



Colchester
City Council

Council Meeting

**Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street,
Colchester, CO1 1PJ
Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 18:00**

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

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

Dates of the meetings are available here:

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

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

Have Your Say!

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

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

Audio Recording, Mobile phones and other devices

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

Access

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

Facilities

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

Evacuation Procedures

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

Colchester City Council

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

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

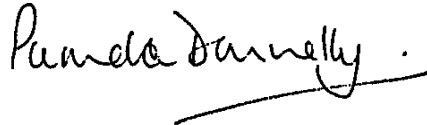
www.colchester.gov.uk

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
Council
Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 18:00

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Published 10/10/2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 18:00 for the transaction of the business stated below.



Chief Executive

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

Please note that the business will be subject to short breaks at approximately 90 minute intervals.

Apologies

Apologies have been received from Councillor Buston.

1 Welcome and Announcements (Council)

The Mayor will welcome members of the public and Councillors and will ask the Chaplain to say a prayer. The Mayor will explain the procedures to be followed at the meeting including a reminder to everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking.

2 Have Your Say! (Council)

Members of the public may make representations to the meeting on any item on the agenda or any other matter relating to the business of Council. Members of the public may register their wish to address the Council by e-mailing democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk by 12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting. However, advance registration is not mandatory and members of the public may register to speak in person immediately before the meeting.

9(iii) **Mid Year Capital Programme Updates 2023**

F... To consider any recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting on 11 October 2023.

10 **Notices of Motion pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11**

Council will consider the following Motions:-

(Note: The maximum length of time for the consideration of all such motions shall be 80 minutes. In the event that a motion is still being debated when the 80 minutes have elapsed the Mayor shall invite the proposer of the motion to respond to the debate and then move straight to the vote.)

10(i) **Non-Disposable Single Use Vapes**

Motion G

Proposer: Cllr Goss

Council notes

(a) the serious harm and risk that non-disposable single use vapes are causing to our environment, our wildlife, our children and all users;

(b) the risk to our refuse collectors due to refuse lorries catching fire as a result of the battery elements within vapes;

(c) that as shown by figures provided by Greenpeace two disposable single use vapes are thrown away every second in the UK – 1.3 million a week presenting a considerable risk and harm to all of us;

Council also raises concern at the harm to young people due to the promotion of vapes which can be displayed near sweets and confectionary and notes incidents of young people being rushed to hospital due to indoctrinated vapes;

Council believes that the local environment and our young people deserve the highest possible protection;

Council requests that representation is made to Government through the local MPs for Colchester by Council writing to them requesting them to bring in urgent legislation without delay, to join over 40 other countries that have already banned vapes in some way to:

- 1. Ban the sale of non-disposable single use vapes;*
- 2. Ban open display of vapes and to treat sales in the same manner as cigarettes; and*
- 3. Bring in a programme of awareness amongst*

schoolchildren.

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

10(ii) **Transparency**

Motion H

Proposer: Cllr Sunnucks

This Council believes that full transparency is in the interests of those we represent and leads to better decision making on their behalf. It therefore resolves that all data held and managed by the Council should be made publicly available upon request unless it relates to specific private individuals or current commercially sensitive contract negotiations: and that the 2015 Local Government Transparency Code should be respected in full.

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

10(iii) **Climate Emergency**

Motion I

Proposer: Cllr Nissen, Seconder: Cllr Rippingale

This Council notes:

1. *2023 was one of the hottest summers since records began in 1880, with heat records being broken and extreme weather across Europe. The climate emergency remains the biggest threat to Colchester, with impacts on all aspects of life including health and finances.*
2. *The world is considered to be in climate breakdown by the United Nations, and efforts to reverse the 1.5°C rise have not been implemented. New fossil fuel exploration is contradictory to the Paris Agreement and an existential threat to our survival.*
3. *Poorly insulated homes comprise a very high percentage of Colchester's housing emissions, with an additional economic impact on residents squeezed by the cost of living. 61.9% of homes have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D or below, indicating a large proportion of homes in Colchester are poorly insulated, impacting on the ability for residents to pay bills in a cost of living crisis. Colchester City Council has had successes within our social housing portfolio, by raising 85% of our homes to C rating; showing our commitments to both supporting vulnerable residents with financial hardship and mitigating the climate emergency.*
4. *Over 300 Councils have declared a climate emergency. To support them in delivering critical climate actions, central government needs to urgently increase funding to local authorities, under the National Adaptation Programme.*

5. *Investment in Green energy would create jobs, tackle unemployment and reduce the cost of living. It would go a way to mitigating both extreme heat and flash flooding, for which Colchester is vulnerable.*

This Council calls on the UK Government to:

1. *Implement necessary measures to ensure the UK meets its legally binding obligations to net zero by 2050; and consider committing to the internationally-recommended 2030 goal;*
2. *Provide enhanced funding from the Energy Profit Levy, to support a long-term investment programme on retrofitting poor insulated homes and local authority buildings;*
3. *Re-commit to the ban on oil, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and new coal heating for off-gas-grid homes by 2026;*
4. *Promote the deployment of low carbon electricity types including solar, wind, hydropower;*
5. *Support 20 mph in highly urban areas, assisting councils to actively improve air quality;*
6. *Promote and fund Active Travel schemes which work in collaboration with existing infrastructure; including long-term support for successful initiatives including £2 bus travel.*

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter, it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

11 **Questions to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10**

Cabinet members and Committee/Panel Chairs will receive and answer pre-notified questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(1) followed by any oral questions (not submitted in advance) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(3).

(Note: a period of up to 60 minutes is available for pre-notified questions and oral questions by Members of the Council to Cabinet Members and Chairs (or in their absence Deputy Chairs)).

At the time of the publication of the Summons no pre-notified questions had been received.

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| 12 | Revised Licensing Committee Membership
J.... Motion that the recommendation contained in the report by the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer be approved and adopted. | 119 -
120 |
| 13 | Schedule of Portfolio Decisions
Council is invited to note the Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions for the period 8 July - 6 October 2023. | 121 -
128 |

14 **Urgent Items (Council)**

Council will consider any business not specified in the Summons which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor determines should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

15 **Reports Referred to in Recommendations**

The reports specified below are submitted for information and referred to in the recommendations specified in item 9 of the agenda:

Treatment of War Pensions in Calculation of Housing Benefit, report to Cabinet, 6 September 2023 129 -
132

2022-23 Year End Review of Risk Management, report to Cabinet, 6 September 2023 133 -
158

Mid Year Capital Programme Update 23-24, report to Cabinet, 11 October 2023 159 -
168

16 **Exclusion of the Public (not Scrutiny or Executive)**

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

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

Council

Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Attendees:

Councillor Tracy Arnold, Councillor Lewis Barber, Councillor Lyn Barton, Councillor Catherine Bickersteth, Councillor Molly Bloomfield, Councillor Michelle Burrows, Councillor Roger Buston, Councillor Mark Cory, Councillor Pam Cox, Councillor Robert Davidson, Councillor Paul Dundas, Councillor Andrew Ellis, Councillor Mark Goacher, Councillor Martin Goss, Councillor Jeremy Hagon, Councillor Dave Harris, Councillor Mike Hogg, Councillor John Jowers, Councillor David King , Councillor Richard Kirkby-Taylor, Councillor Darius Laws, Councillor Michael Lilley, Councillor Sue Lissimore, Councillor Andrea Luxford Vaughan, Councillor Jackie Maclean, Councillor Roger Mannion, Councillor Sam McLean, Councillor Sara Naylor, Councillor Steph Nissen, Councillor Chris Pearson, Councillor Carl Powling, Councillor Kayleigh Rippingale, Councillor Thomas Rowe, Councillor Lee Scordis, Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell, Councillor Fay Smalls, Councillor Paul Smith, Councillor Rhys Smithson, Councillor Natalie Sommers, Councillor Michael Spindler, Councillor William Sunnucks, Councillor Martyn Warnes, Councillor Dennis Willetts, Councillor Tim Young

617 Prayers

The meeting was opened with prayers from the Reverend Dr Amanda Elmes.

618 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Bentley, Jay, Law, McCarthy, Tate and J. Young.

619 Have Your Say! (Council)

Sir Bob Russell addressed Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1) to express his concern that the Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Biodiversity approved by the Local Plan Committee on 12 June 2023 had been undermined by the proposal for Holy Trinity Churchyard by the Colchester Town Deal Board. Should these proposals go ahead the SPD could not be used in respect of any other planning application, as any appellant would be able to claim the Council had

allowed it to be bypassed on its own land. There were only two Councillors on the Town Deal Board, one of whom was a County Councillor from Braintree. The attendance by the Leader of the Council, who was the only City Councillor on the Board, was only 60%. The minutes of the Board meetings were not complete. The proposal, which cost £500,000, would destroy Holy Trinity Church. The proposals to move the railings would create two areas that would attract anti-social behaviour.

Councillor King, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, thanked Sir Bob for his comments and it was appreciated that this was a much loved site. The proposals would ensure that it remained usable and accessible. The proposals for greater access to the site had largely been welcomed. The We Are Colchester Board was widely supported by the Council and their work was subject to scrutiny. He had many calls on his time which meant he could not attend every meeting but he paid close attention to work on the city centre, including the Town Deal Board, and the proposals would stand the test of time. The proposals were not counter to the SPD and a written response would be sent to confirm the position. Partnership working was now crucial if the Council was to achieve its aims and to have the most influence and impact.

Carla Hales of the Essex Music Service and Essex Concert Band addressed Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1) to express her concern about the fees introduced by the Council for bands and groups to play on the bandstand in Castle Park. Whilst it was appreciated that there were commercial events at which it was appropriate to charge, there were some events where this was inappropriate. Essex Concert Band was a not for profit band made up of volunteers who played free of charge for the benefit of the public. This meant a regular commitment of time and cost for the members of the band. In this context it did not seem reasonable for the band to also be expected to pay a fee of approximately £100 for the hire of the bandstand. Other Council's did not charge and were choosing to support the provision of live music. This form of entertainment should be encouraged to attract people into the city centre. The decision to charge had made groups feel that the hard work they undertook to perform was not appreciated by the Council and two well-known bands had made the decision not to tour this year. There was a proud heritage of bands playing for the entertainment of local people and the bandstand provided live music for those who could not otherwise afford to attend concerts. The charges should be reconsidered.

Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste, explained that the bandstand had been refurbished at a cost of £33,700. The Council had given a grant for an event on the preceding Sunday, which in effect paid the commercial fees of the bands playing. He would consider the matter further with officers and look at the commercial fees and the arrangements for support through grants.

Robert Johnstone addressed Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1). He had played in several ensembles at the bandstand over a number of years. The event on the preceding Sunday run by the Rotary Club had featured five

bands and had been a true community event. None of the music groups were paid and neither had the audience paid. Everyone he had spoken to had agreed that the bandstand must remain free for local music ensembles. The commercial management of the bandstand was the cause of the problem. Colchester Events paid to manage the events put on in a range of Colchester venues, including the bandstand, but did not promote events at the bandstand at all. The audience at the bandstand wished to see local bands without charge. The bandstand should be removed from the list of venues managed by Colchester Events.

Elizabeth Kelly addressed Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1). Colchester Castle Park and the bandstand had been a place of solace for the underprivileged enabling them to experience all forms of music free of charge. It was now proposed to charge small volunteer music groups, who gave their time and money for free, to perform on the bandstand. This was for the benefit of a highly commercial organisation whose sole intention was to make a profit. The Council should be able to provide residents with the opportunity to hear music without penalising the bands who played there, many of whom were underprivileged. Residents paid their taxes for such provision.

Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste, thanked Robert Johnstone and Elizabeth Kelly for their comments which had been addressed through his reply to Carla Hales.

Sandy Armitage addressed Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1) to ask why the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Panel on 20 July 2023 had been cancelled. Given the climate crisis there should be business for the Panel to consider.

Councillor Nissen, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Panel, explained that the cancellation was due to a light agenda. The Panel had a work programme and there was insufficient business on the work programme for this particular meeting to justify the resources involved in holding a meeting. This was on the basis that there would be a fuller agenda in September and the time would be used for a discussion on the developing waste strategy. This decision had been taken in conjunction with the spokespersons of the other political groups. Work continued by officers, and environmental issues were being embedded into all decision making across the Council and into the Council's Strategic Plan.

620 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Council)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

621 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported that together with the Deputy Mayor he had attended the Songs of Praise recording in the Castle Park and announced the following events:-

Civic Service, 23 July 2023

Opening of the Oyster Fishery, 1 September 2023

622 Annual Scrutiny Report 2022-23

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in draft minute 399 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 14 March 2023 be approved and adopted.

623 Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in the Head of Governance's report be approved and adopted.

624 Suspension of Procedure Rule

RESOLVED that Council Procedure Rule 11(2) be suspended to allow the motion on Anti-Social Behaviour in the City Centre to be debated and determined.

625 Anti Social Behaviour in the City Centre

Councillor T. Young (in respect of his employment by Open Road) declared a non-registerable interest in this item pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 9(5).

It was proposed by Councillor Nissen that:-

If our city is to thrive, residents and visitors must feel safe.

This Council notes the rising incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the historic city

centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, which include:

- damage to property;*
- harassment and abuse of staff and customers in the retail and hospitality sectors;*
- thefts from shops which harm businesses and which can heighten vulnerability experienced by retail staff and customers.*

We call on the City Council and local Community Safety Partnership:

- to develop and implement a new Anti-Social Behaviour Plan to tackle these issues;*
- to lead a new collaboration with Essex Youth Services to develop and resource a new Youth Outreach Strategy to engage more effectively with those young people currently involved in ASB;*
- to bring together adult social care, health and substance misuse services to map efforts to address the causes of ASB*
- to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to review policing resource for Colchester.*

Councillor King proposed the following main amendment.

That the motion on Anti-Social Behaviour in the City Centre be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:-

In the first sentence, after the words “our city” the insertion of the words “to continue” and the insertion of the following words at the end of the sentence “and that policing is responsive to their concerns.”

In the second sentence the deletion of the word “rising” and its replacement with the word “recent” and the deletion of the word “include” and its replacement with the word “included”.

In the third sentence after the word “We” the insertion of the words “welcome recent action and successes by the police, but”.

In the first bullet point following this sentence the deletion of the current wording and its replacement with the following words “To review and publish the latest evidence of the extent, nature and drivers of ASB, as well as the extent of public willingness to report incidents, to inform and develop a new Anti-Social Behaviour Plan. ”

In the second bullet point following this sentence the deletion of the word “lead” and its replacement with the word “seek”.

Councillor Nissen indicated that the main amendment was accepted and the motion was deemed amended accordingly. The revised wording of the motion was as follows:-

If our city is to continue to thrive, residents and visitors must feel safe and that policing is responsive to their concerns.

This Council notes the recent incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the historic city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, which included:

- damage to property;*
- harassment and abuse of staff and customers in the retail and hospitality sectors;*
- thefts from shops which harm businesses and which can heighten vulnerability experienced by retail staff and customers.*

We welcome recent action and successes by the police, but call on the City Council and local Community Safety Partnership:

- to review and publish the latest evidence of the extent, nature and drivers of ASB, as well as the extent of public willingness to report incidents, to inform and develop a new Anti-Social Behaviour Plan;*
- to seek a new collaboration with Essex Youth Services to develop and resource a new Youth Outreach Strategy to engage more effectively with those young people currently involved in ASB;*
- to bring together adult social care, health and substance misuse services to map efforts to address the causes of ASB*
- to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to review policing resource for Colchester.*

On being put to the vote, the motion was approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

626 The Impact of Pylons on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Councillor Davidson (in respect of land he owned being on the route proposed by National Grid for the pylons) declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule (5) and left the meeting during its consideration and determination.

It was proposed by Councillor Laws that:-

This Council notes:

- 1. The pride, affection and enjoyment with which residents and visitors have towards our local beauty spots and their tranquillity.*
- 2. National Grid are seeking to transport electricity across East Anglia via pylons which would have a dramatic impact on our residents, especially those living in Langham,*

Boxted, Fordham, Great Horkesley, Little Horkesley, West Bergholt, Aldham, Marks Tey and beyond.

3. Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex have some of the most beautiful landscapes in the UK, immortalised by painters such as John Constable RA, as such these 50 metre high pylons are incompatible with these landscapes and challenge our revered 'big skies'.

4. The Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is a protected landscape, has been singled out as an area for power cables to be laid underground but this is only being considered on the basis of the defined area of the AONB.

Topographical considerations close to the AONB appear not to have been considered and you will be able to see these pylons from within the AONB.

Furthermore, the setting of the AONB will be compromised with the 'sealing-end compounds' (electrical sub-stations) as well as the installation of inspection pits.

5. The construction of the pylons and associated hardware will have a detrimental impact on our overburdened rural road infrastructure; including lanes with damage to verges likely where there are often no passing places.

6. Further negative consequences during the construction of these pylons could include damage to various habitats of wildlife including: trees, biodiversity, plant-life as well as also negatively impacting on regional tourist attractions and archaeology.

7. Current rules stipulate local Planning Authorities determine if onshore wind turbines are permissible.

This Council informs Cabinet of its opinion that:

1. Robust representations should be made, during and outside of consultation periods, to the government decision makers to oppose new pylons blighting our beautiful countryside.

2. Collaborative working with other local authorities and MPs should take place to support calls for an offshore grid, including for the North Falls and Five Estuaries wind farms; in order to speed up delivery of green energy, cut its cost and protect the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and surrounding countryside.

3. Any attempt to overrule local Planning Authority decision making regarding onshore wind turbines, which would also blight our beautiful countryside, should be resisted.

Councillor Pearson proposed the following main amendment.

That the motion on the Impact of Pylons on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:-

In the section informing Cabinet of Council's view:-

In paragraph 1, the deletion of the words "government decision makers" and their replacement with words "Government, given they have set the framework for these national planning issues," and the insertion of the following words at the end of the sentence "and to look again at underground and offshore options and their relative and

financial and environmental impacts”.

The deletion of paragraph 3.

Councillor Laws indicated that the main amendment was not accepted. On being put to the vote the main amendment was approved (TWENTY FIVE voted FOR, SEVENTEEN voted AGAINST and TWO ABSTAINED from voting) and the motion was deemed amended accordingly. The revised wording of the motion was as follows:-

This Council notes:

- 1. The pride, affection and enjoyment with which residents and visitors have towards our local beauty spots and their tranquility.*
- 2. National Grid are seeking to transport electricity across East Anglia via pylons which would have a dramatic impact on our residents, especially those living in Langham, Boxted, Fordham, Great Horkesley, Little Horkesley, West Bergholt, Aldham, Marks Tey and beyond.*
- 3. Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex have some of the most beautiful landscapes in the UK, immortalised by painters such as John Constable RA, as such these 50 metre high pylons are incompatible with these landscapes and challenge our revered ‘big skies’.*
- 4. The Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is a protected landscape, has been singled out as an area for power cables to be laid underground but this is only being considered on the basis of the defined area of the AONB. Topographical considerations close to the AONB appear not to have been considered and you will be able to see these pylons from within the AONB. Furthermore, the setting of the AONB will be compromised with the ‘sealing-end compounds’ (electrical sub-stations) as well as the installation of inspection pits.*
- 5. The construction of the pylons and associated hardware will have a detrimental impact on our overburdened rural road infrastructure; including lanes with damage to verges likely where there are often no passing places.*
- 6. Further negative consequences during the construction of these pylons could include damage to various habitats of wildlife including: trees, biodiversity, plant-life as well as also negatively impacting on regional tourist attractions and archaeology.*
- 7. Current rules stipulate local Planning Authorities determine if onshore wind turbines are permissible.*

This Council informs Cabinet of its opinion that:

- 1. Robust representations should be made, during and outside of consultation periods, to the Government, given they have set the framework for these national planning issues, to oppose new pylons blighting our beautiful countryside and to look again at underground and offshore options and their relative and financial and environmental impacts.*
- 2. Collaborative working with other local authorities and MPs should take place to support calls for an offshore grid, including for the North Falls and Five Estuaries wind farms; in order to speed up delivery of green energy, cut its cost and protect the Dedham*

Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and surrounding countryside.

On being put to the vote, the motion was approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

627 Questions to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

Questioner	Subject	Response
Pre-notified questions		
Councillor Dundas	<p>We are all aware of the current anti-social behaviour issues in parts of our city, but it must be emphasised that this is not just in the City Centre but also occurs in our villages and rural areas as the incident in Tiptree on July 11 sadly demonstrates.</p> <p>The City Centre has a very impressive, state-of-the-art digital CCTV system which is monitored 24/7. However, as far as I am aware this system covers few, if any, areas outside of the City Centre.</p> <p>Tiptree Parish Council also have a modern CCTV system but due to resources this cannot be monitored 24/7. Would the Portfolio Holder be willing to ascertain the technical feasibility of linking Tiptree's and other systems which may exist into the centrally monitored City system?</p>	<p>Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Housing, responded on behalf of Councillor Sommers, Portfolio Holder for Communities. Colchester Amphora were commissioned under the Management Agreement between Colchester City Council (CCC) and CCHL to operate the City Centre CCTV system on a cost recovery basis funded through the Management Fee. The monitoring suite based in the Town Hall also managed all out of hours calls for CCC and CBH, as well as Helpline, Police Radio, Pub watch etc. There were several other CCTV systems in wards, CCC and CBH buildings, Neighbourhood Teams, body warn cameras that do not sit within CCHL's management.</p> <p>With support from CCC and section 106 contributions Amphora designed and delivered the digital upgrade of CCTV across the City Centre intensifying the coverage from circa 120 cameras to 350 cameras including connecting up</p>

	<p>Regardless of this, are there any plans in place to extend the current City Centre system to other our other urban centres such as Tiptree, Wivenhoe, Stanway, West Mersea etc.?</p> <p>There may be grants available to help fund expansion of the CCTV network and some parish/town councils may be prepared to contribute to the cost, but in order to do so, they would need to know if was technically feasible and what the cost was. Could a feasibility study be undertaken?</p>	<p>Leisure World and Colchester Sports Park to the monitoring suite. This digital system could accommodate additional cameras but this required not just capital costs upfront but additional ongoing revenue support.</p> <p>Amphora received requests for additional coverage on a regular basis and have met with CCC colleagues to propose a process for evaluation and sign off for these requests.</p> <p>There is also a need for an overall CCTV strategy from CCC in relation to CCTV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For requestors to understand the rational for requesting additional cameras, you must demonstrate a justified need. • Understand what the desired outcomes are i.e. cameras can detect and sometimes deter but require additional engagement especially from the Police to respond and support • The privacy impacts to be considered and how residents are protected from unwarranted CCTV coverage • The upfront and ongoing additional costs and how these are funded and if CCC want to invest in CCTV.
--	---	--

		<p>In relation to Tiptree's request, Amphora had met with Ward Councillors and the Parish Clerk previously. One of the key issues is the need for the CCTV to be connected by dedicated fibre. This was critical to maintain security of the entire system that none of it operates over the internet. The costs of providing fibre to Tiptree and the ongoing costs were a barrier to this being discussed further.</p> <p>The feasibility study could be considered as part of the overall CCTV Strategy.</p>
<p>Councillor Laws</p>	<p>Could the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage please update Council on the Lion Walk Roman Mosaic project?</p>	<p>Councillor Burrows, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage, explained that the Council was keen to preserve, protect and display its best heritage assets. The approach was to look at the costs and practicalities of displaying the mosaic. She would forward the report from the recent dig which had three main focuses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify moisture content in the surrounding soil; To identify the full extent of the surviving mosaic; To identify buried services that may impact on the mosaic and any display. <p>If the mosaic was to be displayed through a glazed pavement there</p>

		<p>were concerns that moisture in the soil could cause damage to the mosaic through condensation. There could also be biological growth which would require regular maintenance of the display. The dig had revealed a high voltage cable lying over the most decorative part of the mosaic. There was some question about the quality of the mosaic in the areas not covered by the cable. The diversion work would have to be done by UK Power Networks at a significant cost, leading to a significant overspend on the budget. It would not be safe to display with the cable remaining in situ.</p> <p>An alternative, more cost effective option would be to display another mosaic behind glass, such as the Red Lion mosaic on display in the Castle. Discussion on the best course of action continued and she would keep members informed.</p>
<p>Councillor Dundas</p>	<p>I am sure the Portfolio Holder is aware of the long history of the Northern Sports Park and the Mill Road development of more than 300 homes, the District Heat Network, retirement village and a hospital/medical facility.</p> <p>The original scheme required a new home for the Colchester Rugby Club before they could vacate the Mill Road site and make it available for development. To that end, CCC constructed the Northern Sports Park using a mixture of loans, Homes England Grant and S106 money with the</p>	<p>Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, emphasised that the Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Park was an excellent facility which should be promoted and publicised more.</p> <p>The expert view was that the markets were currently “messy” and were cooling down as a consequence of the mini budget and inflation. As much as the administration wished to see the</p>

	<p>plan that such loans would eventually be paid off by the proceeds from developing the Mill Road site.</p> <p>The originally anticipated date the sale of houses would begin paying off those loans was July 2022, it is now July 2023 and no construction is taking place.</p> <p>Could the Portfolio Holder please confirm whether and when the money spent on the sports park will be recovered from the sale of Mill Road Housing land, as originally planned and that as a result any money we are borrowing at high interest rates will be paid off and not eat into our scarce general fund?</p>	<p>development of the Mill Road site, there were several issues. As a consequence of the economic conditions, there was less investment and the developer of the health care site was not progressing as quickly as planned. This was having an impact on securing the highways permissions that were needed for the site.</p> <p>Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd were working hard to progress matters and the position was being reviewed. This was in line with the review of the capital programme, the work being undertaken by CIPFA and Link, who were the Council's investment advisers.</p> <p>In terms of Treasury Management, there was not a specific loan that was taken out for the development of the sports park. It was funded through internal borrowing and some longer term borrowing. Therefore the Council was not carrying direct costs of the Sport Park but it could be argued that the Council was losing out on some of the borrowing and investment it could have made. There would be some shortfalls because of the delay so it was hoped that development would pick up when the markets began to recover. Capital receipts would still be received in the long term to help pay for the project.</p>
--	---	---

<p>Cllr Sunnucks</p>	<p>I am pleased the Council is the owner of a broadband network funded by DCMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and that the Colchester Fibre Ultrafast Broadband service is now live and available. • and that it offers excellent value for money to Colchester residents and businesses. <p>Please could the Portfolio Holder confirm how many external resident and commercial subscribers there are and whether we are on budget? Are sufficient steps being taken to explain why residents should choose it over established brands like Virgin and BT? Please could he also confirm that all terms of the DCMS grant agreement are being complied with, especially those relating to the commercialisation of the network?</p>	<p>Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, explained that the terms of the DCMS agreement were being complied with and the Council reported to the DCMS quarterly. It was always the intention that the project would develop and lead into competition. However, the Council had consulted with specialist telecommunications lawyers and consultants to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework.</p> <p>Information about number of subscribers would be provided separately as for reasons of commercial confidentiality. it would not be appropriate to disclose these in a public meeting. The network had now extended to Shrub End and Wivenhoe. The Year 1 targets for residential customers had been exceeded and there was a significant base of business interest. The full network of Council companies and buildings were also served by the network and it was being rolled out into the sheltered housing estates. Whilst there had been difficulties in the early years, a good income was now being generated, and it needed further promotion. It was hoped to extend the network to rural areas but external partners would be required for this.</p>

		<p>There had no challenge from the major providers to any of the schemes established through the DCMS, and therefore it was not expected that this scheme would be challenged.</p>
<p>Oral Questions</p>		
<p>Councillor Rippingale</p>	<p>Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing clarify the reasons for the rise in families in temporary accommodation and outline the actions the Council is taking to remedy the situation, given the demand is likely to increase with the eviction of the refugee families from the Marks Tey Hotel on the 4th of August?</p>	<p>Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Housing explained that there were currently 296 families in temporary accommodation, 62 families were in bed and breakfast accommodation, of which 20 were housed outside of the city.</p> <p>Colchester was facing a housing crisis, as were many authorities. The causes of this included the freezing of the local housing allowance for the last four years, whilst rents increased significantly. This meant families on housing benefit were unable to pay their rent and were therefore facing eviction. Some landlords were refusing to let to tenants on any form of benefit, including working family credit. High interest rates were pushing mortgages up which was pricing first time buyers out of the market. This increased demand in the rental market which pushed rents up. As a consequence of these factors more people were becoming homeless. There was also a shortfall in the amount of social housing being built as a result of government policies.</p>

		<p>Colchester always welcomed refugees. Thirty one Afghan families who provided service to the country were due to be evicted on 4 August. Eleven had so far found alternative accommodation. The government had provided further help but there remained a huge shortfall, especially when the needs of Ukrainian refugees were also taken into account.</p> <p>Members should attend the briefing on housing issues on 24 July.</p>
Councillor Willetts	<p>Would the Portfolio Holder for Resources give an assurance that the Council would not bank with any bank that was a member of a group that discriminated against its customers by closing their account by reason of their race, religion, colour, political persuasion, sexual orientation or disability.</p>	<p>Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, explained that Full Council agreed the Treasury Management rules which set out the framework for which banks the Council used.</p>
Councillor Willetts	<p>Within his ward there was a development of 43 homes that had originally all been Council housing, but of which only nine were now in Council ownership. This fronted onto an unadopted lane, which the Council had maintained when the development was mainly Council owned. The Council was now increasingly reluctant to maintain the lane given the decline in Council ownership, which penalised those who were still Council tenants. Could the</p>	<p>Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Housing, explained that this was indicative of issues that were arising out of the right to buy. He was not aware of any particular policy that covered this particular situation but he would look into it.</p>

	Portfolio Holder for Housing confirm whether there was a policy covering this situation and could this be communicated to the tenants involved?	
Councillor Mannion	Whilst the impact the current situation has on the City's finances and in particular the lower frequency of public open space grass cutting was appreciated, could the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste assure Tiptree residents that despite this the contractor will be strongly reminded that grass verges must also be cut as part of regular cutting programme for the village thus maintaining pride in the community.	Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste, explained that the frequency of grass cutting had been reduced. Essex County Council provided funding for two cuts per year on all verges they owned but had provided no uplift to this for a significant period. All verges were cut every month between April and September/October and on land the Council owned, eight cuts were undertaken. This service should be provided across the whole city. It was understood that there were some issues that had been picked up with the contractor. Updated information on cutting schedules was now available on the Council's website.
Councillor Scordis	Could the Leader of the Council explain what action the Council was taking to alleviate damage caused by flooding on Haven Road.	Councillor King, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that he had little to add to the last meeting of the Haven Road Taskforce which Councillor Scordis had attended. He would send him the background briefing papers he had received before the meeting. Responsibility lay across a number of organisations including Essex County Council, which was the responsible authority for flooding. The situation was complex and a sound technical solution had not yet been found. It was clear from the last Taskforce meeting that

		<p>understanding of the problem was growing and more work was to be done. The Council's role was to convene partners and to make a contribution, and some funding from section 106 had been identified, but prime responsibility lay with partners. He would continue to press for progress on technical solutions. The Council was taking full responsibility for the nearby works on Fieldgate Quay.</p>
Councillor Dundas	Should further work be done to promote the Council's Fibre Ultrafast Broadband network?	Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, explained that it was promoted where the network was available.
Councillor Lissimore	Following an incident on the green off Van Dyke Road, had the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste taken into consideration the fire risk arising from the long grass and would he include this in his conversations with Idverde?	Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste, explained that health and safety was taken very seriously but prime responsibility lay with the contractor. He would look into the incident if further details were provided.
Councillor Harris	Following incidents of blocked waste chutes in older style flats in Berechurch, could a review of these flats be undertaken with a view to providing bins and better recycling infrastructure?	Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Housing, explained that this was an area of concern that would be picked up in the revised Waste Strategy.
Councillor Smalls	Following a recent fire in a black bag, almost certainly caused by a battery, was there more that could be done to encourage residents to dispose of batteries correctly?	Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste, stressed that staff safety was paramount in any fire incident. The Council's procedures emphasised the need to retreat to safety and call the fire brigade in such circumstances, but operatives sometimes tackled small fires

		<p>themselves, which was indicative of their dedication.</p> <p>The Council had run press and social media campaigns on the need to dispose of batteries correctly. Single use vapes, which contained batteries, were a particular risk. He undertook educational visits to schools and youth groups in which he emphasised the need to recycle batteries properly. Ultimately it was down to the personal responsibility of residents to ensure materials were disposed of safely.</p>
Councillor Goacher	Could the Leader of the Council confirm whether there had been a reduction in patrols in Castle Park?	Councillor King, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that he understood the arrangements had been changed and he had requested that the patrols be restored. He would look into this further and provide a response.
Councillor Rowe	It was understood that there a back office system that provided contractors with information on the areas they were required to be cut and the dates that this needed to be done. Could the Portfolio Holder Neighbourhood Services and Waste arrange for Councillors to be given access to this system so they could keep residents better informed?	Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Waste, explained that the website was the key place for the dissemination of such information. This had recently been updated with the latest information. This did not contain exact dates as this was liable to change due to staffing or weather. There could be licensing issues that could prevent wider use of the system in the way that was suggested.

