	Local Plan Committee		**Item**
			9
	16 December 2014		

Report of	**Head of Commercial Services**	**Author**	**Chris Downes**
			01206 282476
Title	**Annual Monitoring Report**		
Wards affected	All		

The Local Plan Committee is asked to approve the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

1. Decision(s) Required

1.1 To approve the 2013-14 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for publication on the Council's website.

2. Reasons for Decision(s)

2.1 Until the Localism Act came into effect in April 2012, Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act required that every local planning authority (LPA) should prepare and publicise an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents (LDDs) and local plans are being achieved. The Localism Act removed the requirement for local authorities to submit their AMR to Government, but retained a duty for local authorities to monitor policies. The Council accordingly still needs to demonstrate the effects of its policies, and the format developed for previous AMRs is considered to remain appropriate for this purpose.

3. Alternative Options

3.1 There are no alternatives as the Council needs to provide an annual source of information on the delivery of its planning functions.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) provides key information that helps the Borough Council and its partners establish what is happening now within Colchester Borough, what may happen in the future and compare these trends against existing planning policies and targets to determine if any action needs to be taken. The full report covering the period April 2013 to March 2014 is attached as Appendix 1 and will be available to view on the council's website www.colchester.gov.uk and upon request to the Planning Policy team. The electronic version will

have 'hot links' to relevant policies and evidence based documents to facilitate cross-referencing and ease of use.

4.2   As part of the Localism Act, authorities can now choose which targets and indicators to include in their monitoring reports as long as they are in line with the relevant UK and EU legislation. Their primary purpose is to share the performance and achievements of the Council's planning service with the local community. The format of this AMR accordingly is designed to clearly demonstrate how the Council is meeting targets and indicators arising from the adopted policies contained in its Local Plan and provide information that can be used in reviewing the plan. The AMR also has a wider role in helping the Council and its partners monitor the success of infrastructure delivery plans such as the Integrated County Strategy, and can also be used by other agencies wishing to amend their plans and actions. The AMR also includes information on how the Council is working with partners to meet the duty to co-operate on cross-boundary strategic matters.

4.3   The AMR is divided into a number of Key Themes covering progress in meeting Local Plan policy aspirations across a variety of areas. Key findings include:

- The total number of applications received between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 was 1,521 which is an increase on last year's total of 1,392, but is well below the pre-recession figure of 2,015 in 2007-08. 80.1% of minor applications were decided within 8 weeks, compared to 75.3% in the previous year. Performance in the 'major applications' category was up to 89.7% compared to 68.6% in the previous year. This improvement reflects successes in the Council's implementation of project management measures for applications, including pre-application advice and Planning Performance Agreements which will enhance consistency and quality in processing applications. 'Other applications' also exceeded the 80% national target with 90.7% being achieved (up from 89.7% in 2012-13).

- The housing trajectory included in this report shows that a net of 725 homes were built between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. This is an increase on the previous year's total of 617 and indicates housing delivery is recovering from the earlier recessionary period, although it still remains below the higher figures for the 2002-2008 period.

- The net housing completion figures demonstrate a good performance when considered in context of the national recessionary climate and when compared to other local authorities in Essex. The table in the Overview section of the AMR providing Essex Local Authority Housing Delivery figures shows that Colchester has out performed all other Essex authorities in recent years.

- The Council is projected to deliver 5,618 units over the 5-year period 2014/15-2018/19, which is a yearly average of 1124. Over ten years, the Council is projected to deliver 8,916 units, which is an annual figure of 892. In line with national guidance on Objectively Assessed Need, the Council will now be developing a new Local Plan based on updated evidence of housing need and viability. Initial work that will inform the Council's new Objectively Assessed Need target indicates 1,065 new dwellings per annum over 20 years would be required across the Borough. New housing targets will be matched with additional allocations as part of the plan-making process. It is important to bear in mind, however, that even if the Council can ensure there is an adequate supply of housing land, economic viability considerations and market conditions influence actual delivery figures.

- 96 affordable housing units were delivered during 2013-14; 85 were affordable rent, 2 were intermediate tenure and 9 were shared ownership. The Homebuy Direct scheme has been superseded by the Help to Buy scheme, neither of which contribute to affordable housing delivery as defined in the NPPF but do assist a particular group of people wishing to enter the housing market. The year end figure of 96 affordable homes is 13.5% of all units provided, which compares with a percentage figure of 21.6% in 2012/13. The Council changed its affordable housing target from 35% to 20% as part of its Focused Review of the Local Plan (July 2014) with the aim of increasing overall delivery rates. This change does not mean that the need for affordable units has decreased, rather it was based on viability work carried out by the Council, which concluded that overall housing delivery would be compromised by higher affordable housing requirements.

- Approximately 84% of new and converted dwellings were on previously developed land. This is a reduction from last year's total of 93% however that was at the high end of brownfield completions over the plan period so far.

- The Council worked with other districts to produce an Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to help provide an assessment of current provision and future need for pitches in the Borough (published in July 2014, with September 2014 revisions.) The GTAA established that Colchester had 12 local authority pitches at Severalls Lane, 15 private pitches, and one site where the use was tolerated and considered lawful due to the length of time it had occurred. Council monitoring established that in January 2014 there were 40 caravan/mobile units, including 15 on the Local Authority Site on Severalls Lane. The development of new policies and allocations for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople will be guided by the 2014 Gypsy and Traveller

Accommodation Assessment. It found that the Council will need to provide 15 further pitches to meet demand to 2033.

- The Borough has seen moderate amounts of new development over the last few years, mainly relating to industrial and storage and distribution uses (planning use classes B1(c), B2 and B8) uses and driven by a small number of large developments. At the same time, the Borough has been losing significant amounts of B class space, to the extent that net development rates have been negative in recent years. This has also been driven by a handful of large redevelopments such as the Flakt Woods development which involved the movement of the company to smaller new premises at Cuckoo Farm. This year, totals were significantly affected by the introduction of permitted development rights to change office use to residential. The net balance of permissions for employment use (B1-B8 use clases) last year resulted in a loss of 6,701 square metres overall.

- While AMR figures show limited commercial activity within the Town Centre, the redevelopment of the Williams and Griffins department store and Lion Walk shops points to investor confidence in the longer term prospects of the Town Centre. Additionally, the commercial property market for existing Town Centre property is buoyant.

- The challenging issue of transportation is being tackled through a number of approaches including new transport infrastructure (i.e. the final phase of the Northern Approach Road and improved cycle routes such as the Braiswick link to Colchester station) as well as behavioural change measures such as travel plans, which support shifts away from car-based means of transport. New developments are continuing to be built within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre.

- With regard to biodiversity, it appears that the policies, which seek to protect areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value and priority habitats and species are generally working. However, there is a need to continue to protect habitats and species from development that causes harm or damage.

- The Council signed up to the Local Authority Carbon Management Scheme (LACM) in 2008 and made a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions in Council buildings by 25% by the year 2012. The programme was successful and the Council exceeded its targets. By the end of LACM, in 2012, the Council measured that over 2,444 tonnes of CO_2e had been prevented from being emitted by our operations into the atmosphere. This resulted in 133 tonnes more CO_2e being saved than our target. The total emissions in that baseline year of 2008-09 were 10,150 tonnes of

CO_2e. By 2013/14 we reduced our annual emissions to 6,313 tonnes of CO_2e.

- The AMR shows that there was no loss/damage to Scheduled Monuments, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or (SSSIs), Local Wildlife Sites, key community facilities or loss of designated allotment sites. The Grade II listed Brook House in Tiptree collapsed and was subsequently demolished during the reporting period. Three further buildings were de-listed and one was added: the Chantry on Nayland Road in Great Horkesley.

5. Proposals

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee agree to adopt and publish the Annual Monitoring Report.

6. Strategic Plan References

6.1 Effective strategic planning supports the Strategic Plan Vision for Colchester as a place to live, learn, work and visit, and in particular informs the priorities of leading for the future, being cleaner and greener, and listening and responding.

7. Consultation

7.1 The Annual Monitoring Report considers the effectiveness of Local Plan policies which have been through a comprehensive consultation programme as set forth in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

8. Publicity Considerations

8.1 The AMR provides a wealth of statistical information on the Borough which should warrant press attention.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 There are no direct financial implications. The AMR, however, provides evidence to evaluate the effect of wider economic influences on Council planning policies and highlights the potential for the Council to benefit from Government funding linked to housing delivery.

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Local Development Framework and is available to view by clicking on this link:-
http://www.colchester.gov.uk/article/4962/Strategic-Policy-and-Regeneration

or go to the Colchester Borough Council website www.colchester.gov.uk and follow the pathway from the homepage: Council and Democracy > Policies, Strategies and Performance > Equality and Diversity > Equality Impact Assessments > Strategic Policy and Regeneration and select Local Development Framework from the Strategic Planning and Research section.

10.2   There are no particular Human Rights implications.

11.   Community Safety Implications

11.1   None

12.   Health and Safety Implications

12.1   None

13.   Risk Management Implications

13.1   Monitoring policies to ensure their effectiveness is intended to reduce the risk of inappropriate development. It will provide consistent advice to landowners, developers, officers, Councillors and members of the public.

14.   Disclaimer

14.1   The information in this report was, as far as is known, correct at the date of publication. Colchester Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any error or omission.

Background Papers

None

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2014

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

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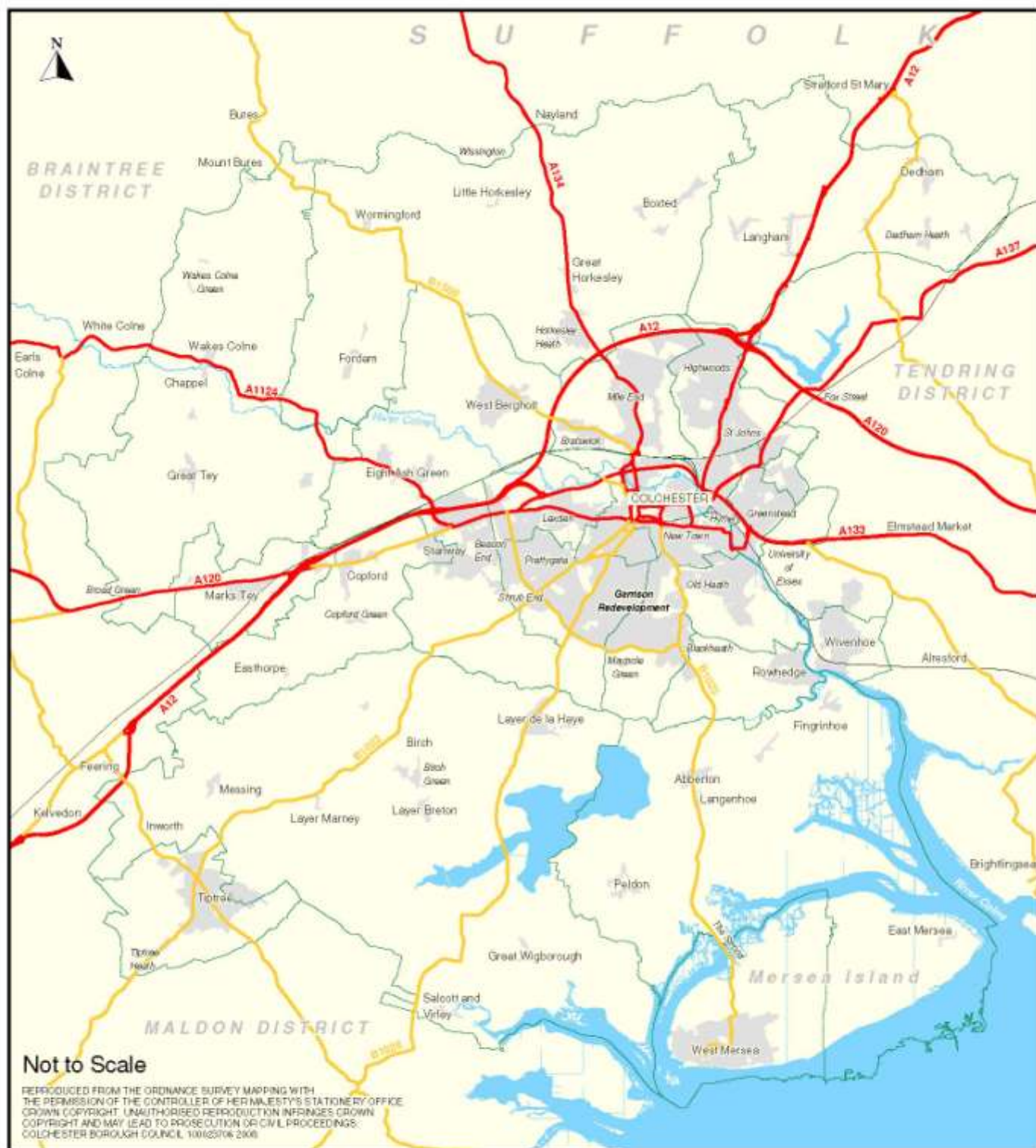
All references to the county of Essex are to Essex as it is currently constituted i.e., without the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

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Contents

Map of Colchester's Wards and surrounding areas

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background to the Report
This Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) contains information about the extent to which the Council's planning policy objectives are being achieved. The report covers the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

1.2 Introduction
The Localism Act removed the requirement for local planning authorities to produce an annual monitoring report for Government, but they did retain an overall duty to monitor policies. Authorities can now choose which targets and indicators to include in their monitoring reports as long as they are in line with the relevant UK and EU legislation. Their primary purpose is to share the performance and achievements of the Council's planning service with the local community. The monitoring report also needs to demonstrate how councils are meeting the requirement to cooperate with other authorities on strategic issues, so information on this point has been added this year and will continue to be provided in future reports. The format of this AMR accordingly is designed to clearly demonstrate how the Council is meeting targets and indicators arising from its adopted planning policies.

Information on the timetable for preparation and adoption of plan documents is contained in the Local Development Scheme, which is updated on a regular basis. The overall strategic policies for Colchester contained in the Core Strategy were found 'sound' by a Government appointed Inspector and it was adopted by the Council in December 2008. Two further Local Development Documents, Development Policies and Site Allocations, were found sound and adopted in October 2010. The AMR also reports progress on the Neighbourhood Plans now underway in a number of neighbourhoods across the Borough.

The Council completed a limited Focused Review of policies within the Core Strategy and Development Policies documents to revise selected policies that conflicted with some aspects of the National Planning Policy Framework but could be reworded to comply without significant additional evidence base work. The Focused Review was adopted by the Council in July 2014 following completion of the examination process. The Council is now undertaking a full review of its policies and allocations leading to the adoption of a new Local Plan, which is programmed for 2017. Findings from the AMR at this stage accordingly will be used to inform the initial Issues and Options stage of development, which includes new evidence base work and consultation on options for growth and policy-making.

1.3 How well are the Council's policies working?
The AMR is divided into a number of Key Themes covering progress in meeting planning policy aspirations across a variety of areas. Appendix 3 provides a list of targets developed for adopted Local Plan documents and the indicators that have been selected to measure them. The key findings of the indicators are set out below:

- The total number of applications received between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 showed an increase on last year's total of 1,392, but is well below the pre-recession figure of 2,015 in 2007-08. 80.1% of minor applications were decided within 8 weeks (75.3% in the previous year). Performance in the 'major applications' category was up to 89.7% compared to 68.6% in the previous year. This improvement reflects successes in the Council's institution of project management measures for applications, including pre-application advice and Planning Performance Agreements which will enhance consistency and quality in processing applications. 'Other

- applications' also exceeded the 80% national target with 90.7% being achieved (up from 89.7% in 2012-13).

- The housing trajectory included in this report shows that a net of 725 homes were built between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. This is an increase on the previous year's total of 617 and indicates housing delivery is recovering from the earlier recessionary period, although still well below the higher figures for the 2002-2008 period.

- The majority of the housing programmed for delivery in the 2001-2023 period has already been accounted for by previous Local Plan allocations, housing completions and planning permissions. Colchester delivered 11,701 new homes between 2001/02 and 2013/14 at an average rate of 900 dwellings per year.

- Looking ahead, the Council is projected to deliver 5,618 units over the five year period 2014/15-2018/19, which is a yearly average of 1124. Over ten years, the Council is projected to deliver 8,916 units, which is an annual figure of 892 (however this figure will increase as more permissions come forward). In line with national guidance on Objectively Assessed Need, the Council will now be developing a new Local Plan based on updated evidence of housing need and viability. Initial work that will inform the Council's new Objectively Assessed Need target indicates that a range of 1,065-1,225 new dwellings per annum would be required across the Borough. New housing targets will be matched with additional allocations as part of the plan-making process. It is important to bear in mind, however, that even if the Council can ensure there is an adequate supply of housing land, economic viability considerations and market conditions influence actual delivery figures.

- During the monitoring year 96 affordable housing units were delivered. Of these 85 were affordable rent, 2 were intermediate tenure and 9 were shared ownership. The Homebuy Direct scheme has been superseded by the Help to Buy scheme which whilst not contributing to affordable housing delivery, helps aspiring house buyers enter the market. The year end figure of 96 affordable homes is 13.5% of all units provided. The Council changed its affordable housing target from 35% to 20% as part of its Focused Review of the Local Plan (July 2014) with the aim of increasing of overall delivery rates. This change does not mean that need for affordable units has decreased, rather it was based on viability work carried out by the Council which concluded that housing delivery would be compromised by higher affordable housing requirements.

- Approximately 86% of new and converted dwellings were on previously developed land, in line with adopted local and national policies giving preference to brownfield sites.

- The Local Plan provides for the identification of appropriate sites to meet the needs of gypsies/travellers and travelling showpeople. The 2014 Gypsy and Traveller Accommdation Assessment established that Colchester had 12 local authority pitches at Severalls Lane, 15 private pitches, and one site where the use was tolerated and considered lawful due to the length of time it had been occupied. Council monitoring established that in January 2014 there were 40 caravan/mobile units, including 15 on the local authority site on Severalls Lane. Moving forward, the Council amended Core Strategy Policy H5 in its Focused Review (July 2014) to clarify that it will use national policies to help determine planning applications for gypsy and traveller sites prior to the adoption of a new Local Plan. The development of new policies and allocations for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople will be guided by the 2014 Study which

recommended the Council will need to provide 15 further pitches to meet demand up to 2033.

- Employment land is allocated in suitable locations within the Borough to meet Core Strategy targets. The delivery of additional employment and retail developments are however dependent on external factors unrelated to planning such as market interest and the overall state of the economy. Planning permissions for commercial floorspace in the Borough during the monitoring year had a negative balance of -6,701 square metres. This potential loss of floorspace (if the permissions are implemented) was principally due to national changes to permitted developed rights which allow change of use from office to residential. In the monitoriing year 7,007 square metres of office floorsspace was lost to residential as a result of this mechanism.

- The challenging issue of transportation is being tackled through a number of approaches including new transport infrastructure (i.e. construction of the final section of the Northern Approach road and improved cycle routes) as well as behavioural change measures such as travel plans, which support shifts away from car based means of transport. A high percentage of new developments are continuing to be built within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre.

- With regard to biodiversity, monitoring has established that policies which seek to protect areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value and priority habitats and species are generally working. However, there is a need to continue to protect habitats and species from development that causes harm or damage.

- The policies have also been successful in ensuring that there has been no loss/damage to listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or (SSSIs), Local Wildlife Sites, key community facilities or loss of designated allotment sites.

- The Council signed up to the Local Authority Carbon Management Scheme (LACM) in 2008 and made a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions in Council buildings by 25% by the year 2012. The programme was successful and the Council exceeded its targets. By the end of LACM, in 2012, the Council measured that over 2,444 tonnes of CO_2e had been prevented from being emitted by our operations into the atmosphere. This resulted in 133 tonnes more CO_2e being saved than our target. The total emissions in that baseline year of 2008-09 were 10,150 tonnes of CO_2e. By 2013/14 we reduced our annual emissions to 6,313 tonnes of CO_2e.

1.4 Evaluation of Planning Policies

Colchester has consistently demonstrated success in addressing the ever-changing requirements of national plan making objectives and procedures. Under the Local Development Framework system, the Borough was among the small percentage of authorities nationally who had adopted a comprehensive set of documents to guide the development management process. This comprised the strategic policies in the Core Strategy adopted in December 2008 and the supporting Site Allocations and Development Policies documents adopted in October 2010. The Council is now meeting the challenge of ensuring compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework, published in 2012. The Council's Focused Review revised those policies that can be easily adapted without significant additional evidence base work, while the Full Review of the plan will ensure that

the findings of the AMR are fully accounted for in its policies and allocations. The Council is ensuring that it meets the duty to cooperate on strategic matters by carrying out meetings and joint work with a wide range of local authority bodies and infrastructure providers. Additionally, a number of areas in the Borough are now working on Neighbourhood Plans which will provide further detailed guidance to growth in those areas.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background and Purpose of the Colchester AMR

The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) provides key information that helps the Borough Council and its partners establish what is happening now within Colchester Borough, what may happen in the future and compare these trends against existing planning policies and targets to determine what needs to be done. Monitoring will help to address questions such as:

- Are policies achieving their objectives and in particular are they delivering sustainable development and key infrastructure?
- Have policies had unintended consequences?
- What are the implications of past trends for the development of new policies and allocations?

Requirements for an AMR were previously set forth in Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which required that every local planning authority (LPA) should prepare and publicise an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents (LDDs) and local plans were being achieved. These regulations are superseded by the Localism Act 2010, which gives authorities more latitude in how they monitor policies. While the new system provides less specific regulation, the focus on local priorities has not diminished the role of effective monitoring, and it continues to be expected that the monitoring process will ensure that local policies are addressing locally identified targets and objectives.

The AMR accordingly sets out how it will update and amend components of the Local Plan and other plans to reflect changing circumstances. The AMR also has a wider role in helping the Council and its partners monitor the success of other plans, and can also be used by other agencies to amend their plans and actions. This will assist the Council in meeting its 'duty to cooperate' with other authorities. The AMR will provide the opportunity to consider the Council's track record in delivering key infrastructure to support growth and the effectiveness of its use of funds for both strategic and local funding.

The Council's Local Plan Committee reviews the adequacy of our AMR and the way we use monitoring as a key element of the plan-making process. It will also be a major consideration for the independent Planning Inspectors who will assess the soundness of our plans. Planning Inspectors will consider:

- Whether policies are founded on a robust and credible evidence base; and
- Whether there are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.

The AMR will also be a key element in the monitoring requirements that arise from Sustainability Appraisals and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

2.2 Scope and Coverage

This report covers the following matters:

- Information for each document in the LDS, indicating the stage it has reached, whether this accords with the timetable set out, any reasons for delays or changes and further steps required to progress the work.

- Documentation of the Council's joint work with other public bodies and infrastructure providers to meet the duty to co-operate on strategic cross-boundary issues.
- Progress on policies and targets in the Adopted Colchester Borough Local Plan as amended by the Focused Review, which currently comprises the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Development Policies DPDs including reasons for any slippage.
- What significant effects implementation of the policies are having on the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainability is defined and whether these effects are as intended;
- Implications for the development of a new Local Plan, including whether any policies need particular adjustments because they are not working as intended or because there have been changes in national or regional policy.

3. Portrait and Vision for Colchester

3.1 Location and General Character

The Borough of Colchester is located in the county of Essex in the east of England, covering an area of approximately 329 square kilometres. The Borough is situated 62 miles north east of London. At the time of the 2011 Census, the main urban areas account for 70.7% (122,410 people) of the Colchester population[1]. The rural areas of the Borough account for 29.3% of the population (50,664 people) and the countryside areas are mainly used for agriculture.

The Borough lies in a key gateway location between the UK and Europe, with access to Europe via the nearby Ports of Harwich and Felixstowe to the east and Stansted Airport to the west.

The following sections provide a general profile of the Borough. Further statistical information is available in the Key Themes sections noted below as well as in the Key Statistics page of the Council's website: http://www.colchester.gov.uk/insight

3.2 Population

Data from the 2013 Mid Year Estimate (MYE) put the Borough population at approximately 177,626. This figure is a 0.9% increase from the 2012 MYE of 176,008. The population of Colchester has been rising over the last ten years, and is forecasted to continue to grow over the next ten years.

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[1] 2011 Census Estimates at LSOA level, rural/urban classifications have been revised as a result of the 2011 Census. ONS © Crown Copyright, 2011

Based on the 2013 Mid Year Estimates, Colchester is the second largest district in Essex County (behind Basildon), accounting for 12.5% of the Essex population. Based on the 2013 Mid Year Estimates figures the average population density of Colchester was 535 people per square kilometre. This is an increase from 2001 when there were 474 people per square kilometre.

Estimates suggest that from 2013-2022 the population of Colchester is expected to grow by 9.6% to 194,600 people. This is an increase of 17,000 people over a nine year period.   By the same measure this is the second largest population growth in Essex; Uttlesford had the highest at 12.7%.

There has been an increase in ethnic minority groups since Census Day 2001, from 3.8% to an estimated 8.0% of the Colchester population (Census 2011). This is higher than the Essex proportion of 5.7%.[2]

3.3 Households

At of October 2014 there were approximately 78,000 dwellings within the Borough of which 5,776 were owned by the local authority.[3] The average household size was 2.33 people per household in 2011, this has decreased from 2.37 in 2001 (Census findings).[4]

A total of 725 homes were built between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014. Under current policies, 830 dwellings are expected to be built in the Borough each year. There have been 96 recorded affordable housing completions.

The average household price in April 2013 in Colchester was £202,717. This illustrates a 1.7% decrease from £205,666 in April 2012. The 2007 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) observed that few households aspiring to home ownership had access to enough money to purchase a home in Colchester, and annual updates since 2007 have not found any change to this position.

For more housing information please see **6.2 Key Theme: Housing**.

3.4 Heritage and Habitat

Colchester has a rich and vast heritage. As Camulodonum, it was the first capital of England and it is also Britain's oldest recorded town, recorded by Pliny the Elder in 77AD. The Borough has a rich archaeological and cultural heritage, dating back to at least 4,000BC. There are 22 conservation areas, some 2,560 listed buildings and 52 Scheduled Monuments. There are four parks within Colchester on the National Register of Special Historic Interest including Colchester Castle Park, Severalls Hospital, Layer Marney Tower gardens and Wivenhoe Park.

The rural landscape of the Borough has a rich ecological character, influenced by geology and landform. Habitats include woodland, grassland, heath, estuary, saltmarsh, mudflat and freshwater and open water habitats. There is a substantial amount of coastline. Many sites are recognised for their value by international and national designations, including the coastal and estuary areas in the south east and the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the north of the Borough.
For more information on the environment please see **6.5 Key Theme: Environment & Heritage**

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[2] Census 2011 Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0
[3] LAHS Return & Council Tax Data. Colchester Borough Council, 30 September 2014.
[4] 2001 and 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS). © Crown Copyright, 2012.

3.5 Economic Activity and Prosperity

Research by the Centre for Cities published in July 2010 indicates that Colchester has performed relatively well during the recession in relation to other areas and fits within the 'buoyant' category of cities (in contrast to stable or struggling).[5] In April 2012 the Javelin group published a report documenting town centres deemed as the most 'robust' and those most 'at risk'. 'At risk' is defined as those town centres that are most at risk of future decline, with the robust centres being those that are in the strongest position to defend themselves. In the largest location grades assessed, Colchester was included as one of Great Britain's most robust retail destinations[6].

Results from Colchester's Quarterly Economic Report (September 2014) indicate that 79.4% of Colchester's working age population were economically active in the financial year 2012/13, and the unemployment rate was 5.9%. The percentage of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) has decreased (when compared to the same period as last year). The percentage of 16-19 year olds Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs) has risen slightly compared to the previous year (5.8% in June 2014, 5.3% in July 2013), although quarterly data does show some fluctuation.[7] The latest data shows that number of Job Seeker's Allowance claimants decreased from 2.8% to 2.0% between February 2013 and February 2014 (working age resident based proportion), which is still below the national average, which decreased from 3.1% to 2.3%.

Colchester's main employer is the army garrison, which has close links with the town and there are also sizeable educational employers, including the University of Essex. Tourism was worth £244m to the economy of Colchester Borough in 2012. The value of tourism to Colchester has risen by 287% from £63.1m in 1993.[8]

The Borough is relatively prosperous, ranking 205 out of 326 districts on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (rank 1 being the most deprived). It is estimated that approximately 5% of people in Colchester live in seriously deprived neighbourhoods. This is somewhat lower than the proportions in Basildon (18%), Tendring (18%) and Harlow (12%).[9]

For more information on Colchester's economy please see **6.3 Key Theme: Economy & Business**.

3.6 Community

Local communities have access to a wide range of Council run services and facilities including country parks at Cudmore Grove, East Mersea and Highwoods, a leisure centre (Leisure World) including swimming pools and a 1,200 capacity event venue, and four multi-activity centres. There are also smaller community centres, village halls and activity centres in many areas around the borough which provide a range of activities and spaces to hire.

There are 79 maintained schools: 64 primaries, 11 secondaries and 4 special schools. There are two further and higher education colleges: Colchester Sixth Form College and the Colchester Institute. Colchester is also home to the globally recognised University of Essex, making the Borough a major educational base and significantly adding to the diversity of its population.

The Borough has a strong local administrative base with 31 active parish councils.

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[5] 'Colchester, Ipswich and the Haven Gateway sub-region: comparative analysis.' Centre for Cities, July 2010.
[6] Javelin - Battlefield Britain: Survivors and Casualties in the Fight for the High Street, 2012
[7] Data from Essex CCIS.
[8] Economic Impact of Tourism Report on the borough of Colchester, 2012.
[9] Indices of Deprivation, ONS, 2010.

For more information on community facilities please see **6.6 Key Theme: Accessible Services & Community Facilities**.

3.7 Health

The health of people in Colchester Borough is varied compared with the England average. Although deprivation is lower than average it is estimated that 5,300 children live in poverty.

Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average but there are inequalities across the Borough. Life expectancy is 6.9 years lower for men and 6.1 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Colchester compared to the least deprived areas.

