



We are Colchester



Colchester
City Council

We Are Colchester Board Meeting

23 February 2023, 1200-1330 - Microsoft Teams

Agenda

1. Chair's introduction including apologies and declarations of interest
- Simon Blaxill
2. Progress report & engagement update - Simon Thorp, Clare Ratcliffe
3. Update - Iain McNab, DLUHC Essex and Hertfordshire Areas Directorate
4. LUF update – Matt Sterling, Matthew Brown
5. Issues, risks & mitigations - 'you said, we did' - Lindsay Barker, Matt Sterling, Rory Doyle
6. Project spotlights - Digital Skills Hub - Amanda Rawlings, Digital Working Hub Queen Street, Matthew Brown
7. Decisions - Simon Blaxill
8. Next meeting



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Chair's Introduction

Simon Blaxill



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Progress Report & Engagement Update

Simon Thorp, Programme Manager
Clare Ratcliffe, Engagement Officer

Progress highlights

Town Centre & Gateways

St Nicholas Square (accelerated project), Works on site slightly delayed but materials ordered, due to **commence March 2023**

Essex County Hospital public realm contractor appointment slight delay to March, due to commence **on site April 2023 (with completion by Spring 2024)**.

Jumbo North Essex Heritage Lottery Fund full application **February 2023**. **Exploration of linking project to Balcerne Gate works ongoing (with no risk to either project)**.

Holy Trinity Church - planning permission granted, **funded urgent repairs being carried out shortly**. Heritage Lottery Fund EOI submitted, full application to follow. This activity de-risks the building for subsequent lease.

Progress highlights

Heart of Greenstead

Essex Pedal Power **launches Spring 2023**

Plans for a Community Health and Wellbeing hub (including relocation of Hawthorn surgery) are progressing well (business case and appointment of architects), on track for delivery by **2026** as intended. Land acquisition options continue to be explored.

Digital Connectivity

Digital Skills Hub works should **complete Spring 2023**.

5G tourism creative use case agreed - **tender for technical products to be issued February**

Digital Working Hub Queen Street: final stages of demolition now underway, archaeology commencing now, **tender for construction phase to be issued February**.

Transformed Youth Facilities

Contractor approach for the renovation of the Townhouse has been agreed, with detailed delivery plan work underway – **completion target Spring 2024**. Upgrade to Stanway and Highwoods Youth Centres is expected to be completed by **Summer 2023**.

Physical Connectivity

Town Centre to Greenstead and University (LCWIP 4) walking and cycling route – public consultation on prioritised route sections completed (High St / East Hill), on track for **completion late 2023**. Responding to feedback by flexing High Street / East Hill investment and exploring additional ATF funding. Full route on track to be **completed by 2026**.

Delivery, Time, Cost RAG headlines

Programme RAG status – **AMBER** (= time & cost for some projects may affect features)

Funding – next payment for 2023/24 (c£8m) expected Spring 2023.

5G, Digital Skills Hub, Essex County Hospital, Transformed Youth Facilities, Walking & Cycling Route, Essex Pedal Power, Liveable Neighbourhood – **ON TRACK**

Spend v budget – **ON TRACK**

Engagement – recent & forthcoming highlights – **ON TRACK**

Digital Working Hub, St Nicholas Square – **COST ISSUES MITIGATED**

Monitoring – DLUHC next return in June 2023 (April/September 2022 reporting period) – **POSITIVE PICTURE (MONITORING CLOSE PROXIMITY RISKS)**

Cost escalation, legal (Highways permissions, land ownership) – **OPEN ISSUES & RISKS**



Engagement update

January

- Jumbo public consultation
- Walking and Cycling public consultation
- Civic Society – meeting: focus on planning
 - Jumbo climb
- Update to One Colchester Strategic Board
- Greenstead stakeholder workshop

February/ March

- Meeting with members of St James' Church - walking & cycling route
- Jumbo Teacher CPD event
- ~~One Colchester City Centre walk~~
- CCC Cllr Jumbo climb
- PP cycle training