628 Updates to the Constitution

Councillor Warnes indicated that as Chair of Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd he had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer as to whether he should declare an interest in this item. The Monitoring Officer had advised that as the report did not impact on the financial interest or wellbeing of Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd it was not necessary for an interest to be declared. However he would not speak or vote on the item.

RESOLVED that the recommended decisions in the Monitoring Officer's report be approved and adopted.

629 Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions

RESOLVED that the schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions covering the period 10 February 2023 – 7 July 2023 be noted.

Council

Wednesday, 13 September 2023

Attendees: Councillor Lyn Barton, Councillor Kevin Bentley, Councillor Michelle Burrows, Councillor Roger Buston, Councillor Mark Cory, Councillor Pam Cox, Councillor Robert Davidson, Councillor Paul Dundas, Councillor Andrew Ellis, Councillor Mark Goacher, Councillor Martin Goss, Councillor Dave Harris, Councillor Mike Hogg, Councillor Alison Jay, Councillor John Jowers, Councillor Richard Kirkby-Taylor, Councillor Darius Laws, Councillor Sue Lissimore, Councillor Jackie Maclean, Councillor Sam McLean, Councillor Sara Naylor, Councillor Chris Pearson, Councillor Carl Powling, Councillor Kayleigh Ripplingale, Councillor Thomas Rowe, Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell, Councillor Paul Smith, Councillor Natalie Sommers, Councillor Michael Spindler, Councillor Leigh Tate, Councillor Martyn Warnes, Councillor Dennis Willetts, Councillor Julie Young

630 Attendance by Honorary Alderman

Honorary Aldermen Arnold, Chillingworth, Higgins, Russell and Spendlove were also in attendance.

631 Apologies

Apologies were received from:-

Councillors Arnold, Barber, Bloomfield, Hagon, King, Law, Lilley, Luxford Vaughan, McCarthy, Mannion, Nissen, Scordis, Smalls, Smithson, Sunnucks and T. Young.

Honorary Aldermen Bober, Elliott, Fairhead, Fairley-Crowe, Frank, Green, Hall and Lewis.

632 Honorary Aldermen

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that pursuant to the provisions of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 this Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on former

Councillors Tina Bourne, Nigel Chapman, Helen Chuah, Beverley Oxford and Gerard Oxford in recognition of their loyal and eminent service as a member of the Council and its constituent authority.

Honorary Aldermen Tina Bourne, Nigel Chapman, Helen Chuah, Beverley Oxford and Gerard Oxford offered their thanks to Council.



Council

Item
7

18 October 2023

Report of

Author Rachel Forkin
☎ 282625

Title

Adoption of the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan

Wards affected

Marks Tey and Layer

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan has successfully completed the process of examination, approval at referendum and has now come before the Council to be made (adopted) as part of the Colchester Local Plan.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 That the Council makes (adopts) the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan following its approval at referendum.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 To ensure the Council's planning policies provide a robust basis for decisions on future planning applications in the Borough.
- 3.2 The latest version of Planning Practice Guidance provides that if the majority of those who vote in a referendum are in favour of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, then the Neighbourhood Plan must be 'made' by the Local Planning Authority within 8 weeks of the referendum.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There is no alternative option. Not adopting the Neighbourhood Plan would be contrary to the positive approach to Neighbourhood Plans found in National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. If the majority of

those who vote in a referendum are in favour of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, then the Neighbourhood Plan must be made by the Local Planning Authority.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 In May 2015, Colchester Borough Council designated the Copford with Easthorpe Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan (in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). The plan area includes the whole of Copford with Easthorpe Parish.
- 5.2 During the course of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan Group carried out a number of public meetings, consultation events and surveys.
- 5.3 The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan sets out the planning framework for how Copford with Easthorpe residents and businesses would like the parish to develop over the 15 years up to 2033. The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan contains a vision for the future of Copford with Easthorpe up to 2033, which seeks to conserve and enhance the distinctive nature of the rural community, recognising the challenge of the climate emergency while taking a sustainable view of future development.
- 5.4 Colchester City Council appointed an independent examiner, David Kaiserman, to examine the Neighbourhood Plan. The Examiner's Report was issued in May 2023 and concluded that subject to modifications recommended by the examiner being made to the document, the Neighbourhood Plan would meet the basic conditions set out in legislation and that, as modified, should proceed to Referendum.
- 5.5 The Referendum on the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan was held on 21st September with the following results: 120 votes recorded in favour of the plan and 35 against, or 85% in favour.
- 5.6 The latest version of Planning Practice Guidance provides that if the majority of those who vote in a referendum are in favour of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, then the Neighbourhood Plan must be 'made' by the Local Planning Authority within 8 weeks of the referendum. A Neighbourhood Plan comes into force as part of the statutory Development Plan once it has been approved at referendum.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Local Plan and is available to view by clicking on this link: [Equality Impact Assessments - Colchester City Council](#)

6.2 There are no particular Human Rights implications.

7. Strategic Plan References

7.1 Effective strategic planning supports the Strategic Plan 2023-26, which aims to recognise the distinctive qualities of our rural and city life, our many communities and identities and our culture and heritage. It includes commitments to conserve and enhance our biodiversity; support local areas as they help shape and deliver the services which are most important to them; and ensuring developers apply beautiful and sustainable to all house builds across the city. The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan will contribute towards achieving these objectives.

8. Consultation

8.1 The preparation of the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan was underpinned by extensive public consultation, in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements. The consultation process was documented in a Consultation Statement submitted along with the Neighbourhood Plan document as part of the examination process.

9. Publicity Considerations

9.1 Both Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council and Colchester City Council have publicised the Neighbourhood Plan on their respective websites.

9.2 On adoption, the document will be made available on the Colchester City Council and Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council websites, and stakeholders will be notified, in accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

9.3 Neighbourhood planning is generally seen as a positive activity and any publicity arising should be seen in this light.

10. Financial implications

10.1 Colchester City Council is financially responsible for organising the examination and referendum for Neighbourhood Plans in their areas. The Council can

however reclaim £20,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for all Neighbourhood Plans once a statement has been issued detailing their intention to send the plan to referendum following a successful examination. These payments have been made by Central Government to Local Authorities to reflect the additional financial burdens associated with supporting Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Plan Forums prepare Neighbourhood Plans. The grant will cover the cost of the examination and referendum.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

11.1 None identified.

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 None identified.

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 The adoption of the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan will help ensure that the Council's planning policies are robust and up-to-date and help to reduce the risk of inappropriate development being permitted.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

14.1 In order to support the achievement of sustainable development, the Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that new development will be both sustainable and improve life for the community without prejudicing lives for future generations. The Plan contains a vision to seek to conserve and enhance the distinctive nature of the rural community recognising the challenge of the climate emergency while taking a sustainable and optimistic view of future development.

14.2 A screening opinion, carried out under the Environmental Regulations 2004, was undertaken in August 2022, and concluded that the Neighbourhood plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently confirmed that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required.

Appendices

A – Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan

Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2033

Referendum Draft





Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2033





Contents

1. What is a Neighbourhood Plan?	4
2. Vision for Copford with Easthorpe	4
3. Copford with Easthorpe - The Ongoing Story	5
4. Neighbourhood Plan - Objectives & Policies	6-12
5. Policies	8-12
Appendices	13-34





1. What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- 1.1 The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan provides a Vision for the future of the Villages up to 2033 but reviewed periodically. It contains a number of Policies which must be taken into account by those preparing and submitting planning applications for proposed development in the Parish and those determining planning applications including Colchester City Council and planning inspectors. It will also be used by the Parish Council in preparing consultation responses to planning applications as a consultee during the period of the plan. Alongside the Vision and Objectives, the Policies included in the Neighbourhood Plan have been developed over four years based on the views of those who live and work here, coupled with independent research.
- 1.2 The Plan will be subject to local referendum, to ensure local people have their say, as well as scrutiny by an examiner and Colchester City Council. The adopted Plan will have the same weight as planning policy documents prepared by Colchester City Council. It provides additional details that reflect local circumstances and conditions which cannot feasibly be dealt with by higher level planning authorities. It therefore form part of the Development Plan.
- 1.3 The Development Plan for the area consists of the Colchester Local Plan 2017-2033 (Section 1 adopted in February 2021 and Section 2 adopted in July 2022), the Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014) and the Essex and Southend-On-Sea Waste Local Plan (2017). Neighbourhood Plans, when adopted, also form part of the Development Plan for Colchester. Local Plan Policy SG2 allocates 120 new dwellings in Copford for the Plan period. The Colchester Local Plan (Policy SS4) allocates two sites for housing development over the plan period: land to the East of Queensbury Avenue; and land to the west of Hall Road. These sites will deliver an additional 120 houses by 2033. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate further sites for housing development.
- 1.4 Neighbourhood Plans such as this are made possible by community powers contained within the 2011 Localism Act, which seeks to provide communities with greater powers to shape the place they live in.

2. Vision for Copford with Easthorpe

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to conserve and enhance the distinctive nature of our rural community, recognising the challenge of the climate emergency while taking a sustainable and optimistic view of future development by ensuring:
 - The separate identities and distinctiveness of the villages within the parish boundary (the plan area) are respected
 - The scale of growth and location of new buildings is proportionate to the size of the village and designed to retain the sense of space and community well-being in the villages
 - Building is planned to meet a broad range of local housing needs
 - Opportunities are provided to actively favour ecologically sustainable building, including self-build and

- small developments with a low or zero carbon footprint
- A successful economy which provides local employment, accommodating small businesses and retaining agriculture
- Conservation, biodiversity and green open spaces are at the heart of the plan
- Improved connectivity within the Parish promoting sustainable travel, with footpaths, cycle ways, safe roads, and rail access.
- Improved community amenities

3. Copford with Easthorpe - The Ongoing Story

3.1 The Parish of Copford with Easthorpe comprises three distinct villages, Copford, Easthorpe, and Copford Green, the latter being a designated conservation area. Copford with Easthorpe is a vibrant, modern community, but retaining a largely agricultural landscape. Positioned with direct connections to road, rail and airport infrastructure, the Parish straddles ancient roads, has 45 listed buildings and an eclectic mix of housing. Its varied natural environment, typical of north Essex, reflects rich history, with ancient fields and lines of historic oak trees. Long-established working farms contribute strongly to the rural landscape. This juxtaposition of rural setting and transport connections make the villages appealing yet vulnerable, with an absolute need for careful, sensitive planning.

3.2 The character of modern day Copford with Easthorpe has been shaped since pre-Roman times, the remains of which have been found in places such as Hall Road. The Roman invasion of nearby Colchester in AD 43 changed the direction of our history, reminders of which are evident throughout the parish. The northern extremity of the parish is traversed by London Road, following the course of Roman Stane Street. Easthorpe also lies on an old Roman road. A Roman villa stood north of Copford Church and Hall. Much of Copford Church is built of Roman tile and brick, and there is similar evidence in Easthorpe Church. The parish has an intriguingly named "Roman River" though its name is of uncertain origin.

3.3 Over the centuries and as woodland was cleared, the parish developed its agricultural character, which has remained up to the present day. Until recently, development was limited to a few scattered farmhouses and cottages, a cluster of houses at Copford Green and piecemeal development along London Road during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the 20th century, both sides of London Road and School Road have undergone ribbon development and more recently, there have been further developments of land off London Road and Church Road in Copford, and at Easthorpe.

3.4 Overall, such building has had little impact on the character of the parish, which remains what it has been for centuries – agricultural. By far the greatest part of the parish comprises large, open fields interspersed with woodland and magnificent solitary oak trees. Open countryside and rural walks abound, with wide horizons; extensive, unbroken views and big skies to delight the eye and refresh the spirit. Such is the heart and soul of the parish.





3.5 As nearby Colchester rapidly grows, it is vital to safeguard the special rural character of Copford with Easthorpe. Some new development is necessary and newcomers refresh the vitality of the villages. But such development must respect and enhance the heritage and ongoing story of the parish, for the continuing enrichment of current and future generations.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies

4.1 The Objectives set out below provide a clear view of the priorities, hopes and ambitions of the Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the Community. Following on from these Objectives, the Policies set out what will be supported, what will be done and actions which will, in the interests of the Parish, be discouraged or opposed.

Objective 1 *Parish Identity*

- Ensure that the villages maintain their separate and distinctive rural identity
- Protect and improve the most valued areas of biodiversity and landscape

See policies CE1, CE2, CE3

Objective 2 *Design and Character*

- Ensure that all development maintains and enhances the character of the area, respecting local heritage alongside high quality new architecture

See policies CE3, CE4, CE5 and AECOM Copford Design Guidance and Codes (pages 31-73)

Objective 3 *Housing*

- Favour and promote the use of brownfield sites over greenfield land
- Ensure a mix of well designed, high quality housing that meets local needs.
- Favour small developments, including self-build, with a commitment to low or zero carbon housing

See policy CE4 and AECOM Copford Design Guidance and Codes (pages 54-75)

Objective 4 *Transport and getting around*

- Promote an enhanced, connected network, enabling sustainable travel by public transport, foot and cycle
- Protect and enhance accessibility, linkages and permeability by utilising existing historic tracks, foot paths, roads and green spaces
- Discourage the use of local roads by non-agricultural heavy goods vehicles
- Manage parking provision by considering and influencing provision in each development

See policy CE5 and AECOM Copford Design Guidance and Codes (pages 76-84)

Objective 5 *Infrastructure and Community Use*

To ensure that infrastructure is sufficient for existing and future needs, the plan requires:

- New facilities for all age groups as well as protecting and improving the existing ones
- The protection of reliable, long-term supply of water services and all utilities serving the community

See policies CE4, CE5, CE6

Objective 6 *Economy*

- To encourage local employment, proportionate in scale to the villages
- To enable local job opportunities and provide services for local residents and visitors

Objective 7 *Environment and Climate Emergency*

Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council takes the climate emergency and environmental impact in the Parish very seriously. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is developing a National Framework for the protection and stewardship of the natural environment through positive Environmental Land Management (ELM), which the Neighbourhood Plan needs to recognise and facilitate.

Our objectives are to:

- minimise the generation and emission of greenhouse gases by adopting alternatives to fossil fuels to heat new homes
- provide community owned renewable energy projects
- provide energy efficient lighting, particularly to reduce light pollution
- include measures to control and reduce air, light and noise pollution
- promote the collection, control, conservation and effective use of water, including surface water
- provide facilities to encourage additional recycling, including public and household waste
- promote sustainable transport, favouring cycling, walking and connection to public transport

See policies CE3, CE5, CE7 and AECOM Copford Design Guidance and Codes (pages 87-88).





Policy CE1 Settlement Boundaries and Development:

The Neighbourhood Character Assessment describes the separate character and identities of the three village areas within the Parish, namely Copford, Copford Green and Easthorpe and their respective settings within the rural landscape. Residents value the individuality of these distinct villages and thus wish to ensure that they are not damaged by coalescence either with each other; or with neighbouring parishes; or with any significant new, adjacent developments. Large-scale development in adjoining parishes would directly impact on and significantly diminish the rural character of Copford with Easthorpe. See Aecom Design Guidance and Codes p44 for further detail (hereafter "AECOM").

This Policy protects the Parish by resisting development which may lead to the merging of separate village settlement areas; coalescence with neighbouring parishes; the loss of agricultural land; damage to the rural character of the Parish; and urban sprawl. The Neighbourhood Plan is fully compliant with Habitat Regulation assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The Policy:

New development within the settlement boundary as shown on the map on p23-24 of this plan, will be supported in principle, subject to compliance with other relevant policies of this plan. Land outside the defined settlements will be treated as open countryside, where new development will be restricted to that which is appropriate in a rural location and will therefore be subject to Local Plan Policies ENV1, OV1 and OV2 as appropriate. Development which would tend to result in coalescence of the individual settlements of Copford, Copford Green and Easthorpe, or the parish of Copford with Easthorpe and any adjoining parishes, will not be supported.

Policy CE2a Natural and Ecological Environment, Open Spaces and Views

The policy seeks to protect areas of existing open space, views and the bio-diversity of the natural environment which underpins the character of those places within the landscape.

The idea of a 'view' is an emotive one, often a matter of personal connection. The parish has a varied landscape, blessed with diverse habitats and many views across fields which, in turn, have been shaped by routeways, settlement and human activity for thousands of years, often in very subtle ways which are not immediately obvious. This 'quiet' beauty needs to be acknowledged and should inform high quality development where it is permitted so that the landscape of the parish harmoniously blends new and old.

New development should take every available opportunity to enhance existing open space, views and the environment as well as providing new amenities; and should settle into a blend which represents the periods

through which the parish passes, with attention paid to changing needs alongside the biodiversity and landscape which is the bedrock for the continuing story of the village.

AECOM, in particular SL01, page 35; SL03, pages 44-45; RC01, pages 46-51; and LC, page 54

The Policy:

Proposals for new development should take account of Local Plan policies ENV1 (Environment), ENV3 (Green Infrastructure), DM17 (Retention of Open Space and Recreational Facilities) and DM18 (provision of Public Open Space) as appropriate.

Policy CE2b Essex Coast RAMS Policy

Habitat Regulations Assessments have been completed for Colchester's Section 1 Local Plan and Section 2 Local Plan. Both of these assessments identified that the in-combination effects of the Section 1 and Section 2 Local Plans (including the cumulative effects of the Section 2 allocations), together with neighbouring local planning authorities Local Plans and neighbourhood plans are likely to adversely affect the integrity of European designated nature conservation sites (habitats sites), in particular the Colne Estuary Special Protection Area and the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area (both are protected under the Ramsar international treaty) and also the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation.

In view of that, Colchester City Council is working with eleven other Greater Essex local planning authorities, and Natural England, on the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). The Essex Coast RAMS is a strategic solution to protect the Essex coast from the recreational pressures of a growing population. A RAMS is usually driven by challenges and opportunities arising from planning issues. RAMS generally applies more broadly than at a single designated habitat site, provides strategic scale mitigation and enables the development of a generic approach to evidence collection and use.

Financial contributions will be sought for all residential development, which falls within the zones of influence, towards a package of measures to avoid and mitigate likely significant adverse effects in accordance with policy SP2 of the Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan and policy ENV1 (Environment) of the Section 2 Colchester City Local Plan. This includes development allocated in Neighbourhood Plans within Colchester City. The whole of Colchester City is located within the zone of influence. Details of the zones of influence and the necessary measures are included in the Essex Coast RAMS Strategy Document and Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

In addition to payment of the RAMS tariff, all development sites over 100 dwellings should include provision of well-designed open space/green infrastructure, proportionate to its scale, to avoid likely significant effects from recreational disturbance alone. Such provisions can help minimise any predicted increase in recreational pressure to habitats sites by containing the majority of recreation within and around the development site, away





from habitats sites. New Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG) should include: high-quality, informal, semi-natural areas; a circular dog walking route of 2.7 km; dedicated 'dogs-off-lead' areas; signage/information leaflets to householders to promote these areas for recreation; dog waste bins; and a commitment to the long term maintenance and management of these provisions.

The Policy:

ESSEX COAST RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION STRATEGY (RAMS)

All residential development within the zones of influence of habitats sites will be required to make a financial contribution towards mitigation measures, as detailed in the Essex Coast RAMS, to avoid adverse in-combination recreational disturbance effects on habitats sites.

Policy CE3 Design and Character

This policy requires that all new developments meet the highest standards of design, taking account of sources of best practice.

The Plan is ambitious in encouraging imaginative, high quality development which merges well with the mixed character of the Parish, while not seeking to imitate. This policy expects developers to meet local needs and respond to the challenge of climate emergency, while respecting the character of the Parish and its unique sense of place. Copford design guidance and codes provides clear principles for new developments.

Good design can also enhance affordability. This policy champions a principle that affordable homes will not be compromised to reduce cost.

The AECOM Guidance and Codes commissioned by Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council when seen alongside policies within Colchester Local Plan, will ensure high standards of design and character.

The guidance Protects the positive features of the eclectic characteristics of the local area and its heritage as defined in the Heritage list. It will ensure that the use of materials that are sympathetic to the palette within the parish and maintains this diversity Government Guidance forms a basis for technical standards, set out in:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-housing-standards-nationally-described-space-standard>;

National Design Guide and LTN 1/20

See AECOM design Guidance and Codes p14/ F2, P17/ F7, P30/F41, P26/ F15, P15-28 photos.

The Policy:

Proposals for new development should take account of Local Plan Policies SP7 (Creating Quality Spaces), CC1 (Climate Change), DM9 (Development Density) and DM15 (Design and Amenity) as appropriate. In addition, regard should be had to Copford's Design Guidance and Codes document (Aecom 2021) which should be seen as an essential supporting resource in the implementation of this Neighbourhood Plan

Policy CE4 Housing

The Colchester Local Plan has allocated two sites for development. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate further sites for housing development, being focussed on ensuring adherence to high standards of design and impact on the quality of life within developments.

The Policy:

Proposals for new housing development within the Parish will be supported where other relevant policies in the Colchester Borough Local Plan and in this neighbourhood plan are complied with, including those dealing with sustainability of development and its impact on the natural and built environment (such as ENV1 and DM15). Particular account must be taken of Local Plan policies DM9 (Development Density), DM8 (Affordable Housing) and DM10 (Housing Diversity). Encouragement will be given to housing schemes which enable home working.

Policy CE5 Transport and getting around

Transport policy must increasingly take account of major changes in our way of life as well as the threats facing us into the future. The International Climate Emergency, together with the changes to work – life balance in a post-Covid world will offer significant challenges. To continue in the same way as we have always done in the past is simply not an option.

There are stark differences in access to public transport within the parish. Eastthorpe is isolated from public transport, while Copford Green is a long walk from the only bus route on London Road. This inequality of access to public transport in the Parish means that cars will continue to dominate, thus creating a local strategic need for reduced car dependency and better infrastructure for walking and cycling.

The Policy:

This Neighbourhood Plan supports policies in the Colchester Borough Local Plan to move toward more sustainable patterns of transport, in particular policies SP6B (Infrastructure and Connectivity: Transportation and Travel), ENV3 (Green Infrastructure), DM20 (Promoting Sustainable Transport and changing Travel behaviour), DM21 (Sustainable Access to Development) and DM22 (Parking). In addition and as appropriate to the scale and nature of development, proposals will be required to have regard to relevant sections of the AECOM Copford Design Guidance and Codes document, 2021.





Policy CE6 Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan endorses and adopts all Policies in Colchester Local Plan which address Environment and Ecology, particularly DM25 (Renewable Energy), ENV5 (Pollution and Contaminated Land), and DM15 (Design and Amenity).

The AECOM Copford Design Guidance and Codes pages 71–72 and 87-93 provides further guidance on Street Lighting and Dark Skies.

The Neighbourhood Plan emphasises that Copford with Easthorpe is proud of its rural character and conscious of the adverse impact of unrestricted artificial light at night.

The Policy: Dark Skies

In order to protect the beauty of the night sky, all development should include measures to control light pollution for the better preservation of the countryside, at night and the well-being of resident wildlife.

The History and Landscape of Copford with Easthorpe

The following sections summarise and evaluate the history and landscape features of the Parish. This will help draw a picture of Copford with Easthorpe as places with history and distinct character, so that the Objectives and Policies can be seen in the context of a strong sense of history and place.

Historical Setting of the Parish

Today's civil administrative Parish of Copford with Easthorpe lies five miles to the west of Colchester. It was created in 1949 when the villages of Easthorpe and Copford were united, the area of the latter having been considerably reduced from its former size.

The Parish comprises, to the north and east, Copford which surrounds and includes the distinctive and picturesque nucleus of Copford Green (a conservation area); and, to the south and west, rural Easthorpe.

The name Easthorpe is of eighth century Danish origin, meaning eastern farm or hamlet. The name Copford (Coppanforde in the 10th century) is assumed to derive from "Coppa's Ford", spanning the Roman River where a Grade 2 listed 18th century bridge now stands on the eastern boundary of the Parish.

Much of the Parish goes back to Roman times, though evidence has recently been found of early Iron Age occupation off Hall Road near Keepers Cottage. To the north, London Road is part of Stane Street, an Iron Age trackway which was subsequently made into a major Roman road. To the south, Easthorpe Road may have led westwards from the famous Romano-British settlement at Gosbecks, through Copford and Easthorpe, to join the main Roman road to London. There have been Iron Age, Bronze Age and Roman finds north-west of Copford Hall; in the Hall grounds; and in the adjoining churchyard. A sizeable Roman villa stood on land to the north of Copford Hall. Much of the brick and stone with which both Copford and Easthorpe churches are built is of obvious Roman origin.

Over the centuries, the populations of Copford, Copford Green, and Easthorpe have fluctuated but have always been small, numbering just a few hundred until modern times. In 2019, the population is estimated to be 1900, living in some 680 dwellings of which 69 are in Easthorpe.

In the Middle Ages there were scattered cottages and farms throughout the parish. A number of ancient buildings dating from the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th centuries still survive today (there are 45 listed buildings in the Parish). Little was added until the 19th and 20th centuries: then at various times individual houses were built along School Road (north of Copford Green) and London Road, and sporadically elsewhere. More recently, a larger





estate has been built at Queensberry Avenue off London Road; and some smaller developments in Copford and Easthorpe. But the greatest part of the Parish has seen little development and retains its historic aspect of open fields and agricultural landscape. Many buildings in the Parish back onto or overlook farmland. Most are within a few minutes' walk of the fields and the public footpaths.

Historically agriculture dominated the economy of the Parish and is still a vital element. There are however a number of small commercial and industrial businesses trading principally on the southern side of London Road, with a small number based in Copford Green.

The historic jewel of Copford is the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, which lies next to Copford Hall to the south-east of the Parish. The Norman church dates from about 1125 and is described by Nikolaus Pevsner in his seminal work "The Buildings of England", as "the most remarkable Norman parish church in Essex". The church was built with a tunnel vault roof, which is exceedingly rare in England. Unfortunately, this had been removed by 1390, but the original Norman piers which supported the stone vault still remain. More fortunately, the apsidal arch and the rare semi-circular eastern apse, with a semi-domed vaulted ceiling, remain almost exactly as they were built.

But the church's principal glory is its Romanesque medieval wall-paintings, which date from the time the church was built. Pevsner described them as "by far the most important medieval wall-paintings in Essex", and Simon Jenkins (England's Thousand Best Churches) similarly as "among the best in England". Hidden with lime-wash at the time of the Reformation, the paintings were re-discovered in the nineteenth century. About a third of the original paintings survive, the most important being The Raising of Jairus's Daughter which is of national significance; and the depiction of Christ In Majesty, seated on a Byzantine throne, which gazes down from the eastern semi-circular apse. Some of the paintings still retain examples of the compelling richness of colour with which the whole interior of the Church must have once glowed. After some inexpert repair in the nineteenth century, the paintings were painstakingly conserved in the early 1990s with subsequent periodic maintenance.