Over the last ten years 'all cause mortality rates' in Colchester have fallen. Early death rates from heart disease and stroke have also fallen and are better than the England average[10]. In 2013, there were 1,419 registered deaths.[11] An estimated 23.3% adults are obese and an estimated 20.5% of adults smoke. There were 832 hospital stays for alcohol related harm in 2012, a lower rate than the national average.[12]

In terms of child health, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) (the number of deaths at ages under one year, per 1,000 live births) for 2012 was 5.1. This is higher than most Essex authorities, and above the Essex value of 3.9[13]. About 16.4% of Year 6 children (10 and 11 year olds) in Colchester are classified as obese, better than the national average but still significant cause for concern. 75.6% of mothers initiate breast feeding, which is better than the national rate, but smoking in pregnancy rates remain high at 13.3%, although this has fallen from 17% last year.

In 2013 there were 2,210 live births in Colchester, a decrease from 2,353 in 2012. The 'Total Fertility Rate' (TFR) indicates the average number of children that would be born to a woman if the current age-specific (the number of live births per 1,000 woman of each age) patterns of fertility persisted throughout her childbearing life. In 2013 the TFR in Colchester was 1.83, a decrease from the 2012 figure of 1.94, and below the Essex average if 1.90.[14] In 2013 in Colchester, 19.2% of live births were born to non-UK born mothers.[15]

3.8 Transport

The Borough is connected to a comprehensive network of major roads via the A12 and A120, which provide routes to London, the M25, Harlow and Cambridge. The Borough also lies in close proximity to the major seaport of Harwich (20 miles) and Stansted Airport (30 miles).

Public transport provision includes six railway stations, bus routes operated by ten bus companies and several cycle trails including National Cycle Route One.

One of the biggest challenges to Colchester is population growth and the dominance of the car as the main mode of travel. Significant congestion can occur during peak times within Colchester, the A12 and on several of the minor roads to the south of the Borough.

For more information on transportation please see **6.4 Key Theme: Transportation**.

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[10] Colchester Health Profile, 2014, Public Health England
[11] Death Registrations Summary Tables, England and Wales, 2013, Office of National Statistics
[12] Colchester Health Profile, 2014, Public Health England
[13] NHS IC Indicator Portal, 2012
[14] Births Summary Tables, England and Wales, 2013, Office of National Statistics
[15] Parents' Country of Birth Tables England and Wales, 2013, Office of National Statistics

3.9 Regeneration

The Borough is engaged in an ambitious regeneration programme in five areas of Colchester: North Colchester; the Garrison; St. Botolph's; East Colchester; and North Station. The redevelopments underway are providing new housing, employment, the University knowledge gateway, new army garrison, and new leisure/culture facilities.

3.10 Growth

Colchester's Local Plan contains a number of planning policies designed to meet the need for new homes established by the local evidence base. This document seeks to measure their performance in delivering new homes and supporting infrastructure. The Council is intending to help fund strategic infrastructure to support growth through adoption of a charging schedule for a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

3.11 Vision

The Council is currently updating its Strategic Plan to ensure its continuing fit with changing circumstances. The last revision of the Council's Strategic Plan in 2009 allowed the organisation to focus more on their customers and their expectations and needs.

Key objectives are:

- Listen and Respond
- Shift Resources to Deliver Priorities
- Be Cleaner and Greener

Priorities are:

- addressing older people's needs
- addressing younger people's needs
- community development
- community safety
- congestion busting
- enabling job creation
- healthy living
- homes for all
- reduce, re-use, recycle

These priorities and agendas are the Council's quality standards and set a bar against which the organisation can measure its progress and achievements.

3.12 Delivery

Colchester is working closely with adjacent authorities and infrastructure providers to identify and deliver sustainable new development. The Council currently utilises planning obligations secured through Section 106 agreements to fund infrastructure required to support new development, but is also in the process of developing a charging schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will, when adopted, fund strategic infrastructure projects prioritised by the Council.

3.13 Outcomes

By 2021, Colchester will have reduced the gap between the better off and less well off communities and have produced a better quality of life for all. We will have created quality places with better environments in which people live, work and visit. Transport will have been

improved with better bus and rail services and car usage down, but with traffic flowing freely on roads when used. Infrastructure will have been provided where it is needed. Crime will be down. Resources will be conserved and more sustainable development promoted. We will have a prosperous economy with a broad balance between local jobs, local labour supply and higher wages. Colchester town centre will be an attractive, vibrant and accessible regional centre with a range of excellent facilities and an increased number of visitors. The countryside will retain its rural character and rural towns and villages will have retained their unique identities and benefit from improved access to services and better public transport and thriving local enterprise. The special character and quality of the coast and countryside will have been maintained and enhanced.

3.14 Objectives

The current review of the Local Plan will revisit the principal objectives found in Colchester's Core Strategy (December 2008):

Sustainable Development
- Focus new development at sustainable locations to support existing communities, local businesses, sustainable transport and promote urban regeneration to protect greenfield land.
- Provide the necessary community facilities and infrastructure to support new and existing communities.
- Provide excellent and accessible health, education, culture and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Colchester Borough's growing community.
- Promote active and healthy lifestyles and strive for excellence in education and culture.
- Reduce the Borough's carbon footprint and respond to the effects of climate change.

Centres and Employment
- Create a significant regional centre and a vibrant network of district and local centres that stimulate economic activity and provide residents' needs at accessible locations.
- Provide for a balance of new homes and jobs to support economic prosperity of our growing community and reduce the need to travel outside the Borough for employment.

Housing
- Provide high quality and affordable housing at accessible locations to accommodate our growing community.
- Provide a range of different types of new housing to meet the diverse needs of the whole community.

Urban Renaissance
- Revitalise rundown areas and create inclusive and sustainable new communities.
- Promote high quality design and sustain Colchester's historic character, found in its buildings, townscape and archaeology.

Public Realm
- Improve streetscapes, open spaces and green links to provide attractive and accessible spaces for residents to live, work and play.

Accessibility and Transportation
- Focus development at accessible locations which support public transport, walking and cycling, and reduce the need to travel.
- Develop Colchester as a Regional Transport Node, improving transport connections and gateways within the Borough and to the wider region.
- Provide excellent public transportation, walking and cycling connections between centres, communities and their needs.

- Improve the strategic road network and manage traffic and parking demand.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities
- Protect and enhance Colchester's natural environment, countryside and coastline.
- Support appropriate local employment and housing development in villages and rural communities.

Energy, Resources, Recycling and Waste
- Encourage renewable energy and the efficient use of scarce resources.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

3.15 Duty to Cooperate

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that the local planning authority's monitoring report must give details of what action has been taken during the monitoring year to satisfy the duty to cooperate.

CBC has met this requirement by holding a number of meetings on cross-border, sub-regional and regional issues with relevant stakeholders. These include district councils, the County Council, Essex-wide bodies such as the Essex Planning Officers' Association and Essex Chief Executives' Association, and the Haven Gateway Partnership covering north-east Essex and south-west Suffolk. CBC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Essex University, Tendring District Council and Essex County Council in April 2014 which sets out a framework for collaboration on employment and training opportunities, growth,and improved infrastructure.

More specifically, the Council has met the duty to cooperate in the process of plan-making by meeting with adjacent authorities and infrastructure providers to begin production of a new Local Plan. As part of the initial evidence gathering work for the Local Plan, the Council has been meeting with providers of key infrastructure to identify any major constraints or issues to consider in the generation of growth options and the identification of a preferred option. The Council has spoken to providers of roads, rail network and rail services, bus services, education, health, water and sewerage, environmental protection, electricity, and gas.

Cooperation around the production of an evidence base has included the Council's participation in Essex-wide work on population forecasts and on a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The Council jointly commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment along with Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Maldon to provide a consistent approach to the development of identifying housing need across local authority boundaries.

Discussions with adjacent authorities have included consideration of how potential cross-boundary settlements should be handled, and the Council expects to address any cross-boundary proposals through the preparation of joint planning documents. The Council will maintain a record of its actions satisfying the duty to cooperate on strategic issues which will be submitted as part of the plan examination process.

4. Progress on Plan-making

This section examines progress in development of a planning framework for Colchester. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out key documents and timetables, and these are noted below along with progress to date, any issues, potential delays, problems and revisions to our approach.   The section concludes with a summary identifying strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement.

4.1   The Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Timetable for production:
- Survey and participation on options: January - December 2005
- Formal six week consultation on *preferred* options and representations: January - February 2005
- Submission to Secretary of State & formal 6 week consultation: March 2005 - April 2005
- Approval: May 2005
- Revised and submitted to GO-East: October 2006
- Approval: November 2006
- Revised and submitted to GO-East: February 2007
- Approval: September 2007
- Revised and submitted to GO-East in October 2008 (following publication of new regulations)
- Adopted: November 2008
- Revision and submission to Government to reflect addition of new work: February 2011
- Revision to reflect changes to timetable and addition of new work – December 2011 (submission to Government no longer required)
- Revision to reflect requirements of National Planning Policy Framework and new/revised work – March and September 2013

On Target? Yes – reviewed periodically as required.

4.2   Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

Timetable for production:
- Survey and participation on options: November 2004 – March 2005
- Formal six week consultation and representations: January - February 2005
- Submission to Secretary of State and formal six week consultation: October 2005
- Independent examination: March 2006
- Adopted: June 2006
- Revised: October 2008 (following publication of new regulations)
- Revised SCI adopted: April 2011 (following changes to regulations)
- Revised SCI adopted: December 2012 (following changes to procedures and regulations)

On Target? Yes – reviewed periodically as required.

4.3   Core Strategy

Timetable for production:
- Survey and participation on options: March – April 2006
- Formal six week consultation on preferred options and representations: November – December 2006

- Formal six week consultation on amendments to the preferred options and representations: June-July 2007
- Submission to Secretary of State & formal six week consultation: November-December 2007
- Independent examination: June 2008
- Adoption: December 2008
- Focused Review of selected elements of the plan (changes to parts of policies SD1, SD2, SD3, H2, H3, H4, ENV2) adopted: July 2014

On Target? Yes, completed, but modified by Focused Review adopted in July 2014 and will then will be replaced by new Local Plan.

4.4 Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)

Timetable for production:
- Pre-submission consultation on issues and options: November - December 2007
- Six week consultation on preferred options and representations: January-February 2009
- Formal six week consultation on Submission Document: September - October 2009
- Submission to Secretary of State: November 2009
- Independent examination: March - April 2010
- Adopted: October 2010
- Review: See Local Plan below

On Target? Yes, completed, but will be replaced by Local Plan.

4.5 Development Policies Development Plan Document (DPD)

Timetable for production:
- Pre-submission consultation on issues and options: November - December 2007
- Formal six week consultation on preferred options and representations: January - February 2009
- Formal six week consultation on Submission Document: September - October 2009
- Submission to Secretary of State: November 2009
- Independent examination: March - April 2010
- Adopted: October 2010
- Review: See Local Plan below

On Target? Yes, completed but modified by Focused Review adopted in July 2014 and then will be replaced by new Local Plan.

4.6 Neighbourhood Planning

- Currently 6 Neighbourhood Plan under development in Colchester.
- Boxted Neighbourhood Plan – Area Designation approved 8 October 2012 Plan has reached formal Submission consultation stage.
- Myland & Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan – Area Designation adopted 28 January   2013. A draft of Myland & Braiswick plan submitted in October 2014 to the Council for review.
- West Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan -   Area designation approved 29 July 2013
- Wivenhoe Town Neighbourhood Plan- Area designation approved 29 July 2013

On target? –Neighbourhood Plans currently being developed are in compliance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and their progress monitored as required by Section 34(4) of the Town and County Planning Regulations 2012.

4.7 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

- Consultation on draft Charging Schedule – August - September 2011
- Consideration of submission schedule by Local Plan Committee – November 2011
- Consideration of revised submission schedule by Local Plan Committee – TBD
- Submission to Government and public consultation – TBD
- Examination – TBD
- Adoption – TBD

On Target? The Council is undertaking further viability work in order to ensure the viability of CIL within Colchester Borough.

4.8 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- Title – [Backland and Infill Development](#)
- Status – SPD
- Timetable – Adopted September 2009
On Target? Yes

- Title – [Community Facilities](#)
- Status – SPD
- Timetable – Adopted September 2009
On Target? Yes

- Title – [Affordable Housing](#)
- Status – SPD
- Timetable – Adopted August 2011
- **On Target?** Yes

- Title – [Parking Standards](#)
- Status – SPD
- Timetable – Adopted November 2009
On Target? Yes

- Title – [North Colchester Masterplan](#)
- Status – SPD
- Timetable – Adoption June 2012
On Target? No, resolution of highways matters required

- Title – Stanway Southern Access Brief, Tollgate Vision Framework
- Status – Guidance
- Timetable – Adopted December 2013/July 2013
On Target? Yes

- Title – [Town Centre Action Plan SPD](#)
- Status – SPD
- Timetable –Adopted December 2012.
On Target? Yes

- Title – [Cycle Delivery SPD](#)
- Status – SPD
- Adopted – January 2012

On Target? Yes

- Title –Tiptree Jam Factory DPD
- Status – DPD
- Adopted – February 2013

On Target? Yes

4.9 Documents to be produced as part of the evidence base for the plan-making process

Sustainability Appraisal for the Local Plan
Timescale – Scoping report published in July 2014
     Initial screening work to be published with Issues and Options
     consultation in January 2015
On Target? Yes.

Townscape Character Study **(part 1 and part 2)**
Timescale – Completed June 2006
On Target? Yes and complete

Strategic Housing Land Availability Study
Timescale – November 2007 and updated annually in AMR.
On Target? Yes, updated annually in AMR

Retail Study
Timescale – Completed February 2007, updated October 2009 and March 2013.
On Target? Yes, revised periodically as needed

Landscape Character Assessment
Timescale – November 2005
On Target? Yes and complete

Employment Land Needs Assessment
Timescale – December 2014
On Target? Yes

Strategic Housing Market Assessment
Timescale – August 2014
On Target? Yes – additional work to be carried out as needed before examination

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Timescale - November 2007
On Target? Yes – update to be programmed

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan
Timescale - Initial work underway
On Target? Yes

Open Space Study
Timescale – November 2007
On Target? Yes – update to be programmed

Assessment of Open Countryside Between Settlements
Timescale – July 2009
On Target? Yes and complete

Settlement Boundary Review
Timescale – July 2009 and update to be undertaken as part of Full Review
On Target? Yes.

Historic Environment Characterisation Project
Timescale – June 2009
On Target? Yes and complete

Local Wildlife Sites Survey **(part 1 and part 2)**
Timescale – December 2008
On Target? Yes –selected sections to be updated as needed

Hotel Study
Timescale – April 2007 and update June 2009
On Target? Yes and complete

Haven Gateway Water Cycle Study (Phase 2)
Timescale – October 2009
On target? Yes – update to be programmed

CIL Viability Evidence
Timescale – March – July 2011, to be updated early 2015
On target? Yes

Colchester Green Infrastructure Study
Timescale – October 2010 - March 2011
On target? Yes

Colchester Town Centre Retail Study
Timescale – October 2011
On target? Yes

Indoor Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy
Timescale – December 2014
On target? Yes

4.10 Other Documents or Reports that affect the timescales of planning policy development

The Council has initiated a thorough review of its adopted planning policies, which will lead to the 2017 adoption of a new Local Plan. An important element of this work is meeting the 'duty to co-operate' with adjacent authorities and relevant stakeholders to jointly meet the development needs of the wider area. This process will result in joint work and agreement on a range of cross-boundary issues including housing and employment targets.

There will also be a need for the planning policy team to liaise closely with groups across the Council so that the team can ensure that all relevant objectives are accounted for in the planning policy review process.

The Council is investigating how infrastructure delivery could be supported through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The AMR will be a key source for monitoring information to inform review of infrastructure delivery and prioritisation of projects to be funded through CIL.

4.11 Monitoring

To ensure the future success of Colchester's planning policies it is essential that the relevant indicators are identified and a system of monitoring progress is agreed. The AMR includes the indicators set out in the Local Plan along with progress on monitoring these indicators. These indicators are summarised in Appendix 4. In addition to the Core Strategy indicators, a number of Supporting Indicators are also included to provide a more complete picture of progress on key objectives. Appendix 5 identifies the infrastructure projects that have also been included in the Core Strategy and section 6.6.5 of the AMR provides information on progress on infrastructure delivery. These monitoring processes will be reviewed and updated as required as part of the development of the new Local Plan.

5. Difficulties Collecting Data

In collecting the baseline data for this Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) many different sources of information have been used. One of the difficulties faced in collecting data has been finding data at a Borough level. For example, in several instances environmental data is usually only collected at a County or Regional level, which consequently limits local data and policy analysis.

The release of further 2011 Census data has allowed the updating of information previously dependant on the 2001 Census.

The 'Civica' monitoring system is used by the development control and building control teams to enter key information for each submitted planning application and now provides an important source of data for the AMR.

As with any quantitative data sources, it is wise to approach the indicators with a degree of caution as the way in which they are collected can often impact significantly on their reliability. It should be noted that data published in this report was correct at the time of printing. A list of data sources can be found in Appendix 1.

6. Monitoring Indicators

6.1 Background

As part of the Annual Monitoring Report, the Council will monitor key indicators on an annual basis. The monitoring of general performance will take place through considering the following information:

Indicators – Prior to changes in the national planning system, the Government published AMR guidance which provided for core indicators set nationally as well as scope for local authorities to select indicators appropriate to their area. The planning system now gives local authorities flexibility to set their own indicators. The Core Strategy includes a list of core and local indicators (Appendix 4) which were examined and approved by the Inspector along with the rest of the document in 2008. A few further indicators were subsequently added following adoption of the Development Policies DPD in 2010. This year's AMR retains all these indicators as they are considered to remain appropriate.

Background Information – These indicators help to provide a backdrop against which the effects of policies can be considered. They provide information on all key changes that are taking place in the borough in the wider social, environmental and economic context. The information includes significant effects indicators linked to sustainability appraisal objectives which consider how local authorities are applying the principles of sustainable development planning. This information provides a backdrop against which the effects of policies can be considered.

Planning Applications from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014		
6.1.1	The total number of applications received	1,521
6.1.2	The total number of applications determined	1554 (includes 122 Withdrawn)
6.1.3	The number of applications approved	1,251
6.1.4	The number of applications refused	166
6.1.5	The number of appeals made	63
6.1.6	The number of appeals allowed	16 (0 Partial, 0 Withdrawn & 38 Dismissed)
6.1.7	The number of departures	4 (for determinations within the period)

The total number of applications received between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 showed an increase on last year's total of 1,392, but is well below the pre-recession figure of 2,015 in 2007-08. 80.1% of minor applications were decided within 8 weeks compared to 75.3% in the previous year). Performance in the 'major applications' category was up to 89.7% compared to 68.6% in the previous year.   This improvement reflects successes in the Council's implementation of project management measures for applications, including pre-application advice and Planning Performance Agreements which will enhance consistency and quality in processing applications. 'Other applications' also exceeded the 80% national target with 90.7% being achieved (up from 89.7% in 2012-13).

6.2 Key Theme: HOUSING

Core Strategy Policies	
SD1	Sustainable Development Locations – Will promote sustainable development and regeneration to deliver at least 19,000 homes between 2001 and 2023, and 14,200 jobs between 2001 and 2021, and growth will be located at the most accessible and sustainable locations.
H1	Housing Delivery – Will plan, monitor and manage the delivery of over 19,000 homes in Colchester between 2001 and 2023. Housing will be focused in growth areas in Colchester including urban extensions to the north and the southwest.
H2	Housing Density – Will seek housing densities that make efficient use of land while ensuring that new housing developments be informed by the local built character and the accessibility of the location.
H3	Housing Diversity – Will seek to secure a range of housing types and tenures on developments across the Borough in order to create inclusive and sustainable communities.
H4	Affordable Housing – Will seek to secure 35% of new dwellings be provided as affordable housing.
H5	Gypsies and Travellers – Will identify sites to meet the established needs of gypsies and travellers in the Borough.

LDF Development Policies

DP1   Design and Amenity – Ensures that residential development is designed to a high standard, avoid unacceptable impacts on amenity and demonstrate social, economic and environmental sustainability.

DP11   Flat Conversions- Provides criteria for the conversion and sub-division of existing premises into flats and other self-contained residential units

DP12   Dwelling Standards –Guides residential development to ensure protection of residential amenity, provision of appropriate layouts and design; and adequate vehicle parking and refuse arrangements

DP13   Dwelling Alterations, Extensions and Replacement Dwellings- Provides criteria to ensure appropriate development of alterations, extensions and replacement dwellings

Overview

Colchester's adopted Core Strategy provided that the Borough needs to allocate and build 19,000 homes between 2001 and 2023, an average of 830 homes a year. In line with national policy contained in the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework, the Council is required to ensure sufficient housing land is supplied to meet local housing needs. The Council will be developing a new Objectively Assessed Need target which will take into account the requirements of national policy and will ensure the Borough provides a 5 year supply of specific deliverable sites and identifies a supply of specific developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15.

The majority of the housing programmed for delivery in the 2001-2023 period has already been accounted for by previous Local Plan allocations, housing completions and planning permissions. Colchester delivered 11,691 new homes between 2001/02 and 2013/14 at an average rate of 899 dwellings per year.

The housing trajectory included in this report shows that a net of 725 homes were built between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. This is an increase on the previous year's total of

617 and indicates housing delivery is recovering from the earlier recessionary period and returning to pre-2008 market conditions although completions are still below the higher figures seen in the 2002-2008 period.

The variations in yearly delivery figures can be smoothed out by considering the average over the last 5 years. This 5-year average figure for Colchester of 709 is below the current Local Plan adopted target figure of 830 but is still considered to be acceptable given that the housing market is still recovering from the recent economic downturn. In the context of delivery rates across other Essex authorities, Colchester continues to be the most attractive district for investment in the housing market as the following table shows.

Essex Local Authority Housing Delivery

Authority	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total	Current Local Plan Annual Build Target
Basildon	468	182	700	622	**119**	**2446**	540
Braintree	428	448	301	176	**182**	**1695**	282
Brentwood	162	394	132	213	**105**	**1152**	233
Castle Point	115	110	56	75	**168**	**470**	200
Chelmsford	200	233	235	274	**471**	**1579**	800
Colchester	**518**	**673**	**1012**	**617**	**725**	**3848**	**830**
Epping Forest	176	368	304	115	**299**	**1120**	160
Harlow	107	116	384	152	**74**	**1015**	400
Maldon	108	37	91	119	**74**	**516**	294
Rochford	85	42	93	43	**243**	**365**	200
Southend	144	183	328	254	**NA**	**1224**	325
Tendring	319	217	232	244	**209**	**1388**	400
Thurrock	88	288	343	311	**323**	**1160**	930
Uttlesford	522	298	518	545	**388**	**2320**	497
Totals	**3440**	**3589**	**4729**	**3760**	**3380**	**20298**	**6091**

Information Source – Essex County Council, Spatial Planning, Colchester BC

Colchester's build rate reflects the Council's willingness to work with developers to bring schemes forward, including a flexible approach to scheme cost appraisals. Over the 15 year period to 2027 the Council is considered to be on course to achieve its current housing delivery target. This reflects the legacy of higher than target delivery rates from pre-recessionary years and projected above target level figures for some future years.

The Core Strategy explains that new housing development in Colchester Borough will seek to reduce the need to travel, support regeneration and protect greenfield land. The Core Strategy focuses development in the following key areas:

- Town Centre
- North Growth Area
- East Growth Area
- South Growth Area
- Stanway Growth Area

6.2.1	Housing Trajectory 2013-2014	Indicator for Core Strategy Policy H1

A net of 725 homes were built between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.
The housing trajectory is updated each year and illustrates:

I. The number of net additional dwellings over the previous five year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is the longer;

II. The number of net additional dwellings for the current year;

III. The projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant development plan document period or over a ten year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer;

IV. The annual net additional dwelling requirement; and

V. The annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements, having regard to previous years' performances.

The table below provides a projection of housing delivery through the Local Plan. The Core Strategy identified broad areas for greenfield urban extensions and regeneration of previously developed land, to provide that housing provision delivered 19,000 homes between 2001 and 2023 at a rate of 830 per year. In particular greenfield urban extensions are expected to deliver an additional 3,000 homes between 2016 and 2023. The Site Allocations DPD, which was adopted in October 2010, allocates the land required to achieve this housing delivery. The new Local Plan will extend allocations forward to 2032 and beyond.

Year	Average annual target	Net additional completions per year	Cumulative target	Cumulative completions	The annual net additional dwelling requirement	Projected net additional dwellings per year	Projected Cumulative Completions
2001/02	830	566	830	566	830	-	-
2002/03	830	980	1660	1546	840	-	-
2003/04	830	916	2490	2462	835	-	-
2004/05	830	1,277	3320	3739	831	-	-
2005/06	830	896	4150	4635	812	-	-
2006/07	830	1,250	4980	5885	808	-	-
2007/08	830	1,243	5810	7128	787	-	-
2008/09	830	1,028	6640	8156	764	-	-
2009/10	830	518	7470	8674	750	-	-
2010/11	830	673	8300	9347	763	-	-
2011/12	830	1012	9130	10359	768	-	-
2012/13	830	617	9960	10976	753	-	-
2013/14	830	725	10790	11701	762		
2014/15	1065		11855		754	993	12798
2015/16	1065		12920		735	950	13894
2016/17	1065		13985		717	887	15004
2017/18	1065		15050		702	906	16159
2018/19	1065		16115		681	825	17309
2019/20	1065		17180		665	774	18393
2020/21	1065		18245		652	705	19063
2021/22	1065		19310		644	712	19638
2022/23	1065		20375		633	642	20165
2023/24	1065		21440		631	745	20607
2024/25	1065		22505		628	718	21091
2025/26	1065		23570		631	557	21417
2026/27	1065		24635		718	321	21679
2027/28	1065		24870		1214	100	21899
TOTAL		11701				9835	

The figures set out in the Core Strategy were originally based on the requirements of the now abolished East of England Plan (RSS). The RSS set a target of 17,100 new homes to be achieved by 2021 and this figure informed an annualised delivery rate. The Core Strategy adopted a similar timeframe but extended it by two years to demonstrate a 15 year supply.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides the relevant national guidance on the monitoring and delivery of housing and has updated the way housing delivery is assessed, replacing the top-down approach used for regional strategies. The NPPF requires local authorities to:

- identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific, deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements. The supply should include an additional allowance of 5% (moved forward from later in the plan) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. The NPPF states that where there has been a record of persistent under delivery of housing, local planning authorities should increase the buffer to 20% but as demonstrated above there has not been an under delivery in Colchester and only 5% is required;

- identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;
- not make allowance for windfall sites in the first ten years of supply, or in the rolling five year supply, unless there is compelling evidence of genuine local circumstances that prevent specific sites being identified. Any allowance should be realistic having regard to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, historic windfall delivery rates and expected future trends;
- illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a housing trajectory for the plan period and, for market housing, set out a housing implementation strategy describing how delivery of a five-year supply of housing land will be maintained to meet targets.

The Council is projected to deliver 5,618 units over the five year period 2014/15-2018/19, which is a yearly average of 1,124. Over ten years, the council is projected to deliver 8,916 units, which is an annual figure of 892 however it is anticipated more sites will come forward before then. In line with national guidance on Objectively Assessed Need, the Council will now be developing a new Local Plan based on updated evidence of housing need and viability. Initial work that will inform the Council's new Objectively Assessed Need target indicates that a range of 1,065-1,225 new dwellings per annum would be required across the Borough. New housing targets will be matched with additional allocations as part of the plan-making process. It is important to bear in mind, however, that even if the Council can ensure there is an adequate supply of housing land, economic viability considerations and market conditions influence actual delivery figures.

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Detailed Housing Trajectory to be presented at Local Plan Committee

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**Detailed Housing Trajectory to be presented at Local Plan Committee**

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Detailed Housing Trajectory to be presented at Local Plan Committee

6.2.2	**Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land**	**Indicator for Core Strategy Policies SD1, H1 and UR1**

During 2013/14 there were 725 net additional dwellings completed across the Borough, of these 609 units were completed on previously developed land (PDL), which accounts for 84% of the total.

Chart H1 below illustrates the historic delivery of new dwellings on PDL and greenfield land along with the Core Strategy target throughout the corresponding plan period.
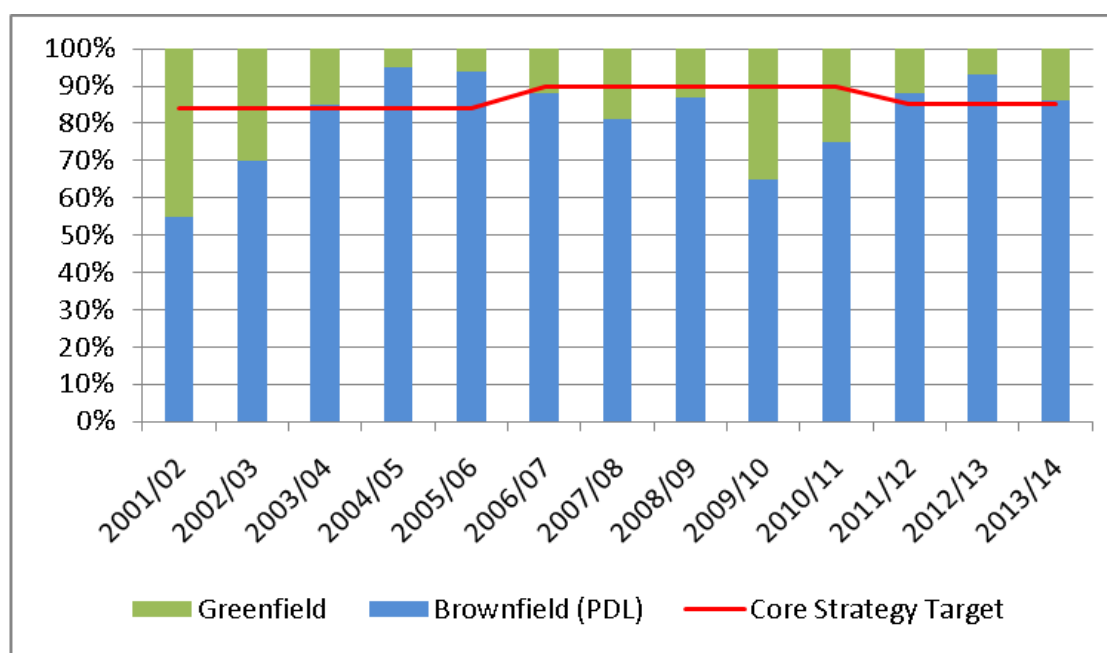
Paragraph 111 of the NPPF encourages local authorities to set locally appropriate targets for the use of PDL and this is reflected in Core Strategy Policy H1 which outlines that during the first part of the plan period the Council will seek to provide over 80% of dwellings on PDL. As can be seen in Chart H1 the vast majority of new housing has been delivered on PDL during the plan period with the average being 81.6%.

