

Better Colchester Strategic Plan Action Plan (SPAP) 2020 – 2023 Year End Report covering April 2021 – March 2022

Themes:

- Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability
- Creating safe, healthy, and active communities
- Delivering homes for people who need them
- Growing a better economy so everyone benefits
- Celebrating our heritage and culture

Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability:

- Respond to the Climate Emergency
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Enable more opportunity for walking and cycling around Colchester
- Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps

Respond to the Climate Emergency

Goal	Achievements
Reduce carbon emissions to help achieve a net zero Carbon footprint for Council Services by 2030.	<p>Direct emissions have reduced by 12.8% (791.5 tonnes of CO₂e) since 2020.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) 2021-2023 progress is now systematically tracked through the Climate Opportunity Working Group; monitored by the Project Board and by the Environment and Sustainability Panel.</p>

Respond to the Climate Emergency	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Rowan House has closed ready for the overhaul of the old gas boilers for a green heating and ventilation system (following a successful bid for grant).</p> <p>An offsetting and investment strategy is being developed.</p>
Environment and sustainability embedded within all Council decision making and the adaptation and recovery from Covid-19.	<p>Cross-service collaboration continued through the Climate Opportunity Working Group and partners began to elaborate on outcomes.</p> <p>Input provided into multiple projects, reports, and general workstreams, as well as several grant submissions from different service areas.</p> <p>Use of the Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Assessment tool is established, with new Project Initiation Documents completing the assessment form to a good quality since its introduction in June 2021 to show consideration of impacts on the environment and mitigation.</p> <p>Procurement has begun to incorporate environmental and carbon reduction in contract awards as reviewed as part of the Environment and Sustainability Panel work programme.</p>
Air quality across Colchester is improved.	<p>CAREless pollution 'No idling' campaign awarded 'Highly Commended' at 'Sustainability Leaders Awards 2022'.</p> <p>Toolkit launched to all Colchester schools.</p> <p>Campaign evaluation highlighted:</p>

Respond to the Climate Emergency	
Goal	Achievements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of health impacts of pollution increased by 6% • 53% reported switching off their engines more • Evidenced a 9% increase in cars switching off engines <p>E-cargo bike champions travelled 13,000 miles. Pool bikes were hired by 7 businesses.</p> <p>CBC worked with partners to deliver Colchester's first Eco-Festival with 3000 attending.</p> <p>'Home Burning' campaign raised awareness of pollution from fires and wood burners.</p> <p>'Pay as you go' Electric Car Club and ebike/cargo bike hire hubs launching in the town centre.</p> <p>Further DEFRA funding awarded for an eCargo delivery service.</p>
Continue to support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste.	<p>Waste and recycling generated from homes. The Council has encouraged residents to reuse, recycle and compost 53% of all material through a variety of engagement activities and interventions.</p> <p>Recycling equipment. A 'Click and Collect' service, utilising community outlets launched to replace the doorstep delivery service and following a pilot project. On average 80% of residents are choosing the service.</p> <p>Performance reporting. Progress is underway to improve reporting by Councillors and public.</p>

Respond to the Climate Emergency	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Communication & Engagement. Community Education and Engagement Wardens have attended some festivals and events. They have also been developing and delivering projects where collections are causing issues for crews or residents.</p> <p>Strategy. The Environment and Sustainability Panel have ratified the launch of the review.</p>
Conserve and enhance biodiversity	
Goal	Achievements
Minimise the environmental impact of our activities.	<p>The fleet has a transition plan for all vehicles to become electric/low carbon by 2030, including timeframes for decarbonisation of particular vehicle types such as vans, food waste collection vehicles. First electric hybrid vehicles are in use in 2022.</p> <p>Elfreda House sheltered housing redevelopment began in September 2021 and will be built to Future Homes Standard 2025.</p> <p>Decarbonisation of Rowan House progressing and will be completed, ready to re-open later in 2022.</p> <p>A new Carbon Management Plan to replace the 2016-2020 is being prepared for 2022-2027, developing plans to reduce emissions at our high emitting assets including Leisure World.</p>

Conserve and enhance biodiversity	
Goal	Achievements
Enhance environments to create more space for nature to grow and thrive through greening and natural seeding.	<p>Essex Forest Partnership</p> <p>Successfully secured funding with the Essex Forest Partnership for the supply, planting and maintenance of 325 standard trees (2-3m high).</p> <p>Nature Recovery Zone Project</p> <p>A trial ‘no sow, no mow’ management regime was completed with Wivenhoe Town Council. The project group are now working to expand the trial further.</p> <p>Legislative change</p> <p>Officers have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worked with a variety of partners to identify local landowners and farmers willing to plant trees and hedgerows • worked with the current tenant farmer at High Woods Country Park to develop proposals for meadow improvements • been working to draw up Biodiversity Net Gain guidance and to identifying sites for Net Gain <p>Policies, strategies, and planning</p>

Conserve and enhance biodiversity	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Officers are working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchester Orbital Guidelines • Landscape Development Guidance • Green Infrastructure Guide • Natural asset register
Discover, nurture and enable the work led by communities that promotes biodiversity.	<p>The partnership working with Together We Grow CIC has been recognised through the shortlisting of the work in the 'Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative' category at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Service Awards 2021.</p> <p>Engagement campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An online library has been launched • A tree guardian campaign has been launched • Local schools, farmers and landowners have taken on trees and shrubs <p>Community planting days have been completed.</p> <p>Trees for Years was delivered through a click and collect process.</p> <p><u>Street Tags</u> have been added to all rewilding sites.</p> <p>Greening the orbital:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayfinding discs have begun to be installed

Conserve and enhance biodiversity	
Goal	Achievements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A leaflet will be distributed this summer • The Orbital has been added to the Go Jaunty App • Officers will work to seek funding and implement the Greening the Orbital programme <p>Street / Urban tree planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees were provided for the parklets along the High Street. Replacement of highway and street trees has begun through partnership with Essex Forest Partnership
Plant native species and manage our woodlands, meadows and greenspace whilst sustaining existing habitats.	<p>Cymbeline Meadow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial concept plans have been drawn up • Worked with the current Tenant Farmer on proposals • Sought advice and guidance from a variety of organisations on proposals • Impact assessments and archaeological assessments undertaken <p>Engage and enable Parish Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town & Parish Councils were offered free trees and shrubs for planting on their land or for distribution to their residents • Worked with Big Green Internet and Woodland Trust to deliver the Red Squirrel Project to plant new hedgerow on Mersea Island <p>Miyawaki Forest</p>

