

Other performance news

- **Awards and accreditations**

The highlights are summarised here and are also shown on www.colchester.gov.uk in the [achievements](#) section

Achieved April to September 2016:	
Anglia in Bloom	Winners included High Woods Country Park (winner of <i>Parks [Large Over 10 Acres]</i> and gold award); the Big Garden at High Woods Country Park (winner of <i>Best Garden for Special Needs</i>); Castle Park (<i>Parks [Large Over 10 Acres]</i>) gold award; the Castle Park 'three bees' (winner of <i>best local authority floral display</i>) - and Colchester earned a gold award in the city category. Colchester Cemetery was awarded silver-gilt (<i>cemeteries over 10 acres</i>). The 'Cub Scouts Bee Project' won the Bill Webster Award (<i>Best Young People's Project aged 12 years and under</i>). The New Town Community Garden was nominated (<i>'grow your own' category</i>). Colchester in Bloom is key through its mission to "generate community involvement in making our town a more beautiful place to live and work and contribute towards social and economic vitality".
The Geography of Creativity in the UK	A national report highlighted a boom in the growth and significance of creative industries in Colchester. NESTA and Creative England launched a new report 'The Geography of Creativity in the UK'. The report ranks Colchester as 8th in the country for Creative Industries' Importance in terms of drawing people in to work in the sector from a wider area. Colchester also ranks 20th in the UK for high concentration and growth - beating places such as Brighton and Newcastle.
Green Flag Awards	Castle Park has received its fourteenth consecutive Green Flag, with High Woods receiving its thirteenth. Green Flags set a benchmark of standards for management and maintenance of publicly accessible urban and countryside parks, and promotes the community value of green spaces.
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Successfully reassessed as being a CIPFA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Accredited Employer for best practice.
Newquest's North Essex Business Awards	The Council won the Environmental Awareness category for its Environmental Sustainability Strategy and related work. The strategy outlines its approach to environmental issues and identifies what it is aiming to achieve by 2020, setting out how Colchester will be a prominent sustainable borough by being a leading example in the community and helping communities become more resilient to climate change.
Adult Learners Awards	The Training Museum is a three-year project by the Colchester + Ipswich Museums Service, set up in 2015 with funding from Arts Council England to develop the next generation of museum staff. Seven full-time trainees on this course scooped the Arts and Cultural Learning prize.

Charter Status for Elected Member Development	The Council passed its interim reassessment in June 2016. This award recognises that the Council has achieved best practice in the way it provides learning and development opportunities for its elected members (councillors). This helps ensure that elected members have the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively represent the community.
Tripadvisor certificate of excellence	Awarded to High Woods Country Park for the first time - joining the Castle Museum, Hollytrees Museum and the Castle Park – for consistently achieving outstanding reviews from visitors.
LEXCEL	Legal Services were re-accredited against this Law Society standard. Lexcel is the Law Society's legal practice quality mark for excellence in legal practice management and excellence in client care.
GeoPlace – national Exemplar Gold award	Gold Performance Award for Address Data - for consistently maintaining the highest level of data quality. The Exemplar Awards recognise excellence in local authority business-critical data creation of Address data, known as a Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and Street data, known as a Local Street Gazetteer (LSG). Only 15 authorities in the east of England achieved this Gold standard.
Essex Digital Awards	These awards recognise the online achievements of businesses, charities and public bodies from across the county. • The Parking Blog of 'Anna Tendant', a Civil Enforcement Officer working for the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), won the Gold Awards in the 'Business Blog' category, for its weekly updates with 7,000 views to April 2016. As a Gold Award Winner, the Partnership will now be competing to be named the overall Champion for the Business Blog category in the Digital Award Champions 2016. The public vote for this award opens in November - Champions are announced in February 2017. • Pritchard's Point of View won the Bronze Award in the 'Blog: Entertainment' category. Since its launch in February 2015, this has become a regular platform for Adrian's sometimes serious, sometimes quirky musings on issues, projects and important matters concerning Colchester and the work of the Council from his viewpoint as Chief Executive. • CBH was shortlisted in the 'use of video for business' category.
Financial Sustainability: new essential guide	The Council features as a case study in this best practice guide from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). " <i>Colchester is currently involved in projects which will see increased business rates and rental income for the Council, and improve transport in their area</i> " (page 10 for full item).

- **Other performance news for April to September 2016**

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