Chart H2 below shows the type of land on which new dwellings are projected to be built.
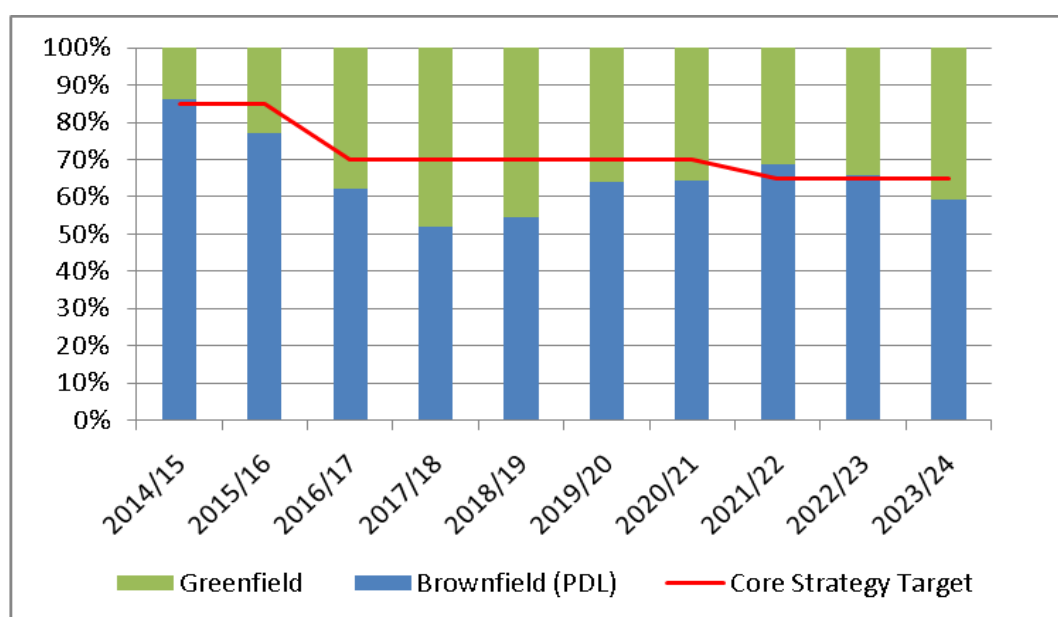

Table H1b in the Core Strategy provides a percentage target for each period within the plan, reflecting an anticipated gradual decline in the amount of PDL being utilised. There are numerous reasons for this, most obviously that the amount of PDL in the Borough is of a finite supply and therefore to ensure enough housing land is availble to accommodate growth more greenfield land will have to be allocated for development. Additionally changes to the classification of private garden land from PDL to greenfield means that there will be an increase in the amount of development of land previously described as PDL but now classified as greenfield.

Chart H2 demonstrates that although most of the projected delivery is below the Core Strategy target this should be read in context: most smaller sites are normally built upon PDL and because these sites normally come forward through the planning application system rather than through Local Plan housing allocations they are not yet known and no allowance is made for them in the chart. It is therefore aniticipated that the overall PDL figure in future years will be higher than initally projected.

It is expected that the Local Plan Full Review will consider setting a locally appropriate target for the use of previously developed land across the Borough as required within the NPPF.

6.2.3	Affordable housing completions	Indicator for Core Strategy Policies H4

The Council changed its affordable housing target from 35% to 20% as part of its Focused Review of the Local Plan (July 2014) with the aim of increasing of overall delivery rates. This change does not mean that the need for affordable units has decreased, rather it was based on viability work carried out by the Council, which concluded that housing delivery would be compromised by higher affordable housing requirements. A reason for lowering the target is to make housing schemes more viable and a natural corollary of this is more additional affordable homes will be built.

During the monitoring year 96 affordable housing units were delivered,85 of these were affordable rent, two were intermediate tenure and nine were shared ownership. This amounts to 13.2% of all new homes delivered. However it should be borne in mind that of the 725 units delivered in the year only 624 were of part of schemes larger than 10 units in number which is the minimum threshold for affordable housing delivery.

The Homebuy Direct scheme has been superseded by the Help to Buy scheme which although not contributing to affordable housing delivery does nevertheless provide a more accessible option for home buying, particularly for first-time buyers.

6.2.4	**Percentage of affordable housing in rural areas**	**Indicator for Core Strategy Policies H4 and ENV2**

There were no affordable housing completions in rural areas between 2013 and 2014, which reflects the particular difficulties in delivering rural exception sites. The Council has amended its policy for rural exception sites in line with the National Planning Policy Framework to allow for a proportion of market housing to support affordable units on rural exception sites. Discussions are underway with several Parish Councils concerning potential sites that could deliver affordable housing on this basis.

6.2.5	**Number of new homes and employment development completed at ward level within Growth/Regeneration Areas**	**Indicator for Core Strategy Policy UR1**

In the monitoring year there were 598 residential units completed in growth/regeneration areas. During this same period development of 2,830 square metres of non-residential land was also completed. The table below outlines the areas where this development took place.

Residential	**Units**
North Colchester Growth Area	62
Garrison Regeneration Area	290
East Colchester Regeneration Area	132
North Station Regeneration Area	0
Town Centre	36
Stanway Growth Area	78
Total	**598**
Non-residential	**Sqm**
North Colchester Growth Area	1646
Garrison Regeneration Area	0
East Colchester Regeneration Area	0
North Station Regeneration Area	0
Stanway Growth Area	1096
Town Centre	88
Total	**2830**

6.2.6	**Percentage of residential completions that are two or three**	**Indicator for**

	bedroom properties	**Core Strategy Policy H3**

In the monitoring period 2013/14 there were approximately 1,031 new units given planning permission and of these 24% had one bedroom; 24% had two bedrooms; 32% had three bedrooms; and 19% had four bedrooms.

The Council's latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment (DCA, 2014) identified a need for more smaller properties, especially one bedroom homes, in order to facilitate both first-time buyers entering the market and also older people looking to downsize (and consequently free up larger housing stock for families). In the previous monitoring year (2012/13) only 12% of new dwellings were one bedroom homes so the fact that more permissions for a higher proportion of these units are coming forward is encouraging and will help to balance the housing stock.
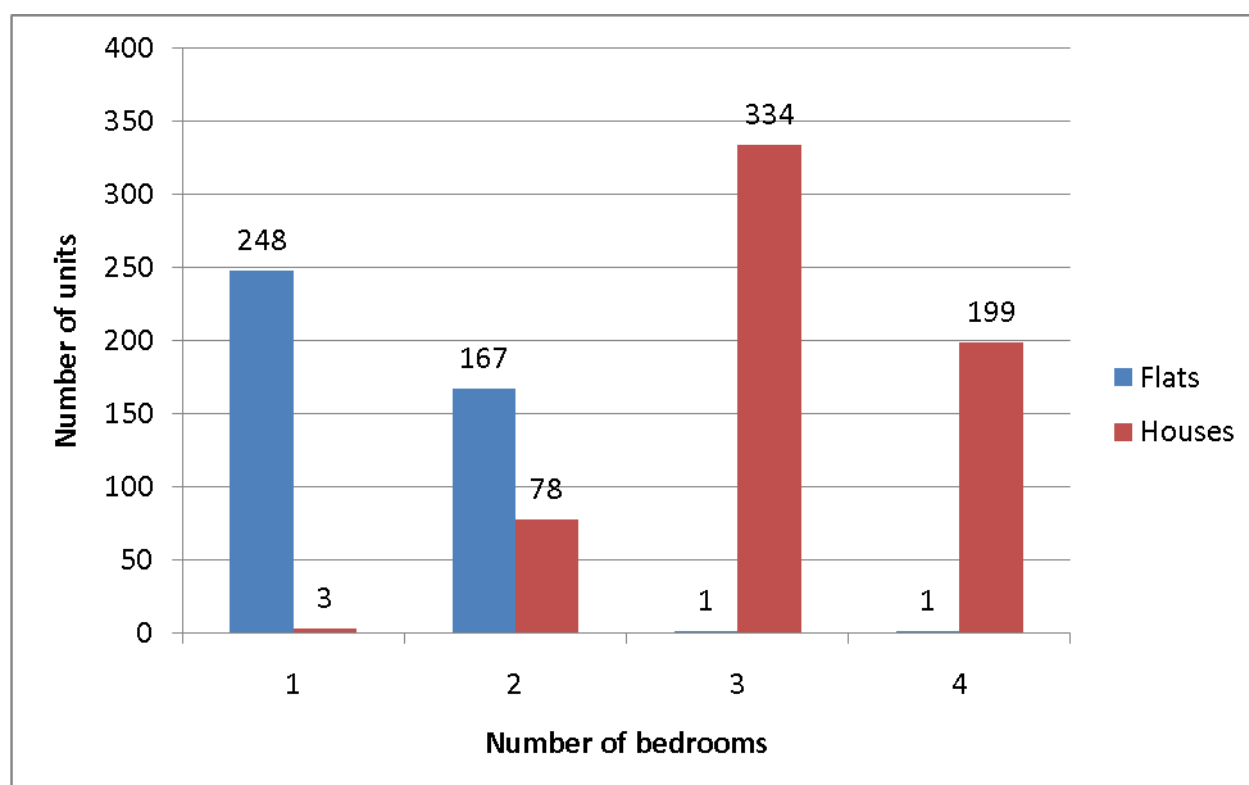
Longer term demographic trends and affordability of properties is likely to be having an impact on the size of units brought forward in the future but it is clear that demand for larger properties (four or more bedrooms) is still high and increasing across the Borough. Housing associations, however, will in future be restricted in meeting this demand by new policies imposing taxes on additional bedrooms.

Core Strategy Policy H3 provides that the Council will seek to secure a range of housing types and tenures across the Borough which takes into account local community context and housing need. Core Strategy Policy H3 has been subject to minor revision as part of the Local Plan Focused Review to reflect the removal of national density requirements. While density requirements will not be strictly prescribed, applications should continue to take account of site characteristics and housing need.

6.2.7	**Gypsy and Traveller Issues**	**Indicator for**

The Council worked with other districts to produce an Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to help provide an assessment of current provision and future need for pitches in the borough. (Published in July 2014, with September 2014 revisions)

The GTAA established that Colchester had 12 local authority pitches at Severalls Lane, 15 private pitches, and one site where the use was tolerated and considered lawful due to the length of time it had occurred.

Council monitoring established that in January 2014 there were 40 caravan/mobile units, including 15 on the Local Authority Site on Severalls Lane

The above figures represent the total permitted number of pitches/caravans in the Borough. The actual number of caravans present in the Borough may vary at any point in time and explain any differences between the number of caravans permitted by planning applications and the number of caravans recorded in the caravan count.

The Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPD seek to identify sites to meet the established needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people in the Borough. The Core Strategy stated that a suitable site for gypsies and travellers was being provided in Severalls Lane, North Colchester and this opened in 2012. Additional sites are identified in the Site Allocations DPD. These allocated sites are identified as suitable for a number of pitches. The size or capacity of a pitch will vary as explained in the Site Allocations DPD and therefore the allocated number of pitches cannot be directly compared to a specific number of caravans.
Policy SA H2 allocated 30 pitches for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the Borough to meet demand to 2011. There are no sites for travelling show people in the Borough, which reflects the lack of identified need.

Moving forward, the Council amended Core Strategy Policy H5 in its Focused Review (July 2014) to clarify that it will use national policies to help determine planning applications for gypsy and traveller sites prior to the adoption of a new Local Plan. The development of new policies and allocations for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people will be guided by the 2014 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. It found that the Council will need to provide 15 further pitches to meet demand to 2033.

6.2.8 Background Information

- At 31 March 2014 there were approximately 76,230 dwellings within the Borough of which 6,130 were owned by the local authority.   The average household size was 2.33 people per household in 2011, this has decreased from 2.37 in 2001 (Census findings).
- The average household price in April 2014 in Colchester was £215,543 this illustrates a 5.7% increase from £203,861 in April 2013. The lower quartile house price was 146,000 in April 2014 which was a 4.3% increase from 140,000 at the same time the previous year. The lower quartile is the bottom end of the Market representing smaller houses and flats.

Colchester average property prices March 2013 & March 2014
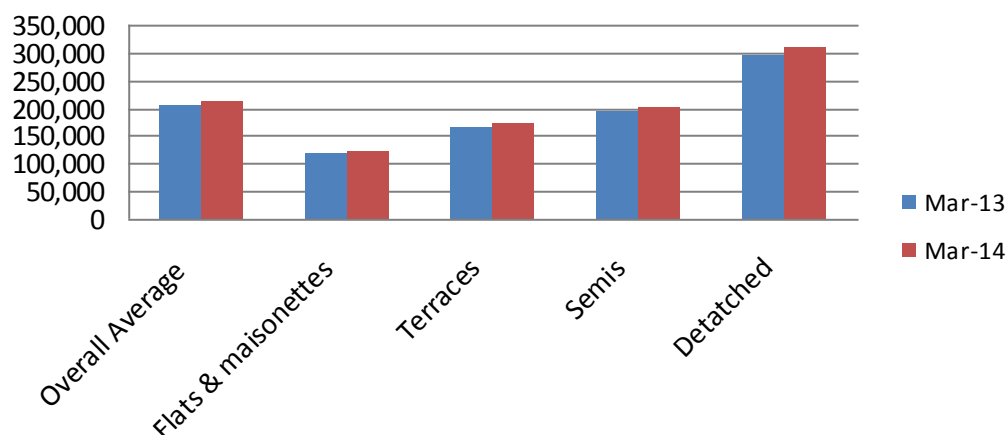
- As of 31 March 2014 there were 1,639 properties in Colchester recorded as empty for council tax purposes.

- The Council carries out a yearly programme of repair and maintenance to bring substandard homes up to the Decent Homes standard to comply with the Council's Asset Management Strategy. 669 properties were declared 'non-decent' on 1st April 2013. Repair work was completed on 658 properties during 2013-14 to bring them up to standard and therefore at 31st March 2013 non-decency was at 0.18%.

- Between April 2013 and March 2014, Colchester Borough Council accepted 197 households as homeless. As at 1 April 2014 there were 3951 applicants on Colchester Borough Council's Housing Register. This figure excludes transfer applicants (those already living in social housing that are seeking a transfer).

- At the end of March 2014, there were 162 households in temporary accommodation, which shows a small decrease from last year's figure of 168. The Council have continued to work to help homeless people housed in temporary accommodation to move on quickly.

- In Council along with partner organisations in Colchester, have prevented homeless for 616 households between April 2013 and March 2014. This is a significant increase of 56% from the previous year when 394 households were prevented from becoming homeless. Homelessness prevention includes giving advice on budgeting, defending illegal evictions, negotiating with landlords and helping to secure alternative accommodation.

Potential Issues

Colchester's housing market is demonstrating recovery from the recession, with numbers of dwelling completions increasing over the previous year. The level of new planning applications has also increased this year. The Housing Trajectory, demonstrates that there is a supply of allocated sites available to meet demand as it increases. To support housing market recovery and unlock sites, the Council will continue to pursue a range of funding sources for associated major infrastructure projects including Government programmes, forward funding, and implementation of planning obligation charges.

6.3 Key Theme: ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

Core Strategy Policies	
CE1	Centres and Employment Hierarchy – Will encourage economic development and will plan for the delivery of over 14,000 jobs in Colchester between 2001 and 2021. The Council will promote the redevelopment of existing mixed use Centres and Employment Zones, while focusing employment developments towards accessible locations.
CE2	Mixed Use Centres – Will promote a mix of development types and scales in accordance with the Centre and Employment Hierarchy, and focus new retail and office development in or around the Town Centre.
CE3	Employment Zones – Employment Zones will accommodate employment developments that are not suited to mixed use Centres, including industry, warehousing and business.
UR1	Regeneration Areas – Enhance Colchester as a prestigious regional centre, to regenerate rundown areas, deprived communities and key Centres, with the purpose of building successful and sustainable communities.
ENV2	Rural Communities – Will enhance the vitality of rural communities by supporting small-scale housing and employment development that will enhance the character of villages.

LDF Development Policies

DP1   Design and Amenity – Ensures that development is designed to a high standard, avoid unacceptable impacts on amenity and demonstrate social, economic and environmental sustainability.

DP5   Appropriate Employment Uses and Protection of Employment Land and Existing Businesses- .Specifies appropriate employment uses within designated employment sites and zones and provides for safeguarded of sites used for employment uses.

DP6   Colchester Town Centre Uses -Ensures an appropriate balance of uses in the Town Centre and sets levels of retail use on streets frontages in the Inner and Outer Core.

DP7   Local Centres and Individual Shops - Safeguards the primary retail role of Neighbourhood and Rural District Centres as well as providing criteria for safeguarding individual shops.

DP8   Agricultural Development and Diversification- Provides support for existing agricultural uses and sets criteria for appropriate farm diversification proposals.

DP9   Employment Uses in the Countryside -Supports appropriate employment uses in the countryside by providing criteria for conversions, extensions, replacement and new rural employment buildings.

DP10   Tourism, Leisure and Culture – Provides criteria to encourage the development of appropriately located tourism, leisure and culture facilities.

Overview

Providing jobs for Colchester's growing community is a central objective of the Core Strategy. It assumes a floor target of approximately 14,200 employee jobs. The censuses reveal that between 2001 - 2011 employee job numbers have grown from 62,406 to 69,060 – an increase of 7,654 over the decade, suggesting that the Borough is on course to achieve if not surpass its 2021 job target. [16] Although the Council cannot deliver additional employment directly, it works to protect existing employment, attract inward investment and jobs, stimulate new employment-generating developments and accommodate these in the most suitable locations. To help deliver employment, the Borough takes advantage of growth employment sectors and minimises job losses in declining sectors.

The chart below illustrates BRES/ABI job growth to date (2013 is the most recent figure) against the projected target. While employee job increase is below projected job growth

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[16] ONS Neighbourhood Statistics

requirements since 2005/6, the number of jobs shows a convergence towards the target over recent years.
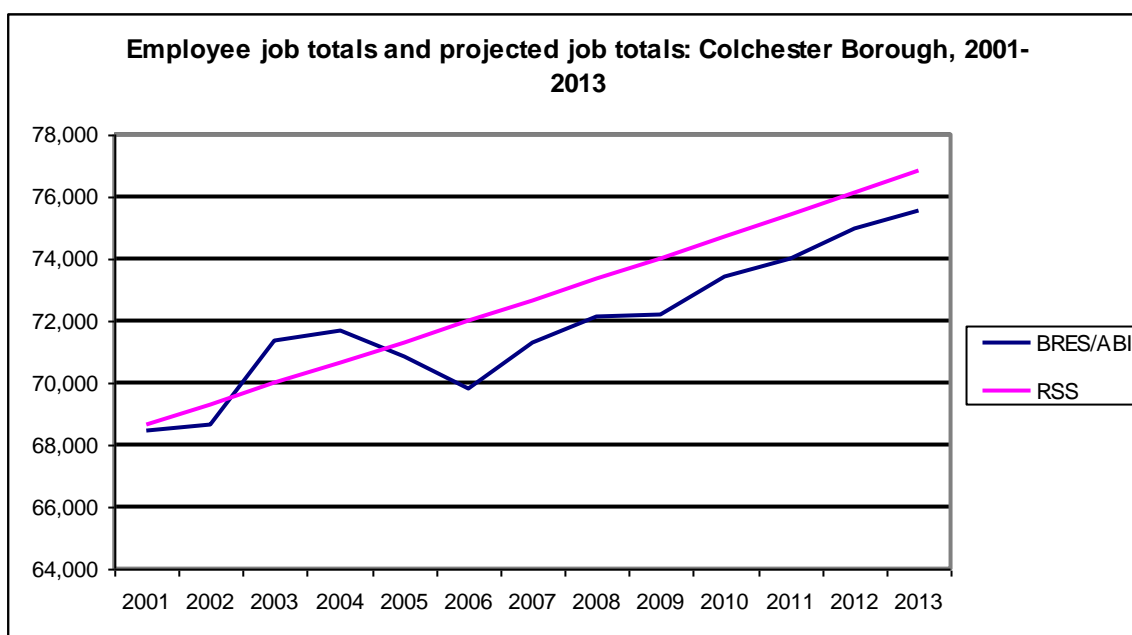
The baseline forecast from the East of England Forecasting Model suggests that Colchester's total employment (including self-employment) will increase from 93,200 in 2012 to 110,000 in 2031, a rise of 18%. Total employment across Essex over the same period will increase by 15.2%, compared to a 13% rise across the East of England.

The Council commissioned studies for the Core Strategy for projected growth in retail, business and employment and used this evidence to plan and facilitate future economic development and employment delivery in Colchester. Over the 2006 to 2021 period, the adopted Local Plan planned for the following development:

- 67,000sqm (net) of retail floorspace, predominantly in the Town Centre (Retail Study, Feb. 2007)
- 106,000sqm (gross) of office floorspace (Use Class B1a & B1b), predominantly in the Town Centre and at the University Research Park. (Employment Land Review, May 2007)
- 45,000sqm (gross) of business floorspace (excluding offices), predominantly in Strategic Employment Zones (Employment Land Review, May 2007)

The Council has commissioned a new Employment Land Needs Assessment which will inform the next Local Plan guiding development to 2032 and beyond.

The Borough is well connected to the strategic road, rail, air and port networks between London and East Anglia and the Region and the European continent. Express rail travel to London from the Borough is only 45 minutes journey time; Stansted Airport is 40 minutes drive–time away while Colchester is within the Haven Gateway sub-region and its three commercial ports which collectively form the largest near-sea and deep-sea container port complex in the Country with a significant roll-on, roll-off and passenger ferry function. These three ports, Harwich, Ipswich and Felixstowe, are of national and regional economic importance for trade and as transport gateways. This strategic position has meant the Borough has been a magnet for growth resulting in a healthy and vibrant economy with the average gross weekly pay level in excess of the GB average; see below.

Labour productivity and GVA per capita, Essex Boroughs and Districts: 2012
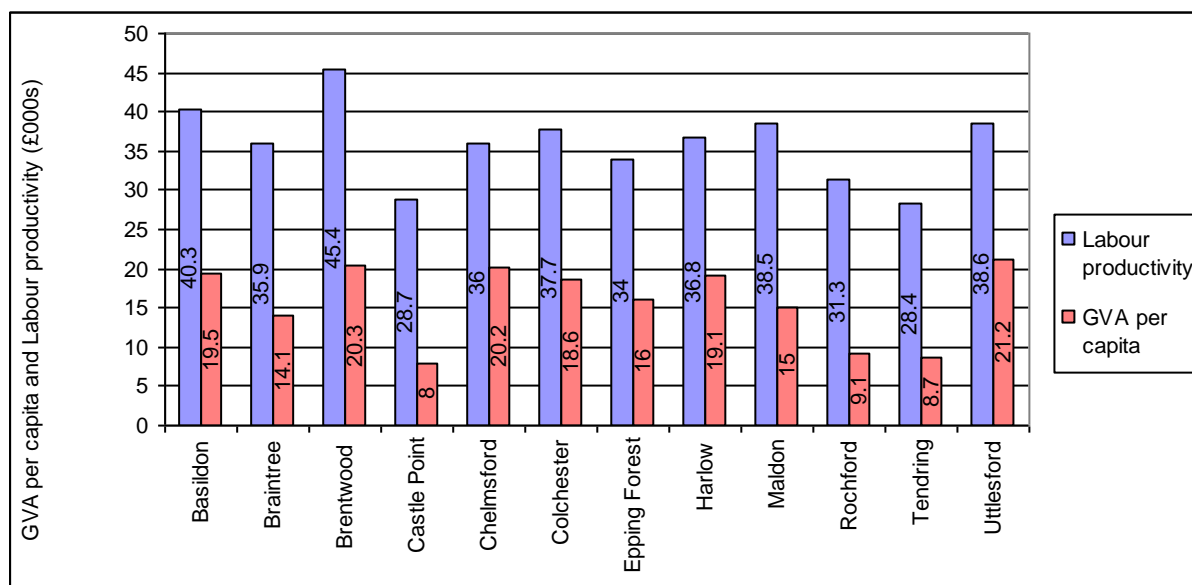
Colchester's GVA was estimated at £3,486 million in 2012, equivalent to a per capita GVA level of £18,600. In the same year, the figures for Essex were £23,156 million and per capita, £16,100, so Colchester's share of the County total was 15.1% and its per capita GVA 15.5% higher. Compared to the Region, Colchester's per capita GVA was also higher – 1.9% greater.

Use Class Order Examples

The following table of examples will help to explain the data within this chapter.

Use Class	Examples
A1	Shops, post offices, travel/ticket agencies, sandwich shops, hairdressers, funeral directors, dry cleaners, internet café.
A2	Professional and financial services, banks, building societies, betting shops, estate and employment agencies.
B1	Offices not within class A2. Research and development of products or processes, laboratories, light industry.
B1a	Offices not within class A2.
B2	General industry.
B8	Use for storage or as a distribution centre.
D2	Assembly and leisure. Cinemas, concert/dance halls, sports halls, swimming pools, skating rinks, gymnasiums, other indoor and outdoor sport and leisure uses.

6.3.1	Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type (sqm).	Indicator for Core Strategy Policies CE1, CE2 and CE3

This indicator shows the amount and type of employment floorspace (gains and losses and net balance) granted permission during the last monitoring year. (Please note that in previous years, the indicator related to completed floorspace, but difficulties in obtaining reliable data from external sources such as approved building surveyors means that only data collected from internal information on planning permissions is shown in the table below).

	B1(a) m²	B1(b)-B8 m²	Total
Gains	2587	13566	16153

Losses	-7931	-14923	-22854
Net balance	-5344	-1357	-6701

As the table shows there has been a net loss of 6,701 square meters of commercial floorspace across the Borough from planning permissions issued in the monitoring period. The majority of this net loss was on B1(a) office floorspace as a direct result of the 2013 national changes to permitted development rights allowing the change of use from offices to residential. 7,007 square meters of office floorspace was permitted to change to residential use following this change to regulations.

The large amount of gain and loss in the B1(b)-B8 category is due to the permitted demolition and relocation of the Wilkin & Sons Ltd factory in Tiptree.

6.3.2	**Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type, which is on previously developed land (PDL) (sqm).**	**Indicator for Core Strategy Policies SD1, CE1, CE2, CE3, UR1**

The purpose of this indicator is to show the amount and type of employment floorspace (gross) coming forward on previously developed land (PDL) during the last monitoring year. (Please note that in previous years, the indicator related to completed floorspace, but difficulties in obtaining reliable data from external sources such as approved building surveyors means that only data collected from internal information on planning permissions is shown in the table below).

	B1a	**B1-B8**	**Total**
Gross on PDL	179	1711	1890
% on PDL	6.9%	12.6%	11.7%

The low percentage of permissions granted on PDL reflects the low demand for office accommodation across the Borough and also the fact that large greenfield applications were approved such as the new Wilkin & Sons Ltd factory and a new car showroom with office space in Axial Way. It is anticipated that demand for office space will increase due to the amount lost through national changes to permitted development rights allowing change of use from office to residential.

6.3.3	**Employment Land available by type (Ha)**	**Indicator for Core Strategy Policies CE1, CE2 and CE3**

The purpose of this indicator is to show the amount and type of employment land available.

	B1a	**B1-B8**	**Other employment uses (A and D-class) uses**	**Total**
Extant Planning Permissions	1.35	3.21	11.27	15.83

As detailed in the table above, the Council has identified that a total of 15.83ha of employment land has been approved for employment development within the Borough. In the previous year there was 16.38ha of employment land available for development, in the

current year a further 5.32ha has been approved across all use classes which demonstrates that commercial type developments are still coming forward in the Borough.

Floorspace data by major category: 2001-2012

Recent data from the Valuation Office Agency provides floorspace data for rateable commercial premises by major category from 2009 -2012.

Floorspace
(000m2)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Office	203	206	206	206	208	197	202	203	210	209	216	208
Retail	406	421	418	420	422	421	421	418	420	423	426	435
Industrial	663	675	691	699	693	690	672	628	618	618	634	644
Other	83	89	92	91	95	97	104	107	106	108	106	110
Total	**1,355**	**1,391**	**1,407**	**1,416**	**1,418**	**1,405**	**1,399**	**1,356**	**1,354**	**1,358**	**1,382**	**1,397**

The table shows that there has been a decline in overall commercial space in the Borough from 2006 and that the current total commercial floorspace stock is almost the same as that in 2007. This "standstill" position reflects changes to the office market with increasing intensity in the use of space to accommodate more staff, new methods of working such as home-working, flexi-working and the introduction of mobile communications. Retail floorspace, however, has continued to increase lightly, reflecting the Borough's position as a major retail centre in the Region and within the top 50 locations in the UK. Industrial floorspace has declined lightly but is holding up well while Other (warehouses, including retail warehouse) has increased, reflecting new development.

6.3.4	**Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses' (sqm)**	**Indicator for Core Strategy Policy CE2a**

The purpose of this indicator is to show the amount of floorspace (gross and net) for town centre uses within (i) town centre areas and (ii) the local authority area which has been permitted the last monitoring year. (Please note that in previous years, the indicator related to completed floorspace, but difficulties in obtaining reliable data from external sources such as approved building surveyors means that only data collected from internal information is shown in the table below).