Conserve and enhance biodiversity	
Goal	Achievements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared plans for a double sized Miyawaki Forest <p>Planting will commence during the planting season 2022-2023.</p>
Work alongside communities to maintain clean, green neighbourhoods and urban spaces that we all look after and enjoy.	<p>'Tree Guardians' are now being recognised and provided with the tools to help them continue with their roles. A campaign to recruit more Tree Guardians and showcase the wonderful work they do and the impact they make is has been shared.</p> <p>Community Action Days</p> <p>Several Community Action Days have been held: to work with communities and local businesses to make visible improvements to local areas. As part of these days, council officers also provide residents with information to develop a 'communities can' approach to support the maintenance of these spaces in the future. A programme of delivering these action days across the Borough is continuing.</p>

Enable more opportunity for walking and cycling around Colchester	
Goal	Achievements
Work with partners to implement strategies and develop measures to reduce traffic in the town centre.	<p>Worked with ECC on the CFTS, inputting into the strategy and consultation.</p> <p>Worked with ECC on SGH to influence the Active Travel Fund bids, helping gain around £3m investment.</p> <p>Designed and bided for funding through the development process to help fund LCWIP routes; and worked with ECC on the Town Centre to Greenstead and University route.</p> <p>Assisted ECC with the Bus Service Improvement Plan, inputting into consultation and joining discussions on the Enhanced Partnerships.</p> <p>Helped ECC promote Park & Ride in Colchester to help reduce traffic in the town centre.</p> <p>Responded to Transport East's Transport Strategy and National Highways Route Strategy to formulate responses to consultations.</p>
Improve facilities and routes for cyclists and walkers to enable active travel behaviours, healthier lifestyles and reduce car use.	<p>Mapped our sustainable travel projects and plans to show how collective CBC/ECC work aligns and delivers on our key goals to focus priorities in bids for funding.</p> <p>Led the Secure Cycle Parking project to identify the optimum operating model, premises and partners, Initiated the development of a new Sustainable Travel Supplementary Planning Document to support the new Local Plan.</p> <p>Continued to support businesses with implementing workplace travel plans through the Colchester Travel Plan Club hosted by CBC.</p>

Enable more opportunity for walking and cycling around Colchester	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Worked with Planning team and developers to ensure walking and cycling measures and Travel Plans are delivered through the planning process and via S106 contributions including in east Colchester where several schemes are proposed that combine to benefit the local communities.</p>
Ensure major regeneration projects put physical activity, cycling and walking at the forefront of development.	<p>The new £28.8m Sports Park opened with new pedestrian crossings and cycleways to the facility.</p> <p>‘The Walk’ provides a new cycleway and pedestrian link through the Northern Gateway completed in November 2021.</p> <p>Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) have embedded sustainability in all emerging projects.</p> <p>Active travel projects are included in the Town Deal bid and several developments in progress with ECC partnership, including Active Travel Fund 2, Local Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Projects 4 (LCWIP 4) and 7, as well as ‘Fixing the Link’ (Phase 2).</p>
Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps	
Goal	Achievements

<p>To increase biodiversity, wildflowers and accessibility to Council open spaces, the 'Greening Colchester' policy will be further developed through the Woodland and Biodiversity Project and based on the outcomes from the 2021 growing season pilots, in consultation with ward Councillors and the Environment and Sustainability Panel.</p>	<p>Blossom Circles tree planting as a Covid memorial. The tree planting has now been completed and signage is in place, including 4 poems for each circle created by local poets.</p> <p>Wildflower enhancements. A combination of plug planting and seeding has taken place at selected sites during the winter season 2021.</p> <p>Strimmer crew. This crew has been in action and undertaking a rolling programme of strimming across the Borough.</p>
<p>To support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste a budget will be made available to support the delivery of neighbourhood services, such as improving waste bins and containers for recycling materials, where demand has at times outstripped supply, and to ensure our frontline staff always have the equipment they need to do their job.</p>	<p>Several initiatives are underway including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter and dog bin policy – agreed and has been launched • Litter engagement strategy - litter picking hubs across the Borough have been launched, enabling people to borrow litter picking kits when they are out • Litter bin route optimisation - new technology has been installed and are being optimised • Volunteer support and education programme – the 'Litter Warrior' initiative has been extended to include the opportunity for residents to undertake weeding in their local areas • Additional operative resource – delivered • 'Smart' bin pilot in Dedham – four solar bins have been installed • Supply of Colchester Market cloth bags – supplied and distributed by market traders
<p>We will invest in improved welfare, safety and compliance at the Shrub End depot whilst working towards a</p>	<p>A variety of work has been completed around the depot facilities, including the installation of a new weighbridge, car park surfacing works and fencing replacements. Planning permission has been granted for a new barn, and plans have been drawn up to improve welfare facilities for frontline staff.</p>

long-term strategy for our operational depot services.	A long-term strategy is currently under development.
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Creating safe, healthy and active communities:

- Build on community strengths and assets
- Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people
- Provide opportunities for young people
- Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps

Build on community strengths and assets

Goal	Achievements
Take an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Approach and work alongside communities to build a borough where people are more empowered, self-sufficient, healthy, active, happy and doing what they enjoy.	<p>A range of priorities and activities are being community led, co-produced with communities, or utilising the skills and assets within communities.</p> <p>One Colchester continue to enable a community lead approach to supporting the most vulnerable residents with variety of needs. A move from Winter Resilience into advice and assistance with the costs of living crisis.</p> <p>One Colchester - Communities Can and ABCD awareness and training is being rolled out across Council (Members & Officers) and partners.</p>

Build on community strengths and assets	
Goal	Achievements
	One Colchester lead the support effort for Homes 4 Ukraine. Community Enabling, Private Sector Housing, Customer, CBH and One Colchester have come together to support the guest and hosts through this complex process.
Encourage belonging, involvement and responsibility in all Colchester's communities and neighbourhoods.	<p>One Colchester commissioned Asset Mapping completed, and refresh planned for every 6 months. Data continues to inform the systems work.</p> <p>Phase 3 of the Anglian Ruskin University qualitative research is currently being planned as a conclusion to this research piece. The focus of phase 3 will be Community Assets reflecting on Covid and lessons learnt.</p> <p>Awareness and training of ABCD delivered across system and CBC with a planned continuing roll out.</p> <p>Communities Can strategic approach have been agreed through One Colchester. Development and embedding of an ABDC across the whole system are underway.</p> <p>CBC have representation on the Live Well Neighbourhoods Team for Colchester Central.</p>
Work with our partners to make volunteering and community involvement as easy as possible.	One Colchester approach led by C360 to recruit and support volunteers across the Borough. This has created new opportunities and simple mechanisms for recruitment and confirms what is strong in our communities rather than what is wrong.

