

Cabinet Meeting

**Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, High Street,
Colchester, CO1 1PJ
Wednesday, 08 June 2022 at 18:00**

The Cabinet deals with the implementation of all Council services, putting into effect the policies agreed by Full Council and making recommendations to Full Council on policy issues and the budget.

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda (the list of items to be discussed at a meeting), which is usually published five working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar.aspx>.

Most meetings take place in public. This only changes when certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual are considered. At this point you will be told whether there are any issues to be discussed in private, if so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

Have Your Say!

The Council welcomes contributions and representations from members of the public at most public meetings. If you would like to speak at a meeting and need to find out more, please refer to the Have Your Say! arrangements here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/HaveYourSay.aspx>.

Audio Recording, Mobile phones and other devices

The Council streams public meetings for live broadcast over the internet and the recordings are available to listen to afterwards on the Council's YouTube channel. Audio recording, photography and filming of meetings by members of the public is also welcomed. Phones, tablets, laptops, cameras and other devices can be used at all meetings of the Council so long as this doesn't cause a disturbance. It is not permitted to use voice or camera flash functions and devices must be set to silent. Councillors can use devices to receive messages, to access meeting papers and information via the internet. Looking at or posting on social media by Committee members is at the discretion of the Chairman / Mayor who may choose to require all devices to be switched off at any time.

Access

There is wheelchair access to the Town Hall from St Runwald Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms.

Facilities

Toilets with lift access, if required, are on each floor of the Town Hall. A water dispenser is available on the first floor.

Evacuation Procedures

Evacuate the building using the nearest available exit. Make your way to the assembly area in the car park in St Runwald Street behind the Town Hall. Do not re-enter the building until the Town Hall staff advise you that it is safe to do so.

Colchester Borough Council

telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number you wish to call

e-mail: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk

www.colchester.gov.uk

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cabinet
Wednesday, 08 June 2022 at 18:00

Leader and Chair	Councillor King (Liberal Democrats) Councillor Cory (Liberal Democrats) Councillor Cox (Labour) Councillor Fox (Labour) Councillor Goss (Liberal Democrats) Councillor Luxford Vaughan (Liberal Democrats) Councillor Nissen (Green) Councillor J. Young (Labour)
------------------	--

AGENDA
THE LIST OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
(Part A - open to the public)

1 Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman will welcome members of the public and Councillors to the meeting and remind those participating to mute their microphones when not talking. The Chairman will invite all Councillors and Officers participating in the meeting to introduce themselves.

2 Urgent Items

The Chairman will announce if there is any item not on the published agenda which will be considered because it is urgent and will explain the reason for the urgency.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the agenda about which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the item or participating in any vote upon the item, or any other pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Councillors will be invited to confirm that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022 are a correct record.

09-03-22

9 - 26

5 Have Your Say!

The Chair will invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition on any item included on the agenda or any other matter relating to the terms of reference on the meeting. Please indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

6 Decisions Reviewed by the Scrutiny Panel

The Councillors will consider the outcome of a review of a decision by the Scrutiny Panel under the call-in procedure. At the time of the publication of this agenda, there were none.

7 Strategy

7(i) Cabinet Vision and Priorities for 2022/23 27 - 30

Cabinet will consider a report setting out the Cabinet's vision for the 2022/23 municipal year and beyond.

7(ii) Levelling Up Fund 31 - 40

Cabinet will consider a report providing an update on Colchester's forthcoming 'Levelling Up Fund Round 2' bid to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

7(iii) Appointments to External Organisations and Council Groups 41 - 76

Cabinet will consider a report proposing appointments to a number of external organisations and Council groups and also provides a number of reports about the work undertaken by appointees to external organisations and Council groups in 2021-22.

8 Housing and Communities

8(i) Land Acquisition for Development as Part of the Council's New Housebuilding Programme 77 - 84

Cabinet will consider a report recommending that the Council adds another method of delivery into its housebuilding programme to diversify supply options, and pursues an opportunity to acquire land to deliver more affordable homes as part of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funded Programme.

9 Environment and Sustainability

9(i) River Strategy 85 - 88

Cabinet will consider the recommendations made by the Policy Panel at its meeting on 2 March 2022.

- 9(ii) **Community Engagement and Climate Emergency** 89 - 92
Cabinet will consider the recommendation made by the Environment and Sustainability Panel at its meeting on 22 March 2022.
- 10 **Neighbourhood Services and Waste**
- 10(i) **Corporate Key Performance Targets 2022-23** 93 - 94
Cabinet will consider the recommendation made by the Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 22 February 2022.
- 11 **Resources**
- 11(i) **Sale of Plot 600, The Crescent, Colchester** 95 - 98
Cabinet will consider a report seeking approval for the disposal of Plot 600, The Crescent, a 3.1 acre site located within Colchester Business Park. It requests that delegated authority is granted to the Strategic Director of Policy and Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources to approve the final terms, conclude the legal documentation and complete the sale.
- 12 **Exclusion of the Public (Cabinet)**
In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Part B
(not open to the public including the press)

- 13 **Housing and Communities - Part B**
- 13(i) **Land Acquisition for Development as Part of the Council's New Housebuilding Programme - Part B**

Cabinet will consider a not for publication report containing further information in support of the report from the Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, in Part A of the agenda.

14 Resources - Part B

14(i) Sale of Plot 600, The Crescent, Colchester - Part B

Cabinet will consider a report containing not for publication information in support of the report by the Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, in part A of the agenda.

<p style="text-align: center;">CABINET 9 March 2022</p>

Present: - Councillor Dundas (Chair)
Councillors Crow, Ellis, Laws, Lissimore and B. Oxford

Also in attendance: Councillors Fox*, Goss*, Harris*,
King, Tate and J. Young*.

*Attended remotely

638. One Minutes Silence

Cabinet observed a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Cope and to mark the situation in Ukraine.

639. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

640. Urgent Item – Recommendation from the Policy Panel on Covid 19 Commemorations

The Chair announced that he had agreed to consider the following recommendations made by the Policy Panel at its meeting on 2 March 2022 in respect of the Covid 19 Commemorations as an urgent item. The urgency arose from the need to consider the recommendations before the next meeting of the Cabinet which was not until 8 June 2022.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that: -

- (a) Cabinet approves the refurbishment of the Anglican chapel at Colchester Cemetery, including work to make this a site of commemoration for the Covid-19 pandemic.*
- (b) Cabinet considers how residents can be consulted via the Council's website, to seek views on local commemorative sites.*
- (c) Cabinet makes available matched funding for spending from members' locality budgets on commemorations relating to Covid-19.*

Cabinet indicated that whilst it was content to accept recommendations (a) and (b) there were budgetary implications in respect of recommendation (c). The administration had made available Woodland and Diversity Fund and locality budgets which members could

use to help fund Covid 19 commemorations as they saw fit. In view of the current budgetary implications recommendation (c) could not be accepted.

RESOLVED that recommendations (a) and (b) in respect of Covid 19 commemorations from the Policy Panel at its meeting on 2 March 2022 be agreed.

Councillor Laws, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Business and Heritage, also highlighted the disparaging comments made on social media about members of the Conservative Group and explained that he had written to the Leader of the relevant party asking them to distance themselves from the comments.

Councillor Crow (as a relative of the speaker Chris Piggott) declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

641. Have Your Say!

Chris Piggott addressed the Cabinet pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1) to welcome the recent investment to modernise and improve town centre car parks, which would help Colchester keep up with the competitive marketplace and compete with online shopping. Information was sought as to whether the Council would continue with this investment and also increase the number of EV charging points in Colchester.

Councillor Crow responded and explained that the recent investment had transformed St Marys car park, and the administration would be looking to improve other multi storey car parks. Improving car parks had been a priority for the administration. Three EV charging points had been opened in Priory Street and more were planned.

Sir Bob Russell addressed the Cabinet pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). As a founding member of the Liberal Democrat Group in Colchester, he expressed his concern about the personal comments made on social media about members of the Conservative Group and hoped the Leadership of the Group would distance themselves from the comments. Whilst the removal of the cycle lane on Headgate was welcomed, concerns were expressed about a number of other traffic schemes proposed by Essex County Council. He had written to all Councillors proposing that an Extraordinary Council meeting be called to discuss these issues but he had only received 4 responses. The long gap between Council meetings was not good for local democracy.

Councillor Lissimore, Portfolio Holder for Resources, stated that she was pleased to see the removal of the cycle lane on Headgate and believed that it should have been removed earlier. There was some confusion on the status of some of the traffic schemes in Colchester, including the North Station Road scheme. Funding was not currently available so they were not going ahead at this time, but the schemes were being kept open in case future funding became available.

Nick Chilvers addressed the Cabinet pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1) about flooding in Haven Road. Whilst it was accepted that the Council was not the responsible authority, what efforts had the senior leadership of the

Council made to encourage Essex County Council and Anglia Water to deal with the issue and what progress was being made. If this problem was occurring on the other side of Colchester, more priority would be given to resolving it. Residents and businesses needed better communication on the issue.

Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, and Councillor Crow, Portfolio for Environment and Sustainability, responded and explained they had met Essex County Council on site. The Council had indicated it would contribute towards a solution, but no workable solution had yet been proposed, although Essex Fire Service were experimenting with a pump. The Council had agreed to fund the maintenance of the tide flap valve.

Councillor Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, indicated that the Council could look at communication on the issue, possibly through a dedicated page on the website.

Councillor Fox attended and with the consent of the Chair addressed the Cabinet. He welcomed the Leader's comments in respect of Councillor Cope, who would be greatly missed, and the Ukraine. He hoped families who were seeking to bring relatives in were being offered the necessary support. In respect of the Council Tax rebate being offered to help address the cost of living crisis, how many people would benefit from this, would those eligible receive it in April, what was being done to help those who did not pay by direct debit and had there been requests for help from those not in properties in bands A-D. Would the Portfolio Holder for Communities be supporting the recommendations on the Town Deal, in view of the comments by her ward colleague?

Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that the Council was well positioned to help residents in respect of issues arising from the Ukraine crisis. Councillor Lissimore, Portfolio Holder for Resources, indicated that a written response would be sent setting out the figures requested. Residents were encouraged to pay by direct debit, which made payments and the paying of rebates quick, safe and secure. The Council was still awaiting guidance from government on how to pay the rebate to those who did not pay by direct debit.

Councillor B. Oxford, Portfolio Holder for Communities, indicated that she would be supporting the Town Deal recommendations. She thanked Pam Donnelly and Essex Youth Services for helping provide clarity on the issue. The Highwoods Youth Centre would be renamed as the Highwoods Resource Centre, which was more appropriate and reflect its role in providing resources to young people. The Town Deal funding would help lever in further funding allowing the Resource Centre to help a wider range of residents.

Councillor Harris attended remotely and with the consent of the Chair addressed the Cabinet to ask what could be done to further engage with those who did not actively recycle, how LED lighting was used across the Council's estate and how would the Council's licensing objectives be strengthened in the light of the recent action the Council had had to take against two licensed premises.

Councillor Crow, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, indicated that the failure of some residents to participate in recycling was very frustrating. The Council had run several communication campaigns, and enforced the three bag limit on black bags. He would discuss what could be done further with officers. Councillor Ellis, Portfolio

Holder for Housing and Planning, explained that a written response would be sent in respect of LED lighting, but the Housing Revenue Account was used to pursue energy efficiency across the Council's housing stock. Councillor Laws, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Business and Heritage, indicated that the Council continued to build on its relationship with partners, particularly the police, in respect of licensing to build a better culture in and around licensed premises.

Councillor Goss attended remotely and with the consent of the Chair addressed the Cabinet and indicated his support for the Leader's comments on the Ukraine crisis and thanked Councillors for the support and sympathy shown over the death of Councillor Cope, who served his community in an exemplary fashion since 1994. In respect of the Grounds Maintenance contract, this needed to be brought in house at the earliest opportunity and it was hoped it could be done sooner than set out in the report before Cabinet.

Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, and Councillor B. Oxford, Portfolio Holder for Communities, explained that it was essential to ensure that when the service went in house it was able to provide an excellent service. This had been discussed in detail at the Policy Panel and their recommendation that the existing contract be renewed for a period of three years would be given serious consideration. Three years would provide an adequate breathing space to prepare to bring the service in house and address issues such as creating a new depot. It would also allow engagement with communities to find out their needs and how they could help maintain their local environment.

642. Colchester Town Deal

The Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member together with the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 15 February 2022.

Councillor Laws, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Business and Heritage, introduced the report to highlight the £20 million of direct funding the Town Deal would provide, which would be used to fund several flagship developments and improvements to infrastructure.. This would provide leverage to attract considerable further investment

Councillor J. Young attended remotely and with the consent of the Chair addressed the Cabinet. In respect of the Heart of Greenstead project, it had proved difficult to engage with the community, and community engagement had been identified as a red risk. The Project Board should consider the resources allocated for engagement and consider how this could be improved.

Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, indicated he would look further at the issue. The Heart of Greenstead project would only succeed if the community felt part of it. He expressed his thanks to the wide range of officers and partners who had been involved in securing the Town Deal investment. With a number of partners involved a number of compromises had been inevitable. Improvements to Balmerne Gate had already been completed and work on St Nicholas Square would start in April. Cabinet members highlighted the wide range of projects that would benefit from the

funding including investment in skills and infrastructure, investment in Youth Services , as well as addressing some longstanding issues around the fabric of the town centre such as Holy Trinity Church and Jumbo..

Cabinet considered the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 22 February 2022. It noted the recommendation in respect of community engagement and felt that this reflected the Communities Can approach which informed much of the Council's work. It was important communities were able to engage in whatever way was appropriate for each particular project. Cabinet indicated it was content to accept the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Colchester Borough Council's ongoing commitment to the Town Deal Programme in the role of Accountable Body be confirmed.
- (b) The findings of the Section 151 Officer's Internal Assurance process for the Town Deal Business Cases be noted.
- (c) The Town Deal Business Cases and the Summary Documents be approved.
- (d) As Accountable Body, the Summary Document being submitted to Government on behalf of the independent We Are Colchester Board be approved.
- (e) The recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 15 February 2022 be accepted.

REASONS

The completion of Business Cases and the submission to Government of Summary Documents is required to allow the funding awarded to Colchester from the Government's Towns' Fund to be accessed. This funding will enable We Are Colchester's c£19m programme to move into delivery. This programme will boost Colchester's opportunities to realise its economic development, place-making, inward investment, and regeneration ambitions now and on a long-term basis, through delivery of a specific programme of coherent, targeted interventions.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options have been presented to Cabinet. Town Deal is recognised as a once in a generation opportunity for Colchester, and there are few other current or anticipated sources of funding and investment of comparable size and scope. Some of the interventions included in the Town Investment Plan see Town Deal as the funder of last resort as they are unlikely to attract suitable investment from other sources; and cannot be funded within the Council's resources, particularly in the light of the current financial situation arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

643. Cultural Strategy

The Assistant Director, Communities, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor J. Young attended remotely and with the consent of the Chair addressed the Cabinet. She was delighted to see the Cultural Strategy come forward. She had supported this when she had portfolio responsibility for culture and paid tribute to officers and Counterculture for their work. She asked the Portfolio Holder to confirm what his priorities for culture were going forward and whether he would commit to take the ideas in the Strategy forward.

Councillor Laws, Portfolio Holder for Economy Business and Heritage, stated that he was proud to live in a borough where culture was inclusive and accessible. The flagship arts organisations in Colchester understood the importance of reaching out to those areas for which there was comparatively low footfall and understood the importance of community work in securing access to culture. Counterculture were one of the country's most reputable consultancies in the field. It was a ten year Strategy and was based on engagement both within and outside the cultural sector. Over 4000 people worked in the cultural sector in the borough and he considered that the future success of the town centre was largely based on its cultural offer. The development of the Strategy had been an opportunity to self-evaluate and it had demonstrated an upward trajectory. It also demonstrated that Colchester punched above its weight in cultural terms.