(i) Town Centre areas				
	A1-A2 Retail	**B1a Offices**	**D2 Leisure**	**A1-D2 Total**
Gains	0	+88	+185	+273
Losses	-316	-6978	0	-7294
Net balance	-316	-6890	+185	-7021

(ii) Local authority area				
	A1-A2 Retail	**B1a Offices**	**D2 Leisure**	**A1-D2 Total**
Gains	2151	2496	0	+4647
Losses	-799	-1605	-1000	-3404
Net balance	+1352	+891	-1000	+1243

As already mentioned the effects of the changes to permitted development rights allowing the change of use from office to residential has had an impact on the Borough's employment land. The largest impact of this change has been in the town centre where numerous schemes have been received for new residential uses including Wickham House on Northgate Street (18 apartments) and Angel Court on the High Street (31 apartments).

There has been an increase in 'town centre uses' across the Borough with new office space in Stanway and new retail space in Magdalen Street gaining planning permission during the monitoring year.

6.3.5	Town Centre Retail Frontage Percentages	Indicator for Development Policy DP6

The table below shows the level of A1 use along each frontage as recorded in summer 2014. Figures for the previous years are also provided to show areas of change in the monitoring period. Town centre monitoring is undertaken to record the current (or last known) ground floor use of units within the town centre Inner and Outer Core areas as defined on the Local Plan Policies Map.

		Year			
Inner Core Streets	**Target**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**
Culver Square & Shewall Walk	85%	98%	98%	98%	97%
Culver Street East	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Culver Street West	85%	90%	90%	90%	86%
Culver Walk	85%	86%	86%	86%	79%
Eld Lane	85%	80%	80%	77%	73%
Head Street	85%	96%	96%	96%	97%
Lion Walk	85%	80%	80%	80%	96%
Long Wyre Street	85%	100%	100%	100%	94%
Priory Walk	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Queen's Street	85%	65%	65%	65%	100%
Red Lion Yard	85%	87%	87%	87%	90%
Short Wyre Street	85%	90%	90%	90%	86%
Sir Issac's Walk	85%	75%	73%	76%	75%
St Nicholas Passage	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Trinity Square (east side)	85%	100%	100%	100%	67%
Trinity Street	85%	54%	54%	54%	45%
Vineyard Street	85%	29%	29%	29%	73%
Outer Core Streets					
Bank Passage	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Crouch Street	50%	66%	66%	69%	61%
Culver Street West	50%	52%	52%	52%	31%
Head Street	50%	14%	14%	14%	19%
High Street	50%	54%	54%	53%	48%
Queen's Street	50%	51%	51%	60%	24%
St Botolph's Street	50%	56%	56%	56%	54%
St John's Street (north side)	50%	67%	67%	67%	77%

Frontage above policy target
Frontage below policy target

There has been a change in the methodology of measuring street frontages in the town centre. Measurements are now made by a combination of surveys and digital mapping which is more efficient than the previous method of actual physical measuring of frontages. This change of methodology has resulted in a difference from previous years' results in some streets.

The table shows that the main shopping areas within the town centre are performing well with regards to the level of A1 retail use in these locations; most of the streets in the Inner Core are operating above the high policy threshold level of 85%. However the general trend both locally and nationally is a shift of uses in town centres to include more leisure-related uses in addition to retail. A result of this trend in Colchester has been an increase in café and restaurants, services and leisure uses.

Nationally the Government has implemented changes to permitted development rights which allow the change of use from retail to other use classes including cafés and offices for a single period of up to two years. The result of this is the amount of control the Council can exercise over prioritising retail use, at least in the short term, is limited.

6.3.6	Number of jobs in rural areas	Indicator for Core Strategy Policy ENV2

Recent data provides an update on the evolution of rural and urban jobs from 2008 until 2011. Unfortunately more recent data is not available.

|	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2,006	2,007	2008	2009	2010	2011
rural	10,006	10,955	14,193	14,117	14,257	14,720	16,065	15,961	15,924	15,755	17,304
urban	57,919	57,215	56,401	56,902	55,991	54,858	54,951	55,636	57,154	59,361	56,708
total	67,925	68,170	70,592	71,018	70,244	69,578	71,016	71,939	73,078	75,116	74,012

Sources: Annual Business Inquiry, ONS; BRES, ONS.

Rural employment has increased over the period to become more in line with the rural population size which is one-third of the Borough's population. Moving from almost 15% of jobs in the rural area in 2001, rural jobs have increased to almost 23% of all jobs in 2011. While a proportion of this employment will be home-based, the figures suggest that the Borough's rural employment planning policies have supported employment growth in the rural area while maintaining an emphasis on Town Centre and urban locations to absorb the greater part of the increase in size of the working population.

6.3.7 Background Information

- From April 2013 to March 2014 data from the Annual Population Survey estimated the percentage of economically active people in Colchester as 79.4% of the working age population. This figure was lower than the regional figure (80.3%), but slightly higher than the Great Britain average of 77.4%. The number of economically active individuals was 100,900 of which 95,400 were in employment. Broken down further, this was composed of approximately 83,500 employees and 11,300 self employed plus 6,000 people who were unemployed. The unemployment figure (5.9% of the economically active population), was slightly higher than the East (5.8%) but lower than the GB (7.2%) average.

- Nomis data indicates that there has been a decrease in the number of inactive working age individuals; from 27,900 (Apr-12 to Mar-13) to 25,700 (Apr-13 to Mar-14).

- Nomis data for Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants in August 2014 (most recent data), calculated a total of 1,711 claimants (655 female and 1,056 male). Compared to August 2013 data published in the previous AMR, this is a decrease of 1,074 JSA claimants. When this is broken down by gender and the split compared, the proportion of female claimants has decreased by 36.0%, and male claimants have decreased by 40.1%

- Data from the Annual Population Survey (Apr-13 to Mar-14) estimated 20.6% of Colchester's working age population as inactive (25,700 people). 30% of working age females were in this economically inactive compared to 11.2% of males. Of the inactive working age population 22.6% (5,800) were inactive-wanting a job and 77.4% (19,900 people) were inactive- and not wanting a job.

- Nomis data shows that in February 2014, 12,110 (10.6%) of Colchester's working age population were claiming worklessness benefits, compared to 13,050 (11.4%) of the working age population in February 2013. The chart below shows the benefit types claimed by the Colchester workless population, with Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and incapacity accounting for 46% of all claims, followed by 19% JSA claimants (no change in rankings from last year).

- Annual Population Survey data (Apr-13 to Mar-14) shows that by occupation, the largest number of Colchester's working age population, at 21,800, were employed in professional occupations, and represented 22.8% of the population in employment. Skilled trade occupations made up the second largest number of working age employees, at 16,100 (16.8%). Associate professional and technical occupations were the third highest employee group in Colchester, making up 15,500 employees (16.2%).

- Census 2011 data reveals for all usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment the week before the census, 16.0% were employed in wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles, this was the largest proportion. The second largest proportion was those employed in human health and social work activities (13.5%).

Key out of work benefits February 2014
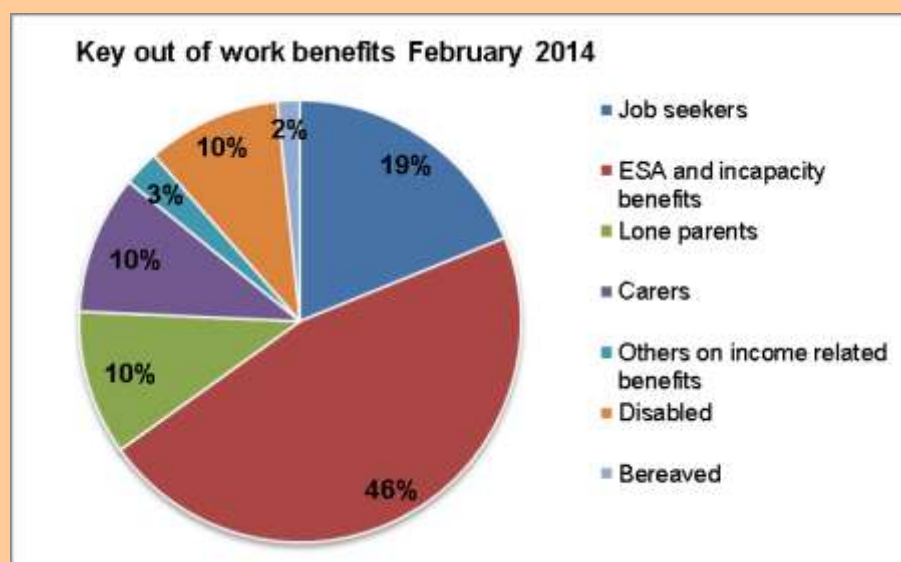
- In 2013, it was estimated that there were 75,500 employees in Colchester of whom 44,900 were full-time and 30,700 part-time. The distribution of these employees by major sector is shown below. The total number of Jobs in Colchester as of 2012 was 92,000. This equates to a job density of 0.81, i.e. the ratio of total jobs to working age population. This was higher than the Eastern job density of 0.77 and a slight increase from 91,000 in 2011.

Total employee jobs by industry, Colchester: 2013

1 : Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A)	200*
2 : Mining, quarrying & utilities (B,D and E)	800
3 : Manufacturing (C)	4700
4 : Construction (F)	2900
5 : Motor trades (Part G)	1600
6 : Wholesale (Part G)	2200
7 : Retail (Part G)	9400
8 : Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	2100
9 : Accommodation & food services (I)	5000
10 : Information & communication (J)	2700
11 : Financial & insurance (K)	2200
12 : Property (L)	1700
13 : Professional, scientific & technical (M)	5300
14 : Business administration & support services (N)	5500
15 : Public administration & defence (O)	2300
16 : Education (P)	11600
17 : Health (Q)	11800
18 : Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U)	3400
Column Total	**75,500**

* These figures exclude farm agriculture (SIC subclass 01000).
Note: Total may not sum due to rounding
Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS, 2013

- Tourism was worth £244m to the economy of Colchester Borough in 2012. The value of tourism to Colchester has risen in real terms by 158% from £63.1m in 1993. Tourism supports more than 5600 actual jobs in the Borough, this has risen by 109% since 1993 (5632 in 2012, 2685 in 1993).

- Colchester attracted just over 5.0m visitor trips in 2012. This is approximately 78% higher than the 1993 figure of 2.8m visitor trips. This can be broken down as follows:
  - 62,000 staying trips taken by overseas staying visitors;
  - 216,000 staying trips taken by domestic staying visitors; and
  - 4.7m day trippers.

- In March 2013 there were 5,950 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in the Borough There were 7,245 local units recorded – effectively "workplaces" and these were distributed by number across a wide range of sectors.

- Educational achievement in Colchester is generally good. The working age population is defined as those aged between 16 and 64 years, male and female). Between January and December 2013, approximately 40,100 residents were qualified to NVQ4 level or above (HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent), accounting for 32.3% of the working age population. This approximately 0.9% lower than the Eastern figure of 33.2%. 89,100 people were qualified to NVQ2 level and above (5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2, intermediate 2 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent), accounting for well over three quarters of the working age population (86.1%). During this time period the number of people in Colchester with no qualifications at all stood at 4.5% (5,600 people), lower than both the Eastern figure (5.8%) and the National figure (6.3%).

- In 2007, none of the small areas in Colchester appeared in the top 10% most deprived in England. However, in the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation two small areas were in the top 10% most deprived in England. These were Magnolia in St Andrew's ward and St Anne's Estate in St Anne's ward. In the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD07) there were three small areas out of all 104 in the borough in the 20% most deprived in England, in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 this had increased to four small areas. In IMD07, St Anne's Estate in St Anne's ward and Magnolia in St Andrew's ward were the small areas with the highest levels of deprivation in Colchester (ranking first and second respectively). Although these were the two most deprived in 2010, their position had switched: In IMD10, Magnolia was the most deprived small area followed by St Anne's Estate.

Deprived small areas in Colchester wards (Indices of deprivation 2010)

(40% most deprived small areas in England)
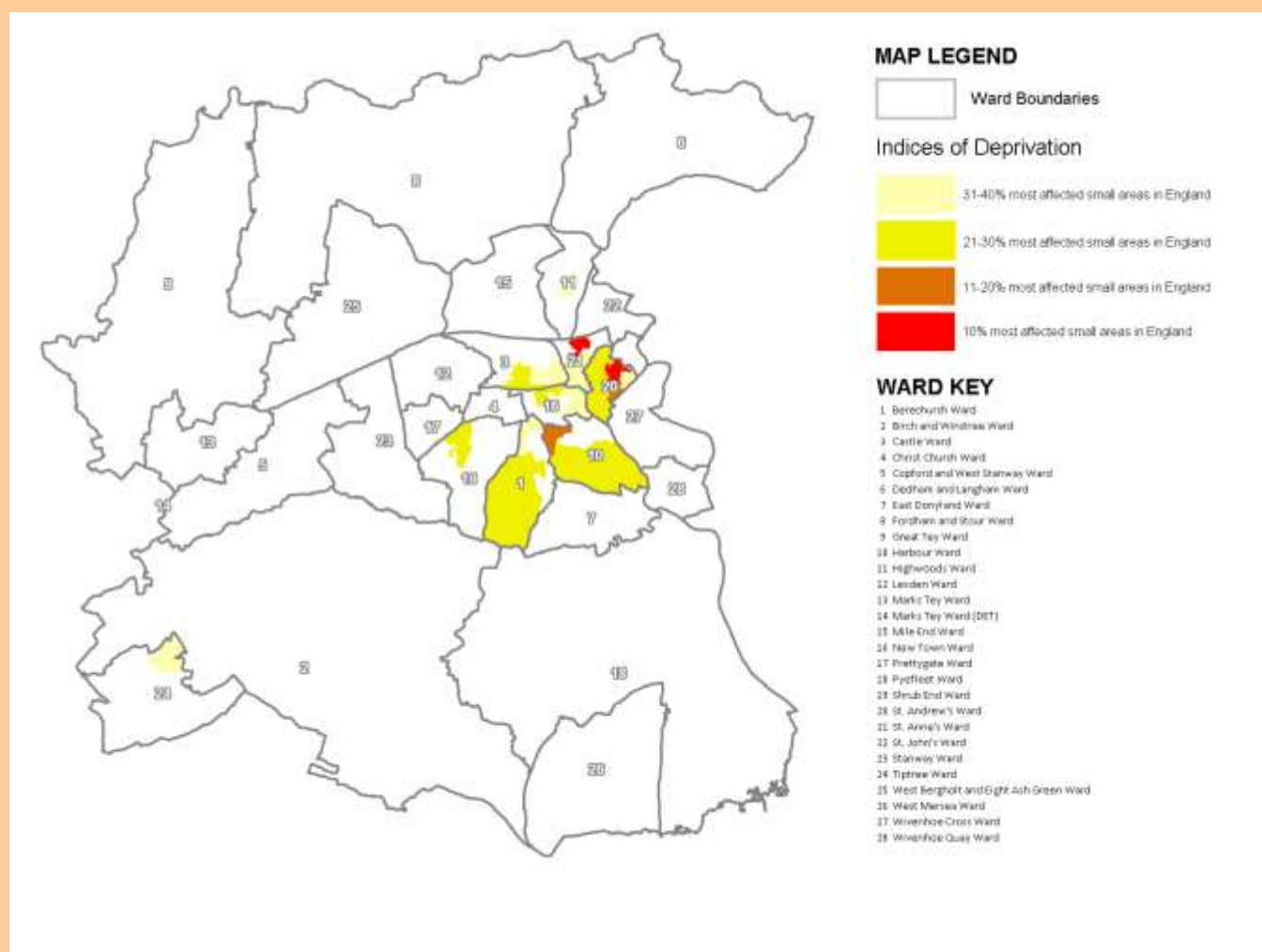
UK Vitality Index

In December 2013, Colchester was ranked number 24 in the UK Vitality Index by Lambert Smith Hampton, the national commercial property consultancy, which measures the health of the local economies of the UK's main regional towns and cities.

This index ranks the top 65 towns and cities outside of London which are best placed for businesses to expand and for future economic growth. There are seven themes to the Index, with Colchester being ranked seventh in the UK for fastest growing towns and in the top 31 of all other six categories; most productive, most affluent, most entrepreneurial, highly educated and greenest.

The UK Vitality Index scores each location against 20 datasets relating to demographics, educational attainment, business activity levels, economic output, general affluence and sustainability. High scoring towns and cities have healthy and robust local economies; are best placed to support growth; and will provide opportunities for businesses to expand.

The highest scoring location was Cambridge with 156 while Colchester was ranked 24th, after Chelmsford and before Southend – the other two Essex locations in the index..

UK Vitality Index

Rank	Town / City	Region	Score (max 200)
19	Chelmsford	EE	117
24	Colchester	EE	107
27	Southend	EE	101.5

Lambert Smith Hampton, December 2013 http://www.lsh.co.uk/campaigns/uk-vitality-index/the-index

Grant Thornton Growth and Dynamism Index

Recent further place-ranking from the Grant Thornton Growth and Dynamism Index (June 2014) provides further evidence of the economic strengths but also of the relative weaknesses of the Borough.

Of the 326 "lower tier" local authorities in England, Colchester was ranked 51st on the Growth Index, with an A rating - placing it in the top quintile. This composite measure considered growth in employees, businesses, resident population and working age population. Apart from Colchester, only Uttlesford District is within the top 20% of places in Essex on this measure of growth.

However, against the Dynamism index, Colchester fared less strongly, achieving a middle quintile ranking – C – and being ranked 152nd out of the 326 local authorities. This index seeks to identify areas with high levels of entrepreneurialism, economic activity and intense productivity, measuring Knowledge Workers and Occupations, High Skills, Knowledge Intensive Businesses, Business Formation Rate, Patents Granted and Transport Infrastructure. On this measure Colchester is in a group with Braintree and Maldon within Essex and the patterning of Dynamism reveals a strong East/West shading with the authorities closest to London being the most dynamic.

Potential Issues

The key sustainability issues for economic well-being in the future centre around maintaining a healthy, vibrant and diverse economy that can maintain its ability to weather the challenges of economic changes.

Sustainable economic growth for the future will continue to involve matching the needs of the local workforce and urban employment and regeneration areas with the opportunities for growth and inward investment presented by Colchester's regional status as a major employment hub accessible both to London and Europe.

No less important is policy support for the rural economy which has been affected in recent years by falling incomes from farming. As a significant part of the Borough's area – around two-thirds - is rural, there is a need to encourage revitalisation of the rural economy including farm diversification schemes. More importantly, improving access in rural areas to non-land-based jobs and services will contribute significantly to this aim.

It will be important to monitor future change in the demand and supply of employment space to identify changing patterns and inform any policy responses required. The Council will need to work to improve its ability to track the delivery of employment developments for reporting in future AMRs.

Improved transportation and attractive travel links are a major issue for Colchester, and it is essential that planning for transport is an integral part of the whole Local Plan, including the location of jobs near homes to reduce the need to travel. It is particularly important to improve and maintain Colchester's transportation infrastructure so that the Borough can continue to attract businesses, employees, shoppers and tourists, therefore boosting the local economy. No less important is the ability of Borough businesses and residents to obtain Next Generation Access to Information and Communication Technology and the increasing growth of home-working and home-based enterprises requires Colchester to make a step-change in digital connectivity.

The Core Strategy provides for five major regeneration sites in the Borough, each of which will significantly contribute to employment and business growth. Within these areas the provision of attractive, accessible and flexible business premises will also help generate new investment opportunities and encourage businesses to remain in Colchester. The visitor economy has been identified as a growth area given the Borough's wealth of historic and natural environments along with new and refurbished attractions such as the Firstsite art gallery and the revamped Castle Museum. The Town Centre remains the key focus for improvement and developments there include new hotel/restaurants soon to open on East Hill; the new Curzon cinema to open in St. Botolphs; the current expansion of Williams and Griffins department store; and the planned development of Vineyard Gate as a further retail development.

6.4 Key Theme: TRANSPORTATION

Core Strategy Policies	
TA1	Accessibility and Changing Travel Behaviour – Will work with partners to improve accessibility and change travel behaviour as part of a comprehensive transportation strategy for Colchester.
TA2	Walking & Cycling – Will work with partners to promote walking and cycling as an integral, highly sustainable means of transportation.
TA3	Public Transport – Will work with partners to further improve public transport and increase modal shift towards sustainable modes.
TA4	Roads and Traffic – Will work with partners to accommodate necessary car travel, manage demand in urban areas, and facilitate freight and servicing.
TA5	Parking – Will work with partners to ensure that car parking is managed to support the economy and sustainable communities.

LDF Development Policies

DP17 Accessibility and Access – Requires that all development should seek to enhance accessibility for sustainable modes of transport by giving priority to pedestrian, cycling and public transport access. A Travel Plan and/or Transport Assessments will be required for proposals with more significant traffic generation impacts.

DP18 Transport Infrastructure Proposals – Ensures that developments that provide transport infrastructure, such as Park and Ride, freight servicing, new highway network improvements and new public transport facilities, are appropriately located, justified and environmental acceptable.

DP19 Requires new development to have regard to the Vehicle Parking Standards developed by Essex County Council.

The Borough is connected to a comprehensive network of major roads via the A12 and A120, which provide routes to London, the M25, Harlow and Cambridge. The Borough also lies in close proximity to the major seaport of Harwich (20 miles) and Stansted Airport (30 miles). As a Regional Interchange Centre, public transport provision includes extensive rail and bus services. This consists of:

- Six railway stations with train services to London and Norwich on the mainline as well as links to Cambridge, Clacton etc on the branch lines, operated by Abellio Greater Anglia;
- A network of frequent bus services across the urban area linking key services, principally operated by First and Network Colchester;
- A number of other complementary bus services provided by a number of operators linking to other towns e.g. Chelmsford and Clacton, rural locations and dedicated services including to schools, for football matches and supporting Colchester's night time economy; and
- Inter-urban coach services linking to destinations across the UK including London, Stansted airport and Liverpool.

Engaging with the community as part of Colchester's Core Strategy development has illustrated that transportation and traffic issues are very high up on the public's list of priorities.

The LDF Core Strategy sets out the borough council's approach to transport, which seeks to change travel behaviour to manage demand, especially of peak hour car traffic. Certain major infrastructure is to be provided through development in north and west Colchester. Park and Ride is to be provided in north Colchester and a planning permission has been

granted for the site. Improvements for cycling and public transport are also being sought along with initiatives to reduce traffic in the town centre. The Council's current car parking strategy aims to find a balance between supporting town centre vitality; minimising peak hour journeys; and set robust but responsive pricing structures that also support car park running and refurbishment costs. A range of special parking offers is available that compare favourably to Colchester's competitive towns.

Cycling in Colchester

The Colchester Cycling Delivery Strategy, adopted in January 2012, sets out how we can encourage more cycling in the borough. The document includes new cycle routes as well as proposals for promoting cycling and cycle training. The document is used in negotiations with developers to ensure investment in cycling is made which benefits the development's new community. The document is also used in bidding for other funding sources where appropriate.

A number of training and promotional campaigns have also been delivered to encourage residents to take up cycling. This includes Bikeability training programmes delivered within Colchester schools. Between April 2013 and March 2014 a total of 652 children in the Colchester Borough received Bikeability Level 2 training and 34 children received Bikeability Level 3 training.

Station Travel Plan

The Colchester Station Travel Plan continues to deliver projects which give station users choices on how they travel. Studies were carried out into changes to the station forecourt and ensuring good access is maintained as part of the bus priority measures being introduced.

Major Infrastructure

Work is complete on the Stanway Western Bypass and it opened in May 2014.

Work on the Northern Approach Road started in Summer 2013 and is due to be open early 2015. The scheme will run through the former Severalls hospital site and will enable the release of the planned housing development on the Severalls site and in North Colchester. The road will connect Junction 28 of the A12 to the existing Northern Approach Road. The single carriageway road with bus lanes will provide a priority route and allow efficient operation of the Park and Ride Bus services.

Work is now underway to construct the Colchester Park and Ride site and associated bus measures and is currently scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2015. Essex County Council have commenced work on the bus priority measures and bus stops along the route. NAR3 and Colchester Park & Ride are part of the original strategy for North Colchester submitted as part of a planning application in 2001 and approved in 2006.

Travel Change Behaviour

The Borough Council have worked with Essex County Council to install a rapid electric vehicle charger in the Weston Homes Community Stadium and this was installed in June

2014. The installation of rapid chargers will contribute to the goal of creating a network of charging points in Essex.

The Colchester Travel Plan Club has remained highly active over the last year. Work has included the following:

- Continued to assist TPC members in retaining or improving their accreditation to Essex County Council's Business Travel Plan Accreditation and further developing their travel plans.
- Worked with Culver Square Management to coordinate the Annual Sustainability Fair, which took place in June.
- Coordinated the NQE Business Awards through October and November, this time sponsoring the Environmental Awareness Category.
- Revamp of the Colchester Travel Plan Club website, including a member's log-in area and putting applications for transport discounts on-line.
- Co-ordinated the design and promotional campaign around ten LoveurCarColchester billboards, with associated competitions, publicity and media.
- Organised a Flash Mob as part of the LoveurCarColchester project to promote walking instead of driving for short journeys.
- Managed the production of a new 'Get on Your Bike' leaflet.
- Designed a successful 'Walk the Talk' guide and website as part of the North Colchester Business Park Project, in partnership with businesses from the Business Park.

Transport and Accessibility Indicators

.A number of the indicators below are linked to data collected for the Essex Local Transport Plan (LTP) or the Local Area Agreement. Previously, the Council had access to journey to school and bus passenger levels, but as this data is no longer available at a Borough level, these indicators are no longer included in the AMR. Further changes in future years may result from changes to the National Indicator set.

6.4.1	**Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD1 and SD2**

The Council has reviewed planning permissions granted during 2013-14 and has established that 98.4% of new residential developments were within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre. This shows that development has been located where there is access to public transport and there is a good coverage of public transport.

6.4.2	**To obtain an agreed Travel Plan for all major commercial/community developments**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy TA1**

Nine establishments in Colchester and the surrounding area were accredited through the ECC Travel Plan Accreditation Scheme during 2013/14. This included three Gold, five Silver and one Bronze level award. Travel Plans are accredited against a list of travel plan

measures, employee engagement and a set of specific targets. The accreditations for 2013/14 were:

- Defence Support Group = Gold
- Colchester Borough Council = Gold
- University of Essex = Gold
- Colchester Institute = Silver
- The Gilberd School = Silver
- Colchester Sixth Form College = Silver
- Colchester United Football Club = Silver
- Inntel Ltd = Silver
- Colbea = Bronze

A total of 104 Residential Travel Information Packs have been provided to new residents of five residential developments in Colchester during 2013/14.

6.4.3	Comparison of long and short stay car parking demand and duration in public car parks in the Town Centre (with a view to reducing long stay)	Core Strategy Indicator for Policy TA5

Colchester Borough Council is currently seeing a rise in the use of its car parks as visitors take advantage of the range of competitive parking offers. Britannia car park is still showing good performance and this has been joined by both St. Mary's and St. John's. Butt Road car park with its £2.50 parking offer has experienced an increase in its usage and is now reaching the levels achieved before it was closed for major refurbishment. Sportsway car park will not reopen and is now operated by Leisure World Colchester as part of its customer car park.

Colchester Borough Council have worked with Essex County Council to develop a Parking Model for Colchester. This model has been completed and test scenarios have been run to assess the effects changes to parking provision in Colchester will have on existing car parks and parking demand in Colchester. The scenarios tested include the opening of the Park & Ride and an increase in demand for car parking.

6.4.4	Annualised indicator of Cycling Trips (increased to reflect Colchester's cycle town status).	Core Strategy Indicator for Policies TA1, TA2 and PR2

During November 2012, there were approximately 61,080 cycle trips recorded at 13 automatic sites across the town. This is a 4% increase compared to approximately 46,893 cycle trips in November 2011.

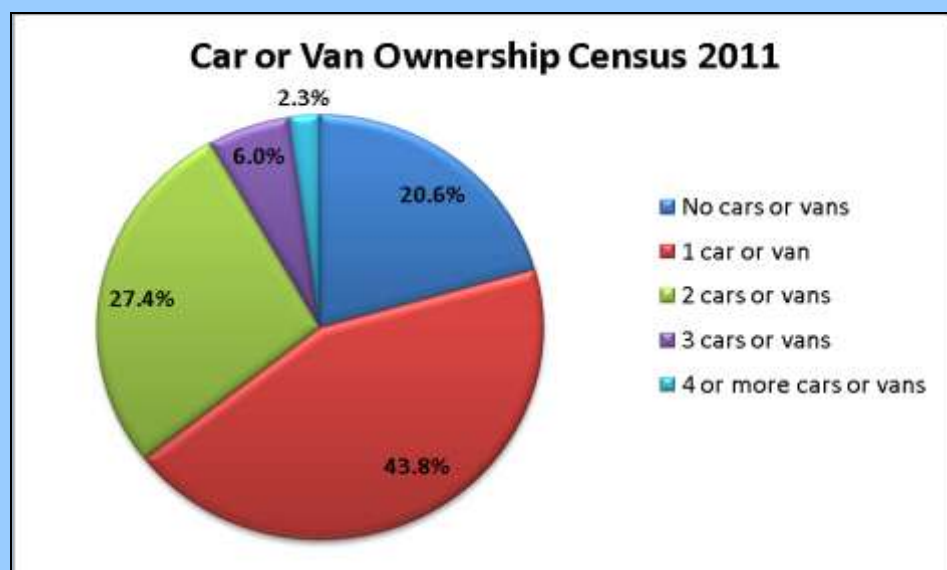| 6.4.5	Motor vehicles entering Colchester on the main radial corridors	Core Strategy Indicator for Policies TA1, TA2, TA3, TA4, TA5

27,957 vehicles entered Colchester town centre in the peak period in 2012 (ECC LTP Indicator 12b). This is below the target value of 33,000.