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DLUHC Update

Iain McNab, DLUHC Essex & Herts Areas Directorate



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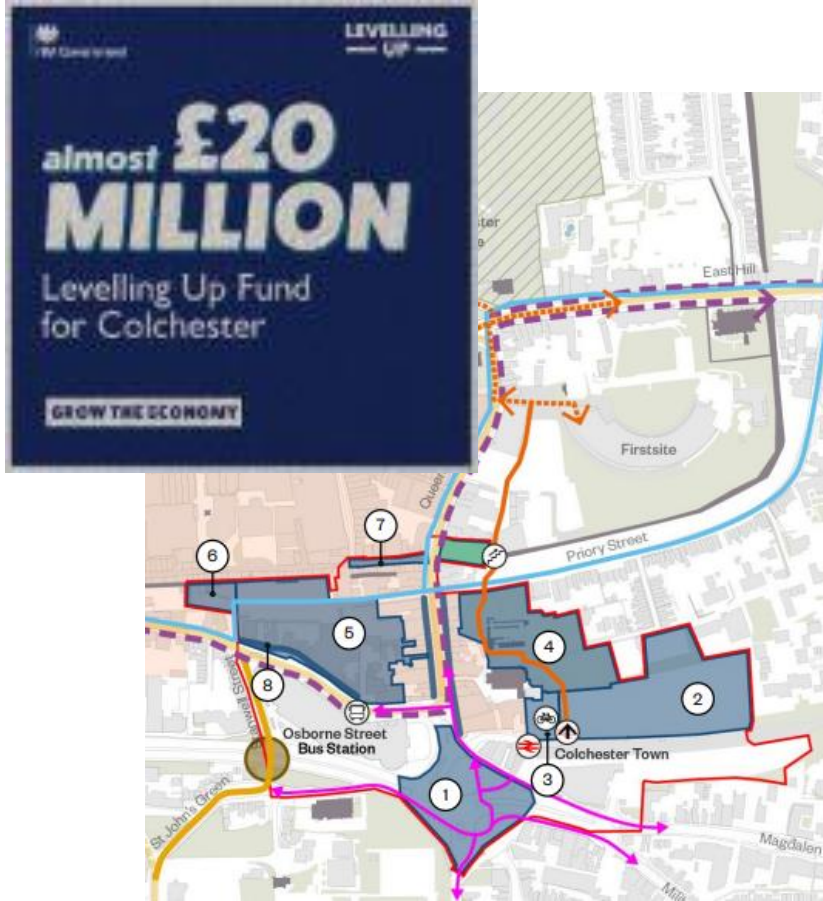
Levelling Up Update

Matt Sterling, Strategic Economic Growth Manager

Matthew Brown, Economic Regeneration Manager



Levelling Up - update



- Funding secured in full (£19.66m) +S106
- Details of our scheme here: [Learn about the Levelling Up Fund - Colchester City Council](#)
- **Mobilisation work underway now**
- Prioritisation with existing commitments.
- Embedding with existing approaches and systems (for Town Deal) where possible.
 - We Are Colchester board: oversight
 - Team Colchester: leadership (aligned with emerging City Centre Masterplan).
- Delivery by 31-03-25
- Will provide regular updates via future board meetings; alongside the Town Deal schemes and projects.

