum							
Walking and Cycling							
Engagement							
Monitoring							

Budget overview

Project	£ Spend to March 2024	£ Budget to March 2024	+/- variance	£ Town Deal Total Budget	Contingency at March 2024
Digital Working Hub/Forum	879,672	879,672	0	879,672	£170k
Transformed Youth Facilities	1,290,186	1,290,186	0	1,290,186	N/A
Digital Skills Hub	879,673	879,673	0	879,673	N/A
Town Centre & Gateways	1,265,020	3,511,097	-2,246,077	4,401,097	St Nics - £0 HTS - £44k HTC - 15% ECH - N/A Jumbo/B2 - TBC
Heart of Greenstead	832,005	6,311,790	-5,479,785	6,477,514	TBC
5G	243,664	835,814	-592,150	977,414	10%
Walking & Cycling	400,190	325,933	+74,257	2,883,369	17.5% East Hill only
Programme Management	231,351	231,351	0	411,074	N/A

Risk management

Risks and Issues being actively managed and mitigated:

- Heart of Greenstead (delivery of the proposed multi-use hub)
- Physical Connectivity (ECC East Hill road safety audit and redesign/cost impact, East Bay Mill development comms, Eaglegate, East Hill cellars and public footway)
- Trinity Church (tenancy arrangements)
- Cost pressures - diligent cost management, value engineering and prompt contractual commitment where possible.
- MHCLG delayed payments for Town Centre & Gateways, 5G and Heart of Greenstead – spend to date and risk based.

RAG headlines - Programme

Month	Year	Overall RAG ^①	Cost RAG ^①	Timescales RAG ^①
July	2024	Amber	Amber	Amber

Reasons:

Overall –

- Heart of Greenstead multi use hub. Viable final delivery option required.
- Town Centre & Gateways. Close management of St Nicholas Square phase 2 required.
- Trinity Church tenancy arrangements to be resolved.
- Essex County Hospital programme to be confirmed.
- LCWIP4. Resolution by ECC of road safety audit and East Hill redesign.

Cost -

- Heart of Greenstead final hub costs still to be confirmed.
- LCWIP4 costs are uncertain until RSA and redesign issues have been resolved.
- Town Centre & Gateways cost issues have affected various projects.

Time –

- Heart of Greenstead project is at most risk of time overruns until a final design option for hub is confirmed.

RAG overview – July 2024

Current Project : Town Deal - Digital Connections (Gateway : Development)

Month	Year	Overall RAG ^①	Cost RAG ^①	Timescales RAG ^①
July	2024	Amber	Green	Green

Current Project : Town Deal - Heart of Greenstead (Gateway : Development)

Month	Year	Overall RAG ^①	Cost RAG ^①	Timescales RAG ^①
June	2024	Amber	Red	Amber

Current Project : Town Deal - Physical Connections (Gateway : Development)

Month	Year	Overall RAG ^①	Cost RAG ^①	Timescales RAG ^①
July	2024	Green	Red	Green

Current Project : Town Deal - Town Centre and Gateways (Gateway : Development)

Month	Year	Overall RAG ^①	Cost RAG ^①	Timescales RAG ^①
June	2024	Amber	Red	Amber

Current Project : Town Deal - Transformed Youth Facilities (Gateway : Development)

Month	Year	Overall RAG ^①	Cost RAG ^①	Timescales RAG ^①
July	2024	Green	Green	Amber

Engagement update

Recent

Civic Society Update

Cllr City Centre visit x2

Jumbo and Holy Trinity Church Resident Panel sessions

Visit to Digi Skills Hub

Planning for future engagement in Greenstead

Planned

Town and Parish Clerk Forum 4/9

Cllr updates

Diverse Communities Network



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Project Spotlight: Essex Pedal Power impact evidence

Julian Sanchez

Active Travel Strategy Lead, Essex County Council

SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER

Transforming travel in Essex



Impacts in Colchester

Reduced Car Journeys

At follow-up, average car journeys per week reduced by 50% for bike recipients.



Reduced Inactivity

Inactivity dropped from 42% at baseline to 32% at follow-up for bike recipients



Increased Community Trust

At follow-up, bike recipients reported higher levels of community trust..



Increased Life Satisfaction

At follow-up, bike recipients reported feeling their life being more worthwhile and lower level of anxiety compared to baseline.



Increased Access

At follow-up, bike recipients perceived accessing supermarkets, education and training opportunities, and volunteering and employment opportunities to be easier than non-recipients.