Tome Wilcox, Counterculture, and Steve Mannix, Executive Director of the Mercury Theatre, presented the Cultural Strategy to Cabinet highlighting the feedback received from stakeholders and the key themes underpinning the Strategy:-

- Collaboration and Cultural Identity;
- Access and Relevance
- Talent Development
- Growth and Resilience

In response to questions from Councillor Laws, it was highlighted that there were further opportunities for collaboration in the cultural sector such as shared training and shared digital infrastructure. This could avoid duplication of effort and drive costs down. Colchester had a number of international quality assets as part of its cultural sector. In the national context, this was remarkable for a borough of its size. It was important to retain the assets it had but to look to build on them further. The importance of links into education were particularly highlighted.

Councillor Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, and Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, highlighted that the major arts organisations had presented to the Scrutiny Panel recently. It had been fascinating and uplifting to see the breadth of their work and their commitment to community engagement.

RESOLVED that the Cultural Strategy be endorsed.

REASONS

The cultural offer is an integral part of what makes the Borough of Colchester a great place to live, visit, work and study, and the wider sector is a key driver of the local

economy. Through providing and enabling opportunities for residents to engage with culture and to come together be creative, the sector has a positive impact on health, wellbeing, and community cohesion across the Borough of Colchester. The new Strategy recognises all the above and will provide the context to support further development and investment.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to Cabinet.

644. Additional New Homes Bonus Allocations 2022-23

The Chief Operating Officer submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Lissimore, Portfolio Holder for Resources, introduced the report and explained that the New Homes Bonus allocations provided an opportunity for the administration to put its stamp on the municipal year and provide investment into its priorities. For example the investment in Lexden Lake would address a longstanding issue and improve an asset that was used by residents from across the borough.

Councillor Laws , Portfolio Holder for Economy, Business and Heritage, highlighted the investment in mosaics, which ws being used to uncover a Roman mosaic at Lion Walk. Further discussions with partners were underway to see how this could be displayed. The Council had further mosaics in storage which could also be displayed. Funding was also being provided for site surveys of Gosbecks with a long term aim of providing a visitor centre on the site.

Councillor Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, highlighted the investment in planning enforcement work, which he believed was the bedrock of a strong development control service. The investment in Local Design Codes was needed because of the National Planning Policy Framework being refocused on design. Local design codes would prevent identikit homogeneous homes and lead to housing with high design principles that reflected local distinctiveness and identity. The investment in Masterplanning the town centre was also highlighted.

Councillor Crow, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, drew attention to the investment in stocks for recycling, which would help ensure there were sufficient resources for residents and thereby ensure recycling rates remained high. The continued investment in the Woodland and Diversity project would help the Council meet its Climate Emergency objectives and help increase biodiversity.

RESOLVED that the New Homes Bonus Allocations set out in Appendix A of the Chief Operating Officer's report be approved.

REASONS

To utilise New Homes Bonus in full for 2022-23 and take forward the Council's Strategic Plan.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Not to allocate the unallocated £254k New Homes Bonus in 2022-23.

645. Council Company Business Plans 2022-26

The Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member together with minute 297 from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting of 18 January 2022.

Councillor Tate, Chair of Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd (CCHL) and Paul Smith, Managing Director, CCHL, made a presentation to Cabinet demonstrating CCHL's forecast for 2020/21 and addressing the questions raised by the Governance and Audit Committee on 18 January 2022. It also provided the forecast net profit for the forthcoming financial years.

Following the presentation, Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, sought reassurance that in view of the likely uplift in corporation tax, that CCHL was doing all it could within tax rules to minimize the amount of money that came back to the Council as profit or dividend to ensure that the process was as efficient as possible in terms of taxation. In addition the need for CCHL to build up its balance sheet had previously been discussed which could also a driver for CCHL to retain funds. He also queried as to whether there was a duplication between CCHL and Colchester Borough Homes in terms of project management services.

Paul Smith explained that CCHL was doing all it good to minimise its tax burden through group relief. However as services were being commercialised and profits generated, they were liable to corporation tax. The work to build a balance needed to be taken forward, but CCHL's prime objective was to support the Council through generating income which needed to be passed back to the Council. It would need to build up its balance sheet in due course through the use of private funding, such as through the Public Funds Loan Board. As the companies grew and some of the potential schemes such as the Heat Network developed, they would generate further funds which would give an opportunity to build the balance sheet, but it would be a long term process.

In terms of duplication, Adrian Pritchard, Chief Executive, explained that Colchester Borough Homes managed the Council's corporate assets whilst CCHL managed its capital projects, but it was accepted that both had project management capability.

Councillor Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, sought confirmation that CCHL had the capacity to deal with the housing development at Northern Gateway and whether CCHL was looking to build relationships with other arm's length bodies to secure further opportunities? Paul Smith confirmed that CCHL did have the capacity with a team of well qualified experts and appointments were being made to the Northern Gateway project team. There were other opportunities and sites with partners that CCHL were looking at.

Councillor Ellis also enquired whether investment could be sought from a local authority pension fund. Adrian Pritchard explained that the government were encouraging pension funds to invest in infrastructure and commercial opportunities and investment from Essex Pension Fund could be worth exploring. The Local Government Association also had a

loan scheme which CCHL was exploring.

Councillor Lissimore, Portfolio Holder for resources, thanked Councillor Tate and officers for the presentation and for the work of CCHL over the past municipal year.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) The progress and achievement of the companies during 2021/22 and the minute of the Governance and Audit Committee on 18 January 2022 be noted.

(b) The Business Plans of the Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd, Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd, Colchester Amphora Energy Ltd and Colchester Amphora housing Ltd for 2022-26 be approved.

REASONS

The Cabinet have received Business Plans that have been recommended to them by the Governance and Audit Committee, who in turn who hold the responsibility to act as the shareholder committee for Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited and the subsidiary companies. It is the Cabinet's role to subsequently agree these Business Plans annually, a decision that has been taken with the information set out in the report and appendices (both public and confidential) that provide satisfactory information regarding the companies' performance to date and, importantly, the forecasted continuation of their business over the coming years.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Not to agree the Business Plans; however, this would leave the companies entering a new financial year without an updated Business Plan since last year, in changing times where the global pandemic of Covid has affected all activities in different ways and would be inconsistent with the recommendations of the shareholder committee.

646. West End Sports Ground, Eudo Road

The Assistant Director, Corporate and Improvement Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Angela Linghorn Baker addressed the Cabinet pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). She had joined the campaign on the site a couple of years ago and spoke to many residents on the issue. Residents did not want housing development but wanted the area retained as green space with sporting provision. The retention of the tennis courts was welcomed. This was not just a local issue as these were the only municipal tennis courts in Colchester. This was an income generating opportunity. It was hoped that this was part of a commitment to look at long term plans for sport in Colchester and that residents would continue to be engaged with.

Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that the proposals involved funding provided by the Lawn Tennis Association, and the administration had needed to move quickly to take advantage of this. A minimum of six courts were needed to secure the funding. There had not been much support for the idea

of housing development on the site or for a medical centre.

A written statement from Luke Hayes was read to the Cabinet pursuant to the provisions of the Remote Meetings Procedure Rules. The consultation could not be taken as an accurate view of those affected as there were so few responses. It was appreciated that the facilities needed to be modernised, but the reasoning behind contracting this out was not understood. The Council had fantastic sporting facilities at Northern Gateway and Leisure World and therefore had the expertise to run such a facility. Moving a public facility into private ownership limited access based on income which would have an effect on the health and well being of those unable to afford an annual membership.

Councillor Dundas responded and explained that the Council had had to move quickly with the consultation. A number of responses had been from sporting clubs and were therefore on behalf of wider number of members. All the existing courts would be retained by the Council. The new facilities would be in addition to the existing courts so this was an improvement on the current situation. No other proposal had come forward for the redevelopment of the site and if a private company was prepared to invest it should be considered seriously. Councillor Laws, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Business and Heritage, highlighted that the previous administration had leased out the upper bowls green in Castle Park to a private contractor.

Councillor King attended and with the consent of the Chair addressed the Cabinet. He welcomed the comments made about Councillor Cope and the Ukraine. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the Cabinet over the past municipal year and the way these had been approached. There was considerable common ground between this administration and he previous one. In terms of Eudo Road he would welcome anything that would bring improvement and investment, and would improve the life of residents. There was a need to balance the level of investment needed to secure improvements and the outcome. The proposals took did take the matter forward but recommendation 2.2 should be revisited and the provision of badly needed medical facilities should be explored. The two approaches were not necessarily incompatible.

Councillor Dundas explained that the NHS had been approached but had not engaged particularly strongly or moved quickly on the issue. They had wanted to do their own survey on the need for medical facilities which would considerably delay matters.

With the consent of the Chair a statement from Councillor McCarthy was read to the Cabinet asking that the issue be depoliticised. It was appreciated that the site could not continue in its current format. The continued provision of sports facilities on the site was supported alongside another avenue for revenue and funding. The response to the consultation had been poor and from experience it was known that there was wider interest in the site. Councillors should work together cross party with open forums for residents. Whilst recommendations 2.1 ad 2.3 were supported, Cabinet should think carefully about 2.2. He supported either the provision of a medical facility and/or further consultation with residents.

With the consent of the Chair a statement from Councillor Barton was read to the Cabinet. It was appreciated that the Council could not continue to subsidise the tennis facility. However, the consultation response was so small it could not be relied upon and should be revisited. The marketing of the middle part of the site was surprising. Would a

restriction preventing the leaseholder retaining other parts of the site for housing development in the future be imposed? Residents were also concerned about car parking and could a guarantee be given that whoever leased the site would retain the car park for users of the tennis courts, and would it remain free? The preferred option remained for a medical centre or dentistry provision, with the resulting proceeds funding the redevelopment of the courts and this should be explored.

Councillor Dundas explained that in terms of car parking, the current provision was considered inadequate and that it was likely that a new car park would be provided on another part of the site. The leaseholder would not be allowed to develop other parts of the site for housing and he did not support house building on the site. It was the only green space left in the area. A long term view needed to be taken. It would put the tennis club on a more secure footing and bring some certainty to residents in the area.

Councillor Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, explained that the previous proposals included a housing development of 130 homes, in order to provide a medical facility. He did not consider that this was a price worth paying.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The West End Sports Ground including the Tennis Centre should remain as a sports facility for the Borough and be further developed as such to maintain and enhance facilities available.
- (b) The area of the site as shown in the plan at Appendix 1 of the Assistant Director's report, excluding the rear grass courts, forward six hard courts, bowls greens and indoor bowls centre, be leased, for a third-party operator to develop, and run as a sports facility with Colchester Borough Council (CBC) retaining the freehold and authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Resources in consultation with the Assistant Director for Corporate and Improvement to take all steps necessary to agree and issue a lease.
- (c) That other sources of external funding and support be sought to enhance the site including from the Lawn Tennis Association.

REASONS

The site provides access for all to hard court tennis facilities, and it is important for wider health and wellbeing benefits for residents that it is retained as a sporting facility.

The LTA in its Tennis Supply Analysis recommended that Eudo Road Tennis Centre should operate a minimum of six floodlit tennis courts and has the potential to operate a sustainable and affordable model for community tennis, both via accessible pay and play and associated programmed/coached tennis activity. This insight continues to support the Council's previous statement in the 2015 PPS Colchester report stating that 'This site is integral to the development of a tennis development plan within the Borough'.

The Tennis Centre relies on financial support from Colchester Borough Council as it operates with a net loss each year. Whilst there have been previous initiatives to reduce costs, these may not have encouraged enough use of the site and the current model of operation is financially unsustainable.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The site could be continued to be operated without any changes by Colchester Borough Council but this would not be financially sustainable for the reasons explained in this report.

There is sufficient land, see Appendix 1 of the Assistant Director's report, to introduce additional or alternative sports to the site to increase usage and therefore revenue. This could be to complement tennis or alternate sporting use altogether and could be considered in a later phase of developing the site as a sports facility.

647. Business Case for Ground Maintenance Contract Delivery Model

The Assistant Director, Environment, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor B. Oxford, Portfolio Holder for Communities, introduced the report and explained that the proposal had been considered in detail at the Policy Panel. It was stressed that the current contractor would remain subject to close monitoring and the standards expected of them had been made clear. This would provide an opportunity to prepare properly to being the service in house, including engaging with communities.

Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, paid tribute to the work of Cllr B. Oxford and the officer team for turning round a difficult situation.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Environment to extend the contract with the existing contractor for 3 years in accordance with the existing terms.
- (b) The recommendations made by the Policy Panel at its meeting on 12 January 2022 referred to in section 3 of the Assistant Director's report be approved.

REASONS

At its meeting of Policy Panel on 12 January 2022, the following recommendations were made: -

- a) The contract with the current contractor, Idverde, be extended on the same terms. There is provision within the current contract for an extension of 3 years (only) if the Council decides up to 72 months from the commencement date. The last date for extension notice is 1 April 2022;
- b) Officers should continue with plans for an in-house service meeting the objectives agreed, for commencement at the end of the contract extension agreed in 2.1 above;
- c) An annual update be provided to the Policy Panel on progress of plans towards bringing the grounds maintenance service in-house, with confidential sections to allow discussion of commercially sensitive matters, where necessary.

The current contract requires formal notification of an extension to be given, if this is agreed, this needs to be given by 1 April 2022 at the latest.

Whilst the Council has a clear ambition for an inhouse model, the decision to extend the current contract, does not preclude the option or ability for the Council to continue to develop the proposal during the extension period via a twin track approach which could provide an opportunity for the planning and strategy to take place ahead of a transition. Regular updates to the Policy Panel will ensure good and robust progress is made.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

In-house model

The business case sets out several significant barriers to overcome that make the transition to an in-house model unachievable by the end of the current contract period. These barriers include the cost to deliver a like for like service, capacity at the Shrub End depot, lack of a community-based approach, lack of innovation to develop a 21st century service, and capacity and resource for a successful transition and delivery of the service. Given the operational and financial risk associated with delivering an inhouse model at the end of the current term, this option is not considered viable at this time.

To retender

It is predicted that the rise in material prices and longer supply times resulting from both Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic could see tender prices increase significantly during the potential retender period, giving rise to operational and financial risks to the Council during the medium term financial forecast period. This option is not therefore, considered viable at this time.

648. Corporate Key Performance Indicators 2022-23

The Assistant Director, Corporate and Improvement Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the Corporate KPI Targets for 2022-2023 be set as proposed in the Assistant Director's report.

REASONS

To ensure there is a robust corporate performance monitoring framework.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

To consider alternative KPI Targets than those proposed in the Assistant Director's report.

649. Request for Delegated Authority for the Award of Housing Revenue Account Contracts 2022-23

The Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning for the award of the contracts for works within the Housing Investment Programme 2022/23, including but not limited to:

- Heating system renewals
- Climate emergency response works
- External wall insulation works
- Wet rooms
- Bathrooms and second WC
- Windows and doors

(b) Authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning for the award of a replacement contract for void work to empty Council Homes that will commence in March 2023 when the existing contract ends.

(c) Authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning for the award of a new contract for the void works specifically resulting from newly purchased properties under the acquisition programme in 2022/3 and 2023/4. This contract will total 90 properties (approval for the purchase of the properties has already been given by Cabinet).