Build on community strengths and assets	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>The system is ready and prepared for the cost of living, health or social challenges.</p> <p>A range of activities highlighted within the SPAP demonstrate the engagement and co-production taking place across all system partners. Rarely are things done in isolation which demonstrates the momentum and progress being made in working collaboratively with partners and communities. This will become even stronger with the appointment of the new Alliance Director role.</p>
Maximise developer contributions (such as Section 106) and other funding mechanisms to help fund community infrastructure.	Active engagement using ABCD, carried out with community groups, voluntary groups and Town and Parish Councils, to agree a S106 project plan for each ward, in preparation for receipt of S106 developer contributions. A more pro-active approach has been agreed with Planning to make the most of the funds available.
Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	
Goal	Achievements
Work alongside Public Health to take steps that mitigate Covid-19 infection risks and control outbreaks across the population.	One Colchester system approach to outbreak control led to joined up approach maximising the resources. This included working with Colchester BID, University, Parish and Town Councils, Police, Health Colleagues, Voluntary Sector and many others.

Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Clear Guidance uploaded to Council Website. Legislation and interpretation shared with businesses. Including 12 letters to update.</p> <p>Over 2900 complaints in relation to non-compliance, results; 800 investigations. 1000 requests responded to.</p> <p>Night and daytime visits undertaken including weekends across all sites. Renewed focus from 29 March 2021.</p> <p>Enforcement taken against 12 businesses.</p> <p>Continued to check and Following the Pandemic the Team have been playing catchup in relation to all the inspections that the team is required to do. By March 2023 we hope to have caught up.</p>
Support residents to do the things they enjoy doing to stay healthy, happy and physically active.	<p>Use of the Local Development Pilot (LDP) and system partners at identify key areas of actions and invest in activity area to encourage inactive residents in the most deprived areas to become more active.</p> <p>Work with One Colchester and continue to lead the Alliance 'Be Well' domain so issue is covered by a system solution.</p> <p>Regular collaboration with Town and Parish Clerks.</p>

Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Provision of beautiful, safe open spaces and play areas across the Borough. Use of the CCG Inequalities funding for Physical Activity to be invested in our Countryside Open Spaces for Green Prescribing.</p> <p>Encourage active lifestyles and continued working with communities and partners to improve access to walking, cycling and open spaces.</p>
Enable access and involvement in community green space, countryside sites, sport, and leisure facilities.	<p>As well as promoting the facilities to the wider community, we are promoting to specific groups. Notably, we have created a Cycling Information Pack and a Go-Ride leaflet which can be sent to all cycle clubs and schools and a Cricket Awareness leaflet used to engage local clubs.</p> <p>Commissioned a regional campaign to promote the Sports Park and engaged Kat Marketing to specific key audiences and create regional awareness of site and drive new users with creation new website and continue to reach out to British Cycling for joint opportunities. This has led to increase in income, visitors and new users.</p>
Support people to live in healthy homes that meet their needs.	<p>The Senior Occupational Therapist in Housing Project has been extended until 2024 following success in Years 1 and 2. This partnership benefits applicants, CBC and ECC in improved delivery of DFG's.</p> <p>The Discretionary Fast-Track Grant continues to support Hospital Discharge and Admission Avoidance.</p>

Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Looking at ways to improve the DFG spend to maximise the impact for our residents.</p> <p>The Mental Health and Housing Partnership Project has re-launched after pausing during the pandemic. The partnership consists of CBC, Tendring District Council, Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust and CBH, bringing frontline council and mental health services together to support individuals that are at risk of losing their homes or hospital admission.</p> <p>Checking accommodation for asylum seekers including the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.</p> <p>Processing licences for Houses in Multiple Occupation - 73 licences issued in year and >300 licensed HMOs.</p> <p>Taking robust enforcement against criminal landlords – various legal notices + £19,500 in Final Civil Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Investigating complaints and enforcing standards - removing nearly 1000 serious housing hazards from 335 homes > 500 property inspections/assessments in year.</p> <p>Promoting collaborative working with partners so housing is considered as a wider determinant of health, including with the Live Well Team for Colchester Central.</p> <p>Seeking opportunities for alternative income streams to increase the team's resource.</p>

Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	
Goal	Achievements
	Planning various CCG funded housing and health projects.
Supporting the most vulnerable residents through our One Colchester partnership.	<p>One Colchester co-design/co-produce projects supporting our most vulnerable residents. (1). Older persons packs - encouraging activities at home, providing awareness around falls prevention (2) Activity packs and food parcels for younger people - encouraging physical activity and healthy eating. (3) Advice and assistance on keeping residents safe and warm in their homes. (4) Winter Resilience leaflet drops to most vulnerable, paper copy of information and support available.</p> <p>Trusted and transparent relationships with community leaders from diverse communities, BAME and Faith communities. Engaging through listening events and regular dialogue.</p> <p>External funding supports our most vulnerable residents. Includes significant funding from North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NEECCG) to reduce inequalities over Colchester 2022 –2024.</p> <p>Safer Colchester website includes information on staying safe, hidden harms (such as domestic abuse), hate crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Essex County Council funding for Next Chapter to deliver Together We Can project, supporting victims of Domestic Abuse within safe accommodation and the community.</p>

Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>#SeeYouSafer campaign; partnership campaign to help people feel safer when enjoying a night out in Colchester. Launched in December 2019, predominantly using social media, #SeeYouSafer messaging has reached 369,991 between January and March 2022.</p>
Provide opportunities for young people	
Goal	Achievements
<p>Provide positive opportunities for young people to engage with their local community and do things that interests them, keeps them safe, makes them happy and supports improved mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Transformed Youth Facilities is an umbrella theme within the Town Deal, with £1.3m for capital improvements at Colchester Townhouse, Stanway and Highwoods Youth Centres, all within the Geographical footprint.</p> <p>While the ambition for a Youth Zone, or something similar had initially been included in the Towns Fund programme, the reduced overall amount to £18.2m resulted in some difficult decisions along with the impacts of Covid19 which brought about unexpected financial challenges for the Borough Council. While the Towns Investment Plan still has ambition to provides a Youth Zone, this is dependent on commitment from ECC and other Public Sector partners to help secure a location, capital funding and the annual £400k revenue commitment.</p>