The level of cars entering Colchester in the morning peak has shown a small decrease against 2011 when the figure was 28,494.
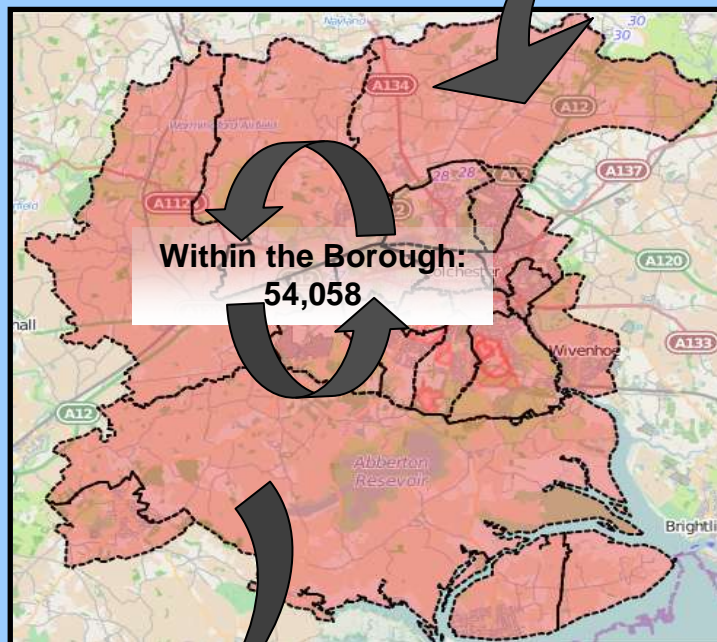
6.4.6 Background Information

In order to understand Colchester's commuter patterns more accurately work has been carried out within the Council on 'Travel to work' data, collated as part of the 2011 Census. An overview of the data available is provided below.

- The Borough has high levels of car ownership. In 2011, 56,893 households owned a car compared to 14,741 households who did not own a car. The pie chart below shows this breakdown in more detail.
- The car is the most popular method of transport used by residents in the Borough to travel to work. In 2011, 49,522 people used the car, as opposed to 6,655 who used the train and 4,918 that travelled to work by bus.
- There are a total of 109,043 work related trips per day within, to, or out of the Borough;
- There are 86,075 employed residents in the borough who either work within or outside of the Borough;
- 54,058 (69%) of employed residents make an internal trip (from any ward in Colchester to any ward in Colchester);
- 7,167 (8%) of employed residents have no fixed place of work;
- In addition 24,850 employed residents leave the Borough – of these 25% go to Greater London, 15% to Tendring District, 15% to Braintree District and 10% to Chelmsford City;
  22,968 people came into the Borough for work – of these 38% come from Tendring District, 16% from Braintree District and 11% from Babergh District;
- In 2011, Colchester was a net exporter of 1,882 employees.

Car or Van Ownership Census 2011

2.3%
6.0%
20.6%
27.4%
43.8%

- No cars or vans
- 1 car or van
- 2 cars or vans
- 3 cars or vans
- 4 or more cars or vans

Trips into the Borough:

Into the Borough:
22,968

Within the Borough:
54,058

Out of the Borough:
24,850

Colchester

A134   A12   A137

A12

A133

A120   Harwich

Tendring

Frinton and Walton

Clacton on Sea

━━━━ Strategic Route
━━━━ Other main roads
⬤ Town centre
✦✦✦✦ Railway / Passenger and freight
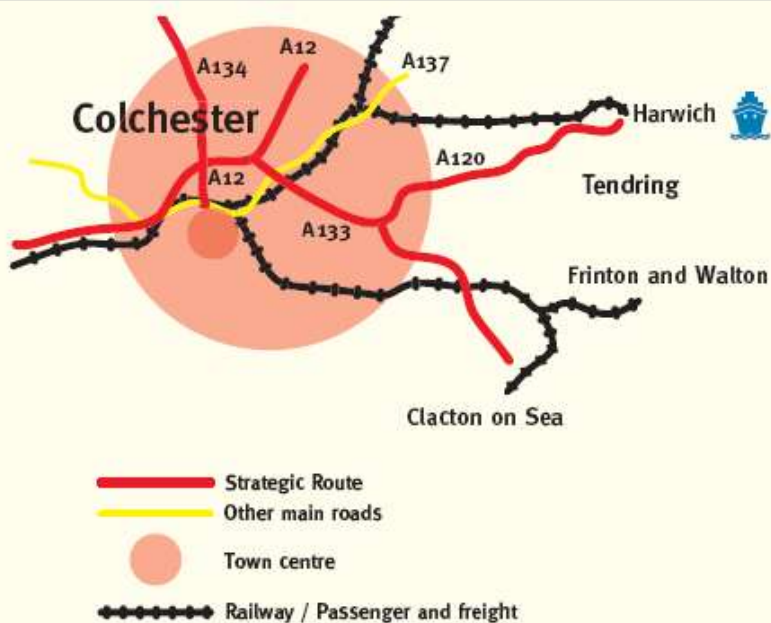
Figure 24: Colchester Strategy Area

6.5 Key Theme: ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Core Strategy Policies	
SD1	Sustainable Development Locations – Will promote sustainable development and regeneration to deliver at least 14,200 jobs between 2001 and 2021and 19,000 homes between 2001 and 2023. Growth will be located at the most accessible and sustainable locations.
UR2	Built Design and Character - Will promote and secure high quality, inclusive design in all new developments that makes better places for residents and visitors and conserves and enhances the built character, historic assets and public realm of the Borough.
PR1	Open Space – Will maintain strategic green links between the rural hinterland, river corridors, and key green spaces, while also providing a network of open spaces and recreational opportunities that meet local community needs and facilitates active lifestyles.
ENV1	Environment – Will conserve and enhance Colchester's natural and historic environment, countryside and coastline. The network of strategic green links between the rural hinterland, river corridors, and key green spaces and areas of accessible open space that contribute to the green infrastructure across the Borough will be protected and enhanced. Development adversely impacting on Natura 2000 sites or the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will not be supported. Development will also be directed away from land at risk from either fluvial or coastal flooding.
ER1	Energy, Resources, Waste, Water and Recycling –Will promote the efficient use of energy and resources, including the delivery of zero carbon homes and renewable energy projects, while working towards waste minimisation and increased recycling to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint.

LDF Development Policies

DP1   Design and Amenity – Will ensure that development is designed to a high standard, avoid unacceptable impacts on amenity and demonstrate social, economic and environmental sustainability.

DP14   Historic Environment Assets – Will ensure that development does not adversely affect a listed building, conservation area, historic park or garden or important archaeological remains.

DP20   Flood Risk & Management of Surface Water Drainage – Will ensure that development minimises the risk of flooding and incorporates measures for the conservation and sustainable use of water.

DP21   Nature Conservation and Protected Lanes – Will conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

DP22   Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Will ensure that development makes a positive contribution to the special landscape character and qualities of the AONB.

DP23   Coastal Areas – Will provide an integrated approach to coastal management within the coastal protection belt and along the undeveloped coast. Proposals within the West Mersea Waterside Area of Special Character will be expected to enhance the traditional maritime character of the area.

DP25   Renewable Energy – Will support proposals for renewable energy schemes and encourage renewable energy technologies into all development where viable.

Overview

The natural environment of the Borough has been shaped by both physical process and land management over time. These two processes have created the high quality landscapes, and diverse habitats and biodiversity/geodiversity within the Borough. These include internationally significant areas of coastal and intertidal habitats, mudflats and salt marsh,

and shell banks, which constitute some of the features of interest within the Mid-Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC). New development has the potential to lead to the loss of habitat and species and this must be prevented where possible and mitigated in all other circumstances.

Colchester's Local Plan promotes the reuse of land (i.e. brownfield development) and development densities that make the most efficient use of land. This will reduce the pressure for greenfield sites, where landscape and biodiversity value can be high. Brownfield sites however can also have high biodiversity importance, providing unique refuges for species in an otherwise urban area. Brownfield habitats are included on the UK Biodiversity Priority Habitats list, meaning the biodiversity interest on such sites will need to be fully considered as part of new development proposals.

The Council seeks to conserve and enhance Colchester's natural environment, countryside and coastline as well as preserving its archaeological and built heritage. It also aims to conserve the Borough's diverse biodiversity, geology, history and archaeology, through the protection and enhancement of sites of international, national, regional and local importance.

The Council's Museum department holds an Urban Archaeological Database, which was established in partnership with English Heritage. It aims to record all archaeological information within the Town Centre, including both individual sites or monuments and key archaeological finds. It also records information produced through events such as excavations and surveys in the town, which are often prompted by development. The database is used by the Archaeological Officer to help inform planning application consultations.

The Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) layers presently contain 3410 monument records and 5791 related application records.

Colchester Borough's Environmental Designations 2014
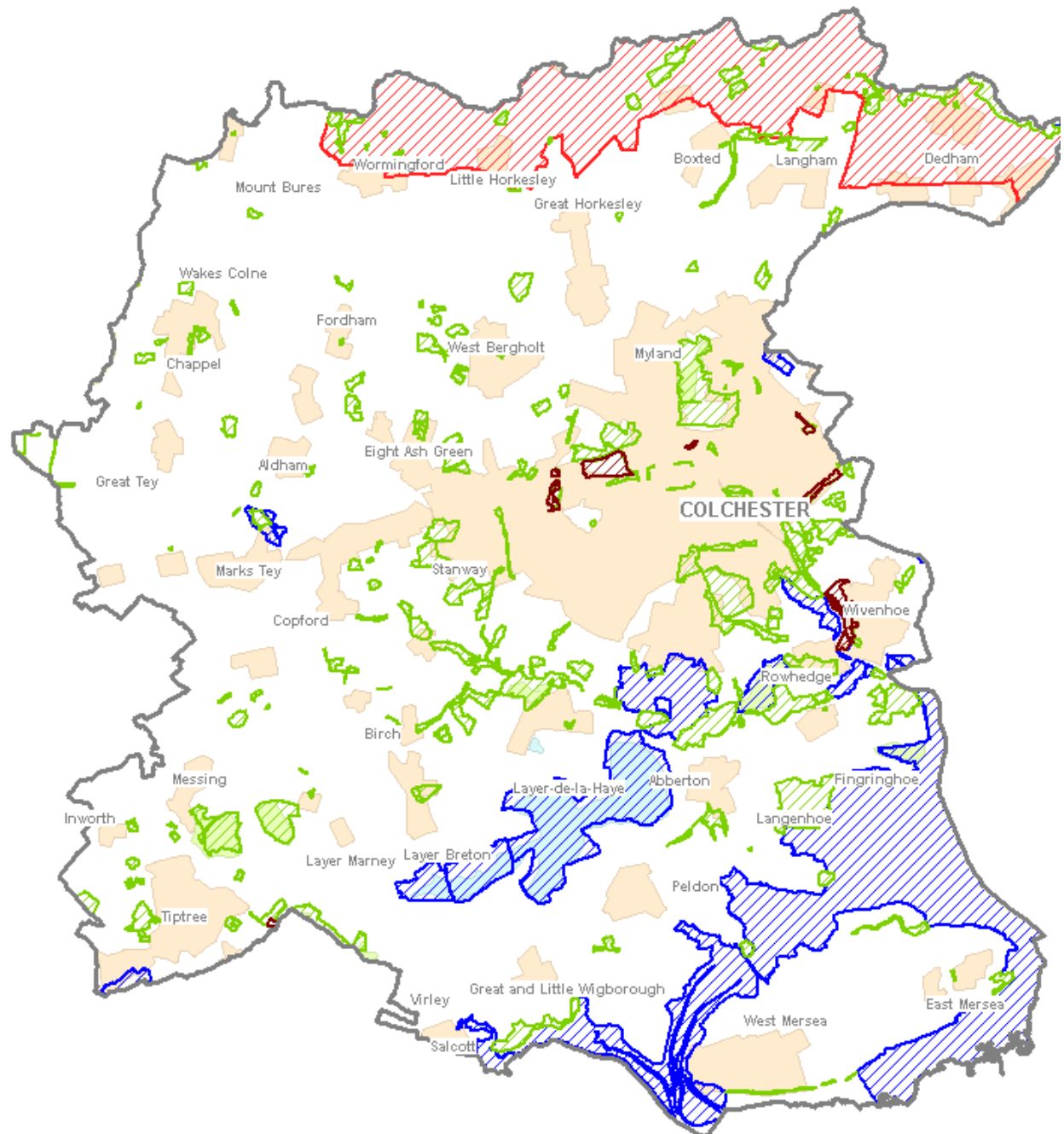
Map Legend

☐ Colchester District Boundary	▨ AONB Site	▨ Local Nature Reserve	▨ LoW Site	▨ SSSI Site

© Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100023706 | Not To Scale.

6.5.1	**Number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy for ENV1**

Between April 2013 and March 2014 no planning applications were approved contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency.

Colchester Borough Council will continue to direct development away from land at risk of all types of flooding. Development within flood risk areas will need to be managed to ensure that it will not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. The Council will also seek to ensure that new development does not adversely affect ground water quality or increase the risk of flooding, either on or off site, through the increased use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) where appropriate.

Overleaf is a flood zone map, based on the Environment Agency's data, showing those areas of Colchester that are high flood risk, i.e. have a 1% (1 in 100) or greater annual probability of fluvial flooding or a 0.5% (1 in 200) or greater annual probability of tidal flooding regardless of current flood defences.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 implements Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations following his review of the 2007 floods. The Act provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses.

Defra recognises that serious flooding can happen any time. Both national and local climate projections suggest extreme weather will happen more frequently in the future. Colchester is also projected to experience wetter winters in the future as a result of climate change. The Flood and Water Management Act aims to reduce the flood risk associated with extreme weather.

Essex County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority under the Act. They are responsible for dealing with flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. The Environment Agency continues to maintain responsibility for dealing with coastal flooding and flooding from main rivers.

Essex County Council prepared a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in April 2011 and as part of this process Colchester Borough was classed as a Tier 2 Flood Risk Area. Essex County Council has also produced the Essex Flood Risk Management Strategy. A consultation on a draft strategy was held in April 2012. The Council is a member of the Essex Partnership for Flood Management and plays an active role in formulating the Flood Risk Assessment and Flood Risk Hazard Maps.

Colchester worked with Essex County Council and Capita Symonds to produce a draft Surface Water Management Strategy for Colchester. This document identifies 9 Critical Drainage Areas most at risk from surface water flooding, in Colchester's Urban Area, and makes recommendations for future investigations to address or reduce this risk. The Strategy was completed in October 2013.

Essex County Council has also prepared new Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidance which it is expected to be adopted in Spring 2015. The Government has recently consulted about integrating responsibility for the delivery of SUDS within the planning system. A decision is

expected on this in 2015.

Colchester's Flood Zone Areas 2 & 3 2014

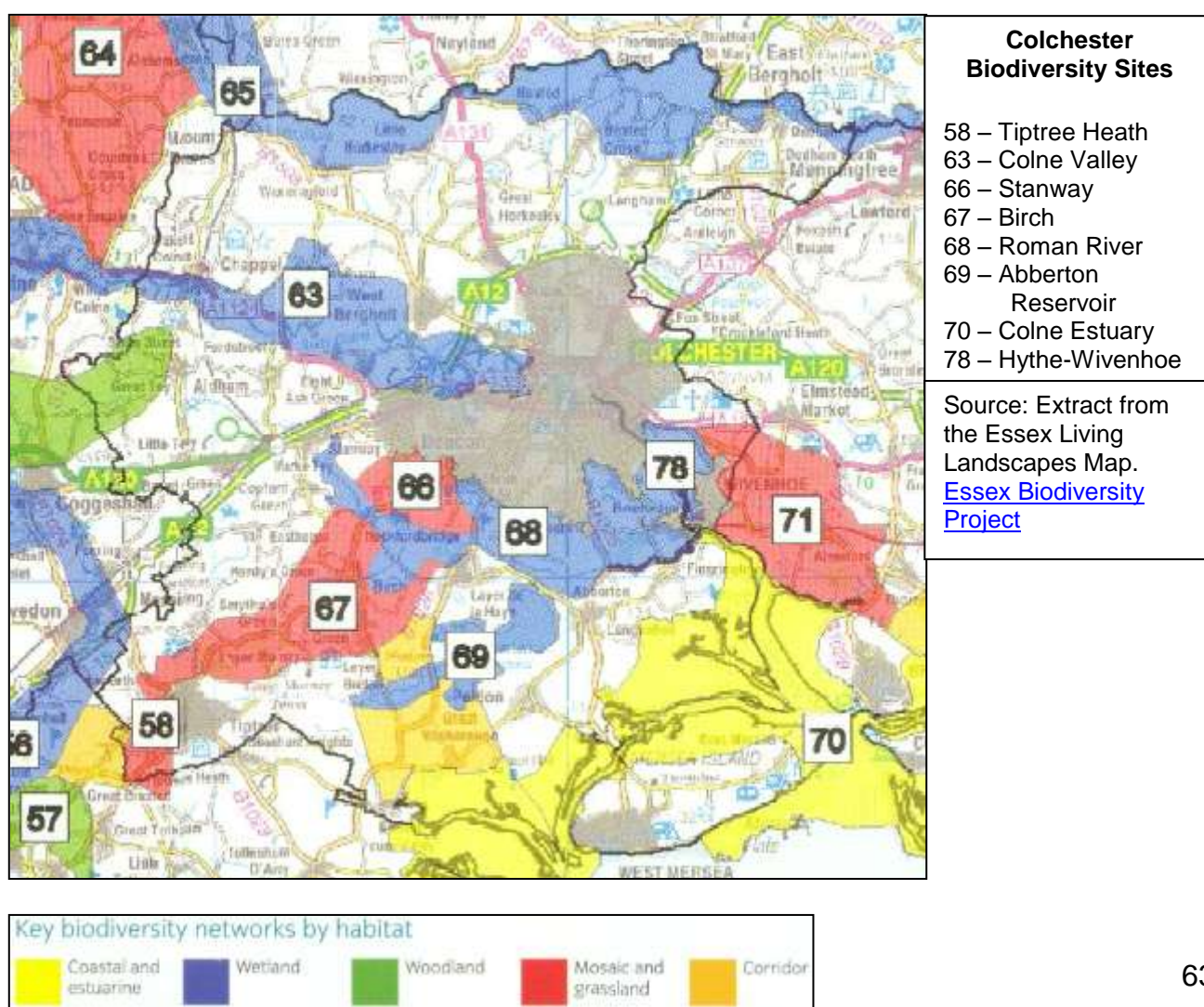| 6.5.2	**Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance including:** **Change in priority habitats and species (by type); and Changes in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national regional, sub-regional or local significance**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1**

The Council is currently unable to measure changes in priority habitats and species. Core Strategy Policy ENV1 and Development Policy DP21, however, seek to protect sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance by directing development away from them. The Council also seeks to maintain a green infrastructure network across the Borough between the urban and rural hinterlands, and along river corridors. This will provide important wildlife refuges and adaptation routes for species whose habitats are at risk, or which are adversely affected by climate change. Central government is keen to introduce biodiversity offsetting as a way to ensure no net loss of biodiversity as a result of development. Biodiversity offsetting would enable development to development in one areas but provide new habitat elsewhere to offset the impact on the development ecologically. 6 pilot projects have been running nationally to develop the concept. A decision is expected in spring 2015 about how to take the initiative forward. If implemented, a new indicator will need to be set to record the amount and type of habitat lost as well as the amount of new habitat created through biodiversity offsetting.

The key Living Landscapes in Colchester are shown in the map below.

Colchester Biodiversity Sites

58 – Tiptree Heath
63 – Colne Valley
66 – Stanway
67 – Birch
68 – Roman River
69 – Abberton Reservoir
70 – Colne Estuary
78 – Hythe-Wivenhoe

Source: Extract from the Essex Living Landscapes Map. Essex Biodiversity Project

Key biodiversity networks by habitat

Coastal and estuarine | Wetland | Woodland | Mosaic and grassland | Corridor

6.5.3	Area of ancient woodland within the Borough	Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1

Number of Sites	70 sites
Total area	568 Ha

Ancient Woodlands are defined as woodlands that have existed in the Borough since the 1600's. Ancient Woodlands also include Semi Ancient Natural Woodlands; these are woodlands where the original woodland footprint dating back to the 1600's remains intact, but where the woodland species assemblages have been altered through more modern planting programmes. As is clear from the name, Ancient Woodlands are a non-replaceable asset, requiring protection. Natural England maintain an inventory of Ancient Woodland.

The Council's data on Ancient Woodland was updated in May 2012 and there are now 70 sites which are wholly within, or which intersect the Borough boundary. The latest GIS information shows that there is currently approximately 568ha of Ancient Woodland in Colchester Borough.

Ancient woodlands are potentially at risk from development pressures and agricultural intensification. Pressure on these habitats could increase further if biodiversity offsetting is implemented through planning. Colchester Borough Council will seek to protect the Borough's Ancient Woodland resource by continuing to direct the majority of new development towards brownfield sites in urban areas where available as a priority, reducing pressure for greenfield development and thereby reducing the potential for Ancient Woodlands to be affected by development

6.5.4	Number and area of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Local Sites (LoWs) within Colchester	Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1

	Local Wildlife Sites (LoWs)	Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)*
Number of Sites	168	10
Total Area	1957 Ha	175.39 Ha
Range	144.4 Ha	36.14 Ha
Mean	11.6054 Ha	17.50 Ha
Mode	0-1 Ha	2-3 Ha
Median	4.90 Ha	10.15 Ha

* Number of Local Nature Reserves, including those that are only partially within the Borough boundary

There are 7 designated Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Colchester. These are Spring Lane, Bull Lane, Lexden Park, Salary Brook, Welsh Wood, Colne and Hilly Fields.

Local Sites previously known as Local Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are areas of land which locally in the Borough have significant wildlife value. Together with statutory protected areas, Local Sites represent the minimum habitat needed to maintain the current levels of wildlife in Essex. Their nature conservation value lies in the role they play in protecting wildlife and habitats in the wider countryside. Local Wildlife Sites are protected within the local planning system as they are a 'material

consideration' during the determination of planning applications. The first Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) report was produced for Colchester in 1991. Following extensive field surveys, 147 sites covering 1,463.7 hectares of land were designated as SINCs. In 2006, DEFRA developed an alternative, robust, set of site selection criteria for the designation of Local Sites. In addition, knowledge and availability of data about biodiversity in the County has improved considerably during the last 20 years. Local Sites now also include locally important geological sites (LoGs). There are currently no designated LoGs in Colchester Borough.

In 2008, Colchester Borough Council commissioned a review of the Borough's Local Wildlife Sites. As a result of this review, a total of 168 Local Wildlife Sites covering 1957 hectares were identified across the Borough. This represented an overall increase of 21 new Local Wildlife Sites in the Borough, amounting to a net increase of 493.3 hectares. The Council will seek to safeguard these important Local Wildlife Sites from loss as a result of development in accordance with Core Strategy Policy ENV1.

In 2012, a new Essex Local Sites Partnership (formerly Local Wildlife Sites) was established; Colchester Borough Council represents the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) on this Partnership. The Local Sites Partnership's role is to approve the selection of new Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites; deselect existing sites that fail to meet the adopted selection criteria; promote the enhancement of sites; establish a rolling programme for monitoring the condition of selected sites; and review and update the selection criteria, as required.

A partial review of the Local Sites may be needed as part of developing the evidence base for Colchester's new Local Plan.

6.5.5	To deliver the revised quantity standards for the different open space typologies across the Borough by 2011	Supporting Indicator for Policy PR1

The Council originally worked to a universal standard of 2.83ha per 1000 people for open space provision. In 2006, the Council commissioned an Open Space, Sport and Recreation study as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, to test these standards in terms of meeting local existing and future, population needs for open space and sports facilities.

An audit of existing open space/sport facilities provision was completed in 2007/8. This showed that for some types of open space the 2.83ha standard was being met. However, for other types of open space, such as allotments, this was not the case.

In response to the outputs from the 2006 study, which assessed open space needs across a range of different open space typologies, new accessibility, quality and quantity standards were developed to ensure that future open space provision meets existing and future population needs.

The revised quantity standards are set out below for the different typologies per 1,000 people in Colchester.

Parks and Gardens	1.76ha
Natural and semi natural open space urban	5.00ha
Amenity greenspace	1.10ha

Provision for children	0.05ha
Provision for teenagers	0.05ha
Allotments	0.2ha
Outdoor sports facilities	1.5ha

Open Space, Sport and Recreation provision has been incorporated into strategies such as the Allotment Strategy. New areas of open space, sport and recreation facilities will be provided as part of new development in accordance with Core Strategy Policy PR1 and Development Policies DP4, DP15 and DP16. Planning contributions are currently secured through the Section 106 negotiations as part of the planning decision making process. In the future contributions will be secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

In 2012 the Council identified a need for a strategic level Sports Facilities Strategy. The Strategy will be produced during 2014 and it is expected that it will be completed in November 2014. The strategy will provide evidence to inform plans for leisure development in North Colchester on CBC owned land; evidence to support Colchester's new Local Plan; and a document to support the work of the leisure services, to help meet the aim of improving participation levels in sport across the Borough.

6.5.6	**Increase in areas of public open space**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy PR1**

In August 2011, the Council published a Green Infrastructure Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to improve knowledge about green infrastructure provision levels across the Borough and to provide evidence to support the Local Plan production process. The Strategy covers the whole Borough, but contains detailed consideration of the Growth Areas.

Colchester Borough covers an area of 33,400 hectares, 2,028 hectares of which is accessible natural greenspace. The Borough is above the County average in terms of the provision of green space for all of Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) categories. 19% of all households can access green space in all categories compared to the county average of 7%. Only 1% of households in the Borough meet none of the ANGSt criteria.

Open Space provision is incorporated in other strategies, including the Open Space and Play Strategy, the Allotment Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy. All these help to ensure that the Council provides adequate open space. New areas of open space will be provided as part of new development in accordance with Core Strategy Policy PR1 and Development Policies DP4, DP15 and DP16. Planning contributions will be secured through the Council's Development Team negotiations as part of the planning decision making process.

The following new areas of open space were provided as part of recent development schemes in the 2013/14 monitoring period:

Caxton Close Tiptree	0.02ha
Garland Road Pocket Park	0.06ha
Woden Ave	1.59ha
Rouse Way POS	0.83ha
Rouse Way conservation area	2.46ha

Total   4.96ha

During the 2013/2014 monitoring period a total of £390,748.88 contributions were secured for open space/leisure uses of which £199,100.26 was secured for provision and £86,558.29 for maintenance

6.5.7	**Amount of development in designated areas (Local Wildlife Sites, SSSI, AONB)**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1**

During the monitoring period 113 planning applications were received for sites in designated areas. 103 of these applications were granted planning permission. Policy ENV1 seeks to direct development away from designated sensitive nature conservation habitats. Policy DP21 requires all development proposals to incorporate ecological/landscape enhancements. The policy also requires developments that could cause direct or indirect harm to designated sites to provide mitigation and compensatory measures to offset any impacts or losses.

6.5.8	**95 % of nationally and internationally important wildlife and geological sites in favourable condition (SSSI, SPA, SAC & RAMSAR)**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1**

Condition status of SSSIs in Colchester Borough (with latest survey dates)

Favourable condition	Unfavourable condition no change	Unfavourable condition & recovering	Unfavourable condition & declining
Abberton Reservoir (August 2010)			
	Bullock Wood (2010)		
		Tiptree Heath (2010)	
Marks Tey Brickpit (2008)			
Roman River (2010)			
		Cattawade Marshes (2012)	
Upper Colne Marshes 1 unit (plus 1 unit in Tendring District) (2010)		Upper Colne Marshes 2 units (2010)	

Wivenhoe Gravel Pit (2008)			
Colne Estuary 8 units (2008-2010)		Colne Estuary 10 units (2010)	Colne Estuary 1 unit (2009)

There are 9 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Colchester. These are nationally important ecological/geological sites designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) with further protection provided through the Countryside and Rights of Ways Act 2000 (as amended).

Natural England is responsible for monitoring the condition of SSSIs and the most recent data is shown in the table above. The table shows that 6 of the Borough's SSSIs are in favourable condition. Some of these sites cover a large area; for these sites, different parts of the SSSI are in a different condition. This is the case with the Colne Estuary and Upper Colne Marshes SSSIs. No new condition monitoring was carried out the sites in the table above during the 2013/2014 monitoring period.

One SSSI, one unit of the Colne Estuary SSSI, is in unfavourable and declining condition. The SSSI unit condition summary states that this is due to coastal squeeze. The sea defence close to the East Mersea Youth Camp is also mentioned as a causing factor.

The condition of SSSIs can be affected positively and negatively by a variety of factors including changes in management, coastal squeeze, impact of diffuse pollution, development impacts, climate change and water extraction.

The Council seeks to protect nature conservation sites of international, regional, national and local importance in accordance with Core Strategy policy ENV1 and Development Policies policy DP21.

6.5.9	Number of visitors to Natura 2000 sites	Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV1

Colchester Borough Council commissioned an Appropriate Assessment as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy, which is a requirement of the Habitat Regulations 2004 (as amended). The Appropriate Assessment identified increased recreational pressure as a potential significant impact on both the integrity of Natura 2000 sites and the features of interest for which the sites were designated. The Assessment identified the need for Colchester Borough Council to implement a scheme to monitor visitor numbers to Natura 2000 sites. The Site Allocations DPD Appropriate Assessment reiterated the need for this monitoring.

In November 2010 the Council began surveying visitors to Natura 2000 sites in Colchester Borough and Tendring District. These surveys have taken place each year in June and/or November.

The scheme will enable trends to be measured in visitor numbers and associated levels of disturbance. Where visitor increases are found to be increasing disturbance at a Natura 2000 site avoidance measures will be identified in partnership with Natural England.

The final visitor surveys were completed in June 2013 and concluded the 3 year baseline data collection project. This report summarises the results of the 3 year HRA monitoring project to collect baseline data about visitor numbers at Natura 2000 sites in Colchester and Tendring.

Overall project summary.

The highest number of groups interviewed during the 3 year period was at Brightlingsea Marshes where 312 groups were surveyed. This was followed by The Walls where 279 groups were surveyed, then Cudmore Grove where 236 groups were surveyed and Walton-on-the-Naze where 235 groups were surveyed. The quietest site was Old Hall Marshes where just 22 groups were surveyed.