REASONS

The Council owns almost 6,000 affordable Homes within the Housing Revenue Account, benefitting people in need of social housing. The housing stock is managed through an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO), Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) and each year a number of maintenance contracts are managed within an agreed Housing Investment Programme. This keeps these homes in a suitable condition, as part of an ongoing planned approach set from the HRA Asset Management Strategy and 30-year HRA Business Plan.

The contracts that are due to expire over the next year need new contracts to be procured and awarded for the Housing Investment Programme in 2022/23. These are contracts that are likely to require Cabinet approval due to estimated costs (over £500k for the scope of the contracts, over multiple years) and borough-wide span.

The decision to delegate powers to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning to approve the award of these contracts, as they arise, will make those awards smoother and faster if they arise between Cabinet meetings scheduled for the next year, or during the pre-election period. This avoids delays in the delivery of improvements for tenants. A similar decision was taken in 2020 and 2021 and has demonstrated the success and benefit of this approach in past/current contract awards.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Not to delegate the powers requested; but this would then need contracts to be individually reported to Cabinet for each contract award increasing the time and resourcing required, for a procurement process that is already heavily scrutinised and regulated. This would delay the start of contracts, and therefore the improvements to homes for tenants, whilst

waiting for a Cabinet meeting to arise. The time/benefit balance would therefore suggest that delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning would be more effective and efficient use of Council resources, without introducing risks and demonstrated by the previous approval of delegation. The Portfolio Holder decisions would remain available for call-in should individual concerns arise.

650. Award of a Contract for Asbestos Surveying to Social Housing Stock and Corporate Buildings

The Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Environmental Management Services be appointed to conduct the asbestos surveys to the Colchester Borough Council residential, commercial, and corporate properties.
- (b) The Council enter into a contract with the successful contractor for two years with the possibility to extend for up to two years (24 months), at the Council's discretion and subject to performance. The anticipated start date is 1st April 2022.
- (c) Should the preferred supplier withdraw the contractor in second place be appointed, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning.

REASONS

Under the Council's constitution contracts with a value of over £500,000 require Cabinet approval unless otherwise delegated. Although the Housing Revenue Account contract awards have been delegated awards in the General Fund have not.

The award of the contract for asbestos surveying has been subject to an open procurement exercise in line with corporate procurement requirements.

The recommended bidder has provided the best offer based upon the evaluation of their bid price, qualitative submission, and Social Value offer.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Not to appoint a contractor would have a direct impact on the delivery of planned and reactive works to the stock. This would also compromise compliance with legislation which could lead to properties that would result in either, the properties becoming non decent and right to repair or disrepair claim(s) being made by residents not being able to be actioned.

Not to appoint the highest scoring contractor may result in a legal challenge under the Contract Procedure Rules.

651. Award of Contract for Stairlift Equipment

The Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The Council enter into the 'Procurement for Housing' Framework.
- (b) A 4-year contract be awarded to Stannah Lift Services under the Procurement for Housing Framework, effective 1st April 2022 for both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account installations under a combined agreement to provide a consistent service for all residents across the borough.

REASONS

Under the Council's constitution contracts with a value of over £500,000 require Cabinet approval unless otherwise delegated. Although the Housing Revenue Account contract awards have been delegated the DFG's in the general fund have not.

Since 2017, CBC and Colchester Borough Homes have been operating under the Procurement for Housing Framework which is now due for renewal. Stannah have been reliable and responsive to our requirements and the framework contract also allows us to use alternative contractors if Stannah are unable to provide a specific lift as required by the specification.

The Procurement for Housing Framework enables essential stairlift equipment to be provided into a resident's home by only requiring a quote from the single supplier. This supports both Social Care and the NHS budgets by maximising residents' independence and reducing risks that could lead to admissions to hospital through trips or falls, prolonged stays in hospital or the need for care or increasing the cost of care packages.

Stannah Lift Services have demonstrated their ability to deliver a fast service which is an important consideration when carrying out adaptation works. Stannah are well-known and recognised in the supply and installation of stairlifts and offer a 24-hour 365 day a year repair service.

It is therefore prudent to continue with a specialist contractor in place to facilitate the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant projects and adaptations to Council owned properties.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Offer an open tender and award. Engaging in an open tender in normal circumstances allows for wider competition but as stairlift contractors are fairly specialised this may not be the best route. This process can also take considerable time to administer and reach contract award.

Multiple bids/tenders for each individual application. Seeking at least two quotes for each application and awarding to the cheapest. This process is known to take longer and increases the time to process applications.

Other Framework Agreements have been considered although none allow for the use of, third party contractors if the principal contractor cannot meet the requirements of the specific lift, which would then take considerable time to procure, affecting the resident.

Continue to operate with two separate contracts for the general fund and housing revenue account, but this does not offer best value to the Council.

652. Progress of Responses to the Public

The Assistant Director, Corporate and Improvement Services, submitted a progress sheet a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Progress Sheet be noted.

REASONS

The progress sheet was a mechanism by which the Cabinet could ensure that public statements and questions were responded to appropriately and promptly.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

653. Colchester Town Deal

Cabinet noted that the Assistant Director's report considered at minute 642 was supported by several not for publication business cases. Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, indicated that he had read these and that he had very impressed by their professionalism and detail.

The Cabinet resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

654. Council Company Business Plans 2022-26

The Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, submitted appendices to the report considered at minute 644, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member,

RESOLVED that Cabinet noted that the Business Plans 2022-26 for Colchester Commercial

Holdings Ltd and its three subsidiary companies had been approved under minute 645.

REASONS

As set out in minute 645.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

As set out in minute 645.

The Cabinet resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

655. Award of Contract for Asbestos Surveying to Social Housing Stock and Corporate Buildings

The Assistant Director Place and Client Services submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report by the Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, be noted.

REASONS

As set out in minute 650.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

As set out in minute 650.

Report of	Deputy Chief Executive	Author	Dan Gascoyne
Title	Cabinet Vision and Priorities for 2022/23		
Wards affected	All		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the Cabinet's vision for the 2022/23 municipal year and beyond.

2 Recommended Decision

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees to work with our councillors, officers, residents, businesses and partners to help the Council tackle the biggest challenges facing Colchester, from sustainability and climate change to the cost-of-living crisis, homelessness, and inequalities.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees the priorities for the 2022/23 municipal year as set out in Section 4 of this report.

3 Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 To review and confirm the Cabinet's priorities at the beginning of the new Municipal Year will provide greater confidence, direction and clarity for the benefit of residents and businesses, for Council officers and for partner organisations across Colchester and North Essex.
- 3.2 The complexity of the issues facing the borough requires significant analysis, modelling, engagement, review and testing to ensure that the scope, impact and benefits of the Council's actions are fully understood and deliverable. An early signal of priorities supports the ability of the organisation and its partners to begin this work.
- 3.3 This Cabinet will look to build on the strengths within our communities, businesses, and partnerships to tackle the challenges and opportunities facing Colchester together.

4 Background Information

- 4.1 The cost-of-living crisis needs an immediate response, from every level of Government, with partners and at pace. This Cabinet will prioritise support for those faced with terrible choices, between food or warmth or other essential needs, working with communities and through our community partners to build community wealth. This will include working with partners, strengthening the capacity of the Council's high performing welfare support team and leveraging resources to provide

targeted help for those in extreme difficulty, acknowledging rising demand for help and support for the most vulnerable.

- 4.2 City Status is an honour that will boost the economy in Colchester and North Essex. Everyone in Colchester deserves to feel the benefit. This administration will step-up partnership work with local businesses and the County Council to sustain and strengthen the town centre, working with the Business Improvement District and others to respond to the loss of iconic past brands.
- 4.3 In strengthening Colchester's heritage and cultural offer, the Cabinet will work to ensure Colchester remains an attractive destination, in which to invest, to work, live, shop and visit.
- 4.4 This year will bring forward initiatives to improve the quality of life of residents, in consultation with them, with partners and volunteers. From tree planting, increasing biodiversity and other uses of our open spaces, to opening-up Colchester's waterways, the Cabinet will lead a strategic approach to manage existing natural areas and to develop new places in which to enjoy nature and allow its recovery.
- 4.5 The Cabinet will act decisively on measures that help the Council tackle the climate emergency, easing the transition to net zero carbon and bringing forward new approaches to minimise waste, encourage recycling and support positive action that reduces littering and graffiti.
- 4.6 To find creative and effective new ways to bring forward affordable housing, the Cabinet will work with partners to enable essential physical and digital infrastructure and, with others, to tackle long standing challenges such as the flooding in the Hythe.
- 4.7 An ambitious programme of improvement to address these and other transformation and delivery priorities will ensure the Council is able to maintain its essential and award-winning services whilst continuing to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4.8 This year the Cabinet will engage widely with others to co-design a new, ambitious, progressive and longer-term Strategic Plan for the whole Council from April 2023.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 None

6 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 Consideration will be given to equality and diversity issues in respect of any decisions to implement the priorities set out in this report. This will be done in line with agreed policies and procedures including production of Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate.

7 Strategic Plan References

The priorities in this report support all the core themes of the 2020 – 23 Strategic Plan and help set a direction of travel for the preparation of a new Strategic Plan from April 2023 onwards.

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 The delivery of the priorities in this report will be managed within existing budgets during 2022/23. In July, Cabinet will agree a budget strategy for 2023/24, which will enable the Cabinet's medium and longer terms priorities to be delivered.
- 8.2 Early declaration by Cabinet of their most immediate priorities provides clarity to partner organisations to help guide their own funding decisions and support shared strategic objectives for the health, wellbeing and welfare of Colchester residents.
- 8.3 Full consideration will be given to the ongoing revenue implications of any measures needed to deliver these priorities and those considerations will be built into future reports for decisions to be taken by Cabinet.

9 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 As mentioned in this report.

10 Risk Management Implications

- 10.1 The recommendations in this report will help to mitigate the risks facing the Council in delivering its strategic priorities for the borough.

11 Other Standard References

- 11.1 There are no direct Publicity, Human Rights, Community Safety or Health and Safety implications as a result of this report.

8th June 2022

Report of	Assistant Director Place and Client Services	Author	Matthew Brown ☎ 507348
Title	Levelling Up Fund		
Wards affected	Castle, New Town & Christ Church		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Colchester's forthcoming 'Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2' bid to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 1.2 This bid forms part of the Council's work to tackle inequalities. This work needs to be long-term and multi-faceted if it is to significantly improve access to opportunities
- 1.3 At present local inequalities work includes a successful multi-million Towns' Fund bid to boost the borough's economy, create jobs, improve connectivity, develop housing, and improve health outcomes. The health Alliance has invested large sums in work to tackle health inequalities such as with our housing partners to improve the standards in private rented accommodation. And Essex has a Local Delivery Pilot led by Active Essex, to build healthier, more active communities.
- 1.4 An essential element of our levelling up work is led by the third sector which is engaged in a wide range of acuties at grassroots level, often with those worse affected by inequalities, to level up.
- 1.5 The Government's £4.8bn "Levelling Up" Programme comprises several individual strands and funding opportunities for which Colchester is eligible to bid.
- 1.6 The first round of the LUF was launched in March 2021, this initial round being open exclusively to higher priority areas. Only Tendring and Harlow in Essex met these criteria at the time.
- 1.7 More recently, the Government published the Levelling Up White Paper on 2nd February 2022, and then in March 2022 the prospectus for the second round of the Levelling Up Fund. This being open to low and medium priority areas including Colchester. Each MP constituency area may bid for up to £20m, so this report and the associated bid focuses on the constituency of Will Quince MP for Colchester and must evidence his engagement in and support for Colchester's LUF bid.
- 1.8 The criteria for the LUF are broadly similarly to the existing Town Deal programme, with three eligible investment themes: 1) Town Centre and High Street regeneration 2) Local Transport Projects, 3) Cultural and Heritage Assets. Projects must be fully delivered by 31st March 2025, and there must be some spend in 2022-2023.

- 1.9 Given the high financial value but relatively short time window available to prepare the bid submission, officers have focussed on projects which 1) have initial scoping and feasibility work already undertaken, including initial political and stakeholder consultation, 2) align to existing and agreed borough and county council strategic priorities, 3) address long-standing and well evidenced needs including market failures, 4) are felt to be deliverable at pace should the funding be awarded to Colchester, and 5) have match funding already identified.
- 1.10 The Council has also been invited to submit an Investment Plan for an allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which provides revenue funding for levelling up work and for which a separate report to Cabinet will be provided.
- 1.11 This report provides an overview of the LUF bid currently being prepared, which focuses on the St Botolph's or south-eastern corner of Colchester's core Town Centre.

2. Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- a) Endorses the thematic and geographic focus of Colchester's Levelling Up Fund round 2 bid currently in preparation, with reference to the published Levelling Up Fund eligibility criteria.
 - b) Agrees to further work on this bid including engaging the local MP and key stakeholders to confirm their support.
 - c) Agrees to delegate the final approval of the bid submission to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and the Portfolio Holder for Resources in liaison with the Head of Finance, and thereafter its submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on or before 6th July 2022 by officers.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Approval to proceed and submit a bid of up to £20m to LUF round 2 will build upon the strong foundations set by the 'We are Colchester' (Town Deal) programme, potentially attracting further substantial investment into a key part of our core town centre.
- 3.2 The cohesive set of proposed interventions outlined in this report best meet the criteria set out at 1.6 above and will further boost Colchester's opportunities to realise its economic development, place-making, inward investment, and regeneration ambitions, targeting the area of our town centre with the most extensive challenges, but also opportunities.
- 3.3 It should be noted that the criteria from DLUHC for this fund are very specific, and a number of the ambitions of the administration which do not fit within the intervention themes for this funding may do so for future funds. Furthermore, substantial, and eligible match funding of around £2.5m aligned to the St Botolph's highway scheme is already identified and included within this proposed bid.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options have been presented to Cabinet. As with the Town Deal, LUF is recognised as a once in a generation opportunity for Colchester, and there are no other current or anticipated sources of funding and investment of comparable size and scope. Some of the interventions included in the proposed LUF round 2 bid see LUF as the funder of last resort as they are unlikely to attract suitable investment from other sources; and cannot be funded within the Council's resources.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The Government published its Levelling Up White Paper on 2nd February 2022, see [Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom) , then shortly afterwards in March 2022 the prospectus for the second round of the Levelling Up Round 2 was published, see [Levelling Up Fund Round 2: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus)
- 5.2 The Levelling Up Fund can be seen as a linear development from the Town Deal Programme, from which Colchester has now secured £19.2m investment. The Town Investment Plan (TIP) for Colchester, which was submitted to Government on 29th October 2020, covers just the wider urban area of Colchester; population 136,300.
- 5.3 The Town Deal Programme and thus our TIP was required to reflect six specific intervention themes prescribed by DLUHC, these being: 1) Local transport, 2) Digital connectivity, 3) Urban regeneration, planning and land use, 4) Arts, culture, and heritage, 5) Skills infrastructure, 6) Enterprise infrastructure.
- 5.4 The three themes which are now the focus of the LUF at round 2 closely align with three of the six original Town Deal investment priorities: 1) Town Centre and High Street regeneration 2) Local Transport Projects, 3) Cultural and Heritage Assets.

Levelling Up Fund round 2: summary of proposed focus and examples of interventions to be developed (total <£20m grant funding available)



- 5.5 The bid focusses on the southern side of the St Botolph's Regeneration Zone (shaded yellow on map above); an established and long-held ambition for renewal and investment within our Town Centre. It focuses on three key interventions, plus a bundle of smaller interventions which supplement these and round out the bid as a cohesive and compelling proposition to Government. In particular.
- a.) The long-held ambition for a high-quality new highway scheme replacing the current St Botolph's circus with a new junction layout which eases movements for active and sustainable modes in particular.
 - b.) Bringing forward the first phases of the Vineyard Street regeneration scheme, which brings exemplar net-zero and zero-car new housing (including affordable homes) coupled with new public realm which showcases the outstanding heritage assets at this location notably a substantial section of the roman wall.
 - c.) Bringing forward the first phases of the Britannia Yard regeneration scheme, which brings forward further exemplar new housing built to the same principles, and also makes the St Botolph's Priory the centrepiece of attractive new public realm including a heritage-rich walking route from the Town railway station and bus station to the heritage and cultural assets on the eastern side of the town centre.

