

Other performance news

- Awards and accreditations

The highlights are summarised here and also shown on www.colchester.gov.uk as [council-wide](#) and [service-level](#) achievements.

Achieved April 2021 to March 2022 – full-year report	
Essex Family-Friendly Employers Charter	CBC was one of the first employers to sign up and was awarded Charter status from 1 March 2022. The Charter is a set of minimum principles that employers in Essex should meet to be deemed family-friendly. Not all employers can offer flexible working. However, family-friendly policies are about more than being able to work from home. The Charter was launched in March 2022 and sets out how employers can help parents and carers manage their work and caring commitments. We're one of 12 employers to sign up from the beginning. March 2022
Pathfinder councils - modernising planning software	CBC was selected as one of eight councils to lead a pathfinder project to explore ways to enhance digital planning services. The £150,000 project, funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), will see the Council work with its existing software provider to improve its development management software, so that it supports the vision set out in the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper . January 2022
Society for Museum Archaeology (SMA) Awards 2021	Colchester Castle won the Engagement and Collaboration Award for its 'Decoding The Roman Dead' exhibition. This exhibition showcased the research that Colchester Museums conducted with archaeologists and specialists from the University of Reading to decode the hidden stories of Colchester's earliest inhabitants and unlock clues about Colchester's Roman past. Find out more in this Dead Interesting: Uncovering Roman Britain in Old Museum Collections website. December 2021
Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards	CBC's Bethany Jones won the RTPI's East of England Young Planner award. This summary highlights the impressive breadth of reasons for this success, which range from her professional experience across Minerals and Waste, Development and Flood Risk, and Planning Policy through to heavy involvement in Local Plan preparation/examination; and also from sharing her insight and knowledge and inspiring other planners through her blogs and 'Plan Pals' series through to innovative ways to engage with the public during the pandemic. November 2021
Green Flag Awards	Castle Park, High Woods Country Park and Colchester's Cemetery and Crematorium have received Green Flag Awards. Green Flags set a benchmark of standards for management and maintenance of publicly accessible urban and countryside parks, and they promote the community value of green spaces. As well as receiving its nineteenth Green Flag award, Castle Park has also once again been awarded Green Heritage Site status, which recognises its work to promote its historic surroundings. October 2021

British Parking Awards (BPA) 2021	<p>The North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) won three national awards for organisations that have made a significant contribution to improving parking. The NEPP was also shortlisted in the Communications category for its dedicated coronavirus webpage to keep residents informed, three videos including showing the benefits of using contactless MiPermit payments and work on social media highlighting the Positive Parking Agenda (PPA) and Selfish Parker campaigns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Positive responses to the pandemic award category recognises and honours the exceptional work that parking teams have done to support the NHS, local authority clients and communities across the UK manage, mitigate and fight the coronavirus pandemic. Along with the dedicated coronavirus webpage, NEPP extended support to NHS staff members by offering a free parking permit. Single yellow line restrictions were eased to allow for increased homeworking and less commuters during the lockdown stages of the pandemic. Residents were also offered a three-month extension to their residents parking permits. • The 'Parking as a service award' for creating a positive experience for motorists, recognising work done to create easy-to-understand, non-confrontational and person-centric services. NEPP supported the Positive Parking Agenda which focuses changing perceptions and misconceptions towards parking, as well as the 'Don't be a Selfish Parker' campaign. In addition, recognition is given to the 3PR and Park Safe Schools projects which aim to tackle dangerous and illegal parking around schools. • The MiPermit Inspiration award for making a significant contribution to improving parking was awarded to Richard Walker as an exemplar of excellent practice that has inspired colleagues, clients and the wider parking community. September 2021
Park Mark awards and Park Mark Plus - British Parking Association (BPA)	<p>All 20 CBC-owned car parks across Colchester borough have retained national Park Mark awards for their safety, accessibility and quality management for the thirteenth consecutive year.</p> <p>Last year, CBC's Priory Street Car Park was only the second car park in the country to receive Park Mark Plus status, and it has retained this elite award in 2021. The award recognises only the highest-quality car parks, and assesses a range of criteria, including services, operations, design and build. To qualify for the award, car parks must already have the BPA's Park Mark award and meet the Disability Parking Accreditation criteria. September 2021</p>
Association for Public Excellence (APSE) Annual Service Awards 2021	<p>More than 320 submissions were submitted to award organisers with Colchester Borough Council being shortlisted in two categories - Best Service Team of the Year, and Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative.</p> <p>CBC's Waste Management and Recycling Service was shortlisted in the Team of the Year category in recognition of the efforts to provide an outstanding service throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and the team's continual improvement to develop a sustainable service for the future.</p>

