

Colchester City Council Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026

The City of Colchester deserves the very best this Council can do and deliver. In high quality services, in ambition and vision and for the value we can add, in our own right, and by working with others. With Essex County Council, and Government, at every level and with partners, including the University of Essex, the NHS, and our invaluable voluntary sector.

Together we must respond to the challenges of our times, alive to what matters most to the people of Colchester. From our environment, and quality of life, to the vibrancy of our city centre. Valuing as we do the rich and distinctive qualities of rural and city life, our many communities and identities and our culture and heritage.

Our new Strategic Plan continues to provide an overarching framework, sense of direction and the key outcomes we will address, deliver or influence in the coming years. To be supported by a more detailed Delivery Plan, updated as need, to ensure resources match ambitions and enable promises made are kept.

Central to all we do will be the discipline and professionalism we can apply, with our partners. To ensure in the most challenging times for our country, as well as our city, that our finances are managed well, that we do all we can with and through others. That our sense of optimism, and ambition show in all we do, to make life better. As Councillors, officers and full Council, for all those that live, and work or visit the great City of Colchester.

Colchester City Council's Strategic Plan 2023-26

Our Strategic Objectives and Priorities will govern and shape what we do. And the Outcomes we seek to achieve, mindful of the challenges we face and foresee. Our Plan providing a framework, direction and heading, for an ambitious Council that will respond the needs of the people of the City of Colchester, as changing circumstances require.

Strategic Objectives	Priorities	Outcomes
Respond to the climate emergency	<p>Reduce our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Conserve and enhance our biodiversity.</p> <p>Continuing to be a leader in waste and recycling collections</p>	<p>The Council continues to proceed at best pace towards net zero aspirations by 2030.</p> <p>The Woodland and Biodiversity Plan is renewed annually with targets to improve biodiversity across all areas. With Cymbeline Meadows a publicly accessible nature reserve.</p> <p>Waste and recycling services are reviewed, and collection arrangements simplified and revised, to support the government recycling collection targets of 70%.</p>
Deliver Modern Services for a Modern City	<p>The Colchester Council family of organisations work together to a shared and ambitious vision for the future of our city.</p> <p>The Council transforms services and moves to a community centred approach, where it enables, helps, and supports local communities as they help prioritise, shape and deliver local services.</p> <p>Our partnering approach maximises our influence and adds value through and with others, such as One Colchester, Essex County Council, the NHS, the Business Improvement District and the Town Deal</p>	<p>The Local Government Association Peer Challenge recommendations of 2022 are delivered in full by end 2023.</p> <p>The future roles of the Council family of organisations including CCHL are refined to enable their delivery of improved services and profit for CCC that will support the delivery of essential services to our residents.</p> <p>Colchester Borough Homes is an efficient and respected quality provider of housing services.</p> <p>Assets are reviewed enabling greater use, and or transfer to community partners, rationalisation and or sale. Or use in support of city centre renewal.</p> <p>Colchester City Council closes the budget gap each year through the MTFF. And with CCHL and CBH, is able to fund capital and asset renewal and investment over the medium term.</p> <p>A new post transformation model of Council, partner, and community services delivers on</p>

	Board, the Garrison, and the University of Essex.	our ambitions, cost effectively and with the support of the communities we serve.
Improve health, well-being, and happiness	<p>Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people</p> <p>Work with residents and partners to address quality of life and issues of happiness</p>	<p>Work with NHS and other partners on prevention, community engagement and awareness, helps us improve the life expectations and outcomes of our residents. and to support and help those most in need.</p> <p>We reduce the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis for our residents.</p> <p>With our residents we improve their sense of wellbeing.</p>
Deliver homes for those most in need	<p>Increase the number and quality and types of homes. Meet our duty to prevent or assist those facing homelessness</p> <p>Seek 30% affordable housing across all our own housing sites.</p>	<p>More Council homes have kept them in good repair and improving energy efficiency.</p> <p>More developers apply beautiful and sustainable design to all house builders across the city.</p> <p>We increase the number of affordable homes (seeking 30% where we build).</p>
Grow our economy so everyone benefits	Work with partners to deliver a shared vision for a vibrant city and attract inward investment	<p>A longer-term vision and plan are created with the aid of Ambassadors and partners that will maximise the economic and social benefits of city status to all including young people</p> <p>Garden Community development that ensures Colchester gains maximum benefits.</p> <p>The Town Deal is delivered with partners, with city wide economic and social benefits.</p> <p>Economic advice and support to local businesses and key partners is available that attracts inward investment for social and economic benefit, exploiting city status with our partners.</p>
Celebrate our city, and our heritage and culture	<p>Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year</p> <p>To make our city a yet better place in which to live and work and visit.</p>	<p>The delivery with partners of the 2023 year of city status commemoration and celebration.</p> <p>With Essex County Council, we build on master planning, and take the next steps towards a transformed attractive and more accessible city centre, that makes the most of our public spaces, heritage and cultural assets.</p> <p>A step change in marketing Colchester as a destination</p>