In addition, several related, smaller interventions are proposed including addressing a long-standing deficit in layover bus and coach parking, improving access to the town railway station, improving the look and feel of St Botolph's Street and Osborne Street, and supplementing several projects from the Town Deal programme: maximising the value from the initial Towns Fund investment.

- 5.6 Together, this suite of interventions, tightly focussed on a single cohesive area enable Colchester to meet the key criteria of the three investment priorities, whilst dramatically enhancing this key gateway to the town centre, tackling many issues including (but not limited to);

- Enhancing active travel opportunities to reach the town centre through overcoming a long-standing severance issue inherent in the current road layout.

- The need to achieve better integration between travel modes; walking and cycling, bus and rail, car; in a cohesive multi-modal travel hub including addressing some short-term challenges faced at the current bus station.
- Reducing levels of antisocial behaviour.
- Enhancing the look and feel of this area, including improving air quality; to boost footfall and vibrancy, and improving the resident and in particular the visitor experience.
- Stimulating and leveraging significant private sector investment through bringing forward two exemplar housing schemes built to the very highest sustainability standards.
- Protecting and showcasing the iconic historic assets in this part of the town centre notably the Roman wall and Augustinian priory – as key destinations in their own right and as part of new, attractive traffic-free walking routes through our town centre.

- 5.7 The council, in partnership with Essex County Council has recently appointed a consortium to develop a new masterplan for the Town Centre. Whilst the timings of this bid require submission before the masterplan will have been completed, opportunities are being taken to link the two, so that the interventions under LUF round 2 are complimentary to and cognisant of the masterplan.
- 5.8 Similarly, this new bid recognises the related and long-held aspiration to make significant improvements to the functionality and capacity of the Town's bus station, vital to improving the bus user and bus operator experience, and to help support the adoption of sustainable travel through optimising the towns key sustainable travel interchange.
- 5.9 The LUF round 2 bid requires evidence of significant engagement of the local community, businesses and the civic sector including the Towns MP. Therefore, the basis of this bid is closely aligned with the Town Investment Plan (TIP) which was prepared and consulted on extensively throughout 2020.
- 5.10 As with the TIP, endorsement for this new bid will be sought from the "We are Colchester" board, established in 2020 for the preparation of our Town Deal programme. This will ensure independent check-and-challenge from key stakeholders including, critically the towns MP.

Rationale to project prioritisation above:

- 5.11 This configuration of project elements delivers the strongest possible cohesive package of impacts/benefits, responds most strongly against all three DLUHC investment priorities, and builds on recent investment secured including identified match funding.
- 5.12 Several of the project elements proposed for inclusion were originally included in our Town Deal bid but removed when our funding award was £18.2m from an initial £25m bid.
- 5.13 The Borough and County councils have been working on the St Botolph's highway scheme over several years and the iteration to be taken forward through this bid has

the support of both councils and all key stakeholders. This package of project elements is felt to be deliverable within the ambitious timescale required.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 Consideration will be given to equality and diversity issues in respect of individual project elements that contribute to the delivery of the Levelling Up Funded programme through the development of the project application.
- 6.2 Colchester Borough Council and its partners will prepare specific Equality Impact Assessments, and the Council will have due regard to its Public Sector Duty continuing to work to tackle discrimination and inequality and help to create a fairer society, improve housing choice and social mobility (including for protected groups).

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 The following Strategic Plan References are relevant to the proposed bid:

Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability:

- Air quality across Colchester is improved.
- Work with partners to implement strategies and develop measures to reduce traffic in the town centre.
- Improve facilities and routes for cyclists and walkers to enable active travel behaviours, healthier lifestyles and reduce car use.
- Ensure major regeneration projects put physical activity, cycling, and walking at the forefront of development.

Delivering homes for people who need them:

- Deliver 380 affordable homes.
- Create great places to live through the provision of new homes with infrastructure and facilities that support sustainable living and promote health and wellbeing.

Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits:

- Ensure our borough becomes stronger post Covid-19 by supporting businesses to recover, adapt and build resilience.
- Work with our partners to enable Colchester town centre to be more vibrant, resilient, and adaptable to future change.
- Work with partners to deliver a shared vision for a vibrant town.
- Continue to regenerate Colchester Town Centre using Council assets, aligned private investment, the Town Deal and Town Investment Plan.

Celebrating our heritage and culture:

- Identify opportunities to improve the cultural offer for residents and visitors
- Promote Colchester's heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support jobs.

- Work with partners and the Town Centre Business Improvement District to improve the public realm for residents and visitors.
- Enhance and promote our heritage by better revealing our assets by supporting projects and initiatives to increase public awareness and access to their heritage in daily life.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The TIP was developed in 2020 and ensured full consultation with each of the Councils at both Member and officer level, and with the “We are Colchester” board, and its advisory group. In parallel, a series of wider consultations took place including a physical assembly, online surveys and focus groups, discussions with businesses, discussion with BID board, and further and higher education representatives.
- 8.2 Key elements proposed in this application including the St Botolph’s Roundabout & Vineyard Gateway schemes were included in our TIP. Summarising the key and consistently clear messages about what residents told us they want through our engagement on town deal, these themes are:
- A **greener Colchester**,
 - A **more attractive public realm**,
 - More activities for **young people**,
 - Better **cycle infrastructure**.
- 8.3 The South-East corner of the town centre is identified within the well-established St Botolph’s regeneration zone and a supplementary planning document covering the town centre. This area was consulted as part of our local plan process with a masterplan and associated consultation and engagement evident and dating back to around 2006.
- 8.4 A new masterplan covering the whole town centre but with a specific focus on this area is currently in development at the time of writing and will be prepared during the summer and autumn of 2022. This work will provide fuller and more in-depth engagement with communities, residents and businesses who will be affected by this scheme.
- 8.5 Essex County Council have already consulted for the highways component of the scheme and have evidence of strong support from local businesses.
- 8.6 We will fully engage with ‘We are Colchester’, our Town Deal board in the preparation of this bid. This includes representation from the local community and community sector organisations, civic society, the private sector, and local businesses. We have also extended our engagement to Colchester’s Business Improvement District who strongly support the proposed investment.
- 8.7 The other key strategies which underpin this development include Colchester Future Transport Strategy (Safer, Greener, Healthier), Colchester Positive Parking Strategy,

and the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan, Colchester Housing Strategy and Colchester Economic Strategy. The scheme also aligns to the Colchester Local Plan and the wider Strategic Plans of both partner local authorities. Each of these strategies has undergone or is currently undergoing extensive community and stakeholder consultation and engagement in their development and adoption.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 None specific to this report. If funded, the projects included in the LUF submission will be managed and governed as an extension to our existing Town Deal programme which is subject to a communications and engagement plan which includes publicity, branding, etc.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 No capacity funding is available from DLUHC as Colchester is a priority 2 place. To date, the costs of developing the bid have been met within existing resources, i.e., officer capacity at risk.
- 10.2 The projects themselves will draw down appropriate and foreseeable development and design costs, professional fees and project management costs only if Colchester is successful in its bid to DLUHC, thus they will not incur any additional and unplanned revenue budget pressures to Colchester Borough Council and partners.
- 10.3 As part of the next stages work of developing the application; full consideration will be given to the ongoing revenue implications of for example the maintenance and management of physical assets created through this programme, notably enhanced public realm, and green infrastructure.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 There are no specific implications but generally the proposal aims to promote positive health and well-being for our residents, and this policy theme features prominently in several the interventions being developed.

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 There are no specific concerns at this stage of the development of the LUF round 2 bid. Risk will be identified and assessed at individual project level and addressed at that stage.

13. Risk Management Implications

- 13.1 No implications are identified at this stage. Risk will be assessed at individual project level and addressed at that stage.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 Environmental and sustainability considerations are considered of paramount importance and are a cross-cutting theme within the Town Investment Plan. As specific projects and interventions within this programme are developed further, each will be considered in relation to the Climate Emergency Action Plan to ensure that the Council's climate change, environmental and sustainability ambitions and policies are actively addressed and promoted throughout the development of specific projects and programmes.

15 Head of Finance Comments

- 15.1 The bid is being prepared under a very tight timetable set by Government, so the final business case is not available for analysis. For good financial governance of the final bid, it is appropriate that **the Portfolio Holder for Resources in liaison with the Head of Finance** is required to grant their approval as set out in recommendation 2c.
- 15.2 To finalise the bid the following financial elements will require preparation and then approval under the recommended delegation:
- That the project and payments to third parties fulfil subsidy and state aid requirements, including the impact of any past subsidies granted to partner organisations, and how information will be provided for State Aid audits
 - A monitoring and evaluation plan including the systems to deliver this
 - An assessment of any ongoing revenue implications for CBC and its partners, and how these will be funded.
 - A formal Head of Finance declaration in support of the bid
- 15.3 If successful, the bid would draw in considerable government funding to Colchester and is to be strongly supported. Much of the requirements are similar to the Town Deal bidding process.
- 15.4 The final bid will need to demonstrate value for money and a satisfactory benefit cost ratio, including any uncertainties inherent in these calculations.
- 15.4 If approved some bid activity would require to be delivered in 2022-23.
- 15.4 The bid will need to be supported by an analysis of the main financial risks and how these will be managed. This will include the management of cost overruns on the project and how these will be shared with any partners.
- 15.4 Any additional revenue or capital requirements for CBC will need to be reflected in the 2023-24 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Forecast and 2023-24 Capital Programme reset. It is not expected any revenue requirements will be at a significant

level. Some provision will probably need to be made for potential cost overruns on the capital project given current procurement and inflationary issues.

Appendices: None.

Background Papers: None.

Report of	Assistant Director – Corporate and Improvement Services	Author	Richard Clifford ☎ 507832
Title	Appointments to External Organisations and Council Groups		
Wards affected	All		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report proposes appointments to a number of external organisations and Council groups and also provides a number of reports about the work undertaken by appointees to external organisations and Council groups in 2021-22.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 The representatives to the various external organisations and Council groups listed in Appendix A be appointed for the 2022-23 municipal year, with such appointments to cease if representatives cease to be members of the Council during the municipal year. (A finalised version of Appendix A will be published in advance of the Cabinet meeting).
- 2.2 To authorise the Leader of the Council to make a determination, where a nomination is deemed to be in dispute, if a vacancy occurs or if an appointment needs to be made to a new organisation during the course of the municipal year.
- 2.3 To appoint Councillor King as the Council's Armed Forces Champion.
- 2.4 To note the reports about the work undertaken by appointees to external organisations in 2021-22, as set out in Appendix B.

3. Reason for Recommended Decisions

- 3.1 It is important for the Council to continue to make formal appointments to certain organisations and council groups such as those with statutory functions, our key strategic and community partners and groups with joint working arrangements.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed. It is proposed to authorise the Leader of the Council to make a determination where a nomination is deemed to be in dispute or if an appointment needs to be made if a vacancy occurs or an appointment needs to be made to a new organisation in the course of the municipal year.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The organisations to which the Council make appointments have been reviewed. In line with the decision taken in February 2022 to withdraw, no appointment is made to the Haven Gateway Partnership. In addition Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee has been added to the list of bodies to which appointments are made.

- 5.2 In accordance with the agreed procedure for making appointments to external organisations and council groups, if any seat or vote allocation remains in dispute by the after the appointments have been made by Cabinet, the Leader of the Council can determine the matter.
- 5.3 The Council appoints an Armed Forces Champion whose role is to promote issues relating to the armed force within the Council and to help liaise with the Garrison. It is proposed to appoint Councillor King as Armed Forces Champion.
- 5.4 A review of the Council's governance arrangements highlighted the need for the work undertaken by the Council's representative on outside bodies and Council groups to be formally reviewed. Therefore, information about the work of the Council's representatives on a number of the external organisations and Council groups in the 2021-22 municipal year is attached at Appendix B.
- 5.5 The work of some of the organisations to which appointments are made are also reviewed and scrutinised through the work of the Council's Committees and Panels. The work of the Council's commercial companies is reported to the Governance and Audit Committee as the Shareholder Committee of the Council. A link to the report considered in January 2022 is below.

[Governance and Audit Committee - review of CCHL Business Plans Jan 2022](#)

The Member Development Group also reports annually to Cabinet and a report on its work will be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Members are entitled to claim travel allowance in respect of attendance at meetings of the external organisations and Council groups to which they have been appointed.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 The particular contribution that each of the external organisations and Council groups makes towards the aims of the Strategic Plan is indicated in in Appendix A.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 Members appointed as representatives will be notified accordingly. Confirmation of appointments will be sent to the relevant external organisation and to officer contacts for the various Council groups.

9. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for Equality and Diversity from these appointments and as such a full EQIA has not been deemed necessary. However, the council and all representatives, both officers and members, will encourage and in some cases insist that our partners have the same approach to equality and diversity as we do and ensure that this is implicit within their policies and procedures.

10. Risk Management Implications

- 10.1 Councillors fulfilling external and partnership appointments need to have regard to the information and advice contained within the 'Guidance for Members on Outside Bodies'.
- 11. Health, Well-being and Community Safety, Environmental and Sustainability and Health and Safety Implications**
- 11.1 No direct implications, however the appointments to outside bodies listed within this report enable the Council to better address issues within these areas.