	The 'Together We Grow Communities' project was shortlisted in the Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative category in recognition of the partnership work with not-for-profit social enterprise Together We Grow CIC . The partnership has worked together planting trees in communities as part of the Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project. August 2021
LGC Awards 2021	CBC was shortlisted in the Economic Support category of the LGC Awards 2021. LGC editor Nick Golding said: <i>“The past year of Covid response has stretched councils and their staff to the limit, and yet still local government has innovated and provided the leadership places have so desperately needed during the pandemic. The LGC Awards are about recognising the most exceptional local government talent – and in this year, of all years, we can really say that those shortlisted have put in a truly heroic performance.”</i> July 2021
Museums + Heritage awards	Community Impact Award - Colchester and Ipswich Museums (CIMS) won this category for their Museum From Home activity packs for children, launched during the pandemic. The judges said: <i>“With long-standing, personal relationships and an approach which ensured access to digital wasn’t a barrier, the winner’s quick-thinking made a real difference to hard-to-reach communities”</i> . Covid special recognition award – Colchester Museums Manager Pippa Pickles was in a national shortlist of six from hundreds of nominations for this award. It recognises Pippa’s contribution to the pandemic by not only opening Colchester Castle safely following the first lockdown, but for all her hard work in leading Colchester Borough Council’s team in supporting the NHS vaccination programme – more here . July 2021
Disability Confident	As a Disability Confident Committed Employer we have committed to ensure our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible; communicate and promote vacancies; offer an interview to disabled people; anticipate and provide reasonable adjustments as required; support any existing employee who acquires a disability or long-term health condition, enabling them to stay in work. Re-accredited for a further three years to 2024. June 2021
LEXCEL	Legal Services have been re-accredited following the Lexcel standard’s annual inspection, for the 21st consecutive year. Lexcel is the Law Society’s legal practice quality mark for excellence in legal practice management and excellence in client care. June 2021
Park Active - British Parking Association (supported by Department for Transport)	Colchester was proud to be the first Park Active scheme in the UK , which supports the environment and encourages active travel to build healthier communities. The scheme allows people to leave their car at a Park Active location and then walk or cycle for the rest of their journey. In Colchester, motorists pay a discounted parking rate for doing so. April 2021

As a strategic funding partner, CBC congratulated [Firstsite on winning Museum of the Year](#) in September 2021. This [Art Fund](#) award is the world’s largest museum prize and is a celebration of the country’s finest museums and galleries.

Other sources of performance data

Statistics and data – the way we collate and publish a range of council statistics, performance indicators, datasets and information has been updated this year. Pulling all this together (including information previously on the Datashare section of our website) will help us to maintain open and accessible information for customers, businesses, and other interested parties.

The new [Council Data](https://colchester.gov.uk/council-data) section at colchester.gov.uk/council-data is designed so that people can easily find out information we hold, our obligations on open data and transparency, as well as how to make a freedom of information request.

Categories include spending, business rates, democracy, housing, land, parking, planning and licensing, recycling and waste.

Annual reports – the Council produces annual reports on its performance in various areas. These are brought into one place on the Council's website [here](#) for ease of reference, and to make it easier for the public to find which annual reports are available.

[Single Data List](#) -this is a list of all the datasets that local government must submit to central government. The list is reviewed and updated annually. Local authorities are not obliged to provide any data which is not on the list without extra funding.