The Hall is a striking Grade 2 listed country house, comprising a square red-brick building with stone dressing and ornamentation. Its current facade is Georgian, the result of alterations in the early 1800s. But the majority of the structure dates from 1720, and parts of the interior to the early 1600s: an early seventeenth century mural has been found on an internal timber-framed wall. Some of the outbuildings, including the former farmhouse, close to the north side of the house may date from the sixteenth century or even earlier. The landscaped gardens are attributed to Richard Woods, landscaper of Wivenhoe Park, another significant building, particularly as the subject of a painting by John Constable and now a part of the Essex University estate.

The overall aspect of the Hall, its stables and other outbuildings, and the adjacent Church was described by

Pevsner as “almost the beau ideal of what to a foreigner is an English landscape scene”, an observation which is enhanced today by the addition in the scene of the charming archetypal English Village cricket ground.

At the eastern boundary of the Parish on the London Road, one finds Copford Place, dating from 1698; Brook Cottage and Brewers Cottage, both built in the seventeenth century; and the eighteenth-century Old Mill House (which was the subject of a drawing by John Constable).

Clearance of woodland gave rise to picturesque Copford Green, another gem of the Parish located at the southern end of School Road. Around the Green and in its immediate vicinity are a number of disparate and distinctive houses, including The Pink (formerly Grays, fifteenth century); a block of former almshouses; The Old Post Office; The Trellis House (sixteenth century); Green Farm (seventeenth century); Vineyards (late fifteenth, early sixteenth century); and the popular Alma Pub built in 1857. An attractive 17th century cart lodge stands at the northern end of Copford Green, and beyond it stands the Village Primary School, built in 1851 and recently extended to accommodate growing demand in the Parish and its environs. Mascotts Farm stands at the top of School Road, and was recorded in 1350, with renewal in the late sixteenth century and subsequently.

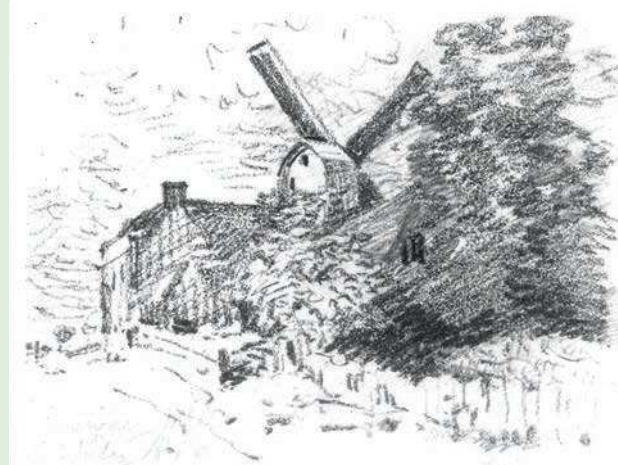
To the east and north of Copford Green lies Copford Plains, known by this name since the mid eighteenth century and famous for oak trees which continue to be a strong part of Copford’s identity.

Easthorpe remains a small rural village of some 872 acres, with a population of just 185 persons. Formerly a separate parish, it united with Copford in 1949. Its long history, including as a probable site of Roman settlement, has been previously referred to. Today, its surviving significant historic buildings are extant evidence of its long past. Easthorpe Hall is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086), although the current house is of fifteenth century origin. Easthorpe Church was built in the early twelfth century (in part using Roman brick and tiles). The two bayed Well Cottage and the timbered framed and plastered St. Mary’s Grange (the former surprisingly large Rectory) date from the fifteenth century. Other significant properties include Badcocks Farm, Little Bircholt Farmhouse and Scotties, originally a moated farmhouse.

The remainder of the housing is a mix of nineteenth century cottages and more recent housing built in the first half of the twentieth century, mostly along Easthorpe Road. A small modern housing development was built in the village centre in the mid 1960s.

To the west of the village centre, where Easthorpe Road joins the A12, there is a Point-to-Point Racecourse. Part of this land was formerly a World War One night landing field, associated with airfields and Zeppelin defences at Stow Maries, Goldhanger, and St. Osyth.

The Church of St Mary, Easthorpe, is built of mixed materials including Roman brick. The nave and west end of the chancel, which originally had an apse, are twelfth century; and the north and south doorways are of the





same period. Originally, the chancel walls were probably decorated with murals: remnants of paintings in the splays of a nave window may be thirteenth century. The apse was destroyed in the thirteenth century, and the chancel was lengthened. In 1910, the church and its fifteenth century south porch were extensively restored.

The Church is ancient: all or part of five of its windows date from the twelfth century, others from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; the font is of thirteenth century origin, as is the double piscina; and the Holy Water stoup set into the south wall by the main door is fourteenth century.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that the Parish of Copford with Easthorpe has a long rural heritage. Despite gradual development over the last 120 years, the overall impact on the historic character of the Parish has been light. It is a valued, unspoiled rural landscape, adjacent to the increasingly dense Western boundary of Colchester, yet distinct from it.

Neighbourhood Character Assessment for Copford with Easthorpe

This should be referenced alongside Colchester Landscape Character Assessment.

The Parish of Copford with Easthorpe, described by the poet Matthew Arnold as “deeply rural” lies within the farmlands of South West Colchester. Its landscape is formed from Boulder Clay, sand and gravel, supporting a mix of small pasture and large arable fields, which are cut through by the gentle slopes of the Roman River valley, and profuse areas of deciduous woodland including a substantial proportion of oak. The landscape and setting of the parish are characterised by an ancient village centre at Copford Green, forming a nucleus which then connects via ribbon residential development along School Road to London Road at the Northern end. London Road follows the line of Roman Stane Street, connecting the parish to Stanway and Colchester to the East, with the A12, Marks Tey and its railway station to the west. Rural Rectory Road connects Copford Green to Easthorpe at the south western edge of the parish.

The Parish of Copford with Easthorpe contains 45 listed buildings and the historic form of the settlement is still readable as connected places which have evolved from pre-Roman to modern times.

The topography of Copford with Easthorpe consists of a broad, low plateau 30-40 m above sea level with the Roman River Valley and Domsey Brook being the main water courses, both of which have flood plains and flood risk areas by them.



Evaluation of distinct areas and features

London Road

London Road is one of three distinct areas in the Parish of Copford with Easthorpe, which, seen together, describe a varied landscape, characterised by distinct origins. London Road follows the line of Roman Stane Street, crossing the Roman River over Stanway Bridge, which occupies the likely site of "Coppa's Ford", which may have given the village its name. The ancient route is bordered by residential and light commercial development, built sporadically over a long period, including 17th century houses e.g. Brook Cottage, Brewers Cottage and Copford Place, with dwellings, business premises and community buildings added through the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, including Mill House, the Quaker Meeting House, Hope Villa, the Old Dairy, houses built on the site of the old windmill and a handsome Georgian lodge, named on the 1876 map as Copford Lodge. The Mill House was the site of a windmill drawn by John Constable but demolished in the 20th century and replaced by detached houses in the 1970s. This eclectic street scene along a long-used route makes a distinct and vital part of the parish.

While the varied built environment along London Road is its visible face, it is the land to the rear on both the north and south sides of London Road which form the fabric of a rich rural and ancient landscape which typifies the quiet beauty and distinct character of Copford. The individually built houses lining the South of London Road collectively include a large green buffer to the rear which borders a substantial arable field between Hall Road, Pits Wood and School Road, forming a central 'Green Lung' in the village. Land to the north of London Road includes grazing and woodland, once part of the farmland attached to Copford Place, forming an important rural boundary with the A12 trunk road. These areas have equal significance as rich habitat for plants, animals and birds, including species which are under pressure elsewhere. The presence of a small trading estate in London Road including light industrial units and a BT Exchange built over the 20th century makes this area of Copford distinct and presents flexible employment and development potential for the parish.

London Road has been a key route; the High Road to London, represented in successive maps including Chapman and Andre (1777). The road can maintain its significance in a re-imagined parish in which connectivity and transport need to be environmentally responsible and responsive to local needs. The road is wider than expected at various points, which would allow this to form a green transit corridor, capable of supporting pedestrian and cycle routes, while enabling future sustainable public transport with the exclusion of non-essential heavy commercial traffic. Such re-development underlines the on-going story and significance of this well-trodden route as part of the parish with the potential to embrace the evolution of human need, while respecting equally the natural world through which it passes.





Hall Road

Ancient Hall Road is a single-track country lane which leads off London Road at the north-eastern periphery of the parish. At its London Road end, the lane is flanked by eight homes built over time including 3 bungalows, a contemporary house and further cottages, the oldest being Keepers Cottage which, although not listed, is a historic, picturesque landmark, dating from the 16th century. Running southward, the lane connects to Copford Hall and Copford Church, then joining historic Aldecar Road and the southern boundary of the parish. The road passes through Pits Wood, another rich and important feature of the parish with its woodland-covered gravel pits and pond, economically important over the centuries and latterly becoming an important recreational amenity. Comprised partly of metalled road, but otherwise a time-worn cart and footway, Hall Road carves and undulates its way through the landscape which drops eastward to the Roman River and rises westward over rolling fieldscape to School Road. Archaeological accounts show the road to have been at least Roman and probably Iron Age in origin. Abundant scattering of Roman brick and tiles provide evidence of at least one settlement and the likelihood of a substantial Roman Villa along the line of Hall Road.

Meadowlands, commonly known as the Queensberry area.

This mature development of 2,3, 4 and 5-bedroom, brick-built houses and bungalows was built between 1986 and 2000s, consisting of Queensberry Avenue, Hedgelands, Foundry Lane, Coppingford End, Westbury Close and Grantley Close. The plots are generous with most homes having double garages, off road parking, with front and rear gardens. All adopted roads have pedestrian pathways and street lighting. Access to the development is via a single entrance road from London Road, leading into Queensberry Avenue. The development is built in an area originally used as small-scale greenhouse and agricultural production, with a number of other small-scale businesses including a foundry, scrap metal merchant and car repair.

Subsequent use of the land for scrap reclamation and in-filled ponds of the old brickworks, altered land heights.

The requirement for soil-based gases to be monitored and mitigated as part of the development process has made this now a stable, safe, and popular residential location.

Just beyond the entrance to Queensberry Avenue is a children's' play area and recreation field owned by Copford with Easthorpe Parish Council and registered as an area of public open space. There is a small, wooded area at the bottom of the recreation field, leading onto privately owned woodland which adjoins the A12. A field-side track and the remains of a pond connect the estate to woodlands which then continue parallel to the A12.

At the far end of Westbury Close there is a shared path which allows pedestrians and cyclists access to London Road. Foundry Lane derives its name from the long-gone brass casting works and now forms access between the London Road, the estate and woodlands beyond. At the Eastern end of the cul-de-sac of Queensberry Avenue, a small 'ransom strip' was originally owned by the developers and is now retained by a sheltered housing concern. Following this strip is a partially tarmacked public footpath (FP1) leading in one direction to London Road and

in the other, to Track 1 which connects the wooded area from the Foundry Lane wood to grazing land between London Road and the A12. Track 1 leads on to the Roman River, passing behind Copford Place (see London Road section).

The wooded areas close around the Queensberry area, Footpath 1 and Track 1, contain numbers of mature trees and shrubs, some over 70 years old, including Oak, Beech, and conifers, though no trees are currently assigned Tree Preservation Orders. The woodland provides habitat for a range of animals and birds, including deer, rabbits, foxes, badgers and green woodpeckers.

School Road

Leading southward from London Road at the western edge of the parish, School Road is the main artery between the London Road, Copford Green and onward to Easthorpe. The road winds down a gentle hill passing on its eastern side, the Village Hall and the footpath into the Eastern side of Pits Wood, then onward past Copford School to Copford Green, forking along Rectory Road to Easthorpe on the right and to the left toward Birch.

The carriageway is of reasonable width, with verges outside front garden boundaries. Most houses throughout its length have countryside views giving an open countryside feel, with hedges and ditches where the road passes arable fields lined by varied cottages, many originally connected to farms.

School Road is characterised by a mix of 20th century housing infilled over decades, including bungalows and larger family houses, many improved and extended. Substantial back gardens add to the open, rural character.

Among the mix of buildings are a few notable old houses which mark the persona of School Road including Mascots House built in 1350, with later additions. Mascots Farm was arable, growing for a period PYO soft and orchard fruits and more recently sugar beet. Allendale Drive and Ashwin Avenue form a development of houses built in 1963, adjoining School Road near its junction with London Road. A recent addition of 4 bungalows and 4 houses at Ford Mews, occupies land backing onto commercial premises in London Road. A small shop, currently a fashion boutique, sits on the corner of Allendale Drive and is the only retail premises in this part of the parish.

Following School Road toward Copford Green and the Village Hall, open fields present far reaching views past the important conservation and amenity site of Pits Wood and beyond. Pits Wood was bought by the Parish Council in 1983. It is a well-used and valued amenity and nature conservation site for local people and visitors, maintained entirely by volunteers. Two recently built houses opposite the Village Hall, blend with other houses and arable fields which add to the distinctive landscape.

Further cottages, a small reservoir and a bee farm make up School Road toward the Green, along with a significant, listed early 19th Century house, Little Gore. The single form entry Copford Primary School, giving the name to





the Road and originally built in 1851, marks a turn in the road with a small green and Oak tree, beyond which the beauty of the ancient barns of Green Farm can be seen. Progressing past the barns, now houses, the landscape merges with the mix of old buildings of Copford Green. As with London Road, again it is the land on either side of School Road toward the east and west which forms the fabric of a rich and ancient landscape, which typifies the quiet beauty and distinct character of the parish.

Copford Green

Copford Green, like many Greens, was created by clearing woodland, houses then clustering around the cleared area. The majority of Copford Green lies within a registered Conservation Area. A number of Public Rights of Way cross the farms and woodlands surrounding the Green. This distinctive part of the parish comprises a pattern of roads including: Copford Green, Church Road, St Michael's Chase, Orchard Close, Aldercar Road & Rectory Road.

Copford Green has a long history of settlement probably dating back to the Roman Occupation. Distinctive, handsome houses compose a quietly beautiful and important village green landscape, including Trellis House, Green Farm House, the Old Post Office and an important medieval house, The Pinks. Searle's Cottages on Copford Green complete the scene, being located on the site of the Copford Workhouse. A cast-iron signpost on the Green emphasises a landscape which embodies slow evolution, characteristic of English villages. The former Rectory in Rectory Road became a private School in 1958 until 1985 when it became the Springfield's Nursing Home. A number of cottages are dispersed along Rectory Road, built from 1740 onwards, adding to the historic rural character of the road connecting Copford with Easthorpe.

Church Road leads from the green to the east, presenting a further mix of ancient and modern which characterises the parish. The separation of the area around the church from houses around the Green may originate from concerns about the spread of plague. The road connects St Michaels Chase, built in 1998 and Orchard Close, developed in the 1960's. Two groups of 1930s estate cottages and additional infill plots lead to the Church and Hall passing Vineyards, an important 16th Century house on the site of the earlier Pakes. The Copford Green area merges with Copford Plains, further extending its distinct character.

Copford Plains

The "Plains" is an arable area east of Copford Green; the highest point marked as only 40m above sea level, so it may have been flooded after the end of the last Ice Age. Copford Plains is signposted from Copford Green and presents a sweeping vista of open farmland interspersed with a number of Oaks, providing a very distinctive rural setting, especially when viewed against open skies. The Plains was originally a wooded area, then subsequently an enclosed area of pasture, known by the current name from the mid 18th century.

Copford Oaks

There are a significant number of large, mature oak trees scattered throughout Copford with Easthorpe, including one outside Copford Rectory which is at least 300 years old. Oak trees were planted in and around the Parish

during the 17th Century as a gesture of support to ensure the national supply of shipbuilding timber for the Royal Navy. The Oak has been adopted as a symbol for the local Copford Primary School. These majestic trees add to the visual landscape and provide essential habitat for diverse species of wildlife.

Copford Hall Wood

Copford Hall Wood adds to the diverse, rich landscape of the parish. The wood was managed in the 18th Century as part of three wooded areas of Plains Wood, Potash Wood and Churchfield Wood, with much of the area around Copford Hall being heavily wooded before this time. Copford Hall Wood was originally six acres of oak and alder in the 17th Century, and is now a managed woodland of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees with some vestiges of the original woodland.

Aldercar Road, Fountain Lane and Boarded Barn Road

To the south east of the Parish neighbouring Birch and Heckfordbridge lie the winding lanes of Aldercar Road, Fountain Lane and Boarded Barn Road. These narrow rural roads bisect gently rolling farmland which is interspersed with wooded copses and criss-crossed by public footpaths.

Picturesque Aldercar Road links Church Road with Fountain Lane, extending from the Church, Copford Hall and cricket ground towards the Parish of Birch. Its name may reveal Norse origins, referring to a marsh with Alder trees. Aldercar Road and Fountain Lane are single carriageways with passing places, bordered on either side by high banks with farms and woodland rising on either side. Boarded Barn Road heads west towards Easthorpe through more level, open farmland which is straighter and has ditches to each side.

Housing is sparse, with individual farmhouses or cottages and a cluster of more modern properties around the western junction with Boarded Barn Road as Copford links to Easthorpe. Three houses of particular note; Hill Farm, Baskets and Boarded Barn Farmhouse add distinct features of this part of the parish. Far-reaching views of rolling farmland dotted with oak trees and wooded copses complete the landscape.

Aldercar woodland has diverse flora, including a large Alder coppice and rare plants such as Golden Saxifrage which are scarce in Essex, making this streamside wood of significant interest.

Copford Green to Easthorpe

A journey from Copford Green to Easthorpe starts in Rectory Road and transforms into Easthorpe Road about 2/3rds along the way. Mainly flat, with rising fields growing cereal crops, the fieldscape is interspersed with a mix of houses including large Victorian farmhouses, cottages, bungalows and a wooden barn-style house being added in the Mulberry Green section of the road. Seen as a whole, the combination of farmland and housing have over time, sympathetically evolved together in a harmonious and natural layout which has a feeling of space.

Rectory Road is a popular amenity route, well-used by joggers, cyclists and walkers. This timeless road is criss-crossed by popular footpaths and bridleways connecting the area to Birch and Copford.





Easthorpe

Easthorpe is a small, rural village of some 872 acres and a population of 185, with 8th Century Danish origins. Formerly a separate parish, it amalgamated with Copford in 1949. The historic landscape has visible signs of Romano-British development with Roman bricks found in its church and a main road which connects to the Roman route to London.

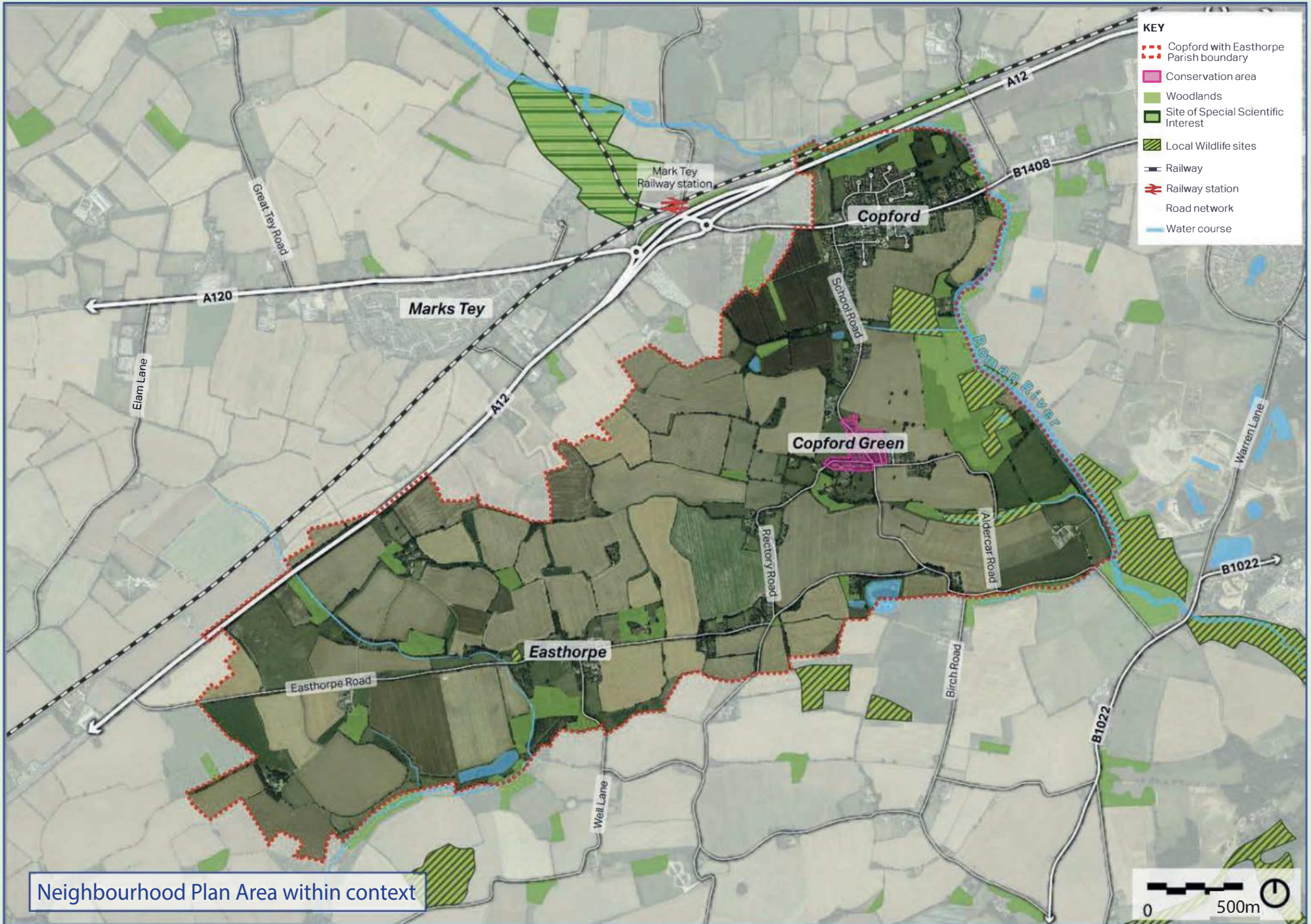
Easthorpe is between 30 and 40m above sea level, mostly composed of alluvial soil and fertile boulder clay. The area was originally heavily wooded and despite clearance over the centuries, a significant amount of woodland and planted forestry remains a feature of much of this area. Domsey Brook Pasture, the flood plain to Domsey Brook, is a central feature of the village and contains vulnerable plants named in the Essex Red Data List, including Common Meadowrue and Common Sedge.

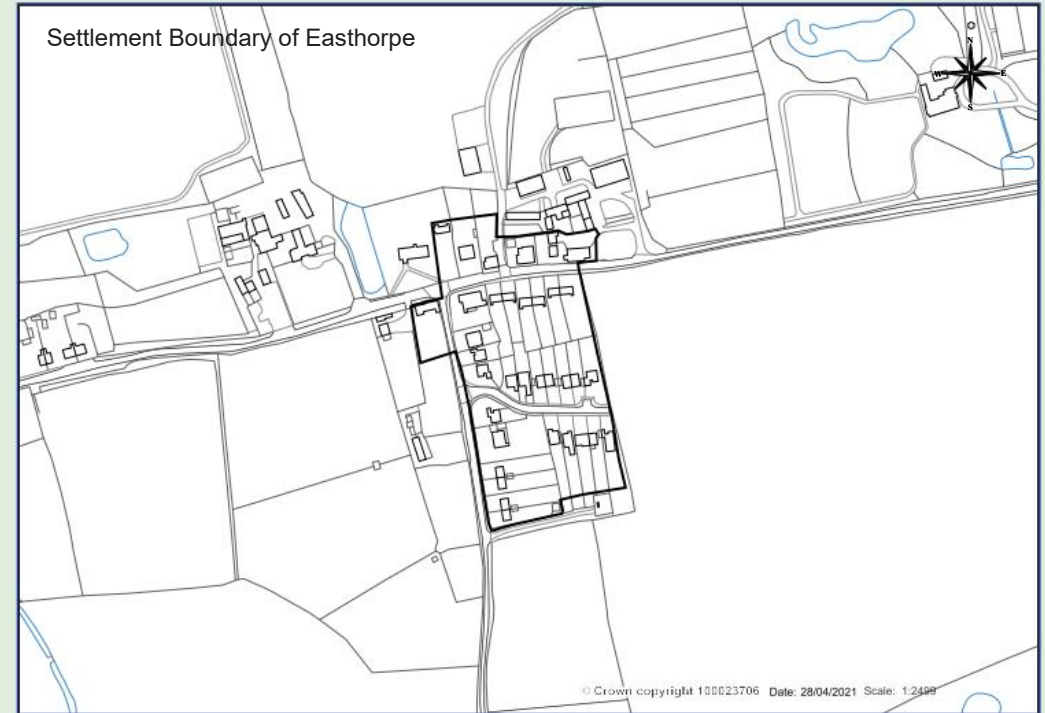
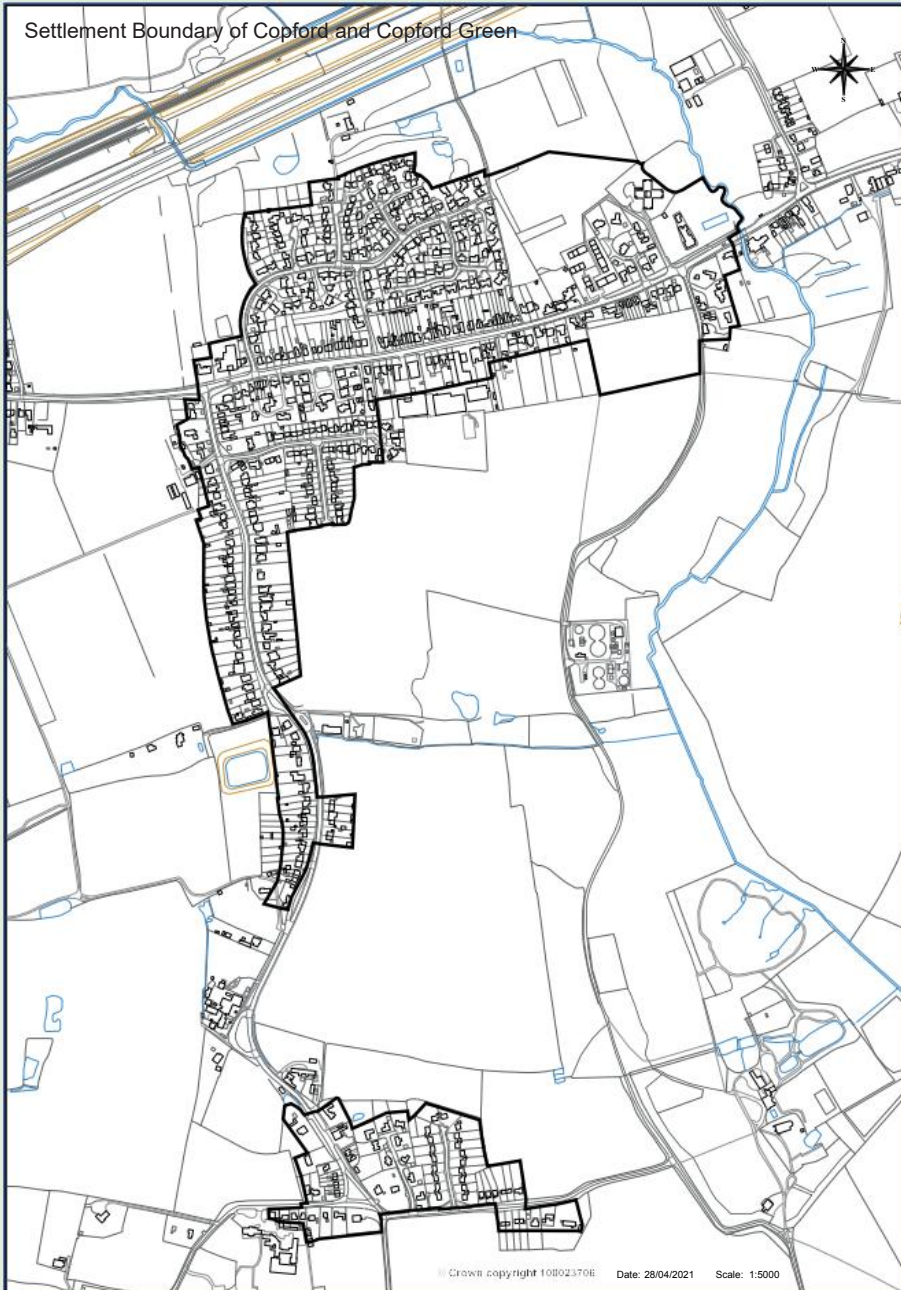
Easthorpe is deeply rural, having a built environment which has evolved over centuries to include significant historic houses and an ancient church. Roadside banks of native flowers create a pleasant aspect which adds to the overall landscape of the parish, though direct access through the village to the A12 encourages fast moving traffic which impinges on its rural identity.

Amenities in Easthorpe are limited, though the picturesque sparseness contributes to the landscape and identity of the village. There are few street lights, except in the centre of the village, a small church hall adjacent to Easthorpe church, and a single post box.

The rustic nature of Easthorpe is framed by large expanses of open farmland off the Easthorpe Road, most of which is now used to grow cereal crops. These fields contribute to the broad, open panoramas which make up the character of this part of the parish.

There are significant areas of mixed natural woodland and planted forestry, providing barriers against soil erosion, an important habitat for wildlife and managed sports shooting.





Map Source: Colchester City Council

Copford

Alma Public House, Copford Green – TL92782268

grade 2 mid 19th century red brick house under a slate roof. Modern single storey extension.