Appendices

Appendix A – Appointments to External Organisations and Council Groups 2022-23

Appendix B – Reports on Appointments to External Organisations and Council Groups 2021-2022

Appendix A

Organisations / Groups requiring formal appointment				
Organisation	Representatives for 2022/23	Role of the Representative and Voting Capacity	Contact Name and Address	Compliance with the Strategic Plan
Local Government Organisations				
Local Government Association, General Assembly [Local Government Association dealing with all aspects of local government] [Meetings are held in June/July and December at 2pm. The meeting in June/July is held at the annual conference venue and the December meeting in London]	Leader of the Council, Cllr King Substitute member: Cllr Fox Observers: Group leaders: Cllrs Laws, Nissen, B. Oxford	Representative is a member of the general assembly and has a voting right (if more than one member is appointed there remains only one voting right)	Fatima A S de Abreu Member Services Assistant Local Government Association 18 Smith Square Westminster London SW1P 3HZ Direct line: 0207 664 3136 fatima.deabreu@local.gov.uk	Relevant to all strategic priorities

East of England Local Government Association	<p>Leader of the Council, Cllr King</p> <p>Substitute member: Cllr Fox</p>		<p>Policy and Secretariat Manager East of England Local Government Association West Suffolk House West Way Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 3YU</p> <p>01284 758321 07920 257935</p> <p>info@eelga.gov.uk</p>	<p>Relevant to most strategic priorities</p>
Local Government Information Unit The LGIU is an independent research and information organisation.	<p>Leader of the Council, Cllr King</p>		<p>Head of Partnerships Third Floor 251 Pentonville Road London N1 9NG</p> <p>020 7554 2800</p> <p>partnerships@lgiu.org.uk</p>	<p>Relevant to most strategic priorities</p>

<p>Essex Waste Partnership</p> <p>The Essex Waste Partnership includes Essex County Council, the 12 district and borough councils and the unitary authority of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. The Essex Waste Partnership was set up to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management is delivered across the county and Southend. The Essex Waste Partnership Board will be responsible for the development and steerage of all pan Essex waste management partnership working including, but not limited to: strategic planning, financial framework, strategic investment, optimisation and joint working, communication and education.</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Waste Cllr Goss</p> <p>Substitute member: Cllr Nissen</p>		<p>Andrew Seaman Democratic Services Officer Legal and Assurance Corporate and Customer Services</p> <p>Essex County Council County Hall, Chelmsford 03330 322 177 www.essex.gov.uk karina.grimwade@essex.gov.uk</p> <p><u>Officer Contact:</u> Rosa Tanfield Group Manager – Neighbourhood Services rosa.tanfield@colchester.gov.uk</p>	<p>Aligns to strategic objective 'Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability'</p>
--	--	--	---	--

<p>North Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee</p> <p>To develop and implement a joint parking service for North Essex including Braintree, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Tendring and Uttlesford.</p> <p>Joint Parking Committee providing parking services across North Essex, parking management and the power to make new parking restrictions.</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Waste– Cllr Goss</p> <p>Substitute member; Cllr Nissen</p>	<p>To receive reports, participate in discussions and to raise issues of concern to this Council, one executive member able to vote.</p>	<p>Rory Doyle. Assistant Director Environment</p> <p>Partnership Officer contact:- Richard Walker Parking Partnership Group Manager, Delivery Point 12 01206 282708 www.parkingpartnership.org parking@colchester.gov.uk</p>	<p>Meet Climate Emergency commitments including carbon reduction, air quality and biodiversity.</p>
<p>Essex County Travellers Unit (ECTU) - a partnership with Essex County Council, Police, Fire Brigade and other local authorities</p> <p>The aim of the ECTU is to deliver an efficient, effective and consistent approach to service provision across the county.</p> <p>The unit fulfils the council's responsibilities for gypsies/ travellers.</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities – Cllr J. Young</p>	<p>To sit on the ECTU partnership board. If action requires a vote then this would be to determine a recommendation to the authorities. The representative will then take the recommendation through the appropriate decision making process. There is one vote per member authority</p>	<p>Paul Ashworth Wellbeing, Place and Communities Lead incorporating the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities paul.ashworth@essex.gov.uk Lync: 0333 0136694</p> <p>CBC – Belinda Silkstone</p>	<p>Improve community facilities by building on existing assets (people and places) to enable communities to come together, play together & encourage improved health and wellbeing.</p>

Campaign to Protect Rural Essex (Countryside and environment organisation) [Meetings held six times a year at 10.30am at the Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford]	Portfolio for Environment and Sustainability Cllr Nissen	Representatives have no specific role but attend on behalf of the Council to facilitate two way communications. Representatives are not able to vote	Ms Angie Jamison, Chairman Ms Tricia Moxey, Vice Chairman Campaign to Protect Rural Essex RCCE House Threshelfords Park Inworth Road Feering, Colchester CO5 9SE office@cpressex.org.uk Tel/Fax: 01376 572023	Meet Climate Emergency commitments including carbon reduction, air quality and biodiversity. Plant 200,000 trees over 5 years and green the Colchester Orbital. Build a voluntary network to support our trees, change attitudes to the environment and build awareness of climate change and how impacts can be offset
--	---	--	--	--

<p>Colchester Borough Homes Board</p> <p>Wholly-owned subsidiary company of the Council. Colchester Borough Homes is the Council's Arms-Length Housing Management Organisation (ALMO).</p>	<p>Cllrs Barton, Ripplingale and one appointment from the Conservative Group (to follow)</p>	<p>Representative is a Director of the Board of CBH, along with tenants/leaseholders (3) and independent Board members (3). Board members have voting rights</p>	<p>Jo Paget Board Assurance Officer HR & Governance Team Colchester Borough Homes Tel: (01206) 282752 jo.paget@cbhomes.org.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on community strengths and assets • Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people • Provide opportunities for young people • Increase the number, quality and types of homes • Improve existing homes to keep them in good repair and improve energy efficiency • Continue to improve and modernise housing for older people • Prevent households from experiencing homelessness
---	--	--	--	---

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intervene early to prevent homelessness and work in partnership with other organisations to sustain peoples tenancies• Tackle rough sleeping in the Borough• Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth <p>Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester and help businesses flourish</p>
--	--	--	--	--

<p>North Essex Children's Partnership</p> <p>[To secure the improvement in the well being of children and young people in North East Essex as defined by section 10 of the Children Act 2004.]</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, Cllr J. Young</p> <p>Plus Officer member – Lucie Breadman, Assistant Director for Communities</p>		<p>Lee Bailey Lead for Partnership Delivery Family Operations Head of Locality Commissioning – North East North East Commissioning Hub, Essex House, 200 The Crescent, Colchester Business Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 9YQ Essex County Council Telephone: 03330139085 Mobile: 07824867641 email: lee.bailey@essex.gov.uk www.essex.gov.uk</p> <p>Officer contact – Lucie Breadman Tel: 282726</p>	<p>Work with partners to improve facilities, activities and youth engagement aiming for positive impacts on volunteering, improved health & wellbeing, reducing ASB and developing a greater sense of community.</p>
---	--	--	--	--

<p>Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd</p> <p>[Wholly owned company of the Council]</p>	<p>Cllrs Coleman, Goss, Tate, Warnes</p>	<p>Representative is a Director of the Board of CCHL alongside Paul Smith.</p>	<p>Paul Smith Managing Director Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd Rowan House 33 Sheepen Road Colchester CO3 3WG</p>	<p>Relevant to most strategic priorities</p> <p>Northern Gateway: Create a new gateway to Colchester, providing jobs and healthcare, housing and an innovative energy source as well as leisure, sports and entertainment facilities, that contribute to the council's revenue.</p> <p>Regenerate the Rowan House site and existing accommodation to provide top quality office space and stimulate inward investment, providing a better working environment and additional revenue</p> <p>Create a vision for Colchester Town</p>
---	--	--	---	---

				Centre that strengthens Colchester position as leading centre for heritage and culture and a place in which to work, visit, relocate and invest in. Work with partners to harness significant regeneration opportunities.
--	--	--	--	---

<p>One Colchester Partnership Systems Leadership Strategic Group</p> <p>Aimed at joining up systems leaders across Health & Wellbeing, Safety and Economy to support improvement and systems approach to problem solving.</p>	<p>Leader of the Council, Cllr King</p>		<p>Assistant Director for Communities – Lucie Breadman</p> <p>Assistant Director for Customer Leonie Rathbone</p>	<p>Relevant to elements of many Strategic Plan priorities.</p>
--	---	--	---	--

Safer Colchester Delivery Board	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities – Cllr J. Young	Full voting rights	<p>Sonia Carr, Community Safety and Safeguarding Coordinator (Communities)</p> <p>Sonia.carr@colchester.gov.uk 01206 282978</p> <p>AD for Communities – Lucie Breadman</p> <p>Safety & Wellbeing Manager – Mel Rundle</p>	<p>Create a vision for Colchester Town Centre that strengthens Colchester position as leading centre for heritage and culture and a place in which to work, visit, relocate and invest in. Work with partners to harness significant regeneration opportunities.</p> <p>Work with partners to improve facilities, activities and youth engagement aiming for positive impacts on volunteering, improved health & wellbeing, reducing ASB and developing a greater sense of community.</p>
--	---	--------------------	---	---

Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	Cllr Chuah		<p>Tammy Diles Deputy Company Secretary</p> <p>Email: tammy.diles@Colchesterhospital.nhs.uk Colchester General Hospital Trust Offices Turner Road Colchester Essex CO4 5JL 01206 745338</p>	
Colchester and Ipswich Joint Museums Committee To develop and implement a joint museum service for Colchester and Ipswich	<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture and Heritage, Cllr Cox</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, Cllr J. Young</p>		<p>Lucie Breadman Assistant Director, Community 01206 282726 Lucie.breadman@colchester.gov.uk</p> <p>Frank Hargrave, CIMS Manager frank.hargrave@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Bring our history to life, from the Temple & Castle to the Roman Circus, through display of physical objects, events, interpretation and commemoration to physical and digital trails and displays. Building pride in Britain's 1st City, drawing in residents and visitors.

<p>Dedham Vale (AONB) and Stour Valley Joint Advisory Committee</p> <p>[Partnership project funded by local authorities and DEFRA</p> <p>[Meetings held 2 or 3 times a year at various times and venues throughout the Stour Valley area. Additional meetings and workshops as necessary.]</p>	<p>Cllr Nissen, Cllr Chapman</p>	<p>Representatives are involved in steering the work of the project and in particular matters affecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Representatives are able to vote.</p>	<p>AONB Manager, Simon Amstutz Address: AONB Office, Dock Lane, Melton, Suffolk IP12 1PE Dedham Vale (AONB) and Stour Valley Project c/o Suffolk County Council Endeavour House 8 Russell Road Ipswich IP1 2BX Telephone: 01394 445225</p> <p>E:mail Dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Officer contact – Adam John, Tel: 282472 Delivery Point 8</p>	<p>Meet Climate Emergency commitments including carbon reduction, air quality and biodiversity.</p>
---	----------------------------------	---	---	---

<p>Essex Partnership for Flood Management</p> <p>The aim of the Partnership is to meet Essex County Council's responsibilities under the Flood Management Act. Essex County Council recognise the need to work with borough and district councils on flood management issues. They have established the Essex Partnership for Flood Management which is a member group that will receive reports on these issues across Essex and agree actions to alleviate problems.</p> <p>The Partnership is supported by an officer steering group.</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability – Cllr Nissen</p>		<p>Lucy Shepherd Flood Partnerships Manager Environment, Sustainability & Highways Essex County Council 01245 433181 Ex 52181</p> <p>lucy.shepherd@essex.gov.uk</p> <p>Lisa Siggins Democratic Services Officer Democratic Services Corporate and Customer Services</p> <p>Essex County Council Telephone: 033301 34594 Ext: 34594 Email: lisa.siggins@essex.gov.uk www.essex.gov.uk</p>	<p>Meet Climate Emergency commitments including carbon reduction, air quality and biodiversity.</p> <p>Work with partners to develop a vision for the upper, middle and lower River Colne that prioritises its value as a unique natural asset to be carefully utilised, protected and enhanced.</p>
---	--	--	---	--

Colchester Arts Centre	Cllr Burrows		<p>Anthony Roberts Director Colchester Arts Centre Church Street Colchester Essex CO1 1NF</p> <p>anthony@colchesterartscentre.com</p> <p>Officer contact – Claire Taylor, Visitor and Cultural Services Team Leader - T 01206 282920 Claire.taylor@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Build on the work of Creative Colchester by working with them, Arts Council funded and other partners to develop a collaborative Cultural Vision and Ambitions for the Borough.
Firstsite	Cllr Bloomfield		<p>Sally Shaw Director Lewis Gardens High Street Colchester CO1 1JH</p> <p>sally@firstsite.uk</p> <p>Copy in Sandra MacDonald</p> <p>sandra@firstsite.uk</p> <p>Officer contact – Claire Taylor, Visitor and Cultural Services Team Leader - T 01206 282920 Claire.taylor@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Build on the work of Creative Colchester by working with them, Arts Council funded and other partners to develop a collaborative Cultural Vision and Ambitions for the Borough.

<p>Mercury Theatre Limited</p> <p>[Limited Company and Charity running an arts repertory company]</p> <p>[Meetings held every 4-6 weeks at 6pm at the Mercury Theatre]</p>	<p>Cllr Barton</p>	<p>Representatives act as Directors who are able to participate fully in the meetings and vote</p>	<p>Steve Mannix Interim Executive Director Mercury Theatre Balkerne Gate Colchester CO1 1PT</p> <p>Steve.Mannix@mercurytheatre.co.uk</p> <p>Officer contact – Claire Taylor, Visitor and Cultural Services Team Leader - T 01206 282920 Claire.taylor@colchester.gov.uk</p>	<p>Build on the work of Creative Colchester by working with them, Arts Council funded and other partners to develop a collaborative Cultural Vision and Ambitions for the Borough..</p>
<p>‘Our Colchester’ Business Improvement District (BID) Board</p> <p>The Board provides strategic direction over the Limited company that operates Colchester Town Centre BID. The BID works to advance the interests and prospects of the Town Centre for the benefit of the residents and Businesses of the Borough and Town.</p>	<p>Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy– Cllr King</p> <p>Substitute member: Cllr Fox</p>	<p>The Councillor is an observer on the Board</p>	<p>Chair of the Board, Our Colchester BID, C/O Management Suite, Culver Square Shopping Centre, Culver Square, 9A Culver Street, CO11 1JQ.</p> <p>Officer Contact Mandy Jones Assistant Director – Place and Client mandy.jones@colchester.gov.uk</p>	<p>Create a vision for Colchester Town Centre that strengthens Colchester position as leading centre for heritage and culture and a place in which to work, visit, relocate and invest in. Work with partners to harness significant regeneration opportunities.</p>

<p>Member Development Group</p> <p>Council Group constituted to assist in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of member development strategies.</p>	<p>Portfolio for Local Economy and Transformation Cllr Fox</p> <p>Cllr Cory, Cllr Davidson Cll5r Harris, Cllr G. Oxford</p> <p>Plus one appointment from Green Group (to follow)</p>		<p>Richard Clifford, Lead Democratic Services Officer.</p> <p>richard.clifford@colchester.gov.uk 01206 507832</p>	<p>Supports members to meet all strategic priorities</p>
<p>Police and Crime Panel</p> <p>The Panel will be responsible for scrutinising and supporting the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, who in turn is responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account.</p>	<p>Cllr Lilley</p> <p>Substitute member: Cllr Fox</p>		<p>Sophie Campion Senior Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Democracy and Transparency Corporate and Customer Services</p> <p>Essex County Council Email: sophie.campion2@essex.gov.uk www.essex.gov.uk Telephone: 03330 131642</p>	<p>Work with partners to improve facilities, activities and youth engagement aiming for positive impacts on volunteering, improved health & wellbeing, reducing ASB and developing a greater sense of community.</p>

Bradwell Local Communities Liaison Council Independent, local community body acting as a liaison between with local organisations on matters arising from the operation/management of the Bradwell Power Station site.	Cllr Nissen	Full voting rights Meets twice a year Steeple Village Hall, Garden Fields, Steeple, Southminster, Essex CM0 7JY, 9.30 for 10am	Tracey Finn Bradwell LCLC Secretariat mailto:tracey.finn@magnoxsites.com Tel: 01797 343510 https://magnoxsites.com/site/bradwell#community	Meet Climate Emergency commitments including carbon reduction, air quality and biodiversity.
Town Deal Board (We Are Colchester) We Are Colchester is a partnership of councils, businesses and voluntary groups which has been established to put together a bid for Government Towns Fund cash.	Leader of the Council, Cllr King	Voting representative	Simon Thorp Town Deal Project Manager Simon.Thorp@colchester.gov.uk	Create a vision for Colchester Town Centre that strengthens Colchester position as leading centre for heritage and culture and a place in which to work, visit, relocate and invest in. Work with partners to harness significant regeneration opportunities

North Essex Economic Board NEEB	<p>Portfolio Holder for L:ocal Economy and Transformation – Cllr Fox</p>	<p>As Portfolio Holder incorporating Economic development to represent the Council on this North Essex group of authorities seeking to advance the economic potential of the locality. Has one vote on a Board of six District Authorities and also including Essex County Council</p> <p>Board meets quarterly.</p>	<p>Lindsay Barker, Strategic Director lindsay.barker@colchester.gov.uk Tel: 01206 282717</p> <p>Mandy Jones, Assistant Director, Place & Client Services Mandy.jones@colchester.gov.uk Tel: 01206 282501</p>	<p>The NEEB Economic Strategy has been approved by the Councils Cabinet and its objectives match the Councils own economic aspirations incorporated in the Strategic Plan.</p>
--	--	--	---	--