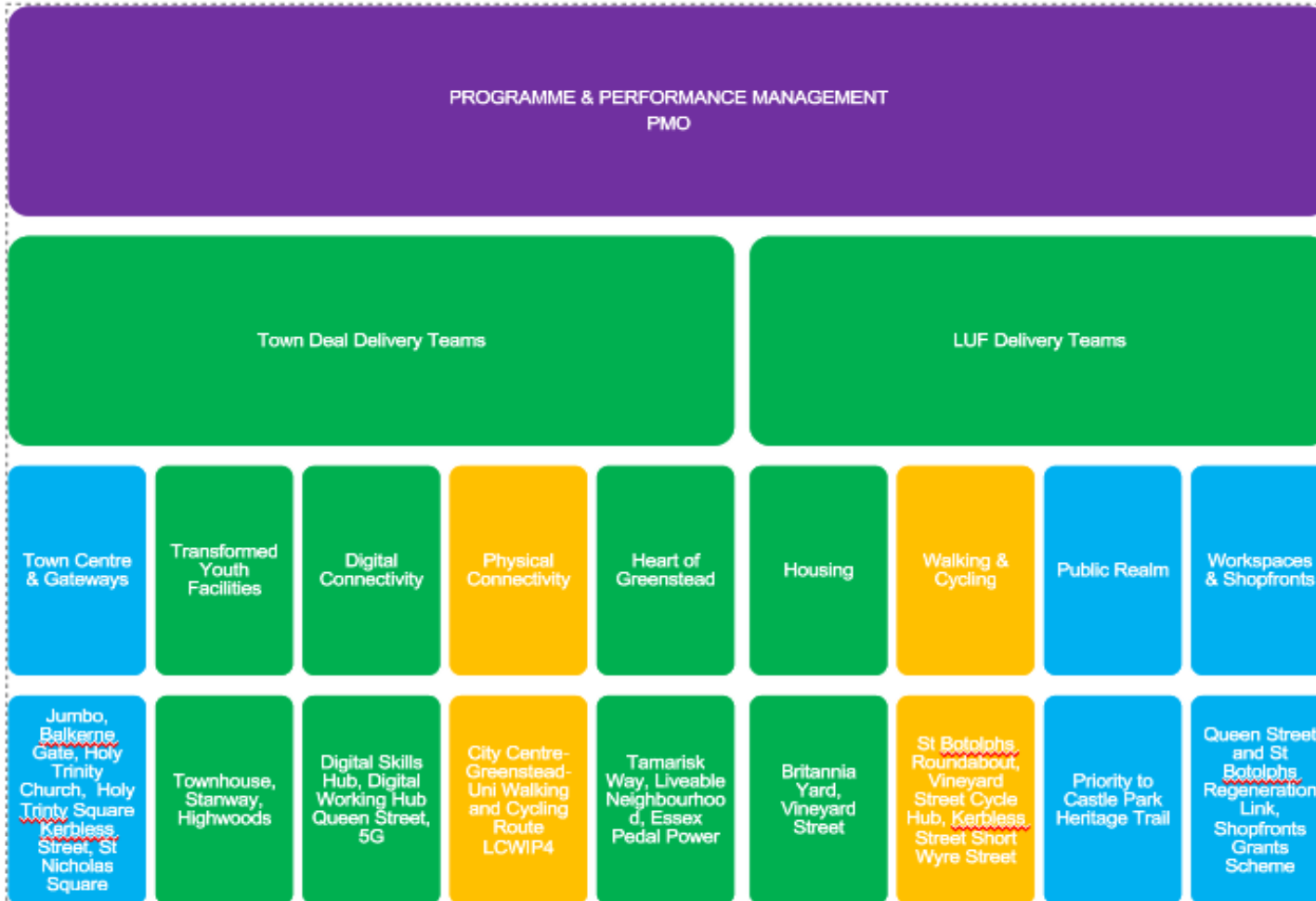


Levelling Up - update





Levelling Up - update



Shared team resources

Shared team resources



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Issues, Risks & Mitigations – you said, we did

Lindsay Barker, Strategic Director Place & Deputy Chief
Executive

Rory Doyle, Strategic Director

Matt Sterling, Strategic Economic Growth Manager

Issues, Risks, Mitigations

You said, we did ...

Town Centre

St Nicholas Square – resolution of issues and commencement of works

Jumbo & Balcerne Gate phase 2 - project synergies

Holy Trinity Church – urgent repairs

Heart of Greenstead – Community Health & Well Being Hub and Land Acquisition

Programme-wide cost monitoring and mitigation

DLUHC Monitoring Returns



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Project Spotlight 1 – Digital Skills Hub

Amanda Rawlings, Commercial Manager, Essex County
Council

Digi Hub ACL Colchester



Project Overview

- To redevelop the current gym building at ACL Colchester to create a digital skills hub and community space.
- The facility will support training, development, provide digital access and provide space for community activities.
- The project will, where possible use sustainable materials and energy sources.
- This dedicated and supportive space in the heart of the community, will enable skills development, create new opportunities, reduce barriers to education and jobs and improve both self and digital confidence.



ENTRANCE

Red sign in the entrance window, partially legible as "Red sign" or similar.

Current layout

The space is currently split into three zones:

- IT Suite. Includes one disabled toilet and a small office
- Main Hall Area. Includes one large storage cupboard and access to the kitchen
- Reception area. Includes, male, female and disabled toilets, storage cupboard and the kitchen



Planned Works

- Create one high spec IT suite
- Refurbish the main hall into one large space with partitioning to create two spaces if required
- Additional storage built in with fully accessible access and egress
- All toilets to be refitted and refurbished
- High-end reception/café/chill out area
- A-rated energy systems including ground source heat pump and solar panels
- New garden areas and EV charging points

Progress to date

- Work started 6th Feb
- Planning a soft launch over the summer
- Big launch for start of the 2023/24 Academic Year
- Comms plan and engagement activity now starting



THINK SAFETY

⚠ DANGER
Operatives at work
This notice is to be displayed
at all times during the work.
No access for anyone
other than operatives.

⚠ CAUTION CUTTING
OPERATIONS IN
PROGRESS

⚠ CAUTION
WET PAINT



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EXIT



✓ SITE SAFETY
All visitors and drivers must report to site office
Children must not play on this site

 Safety helmets must be worn in this area	 No admittance to unauthorized personnel
 Protective footwear must be worn	 No smoking
 High visibility clothing must be worn	 Observe to speed limit
 Eye, hand & ear protection must be worn where appropriate	 Patients are advised to report a list of the dangers of smoking & secondhand smoke

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Questions?





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Project Spotlight 2 – Digital Working Hub Queen Street

Matthew Brown, Economic Regeneration Manager

Project spotlight: Digital Working Hub

Significant recent progress on site.

Going.....



Going.....



Gone!



23 February 2023

Archaeology commenced on site 13th February 2023.





Archaeological visits being arranged: invitations to be sent.
Provisionally on March 9th (3:30pm), 10th (3pm), 13th (3pm), 24th (time tbc).





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Decisions & Next Meeting

Simon Blaxill, Chair



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Decisions

23 February 2023

Next meeting

Thursday 25 May 2023 – 1200 – MS Teams or In Person (to be confirmed)

Future meetings

Thursday 17 August 2023 – 1000

Thursday 16 November 2023 – 1000

February 2024 – to be confirmed

May 2024 – to be confirmed

August 2024 – to be confirmed

23 February 2023