Provide opportunities for young people	
Goal	Achievements
Support the creation of strong, safe, and friendly communities that care about each other.	<p>Continue with the production and updating of the Community Response Pack and Residents Contact Pack.</p> <p>Ensuring Town and Parish Councils are engaged and supported through regular engagement, contact and involvement in local decision-making processes.</p> <p>Virtual Crew delivered to year 6 pupils in June 2021. The aim being to help transition / raise awareness before secondary school to help children recognise an exploitative friendship or relationship via a powerful theatrical performance and interactive workshop. 1884 pupils from 49 primary schools participated in the virtual sessions. A revised, fully live and interactive version of Virtual Crew (renamed) will be delivered to schools in June/July 2022.</p>
Work with Essex Police, Colchester Borough Homes, Essex Youth Service and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and tackle serious crime.	<p>Multi Agency Coordination Panel uses combined powers to disrupt criminality; one Organised Crime Group archived.</p> <p>Closures conducted by Colchester Borough Homes to tackle drugs and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Violence and Vulnerability Unit funding to establish projects to reduce likelihood of residents becoming serious violence offenders.</p> <p>Nights of Action events tackled violence and Anti-Social Behaviour by providing a visible presence, proactive operations, and enforcement.</p>

Provide opportunities for young people	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Marshal patrolled the Priory and other open spaces throughout the year to deter anti-social behaviour and enforce breaches of the public space protection order.</p> <p>Multi agency working group established to tackle youth crime and ASB in Greenstead.</p>
Work alongside our partners to improve cleanliness and community safety in the town centre.	<p>Town Centre Action partnership meetings held fortnightly to continue to discuss individuals causing (or vulnerable to) anti-social behaviour, hotspots and problem solve issues.</p> <p>Joint working with the Police and the Town Centre Business Improvement District to help businesses safely re-open within Covid-19 guidelines and help develop the Leisure Recovery Plan.</p> <p>#SeeYouSafer campaign; a major multi partnership campaign to help people feel safer when enjoying a night out in Colchester was launched in December 2019. Predominantly using social media, the #SeeYouSafer messaging has reached 369,991 between January and March 2022.</p>
Upgrade and extend the CCTV network to reach more places.	The CCTV infrastructure was installed by July 2020 and April 2021, with the project closure completed in July 2021. The project was delivered throughout lock down periods in the Covid pandemic and remained on time and on budget, with over 100km of cable installed, expanding the coverage from the town other parts of urban Colchester including the new Sports Park at the Northern Gateway.

Provide opportunities for young people	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>The first arrests were made with assistance from CCTV in the first week of deployment, with the improved picture quality being beneficial immediately.</p> <p>Almost 40 older non-working cameras were replaced with new cameras and the number of cameras was significantly increased, as was coverage from cameras, alongside the quality of imagery.</p>

Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps	
Goal	Achievements
<p>We recognise the excellent progress made in tackling Covid but we cannot be complacent. We will continue to prioritise all efforts to reduce the transmission of coronavirus and risks of infection, including local track and trace, whilst doing everything we can to protect the livelihoods of our residents and businesses.</p>	<p>Covid19 response included community led approaches across the borough supporting most vulnerable with food deliveries, medicines, and befriending schemes.</p> <p>Thousands of additional volunteers engaged and supporting communities throughout the last 18 months, many specifically supporting the most vulnerable during Covid19 pandemic.</p> <p>One Colchester approach led by C360 to recruit and support volunteers across the Borough. This has created new opportunities and simple mechanisms for recruitment.</p> <p>The system is ready and prepared for any winter issues relating to Covid or other health, financial and social challenges.</p>

<p>We will expedite progress on delivering new Community Halls at St Mark's, Highwoods and Western by-pass, Stanway.</p>	<p>St Marks Community Centre. Work is progressing well with project. Previous building demolished and site cleared. Ongoing investigations to the site and wider NGW scheme continue. Drainage delayed publishing the Tender Pack.</p> <p>BREAM energy to reduce costs. Heads of Terms discussions ongoing with trustees. Ongoing discussions with CCG/NHS regarding NHS presence.</p> <p>Stanway Lakelands Centre. Construction under way to the agreed timescale. Handover planned to SPC in July 2022. Discussions continue regarding the lease. The Totem Signage Artist has been appointed & price being agreed to budget. Toucan Crossing design and construction costs have been obtained. Conversations ongoing for Phase 2 S106 contributions - outside space.</p>
<p>Members' Locality Budgets for 2021-2022 were cut by 50% as part of the budget strategy process in the previous financial year and these will be restored back to £2,000 with immediate effect so that every councillor can support local priorities in their wards.</p>	<p>This goal has been delivered.</p>
<p>Our open spaces have become increasingly significant and important to support residents' physical and mental wellbeing during the Covid pandemic. Funding will be allocated to enhance the security of our open spaces and</p>	<p>The audit has been completed and orders placed for the equipment and materials required. There has been a delay with some aspects of the project by virtue of concrete posts failing at the point of installation of a height barrier. So, officers have paused to review the construction of these ahead of installing other barriers. There is an additional challenge with one site where</p>

prevent unauthorised access that could pose a risk to the biodiversity and accessibility of these important locations.	a legal agreement needs to be reviewed. All other sites are proceeding as planned with high priority sites having had the additional barriers, bollards and chains installed as planned.
We will investigate opportunities to brighten-up multi-story car parks (MSCP), for example through decoration or other environmental improvements.	<p>A 'UK first' innovative EV charging solution has been installed in Priory Street Car Park. The solution includes associated charging points, bay painting and signage. Charge points include bay sensor technology linked to the MiPermit system, which is used to pay for parking and electricity in one transaction.</p> <p>Redecoration of the main access and ground floor of St Mary's multi-storey car park, with widened bays and simpler entrance and exit layout has been completed.</p> <p>The audio system in St Mary's multi-storey car park was amended to enable background music to be played over the Christmas period with appropriate music licensing.</p>

Delivering homes for people who need them:

- Increase the number, quality and types of homes
- Prevent households from experiencing homelessness
- Create new communities and adopt a new Local Plan that delivers jobs, homes and the infrastructure to meet the borough's future needs
- Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps

Increase the number, quality and types of homes	
Goal	Achievements
Deliver 30% affordable housing across all our mixed tenure housing sites.	<p>The first housing site developed by Amphora Homes was completed in July 2021 and contained 2 affordable homes and 6 private sale market homes.</p> <p>Colchester Northern Gateway gained outline planning permission for 350 homes that Amphora will build here from 2023 which will include 30% affordable housing.</p> <p>Exploration of various other new sites, including around the town centre, continues.</p>
Deliver 380 affordable council and housing association homes by 2023.	<p>96 affordable homes have been delivered in Colchester. 72 homes were existing properties purchased by the Council, 6 were newbuild council homes and 18 were delivered by Registered Providers through Section 106 developers' obligations. The running total of affordable homes delivered is 197 out of the target of 380.</p>
Improve existing Council homes to keep them in good repair and improve energy efficiency.	<p>The Housing Investment Programme continues to be delivered and the Council's properties are maintained to a high standard of decency.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the programme will carry forwards over £2m of works as it has been affected throughout all of 2021-2022 by the pandemic, 'Brexit' and other global issues that combine and hinder supply chains, materials, and labour.</p> <p>The nature of the work (being in people's homes) meant that safe working practices also slowed some works and that more tenants (often more vulnerable) refused entry to properties to have improvements undertaken.</p>