<p>Local Highway Panel</p>	<p>Cllrs Hagon, Hogg, Scott-Boutell, J. Young</p>	<p>The Borough Council can nominate 4 members to the Local Highway Panel.</p> <p>All County Councillors with exception of the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and the Leader of the Council will be voting members of the respective Local Highway Panel.</p> <p>The LHP is accountable for:</p> <p>Recommending the annual LHP programme for submission to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure.</p> <p>Documenting highways issues raised by residents and the community in its area, so that the concerns can be investigated and the possibility of addressing these</p>	<p>Jon Simmons, Highway Liaison Officer – (Chelmsford and Colchester Local Highway Panel)</p> <p>jon.simmons@essexhighways.org</p> <p>www.essex.gov.uk/highways</p>	<p>Respond to the Climate Emergency</p> <p>Enable more opportunity for walking and cycling around Colchester</p>
-----------------------------------	---	---	---	--

		through engineering solutions can be validated.		
<p>Tendring Colchester Border Garden Community Joint Committee</p> <p>The Joint Committee was established by Tendring District Council (TDC), Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and Essex County Council (ECC) in relation to the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC). The Joint Committee's remit is to jointly discharge those specific executive and non-executive functions related to TCBGC, delegated pursuant to Sections 101(5), 102(1)(b) and 102(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. There are two main themes, namely:</p> <p>(i) To exercise the Council's functions relating to overseeing the preparation of the joint TCBGC Development Plan Document.</p> <p>(ii) To act as local planning authority to determine planning applications by virtue of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, within the TCBGC area.</p>	<p>Cllrs King, Luxford Vaughan and J. Young</p>	<p>Colchester Borough Council members have full voting powers.</p>	<p>Ian Ford iford@tendringdc.gov.uk 01255 686584</p>	<p>Delivering Homes for People Who Need Them</p>

Appendix B

Report on Work on Outside Bodies 2021-22

Outside Body	Representatives	No of Meetings attended 2021/22	Purpose of the Group	Work in 2021/22	Issues Arising
Colchester Borough Homes	<p>Cllr Lesley Scott-Boutell (left Board in May 2021)</p> <p>Cllr Nigel Chapman (Board, Finance and Audit until April 2021, Operations and Performance)</p> <p>Cllr Tina Bourne (Board and Operations and Performance)</p> <p>Cllr Michelle Burrows (Board</p>	<p>Board - 5 Finance and Audit Committee - 4 Operations and Performance - 4 Governance and Remuneration - 2</p> <p>Attended: Board – May – Apologies from Cllr Scott-Boutell July – All Cllrs present September – Apologies from</p>	Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) is an Arm's Length Management Organisation set up by Colchester Borough Council. Part of the local business community since 2003, CBH is an award-winning organisation providing management and maintenance services to around 7,000 residential, commercial and public buildings in the local area, including the Council's housing stock, Colchester Castle, Leisure World Colchester	<p>Some of the key work done by the Board in 2021/22 was</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appoint new resident Board Members • To recruit new CEO of CBH • Approval of the Strategic Plan 2022-27 • Approval of Company Accounts • Approval of CBH Budget 2022/23 • Approval of Capital Investment Programme 2022-27 • Approval of the Medium Term Delivery Plan 2022-27 • External Board effectiveness review 	New Cllr members to join CBH Board following elections Chair and CEO in discussion with CBC regarding requirements for Board position and skills.

	and Finance and Audit)	<p>Cllr Nigel Chapman November – All Cllrs present March – Apologies from Cllr Tina Bourne and Cllr Michelle Burrows</p> <p>Finance and Audit April – Cllr Nigel Chapman present July – No Cllr Members October – Apologies from Cllr Michelle Burrows February – Apologies from Cllr Michelle Burrows</p> <p>Operations and Performance May – Cllr Tina Bourne and Cllr Nigel Chapman present October – Cllr Tina Bourne and Cllr Nigel</p>	<p>and Colchester Town Hall.</p> <p>CBH offers a range of services to the private, public and non-profit sectors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings maintenance, renovations, refurbishments and repairs • Lettings, tenancy management and income collection • Housing options and advice • Asset management • Facilities management • Health & safety • Construction projects • Energy efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Approval of Corporate/Strategic Policy Changes • Approval of Risk Strategy and Framework <p>As well as the official meetings recorded above, members attended a number of stand-alone meetings, away days and training/conference events throughout the year.</p> <p>Other members</p> <p>The Board includes three resident Members and four independent Members; alongside the three Members appointed by CBC and Gareth Mitchell/ Philip Sullivan (exiting and incoming CEO and executive director).</p> <p>For more information on other members of the CBH Board, please visit https://cbhomes.org.uk/about-us/how-we-make-decisions/board-members/</p>	
--	------------------------	--	---	---	--

		Chapman present November – Cllr Tina Bourne and Cllr Nigel Chapman present February – Apologies from Cllr Tina Bourne			
North Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee	Cllr Simon Crow	4	Operational decisions made at NEPP are verified by a Joint Parking Committee (JPC). The JPC is made up of a Chairman, NEPP representative officers as well as a representative officer and Member from each of the partner authorities. This ensures that we are accountable to all authorities and allows each authority to look after the interests of their own district.	The Committee received Operational and Project updates throughout the year in addition to Financial updates and reports. In addition the Committee received and considered the following substantive matters/items: an annual review of Governance and Risk Management, Consideration of Traffic Regulation Orders for each District, Agreement of permit and pay to park prices and strategy for 22/23, Review of proposed new NEPP agreement for 2022 and beyond.	
Essex Waste Partnership	Cllr Simon Crow	0	The Essex Waste Partnership includes Essex County Council, the 12 district and borough councils and the unitary authority of Southend-on-Sea	Started the review into the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy	No Waste Partnership meetings have been held in 2021/22, however officers and the Portfolio Holder

			<p>Borough Council. The Essex Waste Partnership was set up to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management is delivered across the county and Southend. The Essex Waste Partnership Board will be responsible for the development and steerage of all pan Essex waste management partnership working including, but not limited to: strategic planning, financial framework, strategic investment, optimisation and joint working, communication and education.</p>		<p>have been invited and attended workshops to develop the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The Covid pandemic significantly impacted on the operations of the partner authorities for the last two years, hence no official meetings. However, the launch of the Strategy review and a review of the terms of reference, will see meetings being scheduled for 2022/23.</p>
<p>Dedham Vale (AONB) and Stour Valley Joint Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Chapman, Cllr Darius Laws</p> <p>Officer rep Adam John</p>	<p>2 (out of 3)</p>	<p>Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) representatives are involved in steering the work of the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project Management Team on matters affecting and impacting on the Dedham Vale Area of</p>	<p>The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) comprises funding partners from all the local authorities within the Stour Valley and DEFRA. The Dedham Vale Partnership Forum, in addition to the above JAC members, includes non-funding partner's representatives from the NFU, CLA, Environment Agency, Natural England and the</p>	

			Outstanding Natural Beauty. Representatives are given voting rights. Meetings are held 3 times a year at various times and venues throughout the Stour Valley area, with additional meetings and workshops called as deemed necessary by the JAC.	Sub- regional Economic Partnership as well as other bodies with an interest.	
Bradwell Local Communities Liaison Committee	Cllr Robert Davidson	1 (covid reduced meetings)	To inform on progress of any plans for a replacement nuclear reactor at Bradwell	UK Permission granted for new Chinese design. Site is still in top 10 of UK locations.	Important to liase with BAANG in Mersea and reinforce Colchester Borough Council motion against any new reactor at Bradwell. Ideally a Mersea Colchester Borough Council Councillor should be appointed.
Children's Partnership Board and Community Safety Delivery Board	Cllr Beverley Oxford	8	Both are multi partnership groups. The Children's Partnership Board remit it to work with a range of system partners across Colchester and Essex	Community Safety Delivery Board work includes the Delivery of a Strategic Assessment of Crime, setting of clear priorities and then working with partners to address those priorities and a range of activities which ultimately aim to	None

			County Council to better the lives of Young People. The Community Safety Delivery Board is a sub-group of The One Colchester Partnership, which includes the statutory Safer Colchester Partnership. The purpose of the delivery board is to work with a range of statutory partners to deliver against agreed priorities.	keep people safe and reduce crime. The Children's Partnership works has worked with a range of partners to agree priorities that focus on skills, safety and improved outcomes for children and young people and a clear programme of activities and work is monitored and fed into the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board.	
Colchester and Ipswich Joint Museums Committee (JMC)	Cllr Darius Laws	Two	To oversee the partnership arrangements of the Joint Museums Service between Colchester and Ipswich Councils	Ongoing review of work programmes and performance of the joint museums service. Agreement of new policies and procedures, an example is the new Decolonisation Policy for Ipswich Museums. Agreement of Budget and review of annual spend and income into the service against agreed budgets. Review of Joint Business Development Plans.	None
We Are Colchester (Town Deal) Board	Councillor Paul Dundas	4	The objective of the Board is to deliver a successful Town Deal strategy, vision, and Town Investment Plan to government, for Colchester. The purpose of the Board is	The Board considered, brought challenge to, and ultimately supported submission of project summary documents to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC - formerly MHCLG) in readiness for approval of release of funds to	No issues - due consideration is being given to the future role of the Board to effectively support project delivery phase.

			to act as the governance body responsible for making decisions and monitoring progress of all Town Deal programme and project initiatives, in partnership with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).	deliver the 14 projects making up £18.2m Colchester's Town Deal programme.	
Mercury Theatre	Cllr Lynn Barton	9 meetings plus theatre events eg official opening : open days/guided tours	To produce dramatic works which enrich /educate/change and connect with residents	Main focus has been overcoming difficulties in our building programme owing to COVID and the difficulty in getting building supplies. This has required careful management and support and input from the Board. Obviously a large amount of time has been spent ensuring we have the necessary funding to keep the theatre going in unprecedented times.	I am grateful we have such a strong inspirational dedicated management team at the Mercury
Essex County Travellers Unit	Councillor Beverley Oxford	0	To evaluate the support given to the traveller community	Has not met	None
Essex Police and Crime and Panel	Councillor Beverley Oxford	4	To discuss police issues with Police and Crime commissioner	Electing deputy Police and Crime Commissioner agreeing proposed police precept.	None
Campaign for Protection of Rural Essex	Councillor Peter Chillingworth	0	The organisation tries to protect the countryside from inappropriate development, also	With no approaches or invitations to meetings, I do not know what the local Essex group are doing.	Suggest writing to the Council's contact and asking whether

			campaigns on rural issues such as replanting hedges, more rural affordable housing, sustainable farming. Has an effective national lobbying team.		they wish us to still have a representative. In the 1990s and 20s when I was Chairman, we held regular meetings with our Council reps and other bodies, but no idea whether they still do as I have not been invited while the Council's rep.
Colchester Arts Centre	Councillor Darius Laws	3 out of 4 held	Governing board of Colchester Arts Centre.	<p>Learnt and contributed to discussions around:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proactive green policy – plastic free – paper free – switched to methane gas and fully sustainable electric suppliers – commissioned artist to create website dedicated to wildlife in adjacent church yard. 2. Attracting back lots of younger people (as audience) post Covid with their eclectic mix of music and comedy. Keen proactively in communities who don't always participate in culture. 	None

				<p>3. Big fund raiser for Ukraine (first venue in town to promote such and event) – raised nearly 6k</p> <p>4. Disabled / Neuro diversity champions in making the venue and every touch point accessible and inclusive</p> <p>5. Volunteer sector embracing with bar ops staff encouraged to be advocates and ambassadors for the centre</p> <p>6. Awareness of the need to exploit public realm opportunities - lighting/graveyard etc.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

Report of	Assistant Director, Place and Client Services	Author	Ruth Newcombe ☎ 505845
Title	Land Acquisition for Development as Part of the Council's New Housebuilding Programme		
Wards affected	Castle Ward		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In 2019 the Council committed to deliver 350 additional social homes owned by the Council over 5 years. It is currently on track to meet this target although the Covid pandemic has had some impacts. This report recommends that the Council adds another method of delivery into the Programme to diversify supply options, and pursues an opportunity to acquire land to deliver more affordable homes as part of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funded Programme.
- 1.2 The brownfield land opportunity is within a highly sustainable location in the town centre and has scope to provide between 20 and 29 one and two bedroom apartments. Aside from the regeneration and "neighbourhood living" benefits of the scheme for the town, the new homes will help replenish Council stock that is disproportionately low in the town centre and help to meet the needs of households who require this location to access public transport, employment, shops and services. The site will be aligned with the current town centre masterplan and Levelling Up Fund bid to ensure these are complementary.
- 1.3 The Council will enter into a land purchase agreement with a developer working with the land owners, to purchase their land subject to planning (but with the option to purchase the land without planning if the developer is unable to obtain planning within 18 months of exchange of contracts). The specific details are in the confidential "Part B" report, which is exempt because of the commercial sensitivities related to this for all parties.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To agree that the Council shall pursue this particular town centre opportunity as set out in the Report.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Policy and Place, in conjunction with the appropriate Portfolio Holder to negotiate terms, approve the exchange of conditional contracts to acquire the town centre site, and any other related matters, and to complete the purchase when all conditions are satisfied.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 There are almost 3,000 households on the Council's Housing Register seeking social housing and approximately 200 households in temporary accommodation. It is a priority

of the Council, as shown by its New Housebuilding Programme, to try and find new ways to provide more homes in response to this need.

- 3.2 The Council is delivering affordable homes, but it is still continually seeking new and innovative ways to increase the supply of affordable housing further; and provide good quality, affordable and secure homes for Colchester's residents who are in housing need
- 3.3 Although there is a supply of affordable housing through Section 106 provision via Registered providers, alongside Council led projects such as HRA Garage Sites Phase 2, Military Road, Creffield Road, Garage Sites Phase 3 and Elfreda House, supply is not meeting the need. The Covid impacts have slowed affordable housing delivery in the market, and for the first year the Council delivered more affordable homes through its delivery Programme than all other Registered Providers combined; which evidences the importance of the Council's role.
- 3.4 This project will increase the Council's housing stock in the town centre and diversifies the methods to bring forward additional affordable housing. This will also strengthen the Council's investment partner status with Homes England and will provide more opportunities to bid for Affordable Housing Grant within the 2021/26 affordable homes programme.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Council could do nothing, but this will mean the Council will miss out on opportunities to maximise the delivery of newbuild social rent housing in Colchester and it will mean that households on the housing register and in temporary accommodation will wait longer for a secure affordable home.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 In January 2019, the Council agreed to explore a range of potential projects that could deliver an additional 350 new affordable council homes over 5 years, borrowing up to £75m in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and delivering the first newbuild Council Homes since the “Phase 1 Garage Sites” were developed in 2015.
- 5.2 The projects that were to be actively pursued and have been progressed include “Phase 2 Garage Sites”, “Phase 3 Garage Sites”, purchasing affordable housing from CAHL mixed-tenure development sites (namely Mill Road, Creffield Road, and St Runwald Street), developing 100% affordable homes at Military Road, purchasing former Council Homes through the Right to Buy Back and through the open market, and reinvigorating the Sheltered Housing Improvement Programme which has involved the redevelopment of Elfreda House.
- 5.3 In March 2020, Government announced a 1% reduction in the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) borrowing rates for the HRA in a drive to stimulate the housing sector. It was reported at Cabinet in July 2020 that this reduction in interest rate could reduce the HRA debt in Year 30 to circa £82m. It was recommended that given the improved position of the HRA, additional proposals to increase and extend the “New Council Housebuilding Programme” should be explored through provisional feasibility work in order to sample and test the viability of different affordable housing delivery methods.
- 5.4 Bringing forward additional housing via “Targeted” acquisitions and/or Changes of Use were also proposed, which would include strategies such as purchasing vacant units and approaching landholders in the borough or establishing new partnership working. This included the Council contacting housebuilders who may require more certainty over sales in order to commence sites.
- 5.5 This report has followed one of those lines of exploration and proposes to bring forward additional affordable housing supply through negotiation with a local developer to purchase land that they have an option on. This project would be in keeping with what was previously proposed at Cabinet in July 2020 where the Council can pursue “targeted acquisitions” by partnering up with house builders in Colchester where they have control of land.
- 5.6 In addition, in leading and delivering the New Council Housebuilding Programme, the Council achieved “Investment Partner Status” with Homes England in 2021. The Council can now bid for grant from Homes England to subsidise the affordable housing developments. The Council have been successful in obtaining grant for HRA Garage Sites Phase 2 (Buffett and Scarfe Way and Hardings Close), Military Road and Elfreda House. The grant makes the delivery of newbuild social rent housing more viable to deliver and reduces the Council’s HRA borrowing (and overall debt).
- 5.7 The Council intends to continue to utilise its Investment Partner status by bidding for grant for subsidy towards all qualifying affordable schemes in the development programme going forward.