Barn Fronting Road, Boarded Barn Road – TL92772194

grade 2 17th century weatherboard barn, with 5 bays and gabled midstrey

Barn to north west of Trellis House – TL92722278

17th century timber frame and weather boarded barn with 6 bays

Barn (Shire Barn) to north west of Trellis Cottage and Trellis House – TL92712277

Grade 2 – formerly a 17th century cattle shed timber framed and weatherboarded now a house known

Boarded Barn Farmhouse, Boarded Barn Road – TL92752198

grade 2 17th century plastered timber framed house under a slate roof. Site originally moated.

Boathouse at Copford Hall – TL935228

mid to late 18th century summer house/boat house on edge of lake

Brewers Cottage, 35 London Road – TL93222400

a 17th century timber framed and rendered house with modern extensions to side and rear

Brook Cottage, 1 London Road – TL93412408

17th century timber frame house with brick skin, with 18th century addition

Bywater Cottage, Rectory Road Copford – TL92242216

grade 2 pair of 18th century cottages with early 19th century alterations. Painted brick with slate roofs

Cart Lodge, Copford Green – TL927227

grade 2 17th century open timber frame with a thatched roof. Hay loft above

Church of St Michael and All Angels, Aldercar Road – TL93482270

Grade 1 listed C12 with C13 and C14 alterations, walls of rubble with Roman brick under a plain tiled roof.

Mid C12 wall paintings heavily restored in C19. Timber framed and weatherboarded belfry

Copford Hall – TL934227

grade 2 – house rebuilt c 1760 and altered in the 19th century. Grounds designed by Richard Woods

Copford Green Post Office – TL927226

grade 2 early 19th century timber framed and weather boarded house with modern extensions

Copford Place, London Road – TL933241

grade 2 timber frame house built c 1700 with brick external skin of gault brick with later extensions.

Little Gore, 118 and 120 School Road – TL92712305

a pair of early 19th century houses, grade 2 listed with mid to late 19th century addition and a modern extension



The Alma, School Road, Copford



Cart Lodge, School Road, Copford



Copford Church, Aldercar Road, Copford



Brewers Cottage, London Road, Copford



Brook Cottage, London Road, Copford



Little Gore, School Road, Copford



Old Mill House, London Road, Copford



Pink Cottage, School Road, Copford



Springfields, Rectory Road, Copford



Stanway Bridge, London Road, Copford



Trellis House, School Road, Copford



Vineyards, Church Road, Copford

Mulberry Green Farmhouse, Rectory Road – TL92212220

grade 2 – early 19th century painted brick house with late 19th and early 20th century rear additions.

Old Mill House, London Road – TL93122400

a grade 2 listed red brick house, with attic rooms under a plain tiled roof.

Mascotts, School Road – TL92552380

grade 2 – elements 15th C, main 16th, Extended in early 19th and 20th century alterations

Pantiles, Rectory Road – TL92252228

grade 2 an early 19th century house of gault brick under a slate roof

Pink Cottage, Copford Green – TL927226

grade 2 16th century timber framed house under a thatched roof and with a modern rear extension. Formerly two cottages

Shrub House, London Road – TL93162402

grade 2 listed brick and timber framed house with substantial 21st century extensions

Springfields, Rectory Road – TL925225

grade 2 early 19th century three storey house with a 20th century extensions. Formerly Copford Rectory, Copford College, and now Springfield Nursing Home.

Stables Cottage to North of Copford Hall – TL93462277

grade 2 18th century, originally of timber frame and weather boarded with front altered and given brick facing

Stable to North of Copford Place, London Road – TL933241

grade 2 18th century brick stable with plain tiled roof

Stanway Bridge, London Road, Copford – TL93222399

grade 2 – small 18th century single span red brick bridge

Trellis House and Trellis Cottage, Copford Green – TL92782272

grade 2 - 17th century timber framed house with 19th century extensions and alterations.

Upper Hill Farmhouse, Fountains Lane, Copford – TL93882223

grade 2 - 15th century hall house with cross wings

Vineyards, Church Road, Copford – TL93152254

grade 2 16th century timber framed house under tiled roof. In 19th century was divided into 5 cottages but now a single house

Windmill Hotel (later Kings Nightclub now The Manor House), London Road – TL92772386

early 19th century three storied house with cellars. Grade 2 listed

Easthorpe

Badcocks Farmhouse (formerly listed as Great Badcocks), Easthorpe Road – TL90042108

grade listed 2 - a 15th century timber framed hallhouse, with gabled crosswings, hall rebuilt 16th century, long wall jetty wall with carved and moulded bressumer dated 1585. House previously moated

Bell House, Easthorpe Road – TL91302194

grade 2 – late 16th century house with 18th century addition

Cart Lodge to south of barn at Easthorpe Hall, Easthorpe Road – TL91152419

Grade 2 listed – timber frame weatherboarded, under a thatch roof with a hay loft

Cart Lodge to south west of barn at Easthorpe Hall, Easthorpe Road – TL91132475

grade 2 early 19th century timber framed cart lodge, weatherboarded under a thatch roof

Church of St Mary, Easthorpe Road – TL91242150

grade 1 listed church built with mixed rubble and septaria with Roman brick dressings under tiled roofs.

Dating from early 12th century. 13th century wall paintings on south east window splays

Easthorpe Green Farmhouse – TL90292198

grade 2 - 17th century timber framed house, with part brick with rendered and weatherboarded elevations under tiled roofs

Easthorpe Hall, Easthorpe Road – TL91162151

a grade 2 listed 15th century rendered timber framed house under tiled roofs, hall with gabled crosswings, 17th century extension at rear

Flispes, London Road – TL90312201

a grade 2 listed building, circa 1580, with 18 and 19th century weather boarding under a thatched roof.

House without a Name (previous Public House), Easthorpe Road – TL91282146

a grade 2 listed building with a painted brick front, tiled roofs extended in 19th and 20th century

Little Badcocks Farmhouse, Easthorpe Road – TL91362501

a grade 2 listed timber framed 17th century house with grey brick cladding in 19th century

St Mary's Grange, Easthorpe Road – TL91612160

Grade 2 early 15 century house, extended late 15th century and late 16th century, altered 19th C.*

Timber Framed Barn, Easthorpe Hall, Easthorpe Road – TL91142150

grade 2 16th century timber framed and aisled barn with gable midstrey

Well Cottage, Easthorpe Road – TL91252145

a heavily restored 15th century timber frame house, with exposed beams, jettied to north and east,



Bell House, Easthorpe Road, Easthorpe



Cart Lodge, Easthorpe Road, Easthorpe



Easthorpe Church, Easthorpe Road, Easthorpe



St. Mary's Grange, Easthorpe Road, Easthorpe



House with no name, Easthorpe Road, Easthorpe



Well Cottage, Easthorpe Road, Easthorpe

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Introduction

The Habitats Regulations Assessment of land use plans relates to Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Sites. SPAs are sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), more commonly known as the Birds Directive. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. SACs are classified in accordance with EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Article 3 of this Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive. These sites are known as the Natura 2000 network and are referred to in the NPPF as Habitats sites. Ramsar Sites are designated under the International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention, Iran 1971 and amended by the Paris Protocol 1992). Although Ramsar Sites are not protected in law by the Birds and Habitats Directives as a matter of policy government has decreed that unless otherwise specified procedures relating to SPAs and SACs will also apply to Ramsar Sites.

An appropriate assessment is a decision by the competent authority, in this case Colchester Borough Council, as to whether a proposed plan or project can be determined as not having a significant adverse effect on the integrity of a European site. The integrity of a site is defined as the “coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified” (Circular 06/05 paragraph 20). A fundamental element of the appropriate assessment is that the precautionary principle must be applied. In the Waddenzee judgment (ECJ Case C-127/02) the European Court of Justice ruled that a plan or project may be authorised

only if a competent authority has made certain that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

The following European sites are within Colchester Borough, or in the case of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries, adjacent to the borough:

Sites Designated under the Birds Directive:

- The Colne Estuary SPA (Mid Essex Coast Phase 2);
- Abberton Reservoir SPA;
- Blackwater Estuary SPA (Mid Essex Coast Phase 4);
- Dengie Estuary SPA (Mid Essex Coast Phase 1); and
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA.

Sites designated under the Habitats Directive:

- Essex Estuaries SAC.

Sites designated under the Ramsar Convention:

- Colne Estuary;
- Abberton Reservoir;
- Blackwater Estuary;
- Dengie Estuary and
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries.

Pathways of impact and likely significant effects

Recreational disturbance (physical site disturbance and disturbance to birds)

Physical site disturbance

Physical disturbance relates to actual damage or degradation of habitat from direct human activities. Examples in the context of this assessment relate to damage to habitat from walking (trampling of vegetation) and the abrasion of intertidal or freshwater habitat from boat wash/anchoring. This issue is relevant to the habitats for which Habitats sites are designated (e.g. damage to saltmarsh communities on the Essex Estuaries SAC) or habitat which supports designated species (e.g. sand and gravel shores on the Colne Estuary

SPA). Recreational users can damage habitat and cause severe disturbance to wildlife, particularly nesting birds in summer and feeding and roosting waterfowl in winter.

Disturbance to birds

Many human activities have the effect of degrading parts of estuarine ecosystems through for example, over-exploitation of their natural resources and excessive discharge of wastes and pollution. However, over a third of the population nationally live in towns and cities around estuaries and so careful consideration is needed to protect these environmentally important sites and manage the increasing recreation impacts associated with a growing population.

The primary source of non-physical disturbance relates to an increase in the number of visitors to Habitats sites due to increases in housing, an associated increase in demand for recreation and tourism facilities near to these sites.

The appropriate assessment of Colchester Borough's Section 2 Local Plan concluded that there are no likely significant effects arising from recreational disturbance at Abberton Reservoir and so Abberton Reservoir can be screened out of further assessment in terms of recreational disturbance.

Zones of Influence (Zol) have been set as part of the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). These are based on the best available evidence and have been endorsed by Natural England. The whole of Colchester Borough lies within the Zol for various Essex Habitats sites. This means that all residential development in Colchester is likely to significantly affect the integrity of Habitats sites in-combination.

Air quality

Air pollution is most likely to affect Habitats sites where plant, soil and water habitats are the qualifying features, but some qualifying animal species may also be affected, either directly or indirectly, by deterioration in habitat as a result of air pollution. Deposition of pollutants to the ground and vegetation can alter the characteristics of the soil, affecting the pH and nitrogen levels that can then affect plant health, productivity and species composition.

In terms of vehicular traffic, nitrogen oxides (NO_x, i.e. NO and NO₂) are considered to be the key pollutants. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NO_x can cause eutrophication of soils and water.

Central government has developed a plan to improve air quality by reducing nitrogen dioxide levels in the UK (July 2017). The plan includes a range of measures that could be taken to mitigate the impact of action to improve air quality.

Colchester's Section 2 Local Plan includes a policy, which states that proposals will be supported that will not result in an unacceptable risk to public health, the environment or general amenity due to the potential of air pollution. Proposals for developments within designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) or where development within a nearby locality may impact on an AQMA are required, first, to be located in such a way as to reduce emissions overall, and secondly to reduce the direct impacts of those developments. Applicants will be required to prepare and submit a relevant assessment and permission will only be granted where the Council is satisfied that after selection of appropriate mitigation the development will not have an unacceptable significant impact on air quality, health and well-being.

Appropriate safeguards exist in a higher tier plan and air quality can therefore be screened out of further assessment.

Water quality

A growth in population resulting from an increase in housing will result in increased demands on the wastewater treatment system and may necessitate increased discharge consents and possibly even the establishment of new wastewater treatment works. Population expansion has the potential to increase nutrient loading to the Habitats sites, with the potential for impacts on site integrity through eutrophication.

The Water Cycle Study (December 2016), which is a key evidence base document for the Colchester Local Plan and the HRA, found that only the Langham (East) Water Recycling Centre (WRC), which discharges into the River Stour, does not have sufficient capacity to accommodate additional

wastewater from the proposed increase in development within the WRC catchment. All other WRCs serving the Borough have sufficient capacity to accommodate additional wastewater/sewage from the proposed increase in development.

Water quality can therefore be screened out of further assessment.

Water resources

Unsustainable rates of abstraction reduce water flows and may result in lower flow velocities, reduced depths and reduced flow continuity that may alter ecological status. This, combined with higher concentrations of nutrients such as phosphate and nitrate may lead to algal blooms. More frequent periods of summer low rainfall are expected under current climate change prediction scenarios which may increase the environmental impact of flow problems. The largest demand for water comes from the public water supply and in order to reduce abstraction, abstractors have been tasked to use water more efficiently.

The Water Cycle Study concluded that, allowing for the planned resource management of Anglia Water Services Essex Resource Zone, Colchester Borough will have adequate water supply to cater for growth over the plan period.

Water resources can therefore be screened out of further assessment.

Urbanisation (fly tipping and predation)

The impact of urbanisation is closely linked to recreational pressure. Both result from an increase in population close to European sites. Fly tipping can adversely affect Habitats sites through the introduction of invasive species. It is becoming a greater problem in rural areas.

Predation of ground nesting birds by cats is potentially a significant issue for Habitats sites. This is particularly relevant where new housing allocations are provided within 0.5 - 1 km of a Habitats site, which is the distance recommended by the RSPB as being the typical range of influence for domestic cats. This issue in Colchester Borough relates to the predation of ground nesting species such as Little Tern and Ringed Plover.

Urbanisation can be screened out of further assessment as is approximately 10km from the Colne Estuary SPA/ Ramsar Fly tipping is an issue 400 metres from a Habitats site and predation is an issue up to 1km from a Habitats site.

Loss of offsite functional habitat

Fields in close proximity to Habitats sites often provide offsite functional habitat. The loss of these sites, whilst not part of the Habitats site, can significantly affect the qualifying species of the SPA by reducing the extent of their habitat.

Whilst habitats located further from Habitats sites may be used by qualifying species these sites are unlikely to support numbers that would lead to a likely significant effect. Owing to the location of Copford with Easthorpe 10 km distances from urbanisation section, above. Loss of offsite functional habitat can be screened out of further assessment.

Summary

Recreational disturbance is the only issue that has not been screened out of further assessment in the consideration of pathways of impact and likely significant effects. The next sections consider likely significant effects from recreational disturbance alone and in-combination.

In reality the Neighbourhood Plan policies will combine to deliver the overall scale, location and form of development in the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan.

Likely significant effects alone

The LPA has concluded that as the neighbourhood plan does not allocate land for housing the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan alone will not adversely affect the integrity of any Habitats sites.

Likely significant effects in-combination

The screening matrix of all planning policies within the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan shows that:

Colchester Borough Council has carried out an appropriate assessment of

the Section 2 Local Plan. This includes a detailed in-combination assessment, which considers the in-combination effects of the Section 2 Local Plan with other neighbourhood plans and other Local Plan's across Essex, on Habitats sites. A Statement of Common Ground signed by Colchester Borough Council and Natural England, confirms that Natural England agrees with the conclusion that Section 2 will not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats sites either alone or in-combination.

The appropriate assessment of the Section 2 Local Plan recommended the implementation of an Essex Recreational disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS), including the Colne and Blackwater Estuaries. Reference to the RAMS is included in the Section 2 Local Plan. The RAMS Strategy Document, which includes a Technical Report and Mitigation Report, has been prepared and Colchester Borough Council is implementing the RAMS. A draft Supplementary Planning Document is expected to be published for consultation in January 2020.

The neighbourhood plan includes the LPAs standard RAMS policy for neighbourhood plans, which has been agreed by Natural England.

The LPA has concluded that as the neighbourhood plan does not allocate land for housing the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan alone and in-combination will not adversely affect the integrity of any Habitats sites. The basic condition set out in Schedule 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 that the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 is therefore met.

Policy	Likely significant effects?	Screened out? Yes/No
	As a policy it will not lead directly to the physical development of land and therefore will not adversely affect any European sites.	Yes
	As a policy it will not lead directly to the physical development of land and therefore will not adversely affect any European sites. Protecting open spaces will lead to positive effects through the provision of accessible alternative open spaces.	Yes
	The retention of community facilities will not result in any significant effects on European sites as they already exist. Where new facilities are to be delivered these will be at accessible locations to maximise benefits for the local community.	Yes

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report

1. Introduction

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes requires an environmental assessment to be made of certain plans or programmes. The objective of SEA, as defined in the Government's guidance on strategic environmental assessment, is 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development' (Article 1). The SEA Directive has been transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Planning Practice Guidance - Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal: Sustainability appraisal requirements for neighbourhood plans (2014) states that 'in some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects, it may fall within the scope of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and so require a strategic environmental assessment.'

2. The Screening Process

Colchester Borough Council, as the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA), have been approached to provide a screening opinion on whether the proposed neighbourhood plan will require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. This document sets out that screening opinion based on the scope of, and detail contained within the Copford with Easthorpe plan.

Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA

Environmental Regulations Paragraph	SEA Requirement	Comments
2.	Is the plan: (a) subject to preparation or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level; or (b) prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government; and, in either case, (c) required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes, the plan is subject to preparation and adoption at local level. There are legislative and regulatory provisions in place for Neighbourhood Plans.
5(2)	Is the plan (a) prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, and does it (b) sets the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC(9)?	Yes, the plan is prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC (urban development projects).
4(c)	Is the plan or programme likely to have significant environmental effects?	No.
6	Does the plan (a) determine the use of a small area at local level; or (b) is a minor modification to a plan or programme of the description set out in either of those paragraphs?	(a) Yes, the plan determines the use of a small area of land at local level. (b) The plan is a minor modification to the Colchester Borough Adopted Core Strategy and Site Allocations and emerging Local Plan.
5(3)	Has it been determined that the plan requires an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	No (see HRA screening opinion).
The local planning authority has concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required. The criteria specified in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 has been taken into account in reaching this conclusion. Under regulation 9(2)(b) the consultation bodies must be consulted on this conclusion prior to the local planning authority making a formal determination. The consultation bodies were consulted and comments from Natural England and Historic England have been considered. This statement records the local planning authority's determination under regulation 9(1) that a SEA is not required.		

3. Significance of effects on the environment

To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, its potential scope should be assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or Annex II of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects, the local planning authority should consult the statutory consultation bodies. Where the local planning authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination. Where a statement of reasons is provided in respect of a neighbourhood plan a copy of the statement should be provided to the qualifying body in order that the statement can be made available to the independent examiner; for example by including it in the basic conditions statement.

Where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment a strategic environmental assessment must be carried out.

The following table explores the potential scope of the Neighbourhood Plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

4. Screening Outcome

The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan determines the use of a small area at local level and is effectively a minor modification to the Colchester Borough Local Plan. The plan will result in positive, long term effects. However, none of these effects will be significant. Therefore, the LPA has concluded that the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan will not require an assessment of the significant environmental effects of the plan under the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment Regulations based on the content of the Copford with Easthorpe draft plan (18th June 2021).

Table 2: Schedule 1 Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

SEA Requirement	Comments
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -	
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The plan sets the framework for development proposals within the neighbourhood plan area. Neighbourhood Plans must be in conformity with the development plan, for Colchester in this case, and so whilst there will be differences between policies (as without which there is no point in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan) the Neighbourhood Plan will effectively be a minor modification to the development plan. The plan includes policies that are specific to the neighbourhood plan area.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The plan will form part of the development plan, however strategic policies of the Borough Council's adopted plans take priority.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The plan will promote sustainable development through addressing objectives on the following topics: water, climate emissions, sustainable travel, energy efficiency, light pollution.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	There are no environmental problems relevant to this plan. The qualifying body has identified problems, which this plan seeks to address.
e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	This plan has no relevance to the implementation of Community legislation.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:	
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The cumulative effect of this plan and the Borough's local plan will result in positive effects.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	There are no transboundary effects; this plan applies to the neighbourhood plan area only.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The plan poses no risk to human health.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	Only the neighbourhood plan area will be affected by this plan.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	Copford with Easthorpe is not an environmentally vulnerable area. There are no nationally designated nature conservation sites. There are 42 buildings listed for architectural merit, including some listed, but none of these is likely to be affected by the proposals in the plan.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The landscape surrounding the neighbourhood plan area is not recognised at national or international level.

Asset of Community Value

The Alma Public House - this is currently the only registered asset

The following are currently being considered and may be applied for:

Cart lodge at Green Farm

Copford Church

Easthorpe Church

Copford Village Hall

Barn opposite the Cart Lodge

Non heritage sites of historic value

Village signs at Copford and Easthorpe

Wrought iron fingerposts and seat at Copford Green

Victorian red letter box c 1881 in garden wall of 43 London Road

Local views, fieldscapes and sites which have high local value and contribute to the nature of the Parish

Copford green

Copford Green Pond by the Cart Lodge

Copford Cricket Club pitch its location and looking towards Copford Hall

Pits Wood and surrounding open aspect views

Keepers Wood

Ponds behind Copford School, Wrigleys Pond by Easthorpe church

Domsey Brook

Field scapes opposite the School to Copford Woods and down to Roman River

Copford Plains viewed from Church Road

Hall Road and Aldercar Road-a protected lane

Footpaths throughout Copford and Easthorpe

St Marys' Grange setting and views

Open field and woodlands viewed from Easthorpe Road towards Birch and

Maldon Road

Copford Oaks –throughout the Parish

Residents involved in the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan

Core group:

Nigel & Renia Sagar

Andrew Waters

Charles Molle

Peter O'Donnell

Steve Braund - Parish Councillor

Linda Gossett - Parish Councillor

Graham Barney - Parish Councillor

Judy Moland - Parish Councillor

Other residents who have been involved:

Helen Hogan

Steve Hord

James French

Neil Gilbranch

Peter Symkiss

Lisa Jenner

Michael & Sarah Monk

David Knock

Piers Comonte

Mr & Mrs Moore

Kevin Topple



*To respond to this document or ask questions contact:
copfordeasthorpen@btinternet.com or copfordwitheasthorpepc@gmail.com*



Council

Item
8

18 October 2023

Report of	Author Rachel Forkin 282625
Title	Adoption of the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023)
Wards affected	Mile End; Lexden and Braiswick; Highwoods

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2032 was adopted in December 2016. The Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan group, on behalf of Myland Community Council, have undertaken a review of the original Neighbourhood Plan for the area. Following receipt of the Examiner's Report, which recommends that Colchester City Council should make the Review Plan with the modifications specified in the report, the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023) has now come before the Council to be made (adopted) as part of the Colchester Local Plan.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 That the Council makes (adopts) the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023) following receipt of the Examiner's Report.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 To ensure the Council's planning policies provide a robust basis for decisions on future planning applications.
- 3.2 The latest version of Planning Practice Guidance provides that a Local Planning Authority will be required to make the modified plan within 5 weeks following receipt of the examiner's report, or such later date as agreed in writing between the local planning authority and the qualifying body.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There is no alternative option. Not adopting the Neighbourhood Plan would be contrary to the positive approach to Neighbourhood Plans found in National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. If the Examiner's report recommends that the local planning authority should make the draft plan with the modifications specified in the report, the authority must make the draft plan with those modifications.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The current adopted Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan covers the area designated by Colchester Borough Council as the Neighbourhood Plan Area in December 2016 for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan (in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012).
- 5.2 The Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan passed its referendum with an 87.4% vote in favour on a turnout of 11.76% on 15th September 2016. The Plan was then adopted (made) on 8th December 2016. The Qualifying Body has undertaken a review to propose amendments to the existing policies.
- 5.3 The Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Planning Group have engaged with the local community on the content and applicability of the made Plan to inform its intended review. Since the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan in 2016, national planning policy has been updated and the Colchester Local Plan has been adopted. These are the principal reasons why it was deemed appropriate to review the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.4 Following the submission of the draft Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023) to the Council, the Plan was published for 6 weeks between 27 March 2023 and 15 May 2023 inviting representations, in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Regulation 16.
- 5.5 The latest version of Planning Practice Guidance sets out the 3 types of modification which can be made to a neighbourhood plan. The process will depend on the degree of change which the modification involves. If the qualifying body wish to make modifications that do materially affect the policies in the plan, there are required to follow guidance on updating a neighbourhood plan with the following additional requirements:
- The qualifying body must state whether they believe that the modifications are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the plan and give reasons.

- The local planning authority must (when sending the modified plan to the independent examiner) state whether they believe that the modifications are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the plan and give reasons.
- The qualifying body must decide whether to proceed with the examination after the examiner has decided whether the modifications proposed change the nature of the plan.

5.5 Colchester City Council appointed an independent examiner, Mr Andrew Seaman to examine the Neighbourhood Plan in July 2023. As the proposal was submitted as a modification to the made Neighbourhood Plan, the Examiner undertook an initial determination whether the modifications contained in the Review Plan are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the Neighbourhood Development Plan which the Review Plan would replace. The Examiner set out their determination, in a procedural letter of 2 August 2023, that the modifications proposed in the draft Plan are material but do not change the nature of the made Plan and as a consequence, if the recommendation in the Examiner's Report is that the draft Plan be made (with or without examiner modifications), a referendum stage will not be a necessary part of the statutory process.

5.6 The Examiner's Report, which was issued on 13 September 2023, concluded that subject to modifications recommended by the examiner being made to the document, the Myland and Braiswick Review Neighbourhood Plan met the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and that Colchester City Council should make the Review Plan with the modifications set out in the report. The report also stated that non material changes, including suggestions and corrections set out in the representations, can be incorporated into the final version of the Plan by Myland Community Council and Colchester City Council if deemed appropriate.

5.7 The latest version of Planning Practice Guidance provides that where material modifications do not change the nature of the plan (and the examiner finds that the proposal meets the basic conditions, or would with further modifications, a referendum is not required. A local planning authority will be required to make the modified plan within 5 weeks following receipt of the examiner's report, or such later date as agreed in writing between the local planning authority and the qualifying body.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Local Plan and is available to view by clicking on this link: [Equality Impact Assessments - Colchester City Council](#)

6.2 There are no particular Human Rights implications.

7. Strategic Plan References

7.1 Effective strategic planning supports the Strategic Plan 2023-26, which aims to recognise the distinctive qualities of our rural and city life, our many communities and identities and our culture and heritage. It includes commitments to conserve and enhance our biodiversity; support local areas as they help shape and deliver the services which are most important to them; and ensuring developers apply beautiful and sustainable to all house builds across the city. The Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023) will contribute towards achieving these objectives.

8. Consultation

8.1 The preparation of the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan was underpinned by extensive public consultation in accordance with the required regulations. The consultation process was documented in a Consultation Statement submitted along with the Neighbourhood Plan document as part of the examination process.

9. Publicity Considerations

9.1 Both Myland Community Council and Colchester City Council have publicised the Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023) on their respective websites.

9.2 On adoption, the document will be made available on the Colchester City Council and Myland Community Council websites, and stakeholders will be notified, in accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

9.3 Neighbourhood planning is generally seen as a positive activity and any publicity arising should be seen in this light.

10. Financial implications

10.1 Colchester City Council is financially responsible for organising the examination and referendums where required for Neighbourhood Plans in their areas. The Council can however reclaim £20,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for all new Neighbourhood Plans once a statement has been issued detailing their intention to send the plan to referendum following a successful examination. In the case of a modified / review plan which has not

required a referendum, there is no additional grant available to the Council. The Council is able to cover the cost of the Examination from the grants received for neighbourhood planning across the City area. These payments have been made by Central Government to Local Authorities to reflect the additional financial burdens associated with supporting Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Plan Forums prepare Neighbourhood Plans. The previous grant monies will cover the cost of the examination.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

11.1 None identified.

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 None identified.

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 The adoption of the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023) will help ensure that the Council's planning policies are robust and up-to-date and help to reduce the risk of inappropriate development being permitted.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

14.1 In order to support the achievement of sustainable development, the Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that new development will be both sustainable and improve life for the community without prejudicing lives for future generations. The Plan contains a vision to seek to conserve and enhance the distinctive nature of the rural community recognising the challenge of the climate emergency while taking a sustainable and optimistic view of future development.

14.2 A screening opinion, carried out under the Environmental Regulations 2004, was undertaken in January 2023, and concluded that the Neighbourhood plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently confirmed that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required.

Appendices

A – Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (Reviewed 2022-2023)



**MYLAND AND BRAISWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: 2016—2032 REVIEWED
2022-23
FINAL VERSION
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE**



FORWARD

This is the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan).

As part of the 2011 Localism Act the Government introduced the idea of neighbourhood plans. Through such plans greater local level influence is possible over how communities are shaped. Our Plan has extra powers under planning law. It was voted for through local referendum and Colchester City Council (CCC) must use it in determining planning applications. It forms part of the statutory development plan for the area, sitting alongside CCC's Local Plan.

Because north Colchester was under intense development pressure Myland Community Council (MCC) and Braiswick Residents Association (BRA) joined forces to produce the Plan. The Plan focuses on the protection and enhancement of the community's quality of life within an ongoing passage of housing and other development. The Plan Area is shown at Appendix C.

The Plan was built upon the *Myland Design Statement*, the *Myland Parish Plan* (both adopted by CCC as Supplementary Planning Documents) and various community engagement exercises concluding with a survey questionnaire to every household in the Plan Area. The Plan was adopted by CCC in December 2016 with a review point in 2021. It covered the CCC Local Plan period of 2017 – 2032. The Plan was reviewed annually by the Plan's Working Group to assess developments against the adopted policies and reported to MCC's Full Council.

The formal review has been completed and updated with community comments from a health and well-being survey carried out in 2020 and another all-household survey in January/February 2022. It was important to re-engage with residents as many will have been new to the Plan Area.