Increase the number, quality and types of homes	
Goal	Achievements
	A new Asset Management Strategy and HRA Business Plan was agreed in early 2022 and shows a viable programme for the Housing Revenue Account, including decency, safety compliance, new build and sustainability works.
Deliver new low/zero carbon Council homes for our residents.	<p>Construction of 6 new homes completed in 2021 and a further 20 are due to complete in 2022. Planning permissions are being sought on the 'Phase 3 garage sites' to add to this in 2022-2023.</p> <p>Elfreda House adds to the general need's homes, with new sheltered accommodation that will be completed in 2023 too.</p> <p>The new Council homes are being built to 'Future Homes 2025' principles making them the most energy efficient homes that the Council has built to date.</p> <p>In addition, a £4.5m package of "Climate Emergency Response Works" was started during 2021 to increase the EPC ratings of our most inefficient, older, homes and help tackle fuel poverty and inequality.</p> <p>The '100 homes' project, which has acquired 100 additional council homes, also includes works to improve the energy performance of the homes.</p>

Increase the number, quality and types of homes	
Goal	Achievements
Ensure all new homes delivered by the Council are designed to a high quality across all tenures.	<p>The current collection of new homes already delivered, in progress, and soon to be progressed, are the most energy efficient homes CBC have constructed. Most have no gas boilers and are using air source heat or other low carbon measures.</p> <p>Accessibility is also being prioritised. There are several Part M Category 2 properties, with features such as level access showers. Fully adapted properties will be in 'Phase 3' of the Garages Sites now being consulted on and progressed.</p>
Continue to improve and modernise Council owned housing for older people.	<p>Kier Construction procured for Elfreda House. Works have commenced with completion due in 2023.</p> <p>Further work on the next phases of the sheltered housing review is ongoing so a pipeline for the next decade is emerging. The Asset Management review and new HRA Business Plan will reflect the current new build and improvement programmes ensuring that they are affordable and viable.</p>

Prevent households from experiencing homelessness	
Goal	Achievements
Work with partners to implement the 2020-2025 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy delivery plan.	The actions in the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Delivery Plan have been reviewed and updated. The updated Delivery Plan and Progress report has been published on the Colchester Borough Council website.
Intervene early to prevent homelessness and work in partnership with other organisations to sustain people's accommodation.	From April 2021 to the end of March 2022 homelessness was prevented for 132 households and during the same period 69 households were assisted into accommodation under the relief duty.
Tackle rough sleeping in the borough.	<p>During 2021-2022 the Rough Sleeper Team provided advice, support and assistance to 124 rough sleepers and accommodated 38. 16 were accommodated under the governments' Protect and Vaccinate initiative funding. 9 rough sleepers were reconnected.</p> <p>The Rough Sleeper Team is funded under the governments Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) which CBC successfully bid for and were awarded £325,572 for 2021-2022.</p> <p>CBC were awarded £457,500 capital and £105,700 revenue funding under the governments Rough Sleeper Accommodation Pathway (RSAP) to purchase 6 ex local authority one bed flats as move on accommodation and a support worker for 3 years. These properties form part of our accommodation pathway for rough sleepers.</p>

Create new communities and adopt a new Local Plan that delivers jobs, homes and the infrastructure to meet the borough's future needs	
Goal	Achievements
Create a Development Plan Document for Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community to include zero carbon emissions in the community development and green procurement.	<p>Joint work with TDC and ECC continues. Various evidence base reports completed and commissioned. Consultation commenced on draft DPD in March 2022.</p> <p>Link road and RTS progressing under HIF and planning permissions granted to facilitate delivery.</p> <p>Engagement website launched and a number of consultations have taken place. Community Liaison group established.</p>
Establish a Delivery Vehicle and investment package for the next phase of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community.	<p>First joint committee took place February 2022. Members from the three Authorities agreed draft DPD and allowed public consultation to commence.</p> <p>£135k of funding awarded under the MHCLG Garden Communities programme.</p> <p>Governance arrangements, programme and resource implications continue to be developed.</p>
Develop the Colchester Northern Gateway as a sustainable place to live, work and play.	<p>The Sports Park opened (April) holding an open day (July) and hosting the Women's Tour of Britain (October). The Park has Solar PV, a green roof, electric vehicle charging points and new cycleways and walkways.</p> <p>'The Walk' completed an attractive, tree-lined, avenue dedicated to walking and cycling.</p>

Create new communities and adopt a new Local Plan that delivers jobs, homes and the infrastructure to meet the borough's future needs	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>The Heat Network was tendered with a contractor ready to build the Energy Centre and connections to the pre-laid pipes.</p> <p>Turnstone Developments are starting the construction of the new Northern Gateway Leisure Park after agreements were signed and tenancies with several food and leisure operators were secured.</p> <p>CNG South (Mill Road) also gained outline approval of the planning committee and the Secretary of State.</p>
Ensure the Council has a good supply of land available for new homes and business.	<p>Adopted Local Plan provides for housing land up to 2023 and adequate employment land.</p> <p>Emerging Local Plan will allocate sites to provide land for housing and employment up to 2033 and beyond.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans passed referendums in Marks Tey and Mersea</p>
Create great places to live through the provision of new homes with infrastructure and facilities that support sustainable living and promote health and wellbeing.	<p>Progress is being made towards adoption of a new Local Plan and several Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted.</p> <p>Planning applications have continued to be determined which deliver new homes and infrastructure.</p>

Create new communities and adopt a new Local Plan that delivers jobs, homes and the infrastructure to meet the borough's future needs	
Goal	Achievements
	New post agreed to promote Active Environments.

Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps	
Goal	Achievements
To help clear the current backlog of enforcement cases and enable training of a new apprentice role (currently being recruited to), an additional in-year budget contribution will provide additional capacity in the Planning Enforcement team.	<p>The Planning Enforcement team has been bolstered by the appointment of an experienced officer on a fixed term contract which has been extended to March 2023.</p> <p>A replacement for the apprentice post will be recruited to.</p>
We will work with the County Council and local communities to ensure that any proposed developments on Council-owned land reflect the needs of the local community, optimise opportunities to create sustainable and affordable homes, and improve access	<p>Planning applications have been determined which will deliver new homes and infrastructure including sustainable transport options.</p> <p>Planning permissions granted for several Council owned sites ie Northern Gateway and resolution to approve at former Rugby Club site.</p> <p>Council homes are being built to Future Homes 2025 principles, with features such as renewable energy sources.</p>

to public transport and active travel choices.	Housing sites in the town centre are being aligned with wider transport projects including the Active Travel Fund 2, Rapid Transport System.
We will seek to construct a workable proposal for a revised allocation at Middlewick enabling the creation of a Country Park and/or Nature Reserve between Abbot's Road and Birch Brook.	The Local Plan Inspector's final report is still awaited following Modifications. When there is certainty regarding the allocation of Middlewick in principle, more detailed work can begin to inform a masterplan and review ecology implications.