Proposal

- 5.8 The Council has been exploring avenues for a “package deal” to acquire land with homes, or land or properties “off-plan”. As a result, the Council was approached by a local developer with an opportunity for a land deal which could deliver between 20 and 29 one and two-bedroom apartments in Colchester Town Centre. The land purchase would include an existing retail unit which will be included in the transaction. The Council will need to make a decision on whether it would wish to retain this unit for its own use or whether to find an end user in due course.
- 5.9 The developer has a legal interest in the site through an option with exclusivity to obtain planning consent and acquire the site for development. The developer has previously appointed an architect to draw up a scheme proposal. The proposal comprises of a mix of 20 one and two bed apartments on the site where the option is held, but there may be scope to deliver a larger scheme which would increase the scheme to approximately 29 residential units, plus the retail unit. This will be dependent on the developer acquiring additional land and would be subject to planning consent.
- 5.10 Any planning application submitted will be to the Council's design and specification requirements. The deal does not prejudice the planning process, and there is no guarantee of obtaining planning permission. It would be the developer's interest to secure a planning permission for the site (as this has financial value to them), but if the developer sells the land without planning approval then the Council will remain interested and this will still be subject to evidence of planning potential through submission of a formal pre-application advice and/or a detailed planning application.
- 5.11 Provided that any changes required to gain planning approval do not affect the material viability of the scheme then the Council would remain interested in completing the deal. The Council remains bound by legal duties and moral responsibilities related to value for money, public subsidy, and market terms that would not be compromised in any eventuality. The Council Client Team have looked at the site and consider that some form of scheme does appear to be achievable, and with or without reasonable changes to gain planning approval, it would still be expected to be at a viable level that the Council should pursue.
- 5.12 The homes will be designed to meet Nationally Described Space Standards, can feature enhanced accessibility standards for the ground floor apartments, and can be designed to meet the Council's required specification, including the adoption of Future Homes Standard Principles, to ensure the homes are as energy efficient as possible.
- 5.13 The Council will enter into a land purchase agreement with the developer to purchase land subject to planning. The developer will be required to submit a planning application within 6 months of exchange of contracts, with up to 18 months to achieve a resolution to grant planning. If the developer does not achieve planning consent, the Council will purchase the site without planning at a lesser premium. The details are in the Report Part B
- 5.14 It is intended to exchange contracts by August 2022 with the developer to obtain planning by March 2023. If planning is granted, the Council will purchase the site and tender the construction works. If the Council purchases the site without planning, the Council can make its own planning application or incorporate it into wider

redevelopments. In either scenario the Council will align this opportunity with the town centre masterplan and any other land holdings as matters evolve.

- 5.15 Given the town centre location, this scheme will also be aligned to other Council policies and strategies. The site lies within the area that is currently being masterplanned, and is close to sites that form the bid for Levelling Up Funding (LUF). The timelines for progressing the site allow for any future development to be aligned with both the bid and the wider masterplan work.
- 5.16 Without prejudice to that work, the intention is for it to be a car free development, though there may be an exception for any wheelchair accessible homes that may be delivered. It is expected that residents who wish to live in an apartment in the town centre will not necessarily require a car, especially with the Council delivering its first E-car club nearby, and a second following shortly; but naturally those that do require a car may not bid for the homes.
- 5.17 This particular site will also provide the Council with the opportunity to deliver newbuild, energy efficient and quality affordable housing at social rent for households on the waiting list who require a town centre location. The scheme may also be attractive to existing Council tenants who wish to downsize from a three bed home into a smaller and more manageable home in a town centre location, and this in turn will free up much needed three bed homes elsewhere in the borough.
- 5.18 This opportunity will enable the Council to bring forward additional affordable housing which would qualify for Homes England Grant funding under the Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026. The Council will submit a bid for grant funding towards the costs of this scheme. In the unlikely event that the bid to Homes England is unsuccessful, the Council can choose to subsidise the project through the Right to Buy Receipts reserve or Affordable Housing Commuted sums.
- 5.19 Any offer to the developer would be subject to satisfactory valuation, clean title and all necessary due diligence.
- 5.20 The Council will tender the construction works in due course and at an appropriate time. The intention would be that the finished new homes would then be owned by the Council through the HRA, managed by Colchester Borough Homes as our ALMO, and delivered at Social Rent for households on the housing register.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 The New Council Housebuilding Programme already has an existing EQIA that this complements. The proposals are considered to have an overall positive impact on protected groups and they will have a positive impact on the availability of housing in Colchester, especially the availability of affordable housing.
- 6.2 Maximising the supply of new homes is part of the Council's commitment to improving communities and our town as a place to live. In implementing the recommendations the Council will have due regard to its Public Sector Duty and will continue to work to tackle discrimination and inequality and help to create a fairer society, improve housing choice and social mobility (including for protected groups).

- 6.3 The proposals will help to improve the housing conditions and life chances of people with protected characteristics, including homeless people, low-income households, people with disabilities and families on the housing needs register. They will therefore have a positive impact on Equality and Diversity.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 This decision particularly contributes to the following Strategic Plan 2021-2023 priority areas:
- **Responding to the Climate Emergency**
 - Reduce carbon emissions to help achieve a zero-carbon footprint for Council services for 2030
 - Environment and sustainability imbedded in all Council decision making and the adaption and recovery from Covid-19
 - **Tackling the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people**
 - Support people to live in healthy homes that meet their needs
 - **Increase the number, quality, and types of homes**
 - Improve existing Council homes to keep them in good repair and improve energy efficiency
 - Continue to improve and modernise available housing for older people
 - **Prevent households from experiencing homelessness**
 - Work with partners to deliver the 2020-23 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan
 - Intervene early to prevent homelessness and work in partnership with other organisations to sustain people's accommodation
 - Tackle rough sleeping in the Borough
 - **Enable economic recovery from Covid 19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth**
 - Ensure our Borough becomes stronger post Covid 19 by supporting businesses to recover, adapt and build resilience
 - Develop opportunities to ensure the new economy is greener, sustainable, and more resilient
 - **Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester help businesses to flourish**
 - Encourage green technologies and innovative solutions to the Climate Emergency
 - Maximise the social value benefits derived from third party contracts
 - Ensure the Councils assets continue to contribute to economic growth and opportunity

8. Consultation

- 8.1 This report does not require public consultation. Consultation will take place at the planning stage of this development, which is expected to take place towards the later half of 2022. There is wider consultation on the town centre masterplan throughout summer 2022.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 This report does not require any publicity considerations. The required planning application for this project would be subject to public consultation with residents at, adjacent or nearby to the site. It would also be publicised through site notices and advert if a local newspaper. The Council would wish to promote the opportunity to tender for the works and for those on the housing register to apply for the new homes in due course.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 A provision of £3.375m for further Council new build schemes was included for 22/23 in the Housing Investment Programme agreed by Cabinet on 26th January 2022. It is intended that that this will support expenditure arising from this project in this financial year, with further provision being made in subsequent years annual budget setting reports
- 10.2 Detail on the financial consideration on the land is in Report Part B
- 10.3 The total cost of the project for land and construction is expected to be between £4m and £6m, depending on the density achieved. This was reflected in the HRA Capital Medium Term Financial Forecast considered by Cabinet on 26th January 2022.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 Health, wellbeing and community safety would be positively influenced by the provision of new affordable and well-designed affordable housing that help improve the quality of life for future occupants. The scheme will also help with wider benefits to the town centre environment.

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 There are no particular health and safety implications attached to the decision. Construction health and safety is managed through the contractual processes and will be supervised by the winning contractor.

13. Risk Management Implications

- 13.1 There is a risk that the site will not achieve planning consent. This will be managed through early consultation with the Planning Service and community. The Client team have also undertaken some due diligence working with others to minimise this risk as far as can be progressed at this provisional stage.
- 13.2 The effects of Covid and Brexit have delayed newbuild projects and increased cost due to lack of labour, materials, components and delivery drivers. This risk will be mitigated through appointing a skilled team including an employers agent, project manager and cost consultant to scrutinise and manage the construction programme and costs.
- 13.3 Sites may have issues that affect the deliverability and viability of development, such constraints due to Rights of Way, Easements and party wall matters. There can be costs due to demolition, site clearance and decontamination. Contracts will not be exchanged

until all due diligence is complete. Due diligence will involve site surveys, title searches, valuation and detailed build cost estimates.

- 13.4 Commissioning and procuring construction can be difficult. Some sites may not be attractive to contractors and construction costs are continuing to rise, with contractors finding the current climate very difficult due to the effects of Covid and Brexit. A detailed build cost analysis will be commissioned as early as possible in the process. The build contract will be on a “fixed price” basis.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 The Council’s HRA newbuild developments are designed to meet the “Future Homes 2025” standard (option 2) principles to achieve a 31% carbon saving and is over and above the requirements of Building Regulations Part L. This specification, or higher, will apply to this project to ensure that the new development is carbon efficient and sustainable in terms of minimising energy use and reducing carbon from direct living.
- 14.2 The principle of sustainable development is also to direct growth to the most sustainable locations to avoid over-reliance on cars. This location is one of the most sustainable locations in the borough; where it is possible to live without the use of a car given the direct access to shops, services, employment and good travel choices. This will be further enhanced by existing projects between this Council (such as E-car clubs, E-cargo bikes, E-hire bikes) and by ECC (such as Rapid Transit System, Active Travel Fund 2, E-scooters) as well as by bus and train operators.

Extract from the minutes of the Policy Panel meeting of 2 March 2022

42. River Strategy

Rory Doyle, Assistant Director (Environment), introduced the report, which was centred around the River Colne, and extolled the potential benefits of the Council producing a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. The Panel had previously discussed the merit of a strategy for the River Colne and much was now happening, including the future of the Colne and the embedding of waterway management within the Council's planning. A new Green and Blue Strategy would lend itself to further work, potentially by the Policy Panel. The Environment and Sustainability Panel had received updates on the woodland and biodiversity project and a wetland restoration project had been identified as an option to pursue, alongside partners.

The Panel were informed that changes to the leasehold of the River Colne had provided the opportunity for the development of options for fishing rights. A Panel member suggested that the recommendation proposed for this [2.4] be amended to say that this be presented to the Portfolio Holder 'for consideration', rather than 'for agreement.' It was noted by a Panel member that the granting of fishing rights could aid in conservation of the River, creating a group of people who fished and would have an incentive to work to preserve the Colne's ecosystems and press for their preservation.

The report content was praised, and members welcomed the prioritisation of the River Colne within the Council's planning. A member noted that river stewardship was a national issue and expressed support for development of the Colne as an asset, gaining and heeding expert views as to how to proceed to avoid causing issues and harm to biodiversity. Expert views on ecological impacts would be vital.

The Assistant Director was asked if there were any implications regarding sea walls and whether this should be discussed with partner organisations and stakeholders, such as local farmers. Options such as 'managed retreat' were discussed.

A Panel member noted that the report showed environmentally sensitive areas [ESAs] and asked whether these should be removed from the Strategy, as they were no longer in operation. The Assistant Director was also asked whether Ramsar sites were set by the EU, and whether they were on a statutory footing in the UK.

Views were given that the upper Colne [before the River reached Colchester] didn't receive as much attention as the Stour Valley. The old Colne River Project had had an officer dedicated to helping residents to improve wildlife and biodiversity. A Panel member suggested that such a position would be helpful if reintroduced. A member gave the view that the upper and lower Colne should have their own separate approaches and stewardship plans. The lower Colne was clear of large-scale moorings, due to the past prioritisation of commercial traffic to and from Colchester. The Panel suggested that the Strategy would be beneficial, but would need to be continuously reviewed and updated, which could include a role for the Policy Panel to assist with this.

A Panel member requested more detail regarding changes to the leasehold of the River Colne and details of all lease owners, if there were any not listed in the report. The Assistant Director was also encouraged to make use of the expertise available at the University of Essex and its World-leading experts on the subjects to be covered by the Strategy.

A Panel member noted that three rivers in different parts of the World had been granted legal personhood, thus putting the pollution of those rivers on the same standing as intentionally harming a person. Environmental politics were moving towards more entity rights and stronger legal protections.

The Panel considered whether the strategy might be better named as the 'River and Bodies of Water Strategy.'

The Panel discussed the history of the Colne River, including the holding of harbour inspection tours, which had ceased once the Colne River ceased to be dredged and the harbour decommissioned.

The Panel recommended that the Assistant Director, Environment, take on all the suggestions and views given by the Policy Panel and apply these when the River Strategy/Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy is drafted.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that: -

- a) Work be commenced to develop a new Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Colchester and that development of the strategy be incorporated within a

Panel work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year. A key element of the strategy development to include consultation with stakeholders.

- b) Options be explored working alongside key partners to identify and lever in external funding to accelerate wetland restoration projects as part of the Woodland and Biodiversity Programme of work.
- c) The Council collaborates with the Land Use and Green Infrastructure Essex Climate Action Commission with a view to the Council being a partner to the proposed Essex Climate Focus Area and that future updates are taken to Environment & Sustainability Panel for consideration.
- d) An options paper on fishing rights for the River Colne be developed with stakeholders and presented to the relevant portfolio holder for consideration.

Extract from the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Panel meeting of 22 March 2022.

64. Community Engagement and Climate Emergency - Update

Jill Bruce, Lead Climate Ambassador for the Essex Federation of Women's Institutes, attended the meeting and addressed the Panel in accordance with Colchester Borough Council (the Council)'s Have Your Say! provisions. The Panel was urged to increase communication with the community on climate action to promote the impressive work which had been undertaken in this regard. The Panel were advised that Colchester Borough Council (the Council) was a trusted organisation which could use its influence to ensure that advantage was taken of as many government grants as possible by advising the local community of what was available to them. It was noted that when council tax invoices were sent to residents, they often included inserts with the invoice, and this would be an opportunity to raise awareness of available grant funding and provide additional relevant information. Although the Council was doing good work in this area, and making use of its social media accounts and other channels, Jill urged for more action to be taken, believing that there was still not enough public awareness.

Mandy Jones, Assistant Director - Place and Client Services, welcomed the points which had been made, and considered that there was scope for considering how the Council made use of its contacts with individuals and groups such as the Women's Institute, in the future. There was an opportunity to carry out some of this work with the Council's own social housing tenants, and it was key to the Council's communication strategy that a process of continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of various methods of communication was undertaken.