Figure 62 below compares visitor numbers at the 9 international sites surveyed. The highest number of visitors in any one survey period was during winter 2012 at Brightlingsea Marshes where 74 groups were surveyed. The lowest number of visitors was at Old Hall Marshes during the spring 2012 survey where just 1 group was surveyed.

Visitor numbers have generally remained fairly consistent for most of the sites and whilst it appears that visitor numbers have increased this may in part be due to improvements in surveying. A number of sites show peaks in visitors during the winter 2012 survey period and this was the busiest survey period with 324 groups recorded across all sites. This was a very cold winter and surveyors noticed that on warmer days visitor numbers were higher than other survey periods and many visitors commented that they were taking the opportunity to enjoy a break in the cold weather. Winter 2010 was the quietest survey period with 135 surveys recorded across all sites. Strood Channel, which was a fairly quiet site, experienced a peak in visitors during the winter 2011 survey due to the presence of a rare bird. Visitor numbers at Abberton Reservoir have significantly increased since the early part of the

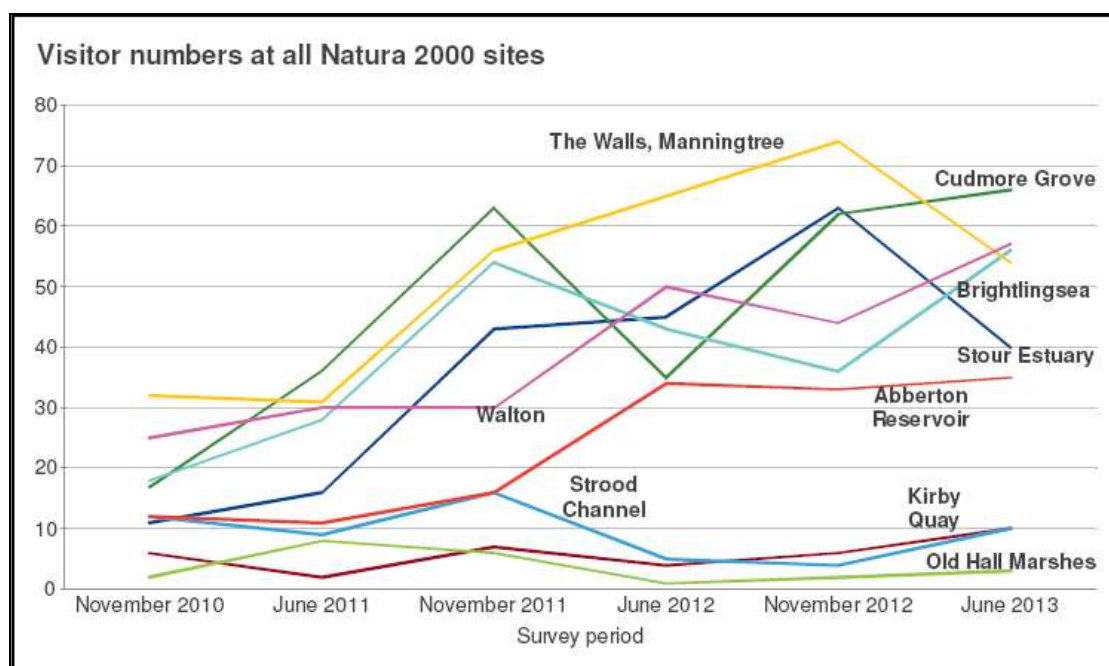monitoring period and this is likely to be because of the opening of the new visitor centre in June 2012.

Figure 62 Visitor numbers at all Natura 2000 sites over the survey period.

Overall 75% of visitors to all sites said that they visit all year round and this is reflected in the findings that the winter survey periods were very busy and the busiest survey period was winter 2012. Cudmore Grove and Walton-on-the- Naze had the highest number of visitors that said they generally only visit during the spring/ summer months. There were also a number of visitors at

Abberton Reservoir, The Walls and Brightlingsea Marshes that said they generally only visit during the spring/summer months. There was a distinct difference between winter and spring visitors surveyed at Walton-on-the-Naze.

Across all of the sites 55% of visitors travelled less than 5 miles to visit. Kirby Quay had the highest number of local visitors; only 1 visitor travelled over 5 miles to visit. 77% of visitors to Strood Channel, 68% of visitors to Brightlingsea Marshes, 67% of visitors to Stour Estuary, 59% of visitors to The Walls and 58% of visitors to Walton-on-the-Naze travelled less than 5 miles.

This reflects the finding that these sites, particularly Kirby Quay and Strood Channel, are visited regularly by people living nearby. Only 14% of visitors to Abberton Reservoir travelled less than 5 miles. 39% of visitors to Abberton Reservoir travelled 6-10 miles and 20% travelled over 30 miles. Abberton Reservoir is a large and popular nature conservation site managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and it is evident from the 3 year survey period that visitors travel from all over Essex and Suffolk to visit. As already stated visitor numbers increased following the opening of the new visitor centre in June 2012 and further monitoring will help to understand whether this increase in visitors is sustained.

Cudmore Grove and Walton-on-the-Naze also experienced a large number of visitors that had travelled over 30 miles. 39 groups to each of these sites had travelled over 30 miles and this represents 18% of total groups to Cudmore Grove and 17% of total groups to Walton-on-the-Naze. It was found that there were many large groups at these two sites, particularly

during the weekend spring/survey periods. These are popular coastal sites with car parking, toilets, visitor information and refreshments.

Across all sites dog walking was the most popular purpose of visiting with 46% of total visits being to dog walk, 39% to walk and just 1% to cycle The highest percentage of dog walkers was at Kirby Quay where 88% of groups had visited to dog walk. Abberton Reservoir, The Walls and Old Hall Marshes had very low numbers of dog walkers. No-one at Abberton Reservoir visited to walk their dogs as dogs are not permitted on the reserve. 5 groups at Old Hall Marshes, which represents 23% of visitors, had visited to dog walk and 41 groups at The Walls, which represents 20% of visitors, had visited to dog walk. Old Hall Marshes is a very remote site with few dwellings within walking distance which is likely to explain the low numbers of dog walkers. The site is also managed by the RSPB and visitors are required to have a permit which may discourage some visitors. Many visitors to The Walls walk into Manningtree Town for their day to day business. Furthermore, the site is linear and adjacent to a busy road so is not really a safe site for dogs to run off the lead. Reflecting this The Walls has the highest percentage of visitors that had visited for the purpose of walking (61% and 124 groups). A high percentage of visitors at the Stour Estuary visited for the purpose of walking (49% and 103 groups). It is interesting that these are the two Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA sites that are surveyed.

Across all sites very similar numbers of visitors had visited to bird watch and exercise, 15% and 16% respectively. Abberton Reservoir was the most popular site for bird watching, followed by Old Hall Marshes. These sites are well known as important sites for birds and are both nature reserves. Very low numbers of visitors at Brightlingsea Marshes, Walton-on-the-Naze and Stour Estuary visited with the purpose of bird watching. It is surprising that such low numbers of those surveyed at Stour Estuary had visited to bird watch as it is an RSPB reserve (Stour Wood) and there are several bird hides within the site. However, the majority of surveys were carried out in Stour Wood and along the estuary path close to the wood therefore it was possible that some of those people visiting to bird watch may have been missed by the surveyors.

Cudmore Grove, Walton-on-the-Naze, Strood Channel and The Walls were the most popular sites for exercising. From the 3 year monitoring work it is evident that sites visited by ornithologists will be influenced by the birds species present. Bird enthusiasts at both the Strood Channel and Abberton both reported that they were happy to travel to different sites to see rare birds and the species present had a major influence on the sites they decided to visit. This could have implications for visitor numbers at some sites in the future.

Across all of the sites close to home was the most popular reason that visitors gave for visiting with 49% of total visitors saying they visit sites because the site is close to home, Like the area and attractive scenery were also popular reasons for visiting with 43% and 39% respectively of total visitors saying that this is one of their reasons for visiting.

A quarter of total visitors said that their reason for visiting was because of their desire to be close to the coast. This would suggest that the provision of alternative accessible natural greenspace to deter people from visiting sensitive coastal areas in Colchester and Tendring would only have limited success as one of key reasons people visit the sensitive coastal sites in Colchester and Tendring is to be close to the coast, which alternative accessible natural greenspace would not be able to replicate. Furthermore, analysis has shown that people are prepared to travel some distance to visit the coast.

Of those groups that had travelled 26-30 miles 41% said it was because of a desire to visit the coast and of those that had travelled over 30 miles 31% said it was because of a desire

to visit the coast. The desire to visit the coast is less popular with people who live close to the coast (14% of those that lived within 0-5 miles said that they visited because of a desire to visit the coast), perhaps because visiting the coast is something they are very familiar with and also because there are other reasons they visit such as being close to home.

Availability of parking was the least popular reason for visiting with just 8% of total visitors saying that this is one of the reasons they visited. 52% of visitors at Abberton Reservoir said that they visited because the site is close to home. However, only 14% of visitors to Abberton Reservoir travelled under 5 miles. This implies that many of the visitors to Abberton Reservoir are happy to travel some distance to visit sites. Almost every visitor at Strood Channel (33 out of 36) said that they had visited because the site is close to home, demonstrating that this site is popular with local people and very few people travel from outside of the area to visit.

At most sites weekend and week day surveys were carried out. It was found that for most sites there were similar numbers of visitors during the week and at the weekend albeit with slightly more visitors at the weekend. However, at the Stour Estuary there was a marked difference between weekend and week day visitors with 70 of total groups visiting during the week and 148 of total groups visiting at the weekend.

31% of total visitors across the sites said that they do not visit alternative sites regularly, which demonstrates loyalty to sites. 44% of total visitors to Kirby Quay and 42% of total visitors to Brightlingsea Marshes said that they do not visit alternative sites regularly. The highest percentage of visitors who regularly visit alternative sites was at Abberton Reservoir where 86% of visitors regularly visit alternative sites. 78% of visitors to The Walls, 76% of visitors to Cudmore Grove and 73% of visitors to Old Hall Marshes visit alternative sites regularly. As already reported visitors to Abberton Reservoir and to a lesser extent Old Hall Marshes visit from a range of locations several miles away and many visit to bird watch and so it is unsurprising that many of the visitors visit alternative sites regularly. This may be sites closer to home or other sites which are well known for bird watching and wildlife.

There were very few visitors to Kirby Quay during each of the survey periods and only 1 visitor had travelled over 5 miles to visit the site. The majority of visitors had visited to dog walk and so the finding that 44% of visitors do not visit alternative sites regularly is unsurprising as many dog walkers use the same paths, close to home.

In terms of which alternative sites visitors regularly visit, Tendring coastal sites was the most popular overall with 40% (396) of total visitors saying that they regularly visit Tendring coastal sites.

A much higher percentage of visitors surveyed at sites in Tendring said that they visit alternative coastal sites in Tendring than the sites surveyed in Colchester. 29% (287) of visitors said that they regularly visit EWT and RSPB sites. Inland sites in Colchester were the least common of the alternative sites regularly visited. This could be because of the pull of the coast and visitor's desire to visit other similar areas. Location has an impact on the alternative sites visitors regularly visit. A high number of visitors at The Walls said that they regularly visit coastal sites in Suffolk and a high percentage of visitors at the Strood Channel (74%) said that they regularly visit alternative sites on Mersea. The list of alternative sites that groups visit regularly is far too lengthy to list in this report. However, the sites that were mentioned most frequently were Fingringhoe nature reserve, Abberton Reservoir, Alton Water, The beach (Tendring beaches, Mersea and Felixstowe were mentioned the most), Brightlingsea, Dedham and Flatford, Dunwich, Minsmere, Aldeburgh.

10% of total visitors said that they do not have access to open space close to home. The highest percentage of groups that did not consider that they had good access to open space close to home were at the Stour Estuary and The Walls. 16% of visitors to the Stour Estuary, which was 34 groups and 14% of visitors to The Walls, which was 37 groups said that they did not have access to open space close to home. The Walls and Stour Estuary are in fairly close proximity to one another as both form part of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. Tendring District Council has protected a 50 hectare area along Ramsey Creek between Ramsey and Parkeston for a new country park. Tendring District Council's Open Space Strategy 2009 also includes a number of recommendations to improve connectivity to existing open spaces e.g. between Stour Estuary Nature Reserve and Essex Way and site improvements at The Naze and The Hangings, Dovercourt.

These initiatives may help to address the perceived shortfall in open space close to home identified by some of the visitors to the Stour Estuary and The Walls. At the Strood Channel only 1 group said that they did not have access to open space close to home, which reflects the fact that the vast majority of visitors to Strood Channel are local people and thus the Strood Channel is close to home.

Small open spaces close to home was the most common answer given with 47% of groups saying they regularly visit small open spaces close to home. 34% said they regularly visit the beach and 29% said they regularly visit public rights of way close to home. Many visitors said that they were not aware of or did not visit any of the sites on the questionnaire list.

As with the list of alternative sites visited the list of sites close to home is far too lengthy to list in this report. However, many people referred to country parks, local fields and local woods. Many visitors expressed concern over the loss of green spaces to housing.

It is evident from the conclusions in this report that each of the 9 sites surveyed has its own distinct patterns of visitors which has been fairly consistent over the past 3 years. Patterns have also been established across all or some of the sites. Conclusions that have already been drawn can be seen to influence development in Colchester, Tendring and Braintree and over time as the monitoring programme progresses conclusions will be drawn n whether population increases in Colchester, Tendring and Braintree are adversely affecting the integrity of international sites.

Whilst it would appear that visitor numbers have increased since the first survey this is partly related to improvements in carrying out the surveys. Since the first survey period in November 2010 the timings and in some cases locations of the surveys have changed. However, what is clear is that weather has had a big influence on the numbers of visitors. For example, only 2 groups visited Stour Estuary during the weekend spring 2011 survey as the weather was cold and wet but during the weekend winter 2012 survey 59 groups visited on an unseasonable warm day. Across all sites there was generally little difference between the numbers of groups during the winter and spring surveys.

At some of the sites there was very little difference between the number of groups interviewed during the week and weekend but at other sites there was a marked difference in visitor numbers. It was found that people are prepared to travel further at the weekend and at some sites the number of large groups also tends to be higher at this time.

The Stour Estuary was significantly busier at the weekend compared with during the week. It has been found that many people (49% across all sites over the 3 years) visit sites because they are close to home and so it is essential that as part of new development good quality open space is delivered.

A quarter of total visitors across all sites said that one of their reasons for visiting was because of a desire to be close to water. Therefore the provision of accessible natural greenspace will have limited success in deterring people from visiting the international sites in Colchester and Tendring. It may be more beneficial to focus management measures on encouraging visitors to use less sensitive areas within international sites. The provision of car parking and facilities such as toilets and refreshments appears to have an impact on the number of visitors and also the size of groups visiting.

Cudmore Grove and Walton-on-the-Naze are very popular sites and there were more large groups at these sites than any of the other sites. These 2 sites have a greater range of facilities than the other international sites surveyed. Although this is also likely to have limited success at deterring visitors as almost a third of total visitors over the 3 years said that they do not visit alternative sites regularly, which shows a loyalty to sites.

Visitors could be encouraged to use sites like Cudmore Grove Country Park and The Naze which as well as being very well used for leisure and recreational purposes are also used by health groups and for education purposes. While both these sites are partly managed for their biodiversity interest, they probably have greater capacity to absorb more visitors than the other more sensitive Natura 2000 sites without adversely impacting on their integrity.

Some of the more sensitive sites like Old Hall Marshes and Abberton Reservoir are already putting measures in place to help manage visitor disturbance on wildlife. Access is managed at Old Hall through a permit system and visitors are encouraged to keep dogs on leads and walk at the base of sea walls at the more sensitive parts of the reserve. At Abberton, the Wildlife Trust have also put in hides from where visitors can watch birds without disturbing wildlife at the reserve. Similar measures or changes to site management/access could be implemented at other sites where it emerges that growing visitor numbers are adversely impacting on wildlife on the sites.

A new Appropriate Assessment will need to be completed to support the development of the new Local Plan. Future monitoring arrangements will need to be considered as part of the future AA process.

6.5.10	**Amount of residential development on greenfield land**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD1, Hi, UR1**

A total of 725 units were completed in the 2013/14 monitoring period. Of these, 116 were built on greenfield sites, which equates to 16% of total completions. This is an increase from the 2012/13 figure where 7.29% of developments were on greenfield sites.

6.5.11	**Applications involving Tree Preservation Order (TPO) trees**	**Supporting Indicator for Policies ENV1**

Between April 2013 and March 2014 162 Tree Preservation Order (TPO) applications were made. This is an increase from 135 applications in the last monitoring period.

6.5.12	**No recorded loss of listed buildings (by demolition) and Buildings of Grade I and II+**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy UR2**

In the 2013/14 monitoring period, 1 grade II listed building was lost.(Brook House, Tiptree)

Essex Country Council is in the process of updating the Heritage at Risk Register (HARR). The 2013 version of the Heritage at Risk Register showed that 37 of the Borough's listed buildings were at risk. Four buildings were removed from the 2011 version of the list, as they have since been converted/refurbished. This total number of buildings at risk has fallen by 11, since 2010, when the total number of buildings at risk was 48.

6.5.13	No recorded loss or damage to Scheduled Monuments or nationally important archaeological sites through development	Supporting Indicator for Policy UR2

There are currently 45 Scheduled Monuments in Colchester Borough and between April 2014 and March 2014 there was no recorded loss or damage to a Scheduled Monument or nationally important archaeological site through development. Overleaf is a map showing the location of Colchester's Scheduled Monuments.

Colchester's monuments and physical features 2014
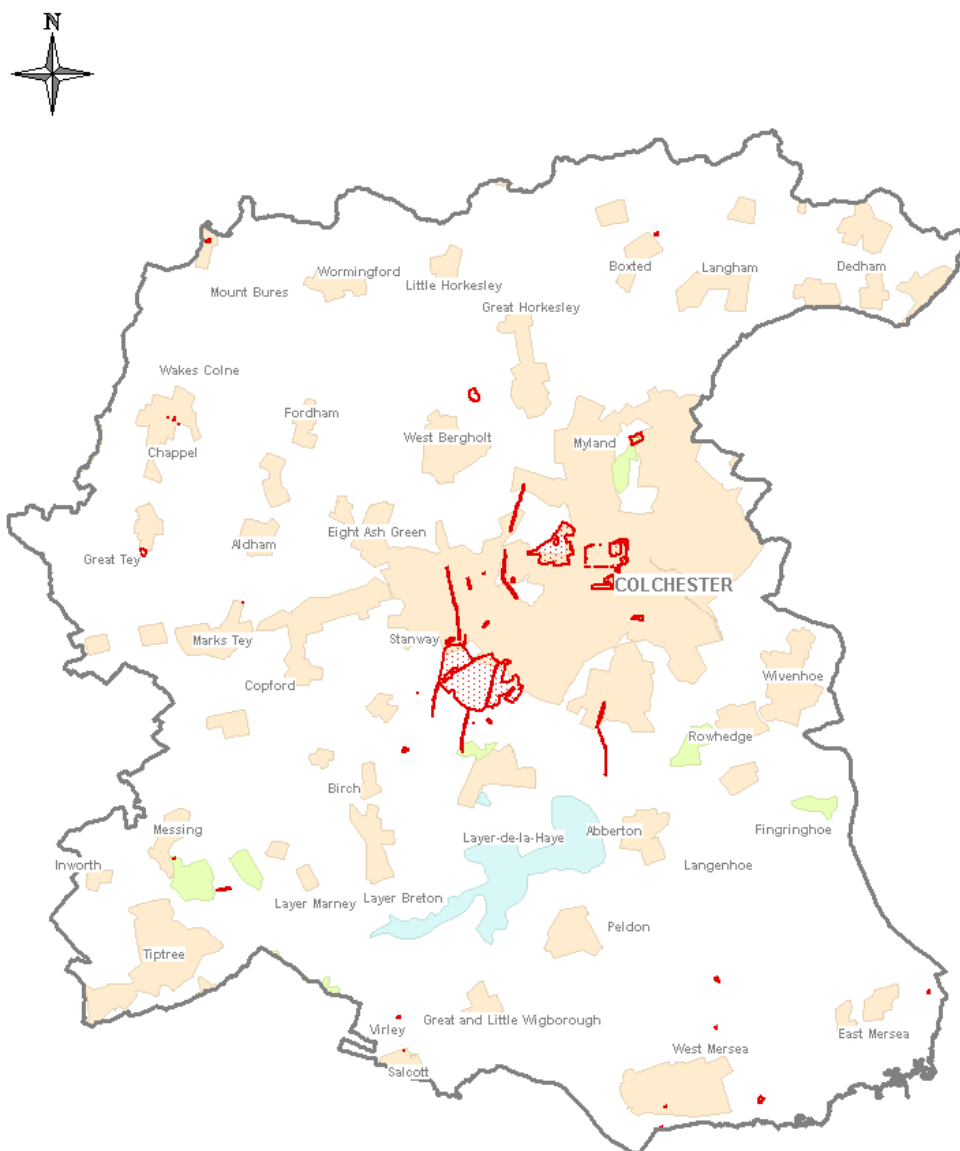
Map Legend

☐ Colchester District Boundary ▦ Scheduled Monument

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6.5.14	**Contributions secured towards streetscape improvements**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD2, PR1 and PR2**

In the 2013/14 monitoring period, £5,215 was secured towards 'public art', £30,000.00 was secured towards footpaths and cycleways, £3,500.00 was secured for travel planning while , £3,000.00 contributions were provided towards a Community Bus and further £5,016.08 was secured for Local street improvements. A figure of £ £86,558.29 was secured as 'commuted funds', which is for ground maintenance and playgrounds, etc.

6.5.15	**Number of homes with provision of private/communal open space**	**Supporting Indicator for Policy PR1**

There is currently no way to measure this indicator. However, information provided by the Development Management team indicates that all new homes have or will have access to either an area of public open space or a private or communal area of open space in accordance with Core Strategy policy PR1.

6.5.16	**Number of Parish Plans/Village Design Statements adopted as guidance**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ENV2**

Between April 2013 and March 2014, two community plans were adopted. These were the East Mersea Village Design Statement which was adopted in April 2013 and the Eight Ash Green Village Design Statement which was adopted in September 2013. During the same monitoring period, two more Neighbourhood Plan Area Designations were also approved by the Local Plan Committee for West Bergholt and Wivenhoe in July 2013. At the end of March 2014, a total of four Neighbourhood Plans were being progressed in the Borough for Boxted, Myland and Braiswick, Wivenhoe Town and West Bergholt. Messing Parish Council is no longer progressing a Neighbourhood Plan. Stanway and Tiptree Parish Councils are also developing Neighbourhood Plans but the Area Designations these were approved outside the current monitoring period and will be reported in the next AMR.

6.5.17	**Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Colchester**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policies ENV1, TA1 and UR2**

Like most local authority areas in the region, without large industrial processes, the main source of local air pollution is motor vehicles. Vehicles emit, amongst other things, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and fine particular matter. Particular problems arise where traffic is slow moving through old, narrow streets near the historic centre of the town.

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been in existence in Mersea Road and Brook Street for several years.

A new Air Quality Management Order came into effect on the 5 January 2012. This replaces the previous order and designates a total of four Air Quality Management Areas:

Area 1 - Central Corridors (including High Street Colchester, Head Street, North Hill, Queen Street, St. Botolph's Street, St. Botolph's Circus, Osborne Street, Magdalen Street, Military Road, Mersea Road, Brook Street, and East Street).
Area 2 - East Street and the adjoining lower end of Ipswich Road
Area 3 - Harwich Road / St Andrew's Avenue junction
Area 4 - Lucy Lane North, Stanway

This order was amended on the 26 February 2013 to include St Johns Street within the Area 1 – Central Corridors AQMA.

The Council has been awarded Defra Funding to support the Borough's behavioural change project 'Love Your Car', which encourages car sharing; sustainable transport; and fuel efficient driving. The funding was also awarded to support the development of a Low Emission Strategy.

6.5.18	Percentage of household waste recycled and composted	Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ER1

In 2013/14 - 43.05% of all household waste collected was recycled, reused and composted. The half year performance was 41.08%. this was a slight increase from last year and in fact, during the fourth quarter, Colchester actually reported 50.06% of household waste was recycled reused or composted in March . This is the first time we have reached the 50% mark. Food waste collections were introduced on a rolling basis across the Borough from October 2013 and this is believed to be what has enabled us to drive the recycling figure up in the latter part of the year.

There is, as always a variation in recycling figures across the year, particularly in the amount of glass, cans and paper collected at the doorstep. However, this does follow a trend across the last few years and it is believed the same factors of changing buying habits and reduced packaging have contributed. In addition to this, garden waste tonnages are heavily influenced by weather patterns and short growing seasons, translate into lower recorded tonnages.

6.5.19	Per capita consumption of water	Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ER1

The Environment Agency reports that the average person in the UK uses 150 litres of water per day. Future Water, the Government's water strategy for England, outlines a vision for the average person to reduce the water they use by 20 litres per day to 130 litres a day, or possibly even 120 litres per person per day, depending on new technological developments and innovation.

Part G of the 2010 amendments to Building Regulations requires per capita consumption of water to be limited to 125 litres as a minimum. Colchester Borough Council is committed to delivering more sustainable buildings in accordance with the Local Plan and Sustainable Design and Construction SPD.

6.5.20 Background

In the 2013/14 monitoring period, 18.47 hectares of contaminated land were brought back into beneficial use. This is a significant increase on last year's figure of 9.77 hectares and the 2011/12 figure of 2.54 hectares. This year's increase on the 2012/13 figure is thought to be linked to an improvement in the housing market.

There are 22 conservation areas, and some 2,056 listed buildings in Colchester Borough (this was mistakenly reported as 2,560 in last year's AMR). 4 new Conservation Areas were proposed following a review of the Local List in South Street, Salisbury Avenue, Beaconsfield Avenue and Roman Road. Work is progressing on these new designations but none have been adopted yet. There are 4 parks within Colchester on the National Register of Special Historic

Interest, including Colchester Castle Park, Severalls Hospital, Layer Marney Tower gardens and Wivenhoe Park. As a Scheduled Monument (SM) Gosbecks Archaeological Park is a major asset to the area containing Roman remains. However, the primary archaeological monument is an Iron Age Dyke System around Colchester. Such remains are also uncovered on a regular basis during development, particularly in the town centre. Many of the town's buildings are listed and date from 15th century. There are also many listed barns and agricultural buildings in the outlying villages.

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) all water bodies (lakes, rivers and coastal waters) need to achieve 'good ecological potential or status' by 2015. Ecological potential/ status is made up of physico-chemical status (phosphorus/ ammonia/ dissolved oxygen and pH) and biological status (fish/ diatoms/ macrophytes/ macro invertebrates).

The Environment Agency has reviewed the water body boundaries. Over time we have made improvements to these building blocks. In order to understand whether changes to classification are due to improvements in the building blocks or due to real environmental change, we will be running two sets of classifications in 2013-15. One based on the original building blocks called "old building blocks" (OBB) and one based on the updated building blocks called "new building blocks" (NBB).

The Environment Agency has confirmed that there are 18 old building blocks WFD river water bodies within Colchester Borough covering 148.661 km. In 2009, 16 of these waters (86% by length) are classified as being of moderate ecological status, 1 is classified as poor (12% by length) and 1 has yet to be assessed (2% by length). The Roman River is of poor ecological classification and St Botolph's Brook has yet to be assessed.

The Water Framework Directive results are not officially updated until 2015 when the next River Basin Plan is published. However, interim classification results are available.
In 2013 classification under the old building block water bodies, there are 18 water bodies within Colchester Borough covered 148.661km. In 2013, 2 of these water bodies have deteriorated to bad (4% by length), 3 of these are poor (43% by length) and 13 are moderate (54% by length). The main reason for these deteriorations is diatoms and macrophytes, however these are believed to be due to issues with the national tool. This national tool generates a species list of expected species in rivers under certain conditions, however due to the specialised localised nature and conditions of Essex's rivers it is not believed that the national tool accurately represents the species the Environment Agency would find here. As a result Environment Agency local experts believe the main reasons for the apparent deterioration are likely to be:

- sampling variation, classification is based on a very small number of samples.
- changes to the classification tools.
- the unreliability of the diatom tool in naturally eutrophic lowland rivers with high P and mid to high alkalinity.

The new building blocks for this area have resulted in 9 water bodies being assessed. This has overall resulted in 127 km of water body being assessed. 100% of this river length is assessed at Moderate.

For the 2011 to 2013 bathing water seasons, the bathing waters at West Mersea (South Colchester) have been assessed to be of 'excellent' quality, an improvement on the 2010 'good' quality".

In January 2010, the Colchester Local List project was launched, covering Colchester's urban

area. A group of historic buildings and architecture experts produced a set of criteria to help identify buildings suitable for inclusion on the Local List. Following site surveys, approximately 600 buildings were indentified for inclusion on the draft Local List.

The draft Local List was issued or Public Consultation using the Colchester Historic Building Forum website[17].

As a result of the public consultation a further 59 buildings were identified for inclusion on the draft Local List. The Colchester Local List was formally adopted by the Council at Local Development Framework Committee on the 12 December 2011. The Colchester Local List includes approximately 600 buildings or historic assets. The final list is available on the Colchester Historic Building Forum website and Colchester Borough Council's Civica and C-MAPS systems.

Two more Local List projects commenced in Langham and Wivenhoe. This work, which is being undertaken by historic building enthusiasts, will use the same methodology and selection criteria as those used in the Colchester Local List study. The Wivenhoe Local List was completed and adopted in March 2012. The compilation of the Langham Local List has not progressed. The Local List is reviewed and updated annually and the changes Colchester's Local List approved in April 2014 are set out below.