Growing a better economy so everyone benefits:

- Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth
- Work with partners to deliver a shared vision for a vibrant town
- Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester and help businesses to flourish
- Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps

Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth

Goal	Achievements
Ensure our borough becomes stronger post Covid-19 by supporting businesses to recover, adapt and build resilience.	<p>Support and grants have been provided to businesses to support them through the pandemic.</p> <p>As well as providing direct grants, we have worked with partners in North Essex Economic Board to jointly fund business support using Government funding. This has included:</p>

Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth	
Goal	Achievements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click it Local which provided a year-long pilot online shopping portal for independent local businesses • A suite of business advice services (Digital, Financial, Import/Export, Skills • A Net Zero Business Support Programme <p>These advice schemes are providing monthly monitoring returns.</p> <p>The support we have provided was recognised by the Local Government Chronicle with the Council shortlisted for a national award.</p>
Work with partners to facilitate a high skill, high wage, low carbon workforce.	<p>CBC has maintained ongoing engagement with Partners including SELEP, Colchester Institute, University of Essex, and Essex County Council to encourage and promote skills training and upskilling of the existing and new workforce. This is likely to feature as a priority in the new Economic Strategy.</p> <p>We are engaging with partners at Essex County Council to further the development of growth sectors.</p> <p>We have secured investment to explore a Care Tech initiative locally to boost care and technology businesses working together.</p> <p>We are working with colleagues in North East Essex to support extra IT training for people who have lost work during the pandemic.</p>

Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth	
Goal	Achievements
Develop opportunities to ensure the new economy is greener, sustainable, and more resilient.	<p>Town Deal funding has been awarded including for projects that promote walking and cycling such as a new cross-town cycleway and enhanced public realm. We are considering further such projects as part of developing a Levelling Up Fund bid.</p> <p>We have jointly commissioned advice and training to support business to reduce their carbon footprint. with NEEB partners.</p>
Work with our partners to enable Colchester town centre to be a more vibrant, resilient and adaptable to future change.	<p>We are working with a wide range of partners to archive this goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have worked with the Colchester Business Improvement District (BID) to deliver new parklets on the High Street in October 2021 and are working with them to install new gateway signage to promote use of local town centre retail which will be installed later in 2022. <p>Our work with 'We are Colchester' partners to deliver the Town Deal will include improved public spaces, easier transport, better digital connection, and new community facilities. We have prepared and submitted Business Cases to access funding and have completed considerable feasibility and design work.</p>
Transform the Northern Gateway as a hub for improved wellbeing, physical	The Sports Park opened in May 2021 to provide a £28.8m regional sports complex. The Walk completed September 2021. Turnstone will soon commence the 'Northern Gateway Leisure Park' with several physical activities inside the units and a wide leisure offer. The Northern

Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth	
Goal	Achievements
activity, jobs, housing, and renewable energy.	Gateway has travel plans and is primarily powered by the UK's largest renewable underground heat network which the Council is building.
Address the inequality of access to Gigabit Broadband in communities.	<p>As above, over 100km of broadband cabling was delivered to build a direct link from London to Colchester and the 16km Metronet around urban Colchester also completed, with agreement that Amphora Trading will operate this for the Council, and the first customers benefitting from ultrafast broadband.</p> <p>The Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Project has led to over £10m of private investment being secured and this will rise to over £40m of private investment that sees ultrafast broadband available in our most deprived wards using our new network, extended network, and parts of Council owned housing estates. These areas would otherwise not be provided for by the open market for many years.</p>
Tackle local skills shortages working with businesses, University of Essex, Colchester Institute and other partners.	<p>During the past two months we have facilitated two workshops with the Ambassadors group to identify new ways to promote skills training.</p> <p>The Town Deal includes investment in digital hubs which will bring significantly expanded skills provision, upskilling the local workforce, and helping them adapt to change.</p> <p>We have secured investment to explore a Care Tech initiative locally to boost care and technology businesses working together.</p>

Work with partners to deliver a shared vision for a vibrant town	
Goal	Achievements
Agree a Town Deal with partners and the Government to attract significant new investment.	On behalf of the 'We Are Colchester' Board, our Town Investment Plan was submitted on 31 October 2020. This culminated in an £18.2m award to Colchester as part of the 3 March 2021 budget statement (in addition to £1m accelerated Town Deal funding for Public Realm in the Town Centre). Business Cases for the Town Deal projects have been prepared and submitted and we expect to hear about our funding in May 2022.
Collaborate with the town centre Business Improvement District (BID).	<p>We continue to collaborate closely with the BID including:</p> <p>Participating on their Board and Advisory Group, Town Centre Task Force and in their Leisure Recovery Board and working with them to deliver specific improvement projects (such as the new High Street parklets) and working to co-ordinate marketing and communications.</p>
Continue to regenerate Colchester Town Centre using Council assets, aligned private investment, the Town Deal and Town Investment Plan.	<p>We have published a tender to produce a Town Centre Masterplan to coordinate the use and development of the Town Centre including our assets.</p> <p>Our Town Deal funding will enable a range of projects to help regenerate the Town Centre including enhancing public spaces. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of digital work hubs • the transformation of facilities for young people • a digital skills hub at the Wilson Marriage Centre (Barrack Street)

Work with partners to deliver a shared vision for a vibrant town

Goal	Achievements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public realm improvements in the town centre • Contributions towards the restoration of 1,000-year-old Holy Trinity Church, and the first phase in restoring our iconic Victorian water tower 'Jumbo' • transformation of community facilities and housing in Greenstead • the accelerated introduction of 5G <p>improved walking and cycling links across the town.</p>

Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester and help businesses to flourish

Goal	Achievements
Ensure our strategy for inclusive economic growth supports the ambitions outlined in the North Essex Growth Strategy, the Local Industrial Strategy and our Town Deal.	We have started work to produce a new Economic Growth Strategy for the borough. This will set out our priorities for supporting the Borough's economy and job creation, focus our Economic Development work, and respond to Strategies of partner agencies such as Essex County Council. We expect to publish this this year.

Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester and help businesses to flourish	
Goal	Achievements
Ensure a good supply of employment land and premises to attract new businesses and allow existing firms to expand and thrive.	<p>We have an up to date local plan in place that allocates sufficient land and contains policies to encourage economic growth.</p> <p>Approval of applications in line with policies to attract new businesses and allow existing firms to thrive. The former Andersons Yard at Marks Tey is being redeveloped and extended to facilitate this.</p>
Encourage green technologies and innovative solutions to the Climate Emergency.	<p>Funding received for 25 electric cargo (eCargo) bikes and 5 electric trailers (etrailers) to contribute to decarbonising Council's fleet, as well as ten local businesses.</p> <p>eCargo bikes given to 10 champions. Several eCargo bikes and etrailers loaned out to organisations on short term loans.</p> <p>One eCargo bike given to resident to set up eCargo bike delivery service to deliver goods for other organisations. This has been a huge success.</p> <p>Further funding received to create shared travel hubs for residents to use ebikes, eCargo bikes and electric cars on pay as you go basis.</p> <p>Exploring town centre eCargo delivery model.</p>
Maximise the Social Value benefits derived from third party contracts.	<p>From October 2020, the Council started issuing tenders using the Social Value framework (SVF) developed by the SVP and tailored for Colchester. Given the time needed for submission of bids, evaluation and award of contracts before the period of work starts, it is</p>

Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester and help businesses to flourish	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>anticipated that reporting on the delivered benefits will be available towards the end of 2021-2022.</p> <p>Ongoing – Projects are now being issued encompassing the use of SVP but to date no reports have been produced. As above anticipate delivered benefits being available 2022-2023.</p>
Ensure the Council's assets continue to contribute to economic growth and opportunity. Develop a decarbonisation financial strategy and investment plan.	<p>The Asset Management Strategy was updated to focus on post Covid recovery and asset management initiatives continued to be undertaken on Council-owned sites (operational, investment and surplus) during 2021.</p> <p>Amphora marketed sites identified for disposal and will be proceeding with these during 2022 to secure income and capital receipts. Rent collection remained high and vacant property rates low.</p> <p>Continued strategic and asset management of regeneration and development sites including Colchester Northern Gateway, Hythe, and the Town Centre.</p>

Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps	
Goal	Achievements
Improvements will be made to signage and interpretation around the Town	CBH are now going to project manage this project along with CBC and The Bid.

<p>Centre to support and encourage residents and visitors to make the most of their experience in Colchester and increase the length of time visitors stay.</p>	<p>A task and finish group are just being assembled to carry the project forward.</p>
<p>The Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which provides a wonderful opportunity to 'dress' the town and support our local communities to join the celebrations and stimulating the local economy.</p>	<p>Numerous concepts and ideas were suggested and explored for feasibility. Initial ideas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Tree planting across the Borough • Enhanced planting in Castle Park • Bandstand refurbishment/improvement works • Flags and bunting in the town centre • Repairing fountain in Middleborough <p>Other potential items identified at this time include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street party and Jubilee info packs • Special events • Town centre additional planting • Wildflower maze <p>A cross-service officer working group has been created to develop the options and will pull in external partners as appropriate.</p>
<p>As Britain's First City, and oldest recorded town, Colchester has been a highly significant regional centre for over 2,000 years. The Council will look</p>	<p>Webpages launched following Council approval October 2021.</p> <p>An engagement plan involved key stakeholders and members of the public.</p>

to work with partners across Colchester, including the Town Deal Board, to put together a bid for City Status in 2022.	Decision awaited from Her Majesty Spring 2022.
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Celebrating our heritage and culture:

- Agree and implement a new Cultural Strategy that supports our cultural assets
- Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year
- Protect, enhance and celebrate Colchester's unique heritage
- Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps

Agree and implement a new Cultural Strategy that supports our cultural assets

Goal	Achievements
Work with partners to deliver a collaboration Cultural Vision and Ambitions for the borough with Delivery of Strategy in 2021-2022.	Scope was agreed with stakeholders including CBC's Strategic Arts Partners, the Mercury, Colchester Arts Centre and Firstsite, and Arts Council England (ACE). Specialist consultants Counterculture were then appointed via competitive tender. During the consultation and research phase over 1000 people responded to the public consultation, including attendance of 178 at an open event at the Mercury Theatre, and Counterculture also carried out 45 in person interviews with major stakeholders. The Strategy was developed over winter 2021/22 and after consultation on the draft with external partners including ACE, Creative Colchester, ECC, the BID and One Colchester it was agreed and endorsed by Cabinet on the 9 March 2022.

Agree and implement a new Cultural Strategy that supports our cultural assets	
Goal	Achievements
Agree the key milestones and investment necessary to deliver the strategy.	The new Cultural Strategy to 2030 has been delivered in budget with all key milestones met. Where required investment to deliver the resulting Action Plan will form part of future budget setting discussions.
Continue to provide sustainable grant funding to support Mercury Theatre, Firstsite and Colchester Arts Centre (CAC) and help the sector to adapt and recover from the impact of Covid-19.	<p>In October 2021 the Council extended the current Strategic Arts Partner grant funding commitment to these organisations until 2026-2027.</p> <p>2021-2022 Funding Agreements agreed, and grants raised to schedule. The organisations appeared before the Scrutiny Panel in February 2022 to update Members on their capital projects, recovery programmes and the value for money provided by the grants awarded by CBC.</p> <p>Additional match funding was committed to unlock Cultural Recovery Fund Kick Start funding for the capital project at Colchester Arts Centre (CAC). CAC subsequently received grant of £128,182 from the Fund and the project has been delivered.</p> <p>Mercury and CAC reopened successfully post completion of capital funded projects/end of Covid restrictions.</p> <p>Firstsite reopened in May 2021 and was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in October.</p>

Agree and implement a new Cultural Strategy that supports our cultural assets	
Goal	Achievements
Identify further opportunities to improve the cultural offer for residents and visitors.	<p>Creative Colchester actively supported the sector during Covid. The Board contributed to the development of the Cultural Strategy and expects to take a leading role in the delivery.</p> <p>Grants for the Creative Events Fund for events delayed by Covid were held over and released in 2021-2022, providing cultural opportunities for residents and visitors as restrictions eased.</p> <p>Delivering on an action in the Cultural Strategy the Council has ringfenced funding for cultural micro grants for two years. In year one (22/23), a partnership with the NHS, recognising the potential of culture to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing, will increase the value of the funding available by a third.</p>

Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year	
Goal	Achievements
Promote Colchester's heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support jobs.	<p>Due to closure/ restrictions until July, admissions at the Castle were down on pre-pandemic levels by 25%. However, following July, admissions returned to, and in August exceeded pre-pandemic levels. These numbers and new commercial ventures meant income for this period was up 21% (£78,000) and only 5% down for the whole year.</p> <p>Schools' numbers are now returning to pre-pandemic levels.</p>

Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Hollytrees Museum only reopened fully in July and has therefore seen fewer than 50% of pre-pandemic figures.</p> <p>The Natural History Museum saw a steady return of numbers and is now the focus of planning for a major redevelopment project.</p>
Expand the events programme to encourage more visitors and position Colchester as a destination for major events.	<p>Events programmes were hugely disrupted by Covid. However, 2021 rekindled events including Olly Murs in Castle Park, the Nearly Festival, Oktoberfest and other events including several sold-out and well-known comedians at Charter Hall.</p> <p>Summer 2022 will see Simply Red, Westlife and (Alfie) Boe & (Michael) Ball entertain Castle Park, before the return of the Anti-Loo Roll and Eco Festivals, as well as another Oktoberfest and other events.</p> <p>The Women's Tour of Britain cycling event took place in Colchester on 8 October 2021 (and will again on 6 June 2022) when we host the Grand Depart prestigious opening round of the internationally televised event with world and Olympic champions competing.</p>
Work with partners and the Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) to improve the public realm for residents and visitors.	<p>Essex County Council have undertaken a 'Safer, Greener, Healthier' campaign across the County to support town centre recovery.</p> <p>Installation of parklets in the High Street has been completed in partnership with the BID.</p>

Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>In partnership with the BID, CBH and other key stakeholders the tourism signage replacement programme is underway.</p> <p>Welcome Back Funding: To support Councils to help their local high streets get safely back to business, central Government released funding. Officers have worked with the BID, and others to develop initiatives to the support the opening of High Streets safely.</p> <p>Community Action Days have been held.</p> <p>Funding has been secured with Essex Police and Essex Youth Service to purchase a mobile skate park to engage young people across the Borough. A graffiti education project will then take place designing the equipment at Firstsite.</p>
Improve the information available to Visitors through the launch of a new improved Website.	<p>New www.visitcolchester.com website launched August 2020 with improved functionality (particularly for mobile devices) and content. Design includes extensive use of video recycled from the Colchester tourism ad and newly commissioned for the project.</p> <p>Action achieved.</p>
Promote Colchester and the wider Borough to attract visitors back after the lifting of Covid restrictions and lockdown.	<p>Recovery promotions scheduled alongside the Government Road Map Out Of Lockdown included; new Roman Walls, Siege, River Colne and Mersea heritage trails; the 'Colchester and the Beautiful Borough Welcomes You Back' film; 'Colchester Roman Holiday' themed staycation campaign including sponsorship of the Liverpool Street ticket gates (Network Rail</p>

Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>915,206 verified passenger contacts); group travel/coach tourism incentive scheme and promotion including free coach parking for qualifying groups launched in March 2022.</p> <p>Partnership working with Visit Essex included London targeted consumer campaign featuring Underground advertising; two of the five campaign images used were in the Borough of Colchester.</p> <p>Local tourism businesses support included free or discounted advertising on 'Visit Colchester ' (extended into 2022).</p>

Protect, enhance and celebrate Colchester's unique heritage	
Goal	Achievements
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.	<p>The Roman Church repairs were completed.</p> <p>New interpretation panels were installed at the Roman Church and St Botolph's, Balmerne Gate and Priory Street.</p> <p>Further interpretation is forthcoming for Lieutenant Pinto/ Captain Jones subject to Diocese permissions.</p> <p>Signage and interpretation of the Town to Port trail is in progress.</p>

Protect, enhance and celebrate Colchester's unique heritage	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Two new interpretation panels are to be installed at the Roman Circus in production and one panel at Berechruch Dyke, funded by the MOD.</p> <p>2021 Heritage Open Days saw 3,692 visitors to 27 sites.</p> <p>Plans progressing for the restoration of Holy Trinity Church and its new lease as Community 360's HQ.</p>
Continue to deliver a major exhibition at Colchester Castle bi-annually.	<p>The Arts Council exhibition, 'Decoding the Roman Dead' opened in July at the Castle and is believed to have significantly contributed to the visitor numbers that exceeded pre-pandemic levels during the summer. Associated podcasts and a film produced with Dan Snow and History Hit is also likely to have boosted the exhibition's profile.</p> <p>To continue momentum, the service is delivering a temporary exhibition on witchcraft at the Castle in 2022. A major exhibition is also planned for 2023 on Gladiators, also funded by Arts Council.</p>
Encourage and support the use of our Heritage sites for Community events, activities and theatre.	<p>CIMS provided non-clinical staffing and volunteer management for the vaccine centre at the Stadium. Pippa Pickles was shortlisted for a national award for her personal contribution.</p> <p>New offers developed to increase income e.g., Escape Room experience, Residentials, Knightz at the Museum to bespoke tours.</p>

Protect, enhance and celebrate Colchester's unique heritage	
Goal	Achievements
	<p>Partnership established with Bernado's and Virgin Care. The Natural History Museum will be a centre every Monday for the Essex Health and Wellbeing Service.</p> <p>Museums commissioned architects and conducted public consultation ahead of Natural History Museum feasibility study.</p> <p>Community360 have prepared a business case for the Town Deal to bring Holy Trinity back into use as a community hub. Subject to the award, C360 will prepare other bids for the remaining funding needed.</p> <p>The Town Deal also supports the repair and repurposing of Jumbo into a restaurant, bar and mixed-use space which will support a range of educational, heritage interpretation and artistic uses.</p>

Strategic Priorities achievements and next steps	
Goal	Achievements
Our museums service will explore the potential to create smaller displays such as 'Cabinets of Curiosity' at external venues to help widen exposure	<p>Undergrowth cleared from the Roman remains of Duncan's Gate by Parks and Monument consent secured for further clearance and excavation works.</p> <p>Geophysical surveys are being conducted across 140 acres of Gosbecks in 2022 as part of a research partnership with Durham University.</p>

<p>to some of our artefacts and exhibitions.</p>	<p>BID's empty shop programme includes art displays in 8-10 units planned for 2022.</p> <p>A collaboration with 'History Hit' in 2021 featured podcasts and films that engaged 500,000 people.</p> <p>A display case of archaeological finds installed at Mercury Theatre and CIMS has contributed to Firstsite exhibitions.</p> <p>Lighting installed in trees around Castle and Natural History Museum with Welcome Back funding.</p>
<p>We will investigate the potential to highlight heritage assets which are not normally seen by the public, and we will look for creative opportunities for events that help celebrate the unique character of Colchester.</p>	<p>A mosaic in Lion Walk has been relocated by Colchester Archaeological Trust. A conservation architect firm has been commissioned to expose the mosaic and display it under glass in situ.</p> <p>Anticipated for completion late in 2022.</p>