Increased Volunteering

At follow-up, 24% of bike recipients had recently applied for a volunteering opportunity compared to 5% of non-recipients.





Adult cycle training



Children cycle training



RideLondon event



Lead Ride



Bike fixing training

STORIES

Family cycle

Gemma is really excited about riding as she feels it's the best way for her to get fitter and keep active and she signed up her children as well to ride together. She is also trying to convince her husband to apply as well and was really surprised with how fast her application got processed by the team. As she didn't ride a bike since she was a child, she is very excited about the programme.

Employment

†

Jane got her bike at the first giveaway in Colchester and decided to start working as a delivery rider over the weekend, a job she would have never made without her bike. She began started volunteering with the programme and is actively helping the delivery team during bike giveaways.

Mark started a new job 3 weeks ago which is 3 miles away from his home. He has struggled with the time it takes to walk to and from work. So sometimes he has been taking buses - this requires 2x buses in each direction; or he has had to take a taxi at the cost of £10.00 each way.

Receiving an EPP bike will allow him to save between 5-7.5hrs/week journey time and reducing financial burden as well as emotional stress as well as to spend more quality time with his family.

Communit

v

Julia fell off her old bike that got broken and didn't know how to fix it. Moreover, she was not feeling confident anymore on her old bike. However, she is very confident on her EPP bike and do lot of rides around Greenstead. She gave her old bike to the team to fix it so that EPP Colchester can provide it to a woman who wanted to apply but lives outside the boundaries of EPP eligible areas.

LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI) AND HEALTHY SCHOOL STREETS (HSS)

GI

- Working with the Green Infrastructure team at ECC to create quick wins with the community and provide accessible green spaces.
- Going forward with 3 bids: 1) The Miranda Walk Mindful and Wildflower Garden, 2) Pocket Garden and Street Planters, and 3) Longridge Food Forest.
- Impact: to help restore public cohesion and upgrade habitat, providing more seating and public greenspace that is inclusive for all living in Greenstead.

HSS

- Working with Hazelmere Infant and Junior School on making their school street safer.
- Plan to add a raised zebra crossing and speed cushions along Hawthorn Avenue as part of our ATF4 scheme pipeline.
- Impact: to reduce speed of vehicles outside of the school and create opportunities for people to safely cycle or walk for all or part of their journey to school.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – SUPPORTING HEART OF GREENSTEAD



Community Engagement- Greenstead to Clacton

- Organised an event in partnership with the Active Wellbeing Society and the Greater Anglia Community Rail Partnership to take residents in Greenstead to Clacton for a free beach day out.
- To help build strong relations between the community and the Heart of Greenstead Projects.
- Impact: to create relations with the community and build trust so that we can collaborate to make positive changes to Greenstead as well as encouraging people to cycle and walk as their main mode or for part of their journey.



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Issues, Risks & Mitigations – you said, we did

Rory Doyle, Strategic Director (Heart of Greenstead Project Sponsor)