This revised Plan is therefore based on evidenced community feedback and has been interpreted and developed by the Review Steering Group. The Review mirrors the Myland Design Statement (MDS) aim to "manage change, not prevent it". As stated above the MDS was adopted as a planning guidance note in 2010. Where appropriate recommendations from the MDS have been integrated into the Plan's policies and rationale to bring added refinement

CONTENTS

	Pages
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3-4
CONTEXT AND SCOPE	5-6
VISION AND OBJECTIVES	7
POLICIES	8
1. HOUSING	9-11
2. EDUCATION	12
3. EMPLOYMENT	13
4. ENVIRONMENT	14-16
5. SOCIAL AMENITY	17-18
6. SPORT AND LEISURE	19-20
7. TRANSPORT AND ROADS	21-22
8. THE PUBLIC REALM	23
APPENDIX A : MYLAND DESIGN STATEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	24-26
APPENDIX B: CONSIDERATION OF COLCHESTER LOCAL PLAN POLICIES	27-28
APPENDIX C: MYLAND AND BRAISWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA	29
APPENDIX D: MYLAND AND BRAISWICK GREEN NETWORK	30-35

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A Brief History of Myland and Braiswick

A History of the County of Essex: Volume 9 tells us that Mile End probably took its name from its original settlement a mile north of Colchester town. It had become a separate parish by 1254, when the original church was recorded, and presumably a settlement already existed. By the late 13th century it was sometimes called **Myland**. In the middle-ages settlement seems to have been scattered over the unwooded areas of the parish including Tubswick, recorded from 1295, and **Braiswick** which seems to have originated as a medieval freehold.



Much of Mile End was woodland and heath but much of that woodland had been cleared by the end of the 11th century. All of the parish was subject to royal forest jurisdiction. Kingswood included all of the parish except probably the part west of Nayland Road. The north part became the estate called Kingswood and Kingswood Heath, later known as the Severalls and Mile End Heath. Part of the south became the land of Mile End Manor. West of Nayland Road lay part of the ancient wood of Cestrewald or Chesterwell in the north; in the south was part of the Braiswick Estate.

There were potters living in the north-west of the parish in the 12th and 13th century. In the 17th century southern Mile End was used for fortified

encampments and cannon sites for Oliver Cromwell's troops during the Siege of Colchester. Nursery gardens became important in the 19th century. In 1801 the population was recorded at 299 and there were 44 houses. By 1901 the population increased to 1,373 with 300 houses largely influenced by the coming of the railway. Employment centred mostly on arable farming on cleared land. In February 1921 Colchester's first council houses were built in Defoe Crescent. The nineteen hundreds saw gradual expansion, but the parish retained much of its rural feel. However, growth began to increase significantly late in the century with a population of around 6,000 by 1999.

Myland and Braiswick Today

The release of NHS and other land and the bisecting of Myland by the Northern Approach Road (NAR) to enable development of Cuckoo Farm has urbanised this once semi-rural part of Colchester Borough.

Since 1999 Myland Parish has undergone substantial change. This has accelerated in recent years to growth on an unprecedented scale. Based on recent and known future housing growth and applying the CCC formula of 2.33 persons per dwelling we can expect there to be a population well in excess of 21,000

by 2032. This is highly plausible with 2021 data revealing a population in excess of 17,000 with the Chesterwell development only about one third complete in 2022 and further residential dwellings planned at the Northern Gateway site. Such growth brings with it many changes that challenge sustainability of the area. From a semi-rural environment centred round Mile End Village and limited development in Braiswick the area will be a patchwork of diverse neighbourhoods. This transformation generates a number of issues that challenge economic, social and environmental sustainability.

This Plan therefore looks holistically across the area. Adjacent communities and settlements are also subject to areas of development and need to be considered when identifying the impacts of growth and the consequent needs of the community as a whole. Virtually all of the Plan Area is subject to agreed masterplans with the Northern Gateway developments the latest and expected to start in 2022. In Braiswick a number of small development areas were expected to be considered under an overarching masterplan but application approval at St Botolphs Farm has undermined this.



CONTEXT AND SCOPE

The Plan cannot be used to challenge developments already present in CCC’s existing Local Plan, it will have to “conform generally to the strategic policies and proposals of the Local Plan” and care has been taken to do this.

The Government’s *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) seeks to ensure the delivery of “sustainable developments”. By that, the NPPF means we enhance quality of life for our residents now and for future generations. This Plan is therefore concerned with working alongside the development of housing and other sites within Myland and Braiswick to establish policies to address identified shortfalls in economic, social and environmental conditions within and surrounding our neighbourhoods.

The Plan establishes a number of policies which are defined in the following pages. They fall within the subject areas covered in earlier and recent community engagement surveys and are mirrored in our objectives:

- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Environment
- Social Amenity
- Sport and Leisure
- Transport
- The Public Realm

The full range of survey material taken into account consists of:

- June 2000: An all-households survey carried out on the creation of Myland Parish Council.
- March 2007-10: Local events in response to CCC’s Core Strategy Policies, culminating in a Masterplan for Myland.
- 2009-10: Local events and questionnaires on the *Myland Design Statement* and *Myland Parish Plan*.
- March 2010: Local events and communications on the response to the Chesterwell development masterplan proposals.
- October 2012: A local community engagement exercise covering Myland and run by Essex University on behalf of CCC.
- May 2013: Myland Development Committee public meetings.
- 2013-14: All household survey for the Plan with related and other communications via the Mylander magazine and MCC website.

Post Initial Adoption Reviews and Surveys To-date

Since the Plan was ‘made’ in 2016 there has been continuous attention to developments within the Plan Area against the Plans objectives and policies. A Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has existed throughout the period 2016 to date and is expected to continue.

- 2017-2021 Working Group annual reviews of policies against developments in Myland and Braiswick. These found a consistent high level of policies being followed and remaining relevant.
- Autumn 2020 on-line Health and Well-being Survey. This survey was carried out in recognition of the attention that needs to be given to health and well-being and to seek areas of community life that may require action on behalf of MCC. The survey results were again considered as input to the Plan Review.
- 2021 – 2022 articles in the Mylander magazine. These articles reminded residents of the role and importance of the Plan. They pre-warned and then advised residents on the upcoming all-household survey
- January – February 2022 all-households on-line or hardcopy survey. This was followed by publication of a summary of the survey results which found overwhelming support for the existing Plan objectives and policies.
- August—September 2022 Statutory Consultation on-line to households, prescribed and other appropriate organisations and representatives. Results supported the Plan, for example the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board welcomed the degree of attention given to health and well-being. National Highways and CCC provided a number of helpful refinements to existing policies or rationale.
- The Plan Review period has also seen MCC declare 'A Climate Emergency', adopt a related policy document of environmental issues and develop and adopt a Myland and Braiswick Green Network document. The latter identifies existing, planned and possible recreational and natural green spaces and linkages.
- The Forward to this Plan refers to the Myland Design Statement (MDS). During the Plan Review process the original MDS recommendations were all reviewed for ongoing relevance and were found in most cases to remain pertinent and supporting of the Plan's policies.

The history of the Plan's scope as shown above evidences a continuous period of assessment and community and other consultation events since the creation of Myland Community (previously Parish) Council. The full list of consultation processes undertaken for the initial Plan and for this Review is repeated in the 'Consultation Statement' that accompanies the Plan Review Submission. The Consultation Statement also includes:

- February 2019 example of a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Annual Review Report.
- The summary and full analysis of the January/February 2022 all-household survey results.
- A summary of the Statutory Consultation.

The Plan and this Review of it run alongside Colchester's Development Plan. The latter contains the Colchester Local Plan, (Section1 adopted in February 2021 and Section 2 adopted in July 2022). The Development Plan also comprises the Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014) and the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan (2017). Neighbourhood Plans when adopted also form part of the Development Plan for Colchester.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

Collectively the objectives provide a vision for the future:

The neighbourhoods of Myland and Braiswick will continue to be desirable places to live. Quality of life will be supported by suitable housing, the necessary education provision and local employment opportunities. Health and well-being will be gained through access to social amenity including sport and leisure, green open space, a network of public rights of way and community venues. Ours will be a cohesive community that enjoys the benefits flowing from connectivity across neighbourhood areas.

Objectives

The responses to surveys recently carried out provide sound evidence to support the continued applicability of the original objectives.

Housing growth will provide a mix of high quality, well-designed dwellings that meet the different needs across the community.

Education provision for all ages and requirements will be in-step with housing growth.

Local **employment** opportunities will be created to support housing growth, minimise related travel burdens and boost the local economy.

High-speed broadband will be encouraged as a standard infrastructure feature in all new business and housing developments.

Sensitive development design will help to meet the challenge of climate change and protect and enhance the natural and historic **environment**.

Social amenity will be provided by developments that bring facilities and services to support social cohesion, health and well-being and sense of place.

Housing growth will be matched by health and well-being opportunities through **sport and leisure** provision including the protection and provision of open space.

Developments will be supported by **transport** strategies that provide effective and environmentally friendly travel solutions.

To bring together across the **Public Realm** the themes within this Plan that achieve the Vision that Myland and Braiswick will be desirable places to live with quality of life supported by health and wellbeing across cohesive communities.

OBJECTIVES And POLICIES

1. HOUSING Objective

Our objective for housing is that growth will provide a mix of high-quality, well-designed dwellings that meet the different needs across the community.

Policies

The following policies are applied:

HOU1 – Housing in Myland and Braiswick will have a variety of choices, design and living styles that meet the needs of residents, including forms of sheltered housing for the elderly. There will be respect for the scale and character of the existing street scenes and environment by the sympathetic use of appropriate brick and tile construction such that they blend with the existing design and skyline. This includes the use of predominantly pitched roofs, sufficient off-street parking, and housing extensions that are also sympathetic to the surrounding street scene and design materials. Developers should achieve the highest quality of design commensurate with current national and local design guidance. This is to address the challenge of climate change and improve sustainability by, for example, electric charging points and alternative fuel sources such as air-source heat pumps that do not unacceptably impact on existing neighbouring residents. Similarly, extensions to existing properties should enhance and be sympathetic to the character of surrounding properties.

HOU2 – New housing will need to respect the setting of any nearby local heritage assets, designated and otherwise, including, but not restricted to:

- Grade II listed Administration Block, Severalls Hospital
- Grade II listed park and gardens, Severalls Hospital
- Grade II listed Braiswick Farm House, Braiswick Lane, Myland
- Braiswick Farmouse, Braiswick
- Church Farm House, Myland
- War memorials, Nayland Road and Severalls
- Myland Primary School, Mill Road
- Churches, Mile End Road, Mill Road and Nayland Road

This to include excavated sites for the preservation of artifacts.

HOU3 – Sites for housing proposals in Braiswick should be comprehensively planned as set in Colchester Local Plan Policy NC3 to respect the scale and character of the existing street scenes and environment, and should protect existing public open spaces and bowling green.

Rationale and Evidence

The main housing development programmes in Myland and Braiswick are encompassed by the CCC Local Plan. Planning permission exists on identified development sites. This Plan does not therefore seek to promote further significant housing development.

MCC’s 2013-14 all-households survey found that a clear majority of residents (63%) had no current intention to move. There is no indication from house sales or anecdotal comment that this has

changed. It remains a reasonable conclusion therefore to identify a need for housing that meets peoples' changing circumstances whether that means expansion or down-sizing.

Indeed, this aligns with NPPF Paragraph 8 b) Social Objective which is there to “support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations...”. Further support stemmed from *Colchester Local Plan, Housing Diversity, paragraph 7.48* which stated that “Colchester is expected to record a 60.6% increase in its population of those age 65 and over”.

The January/February 2022 all-dwelling survey results for this Plan Review identified that residents overwhelmingly regard it as important housing design meets the challenge of climate change and environmental concerns.



The design of developments, e.g., street scenes, variation of house styles and association of green spaces such as at Chesterwell and Kingswood Heath are being well received.

Outline planning documents for the Northern Gateway residential housing areas are also promising. Chesterwell provides some dwellings for those needing easier access and the Northern Gateway will provide up to 300 older people's homes within a Healthcare Campus and a 75-bed Care Home plus another 350 residential dwellings. This reflects the recommendation at page 21 of the MDS concerning provision of 'sheltered housing'. Kingswood Heath (Severalls) has a number of retained buildings and features. The Administration building and some other dwellings, the 'airing rooms', the park features and the Hospital War Memorial are good examples. Chesterwell development does respect Braiswick Farmhouse. Other listed examples are currently safe. Climate change features are examined in all new applications by the MCC Planning and Highways Committee.

Our policy HOU1 includes the need to “respect the scale and character of the existing street scene and environment”. The possibility of small development pockets in Braiswick (see Colchester Local Plan Policy NC3) was intended by CCC to be subject to an overarching development plan for Braiswick. Part of this area has received planning permission in isolation through appeal. It is even more important therefore that the remaining part of the allocation in the Colchester Local Plan should be considered collectively. Access to and between those sites should not be subject to 'breaking through' of the existing street scene or environment. This is to ensure that any developments of the remaining part of

the allocation are of a design, density and character befitting the surrounding neighbourhood and its infrastructure. The Plan policies encapsulate the recommendations made at pages 14, 15 and 17 of the Myland Design Statement (MDS) as shown at Appendix A of this Plan.

Relevant Colchester Local Plan Housing Policies and Guidance

DM10 – Housing Diversity - “The Local Planning Authority will seek to secure a range of housing types and tenures on developments across the Borough in order to create inclusive and sustainable communities. Housing developments should provide a mix of housing types to suit a range of different households...”

NC3 – North Colchester – Land at Braiswick: “...development will be supported within the area on land identified on the policies map, which must be comprehensively planned...”

2. EDUCATION

Objective

Our objective is that education will be in-step with housing growth.

Policies

Local education provision across the spectrum of needs is recognised as key to quality of life and raises the following policy.

EDU1 – CCC as the Local Planning Authority will give due regard and support infrastructure requirements for, as a minimum, early years, primary and secondary education needs for Myland and Braiswick. Such needs, including provision of safe and accessible walking/cycling routes will be identified and confirmed at the time of development application.

Rationale and Evidence

The on-going development of Myland and Braiswick brings a changing demographic with many more young families residing in the Plan Area bringing demands on all aspects of education.

The *Myland Parish Plan* expressed a vision for the future “that local children will not need to travel or be



driven across Colchester to go to school” and “There will be enough local school places for children from the same family to attend the same school”. It is clear from MCC’s January/February 2022 survey that this aspiration remains important to

families. Whilst all local primary schools are highly regarded, respondents are highly critical of the late provision of the Chesterwell Secondary School and have concerns over future proofing school places in the continuous development era. Ensuring that educational needs are met at the right location at the right time is key. MCC should continue to: engage with Education services on north Colchester future proofing; seek new community centres provision of nursery/adult education opportunities; review safe routes and school parking through its Planning & Highways Committee.

Relevant Colchester Local Plan Education Policies and Guidance

CCC Policy DM3 Education Provision – “The Local Planning Authority will respond positively to appropriate and well-designed applications regarding the creation of new school and education facilities. As expressed in the NPPF, the Local Planning Authority will use a presumption in favour of the development of schools and educational uses. The Local Planning Authority will engage in pre-application discussions with promoters to develop a collaborative approach to suitable applications.”

NPPF Paragraph 95 states: “It is important that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement ...”

3. EMPLOYMENT

Objective

Our objective for employment is that local opportunities will be created that support housing growth and minimise related travel burdens and boost the local economy.

Policies

EMP1 – The adjacent North Colchester Strategic Employment Zone effectively delivers the local employment opportunities to support housing growth in the area commensurate with Colchester Local Plan Policy NC1 – North Colchester and Severalls Strategic Economic, Area with supplementary additions to employment through local retail outlets in new developments.

EMP2 – The provision of a broad range of business unit sizes including appropriately sized workshops for start-up and grow-on businesses, office accommodation for short-term hire and business incubation units will be encouraged to facilitate new start-ups and help growing businesses to remain in north Colchester.

EMP3 – High-speed broadband will be encouraged as a standard infrastructure feature in all new business and housing developments to promote both formal and home working environments.

Rational and Evidence

It is recognised that employment and the opportunity to find local work feature strongly in people’s health and well-being and hence their quality of life. A feature that emerged during research for both the *Myland Design Statement* and the *Myland Parish Plan*, and replicated in the original Plan survey was a requirement to help reduce commuter travel need and time and to boost local business enterprise. The January/February 2022 survey respondents clearly see it as important that local employment opportunities are created alongside housing development. They are seen as coming through retail and leisure provision plus provision of business/office units which will enable start-up and grow-on business opportunities. The Northern Gateway developments are cited as opportunity providers. There is considerable crossover with responses under social amenity. Good transport links are required. The Plan policies reflect recommendations made at page 27 of the MDS (see Appendix A).

Developments at Chesterwell and Kingswood Heath bring employment in retail and education and the Northern Gateway development areas will bring a range of opportunities in retail, entertainment and small business sites. Business unit accommodation provision exists in Chesterwell, Kingswood Heath and Northern Gateway sites.

Relevant Colchester Local Plan Employment Policies

CCC Policy NC1: “North Colchester and Severalls Strategic Economic Area states, “All land and premises within the ... Area, including the areas known as the Northern Gateway and the Severalls and Colchester Business Park will be safeguarded for the identified uses ... all proposes ...will be required to provide good public transport, pedestrian and cycle links ensuring good connectivity...” See also Social Amenity for details of Northern Gateway provision.

4. ENVIRONMENT Objective

Our objective is that sensitive development design will help meet the challenge of climate change and protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.

Policies

The importance of these policies is reflected below.

ENV1 – Development design will maximise opportunities for the creation, restoration, enhancement, expansion and connectivity of green infrastructure within and between development sites. All major developments should seek to include elements of green infrastructure and ecological networks, such as but not limited to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), allotments, street trees, green roofs, recreational areas, areas of new and existing natural habitat, green corridors through the sites and waterbodies. Specific attention should be given to:

- The protection of mature trees, shrubs, historical hedgerows and important features that define the local landscape character, with such landscape and biodiversity enhancements designed into new developments.
- Specified areas of green space within the Chesterwell development will be delivered and will be provisioned as wildlife areas with effective connecting green corridors, such as native species woodland in sound attenuation areas, flower meadows and balancing lakes suitable to support aquatic related wildlife. This will be in accordance with the Colchester North Green Infrastructure Strategy and Ecological Design Scheme.
- The Severalls Phase 2 development will retain existing parkland features to a significant degree as shown in the masterplan and not result in harm to the character, appearance or significance of the registered park and garden.
- Now that Colchester Rugby Club has been relocated a significant proportion (not less than 4.5 hectares) of the current sports field will be retained as local green space in accordance with proposals agreed with CCC as part of the Northern Gateway stake holder consultation. MCC will seek to secure this key portion of the existing Mill Road sports field as designated local green space, in line with NPPF paragraphs 98 - 102, or as a ‘village green’.
- MCC and BRA will urge relevant bodies to set aside unused green space adjacent to the New Braiswick School for local green space in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 98 -102

ENV2 – In partnership with CCC and other relevant parties, MCC will explore the opportunity for the Fords Lane sports field and its extension, agreed as part of the Chesterwell development, to be reconfigured to provide recreational space adjacent to the proposed community centre.

ENV3 – Drainage for new developments should be based on the principles of sustainable drainage as outlined in the Essex County Council SuDS Guide. Wherever possible this should be designed using the ‘above ground’ drainage features to help ensure robust treatment to improve quality of water entering into local water bodies. The system should also promote wildlife habitats and green and blue corridors running through new development.

ENV4 – Highwoods Country Park is a valuable and important asset. Planning applications must ensure the protection and enhancement of the Park’s diverse biodiversity habitats.

ENV5 – The Myland and Braiswick Green Network adopted by MCC in 2021 will be protected to avoid unjustified loss of the identified green spaces and maintain connectivity between those green spaces and where possible seek further enhancements to the Network through development opportunities. See Appendix D for supporting narrative and template map.

ENV6— Development proposals that make a positive contribution towards protecting and improving the local environment and biodiversity within the Plan area and in all of its activities will be supported in principle, for example hedgerow retention and associated biodiversity buffer zones to act as green corridors, the planting of insect and bird attracting plants and shrubs.

Rationale and Evidence

These policies are fully compatible with and capture MDS recommendations at page 23 of that document, see Appendix A. The local environment in respect of green open space and natural features registered strongly in all community engagement exercises in regard to what residents’ value most about Myland and Braiswick. In particular, High Woods Country Park is highly regarded. This has continued with the MCC 2020 Health and Well-Being Survey and the 2022 all-household Plan survey. It is widely acknowledged that the value of green space has risen significantly across the national population due



to Covid 19. The *Myland Design Statement* already stated “...

important features that define the local landscape character should be protected” and the *Myland Parish Plan* vision was that “development on protected or unallocated green spaces will have been kept to a minimum with

the retention of existing hedges, mature trees, footpaths and bridleways. Natural green areas will be provided as a refuge for wildlife.”

Inevitably urbanisation through the release of land has brought with it significant loss of green open space together with its integral wildlife habitats. Similarly registered park land at Severalls is severely diminished. Efforts to contain the loss of such key assets and to see the provision of adequate green space featured strongly in the original Plan survey. Over 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed on the need for provision of green space (97%), the protection of historic and natural features (94%) and the protection of varied local wildlife (93%).

Important documents at that time endorsed these requirements. Page 28 of Colchester’s *Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report* clearly stated “All future developments will need to take account of current cultural and heritage assets as well as continuing to protect and enhance them. One key consideration will be the preservation of countryside areas and strategic green gaps between them.” This was not just a local requirement. Page 2 of the document *Planning for a healthy environment – good practice guide for green infrastructure and biodiversity. July 2012* more robustly claimed, “Maintaining

and restoring the natural environment will play a fundamental role in sustaining our collective future”. We may say that recent international conferences on climate change reinforce that statement. MCC has now adopted a policy document on environmental issues and declared ‘A Climate Emergency’. New Policy ENV6 above reflects the aims set out in that document.

As well as the loss of habitat referred to above, increased development can lead to a change in the natural drainage of a site. If not carefully managed this can lead to increased flood risk both within the area and further downstream. The inclusion of sustainable drainage systems as part of new development can help to minimise the run-off from a new site as well as improve water quality. The use of above ground drainage features such as swales, retention ponds, bio-retention areas and wetland areas help to ensure that areas of green and blue space are maintained within the development.

For the reason stated above a *Myland and Braiswick Green Network* has been compiled, documented and adopted by MCC. **This is shown in full at Appendix D.** It contains existing and planned recreational and natural green spaces, hedgerow retention, green and other connection routes including connections to greenspaces and corridors outside the Plan Area, including identifying where the Colchester Orbital Route crosses the Plan Area, hence the new policy ENV5. It forms a template against which existing and proposed elements can be reviewed. The Network is in harmony with the NPPF Section 15 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment. Paragraphs 174 (a), (b) and (d) apply as do habitat and biodiversity protection paragraph 179 (a) and (b) and paragraph 180 (a), (c) and (d).

Mile End Recreation Ground at Fords Lane and Mill Road Recreation Ground are protected by the Fields in Trust—Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields which champion and support our parks and green spaces by protecting them for people to enjoy in perpetuity.

Relevant Colchester Local Plan Environment Policies

Policy ENV1: Environment. “The Local Planning Authority will conserve and enhance Colchester’s natural and historic environment, countryside and coastline. The Local Planning Authority will safeguard the Borough’s biodiversity, geology, history and archaeology which help define the landscape character of the Borough, through the protection and enhancement of sites of international, national, regional and local importance.”

Policy ENV3: Green Infrastructure. “The Local Planning Authority will aim to protect, enhance and deliver a comprehensive green infrastructure network comprising strategic green links between rural hinterlands, urban Colchester, river corridors and open spaces across the Borough...”

The Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) applies to the plan area Policy ENV1, particularly Part B, of the Colchester Local Plan applies. Attention is drawn to the development plan requirements which indicate a need for residential development within the zone of influence of habitats sites to make a financial contribution towards mitigation measures, as detailed in the Essex Coast RAMS 2018-2038, and adopted Supplementary Planning Document, to avoid the adverse in-combination effects of increased recreational disturbance to the Essex coast habitats sites.

5. SOCIAL AMENITY Objective

Our objective is that social amenity will be provided by developments that bring facilities and services to support social cohesion, health and well-being and sense of place.

Policies

Given the above and other recognised guidance/standard references to the importance of social amenity to sustainable communities it is essential that the following policies are applied so that new developments deliver usable and accessible community facilities to support local residents.

SAM1 – MCC and BRA will actively work with CCC and developers to ensure delivery as planned for the agreed community centres and services on the Chesterwell, Severalls Phase 2 and Northern Gateway developments: and actively encourage the provision of further community facilities, in addition to those community centres, by working with developers and CCC as development (whether new or already planned) continues. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Post Office and/or Bank
- Local Market
- Coffee Shop (s)
- Activity Venues
- Library Facilities
- GP Surgeries and other healthcare services

SAM2— Opportunities will be taken in relation to land use proposals to identify suitable sites for the installation of electric vehicle charging points available to the public.

Rationale and Evidence

Survey respondents in 2013-14 and again in 2022 are very clear that it is important for developments to bring facilities and services to support social cohesion, health and well-being and sense of place. MCC will support the suitable and sustainable provision of healthcare services across the NP Area. Key to these is the provision of dedicated Community Centres. In this context, ‘dedicated’ means buildings and facilities that are primarily designated for the use of the community as a whole. While shared services, such as the availability of school facilities at certain times, are useful as a supplement to dedicated community centres—and MCC will always seek to encourage this approach—they are by no means a substitute for them. Added to those listed above are convenience stores, pub/wine bar, dentist. Residents are seeking a “different local shopping experience” e.g., dentist, community centres, coffee shops, post offices, local markets. Such needs are identified in the MDS recommendations at pages 21 and 27 at Appendix A.

Related liaison dialogues between MCC and developers have been in place for a number of years and continue to seek such provision as developments mature. All the SAM1 Policy list are included in the dialogues, some as recently as Feb ’22. Kingswood Heath (Severalls) Community Centre has reached its trigger point but Chesterwell’s has not. A community facility at the old rugby ground has been approved

on behalf of Highwoods Ward. Retail units such as convenience stores will exist at Chesterwell and Kingswood Heath neighbourhood hubs. The Northern Gateway developments will provide further opportunities. MCC will liaise formally on all community centre provision and operation. MCC now has a health and well-being working group and a Lead Councillor to liaise with health officials. There is also engagement with residents via events with support services. MCC's Lead Cllr, Committee and Working Group structure address the above.

Relevant Colchester Local Plan Social Amenity Policies

Policy DM2: Community Facilities – “New developments will be required to provide or contribute towards the provision of community facilities including education, to meet the needs of new and expanded communities and mitigate impacts on existing communities, which will be secured by Section 106 contributions or CIL/equivalent infrastructure levy.

Policy DM15: Design and Amenity – “All development, including new build, extensions alterations, must be designed to a high standard, positively respond to its context, achieve good standards of amenity, and demonstrate social, economic and environmental sustainability.”



6. SPORT AND LEISURE Objective

Our objective in this area is that housing growth will be matched by health and well-being opportunities through sport and leisure provision.

Policies

The following policies are focused more specifically on access to sport and leisure and should be seen as complementary to other policies with a health and well-being focus.

SPL1 – In harmony with active lifestyles afforded by greenspace provision MCC and BRA will encourage developers and CBC to enable the provision of sport and leisure facilities, as far as possible on the Chesterwell, Severalls Phase 2 and Northern Gateway developments.

SPL2 – As amenities that facilitate both sustainable transport and bringing benefit to health and wellbeing, Myland and Braiswick footpaths and Public Rights of Way will be maintained and protected (if necessary by authorised diversion) and new rights of way, including bridleways, encouraged commensurate with the Essex Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan. This will include Public Rights of Way for vulnerable users.

SPL3 – CCC and developers will liaise with MCC and BRA, local sports clubs and societies as key stakeholders in determining sport provision in north Colchester in harmony with the most up to date CCC Sports Strategy and Action Plan available.

Rational and Evidence

Similar to the loss of green open space at ‘Environment’ above, Myland and Braiswick have seen major loss of sports associated leisure venues, e.g. Flakt Woods (when at Braiswick), Severalls, Turner Village and Royal London are all sites that offered a arrange of sports and linked social activities, not only to their employees but also the wider local community.

Survey respondents in 2013-14 and again in 2022 are clear that it is important that housing growth is matched by opportunities for sport and leisure. Residents very clearly welcome the new Northern



Gateway Rugby Club and sports facilities and other opportunities that are forthcoming. The Braiswick Bowling Green at Keepers Green is a valuable leisure/health and wellbeing asset. A high number also seek sports gyms in public open spaces and access to a

swimming pool. A wide range of other sports and recreation items received a mention. The Plan policies are inn harmony with the MDS recommendation, page 25, “New developments in Myland should incorporate accessible, varied sport and leisure facilities for residents”.

The 'Turnstone' element of the Northern Gateway development will provide a range of leisure facilities, such as a cinema, bowling alley, restaurant and hotel close to the Colchester United Stadium. Close by is the David Lloyd club and the new rugby and sports centre is open nearby. The secondary school to be provided at Chesterwell will also offer sports facilities to the public. The Myland and Braiswick Green Network will also have a role in 'casual leisure'. MCC should:

- feed survey data into the CCC Sports Strategy and Action Plan or its successor.
- Examine the 'wish-list' to identify possible solutions that MCC might itself supply, e.g., external table tennis, hopper bus service to swimming venues.

Relevant Colchester Local Plan Sport and Leisure Policies

CCC is seeking to protect, enhance and deliver new sports and leisure facilities, see Policy DM4.

Policy DM4: Sports Provision – “Colchester City Council with work with sports providers across the Borough to protect, enhance and deliver new sports and leisure facilities to encourage active lifestyles and to increase participation in formal and informal recreation.”



7. TRANSPORT Objective

Our overall objective is that developments will be supported by road and transport strategies that provide effective and environmentally friendly travel solutions.

Policies

MCC and BRA will promote policies that encourage a more sustainable choice of travel options.