- Cavalry Barracks Officers' Quarters (located off Goojerat Road) – added to Local List
- Nursery Cottage Priory Street - added to Local List
- Guard Houses to former Goojerat Barracks Goojerat Road- added to Local List
- The Barn', 10 Williams Walk, Colchester CO1 1TS – removed form Local List
- Williams and Griffin – removed from Local List
- Hydrabad 11 barracks- removed from Local List
- Hardings Yard, Wivenhoe – added to Local List

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 4 new buildings/assets were added to the Local List. 3 buildings/assets were removed from the List, because 2 buildings had been approved for demolition and 1 that had been destroyed by fire. Colchester Borough's Local List contained 742 records as of April 2014. The Local List proves useful information when determining planning applications and will be reviewed again in January/February 2015

Potential Issues

Water quality is an important issue for the Borough. In order to achieve good water quality, it is important for issues such as sewerage infrastructure to be considered as part of all developments, to ensure that the Borough's watercourses are not adversely affected and, where possible, improved. The Haven Gateway Water Cycle Study (2009) has assessed both water quantity and water quality issues in the Borough. Anglian Water and Veolia Water East have also published Business Plans for the period 2009-2014. These documents set out planned infrastructure spending identified across Colchester Borough for this period, to ensure that new development needs can be adequately met in terms of water supply and waste water treatment. Anglian Water has recently published its new Business Plan which covers the period 2015-2040. The Asset Management Plan – AMP6 sets out agreed expenditure for improvements to existing or new water infrastructure between 2015-2020.

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[17] www.colchesterhistoricbuildingforum.org.uk

Another potential issue is the impacts of a changing climate on biodiversity. Corporately, the Council seeks to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. This is discussed in the Climate Change section of this report.

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6.6 Key Theme: ACCESSIBLE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

LDF Core Strategy Policies	
SD2	Delivering Facilities and Infrastructure – Will work with partners to ensure that infrastructure and community facilities are provided to support sustainable communities.
SD3	Community Facilities – Will work with partners to deliver key community facilities to support communities and provide facilities for local communities based on identified needs and all new development will be required to contribute towards the provision of such facilities.
PR1	Open Space – Will provide strategic green links between the rural hinterland, river corridors and key green spaces, whilst protecting and enhancing the existing network of green links, open spaces and sports facilities and secure additional areas where deficiencies are identified.
PR2	People-friendly Streets – Will promote and secure attractive, safe and people-friendly streets which will encourage more walking, cycling, recreation and local shopping.
UR1	Regeneration Areas – Enhance Colchester as a prestigious regional centre, to regenerate rundown areas, deprived communities and key centres, with the purpose of building successful and sustainable communities.

LDF Development Policies

DP4   Community Facilities - Supports the provision of new community facilities and the retention of existing facilities.

DP15   Retention of Open Space and Indoor Sports Facilities – Protects open space and sports facilities from change of use and ensures that a change of use will not be supported if it would result in deficiencies in public open space provision.

DP16   Private Amenity Space and Open Space Provision for New Residential Development – Sets out standards for private amenity space for different dwelling types. Also requires at least 10% of the site area to be provided as public open space.

Overview

Accessible services and facilities are vital to the development and maintenance of communities. Community facilities should be located within or near centres and other accessible locations to maximise community access and build a sense of local community identity. The Council supports the retention and enhancement of existing community facilities that can provide a range of services and facilities to the community at one accessible location. In addition, the Council will work with local partners, such as Parish Councils or Community Associations, to plan and manage community facilities.

The Borough Council will safeguard existing facilities and will work with partners including the local community to bring together funding from a variety of public and private sources to deliver new community facilities. Development proposals will be required to review community needs (e.g. Health Impact Assessment) and provide community facilities to meet the needs of the new population and mitigate impacts on existing communities.

Colchester's Core Strategy identifies the following growth areas and potential new community facilities projects to be delivered in partnership with local service providers.

Growth Areas	Project
Town Centre	Firstsite (Community arts facility) (opened in September 2011) St Botolphs Quarter Creative Business Centre Magistrates Court (completed in April 2013)
North Growth Area	Community stadium and regional conference centre (opened in 2008) Colchester General Hospital expansion (there is no longer any plans for a large scale development/redevelopment) 4 new primary Schools (Queen Boadicea School open) Early years and childcare facilities Either a new secondary school site (on a precautionary basis) and/or expansion of existing secondary school provision at nearby schools.
East Growth Area	University of Essex expansion (The campus multi-story car park, the extension and refurbishment of Wivenhoe House Hotel school, and the first phase of the new student accommodation are complete. The library extension/new student centre and the business school are underway, and permission has also been granted for the first phase of the office village.)
General	7 new health centres 6 forms of secondary school capacity 6 new primary schools New and improved community halls Extra pre-school, primary and secondary school provision (including new schools where appropriate)

6.6.1	**Proportion of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard**	**Supporting Indicator for Policy PR1**

The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales

Colchester Borough Council has retained the green flag awards held last year. As at July 2014, Castle Park had received its Green Flag award for the twelve year running. Castle Park also has a Green Heritage Site Award, in recognition of achieving the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance. High Woods Country Park had received its tenth annual Green Flag award.

Judges mark parks and open spaces against a list of categories for their: welcome, health and safety, cleanliness and maintenance, management, sustainability, conservation and community involvement.

6.6.2	**Recorded loss of designated allotment sites**	**Supporting Indicator Policy PR1**

As in the previous three monitoring periods, there were no recorded losses or gains in designated allotment sites in the 2013/14 monitoring period.

6.6.3	**Recorded losses of community facilities as a result of development**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy SD3**

Core Strategy policies SD2 and SD3 and Development Policies policy DP4 are designed to deliver and protect community facilities within Colchester Borough.

In 2013/14 planning permission and conservation area consent was granted for the demolition of the St Johns Ambulance building in Chapel Road, Wivenhoe and erection of a two storey building of mixed use C3 Residential and D1 Gallery/Studio, which was on the Register of Assets of Community Value (131452 & 131453).

In September 2009, the Council adopted a Supplementary Planning Document on the 'Provision of Community Facilities' which was supported by an audit of community facilities produced. Both have been prepared to ensure the adequate provision of community facilities that satisfy the needs of local people in the Borough.

New Government guidance issued in November 2014 will affect the Council's ability to attract contributions for community facilities and open space, sport and recreational facilities on sites under ten units in size.

6.6.4	**100% of new permitted developments to comply with SPDs on Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Community Facilities**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD2, SD3 and PR1**

Core Strategy Policy PR1 ensures the protection and enhancement of Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Community Facilities.

All relevant developments are strictly subject to unilateral undertakings, and Section 106 agreements are prepared in accordance with adopted Supplementary Planning Documents. Contributions are being collected, monitored and allocated to local projects for the benefit of the increasing residential numbers. In 2013/14, £304,190.59. was received for Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and £67,455.30 was received for community facilities. These figures are lower than the 2012/13 figures of £633,221 and £72,009.

New Government guidance issued in November 2014 will affect the Council's ability to attract contributions for community facilities and open space, sport and recreational facilities on sites under ten units in size.

6.6.5	**Key infrastructure projects delivered (SD)**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD1, SD2, UR1, PR1, TA3, and TA4**

Table 6d (appendix 5) in the adopted Colchester Core Strategy identifies a number of key infrastructure projects which have been subdivided into the categories 'necessary' and 'local and wider benefit'. Many of the projects are tied to development programmed for later in the plan period, but the following progress is noted for projects currently underway:

- **Osborne Road Bus Station** – opened November 2012
- **Northern Approach Road Phase 3** – work commenced summer 2013
- **North Park and Ride** – due to open in Spring/summer 2015
- **Stanway Western Bypass** – Opened in April 2014
- **Magistrates Court** – completed April 2012
- **Green Links and Walking and Cycling improvements** – Cycle town projects have included new and improved cycle routes; cycle training for adults and children; and new cycle parking spaces installed at key locations including schools, railway stations, the town centre and University of Essex.

6.6.6	All crime – number of crimes per 1000 residents per annum Number of domestic burglaries per 1000 households	Core Strategy Indicator for Policy SD1

Crime data is taken from the ONS publication regarding the numbers of offences recorded by the police, by Community Safety Partnership / local authority level, year and offence group.

The total recorded crime in Colchester in 2013/14 was 10,545, which is a very slight reduction from last years total of 10,565. Within Essex only Southend, Basildon and Thurrock have higher levels of total recorded crime. This figure equates to 60 recorded crimes per 1000 of the population, which is slightly higher than the Essex average of 57 per 1000.

There were 2,529 recorded crimes classed as violence against the person, which is higher than last years figure of 2,283. Only Southend has a higher number of violence against the person. This figure equates to 14 recorded crimes per 1000 of the population, which is higher than the Essex average of 11 per 1000.

There were 5,175 theft offences, which is slightly lower than last years figure of 5,224. This figure equates to 29 per 1000 of the population, which is lower than the Essex average of 31.

There were 1,609 recorded criminal damage and arson offences, which is slightly lower than last years total of 1,695. This figure equates to 9 per 1000 of the population, which is slightly higher than the Essex average of 8.

The overall aim of the Colchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is to improve the quality of life for people living, working, studying, managing a business and visiting Colchester Borough through a reduction in the fear of, and incidence of, crime and disorder.

6.6.7 Background

In 2014 Sport England published the results of their Active People Survey 8 for the period April 2013 to April 2014. The statistics record the percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) participating in at least 30 minutes of sport at moderate intensity at least once a week.

The survey results for Colchester indicate that 33.8% of residents took part in at least one sports session a week in this monitoring period. This is very similar to the 2012/13 figure of 35.8%. However, for the second year in a row the figure has reduced. The Council

commissioned a new Sports Facilities Strategy in February 2014. This is due for completion in January 2015. One of the 3 aims of the strategy is to increase participation levels in sports and leisure across Colchester Borough year on year.

Colchester Borough Council runs four museums, all of which are registered under the Museums and Galleries Commission registration scheme.

Potential Issues

For a number of reasons access to a variety of services and facilities can be an issue for Colchester residents. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation measure social inclusion by considering and scoring a whole range of issues, from access to certain facilities, to income and employment. The score provides an indication of how deprived an area is. On a national level Colchester Borough scores very low. However, there are areas in the Borough where deprivation does exist. As Colchester is generally an affluent area, the pockets of deprivation are often exacerbated by the marked differences of neighbouring communities. It is, therefore, important to encourage social inclusion through the design and build of new communities and to ensure adequate community infrastructure and services are available.

As Colchester contains a number of rural communities, rural isolation can also be an issue. Rural areas often have limited facilities, and this coupled with poor public transport links can prevent those without access to a car from accessing the facilities they need. Public consultation has also highlighted the perceived need for villages/rural areas to retain a sense of community and the need to prevent them from becoming so-called 'commuter-villages.' To address this issue, the Council is encouraging and assisting with the development of Neighbourhood Plans, as well as Parish Plans and Village Design Statements.

In promoting healthy lifestyles, access to recreation, leisure and open space is as important as access to formal health facilities such as hospitals, doctors' surgeries and NHS dentists. An aging population will increase demands on health and social care, particularly the need for residential nursing care. It will also have impacts for the local economy, housing demand, public transport and other key services. A general increase in population will have impacts on the number of schools, nurseries and recreation facilities needed.

In 2010, the Council introduced a requirement for certain types of development to be subject to Health Impact Assessments. The purpose of a Health Impact Assessment is to identify the potential health consequences of a proposal on a given population, in order to help maximise the positive health benefits and minimise potential adverse effects on health and inequalities.

6.7 Key Theme: Climate Change

Core Strategy Policies	
SD1	Sustainable Development Locations – Will promote sustainable development and regeneration to deliver at least 14,200 jobs between 2001 and 2021and 19,000 homes between 2001 and 2023. Growth will be located at the most accessible and sustainable locations.
ENV1	Environment – Will conserve and enhance Colchester's natural and historic environment, countryside and coastline. The network of strategic green links between the rural hinterland, river corridors, and key green spaces and areas of accessible open space that contribute to the green infrastructure across the Borough will be protected and enhanced.
ER1	Energy, Resources, Waste, Water and Recycling – Will promote the efficient use of energy and resources, including the delivery of zero carbon homes and renewable energy projects, while working towards waste minimisation and increased recycling to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint.

LDF Development Policies

DP25 Renewable Energy – Will support proposals for renewable energy schemes and applicants will be encouraged to incorporate renewable energy technologies into new development where viable.

Overview

Colchester Borough Council is committed to promoting efficient use of energy and resources and promoting the development of renewable energy generation alongside waste minimisation and recycling. Through the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD, the Council will encourage the delivery of renewable energy projects, including micro-generation, to reduce Colchester's carbon footprint. In addition, new dwellings will be required to reduce carbon emissions by 44% from 2013, from a 2006 baseline in line with revised national building regulations. From 2016, there will be a requirement to meet zero carbon homes requirements, which will be addressed through national building regulations.

Colchester Borough Council has signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and the Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) scheme. The Council is now looking at the benefits of signing up to 'Climate Local'. Climate Local succeeds the Nottingham Declaration and offers a framework that can reflect local priorities and opportunities for action. It supports councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and to improve their resilience to the anticipated changes in the climate.

The Council took part in a One to One Support Programme with the Energy Saving Trust. As part of this programme, an Action Plan was developed by the Council's Sustainability Action Group underwent consultation with Senior Management Team under the Leadership of Place programme. The Action Plan is split into the three areas of strategy, services and community leadership. A number of recommendations are included and each of these has a number of actions needed to fulfil the recommendation. Each action is supplemented with information on who will carry it out, when and how. This programme came to an end in 2010 but the Action Plan is continuing to be implemented and monitored. The Council is currently preparing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy which is expected to replace the Action Plan.

The Council and Colchester Borough Homes have been working together to generate electricity using photo voltaic solar panels. As well as the sustainability benefits, the scheme is a financial investment, made possible by the Feed-in Tariff. Feed-In Tariffs were introduced on

1 April 2010 and replaced UK government grants as the main financial incentive to encourage uptake of renewable electricity-generating technologies. The Council has also recently secured DECC funding for a feasibility study to explore opportunities to deliver District Heating in the Northern Gateway. If successful the scope to deliver District Heating in other growth areas could be explored in the future.

6.7.1	Carbon emissions and Climate Change	Supporting Indicator for Policy SD1

Colchester Borough Council is committed to reducing Climate Change both within the Borough and through its in-house operations. The Council signed up to the Local Authority Carbon Management Scheme (LACM) in 2007. As such, a full programme of projects has been developed to achieve savings across the authority with a commitment of financial support projects through 'invest to save' initiatives. The Council have made substantial carbon emission savings, Between April 2013 and March 2014 there was a reduction in CO_2 emissions from Council operations and buildings from 6,895 to 6,313 which provides the Council with a reduction of 582 tonnes of CO_2.

Per capita emissions for Colchester residents are now 4.89 having fallen from a baseline of 6.9 tonnes per capita.

The Council has developed a number of services and projects across the Council to support environmental sustainability and a number of these will contribute to carbon reductions:

- The Cycle Colchester Training and Events Programme;
- Implementing a transportation policy linked to new development;
- Colchester Travel Plan Club;
- Colchester Station Travel Plan;
- 'Better Town Centre' focussing on traffic reduction in the town centre;
- Carbon Management Programme;
- Energy Efficiency advice and guidance;
- Food Waste trials and implementation across the borough;
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle activity;
- Working with ECC to promote the Eco-schools project ;
- Working with ECC on the Waste busters project, promoting recycling and reuse and composting ;
- 'Warm Homes' and projects to reduce fuel poverty;
- Business Green Doctor Project;
- Colchester Borough Council housing stock improvement programme;
- Big Community Switch for residents to access cheaper energy bills;
- Access to energy and tariff switching for Small Medium Enterprises (SME) via the Big Community Switch portal;
- Local Community Zone Teams behaviour change work (such as recycle week);
- Private Sector Housing promotion of grants and use of enforcement powers;
- Disseminating information from The Carbon Trust and Carbon Action Network (CAN) events;
- Zone Warden Community engagement with regular 'coffee and chat' events to support more vulnerable residents with energy efficiency in the home;
- Energy Efficiency training for frontline staff, local organisations and voluntary groups;
- 3000 Energy Performance Certificates completed on our own housing stock in 2014.
- Installation of Photo-Voltaic (PV Solar) Panels on Colchester Borough Councils housing stock;

- Partnership event with En-form to deliver 'Green Open Homes' open day events;
- Working with private landlords to support them in the provision of energy efficient housing for tenants;
- Community projects focussing on reducing excess winter deaths and fuel poverty.

6.7.2	**Climate Change Adaptation**	**Supporting Indicator for Policies SD1, ENV1 and ER1**

Under NI188, the Council progressed work on climate change adaptation. NI188 was a process based indicator that measured the Council's actions towards adapting to the inevitable effects of climate change. The Council achieved level 1 – 'public commitment and prioritised risk based assessment' in 2008/9 and level 2 – 'comprehensive risk assessment' in 2009/10.

During 2010/11 the Council developed an Adaptation Action Plan based on the findings of the Borough specific climate risk assessment, which was undertaken in 2009/10. The Adaptation Action Plan identified a number of measures that the Council could take both individually and with its partners to adapt to the effects of climate change.

During 2013/14 the Council started work on the production of a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy. This highlights the work done across the Council to reduce carbon emissions. The new strategy focuses on developing existing initiatives and supporting/ empowering communities to take action, and an action plan has been developed (at the time of writing, this has not yet been adopted). It will be submitted to Cabinet for adoption on 28th January 2015

6.7.3	**Number of zero-carbon homes completed**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policies SD1, H1 and ER1**

Building regulations on zero-carbon homes does not become compulsory until 2016 and there is currently no data available on planning applications for zero-carbon development. The Code for Sustainable Homes is due to be phased out and new housing will have to meet energy efficiency standards in part L of the 2010 Buildings Regulations.

On 1 October 2010, improvements to Part L of the building regulations resulted in a requirement for increased carbon emission savings from new dwellings. New homes are now required to have a dwelling emission rate (the dwelling emission rate measures the maximum CO_2 emissions rate arising from energy use for heating, hot water and lighting for the actual dwelling) 25% below the 2006 building regulations requirements in respect of carbon emissions.

6.7.4	**Renewable energy installed by type**	**Core Strategy Indicator for Policy ER1**

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 7 planning applications for renewable energy installations were received. Of those, 5 were for solar installations and 2 were for a biomass installation.

The amount of renewable energy installed in the current year has increased considerably over that in previous years, particularly for solar photovoltaics.

Part 40 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2008 gives permitted development rights to the installation of domestic microgeneration equipment. Planning permission is only required for a limited number of renewable energy technologies. This means that the number of renewable energy installations may be higher than that indicated by the number of planning applications. The number of renewable energy applications may decrease due to the recent government reductions in the tariff payments for energy produced from solar farms.

Potential Issues

Climate change is a major issue that the whole Council will need to consider. It is predicted that, as a result of climate change, the summers in England will become longer, drier and hotter, whilst the winters will be stormier and wetter. This could have adverse impacts not only on the environment, but also on economic and social aspects of life in Colchester.

Colchester's Core Strategy, Development Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents have an important role to play in dealing with Climate Change. Planning can encourage the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, address the increased incidents of flooding by promoting Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) and help deal with increased droughts in the summer by promoting water efficiency techniques. Developers, local businesses and local communities will be encouraged to provide and use low carbon and renewable energy sources.

Connected to Climate Change are a whole collection of other related issues that could compound the effects. For example water usage is increasing both through ongoing development and increased demand and this, coupled with drier summers, could lead to sustained periods of restrictions on water supply. The inevitable increased rate of development will put further pressure on the water resources available in the Borough. Similarly the amount of waste produced in Colchester is increasing, and at the same time the land available to dispose of this waste (landfill sites) is reducing. Further, fuel poverty is an issue already facing some residents of the Borough and the number of residents affected is likely to increase as a result of projected rises in fuel prices.

7. Analysis of Policies

Collection of monitoring information provides a basis for evaluating the success of planning policies. The following section accordingly analyses whether there are any areas of concern and the steps that the authority is taking to ensure that a policy is implemented, amended or replaced.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012 signalled a change from the Local Development Framework back to a Local Plan system. Accordingly, the Council is carrying out a two-stage review of its Local Plan which began with a Focused Review adopted in July 2014 to bring selected policies into compliance with the NPPF. A Full Review is now underway resulting in a new Local Plan with update policies and allocations based on an up-t0-date evidence base. The Local Development Scheme, published on the Council's website, provides the timetable for the review process. The following issues will need to be monitored moving forward to inform this review and to ensure that the Council's planning policies remain effective.

- While the Council is currently on track to demonstrate its ability to provide a 5-year housing delivery targets, the longer term review of the plan will need to address the need to meet new targets based on the latest Government methodology for objectively assessed need.

- In line with the findings of its viability work, the Council has changed its affordable housing target from 35% to 20% as part of its Focused Review of the Local Plan with the intent that the lower level will support the delivery of more units than a higher target that renders development unviable.

- Approximately 84% of new and converted dwellings were on previously developed land which reflects the preference in planning policy for brownfield sites and the continuing availability of such sites in the Borough. Longer term growth, however, will require the increasing use of greenfield sites.
.
- Colchester's Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPDs both include policies on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. Site Allocations Policy H2 allocates 30 pitches for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation which meets the level of provision required in the now revoked East of England Plan. The policy also identifies the Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) as providing important evidence to inform any future review of the Site Allocations document. The evidence in the Essex GTAA currently shows the need for further pitches in Colchester to be low. Core Strategy Policy H5 provides criteria to assist in the determination of planning applications.

- Employment land is allocated in suitable locations within the Borough to meet Core Strategy targets. The delivery of additional employment and retail developments are however dependent on external factors unrelated to planning such as market interest and the overall state of the economy. The Local Plan Review will need to have regard to the increased flexibility given to planning for economic growth in the NPPF as well as changing patterns of employment, retailing and leisure activity.   The Council will

continue to work in partnership with developers, businesses and local communities to pursue new opportunities for economic growth.

- The challenging issue of transportation is being tackled through a number of approaches including new transport infrastructure (i.e. the new A12 junction and improved cycle routes) as well as behavioural change measures such as travel plans, which support shifts away from car based means of transport.

- Sustainability is a 'golden thread' running through the National Planning Policy Framework, and the Local Plan Review will need to ensure that policies continue to ensure enhancement and protection of the Borough's many environmental resources.

8. Sustainability Appraisal

It is a requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and part of Sustainability Appraisals that the significant effects of implementing a plan must be monitored to identify unforeseen effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. The Sustainability Appraisals of the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Development Policies Development Plan Documents have been closely prepared alongside these documents. A monitoring framework is set out in the Core Strategy, which includes key indicators and targets for each Core Strategy objective. These are very closely linked to the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and assessment criteria.

Sustainability Appraisal monitoring is a continuous process; in addition to monitoring as part of the AMR, each time a Sustainability Appraisal is carried out for a DPD a scoping report will be prepared, which will update the baseline data, sustainability issues facing the Borough and likely evolution without implementation of the plan based on past trends.

Whilst this section will repeat information already presented in the AMR it presents data of relevance to each of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and is an important part of the Sustainability Appraisal process and a requirement of the SEA Directive.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

This section provides an outline of the progress against each Sustainability Appraisal objective.

1. *To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home*:

The amount of dwellings completed in 2012/3 was below target at 725 units, but achievement of above target figures in earlier years mean that the Council is still meeting its overall current targets for housing delivery. The amount of affordable dwellings completed reflects evidence that a lower target of 20% would be appropriate in the current climate. No zero carbon dwellings were completed and whilst some consents included conditions that dwellings be built to a minimum of Code for Sustainable level 3 there is currently no way of monitoring how many completed dwellings were built to this standard.

2. *To ensure that development is located sustainably and makes efficient use of land:*

No planning applications were approved contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency in regards to flood risk. The percentage of dwellings built on previously developed land was 84%, which is lower than last years figure of 93% but still indicative of a continuing supply of brownfield sites for the time being. 98.4% of all new development in the Borough in 2013/14 is considered to be within 30 minutes of community facilities.

3. *To achieve a prosperous and sustainable economy and improve the vitality of town centres*:

Commercial floorspace remains largely static. This "standstill" position reflects changes to the office market with increasing intensity in the use of space to accommodate more staff, new

methods of working such as home-working, flexi-working and the introduction of mobile communications. Retail floorspace, however, has continued to increase lightly, reflecting the Borough's position as a major retail centre in the Region and within the top 50 locations in the UK. Industrial floorspace has declined lightly but is holding up well while Other (warehouses, including retail warehouse) has increased, reflecting new development. One Parish Plan was adopted, and five Neighbourhood Plans are under development   This demonstrates that local communities are getting involved in the planning system in line with the localism agenda.

4. *To achieve more sustainable travel behaviour and reduce the need to travel:*

98.4% of all new development in the Borough in 2013/14 was considered to be within 30 minutes of community facilities. In the 2013/14 monitoring period £30,000.00 was secured towards footpaths and cycleways, £3,500.00 was secured for travel planning while , £3,000.00 contributions were provided towards a Community Bus and further £5,016.08 was secured for Local street improvements.

5. *To improve the education, skills and health of the Borough's population*:

During the 2013/2014 monitoring period a total of £390,748.88 contributions were secured for open space/leisure uses of which £199,100.26 was secured for provision and £86,558.29 for maintenance .A further £67,455.30 was also secured for the provision of community facilities during the same period.

6. *To create safe and attractive public spaces and reduce crime:*

100% of development complied with the standards set out in the Open Space SPD. When comparing the latest information for Colchester with the previous year to date (i.e. the 1 April 2013–31 March 2014 with April 2012–31 March 2013) The total recorded crime in Colchester in 2013/14 was 10,545, which is a very slight reduction from last years total of 10,565.

7. *To conserve and enhance the townscape character, historic and cultural assets of the Borough:*

In the 2013/14 monitoring period, one grade II listed building (Brook House, Tiptree) was demolished and has since been delisted. There was no recorded loss or damage to the Borough's Scheduled Monuments or nationally important archaeological sites through development.

8. *To conserve and enhance the natural environment, natural resources and biodiversity of the Borough:*

The condition of the ten Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the Borough has not changed since last year. Seven SSSIs units are in favourable condition, one is unfavourable no change, five units are in unfavourable condition but recovering and one SSSI continues to be in unfavourable condition and declining (the Colne Estuary). The Water Framework Directive requires all rivers to achieve good ecological status by 2015. In 2013 classification under the old EA monitoring system for the water bodies within Colchester Borough covered148.661km. During 2013, 2 of these water bodies had deteriorated to bad (4% by length), 3 were classed as poor (43% by length) and 13 were scored as moderate (54% by length).

Within the Borough sixteen water bodies are moderate ecological status, one is poor and one has yet to be assessed.

The EA has changed how it monitors river quality. The revised monitoring system (see section 6) has resulted in 9 water bodies being assessed. This has overall resulted in 127 km of water body being assessed. 100% of this river length is assessed at Moderate.

The two air quality management areas have not altered. In the 2013/14 monitoring period, 18.47 hectares of contaminated land were brought back into beneficial use. The increase from last year is linked to increased growth in the housing market. 4.96 ha of new areas of open space were provided as part of recent development schemes in the 2013/14 monitoring period:

9. *To make efficient use of energy and resources and reduce waste and our contribution to climate change:*

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 7 planning applications for renewable energy installations were received. Of those, 5 were for solar installations and 2 were for a biomass installation.

The amount of renewable energy installed in the current year has increased considerably over that in previous years, particularly for solar photovoltaics.

In 2013/14 - 43.05% of all household waste collected was recycled, reused and composted. The half year performance was 41.08%. this was a slight increase from last year and in fact, during the fourth quarter, Colchester actually reported 50.06% of household waste was recycled reused or composted in March . This is the first time we have reached the 50% mark. Food waste collections were introduced on a rolling basis across the Borough from October 2013 and this is believed to be what has enabled the Council to drive the recycling figure up in the latter part of the year

Adverse effects and mitigation measures

As explained in the housing section of the AMR the Council can ensure there is an adequate supply of land available for housing but there can be no guarantee in the current economic climate that units will be delivered each year. There has been an over supply in earlier years of the plan period and there is an expectation that the market will improve over time; thereby meeting the overall target to address housing need in Colchester.

Levels of commercial development are low, but this is partially offset by more positive indicators of Town Centre health such as vacancy levels which are below national averages. As set out in policy CE2a of the Core Strategy the Council will seek to deliver over 67,000sqm of net retail floorspace and 40,000 sqm of gross office floorspace in the town centre, urban gateways and town centre fringe between 2006 and 2021. The Better Town Centre Project should be a catalyst for investment and regeneration in the Town Centre.

Not all of the ten SSSIs in the Borough are in favourable condition. This can be due to a number of different conditions and the Core Strategy, through policy ENV1, seeks to protect and enhance nature conservation interests. The visitor monitoring programme that the Council has commenced as part of the Habitat Regulations Assessment will provide some useful evidence on visitor trends to the Natura 2000 sites in the Borough, which are all also notified as SSSIs.

The amount of planning applications for renewable energy installations is gradually increasing although the number of applications may reduce in the future as a result to recent announcements to changes to the tariffs system. It should be noted, however, in the majority of cases householders are able to install renewable energy technologies under permitted development rights.

No planning application data was available on whether any zero carbon homes were completed. Research published by national government has shown that this is very expensive to achieve and so it is unlikely that zero carbon homes will be completed within the Borough within the next few years.

Gaps in information

Only one indicator was available under the objective: 'To achieve more sustainable travel behaviour and reduce the need to travel'. This makes it very difficult to assess the effects of the Borough's DPDs on sustainable travel behaviour.

9. Future AMRs

This is Colchester Borough Council's eleventh AMR and many improvements have been made since our first publication in 2004/05. Its official status has changed in light of the removal of national requirements for AMR content and submission, but the need to monitor local progress remains. The format developed in previous years is considered to remain largely relevant, but the evolution of the AMR will continue since it is a live document that will change year on year as new documents and policies arise and need monitoring. This year, we have worked on the on-line publication of the report to provide that it can be accessed via topics and includes 'hot-links' to the policies being monitored.

Colchester's Local Plan includes a number of indicators intended to measure the effect of planning policies which have been agreed through the examination process. These can be found in Appendix Four.