Matt Sterling, Head of Economic Growth

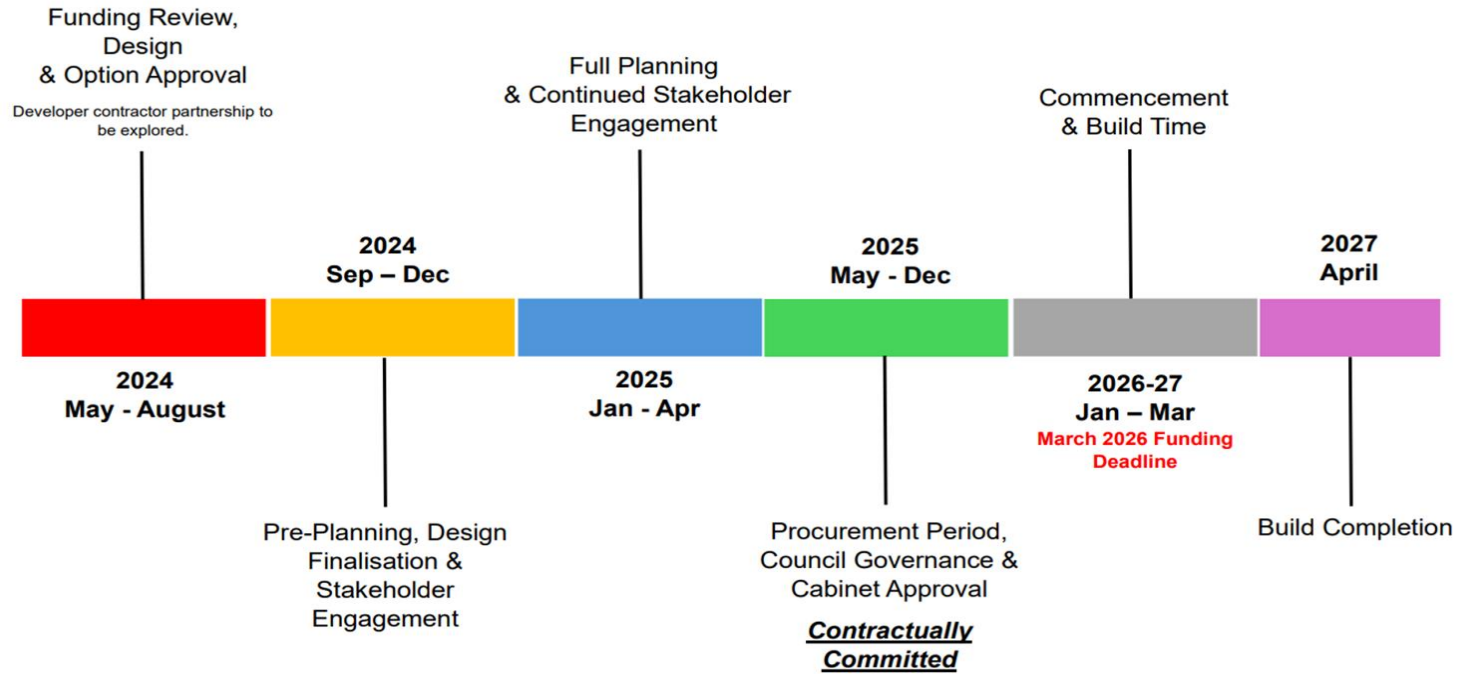
Ellen Clark-Romain, Project Sponsor (Highways), Essex County Council

Heart of Greenstead

Action	Lead	Update
Confirm viable (quality, time, cost) multi-use hub option favoured by Heart of Greenstead stakeholders with current RAG status.	Rory Doyle	<p>HoG Board approved the design approach of refurbishing the current provisions on site (St Edmund House, Library & Community Centre). Current design options in budget.</p> <p>Consultation sessions with stakeholders being organised, conversations with organisations currently using the buildings has begun, positive feedback so far on design options.</p> <p>Project team working with architect and ICB Estates to provide the necessary information for the reallocation of additional ICB Funding.</p> <p>Risk status agreed by board. Amber overall with cost Red.</p>

Heart of Greenstead Phase 1

Heart of Greenstead High Level Timeline



Heart of Greenstead Phase 1 – Design Options

[5983-Greenstead Option B Pack.pdf](#)

Jumbo & Balkerne Gate

Action	Lead	Update
Update on design options and progress towards stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application.	Matt Sterling	The Trust have completed their bid preparation ready to submit. Will be organising briefings for partners shortly.

St Nicholas Square

Action	Lead	Update
Confirm permission to start work on the eastern side and completion by September 2024 (or alternative date with reasons).	Matt Sterling	S278 Notice for East issued. Work continues on site but programme has been delayed by archaeological finds. Currently preparing a contingency plan in case this pushes end into Christmas period.

Transformed Youth Facilities

Action	Lead	Update
<p>Town Deal budget is enabling delivery of 'must have' priorities across 3 youth centres.</p> <p>To discuss potential sponsorship opportunities from Board and others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen consumables such as pots, pans, utensils, chopping boards for x 8 units. Est £5k • Training kitchen smart TV £3k • Office/multi space smart TV £3k • Training kitchen camera/ teaching equipment £3K • Sports equipment for Stanway external basketball hoops £4k • Planters for Townhouse and external courtyard refurbishment £10k 	Rory Doyle	<p>Highwoods Youth Centre – works completed.</p> <p>Stanway Youth Centre – works scheduled during August, with potential post-completion remedials needed (wall cracks).</p> <p>Townhouse Youth Centre – works commencing with gym soundproofing now in scope and contractor costs under review. Non-priority works subject to further investigation (eg. Teaching kitchen equipment sponsorship, living wall funding).</p>

Holy Trinity Church

Action	Lead	Update
Update on HLF stage 1 application and detailed planning/design work prior to a stage 2 application in 2024 to allow works to be completed to bring the building back to public use as a charity-led community hub.	Matt Sterling	Work to prepare stage 2 bid progressing with work underway on the operating business model

Walking and Cycling route

Action	Lead	Update
Resolve road safety audit and redesign issues to enable clarity on delivery and costs. Seek We Are Colchester Board opinion on phased approach.	Matt Sterling	Redesign work being carried out. ECC now believe this will require a change to their start date if a re-procurement exercise is needed.