RAT1 – Ongoing development in north Colchester will provide an effective and integrated transport solution by considering the following:

- Maximising opportunities to walk and cycle and in doing so take account of cycle infrastructure design guidance LTN 1/20 or other subsequent guidelines.
- Footpaths should be interconnected and well-lit as should cycle paths where dead-ends should be avoided.
- Maximising the use of the Park and Ride service.
- Promoting the Essex Car Share Scheme.
- Ensuring developments are provided with secure, sheltered bicycle storage.
- Ensuring multi-use routes are provided between popular destinations, such as community facilities.
 - New developments will take into account the recommendations of Sustrans and Town and Country Planning Association, as well as other recognised design documents, thus enabling the integration of north Colchester through walking and cycling and multi-use routes between and within neighbourhoods.
- Ensuring public transport (bus) routes are to popular destinations and where appropriate integrate effectively with other providers, such as, railway services. And are frequent, reliable and clean.
- Bus stops to be provided with shelters with seating and ‘real-time’ service information.

RAT2 – Ongoing development of north Colchester will ensure all dwellings have sufficient off-street parking space commensurate with property size and adopted policies.

RAT3 – MCC and BRA will pursue with partners the provision of a multi-use bridge across the A12 to reestablish connection from Footpath 39 to the Essex Way and other footpath networks and neighbouring settlements.

Rationale and Evidence

The Plan policies reflect recommendations at page 19 of the MDS (see Appendix A) with the exception of the first bullet point that is now contrary to the ambitions of ‘modal shift’ as defined by CCC in respect of car usage (reaffirmed by the Inspector in 2022 with regard to the use of Bartholomew Court for part of the Chesterwell development), and the second bullet point that does not comply with cycle infrastructure guidance LTN 1/20 .

An adequate and effective transport infrastructure is an absolute necessity for any community. Traffic volumes, congestion and on-street parking have consistently been of major concern to Myland and Braiswick residents. Inevitably, the current and proposed developments within the Plan Area will bring

increasing traffic volumes. The Plan original survey revealed main concerns as being traffic volume (82%), traffic congestion (80%) and on street parking (74%). Other concerns ranged from danger to pedestrians, traffic speed and air quality.

The January/February 2022 survey confirms respondents are very clear that it is important that developments are supported by transport strategies that provide effective and environmentally friendly travel solutions. The importance to respondents that there should be an overall reduction in car use and a shift to public transport, cycling and walking is clearly evident.

Whilst MCC and BRA acknowledge that the Plan can only have limited effect with respect to overall transport policy, the MCC Planning and Highways Committee constantly takes the opportunity to input to consultations and strategies concerning transport options and improvements. Myland and Braiswick, and all the villages north of Colchester are separated from the rest of the Borough by the physical barrier presented by the mainline railway. The road network is focused towards North Station, a congestion hotspot.



Whilst the completion of the Approach Road network, the connection to the A12 and Park and Ride might be regarded as factors in mitigation there remains considerable development within the Plan Area and associated traffic levels will

need to be sustainable. Public transport will need to be affordable, more frequent/regular services with reliable and accessible up-to-date information. See page 25 of the MDS.

The funding of community bus services is being actively pursued by MCC as is the provision of cycling and walking route mapping. Off-street parking is addressed by the MCC Planning and Highways Committee. The A12 crossing aspiration remains in the Colchester Local Plan and this Neighbourhood Plan. It features too in the Myland and Braiswick Green Network. MCC will need to engage with Essex Highways on more closely working together including how MCC might take more direct action on local matters.

Relevant Colchester Local Plan Roads and Transport Policies

Policy DM20: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Changing Travel Behaviour – “The Local Planning Authority will work with developers and other partners to increase modal shift towards sustainable modes by improving accessibility of development through the promotion of walking and cycling as an integral part of development, and by further improving public transport...”

Policy DM21: SUSTAINABLE Access to Development—“All new developments should seek to enhance accessibility for sustainable modes of transport...in a manner which maintains the right and safe passage of all highway users.”

Policy DM22: Parking— “The amount of car parking to be provided in association with new residential development will be assessed using the most recent local Parking Standards.”

8. THE PUBLIC REALM

Objective

In the original Plan this subject was additional to those covered in the all-household survey and did not carry an objective. A proposed objective now reads:

To bring together the themes within this Plan to achieve the Plan Vision that Myland and Braiswick will be desirable places to live with quality of life supported by health and well-being across cohesive communities.

Policies

DPR1 – Developments will aim to attain the highest quality and design standards and where appropriate encourage the use of relevant national standards by developers in order to achieve the highest possible levels of overall sustainability in the design and layout of new developments.

Rational and Evidence

It is important that the community can be integrated through access to amenities and venues and connectivity can be achieved through road and multi-use routes that provide leisure destinations. This suggests that developments will need to embrace the concept of ‘life-time neighbourhoods. These are described as neighbourhoods that provide all residents with the best possible chance of health, well-being and social inclusion, particularly as they grow older. This would require an accessible and pleasant built environment...”

Similarly, a ‘*Building for Life*’ industry standard, endorsed by Government constructs sustainable development around: Integration into the neighbourhood (connections/facilities/services/public transport/meeting local housing requirement); Creating a place (character/working with the site and its context/creating well-defined streets and spaces/easy to find your way round); and Street & Home (streets for all/car parking/public and private spaces/external storage/amenity space).

This Plan’s review suggest that this objective is being achieved through the policies set across the board and that the aspiration for quality of life for residents at the heart of this Plan remains on course.

Myland and Braiswick will be recognised as welcoming and attractive places to live by residents, visitors and those passing through.



MYLAND DESIGN STATEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Page 14 Building Styles and Designs

- The 'Mid' period neighbourhoods are the most desirable, offering a variety of property types and styles with adequate green space and parking. New developments should make every effort to recreate this environment.
- The predominant style for houses and flats in Myland and Braiswick is to have pitched roofs. New developments should only include flat roofs where they are in context with surrounding areas.

Page 15 Sites of Special Interest

- New developments should blend with the existing skyline. There should be no exceptionally high buildings that are likely to dominate the area.
- All new properties must have appropriate off-road parking and/or garages of adequate dimensions (Refer to Essex County Council Parking Standards).. Every opportunity must be taken to avoid the visual appearance of the area as a linear car-park.
- Extensions to existing properties must enhance and be sympathetic to the character of the surrounding properties.
- New developments should be sympathetic in scale, mass and character to the surrounding buildings.
- Mile End Village and the crescent of villas in Turner Village should be considered for designation as Areas of Special Interest. There is nowhere else like Mile End Village in the Borough and it has important features—the housing mix, the three churches, especially St Michaels, Myland Primary School, the Dog and Pheasant, the local shops and the fact that everywhere is walkable are important social and focal points. Development should take care not to affect the character of these areas.

Page 17 Materials

- Properties throughout Myland overwhelmingly use brick and tile construction. New developments should be empathetic to this, for example using brick/gault or render for walls and plain clay or slate tiles for roofs. The use of high maintenance wood cladding and coloured plastic wall panels should be avoided.
- The introduction of environmentally friendly and carbon-footprint reduction initiatives should be sympathetic to the general design and characteristics of the area. They must not impact on existing residents.
- While always striving to create an improvement to the Myland street scene, materials should be chosen to blend, as far as possible, with existing buildings and immediate neighbours in order to maintain both harmony and diversity of styles.

Page 19 Roads, Pavements and Footpaths

- Transport policies should promote easy and direct access around Myland by car, cycle, foot or public transport. All modes should be considered of equal importance. This recommendation is now contrary to the ambitions of modal shift as defined by CCC in respect of car usage.
- Shared space (pedestrians, cyclists and motor traffic) should be provided within developments where safe and appropriate. This recommendation does not comply with cycle infrastructure guidance LTN 1/20.
- Footpaths providing access should be interconnected, hard-surfaced and well lit.
- Some green footpaths (grass surface) should be provided for exercise and leisure walking.
- Cycle-paths should separate from footpaths and should continue across road junctions. Dead end cycle-paths should be avoided.

Page 21 Community Facilities

- New developments should deliver usable and accessible community facilities to support local needs. Even where community facilities cannot be initially provided, space should be set aside so they can be developed at a later date.
- Bus stops should have shelters and seating for waiting passengers.
- Sheltered housing for the elderly should be integrated with any new property development in order to achieve a good demographic mix.

Page 23 Open Space and the Environment

- Mature trees, shrubs and historical hedgerows (or important features that define the local landscape character) should be protected as an integral part of new developments.
- Additional trees should be planted whenever the opportunity exists.
- Light maintenance planting should be carried out wherever feasible to 'soften' the ambience of recent developments.
- Landscape and biodiversity enhancements should be designed into new development proposals to complement existing landscape character and to provide new habitats for wildlife.

Page 25 Sport and Recreation

- CCC should support the need for a footbridge over the A12 linking footpath No. 39 to the Essex Way, the Dedham to Harwich section which is part of European Footpath E2 from Galway to Nice. The bridge is currently high on Essex County Council's priority list, ranking second overall for footpaths affected by the A12.
- New developments in Myland should incorporate accessible, varied sport and leisure facilities for residents.

Page 27 Business, Commerce and Employment

- Every opportunity should be taken to promote the introduction and support the use of shops, particularly in the north of the Parish. Local retail facilities should be a feature of all new develop-
- Planning regulations should promote the integration of small (non-intrusive) commercial ventures within residential areas.
- The growth of unstructured employment should be encouraged by the provision of flexible, sustainable environments, for example: small workshops, office accommodation for short-term (hourly) hire and business incubator units.

CONSIDERATION OF COLCHESTER LOCAL PLAN POLICIES.

The Colchester Local Plan reference to Neighbourhood Plans prescribes a number of policies within the Local Plan that neighbourhood plans should comply with. These are listed below with others and with a brief explanation of how this Neighbourhood Plan complies where appropriate.

SP1 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development – This is a core theme of the National Planning Policy Framework and as such is integral to the developments underway and planned within Myland and Braiswick.

SP2 – Spatial Strategy for north Essex - All developments within the Borough come under this strategy.

SP3 – Meeting Housing Needs – See Myland & Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) policies HOU1, HOU2 and HOU3.

SP4 – Providing for Employment and Retail – See the Plan policies EMP1, EMP2 and EMP3.

SP5 – Infrastructure and Connectivity – This lays at the core of the collective Plan policies and the MCC committee and working group structure as well the concerns of BRA.

SP6 – Place Shaping Principles – This lays at the core of the collective Plan policies and the MCC committee and working group structure as well the concerns of BRA.

SP7, SP8 & SP9 – Development and Delivery of New Garden Communities in north Essex – Tendring/ Colchester Borders Garden Community – Colchester/Braintree Borders Garden Community. These CBC policies do not directly impact the Plan.

SG1 – Colchester Spatial Strategy – See SP2 above.

SG2 – Housing Delivery – see SP3 above.

SG3 – Economic Growth Provision – see SP4 above.

SG4 – Local Economic Areas – see the Plan policy EMP1.

SG5 – Centre Hierarchy –

SG6/SG6a – Town Centre Uses/Local Centres – see SP5/SP6 above.

SG7 – Infrastructure Delivery and Impact Mitigation – see SP5/SP6 above.

SG8 – Neighbourhood Plans – see this Plan.

ENV1 – Environment – see the Plan policies ENV1 to ENV5.

ENV2 – Coastal Areas – does not impact on the Plan.

ENV3 – Green Infrastructure – see the Plan policies ENV1 to ENV5 and the Myland and Braiswick Green Network.

ENV4 – Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – does not impact on the Plan.

ENV5 – Pollution and Contaminated Land – see SP2 above.

PP1 Generic Infrastructure and Mitigation Requirements – see SP2 above.

CC1—Climate Change—see ENV6 above.

DM1—Health and Well Being—see Plan policies under Environment, Social Amenity and Sport and Leisure.

DM2—Community Facilities—see Plan policies under Social Amenity.

DM4—Sports Provision—see Plan policies under Sport and Recreation.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA



A GREEN NETWORK FOR MYLAND & BRAISWICK and BEYOND



A NATURAL GREEN NETWORK FOR MYLAND & BRAISWICK and BEYOND

Introduction

Recently there has been an increased focus on the importance of the natural environment, wildlife habitats and biodiversity. The benefits are seen as important, some would say vital, to both wildlife in conservation terms and to us humans for our health and well-being. This focus has now emerged at UK Government level in the *White Paper Planning for the Future* and its *25 Year Environment Plan* which includes the concept of 'Nature Recovery Networks'.

Britain is reportedly the worst of the G7 nations for protecting flora and fauna. It is reported that 40% of species have declined in Britain in the past 50 years with a 95% loss of wildflower meadows since the 1940's.

We might say that if Government now recognises that action is needed to protect natural habitats then something will happen to improve the situation. However the White Paper referred to above is also determined to make it a lot easier for developers to gain planning permission and build many more houses quicker.

Waiting for Government action to protect natural green space while there is a real threat that more land will be built upon suggests that local action needs to be taken now if we wish to **protect what is left of Myland and Braiswick green spaces.**

Proposals

In outline the proposals are:

- 1) A Natural Green Network should embrace Myland and Braiswick as the latter is a close neighbour and partner in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2) All green space is a habitat of some sort and all existing green spaces should be identified that could contribute to the Network.
- 3) The Network should identify green links with the rural hinterland and neighbouring settlements so that green space corridors between settlements can be identified and protected.
- 4) Once identified the Network should be embedded into the Neighbourhood Plan with suitable policies for protection and enhancement.

Benefits

The term 'network' implies connections and this is at the heart of the proposals for communities and wildlife. The benefits are:

- 1) Communities will have green links to green spaces that are proven to have major benefits towards our health and well-being.
- 2) Wildlife whether flowers or animals need and will have access to natural space and corridor habitats for living, feeding and, breeding.
- 3) Green corridors between settlements protects them from merging into a single urban sprawl and they enable communities to explore green environments and allows wildlife space to flourish.
- 4) The network enables Myland Access Group to deliver access to green spaces.

Identifying Natural Green Spaces

We can identify existing and planned green spaces that should feature in the Network. This is done below by starting with the current and imminent major developments followed by Braiswick and 'other areas'.

Chesterwell

The Chesterwell development has its own Green Infrastructure Strategy produced by ecologists when the site was first planned. The Main features are three 'parks'; Chesterwell Park will be between the retained Chesterwell



Wood and the A12. It will extend westerly to north of the Golf Club and easterly with water features; Western Parkland will run north to south at the edge of the Golf Course (see cover picture of existing view); Valley Park will be a feature at the south of the site using existing woodland and scrub areas. Throughout the site existing hedgerows will be retained with an added biodiversity strip for wildlife foraging and movement and to act as green connecting corridors.

Indigenous tree species, water features and areas of 'wilding' or 'wild flowering' will also exist. A currently farmed field is to be added to Fords Lane sports field and a community garden will feature close by.

Severalls (Kingswood Heath)

The Severalls development has a landscape master-plan that addresses the ecological management required to protect flora and fauna on the site. A dedicated site has been set aside and conditions and habitat features created to support species moved to it, e.g. rare fungi, the common lizard (as shown) and other wildlife. Roosting and hibernation features have been installed for the protected bat population. Severalls was (is?) a registered parkland. There will be no net loss of woodland areas and there will be tree-lined links between these and other habitats areas. A key portion of woodland will border the important Tower Lane green, hedge-rowed public right of way.



Other Important Areas

High Woods Country Park and Cymbeline Meadows: These are existing Local Wildlife Sites and both have multi habitat types, lay partly within or close to the NP Area boundary. There is good access to those habitats. They are an increasingly important site for visitors wherever they come from to enjoy wildlife, open space, a taste of countryside and a boost to their health and well-being. The threat to them is becoming isolated 'natural zoos' without links to hinterland countryside or green corridors.



Tower Lane: This public right of way is an important link. It is currently a 'green path' in that it has a natural base and it has hedgerows either side forming a green corridor, albeit not as wide as it could have been if Myland Council's request for it to be broadened had been agreed. It is an important route because it almost links straight into the northern boundary of High Woods Country Park and going north via Severalls woodland features and Boxted Road it links to Chesterwell green paths and on to the park features referred to above.

Land adjacent to Oxley Parker Drive: This is an area of public open green space that is currently under threat from development. It could serve as an important green stage between the Northern Gateway community green space referred to above and Tower Lane as this connecting route will be provided as part of the Northern gateway development. The Oxley Parker space could be enhanced to attract wildlife species and continue to be an attraction to the community.



Fords Lane and Mill Road Recreation Grounds: Both these sites are spaces laid to grass for organised sports in the former and casual play in the latter. They are however, still important as green open spaces with abundant community access with bordering hedgerows and wildlife feeding grounds.

Allotments: We should not ignore allotments which by their nature attract wildlife for feeding and breeding. There are sites dotted around Myland with more to come.

Roadside Verges: There is increasing recognition of the role that roadside verges can play as strips of green corridor. There are cases of such habitats being the home of rare plant species, the foraging routes for small mammals,

The Northern Gateway

This development will include a four hectare community green space which it is planned will be designed to contain elements to encourage wildlife, such as wildflower areas and appropriate trees. In addition to this a woodland area will be provided with associated species rich meadow planting. Existing hedgerows will be retained and have an associated 10m 'wildlife enhancement zone'. Within the northern boundary of the site lays Salary Brook, a direct feed into the extremely important Salary Brook local wildlife site to the east of Colchester. This will have an enhanced area of wet/dry ditches feeding and mirroring the Brooks seasonal condition. Similar wet/dry seasonal water features will exist across the site.

Braiswick

Braiswick is under pressure to take patches of development. St Botolphs Farm has received planning permission after appeal and two others are in Colchester Boroughs emerging Local Plan. In the case of St Botolphs Farm it is hoped consideration could be given to seeking a permissive green route at the edge of the development to link with Chesterwell Park to the north via the western edge of the Golf Course (which in itself could be regarded as a useful green space for wildlife). This would provide a green corridor to West House Wood to the south which itself has natural open space further south. A permissive route into this land could also be sought.



butterflies, moths and bees. Even in urban surroundings verges can be made to be attractive and the providers of vital habitat if sown with an effective mix of wild flowers such as cornflower, red campion and oxeye daisies. The use of verges in this way has the potential to bring wildlife in to the heart of the community. This option is currently under examination by both Myland Council and its Ward Councilors.

Residents Gardens: Recognition should also be given to residential gardens, especially where features are included to attract wildlife, either via feeders or natural seeds and berries from plants and shrubs. Green corridors do exist in this way and some can be relatively wide where gardens are back to back, for example where Mile End Road backs on to Hugh Dickson Road and Bergholt Road. It is known that in this stretch there are regular occurrences of many bird, butterfly, moth and bee species. Dragonflies, bats and small mammals are not uncommon.

And Beyond?

Understandably the UK Government concept of 'Nature Recovery Networks' is starting with trials at five areas of national importance and integral to the trials is the identification of the means by which key sites retain sustainability through effective green corridors between them. This fundamental requirement is essential at local level too and is the reason behind any Myland and Braiswick Natural Green Network having access to the wider rural hinterland.



It is perfectly reasonable for settlements, whether villages or indeed urban parishes, to want a sense of identity, a sense of place, with an attractive buffer zone. It is also highly desirable for people to have access to natural environments through footpath networks to explore and 'stretch their legs'. For wildlife too expanses of open countryside offer wide choices of habitat, freedom to move, feed and breed. For this reason the Network needs to identify links from within the Neighbourhood Plan Area to green spaces to and between neighbouring settlements so that all settlement communities can benefit.

This will require Myland and Braiswick to have an understanding with settlements such as Lexden, West Bergholt, Great and Little Horkesley, Boxted and Langham so that policies can be constructed that protect effective green space habitats and access. The picture shown is a view from Footpath 39 north of the Golf Course

which is in Colchester Borough Council's emerging Local Plan as a location for a "green bridge" crossing the A12 to connect to the hinterland footpaths.

Colchester Orbital

Myland is pleased to have part of the Colchester Orbital route pass through the Parish. This 15 mile circular walk and cycle route round Colchester is now firmly embedded in the Borough Local Plan as an asset supporting health and wellbeing and is accessible at various points on this Network.

Conclusion

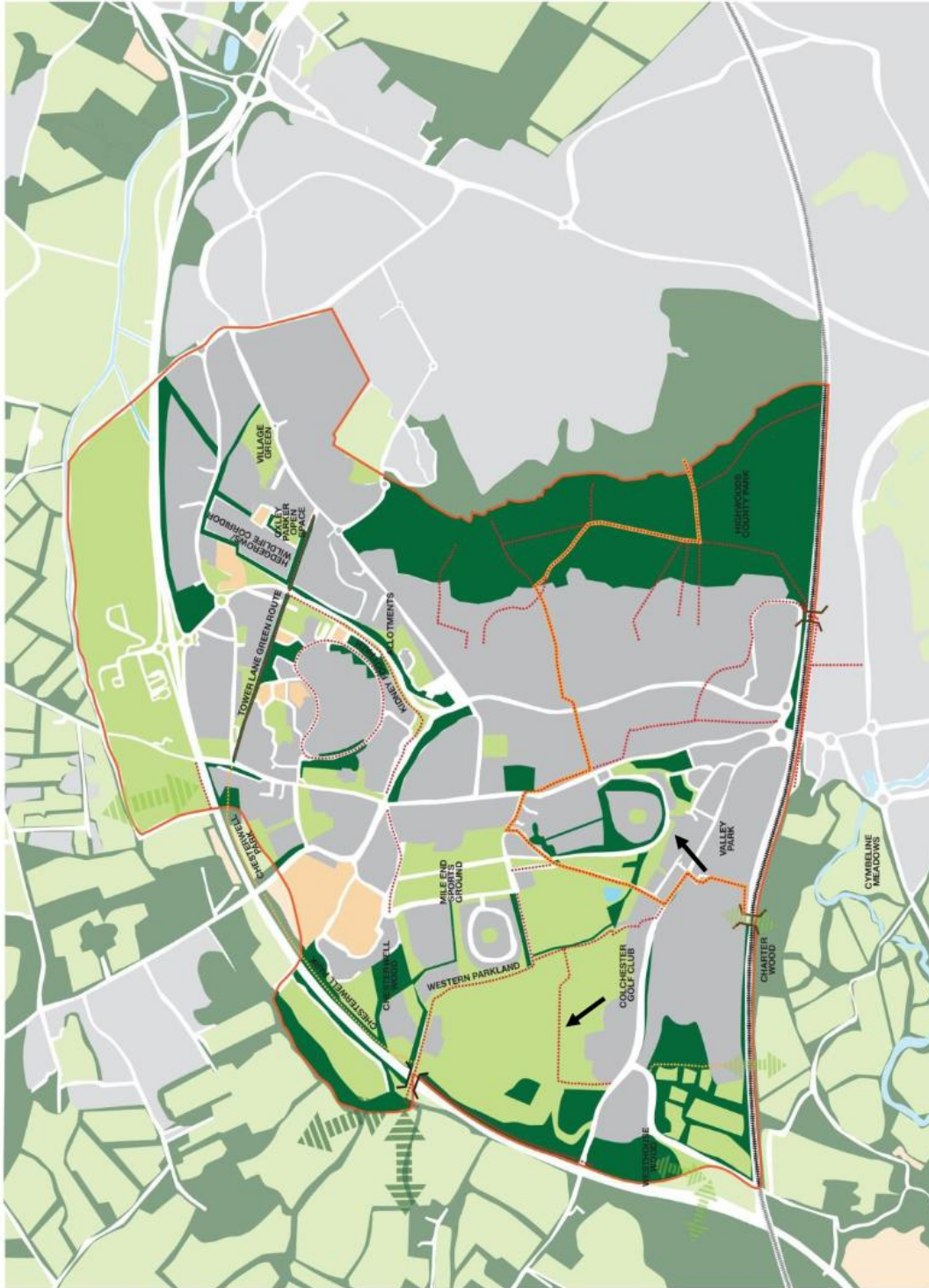
- There are green spaces, wildlife habitats and connecting paths of access across Myland and Braiswick.
- There are obvious links and there is scope to enlarge upon these.
- There are therefore sufficient grounds to say that a Natural Green Network exists but for it to thrive it must be protected and where possible enhanced.
- The Network should be defined as described above and in the overview on the next page.
- **The revised Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan should include policies to protect and enhance the defined network.**

Notes to the following map.

- *The Network is described as foreseen when proposed sites materialise, eg Chesterwell West Park, Valley Park, Mill Road Village Green etc.*
- *The Map as it stands will be used as a template to protect existing sites, monitor the provision of promised sites and seek opportunities to develop further sites/routes.*

Myland Green Network & Infrastructure Map

Material consideration of Natural and Recreational Sites supporting Wildlife Corridors in the neighbourhood plan area in 2022



- Fields/grassland
- Building work/aggregates
- Key Wildlife Habitat/Woods/Greenspaces
- Built up areas
- Routes for wildlife/Hedgerows
- Footpaths
- Aspirational Footpaths
- Colchester Orbital
- Bridge
- Tunnel
- Boundary line
- Wildlife Corridor
- Possible Wildlife Corridor

About

This map identifies the firm and planned green spaces that form the Myland & Braiswick Green Network and highlights what must be protected. Enhancements may follow.

Credits

Map design and illustration Sara Hayes, The Public Art Company
 Content advised by Paul Howell, for Myland Community Council
 OS Licence: Account No. 100050799



ESTABLISHING A GREEN NETWORK TO PROTECT, NURTURE AND ENHANCE MEANS YOU “BELIEVE IN AND CARE ABOUT A WORLD THAT WILL BE THERE AFTER YOU ARE GONE. IT MEANS YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT MORE THAN YOURSELF, AND THAT YOU CAN IMAGINE A FUTURE BEYOND YOUR OWN LIFESPAN, AND YOU CARE ABOUT THAT FUTURE”

(‘English Pastoral—An Inheritance’, James Rebanks)

MYLAND AND BRAISWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: 2016—2032

REVIEWED 2022-23

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE

Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 6 September 2023

779. Treatment of War Pensions and the Calculation of Housing Benefit

The Head of Operational Finance submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, introduced the report and explained that the proposals would ensure the continuation of the policy whereby War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions were disregarded as income in the calculation of Housing Benefit. This was a particularly pertinent policy given Colchester's links to the Armed Forces and the Garrison.

RESOLVED that it be reconfirmed that War Pensions (as defined in paragraph 6.3 of the Head of Operational Finance's report) should be disregarded as income when calculating the entitlement to Housing Benefit.

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL that it reconfirms this decision.

REASONS

The recommendations are supported as the Social Security Administration Act 1992 requires the Council to formally adopt any modification of the Housing Benefit scheme where the whole or part of any War Pension is disregarded.

Continue to maximise the support available for those residents in receipt of any War Pension.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

It was open to Cabinet not to reconfirm that War Pensions should be disregarded as income when calculating the entitlement to Housing Benefit.

Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 6 September 2023

781. 2022/23 Year End Review of Risk Management

The Corporate Governance Manager submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Sunnucks attended and with the consent of the Chair addressed Cabinet. The Risk Management Strategy and risk matrix missed some of the major risks, which were project risks. He had requested a copy of the project risk register but it had not been provided. Cabinet needed to ensure that there was such a register of project risks and that it was properly scrutinised. The risks around the details of projects such as Northern Gateway needed to be understood.

Councillor King, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that Governance and Audit Committee had endorsed the approach taken to risk management because it saw that Cabinet and officers appreciated risk and saw it as a live issue that needed to be constantly evaluated. Project management risk needed to be understood and considered in the proper context, such as within the review of the capital programme. The risks around Northern Gateway were considered and addressed and would be taken into account in the context of the changing market. The forthcoming workshop would be an opportunity to look at this issue and relevant information would be provided in advance of the workshop.

Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, explained that there was not a register including all the projects the Council was involved in. It would not be feasible to include all projects on the risk register as there were projects of many different types and levels and it would become unworkable. The risks associated with capital projects were looked at and he would consider further how these could be put forward to give further transparency.

Pam Donnelly, Chief Executive, was invited to comment and explained that risk was a top priority for the Senior Leadership Board and it reviewed the Strategic Risk Register in detail monthly. Every decision making report included an assessment of risk management implications. In line with Local Government Association best practice, the three statutory officers met once a month and considered risk issues. The Strategic Risk Register was a construct of a number of sub registers. The forthcoming workshop was a critical opportunity to expose in a safe environment the levels of risk within the Council and within the capital programme. Detailed information was being prepared and she would personally assess it and ensure it was meaningful.

Councillor Jay, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Transformation and Performance, introduced the report and explained that it was a broad overview at a strategic level. The Cabinet could take confidence from the fact it was being reviewed at a senior level

within the Council and from the reassurance from Governance and Audit Committee. The report and supporting documents should be endorsed on that basis.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The Council's progress and performance in managing risk during the period from April 2022 to March 2023 be noted.
- (b) The current strategic risk register be approved.
- (c) The proposed Risk Management Strategy for 2023/24 be approved and *RECOMMENDED* to Full Council that it be included in the Council's Policy Framework.

REASONS

Cabinet has overall ownership of the risk management process and is responsible for endorsing its strategic direction. Therefore, the risk management strategy states that Cabinet should receive an annual report on progress and should formally agree to any amendments to the strategy itself.

During the year progress reports are presented to the Governance and Audit Committee, detailing work undertaken and current issues. This report was presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 1 August 2023, where they approved its referral to this meeting.

As part of the Policy Framework, any changes and reviews of the Strategy need to be approved by Cabinet and ratified by Full Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to Cabinet.

18 October 2023

Report of	Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer	Author	Andrew Weavers
Title	Revised Licensing Committee Membership		☎ 282213
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Following a review of the political; balance after the recent Highwoods by-election Full Council is required to agree a change to the membership of the Licensing Committee.

2. Recommended Decision

2.1 To agree the revised membership of the Licensing Committee as detailed at paragraph 4.1 of this report.

3. Background

3.1 At the Annual Meeting on 24 May 2023 the Full Council approved the membership and political balance of its Committees and Panels. Following the result of the Highwoods by-election on 21 September 2023 the political balance of the Committees and Panels has been reviewed. The review has determined that the only change required is that the political balance of the Licensing Committee needs to be amended so that the Labour Group lose one seat and the Liberal Democrats gain one seat.