Ben Plummer, Climate Emergency Project Officer, attended the meeting to present the report and assist the Panel with its enquiries. The report gave an outline of the different methods by which the Council carried out community engagement, which sought to both inform residents about the work being undertaken by the Council, as well as a method for consultation to seek the views of interested parties and encourage collaborative working with communities.

Councillor Chillingworth addressed the Panel and explained that his personal view, which was in no way a criticism of Officers, was that the Council was missing the opportunity to effectively demonstrate to residents what action was being taken to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. The Council had declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, and resolved to publicise this to the people of Colchester to raise awareness and support the public to take effective action. The Council had undertaken great works in its quest for carbon neutrality by 2030, but was failing to publicise this effectively. To meet the national target for carbon neutrality was a huge task, and local authorities who were close to their communities had a key role to play

in achieving this – enabling people to understand the problem and showing them what needed to be done. Although he considered that the Council was doing a good job with engaging with communities, more communication was needed, particularly targeted at people who were less aware of the issues that were faced.

Councillor Chillingworth had attempted to use the Council's website to find information, but his search for 'climate change' had only returned three relevant results, some of which were outdated. He considered that the Council should set up a dedicated website which covered environmental issues, and which would be accessed via a clear link from the Council's website homepage. The dedicated website might include information such as a clear scientific story explaining climate change, links to the latest news and to authoritative websites, and information about the latest government policies. It could also set out the work that the Council had undertaken, including working with the Carbon Trust and the fleet transition. Advice could also be given on action which residents could take themselves and what financial support was available to them to assist. It was also suggested that the website should offer the facility for posing questions, feedback and discussion, and it should be kept up to date with interesting articles and links to social media to maximise its accessibility. It was accepted that maintaining such a website would have cost implications, however, Councillor Chillingworth proposed that a recommendation be made to Cabinet that his suggestion be implemented, if the Panel supported this.

Councillor Barber supported the points that had been made, but further considered that local Councillors should also be challenged to share information themselves among their constituents, and he would welcome challenge from Officers as to whether he had done this effectively.

Councillor Cory considered that between 2018 and 2021 the Council had carried out some excellent work, but despite the obvious Officer commitment he remained frustrated by the lack of success in communicating this to the public. He offered his support for the suggestions which had been made by Councillor Chillingworth as a recommendation to Cabinet, and further considered that a communications officers dedicated to promoting the environmental work of the Council would be useful.

Ben Plummer advised the Panel that there was significant information on the Council's website in relation to environmental issues, although he could not comment on the function of the search facility. The current information was collected under the heading "sustainability and climate action", and included some information on the Council's work to date and action that local residents could take. The Panel were advised that a partner organisation, Eco-Colchester, maintained a comprehensive website with guides for residents and other information, and there was signposting on the Council's website to this site.

It had been noted that in the past Councillors had stated that they wished to do more to promote the Council's projects and wider assistance that was available to residents, and a monthly update had been circulated to all Councillors to facilitate this sharing of information about key projects and grant opportunities. Regular

updates were also provided to Town and Parish Councils about opportunities which were available for them, and which could also be disseminated to their residents.

Mandy Jones advised the Panel that in her experience, most websites were used for completing transactions as opposed to seeking information, and information was more commonly sought via social media. More could be done to make additional content available via the Council's current website, but the Panel were advised that creating an additional platform would be difficult to achieve as it would require significant additional resources to keep this up to date. She considered that working with partners such as the Essex Climate Action Commission would be useful to maximise the reach of the Council's communications, before going ahead and creating a brand new platform. The Panel heard that use of the Council's website was low apart from transactional engagements, and people wishing to find information would use a search facility such as Google to find it, rather than visiting a specific website. It was suggested that the Council's communications were examined on a wider scale, with consideration being given to encouraging visits to the webpages which the Council currently had.

Councillor King supported the suggestions which had been made, and wondered whether external funding could be secured to support such a project. He noted that the Council had a large workforce, and wondered whether it would be possible to use this as a means of communicating the Council's message to a wider audience. Mandy Jones confirmed to the Panel that webinars had been carried out with staff in relation to the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan, with the aim of empowering them to become ambassadors for the Council in this regard, and Officers were also involved in awareness raising events across the borough.

Ben Plummer acknowledged the importance of digital communication, and advised the Panel that much of what had been discussed was already being carried out by the Council. He did, however, urge the Panel not to lose sight of the importance of in-person events for engaging the public and raising awareness of the Council's work among residents who may not be reached by digital means. Additional question and answer sessions were being considered to allow residents to pose questions to Officers, which had been successful elsewhere in Essex in engaging people.

It was suggested that green communication channels could be an item included in the work programme of future Panels.

RESOLVED that:

A recommendation be made to Cabinet that Colchester Borough Council establishes a website dedicated to environmental issues, accessed via an easy, simple link from Colchester Borough Council's home page, to cover subjects such as:

1. A clear scientific story of what the climate problem is and why it has happened. This would include pollution and biodiversity loss, latest news and links where possible to authoritative websites.
2. Government targets and policies.

3. What the Council is doing, its work with The Carbon Trust, its Climate Emergency Action Plan, its fleet transition, etc.
4. What people can do themselves; householder advice, tips, financial aid schemes.
5. What partner organisations and commercial companies are doing in Colchester.
6. What Town and Parish Councils are doing.
7. Volunteer news and programmes.
8. What can be done around Listed property, Conservation areas and the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
9. Feedback, questions, and interactive discussion.

Extract from the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 22 February 2022

340. Corporate Key Performance Indicator [KPI] Targets for 2022-23

Richard Block, Assistant Director – Corporate and Improvement, introduced the proposed targets for 2022-23, which were due to go to Cabinet for consideration on 9 March 2022. Many were static, with some being returned to pre-pandemic levels. Following previous Scrutiny Panel feedback, a new KPI target had been proposed for homelessness. This was easier to understand than the previous target and could be benchmarked against other local authorities' performance. This was welcomed by the Panel.

The Panel discussed the target relating to 'Average time to re-let council homes' [K1H5] and the Assistant Director was asked if there was a way for this to be split to give a breakdown of re-let times for properties of different levels of dilapidation. The Assistant Director advised that this could be raised with Colchester Borough Homes and with Geoff Beales, Client Services Manager and that any KPI area could be added to the Panel's work programme for a more in-depth consideration in the future.

The Panel noted that the target for 'Residual household waste per household' [K1W1] was proposed to stay static. A member of the Panel suggested that the Council should challenge itself to find opportunities to reduce this. The Assistant Director explained that this was challenging, due to the increase in home working, which was likely to remain to some extent in 2022-23. The target for 'Household waste reused, recycled and composted' [K1W2] was recommended for returning to the pre-pandemic target of 55%, up from 53%. The Panel urged consideration of greater opportunities to promote home recycling options.

The Panel discussed the target for processing housing benefit claims and changes, and Local Council Tax claims and changes. The Assistant Director expanded upon the report to explain that performance here remained strong and well above target. The targets proposed gave a degree of 'slack' but still ensured that performance remained strong and would ensure that the Council continued to perform well in comparison to benchmark performance levels.

A Panel member noted that it would take some time before the effects of the pandemic worked through the system and before long-term changes to targets could be considered without the pandemic affecting them.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that Cabinet campaigns and pushes to achieve a reduction in household waste produced and an increase in household recycling.

Report of	Assistant Director Place & Client Services	Author	Elizabeth Simpson ☎ 508792
Title	Sale of Plot 600, The Crescent, Colchester		
Wards affected	Highwoods		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to approve the disposal of Plot 600, The Crescent, a 3.1 acre site located within Colchester Business Park. It requests that delegated authority is granted to the Strategic Director of Policy and Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources to approve the final terms, conclude the legal documentation and complete the sale.
- 1.2 The site has been identified for disposal for several years. It had previously been marketed, with a sale agreed by the Council but the sale did not proceed as a direct result of the Covid pandemic and its impact on the local economy. Consequently, the site was re-marketed and has resulted in new bids. The sale of the site therefore reflects the strategic policies and aspirations of the Council and is consistent with long-standing plans and previous decisions.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To agree to the disposal of Plot 600, The Crescent on a 250 year lease on the terms set out in Parts A and B of this report.
- 2.2 To note all of the offers received (as set out in Appendix A of the confidential Part B of this report) and to agree to the disposal to the 2nd party should the winning party fail to perform, and similarly to dispose to the 3rd party if the 2nd party does not perform.
- 2.3 To give delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Policy and Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, to approve the final terms, conclude the legal documentation and complete the sale.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 To conclude the disposal to the preferred bidder for the site with the objective of securing a capital receipt to fund regeneration projects and to maximise the effectiveness of its assets and contribute, in a planned and holistic manner, to the growth and prosperity of the wider borough in the interests of public benefit.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Council could keep hold of the land and retain it as a longer-term asset to develop it itself in the future. However, the capital receipt has already been earmarked to support regeneration projects.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 Plot 600 is located in the heart of Colchester Business Park (see Site Plan below) close to Junctions 28 and 29 of the A12. The site which measures 3.1 acres, is currently a clear site, although there has been a long-standing intention for this site to have been developed.
- 5.2 The site has been openly marketed via commercial property agents Savills. Marketing included a hard copy advert in the Estates Gazette on 12 February 2022 and online adverts including EG Property Link and CoStar. The property was also advertised on Savills' online property listings, Colchester Borough Council's (CBC) Inward Investment Ultra Ready Website and via a site marketing board.
- 5.3 Accompanying the marketing information, was a response from the Council's Planning Department to a Preliminary Planning Enquiry commenting on the potentially acceptable future uses of the site.
- 5.4 Expressions of interest by informal tender were requested by 8 April 2022. Best and final offers were subsequently requested by 20 April 2022. 8 bids were received and details of these offers can be found in Appendix A of Part B of this report. The bid detail is confidential and contains exempt information that cannot be published due to its commercial nature and sensitivity for the Council and the respective bidding parties.
- 5.5 Following a process of evaluation, it is proposed to dispose of the site on a long leasehold basis to the preferred bidder as detailed in the Confidential Appendices.
- 5.6 The sale will be completed with the purchaser after Cabinet approval. However, should there be any issues with progress with the preferred bidder then it would also be recommended to proceed with the second and third bids respectively.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a local authority under a legal duty ("the public sector equality duty") to have due regard to the following matters in the exercise of all its functions, namely the need to:
 - a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a "relevant protected characteristic" (i.e. age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation) and persons who do not share it; and
 - c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6.2 The public sector equality duty is a continuing duty which Members must consider and review at all stages of decision-making. An EqIA report in respect of property disposals to which Members are referred to is as follows: [Disposal of Property - Colchester Borough Council](#)
- 6.3 Breach of human rights - the property was fully and transparently marketed giving all interested parties the opportunity to bid.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 There are no particular relevant references to the Strategic Plan. However, the sale of this building will contribute towards the financial resources needed to meet the Council's priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan. Therefore, the sale indirectly contributes to several of the Strategic Priorities that will be delivered by projects the disposal will help fund.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The property has been fully marketed through a variety of mediums to ensure full exposure to all interested parties. The site has also been marketed previously.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 The premises have already been advertised for sale.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 See Part B for the confidential financial information. As stated above, the sale of this site forms part of a wider strategy and helps fund other capital projects that bring public benefits.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 There are no potential impacts to health, wellbeing and community safety.

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 There is no potential impact to the Health and Safety of the public as a result of this sale. The purchaser would need to follow all relevant statutory health and safety protocols when developing the site.

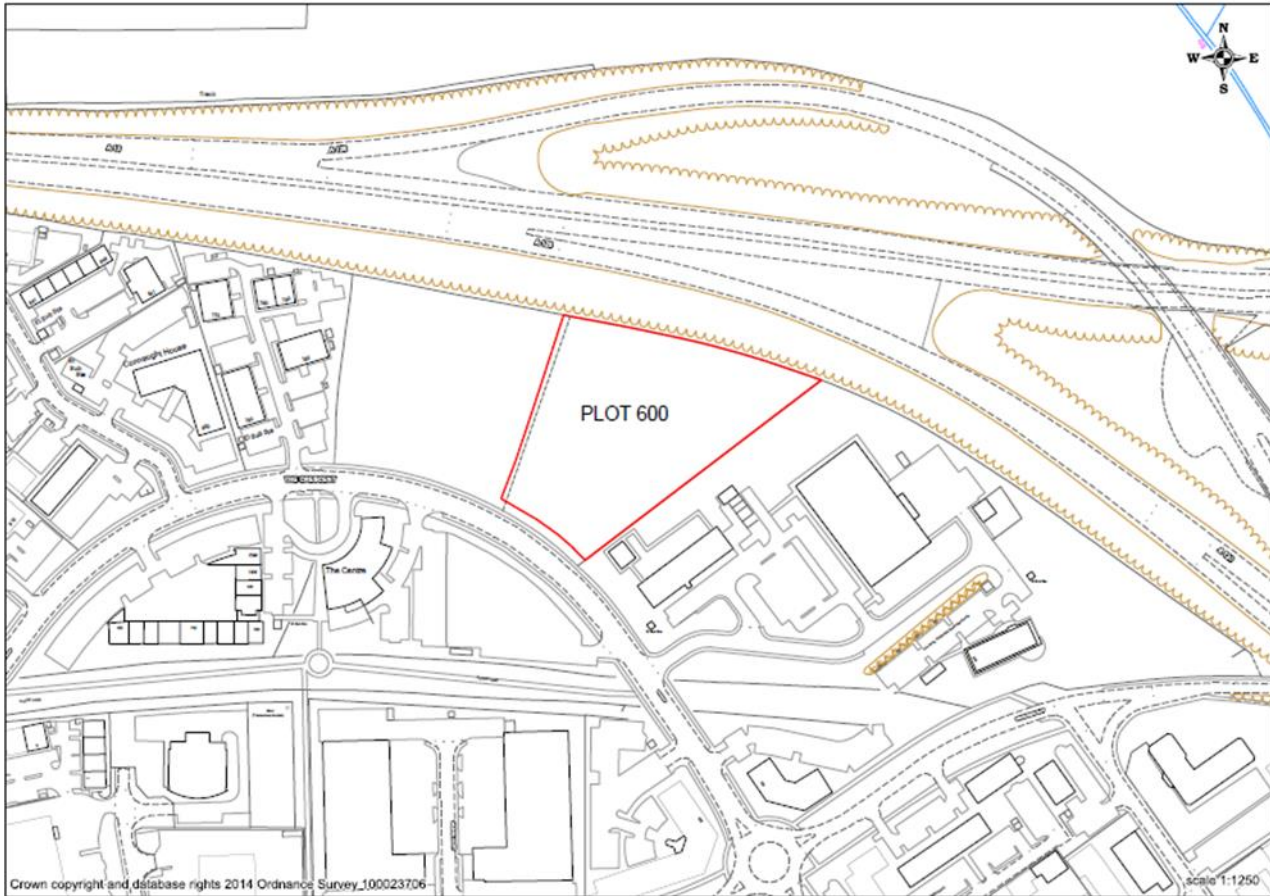
13. Risk Management Implications

- 13.1 The preferred purchaser may not perform or pull out. There was a lot of interest in the property and CBC can revert to the next closest bidder(s). It is unlikely that all three of the highest bidders would fail to progress in such circumstances.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 The disposal of this site does not impact on the Council's Scope 1 or 2 carbon emissions. Whilst any development will have some general implications for sustainability compared to an undeveloped site, the planning and building control process will provide the framework for the future use of the building and any operations. These legislative frameworks set out requirements for any future construction standards, and the most sustainable form of growth is to direct it towards existing urban areas.

Site Plan



Appendices

Appendix A – Bid Breakdown – See Part B which is a not for publication report

Appendix B – Heads of Terms – See Part B which is a not for publication report