Programme wide costs

Action	Lead	Update
Update on the last DLUHC monitoring return to provide insight into risk management across the programme, including near proximity risks of a financial nature (to note: further detail provided to Board in advance).	Matt Sterling	Some payments were delayed due to red RAGs being reported in our last monitoring. These payments are expected to be made in the Autumn.



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Spotlight:

Colchester City Centre Regeneration Map

Scott Gray-Chick

City Centre Public Relations & Marketing Manager

Some of our communication objectives

- **Promote individual regeneration projects across the city centre** (press releases at milestones, concept visuals, hoarding, social media, e-news, noticeable change in perception, etc)
- **Establish a clear connection between all city centre projects to ensure understanding of the full scope of investment** (press / influencer engagement, considered language, regeneration map, etc)
- **Promote the city centre as a destination, focusing on private investment, partner projects and creating a sense of confidence** (trade press, events, the BID, local businesses, tourism, hopeful language, etc)
- **Leverage the regeneration of the city centre to foster a sense of pride among residents, visitors, and businesses** (recent articles, new advocates, etc)

Regeneration Map

[Transforming Colchester City Centre · Colchester City Council](#)

Key Stats

Trackable Impressions: 1,967,117

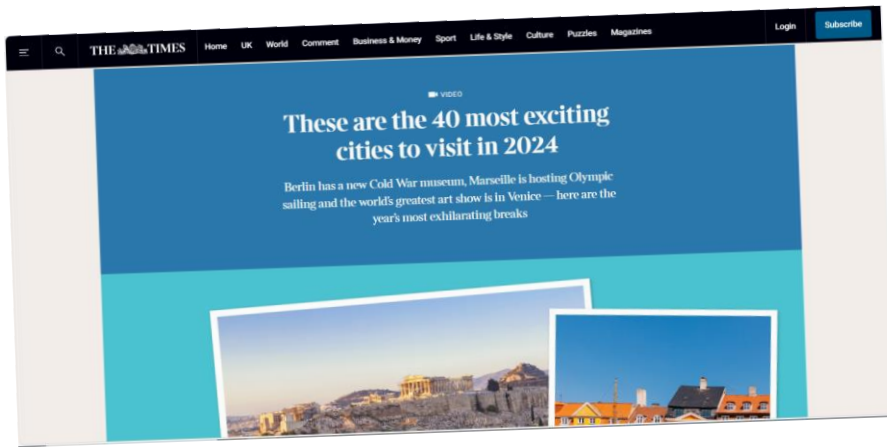
Trackable Engagement: 289,450

Regeneration Map Event Count: 28,200+

St Botolph's Circus video fly-through: 171.3 hours watched

LinkedIn Click-through-rate: 50.36% on LinkedIn (1,666)

Tracked City Centre media article: 330



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Exciting times for Colchester's city centre economic evolution

By Matthew Stead, Head of Economic Growth for Colchester City Council, reveals how Colchester city centre is undergoing a major regeneration project.

As the city centre undergoes a major regeneration project, it's exciting times for Colchester's city centre. The city is undergoing a major regeneration project, and it's exciting times for Colchester's city centre. The city is undergoing a major regeneration project, and it's exciting times for Colchester's city centre.

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Brand update



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Levelling Up Programme update

Matt Sterling

Levelling Up programme

Action	Lead	Update
Update on Levelling Up programme progress (closely linked to Town Deal).	Matt Sterling	



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Decisions & Next Meeting

Simon Blaxill

Decisions

Board are invited to make decisions on the following:

1. Heart of Greenstead – endorse preferred design approach (Greenstead Campus) and continued Amber RAG status.
2. Walking and Cycling route LCWIP4 – confirm opinion on value engineering.

To note:

1. Programme progress and engagement update (including project level cost risks and contingencies).
2. Programme-wide risk management.
3. City Centre Regeneration Map spotlight.
4. Levelling Up Programme update.

Next meeting

28 November 2024

Future meetings

27 February 2025

22 May 2025