3.2 The Liberal Democrat Group have nominated Councillor Appleton to join the Committee and arrangements are underway to provide him with the necessary training. Former Councillor Bickersteth was a member of the Licensing Committee so no further changes are required to the Labour Group membership.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is therefore proposed that the revised membership of the Licensing Committee be as set out below.

Liberal Democrats	Conservative	Labour
Cllr Appleton	Cllr Buston	Cllr Bloomfield
Cllr Burrows	Cllr Hagon	Cllr Harris
Cllr Hogg	Cllr Mannion	Cllr McLean
Cllr King	Cllr Powling	
Cllr Spindler		

5.. Standard References

5.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
8 July 2023 – 6 October 2023**

Portfolio – Communities					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
20 September 2023	COM-002-23	Transparency Statement on Modern Slavery 2022-23	Phillippa Newbould	That a Transparency Statement is published by the Council on its website for the eighth successive year by 30 September 2023 in accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015	Decision implemented 27 September 2023

Portfolio – Economy, Transformation and Performance					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
24 August 2023	ECO-001-23	North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) – refreshed strategy & delivery plan	Karen Turnbull	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Economy, Transformation and Performance continues to support the Council’s membership of the North Essex Economic Board (NEEB).</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Economy, Transformation and Performance approves the adoption by Colchester City Council of the refreshed North Essex Economic Board strategy and delivery plan for the economic benefit of the City.</p>	Decision implemented 1 September 2023
28 September 2023	ECO-002-23	Centrality Connect (via WCL UK LTD) renewal of contract.	Vaughan Johnson	To approve the award of contract to WCL UK LTD for the provision of an endpoint management solution for the period of 01/11/2023 –	Decision implemented 5 October 2023

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
8 July 2023 – 6 October 2023**

				31/10/2024 via a direct award through the Everything ICT framework (OJEU 2019/S 157-387932 MT 216831). With the option to extend for a further year (01/11/2024 – 31/10/2025). Procurement have been involved in the process and support a direct award.	
--	--	--	--	--	--

Portfolio – Housing					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
25 July 2023	HOU-001-23	– Award of Contract for completion of Heating upgrade work to Mary Frank House	Martin Norgett	To award a contract to Gasway Ltd to undertake heating and hot water system upgrades to Mary Frank House, including: • installation of new boiler • Design & installation of a building management system • Reconfiguration and upgrade of heating and hot water distribution system • Installation of Photovoltaic solar panels	Decision implemented 1 August 2023
10 August 2023	HOU-002-23	Purchase of sustainable Heating at Harrison Court	Martin Norgett	To purchase the Ground Source Heat Pump and associated system at Harrison Court from GSH Colchester Ltd	Decision implemented 17 August 2023
15 August 2023	HOU-003-23	Award of Contract Wetroom Replacements in the CCC Housing Stock	Martin Norgett	To award a contract to Barons Building Services Ltd to undertake Wetroom Replacements within the	Decision implemented

Agenda item 13

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
8 July 2023 – 6 October 2023**

				Housing Stock for one (1) year with the option for a two (2) year extension (on a 1+1 year basis that means that the contract will be reviewed and extended on a yearly basis subject to performance)	30 August 2023
4 September 2023	HOU-004-23	Approval of reviewed/refreshed Housing Adaptations Policy and Mobility Scooter Storage Policy	Suzanne Norton	To approve the following refreshed and revised policies to ensure they continue to meet current legislation, procedures and working practices and are clear and concise for all users:- Housing Adaptations Policy Motor Scooter Storage Policy	Decision implemented 11 September 2023

Portfolio – Leisure, Culture and Heritage

Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
No decisions in this period					

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
8 July 2023 – 6 October 2023**

Portfolio – Neighbourhood Services and Waste					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
7 July 2023	NEI-001-23	Award of contract for the collection and onward process of recycling materials	Robert Doran	To award a contract to Plan B Management Solutions.	Decision implemented 21 July 2023
12 July 2023	NEI-002-23	Contract for the purchase of Garden Waste collection vehicles	Robert Doran	To award a contract to Dennis Eagle	Decision implemented 19 July 2023
27 July 2023	NEI-003-23	Installation of a new childrens playground at High Woods Country Park	Rosa Tanfield/David Carter	To accept the tender submitted by Kompan Ltd for the installation of a new playground at High Woods Country Park.	3 August 2023
8 September 2023	NEI-004-23	Contract for Garden Waste Collection Service Stickers	John Kellett	To agree to the appointment of Cross Media Print & Digital Solutions (CMPD) for supply of stickers and associated services until 31 March 2025, with the option to extend for one year.	Decision implemented 15 September 2023
5 September 2023	NEI-005-23	Garden Waste Charging Scheme	Rosa Tanfield/John Kellett	To amend the pricing scheme for the garden waste collection service as follows: Joining up fee £35 per bin Annual service charge for 2023/24 and 2024/25 £55 per bin Introduce a discount scheme in 2023/24 to enable any residents, in receipt of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) at the time of application, to be offered a free joining up fee when	Decision not subject to call in as it had been pre-scrutinised 5 September 2023

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
8 July 2023 – 6 October 2023**

				<p>they opt-in to the new service for the first wheeled bin. All residents, regardless of whether in receipt of LCTS, will also be signposted to the Employment and Financial Support Team (EFST) website where a variety of resources and support, both internal and external can be accessed by the resident, including the option for a full assessment.</p> <p>For subscription payments to be taken annually, online, using the Council’s existing systems.</p> <p>To introduce a community swap event whereby residents can pass unwanted bins to the Council who will jetwash and enable residents to collect the cleaned bins if they wish to have them.</p>	
18 September 2023	NEI-006-23	Contract for Garden Waste Wheeled Bins	Anna Banks	To award a contract to IPL Plastics (UK) Ltd.	Decision implemented 25 September 2023

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
8 July 2023 – 6 October 2023**

Portfolio – Planning, Environment and Sustainability					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
No decisions in this period					

Portfolio – Resources					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
No decisions in this period					

Portfolio – Strategy					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
24 July 2023	STR-002-23	Appointment to the board of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited	Andrew Weavers	To appoint the councillor (Cllr Mannion) mentioned in the report to be a director on the board of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited.	Decision implemented 31 July 2023
17 August 2023	STR-003-23	Construction Works Contract Award: 43 Queen Street Digital Working Hub	Matthew Brown	To award a contract to the Recommended Bidder Horizon Construction Group Ltd to undertake the works for a contract period to the end of December 2024, subject to confirmation of Value Engineering to reduce the contract value (detail as provided in confidential annexe).	Decision implemented 24 August 2023

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
8 July 2023 – 6 October 2023**

				<p>Following agreement by “We are Colchester” (Town Deal) board on 17th August 2023; to transfer £407,000.00 from the budget of the ‘Town Centre and Gateways’ business case to the ‘Digital Working Hub business case.</p> <p>If the Recommended Bidder cannot fulfil their obligations under the contract, to award a contract to the next highest ranked bidder.</p>	
24 August 2023	STR-004-23	Appointment of London and Continental Railways for City Centre Masterplanning	Matthew Brown	<p>To award a contract to London & Continental Railways Ltd to undertake development management, masterplanning and viability works for a contract period to the end of Quarter 4, 2024.</p>	Decision implemented 1 September 2023



Cabinet

Item
7(i)

6 September 2023

Report of	Head of Operational Finance	Author	Adam Wood
Title	Treatment of War Pensions in the Calculation of Housing Benefit		
Wards affected	All wards		

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Legislation allows Councils the discretion to disregard up to 100% of War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement (referred to as the "Local Scheme").
- 1.2 War Pensions have been fully disregarded in the calculation of Housing Benefit since the Social Security Administration Act was introduced in 1992.
- 1.3 Given the length of time that the local scheme has operated in Colchester, it is therefore recommended that Members reconfirm that the prescribed War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions continue to be disregarded in the calculation of Housing Benefit.

2.0 Recommended Decision

- 2.1 Reconfirm that War Pensions (as defined in paragraph 6.3 of the report) should be disregarded as income when calculating the entitlement to Housing Benefit.
- 2.2 Recommend to Full Council that it reconfirms this decision.

3.0 Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The recommendations are supported as the Social Security Administration Act 1992 requires the Council to formally adopt any modification of the Housing Benefit scheme where the whole or part of any War Pension is disregarded.
- 3.2 Continue to maximise the support available for those residents in receipt of any War Pension.

4.0 Background Information

4.1 The rules about the way in which Housing Benefit entitlement is calculated are detailed within the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 and subsequent amending legislation.

These regulations state that a weekly disregard of £10 applies to the following income:

(a) War Disablement Pensions

(b) War Widow's Pensions

4.2.1 However, the Social Security Administration Act 1992 also allows Councils the discretion to disregard up to 100% of those incomes in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement (referred to as the "Local Scheme" or in some cases the "Local Modified Scheme").

4.2.2 War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions have been disregarded in the calculation of Housing Benefit since the Social Security Administration Act was introduced in 1992. In addition, the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme also contains a full disregard of these incomes, and this has been in place since it was introduced in 2013. Council approves the LCTS scheme on an annual basis.

4.2.3 Given the length of time that the Local Scheme has operated in Colchester, it is therefore recommended that Members reconfirm that the prescribed War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions continue to be disregarded in the calculation of Housing Benefit.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 Where a customer who is eligible for Housing Benefit and is also in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit or Pension Credit (Guaranteed Credit), they are automatically "passported" to full Housing Benefit entitlement. Claims that are not "passported" are subject to a means test and these are affected by the decision to fully disregard certain War Pensions.

5.2 Generally, the Council is fully reimbursed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for payments of Housing Benefit, and this is referred to as "subsidy". Subsidy payments are demand-led and are not subject to a fixed sum grant.

5.3 However, payments of Housing Benefit made under the Local Scheme are subject to different rules. Providing that expenditure does not exceed 0.2% of the overall subsidy claimed, 75% of payments made under the Local Scheme are subsidised by the DWP, with the Council meeting the remaining 25%. In 2022/23, the Local Scheme cost £66k to CCC supporting 35 households.

5.4 The continued operation of a Local Scheme in Colchester will have no financial implications, as provision has already been made within the MTF.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 schedule 5 sets out the statutory income disregards for war pensions, as follows:

“Sums to be disregarded in the calculation of income other than earnings £10 of any of the following, namely-

(a) a war disablement pension;

(b) a war widow’s pension or war widower’s pension;”

6.2 The Social Security Administration Act 1992 section 134(8) gives Councils the discretion to fully disregard war pensions in the calculation of Housing Benefit, as follows:

“An authority may modify any part of the housing benefit scheme administered by the authority-

(a) so as to provide for disregarding, in determining a person’s income (whether he is the occupier of a dwelling or any other person whose income falls to be aggregated with that of the occupier of a dwelling), the whole part of any prescribed war disablement pension or prescribed war widow’s pension payable to that person;

(b) to such extent in other respects as may be prescribed, and any such modifications may be adopted by resolution of an authority.”

6.3 The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (War Pension Disregards) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 sets out the types of war pensions that will fall to be disregarded under the local scheme, as follows:

“The war disablement pensions prescribed are –

(a) any retired pay or pension or allowance payable in respect of disablement under an instrument specified in section 639(2) of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003;

(b) any retired pay or pension payable, to a member of the armed forces of the Crown in respect of a disablement which is attributable to service, under-

(i) an Order in Council made under section 3 of the Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act 1865,

(ii) the Army Pensions Warrant 1977,

(iii) any order or regulations made under section 2 of the Air Force (Constitution) Act 1917,

(iv) any order or regulations made under section 4 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996,

(v) any instrument amending or replacing any of the instruments referred to in paragraphs (i) to (iv), or

(vi) any power of Her Majesty otherwise than under an enactment to make provision about pensions for or in respect of persons who have been disabled or who have died in consequence of service as members of the armed forces of the Crown; and

(c) a payment made under article 14(1)(b) of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2005.

The war widow's pensions prescribed are-

- (a) any pension or allowance payable to a widow, widower or surviving civil partner under an instrument specified in section 639(2) of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pension) Act 2003 in respect of the death or disablement of any person;*
- (b) a pension payable, to a widow, widower or surviving civil partner of a member of the armed forces of the Crown in respect of death which is attributable to service, under-*
 - (i) an Order in Council made under section 3 of the Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act 1865,*
 - (ii) the Army Pensions Warrant 1977,*
 - (iii) any order or regulations made under section 2 of the Air Force (Constitution) Act 1917,*
 - (iv) any order or regulations made under section 4 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996,*
 - (v) any instrument amending or replacing any of the instruments referred to in paragraphs (i) to (iv), or*
 - (vi) any power of Her Majesty otherwise than under an enactment to make provision about pensions for or in respect of persons who have been disabled or who have died in consequence of service as members of the armed forces of the Crown; and*
- (c) a payment made under article 21(1)(a) of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2005.”*

7.0 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 1.

8.0 Standard References

- 8.1 There are no references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

Background Papers

- (i) The Social Security Administration Act 1992
- (ii) The Housing Benefit Regulations 2006
- (iii) The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (War Pension Disregards) Regulations 2007
- (iv) The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (War Pension Disregards) (Amendment) Regulations 2009



Cabinet

Item
8(i)

06 September 2023

Report of	Corporate Governance Manager Corporate Services	Author	Hayley McGrath ☎ 508902
Title	2022/23 Year End Review of Risk Management		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Council's risk management activity undertaken during the financial year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 1.2 Effective management of risk is essential to ensuring that the Council's aims and objectives are achieved. The Council has therefore approved a Risk Management Strategy, which is included in the Council's Policy Framework. This provides a comprehensive risk management process that is embedded across the organisation and includes a strategic risk register (which is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Board), operational risk registers which are produced by each service, project risk monitoring and specific risk mitigation initiatives.
- 1.3 The Risk Management Strategy and processes are reviewed annually to ensure that they are still appropriate to the Council's needs and continue to be effective in identifying and mitigating risks to its aims and objectives.
- 1.4 The key strategic risks are:
 - Organisational Resilience
 - Budget Strategy
 - Economic Climate
 - Cyber & Data Security
 - Workforce wellbeing
 - Financial Inequality

2. Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 Consider and comment on the Council's progress and performance in managing risk during the period from April 2022 to March 2023.
- 2.2 Approve the current strategic risk register.
- 2.3 Approve the proposed Risk Management Strategy for 2023/24 and recommend to Full Council that it be included in the Council's Policy Framework.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Cabinet has overall ownership of the risk management process and is responsible for endorsing its strategic direction. Therefore, the risk management strategy states that Cabinet should receive an annual report on progress and should formally agree any amendments to the strategy itself.
- 3.2 During the year progress reports are presented to the Governance and Audit Committee, detailing work undertaken and current issues. This report was presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 1 August 2023, where they approved its referral to this meeting.
- 3.3 As part of the Policy Framework, any changes and reviews of the strategy need to be approved by Cabinet and ratified by Full Council.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The aim of the Council is to adopt best practice in the identification, evaluation, cost-effective control and monitoring of risks across all processes, to ensure that risks are properly considered and reduced as far as practicable.
- 5.2 In broad terms risks are split into three categories:
- Strategic – those risks relating to the long-term goals of the Council.
 - Operational – risks related to the day-to-day operation of each individual service.
 - Project – the delivery risks of specific initiatives.
- 5.3 Identified risks, in all three categories, are judged against levels of probability and impact to give them an overall score. This allows the risks to be shown as 'high, medium or low' which enables a prioritised action plan to be set for managing risks. A high score does not mean that a risk has, or will definitely, occur.
- 5.4 In many cases the causes of risks are outside of the Council's control, such as general economic issues. The Council cannot stop these risks from occurring (the probability score) but can put plans in place to mitigate against their effect if they occur (the impact score). Likewise, there are occasions that risks can be reduced with preventative actions but there is not much that can be done to mitigate their effect if they do occur, such as a failure to protect public resources. Therefore, some risks will tend to maintain the same score, regardless of the controls that the Council puts in place.

6 Work undertaken during the 2022/23

- 6.1 There were no fundamental changes to the risk management function, or the processes used to identify and control risk, during 2022/23.
- 6.2 In response to the recommendations of the Local Government Association Peer Challenge and the independent reviews of the Council's subsidiary companies, support has been provided to the Council's interim shareholder team, and Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited, to develop risk and governance processes between the organisations and within the company.

- 6.3 During the year a comprehensive management system was developed, encompassing all aspects of Health and Safety, including reporting dashboards and indicators. This is currently being rolled out across the organisation and will be reported in further detail as part of the annual Health and Safety update to Governance and Audit Committee later in the year.
- 6.4 Work has continued to develop the insurance programmes for Colchester Borough Homes Limited and Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited, to ensure that emerging risks are appropriately managed.
- 6.5 Support continues to be provided, reviewing the risk elements of event plans to the Colchester Safety Advisory Group.
- 6.6 The risk registers, and strategies, for the Colchester and Ipswich Joint Museum Service and the North Essex Parking Partnership both continue to be produced and reported to the joint committees.

7 Strategic Risk Register

- 7.1 During 2022/23 the strategic risk register was reviewed by the senior management team every quarter and reported to the Governance and Audit Committee every six months.
- 7.2 For the majority of 2022/23 the Council's strategic risks were consistent and were mainly around the impacts of the economic climate, data security and recovery from the pandemic.
- 7.3 A fundamental review of the strategic risk register was undertaken with the Senior Leadership Board in July 2023, to ensure that the captured risks were still appropriate.
- 7.4 As a result of the review the risks have been amended to reflect the significant challenges the Council faces, and are concentrated on the key concerns, to ensure that mitigating actions are focused on delivering the changes required.
- 7.5 It is recognised that several of the risks are impacted by rapidly changing wider socio-economic factors, therefore the strategic risks and mitigating actions, will be considered monthly as part of the Senior Leadership Board meetings, to ensure that the Council is agile in responding to the changing environment.
- 7.6 The current register is shown at Appendix 1. These risks have been mapped onto a risk matrix, shown at Appendix 2, that shows the risk profile before, and after, mitigating actions.

8. Risk Management Strategy for 2023/24

- 8.1 The Council's current approach to managing risk was introduced in 2006/07. A requirement within the strategy, and also of the annual audit assessment, is to review the approach each year to ensure that it is still appropriate to the Council's needs.
- 8.2 Therefore a review has been undertaken and the strategy has been updated for 2023/24. The revised strategy is attached at Appendix 3. There are no changes proposed to the risk process, with amendments only to external review comments and the updating of responsibilities, to reflect the revised management structure.

9. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

9.1 There are no equality, diversity or Human Rights implications as a result of this report.

10. Strategic Plan References

10.1 The strategic risk register reflects the objectives of the strategic plan and the actions have been set with due regard to the identified key strategic risks. Therefore, the risk process supports the achievement of the strategic objectives.

11. Risk Management Implications

11.1 The failure to adequately identify and manage risks may have an effect on the ability of the Council to achieve its objectives and operate effectively.

12. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

12.1 There are no environmental or sustainability implications as a result of this report.

13. Other Standard References

13.1 There are no particular references to consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety or health and safety implications.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Strategic Risk Register

Appendix 2 – Risk Matrix

Appendix 3 – Risk Management Strategy for 2023/24

Appendix 4 – Minutes from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting of 1 August 2023

Colchester City Council Strategic Risk Register

Reviewed by Senior Leadership Board 13 July 2023

Strategic Plan 2023-26 Outcomes

1. Respond to the climate emergency
2. Develop modern services for a modern city
3. Improve health, well-being, and happiness
4. Deliver homes for those most in need
5. Grow our economy so everyone benefits
6. Celebrate our city and our heritage and culture

Ref	Risk Title	Strategic Plan link	Description	Potential Consequences	Initial Score			RATING	Lead	Mitigation	Residual Score			RATING
					P	I	O				P	I	O	
A	Organisational Resilience	1 - 6	Following the prolonged period of austerity, coupled with the Covid -19 pandemic, the Council, and its companies, are already in a position where the workforce is weakened, finances are reduced and organisational resilience is low	The Council does not have the resources, or resilience, to be able to make the changes required to deliver the strategic plan outcomes.	5	4	20	Very High	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the health and wellbeing programme, including regular monitoring and reporting. • Promote personal development and resilience options. • The creation of a flatter, more transparent management culture. Clear strategic plan delivery plan linked to available resources Ensure the transformation programme maintains momentum and delivers it's objectives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the Medium Term Financial Forecasting to plan for future challenges. 	4	3	12	High
B	Budget Strategy	1 - 6	The budget strategy does not accurately reflect the unprecedented level of savings required. The new S151 officer is also reviewing all elements and assumptions underpinning the budget which creates an additional element of risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Inability to deliver the budget strategy as planned. •Requirement for in-year budget and service adjustments. •Unplanned additional use of balances / reserves •Potential S114 notice 	4	5	20	Very High	Chief Operating Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective use of the controls built into the annual budget strategy, to enable the Council to respond quickly to changes. • Regular monitoring of actual spend/income and sensitivity analysis to consider the impact on income streams and the capacity of the Council to deliver services. • Regular and open reporting and updating of the budget position through Cabinet, • Prudent use of reserves where necessary to mitigate in-year losses. • Monitor and refine the Transformation agenda to ensure it contributes savings to balance future budgets. 	3	4	12	High

Ref	Risk Title	Strategic Plan link	Description	Potential Consequences	Initial Score			RATING	Lead	Mitigation	Residual Score			RATING
					P	I	O				P	I	O	
C	Economic Climate	1 - 6	The national economic climate continues to be challenging resulting in increases in demand on Council services exceeding capacity, unavoidable operating costs exceeding budgets and income expectations not being met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is unable to deliver the outcomes and priorities of the Strategic Plan. Reduction in levels of service provision and potential cessation of services. Inability to create opportunities to develop and boost the local economy. Depletion of Council's reserves, potential S114 notice 	4	4	16	Very High	Chief Operating Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a constant review of the Council's budget situation, including the impact of decisions from central government. Identify additional actions and areas for increasing income and reducing costs as necessary, including through the Council's Transformation Programme. Reduce reliance on New Homes Bonus to support the base budget. Lobby Government for a fair, multi-year funding settlement. 	4	3	12	High
D	Cyber & Data Security	2 & 5	Sensitive data, in any format, is not correctly managed, processed or protected from loss or theft (including as a result of a cyber attack) in line with GDPR and Data Protection Act requirements, including council data managed and handled by third parties. The ever increasing sophistication of phishing attacks increases the likelihood of officers and members inadvertently opening malware emails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe disruption to core services Financial, legal and reputational impacts for the Council, including ICO fines. Significant harm caused to residents with release of their personal details. 	4	4	16	Very High	Service Director (shared) ICT & Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing review of IT policies and protocols to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Implement a training program for all staff and members. Implement defined action plans to rapidly respond to any attacks on systems to help minimise any potential damage. Ongoing review of data security policies and protocols to ensure that they are fit for purpose and implement a training program for all staff and members as required. Provision of secure Council devices to staff and Members. 	4	3	12	High
E	Workforce Wellbeing	1 - 6	Workforce wellbeing is affected by the increase in demand for services and requirement to achieve savings, coupled with difficulty in recruiting into specialist roles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An unwarranted sense of 'personal failure' for some staff who put pressure on themselves to perform at a certain level, that is not sustainable. Decline in service performance. Reduction in efficiency and productivity. Inability to meet changing requirements and needs. Insufficient capacity to deliver the Transformation agenda. Customer perceptions decline as less is delivered. Loss of key staff. Staff who would be considered as some of the Council's vulnerable residents (in terms of financial resilience), thereby increasing the pressure on them from both work and personal perspectives. 	4	4	16	Very High	Head of People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor staff morale and trends using staff surveys and by monitoring the People Dashboard. Ensure good communications with staff, exploiting new technologies such as Yammer. Shared Services programme to recruit and retain staff and share skills in hard to recruit roles Implement the action plan for the People Strategy; ensuring that performance is regularly monitored. Regularly report the progress of the learning and development strategy, including financial considerations and business behaviours, and exploring training alternatives. Use it as an opportunity to review individuals in the community who could be retrained and reskilled, using processes such as supported internships. Ensure that all staff are reminded of the Employee Assistance Programme on a regular basis and are enabled to have 'safe conversations' with managers or other 	4	3	12	High

Ref	Risk Title	Strategic Plan link	Description	Potential Consequences	Initial Score			RATING	Lead	Mitigation	Residual Score			RATING
					P	I	O				P	I	O	
F	Financial Inequality	3 & 4	The current, and future, impacts of the costs of living and housing crisis are likely to increase the number of vulnerable residents, leading to greater financial inequality and increasing the number of residents seeking support from the Council, especially for housing and temporary accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The support available for the most vulnerable residents is not sufficient, leading to an increase in crisis intervention. Housing supply is depleted leading to increased demand for temporary accommodation and rising costs. 	4	4	16	Very High	Deputy Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly monitor the impact of the resources allocated to supporting customers to ensure that they are signposted to appropriate providers/partners. Ensure welfare support service are targeting customers who may not be aware of the service, working with other council services to identify residents who may benefit from the support. 	4	3	12	High
G	Service Innovation	1 - 6	The Transformation agenda and budget savings programme, including the review of the council's companies, does not deliver the changes required to meet the council's budgetary pressures and Strategic Plan priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of opportunity to innovate. Adverse impact on local residents / resources. Missed opportunities to boost local economy. Conflict between Council / Government agendas. Reduction in levels of service provision and potential cessation of services. 	4	3	12	High	Deputy Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a clear approach and 'roadmap' for transforming the Council and delivering budget savings monitored by the Senior Leadership Board and reported to Cabinet as part of the budget process. 	3	3	9	Medium
H	Corporate Assets	2 & 6	Failure to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Council's corporate assets, encompassing compliance, utilisation and future development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets are not maximised to their full potential statutory building procedures are breached resulting in fines and liability claims The repairs and maintenance programme for the assets is insufficient to respond to issues, especially in connection with heritage sites. 	4	3	12	High	Chief Operating Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive asset management plan. Ensure that a suitable repairs and maintenance programme is developed with fully costed budget allocations. Establish clear facilities management processes with named responsibilities, reporting lines and escalation procedures. 	3	3	9	Medium
I	ICT	2	The increasing reliance on IT to continue normal business leaves the Council potentially vulnerable to any major system failure, across all service areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe disruption to core services Financial, legal and reputational impacts for the Council, including fines and lost income. Inability to respond to customer requirements including benefit processing and housing repairs. 	2	5	10	High	Service Director (shared) ICT & Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to shift any remaining legacy systems into more resilient, cloud-based solutions in line with ICT strategy. Ensure that the IT Disaster Recovery plan, and service plans, adequately reflect the organisation's requirements and provide an effective framework for maintaining service provision. Regularly review the IT development strategy to ensure it continues to support the organisations ambitions and provides appropriate safeguards for IT service delivery. 	2	4	8	Medium

Ref	Risk Title	Strategic Plan link	Description	Potential Consequences	Initial Score			RATING	Lead	Mitigation	Residual Score			RATING
					P	I	O				P	I	O	
J	Capacity	2,4 & 5	The continuing high level of inflation, coupled with the reduced availability of specialist staff, impacts on the ability to deliver the planned Capital programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Key projects are delayed or withdrawn •Increase in expenditure •Inability to attract future investment •Failure to deliver benefits to residents 	3	3	9	Medium	Chief Operating Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the recruitment and development processes to ensure that the organisation has the appropriate skills and expertise. • Frequently review the Capital Programme to ensure that programmes are realistic and deliverable with available resources and / or identify any additional resources required to deliver key projects. • Agile methodology enables project scopes to be adjusted through effective governance processes. • Establishment of the Capital Programme Steering Group (informal Cabinet) to oversee the entire capital programme and address any capacity and other risks before they become issues. 	3	2	6	Medium

SCORE DEFINITIONS	1	2	3	4	5
Probability	10% May happen – unlikely	10 -25% Possible	26 – 50% Could easily happen	51 – 75% Very likely to happen	Over 75% Consider as certain
Impact	Very Low Insignificant effect on delivery of services or achievement of Strategic Vision & Corporate Objectives.	Low Minor interruption to service delivery or minimal effect on Corporate Objectives.	Medium Moderate interruption to overall service delivery/effect on Corporate Objectives or failure of an individual service.	High Major interruption to overall service delivery or severe effect on Corporate Objectives.	Very High Inability to provide services or failure to meet Corporate Objectives

RISK MATRIX
G&A July 2023

Low Risks	Medium Risks	High Risks
-----------	--------------	------------

Initial Score Matrix

Scoring 1-5

Risk Tolerance Line

Probability of Occurrence	5 Very High			A		
	4 High			G H	C D E F B	
	3 Medium			J		
	2 Low				I	
	1 Very Low					
		1 Very Low	2 Low	3 Medium	4 High	5 Very high
Severity of Impact						

Residual Score Matrix

Scoring 1-5

Risk Tolerance Line

Probability of Occurrence	5 Very High					
	4 High			A C D E F		
	3 Medium		J	G H	B	
	2 Low				I	
	1 Very Low					
		1 Very Low	2 Low	3 Medium	4 High	5 Very high
Severity of Impact						



Risk Management Strategy 2023/24

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This document outlines the Council's commitment to managing risk in an effective and appropriate manner. It is intended to be used as the framework for delivery of the Risk Management function and provides guidance to ensure management of risk is a routine process for all services.

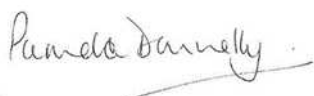
INTRODUCTION

This strategy will ensure that:

1. The management of risk contributes towards ensuring effective service delivery and the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives.
2. Members and the Senior Leadership Board own, lead and support on risk management.
3. Ownership and accountability are clearly assigned for the management of risks throughout the Council.
4. There is a commitment to embedding risk management into the Council's culture and organisational processes, at all levels, including strategic, programme, project and operational.
5. All members and officers acknowledge and understand the importance of risk management as a good governance process, by which key risks and opportunities are identified, evaluated and managed.
6. Effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms are in place to continuously review the Council's exposure to, and management of, risks and opportunities.
7. Best practice systems for managing risk are used throughout the Council, including mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing effectiveness against agreed standards and targets.
8. Accountability to stakeholders is demonstrated through periodic progress reports and an annual statement on the effectiveness of and the added value (benefits) from the Council's risk management strategy, framework and processes.
9. Where possible the Council's approach is regularly assessed by an external, independent body against other public sector organisations, national standards and Best Practice.
10. The Risk Management Strategy is reviewed and updated annually in line with the Council's developing needs and requirements.