Our monitoring of Sustainability Appraisals will be a continuous process. In addition to monitoring as part of the AMR, each time a Sustainability Appraisal is carried out for a plan a scoping report will be prepared, which will update the baseline data, sustainability issues facing the Borough and likely evolution without implementation of the plan based on past trends.

Appendix 1 – Data Sources

Housing Indicators

AMR Section	Data item	Source	Date
Core Output Indicators			
6.2.1	**Housing trajectory -** Originates from the results of the annual development monitoring survey carried out by ECC and agreed with CBC - from data off LABC and NHBC monthly returns, together with planning data off Flare.		
i)	The number of net additional dwellings over the previous five year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is the longer (net additional dwellings)	CBC analysis of planning permissions	2014
ii)	The number of net additional dwellings for the current year (net additional dwellings - current year)	CBC analysis of planning permissions	
iii)	The projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant development plan document period or over a ten year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer	CBC analysis of planning permissions	
iv)	The annual net additional dwelling requirement (requirements)	CBC analysis of planning permissions	
v)	The annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirement, having regard to previous years' performances (annualised strategic housing figure)	CBC analysis of planning permissions	
6.2.2	Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land	CBC analysis of planning permissions	
6.2.3	Affordable housing completions	English Local Authority Statistics on Housing (ELASH) published by CLG	2014
Local Output Indicators			
6.2.4	Percentage of affordable housing in rural areas	Occupied affordable housing by quarter - data available by UPRN or first line of address so that it can be mapped on GIS against rural areas.	2013-14
6.2.5	Number of new homes and employment development completed at ward level within Growth/Regeneration Areas	A regeneration layer exists on MapInfo. DC can only do permissions rather than completed. Divide between residential and non-residential development.	2013-14
6.2.6	Percentage of residential completions that are two or three bedroom properties	CBC analysis of planning permissions	2013-14
6.2.7	Gypsy and Traveller Issues	Colchester Borough Council Planning Policy and Development Management	2013-14
6.2.8 Contextual Indicators			

	Number of dwellings and number of privately owned dwellings	Council tax figures and English Local Authority Statistics on Housing (ELASH) published by CLG	2014
	Average household size	Census 2011, ONS	2011
	Mean house price	Land Registry of England and Wales, Crown Copyright.The data is from hometrack but the source is the Land registry and its specifically prices based on sales only (Hometrack also supply the figures based on sales and valuations)	2014
	Vacant dwellings	English Local Authority Statistics on Housing (ELASH) published by CLG	2014
	Decent homes (NI 158)	English Local Authority Statistics on Housing (ELASH) published by CLG	2014
	Number of homeless people - Number of households accepted as full homeless.	CLG Homelessness Statistics (P1E form)	2013-14
	Number of people on the housing register	English Local Authority Statistics on Housing (ELASH) published by CLG	2014
	Number of people in temporary accommodation (NI 156)	CLG Homelessness Statistics (P1E form)	2013-14

Economy Indicators

Section	Data Item	Source	Date
Core Output Indicators			
6.3.1	Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type.	Colchester BC	2013-14
6.3.2	Amount of floorspace for employment type which is on previously developed land.	Colchester BC	2013-14
6.3.3	Employment land available by type	Colchester BC	2013-14
6.3.4	Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'	Colchester BC	2013-14
(i)	Town Centre Areas	Colchester BC	2013-14
(ii)	Local Authority Areas	Colchester BC	2013-14
6.3.5	Jobs in Rural Areas	Annual Business Inquiry, ONS	2009
6.3.6 Background Information			
	Number and % of economically active people	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14

	Economically active and in employment	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Those classed as employees	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Those self-employed	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Economically active and unemployed	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Increase in economically active people of working age	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	JSA Claimants (total & by gender)	ONS claimant count with rates and proportions, Nomis	Aug-14
	Number and % economically inactive	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Economically inactive gender split	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Those wanting a job	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Those not wanting a job	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013/14
	Number and % of those claiming worklessness benefits (pie chart of benefits)	DWP benefit claimants, Nomis.	Feb-14
	Employment by Occupation	Census 2011 Data	2011
	Industry	Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS	2013
	Value of tourism and visitor trips	The Cambridge Model - Volume and Value of Tourism in Colchester,' CBC internal data.	2013
	No. of jobs and job density.	Nomis Local Profile	2012
	No. of VAT registered businesses.	Nomis Local Profile	2013
	Qualifications	Annual Population Survey, Nomis.	2013
	% of Colchester's Population living in seriously deprived small areas.	Index of Multiple Deprivation, Audit Commission Area Profiles.	2010

Transportation Indicators

Section	Data Item	Source	Date
Core Output Indicators			
6.4.1	Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre	CBC analysis of planning permission	2013-14
Local Output Indicators			
6.4.2	To obtain an agreed Travel Plan for all major commercial/community developments	Transportation Team - Colchester Borough Council	2013-2014

Section	Data Item	Source	Data
6.4.3	Comparison of long and short stay car parking demand and duration in public car parks in Town Centre (with a view to reducing long stay)	CBC Parking Services Team	2014
6.4.4	Annualised indicator of Cycling Trips (increased to reflect Colchester's cycle town status)	ECC	2013
6.4.5	Motor vehicles entering Colchester on the main radial corridors	ECC LTP Indicator 126	2013
6.4.8 Background Information			
	Number of residents who travel to work by private motor vehicle.	ONS via the Audit Commission's Area Profiles.	2011
	Car Ownership	Census 2011, ONS	2011
	Distance Travelled to Work	Census 2001, ONS	2011
	Travel within the Borough	Census 2001, ONS	2011

Environment & Heritage Indicators

Section	Data Item	Source	Data
Core Output Indicators			
6.5.1	Number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality	CBC Environmental & Protective Services	2013-14
6.5.2	Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance including	Data unavailable	
6.5.3	Area of ancient woodland within the Borough	CBC Geo Spatial Team	2013-14
6.5.4	Number and area of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Local Wildlife Sites (LoWs) within Colchester	CBC Spatial Policy Team	2013-14
6.5.6	Increase in areas of public open space	CBC Parks & Recreation Team	2013-14
6.5.7	Amount of development in designated areas (Local Sites, SSSI, ANOB)	CBC Planning Register (Civica) / CBC Environmental & Protective Services	2013-14
6.5.8	No sites of national importance for nature, or AONB, SSSIs or Local Site, to be lost or damaged by development and/or amount of development in designated areas (Local Sites, SSSI, ANOB) (2 indicators combined).	Natural England / Nature on the map	2014
6.5.8	95% of nationally and internationally important wildlife and geological sites in favourable condition (SSSI, SPA, SAC & RAMSAR)	Provided by Natural England every 3 years.	2008-2010
6.5.9	Number of visitors to Natura 2000 sites	CBC Spatial Policy Team	2013-14
6.5.10	Amount of residential development on greenfield land.	CBC Spatial Policy Team	2013-14
6.5.11	Number of TPO applications made No. of TPO applications granted, refused and withdrawn CA notices made and agreed	CBC Environmental & Protective Services / CBC Planning Register (Civica)	2013-14

Section	Data Item	Source	Date
	Number of new TPOs made		
6.5.12	No loss of listed buildings (by demolition) and (2) Buildings of Grade I and II+	(1) CBC Planning Register and (2) Provided by English Heritage via the ECC website, 2009.	2013-14
6.5.14	Contributions secured towards streetscape improvements	CBC Development Management Team	2013-14
6.5.16	Number of Village Design Statements/ Parish Plans adopted as guidance	CBC Spatial Policy Team	2013-14
6.5.17	Number of Air Quality Management Districts (AQMD)	CBC Environmental & Protective Services	2013
6.5.18	NI 191 - Residual household waste per household	Performance Dashboard - Organisational Quadrant Results, Colchester Borough Council.	2013-14
6.5.18	NI 192 - Household waste reused, recycled and composted	Performance Dashboard - Organisational Quadrant Results, Colchester Borough Council.	2013-14
6.5.19	Per capita consumption of water	Environment Agency	2014
Supporting Indicators			
6.5.5	To deliver the revised quantity standards for the different open space typologies across the Borough by 2011.	CBC Spatial Policy Team	2013-14
6.5.13	No loss or damage to SM or nationally important archaeological sites through development.	CBC Planning Register (Civica)	2013-14
6.5.15	Number of homes with provision of private/communal open space	Data unavailable	-
Background			
	Contaminated Land	CBC Environmental & Protective Services	2013-14
	Assets of the Built Environment	CBC GeoSpatial Team	2013-14
	Quality of rivers	Environment Agency	2014

Accessible Service & Community Facilities Indicators

Section	Data Item	Source	Date
Core Output Indicators			
6.6.3	Recorded losses of key community facilities lost in any part of the Borough as a result of development.	CBC Planning Register (Civica)	2013-14

Section	Data Item	Source	Data
6.6.4	100% of new permitted developments to comply with SPD on Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Community Facilities.	CBC Development Management Team	2013-14
6.6.5	Key Infrastructure projects delivered (SD)	CBC Regeneration and Development Management Teams	2013-14
6.6.6	All crime - number of crimes per 1,000 residents per annum	Office for National Statistics - Numbers of offences recorded by the police, by Community Safety Partnership / local authority level, year and offence group These data are taken from the database used for the National Statistics bulletin Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2013 published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), 18 July 2013 Recorded crime figures remain subject to revision in future publications, as forces resubmit data to reflect the latest information. Police recorded crime statistics, like any administrative data, are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.	2013-14
Supporting Indicators			
6.6.1	Proportion of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard.	CBC Parks & Recreation Team	2013-14
6.6.2	Recorded loss of designated allotment sites.	CBC Parks & Recreation Team	2013-14
6.6.9 Background			
	Results from the Sport England Active People Survey of those aged over 16 years.	Sport England	2013-14
	Museums	CBC website	2013-14

Climate Change Indicators

Section	Data Item	Source	Data
Core Output Indicators			
6.7.3	Number of zero carbon homes completed		-
6.7.4	Renewable energy installed by type	CBC Planning Register (Civica)	2013-14

103

Supporting Indicators			
6.7.1	Carbon emissions and climate change	CBC Street Services	2014
6.7.2	Climate Change Adaptation	CBC Street Services	2014

Appendix 2 - Glossary

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
A report by a local planning authoritiy assessing plan production progress and policy effectiveness.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
An area with statutory national landscape designation, the primary purpose of which is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Together with National Parks, they represent the finest landscapes.

Biodiversity
The whole variety of life encompassing all genetics, species and ecosystem variations, including plants and animals.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
A strategy prepared for a local area aimed at conserving biological diversity.

Conservation Area
Areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character, appearance or setting of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Core Indicator
An indicator that measures the direct output of the plan or programme. These indicators measure progress in achieving plan or programme objectives, targets and policies.

Core Strategy
A Local Development Document which sets out the strategic policies guiding development of the Borough. Colchester's Core Strategy was adopted in 2008. A review of the Core Strategy is commencing which will see it eventually incorporated into a new Local Plan, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Contextual Indicators
An indicator used in monitoring that measures changes in the context within which a plan or programme is being implemented.

Evidence base
The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the "soundness" of the policy approach set out in Local Development Documents, including physical, economic, and social characteristics of an area.

Habitat
An area of nature conservation interest.

Listed Building
A building of special architectural or historic interest. Graded I (highest quality), II* or II.

Local Plan
The Local Plan includes all the local planning authority's local development documents (comprised of development plan documents, which will form part of the statutory development plan, and supplementary planning documents). Related documents include the statement of community involvement, the local development scheme and the annual monitoring report. Documents comprising the Local Plan were referred to as the Local Development Framework prior to the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Local Development Scheme
The local planning authority's time-scaled programme for the preparation of Local Development Documents that must be agreed with Government and reviewed every year.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
The NPPF was published in March 2012 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Regional Spatial Strategy
Regional Spatial Strategies have now been abolished, but formerly they provided a strategy for how a region should look in 15 to 20 years time and possibly longer. Their function has now been taken over by local authorities and wider area based groupings known as Local Economic Partnerships.

Significant Effects Indicators
An indicator the measures the significant effects of a plan or programme.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Nationally important monuments that enjoy greater protection against inappropriate development through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Local Wildlife Sites
Locally important sites of nature conservation adopted by local authorities for planning purposes.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest
A site identified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as incorporated in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) as an area of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features (basically, plants, animals, and natural features relating to the Earth's structure).

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
The SCI sets out standards to be achieved by the local authority in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all local development documents and development control decisions.

Strategic Environmental Assessment
An environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use, which complies with the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. The environmental assessment involves the:
- preparation of an environmental report;
- carrying out of consultations;
- taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision making;
- provision of information when the plan or programme is adopted; and

showing that the results of the environment assessment have been taken into account.

Supplementary Planning Document
An SPD is a Local Development Document that may cover a range of issues, thematic or site specific, and provides further detail of policies and proposals in a 'parent' DPD.

Sustainability Appraisal (including Environmental Appraisal)
The process of weighing and assessing all the policies in a development plan, Local Development Document, or Regional Spatial Strategy, for their global, national and local implications. (See also Strategic Environmental Assessment).

Appendix 3
Local Development Framework Monitoring Indicators
Core Strategy

	CS Objectives	Targets	Key Indicators	AMR Reference
Sustainable Development Policies	Focus new development at sustainable locations to support existing communities, local businesses, provide sustainable transport and promote urban regeneration to protect greenfield land. Provide the necessary community facilities and infrastructure to support new and existing communities. Provide excellent and accessible health, education, culture and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Colchester's growing community. Promote active and healthy lifestyles and strive for excellence in education and culture. Reduce the Borough's carbon footprint and respond to the effects of climate change.	National target 60% of new development on Previously Developed Land (*Policies SD1, CE1, H1 and UR1*)	-Number of new homes completed on previously developed land (AMR Core Indicator) - Amount of new employment development on previously developed land (AMR Core Indicator)	See Para 6.2.2 See Para 6.3.2
		100% of new permitted developments to comply with SPD on Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Community Facilities (*Policies SD2 and PR1*)	Indicator based on Community Facilities Audit and regular updates.	See Para 6.6.6
		100% of major new development to be accessible to health, education and employment facilities (*Policies SD1 and SD2*)	% of new development within 30 minutes public transport travel time of health, education and employment facilities (AMR Core Indicator)	See Para 6.4.1
		0% of applications to result in the overall loss of community facilities (*Policy SD2*)	Number of applications resulting in the loss of community facilities (AMR Local Indicator)	See Para 6.6.5
		Delivery of infrastructure schemes identified in the LDF (*Policy SD2, Table UR1, Table PR1, Table TA3, Table TA4, Table 6d*)	Key infrastructure projects delivered (AMR Infrastructure Trajectory)	See Para 6.6.7
		General contribution of new development to national targets on educational attainment by improving job opportunities and life chances (*Policy SD1*)	Percentage of population of working age qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent (AMR Significant Effects Indicators)	See Para 6.3.7
			Percentage of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills (AMR Significant Effects Indicators)	See Para 6.3.7
		100% of relevant proposals address the health implications of the development	% of relevant applications complying with policy	Indicator under development
		Funding for necessary local and sub-regional infrastructure secured through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Development and approval of a charging schedule. Amount of CIL raised	Charging schedule under development. Indicator will be included in AMRs following adoption

Centres and Employment Policies	Create a significant regional centre and a vibrant network of district and local centres that stimulate economic activity and provide residents' needs at accessible locations. Provide for a balance of new homes and jobs to support economic prosperity of our growing community and reduce the need to travel outside the Borough for employment.	Contribute to East of England Plan Haven Gateway target of 20,000 jobs to 2021 (*Policies CE1, CE2 and CE3*)	Amount of floorspace development for employment and leisure by type (AMR Core Indicator)-Number of jobs (AMR Contextual Indicator)	See paras 6.3.1, 6.3.3, 6.3.4 and 6.35
			Amount of employment development delivered in Growth or Regeneration areas (AMR Core Indicator)	See Para 6.2.5
			Number of new businesses setting up in the Borough- VAT registrations (AMR Significant Effects Indicator)	See Para 6.3.7
		85% A1 Retail street frontage in the Inner Core. 50% A1 Retail street frontage in the Outer Core.	Indicator on retail frontage percentages	See Para Para 6.3.5
Housing Policies	Provide high quality and affordable housing at accessible locations to accommodate our growing community Provide a range of housing options to meet the diverse needs of the whole community.	Contribute to East of England Plan target for Colchester of 17,100 houses to 2021 (*Policies H1 and SD1*)	Housing completions per annum (net) - Housing Trajectory (AMR Core Indicator) Number of new and converted dwellings completed on previously developed land (AMR Core Indicator)	See 6.2.1, 6.2.2
		Homelessness - Monitored by Strategic Housing Team – precise target inappropriate for this cross-cutting issue (*Policies H1, H3, H4 and SD1*)	Number of households accepted as full homeless (AMR Contextual Indicator)	See 6.2.8
		East of England Plan and Core Strategy target of 35% of new dwellings to be affordable (*Policy H4*)	Affordable housing completions (AMR Core Indicator).	See 6.2.3
		Ensure that new residential development makes efficient use of land (*Policies H2, H1, UR1, and SD1*)	Percentages of new dwellings completed at the following density bands – less than 30 dwelling per hectare, between 30-50 dph and above 50 dph	Monitored through the planning application process – specific density indicators no longer appropriate in the context of their removal from PPS3.
		100% of flat conversions to comply with the criteria of Policy DP11	Number of flat conversions permitted as departures from Policy DP11	Indicator under development
		All residential development to have a high standard of design, construction and layout	Satisfaction with residential development will be monitored through LDF consultations	Indicator under development
Urban Ren	Revitalise rundown areas and create inclusive and sustainable new communities.	Meet Core Strategy housing and employment housing targets for Growth/Regeneration areas to contribute to East of England Plan target for	Number of new homes and employment development completed at ward level within Growth/Regeneration Areas	See Para 6.2.5

	Promote high quality design and sustain Colchester's historic character, found in its buildings, townscape and archaeology	Colchester of 17,100 houses and 20,000 new jobs to be created in the Haven Gateway to 2021 (*Policy UR1*)		
		0% of new developments to result in loss of Grade I and II* and scheduled monuments at risk. Year on year reduction in number of buildings on Buildings at Risk register. Monitored through the planning applications process (*Policy UR2*)	Buildings of Grade I and II* and scheduled monuments at risk	See Para 6.5.13
Public Realm Policies	Improve streetscapes, open spaces and green links to provide attractive and accessible spaces for residents to live, work and play.	New development to contribute to open space, green links and streetscape improvements (*Policies PR1, PR2, and SD2*)	Increase in areas of public open space	See Para 6.5.7
			Contributions secured towards streetscape improvements	See Para 6.5.14
		100% of all new permitted developments to deliver adequate areas of private/communal space in accordance with the standards set out in the Essex Design Guide and Urban Place Supplement. (*Policy PR1*)	Number of homes with provision of private/communal open space.	See Para 6.5.15
		Reduce crime rates across the Borough. Delivered in partnership with Essex Police. These targets will be monitored through the Colchester Community Safety Crime and Disorder Reduction (*Policies PR2 and UR2*)	All crime – number of crimes per 1000 residents per annum	See Para 6.6.9
			Number of Domestic Burglaries per 1000 Households	See Para 6.6.9
Transport and Accessibility Policies	Focus development at accessible locations which support public transport, walking and cycling, and reduce the need to travel. Provide excellent public transportation, walking and cycling connections between centres, communities and their	Cycling – increase by 75% in urban area by 2010/11 (*Policies TA2, TA1 and PR2*)	Annualised Indicator of Cycling Trips linked to LTP* Performance Indicator 10 – Increased to reflect Colchester's cycle town status	See Para 6.4.4
		Motor Vehicles – to control peak period traffic entering the Colchester urban area to 33,400 vehicles by 2010/11 (*Policies TA1, TA2, TA3, TA4, and TA5*)	Motor Vehicles entering Colchester on the main radial corridors – LTP* Performance Indicator 12a	See Para 6.4.5
		To reduce the percentage of pupils aged 5-16 travelling by car	Mode Share of Journeys to School linked to LTP* Performance indicator 13	See Para 6.4.6

	needs.	(*Policies TA1, TA2, TA3, TA4, and PR2*)		
	Develop Colchester as a Regional Transport Node, improving transport connections and gateways within the Borough and to the wider region. Improve the strategic road network and manage traffic and parking demand.	Increase use the of public transport on selected routes in Colchester (*Policies TA3 and TA1*)	Number of bus passenger journeys on selected routes linked to LTP* Performance indicator 17	See Para 6.4.7
		To obtain an agreed travel plan for all major commercial/community developments (*Policy TA1*)	Encourage modal shift through Travel Plan and planning application processes	See Para 6.4.2
		Reduce the proportion of long stay in comparison with short stay parking (*Policy TA5*)	Comparison of long and short stay car parking demand and duration in public car parks in the Town Centre	See Para 6.4.3
		Percentage of completed non-residential development(within Use Class Orders A, B and D) complying with parking standards as set out in the LDF (*Policies TA5 and TA1*)	Percentage of completed non-residential development(within Use Class Orders A, B and D) complying with parking standards as set out in the LDF	Indicator under development
			*LTP indicators are only set to 2010/11, but since the indicators have not yet been replaced, they are still in use as the best option.	
Environment and Rural Communities Policies	Protect and enhance Colchester's natural and historic environment, countryside and coastline. Support appropriate local employment and housing development in villages and rural communities.	40% or less new houses to be built on greenfield land (AMR Core Indicator) (*Policies ENV1, ENV2, SD1, CE1, H1, and UR1*)	Number of homes completed on greenfield land	See Para 6.5.11
		Minimise impact of new development in areas designated due to their environmental importance (*Policy ENV1*)	Amount of development in designated areas.	See Para 6.5.8
		95% of nationally designated SSSI's are to be in favourable condition or recovering by 2010. (*Policy ENV1*)	Condition of internationally and nationally important wildlife and geological sites (SSSI, SPA, SAC & RAMSAR)	See Para 6.5.9
		Manage visitor numbers at European Sites at levels that do not cause damage or affect site integrity. (*Policy ENV1*)	Number of visitors to Natura 2000 sites	See Para 6.5.10
		No increase in number of Air Quality Management Districts (AQMDs) (*Policies ENV1, TA1, UR2*)	Number of AQMDs	See Para 6.5.17

		All developments to incorporate water management schemes including Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) (*Policies ENV1 and ER1*)	Number of schemes incorporating water management schemes	See Para 6.5.17
		0% net loss of Local Sites (formerly Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) & Local Nature Reserves (LNR) (*Policy ENV1*)	Number and area of SINC's and LNR's within the Borough	See Para 6.5.5
		0% loss of ancient woodland (*Policy ENV1*)	Area of ancient woodland within the Borough (New AMR indicator)	See Para 6.5.4
		0% net loss of priority habitats and species (*Policy ENV1*)	Change in priority habitats and species	See Para 6.5.3
		0 applications to be approved contrary to EA advice (*Policies ENV1 and SD1*)	Number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the EA on flood risk/flood defence grounds	See Para 6.5.2
		Assist villages in the preparation of Parish Plans/Village Design Statements and achieve 100% adoption rate. (*Policy ENV2*)	Number of Parish Plans/Village Design Statements adopted as guidance.	See Para 6.5.18
		Provide 35% of all housing in rural areas as affordable housing (*Policies ENV2 and H4*)	Percentage of affordable housing units provided in rural wards	See Para 6.2.4
		Ensure rural areas contribute their proportionate share to the overall jobs target (*Policy ENV2*)	Number of jobs in rural areas	See Para 6.3.6
Energy, Resources, Waste, Water and Recycling Policies	Encouraging renewable energy and the efficient use of scarce resources. Reduce, reuse and recycle waste.	Contribute to national target of 100% zero carbon by 2016. Data for this will be more readily available from 2010 onwards in line with interim targets for a 25% carbon reduction by 2010, 44% by 2013 & zero carbon by 2016 as defined in Building Regulations (Part L). (*Policy ER1*)	Number of zero-carbon homes completed (National target). AMR Indicator to be developed in line with evolving national targets and policies	See Para 6.6.4
		Contribute to Regional targets in the East of England Plan set out below to increase energy production from renewables sources : 10% by 2010, 17% by 2020 -excluding offshore wind energy, 14% by 2010, 44% by 2020 – including offshore wind energy (*Policy ER1*)	Renewable energy capacity installed by type	6.6.5

		Contribute to Colchester Borough Council's Local Area Agreement domestic waste recycling targets set out below: 21% by 2008/09, 22% by 2009/10 & 26% recycled by 2010/11 (*Policy ER1*)	Percentage of domestic waste recycled	See Para 6.5.18
		Contribute to Colchester Borough Council's Local Area Agreement domestic waste composting targets as set out below: 13% by 2008/09, 13% by 2009/10 & 14 % recycled by 2010/11. (*Policy ER1*)	Percentage of domestic waste composted	See Para 6.5.18
		Contribute to national targets for reduced water consumption/person between 120 litres/person (level 1) and 80 litres/person (level 6) as defined in The Code for Sustainable Homes (*Policy ER1*)	Per capita consumption of water	See Para 6.5.19

Appendix 4 – Key Facilities and Infrastructure
(Table 6d from adopted Core Strategy)

Development Linkage	"Necessary" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
East Growth Area	East Transit Corridor	To be secured	ECC
	Medical Centre	To be secured	PCT/LIFT Strategic Partnership Board
North Growth Area	4 new primary schools	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard changes	Developer/ CBC
	A12 junction improvements – Cuckoo Farm (Junction 28)	To be secured	Developer/ Highways Agency
	Expand secondary school capacity	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard changes	Developer/ECC
	North Transit Corridor	To be secured through the release of the Severalls Hospital Development	Developer
	North/South Capacity Improvements (A133/A134)	To be secured	ECC
	Northern Approaches (phase 3) and new A12 Junction (junction 28)	Secured through Section 106 Agreement Community Infrastructure Funding (CIF2) bid submitted	Developer / Highways Agency

Development Linkage	"Necessary" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
	North Park and Ride (permanent)[1]	Project identified in Regional Funding Allocation as a Priority 1b scheme	ECC
South Growth Area	Medical Centre	Secured	PCT
	New Primary School	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard changes	ECC
Stanway Growth Area	New Primary School	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard changes	ECC
	Western Bypass - Northern and Southern sections	Secured through Section 106 agreement	Developer
	Stanway Road Improvements Warren Lane	To be secured	Developer
Town Centre Growth Area	A133 Central Corridor Improvements (Stage 1 short term measures)[2]	Essex County Council (ECC) Local Transport Plan (LTP) funds allocated, Community Infrastructure Funding (CIF2) bid submitted	ECC
Supports all growth areas	A12 junction improvements - Crown Interchange (Junction 29)	To be secured	Developer/ Highways Agency
	A12 junction improvements - Eight Ash Green (Junction 26)	To be secured	Developer/ Highways Agency
	A12 junction improvements - Marks Tey (junction 25)	To be secured	Developer / Highways Agency

Development Linkage	"Necessary" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
	A133 Central Corridor (Stage 2 long term measures)	To be secured	ECC

Development Linkage	"Local and wider benefit" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
East Growth Area	Colne River Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge	Secured through Section 106 Agreements	Developer
	Hythe Rail Station improvements	GAF allocated	Network Rail/ ECC
	Strategic public open space	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	University of Essex expansion	To be secured	University
	University Research Park (Access improvements)	Secured through Section 106 Agreements	Developer
North Growth Area	Allotments	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Community Hall improvements and new Community Centre	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Community stadium	Secured	CBC
	Electricity Sub Station	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Electricity Provider

Development Linkage	"Local and wider benefit" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
	Sport, recreation and youth facilities	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Strategic public open space	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
South Growth Area	Gym Facilities Garrison	Secured	Developer/ CBC
Stanway Growth Area	Allotments	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Expand secondary school	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	ECC
	Improved Bus Links	To be secured	ECC
	Strategic public open space	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Village Hall improvements	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Youth recreation facilities	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
Town Centre Growth Area	Cultural Quarter (Public Realm)	Development team selected, Growth Point Funding Secured	CBC/ Developer

Development Linkage	"Local and wider benefit" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
	Firstsite New site (Community Arts Facility)	Secured	CBC
	Historic Town Centre Improvements	Growth Area Funding (GAF) allocated	ECC/CBC
	Magistrates' court	Dept for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) PFI funding decision imminent	DCA
	New Bus Station	To be secured through development	Developer
	Colchester North Rail Station Improvements[3]	To be secured	Network Rail/ECC/CBC
	Colchester Town Rail Station Improvements[4]	Secured through Section 106 Agreements	Network Rail/ ECC
	Southway Pedestrian/cycle bridge[5]	To be secured through development	Developer
Tiptree	Expand primary school	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	ECC
	Sports pitches and allotments	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Tiptree Health Centre	To be secured	PCT/LIFT Strategic Partnership Board

Development Linkage	"Local and wider benefit" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
West Mersea	West Mersea Health Centre	To be secured	PCT/LIFT Strategic Partnership Board
Wivenhoe	Allotments	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Community Hall improvements	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Wivenhoe Health Centre	To be secured	PCT/LIFT Strategic Partnership Board
	Youth facilities	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
Supports all growth areas	A120 Braintree to A12	Partial allocation in Regional Funding Allocation	HA
	Cemetery expansion - Berechurch	To be secured	CBC
	Colchester-Clacton branch line re-signalling	Secured	Network Rail
	Essex Police facilities	To be secured	Essex Police
	Facilities to support 2012 Olympics	To be secured	Developer/ CBC

Development Linkage	"Local and wider benefit" Projects	Funding status	Delivery Body
	Green Links and Walking and Cycling improvements	Funding secured	ECC/CBC
	New public open space - St John's	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC
	Quality Bus Partnerships and Public Transport Improvements	Secured through LTP allocation	ECC
	Village Hall improvements - Rowhedge	To be linked to new development through planning obligations/ standard charges	Developer/ CBC

[1] Transport project also supporting development in the Town Centre Growth Area
[2] Transport project also supporting development in the North Growth Area
[3] Transport project also supporting development in the North Growth Area
[4] Transport project also supporting development in the South Growth Area
[5] Transport project also supporting development in the South Growth Area