Endorsement by Pamela Donnelly, Chief Executive

“Colchester City Council is committed to ensuring that risks to the effective delivery of its services, and achievement of its overall objectives, are properly and adequately controlled. It is recognised that effective management of risk will enable the Council to maximise its opportunities and enhance the value of services it provides to the community. Colchester City Council expects all officers and members to have due regard for risk when carrying out their duties.”



WHAT IS RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Management is the control of business risks in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. It is an essential performance management process to ensure that both the long- and short-term objectives of the Council are achieved and that opportunities are fully maximised.

Risk Management is not about eliminating risk, as this would limit the ability of the organisation to develop and deliver its ambitions. Its purpose is to recognise the issues that could affect the achievement of objectives and develop actions to control, or reduce, those risks. Acknowledgement of potential problems and preparing for them is an essential element to successfully delivering any service or project. Good management of risk will enable the Council to rapidly respond to change and develop innovative responses to challenges and opportunities.

The ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government’ 2016 framework, jointly issued by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives states that there are seven core principles of good governance including ‘Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management’. The document goes on to state ‘Local government needs to ensure that the organisations and governance structures that it oversees have implemented, and can sustain, an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Risk management and internal control are important and integral parts of a performance management system and are crucial to the achievement of outcomes. Risk should be considered and addressed as part of all decision-making activities.’

A process for managing risks was first adopted by the Council in 2003 and since then has been developed to ensure that it continues to be an effective management system. This strategy defines Colchester City Council's definition of risk and the processes to be followed.

In broad terms risks are split into three categories:

- Strategic – those risks relating to the long-term goals of the Council.
- Operational – risks related to the day-to-day operation of each individual service.
- Project – consideration of the risks occurring as a result of the Council's involvement in specific initiatives.

The following are some of the practical ways that risks are managed and how effectiveness is measured:

- Provision of a comprehensive strategic register, that is regularly reviewed.
- Provision of operational risk registers for all service areas.
- Consideration of risk in Committee reports.
- Development of a comprehensive risk register for the project management programme and consideration of risk as a project management tool.
- Successful internal and external assessment.
- Provision of advice to other authorities regarding our management of risk.

This has led to a practical and workable approach to managing risk, which has resulted in the Council becoming more risk aware and taking more risks, as demonstrated by the comprehensive project risk register. Colchester is also highly regarded for managing risk by both our insurers and other authorities.

The 2022/23 Internal Audit of risk management gave a reasonable assurance opinion. Four recommendations were raised during the audit relating to Producing the Operational risk registers, the project risk management process and dates of review on registers.

OWNERSHIP

The responsibility to manage risk rests with every member and officer of the Council however it is essential that there is a clearly defined structure for the co-ordination and review of risk information and ownership of the process.

Appendix 3 is from the CIPFA/SOLACE risk management guide, Chance or Choice. It is a generic map of responsibility for each part of the risk management process.

The following defines the responsibility for the risk management process at Colchester:

Cabinet – Overall ownership of the risk management process and endorsement of the strategic direction of risk management.

Portfolio Holder for Economy, Transformation & Performance – Lead Member for the risk management process

Governance and Audit Committee – Responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of the risk management process and reporting critical items to Cabinet as necessary.

Senior Leadership Board (SLB) – Ownership of the strategic risks and overview of the operational risks. Actively support the Risk Management Strategy and framework.

Head of Governance – Lead officer for the risk management process, demonstrating commitment to manage risk.

Corporate Governance Manager – Responsible for co-ordination of the risk management process, co-ordinating and preparing reports and providing advice and support.

All Heads of Service – Ownership, control and reporting of their service's operational risks. Contribute to the development of a risk management culture in their teams.

All Employees – To understand and to take ownership of the need to identify, assess, and help manage risk in their individual areas of responsibility. Bringing to the management's attention at the earliest opportunity details of any emerging risks that may adversely impact on service delivery.

Internal Audit, External Audit and other Review Bodies – Annual review and report on the Council's arrangements for managing risk throughout the Council, having regard to statutory requirements and best practice. Assurance on the effectiveness of risk management and the control environment.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The **aim** of the Council is to adopt best practices in the identification, evaluation, cost-effective control and monitoring of risks across all processes to ensure that risks are properly considered and reduced as far as practicable.

The **risk management objectives** of Colchester City Council are to:

- Integrate risk management into the culture of the Council.
- Ensure that there are strong and identifiable links between managing risk and all other management and performance processes.
- Manage risk in accordance with best practice.
- Anticipate and respond to changing social, environmental and legislative requirements.
- Prevent injury, damage and losses and reduce the cost of risk.
- Raise awareness of the need for risk management by all those connected with the Council's delivery of services.
- Ensure that opportunities are properly maximised through the control of risk.
- Reduce duplication between services in managing overlapping risks and promote 'best practise'.

STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

Strategic risks are essentially those that threaten the long-term goals of the Council and therefore are mainly based around meeting the objectives of the Strategic Plan. They may also represent developing issues that have the potential to fundamentally effect service provision, such as proposals to dramatically change the corporate assessment process.

Strategic risks will be controlled using a register that will detail the risks and associated controls. The register will be owned by the Senior Leadership Board, with ownership for risks being assigned to individual officers, and will be reviewed every quarter. The strategic risks will be reported to the Governance & Audit Committee at least twice a year.

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Operational risks are those that threaten the routine service delivery of the Council. Each service area will have their own operational risk register that details the risks associated with providing the service. These registers will be reported, in summary format, to the Senior Leadership Board and committee on an annual basis. High risks and the success in controlling them will be reported to Senior Leadership Board on a quarterly basis, as these will help in the formulation of the strategic risk register.

LINKS

It is essential that risk management does not operate in isolation to other management processes. To fully embed a risk management culture, it has to be demonstrated that risk is considered and influences all decisions that the Council makes. It is essential that there is a defined link between the results of managing risk and the following:

- The Strategic Plan
- Service Plans
- Revenue and Capital Budgets
- Annual Internal Audit Plan

ACTION REQUIRED

The following actions will be implemented to achieve the objectives set out above:

- Considering risk management as part of the Council's strategic planning and corporate governance arrangements.
- Ensuring that the responsibility for risk management is clearly and appropriately allocated.
- Maintaining documented procedures for managing risk
- Maintaining a corporate approach to identify and prioritise key services and key risks across the Council and assess risks on key projects.
- Maintain a corporate mechanism to evaluate these key risks and determine if they are being adequately managed and financed.
- Establish a procedure for ensuring that there is a cohesive approach to linking the risks to other management processes.
- Including risk management considerations in all committee reports
- Providing risk management awareness training to both Members and officers.
- Developing risk management performance indicators.
- Establishing a reporting system which will provide assurance on how well the Council is managing its key risks and ensures that the appropriate Members and officers are fully briefed on risk issues.
- Preparing contingency plans in areas where there is a potential for an occurrence to have a significant effect on the Council and its business capability.
- Regularly reviewing the risk process to ensure that it complies with current national Governance Standards and Best Practice.
- Developing risk management links with key partners and contractors, to ensure that principles are adopted in all areas of service delivery.

REVIEW

To ensure that the risk management process is effective it will need to be measured and reported to Senior Leadership Board, Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet. As well as a structured reporting process of risks and controls during the year there will need to be an annual review demonstrating the success of the following:

- The inclusion of risk management principles within Service Plans and budgets.
- The development of the Internal Audit plan based on the risk issues.
- Achievement against identified performance indicators.
- Members consistently ensuring managing risk is considered as part of the decision-making processes within the Council.
- Heads of Service making recommendations that regard risk as an opportunity as well as a threat.
- Risk management principles being considered in service reviews, for example in areas such as options for change and service improvements.
- Changes in risk being independently identified and assessed by Heads of Service
- Compliance with any self-assessment requirements.

Suitable opportunities to benchmark the risk management service against other organisations should also be explored, to ensure that it is effective, and the work carried out by the Council conforms to best practice.

The three appendices attached give greater details of key areas:

Appendix 1 – Outline of the risk management process.

Appendix 2 – Details of how Risk Management will be reported.

Appendix 3 – CIPFA guidance on Risk Management Responsibilities

APPENDIX 1

The Risk Management Process

Risk Management is a continual process of identifying risks, evaluating their potential consequences and determining the most effective methods of controlling them and / or responding to them. The risks faced by the Council are constantly changing and the continual process of monitoring risks should ensure that we can respond to the new challenges. This process is referred to as the risk management cycle.

Stage 1 – Risk Identification

Identifying and understanding the hazards and risks facing the council is crucial if informed decisions are to be made about policies or service delivery methods. There is detailed guidance available on how to identify risks which includes team sessions and individual knowledge. Once identified a risk should be reported to the relevant Head of Service who will consider its inclusion on the relevant risk register. If the risk is identified in between register reviews, then it is reported to the Corporate Governance Manager for information and the Head of Service is responsible for managing the risk.

Stage 2 – Risk Analysis

Once risks have been identified they need to be systematically and accurately assessed. If a risk is seen to be unacceptable, then steps need to be taken to control or respond to it.

Stage 3 – Risk Control

Risk control is the process of taking action to minimise the likelihood of the risk event occurring and / or reducing the severity of the consequences should it occur.

Stage 4 – Risk Monitoring

The risk management process does not finish with the risk control procedures in place. Their effectiveness in controlling risk must be monitored and reviewed. It is also important to assess whether the nature of the risk has changed over time.

APPENDIX 2

Reporting

No matter how good the process to identify and control risks is, it will not be effective unless the information gained from it is reported and used to influence other management issues / processes. Therefore, it is essential that there is a defined process and timetable for reporting the results of the risk management process to both members and officers.

Types of Report

- The strategic risk register is reviewed a minimum of twice yearly by Senior Leadership Board, with interim reports quarterly as required.
- Six monthly review of the operational risk registers and a summary report of these reviews to Senior Leadership Board
- Project risks are reported through the project management process and reported to the project management board. Significant issues will also be included in the reporting process to Senior Leadership Board
- A six-monthly report is provided to Committee (Governance and Audit) detailing the current strategic and high-level operational risks and the progress made in controlling them.
- An annual report reviewing Risk Management activity and an action plan for the coming year – taking into account changes in methodology and results of internal and external reviews. Going to Senior Leadership Board, Governance & Audit and Cabinet.
- Ad-hoc reports need to be provided to Senior Leadership Board when new, significant risk issues arise.

The reports can be summarised as follows:

	Services	Senior Leadership Board	Governance & Audit Committee	Cabinet
Quarterly		Review of strategic risk register		

6 Monthly	Review of operational risk register	Summary of operational review from services	Progress report of strategic & high-level operational risks	
Yearly		Scrutiny of annual progress report to committee on risk management	Endorsement of annual progress report on risk management.	Summary of past years work on risk management.

APPENDIX 3

Risk Management Responsibilities – CIPFA / SOLACE Guidance

	Framework, Strategy and Process	Identifying risk	Analysing Risk	Profiling risk	Prioritising action based on risk appetite	Determining action on risk	Controlling risk	Monitoring & Reporting	Reporting to external stakeholders.
Members	Agreeing the Framework, Strategy and Process determined by Officers	Identifying risk	Analysing Risk	Profiling Risk	Determining the risk appetite and prioritising risk. Agreeing the priorities determined by officers			Reviewing the effectiveness of the risk management process.	Reporting to external stakeholders on the framework, strategy, process and effectiveness.
Corporate Governance Team	Providing advice And support to the Leadership Board Members	Providing advice and support.	Providing Advice and support	Providing advice and support	Providing advice and support			Co-ordinating the results for reporting to the corporate management team and members	
Senior Leadership Board	Determining the framework, Strategy and Process	Identifying strategic and cross-cutting issues	Analysing Strategic and cross-cutting issues.	Profiling strategic and cross-cutting issues.	Determining the risk appetite and prioritising strategic and cross-cutting issues	Determining action on strategic and cross-cutting issues. Delegating responsibility for control.		Monitoring progress on managing strategic and cross-cutting risks and reviewing the implementation of the risk management framework, strategy and process. Reporting to members.	Reporting to external stakeholders on the framework, strategy, process and effectiveness.
Head of Governance .	Providing Advice and Support	Providing advice and support	Providing advice and support	Providing advice and support	Providing advice and support	Providing advice and support	Providing advice and support	Co-ordinating the results for reporting to the Senior Leadership Team and Members	Preparing draft reports for the corporate management team and members to issue.
Heads of Service		Identifying service Risks	Analysing Service risks.	Profiling service risks.	Prioritising action on service risks.	Determining action on service risks. Delegating responsibility for control.		Monitoring progress on managing service risks. Reporting to the group management team	
Employees, contractors And partners		Maintaining awareness of risks and feeding these into the formal process.	Maintaining awareness impact of risks and feeding information into the processes				Controlling risk in their jobs.	Monitoring progress on Managing job related risks Reporting to the Head of Service	

376. 2022/2023 Year End Review of Risk Management

The Committee considered a report providing members with an overview of the Council's risk management activity undertaken during the financial year from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Hayley McGrath, Corporate Governance Manager, attended the meeting to introduce the report and assist the Committee with its enquiries. During the course of the municipal year, the Committee received 2 reports relating to risk management, a mid-year report and an end of year report. The report which was before it was the end of year report, which focussed on 3 key areas:

1. The Council's Risk Management Strategy
2. Work which had been undertaken during the financial year 2022/2023
3. The Council's current Strategic Risk Register

The Committee heard that it was good practice that it was presented with the Council's Risk Management Strategy once a year, to ensure that the Strategy provided the assurance that the Council's risks were managed appropriately. No significant changes had been made to the Strategy for 2023/2024, save for minor changes to update job titles of staff. The Strategy was approved by the Council's internal auditors each year and had received a 'reasonable' assurance level.

There had been a couple of significant areas of work in the preceding financial year, due to the results of the Council's Peer Review Challenge, and the subsequent review of the Council's wholly owned companies. Work had been undertaken to examine the governance arrangements and risk processes of the Council's companies, Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) and Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Ltd (CCHL).

The presence of an interim Health and Safety Manager during the year had afforded the opportunity to implement a system of managing health and safety risks to provide assurance to managers across the organisation. The programme was comprehensive and was being implemented across all the Council's services. The Committee would receive a more detailed report on this work later on in the municipal year.

Additionally, the Corporate Governance Manager had been working with the Council's joint committees, the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) and the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service (CIMS), to provide their Committees and Boards support with managing their own internal risk management processes and governance arrangements.

The Strategic Risk Register which was presented to the Committee had a revised format, and a lot of work had taken place with the Council's Senior Leadership Board (SLB) to carry out a detailed, honest and robust review of the risks which the organisation faced. As a result of this review, the contents of the Register had been

amended, and the risks related to the 6 outcomes of the Council's Strategic Plan to provide assurance from a corporate governance point of view across the organisation that the Council's objectives would continue to be met. Fewer risks were contained in the Register than before, as the decision had been taken to focus on the risks which it was considered would present the greatest challenge to the authority. SLB had been very honest about the risks that the Council faced, and a key risk had been identified as organisational resilience.

The Committee was asked to agree the proposed Risk Management Strategy in order that it could be presented to Cabinet for approval before being presented to Full Council for inclusion in the Council's Policy Framework.

The Committee noted the number of high priority risks which had been identified, and considered that this demonstrated a high level of transparency, and was to be applauded.

The Committee discussed the critical importance of the Council's staff, and wondered how best to ensure that staff were able to provide honest feedback about the stresses that they faced. It was noted that surveys and morale monitoring had taken place, and particular praise was reserved for the Council's Employment and Financial Inclusion team who were carrying out excellent work in difficult circumstances. Pam Donnelly, Chief Executive of the Council, addressed the Committee and confirmed that in her opinion the levels of honesty which staff felt empowered to express had risen. There had recently been a significant level of staff engagement from the whole SLB, including webinars and regular monthly sessions with the Chief Executive based on the principles of 'listen, learn, lead'. Any member of staff was afforded the opportunity to raise any concerns with the Chief Executive in a totally confidential environment, and these sessions had been very well attended. The wellbeing and resilience of Council staff was of key importance at all levels of the Council.

It was noted by a member of the Committee that the Budget Strategy Risk contained a referenced to a S.114 notice, and considered that this could cause concern among the public that the Council may be in danger of having to serve this Notice, when in reality there was no danger of this at the present time. It was suggested that as soon as the revenue outturn reports for quarter 1 were available, then these should be shared with the Committee, which had a duty of oversight to ensure that the Council was delivering on its ambitious savings plans. Chris Hartgrove, Deputy S151 Officer, confirmed to the Committee that the quarter 1 figures would be presented to it at its' meeting in September. It was noted that Risk 'J' in the Register related to delays in the Council's Capital Programme, which was listed as a medium risk. Given that delays had already occurred, should this risk not be at a more elevated level? The Corporate Governance Manager was happy to discuss the points which had been raised with the Council's SLB, HM to take this back to SLB, and explained that the Risk Register was currently being reviewed on a monthly basis to allow the very fluid economic situation to be kept under constant review. It was the purpose of the Register to list the worst possible outcomes from a given risk, and this was the only reason that a S114 Notice had been included in it.

In response to a comment from a Committee member who noted that the Strategy made reference to the Council taking more risks, the Corporate Governance Manager said that an example of this was the current Turnstone Development, and the fact that the Council was an innovative authority which gave rise to potentially greater risk exposure. Although there was no mention of the Council's risk appetite in the Strategy, this appetite had been assessed and could be added to the Strategy in the future if this was appropriate.

In discussion, it was noted that the Committee had considered the Council's financial statements, together with their production and the potential for qualified statements, and these issues were not mentioned in the Risk Register. Had they been considered and had their omission been a conscious decision? The Council's S151 Officer considered that the risk around the Council's financial statements was adequately covered within the Council's Risk Register under the Budget Strategy in section B of the Register.

A Committee member wondered what the large, unforeseen, catastrophic events were which could have a significant impact on the Council? The Corporate Governance Manager confirmed that such events would be considered by Cabinet, SLB and the Leader to consider, and there were a range of issues which could cause unexpected problems for the Council. Consideration would be given to mentioning such events in the Register in the future. Big issues which could disrupt the council's services were considered and included in the Council's Business Continuity Plans which were approved by this Committee annually.

The Chief Executive considered that in general terms the Council was facing more risks at the current time than it had in the past. These risks included the level of savings which the Council was required to make, the new approach which was being taken to the leadership of Council staff, and the resizing of the workforce which was taking place. A Committee member pointed out that staffing levels were currently at their highest number over the last 5 years, however, noted that the full time equivalent (FTE) in staffing was considerably lower, which was a deliberate choice of the organisation. It was suggested that the Council should take note of this when thinking about or discussing recruitment. The Chief Executive confirmed that the organisation had made a choice to offer more flexible working for staff, and it was considered that there were three key benefits to this choice:

1. Allowing groups into the workforce who may previously have been excluded such as working parents.
2. If the Council were to adopt a more fixed employment model this would not recognise the significant improvements which had been made in retention and productivity.
3. The Council's approach encouraged a wider recruitment market, both geographically and in terms of the skillsets which the Council was able to attract.

Ultimately, the outcome of the Council's policy was a richer, more diverse workforce which better mirrored the community that the Council served.

Councillor King, The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, attended the meeting and offered the Committee his assurance that the approach being taken by the Council with regard to risk management was one which was balanced and given weight which was appropriate to the fluctuating circumstances the Council found itself in. He considered that it was important to understand the FTE number of staffing, and suggested that the flexibility which the Council was able to offer to its employees was part of a desirable employment package which supported recruiting and retaining the staff who could best deliver the Council's aims and objectives, while continuing to support the savings which had to be made.

In discussion, the Committee noted the high levels of interrelationship between elements of the Risk Register, considering that the impact of continued economic hardship could have a knock-on effect on the provision of social housing, for example. Could this be reflected in the Register in some way? It was considered that when setting the budget in the future years, it was essential that the Council didn't try to deliver the same level of service with fewer staff, as this would not lead to a healthy organisation. A Committee member praised the layout and content of the Register, but wondered whether the Council's Project Risk Register should also be considered by the Committee, as some of the Council's projects were large in scope and had the potential seriously impact the Register. The Corporate Governance Manager would discuss this suggestion with the Council's SLB to determine how best to reflect the project risks within the Strategic Risk Register.

The Committee considered whether or not it was appropriate for the risks which were posed to the Council by its wholly owned companies CBC and CCHL to be included on the Strategic Risk Register. The Corporate Governance Manager explained that each of the companies would bring their own Risk Registers to the Committee for scrutiny at the appropriate time. Although the failure of the companies did pose a risk to the Council, in strategic terms, such a failure would potentially have broader consequences on the Council's service delivery. The Chief Executive did consider that when considering risks which were contingent risks, there was now a strong case that these be included in the Council's Strategic Risk Register as the interdependence of the Council and its' companies was highlighted more strongly than ever before.

RESOLVED that: The submission of the Corporate Governance Manager's report to Cabinet to approve the Risk Management Strategy for 2023/2024 be endorsed.

11th October 2023

Report of	Section 151 Officer	Author	Andrew Small
Title	Mid-Year Capital Programme Update 2023/24		
Wards affected	All Wards		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Deviating from normal procedure, an updated Capital Programme for 2023/24 was not adopted alongside the General Fund Revenue budget in February 2023, given awareness of the increasing cost of financing and recognition of pressures on the revenue budget. A detailed review of the Capital Programme was requested to establish a more in-depth analysis of affordability.
- 1.2 Whilst the review continues, it is clear affordability of the Capital Programme should be considered alongside emerging General Fund revenue pressures in order that relative priorities can be understood, and decisions taken with appropriate knowledge of these.
- 1.3 For this reason, this report represents a limited review which only considers approval for new Capital Commitments which are either time critical or essentially previously approved and the removal of completed schemes with residual unspent allocations.
- 1.4 All other decision about inclusion and affordability of new Capital schemes will be deferred so that they can be assessed and developed as part of Budget Planning for 2024/25.
- 1.5 Decisions about increasing the size of the Capital Programme are reserved for Council and so recommendations from this report will need to be made to Council.

2 Recommended Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to Recommend to Council the inclusion of the schemes listed in Appendix B and C into the Approved Capital Programme and the removal of deleted schemes listed in Appendix D.

3 Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Council's Financial Regulations state that Cabinet has delegated authority to vary the Capital Programme within the overall approved envelope but any additions which require an increase in the Capital Programme beyond this must be referred to Council for approval. Variations will not normally be sought except for reasons of operational necessity, legislative requirement or reasons of Health and Safety compliance. The delay to updating the Capital Programme in February 2023 has resulted in some services experiencing operational issues which threaten the continued smooth delivery of core services.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 All schemes proposed could be delayed until a formal Capital Programme revision in February 2024, but this would prevent or impact upon the delivery of some core services.

5 Background Information

- 5.1 The Capital Programme is in the process of being reviewed following recommendations from the Peer Review carried out by the LGA last year, and because of the Administration's and Governance and Audit Committee's concerns about wider budget pressures and affordability given likely increases in the costs of borrowing.
- 5.2 This review is following a parallel path and includes a reconciliation of Financing Costs against those provided for in the approved Budget for 2023/24. Members will be engaged as part of this review and the conclusion will be used to form the basis of developing an updated Capital Programme for 2024/25 and beyond.
- 5.3 Affordability is a key consideration and has been impacted over the previous 12 months by rising costs of delivery and higher borrowing costs. Funding pressures are also impacting on the General Fund Revenue Budget and incurring avoidable additional financing costs without a full understanding of these and the budgetary choices potentially facing the Council, that may be required in order to balance the budget, should be avoided without a complete picture available.
- 5.4 For this reason, the inclusion of other new schemes and a full update of the Capital Programme will be aligned to the consideration and revision of the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) following completion of the ongoing Capital Programme Review. The most recent full Capital Programme is attached to this report as **Appendix A**, to provide context.
- 5.5 However, there are some schemes which are urgent (for legislative or operational reasons) or already committed through other democratic processes and which therefore need to be formally included into the base Capital Programme so that spending can commence.
- 5.6 This paper presents only these schemes, with all others effectively deferred so that they can be considered as part of the budget development process.
- 5.7 **Appendix B** presents £3.206M of schemes which have already been given approval by Cabinet or other delegated democratic body for inclusion into the Approved Capital Programme.
- 5.8 The largest single inclusion is the Capital Cost associated with rolling out the chargeable Garden Waste collection arrangements (£1.655M) later this year. The spend was approved by Cabinet in July and will be funded through Borrowing. The associated repayment costs were factored into the Business Case considered by Cabinet.
- 5.9 The Anglican Chapel is one of a pair of Victorian Gothic Chapels, built in 1855 in Colchester Cemetery. From 1856 when the cemetery opened through to 2003, the chapel was regularly used for burial services. But in 2003 damage to the structure was identified which meant that the chapel was unsafe for access by the public. Burial services are no longer held there, and railings were erected around the chapel to prevent anyone getting hurt should there be a fall of stone or roof tile. Gradually the chapel fabric has slid even further into decline until now, when maintaining the fabric is at the crucial point. Without renovation now the chapel will decline beyond repair. Due to delays in

approving the Capital Programme urgent works with an estimated value of £270,000 have been commissioned to mitigate serious safety risks.

- 5.10 Hollytrees Museum (£500,000) relates to essential extensive repairs to prevent water ingress through the roof and a thorough review of the electrics, thereby preventing further deterioration and damage. The scheme is Grant match funded with the £228,000 successfully secured through grant and a residual borrowing requirement of £272,000.
- 5.11 Of the remaining scheme inclusions, £0.663M relates to S106 funded schemes and allocated in accordance with negotiated S106 agreements either to fund replacement of end-of-life play equipment or to meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) or access requirements. A further £0.100M is funded through Grants for Shop Front improvements under the Levelling Up Funding (LUF) scheme approved for this specific purpose. There are no direct revenue consequences associated with the funding of these schemes.
- 5.12 **Appendix C** presents a further of £2.992M of schemes not previously approved but which need urgent approval to allow commitments to be raised to meet operational or legislative obligations. Delaying approval until the full review of the Capital Programme, to be considered alongside the presentation of the budget, would impact upon the operational delivery. The request for permission to include these schemes now is driven by this consideration.
- 5.13 Of the £2.992M, £2.122M relates to scheduled replacement or acquisition of vehicles to ensure the continued delivery of Street Care and Safety and Recycling and Waste Services. The Council buys vehicles outright to deliver these services as this is financially more advantageous than leasing or contract hire. The financing costs of these vehicles is factored into the operational running costs of the service and as one set of vehicles reaches end of life they are replaced by new vehicles, with the financing costs only increasing by higher purchase costs due to inflation.
- 5.14 Of the remaining £870,000, the provision relates to the following schemes:
- 5.15 Castle Park Area Replacement (£700,000) - Replacement of play equipment due to end of life. The scheme is expected to be funded approximately 2/3rds by Section 106 and Revenue Contributions, with the remaining 1/3rd coming from Borrowing. The use of Section 106 is being reviewed to see if the proportion of S106 funding can be increased.
- 5.16 Middle Mill (£80,000) – A scheme of works to mitigate flood risk in upstream open spaces and housing.
- 5.17 Ferry Marsh (£46,000) - Extend outlet pipe to stop flooding and enable use of nature reserve.
- 5.18 Smart Locks (£44,000) - Automated locking and unlocking of Colchester City Council maintained toilet blocks. This project will allow the Council to automate the locking and unlocking of all 6 Public Toilet block locations: 3 in Castle Park, 1 in Highwoods Country park, 1 in Dedham and 1 at St Marys Car Park. The locks will be able to be managed remotely allowing wintering opening and fault management to be centrally managed. The chosen locks will allow any customers to exit a locked door via an easy to operate lever. Provision of automated locking has significant Environmental and Time saving benefits. To complete the project will require 24 locks and a replacement door for the middle Castle Park toilet block.
- 5.19 A review of completed schemes has also been undertaken so that the Capital Programme can be condensed, and underspent or unused capital allocations can be

removed, thereby reducing the funding requirement. This list of completed schemes is attached as Appendix D. The deletion of the schemes reduces the size of the capital programme by £221,000 and is reflected in the Appendix A.

6 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

6.1 None identified at this stage.

7 Strategic Plan References

7.1 The Capital Programme will deliver the Council's strategic priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan 2023-26 and aid recovery in Colchester.

8 Financial implications

8.1 These are set out within the report. Most revenue implications are mitigated either within approved Business Cases or through the use of monies given for the specific purpose under Section 106 obligations, or through Grant. Where the associated costs of schemes are not covered under these headings, they are only brought forward for approval at this point due to compelling operational, Health and Safety or Legislative requirements.

8.2 All other proposals have been deferred to be considered alongside the development of the budget so that relative prioritisation can be properly considered.

9 Health and Safety Implications

9.1 These are covered within the report.

10 Risk Management Implications

10.1 In Projects are monitored using Power Bi which is an interactive piece of software, part of the corporate suite of MS SharePoint functionality. Power Bi graphically depicts progress against Delivery, Time and Cost and must be measured against the Project Initiation Document (PID).

10.2 Project Progress Reports and Risk Registers use the Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status as a visual clue to performance. Its purpose is to demonstrate progress and make it clear when escalation is required. This is in accordance with Agile project management methodology which is the corporate approach used for delivering projects.

11 Environmental and Sustainability Implications

11.1 In All budget measures are assessed for their likely environmental impact, reflecting the Council's commitment to be 'carbon neutral' by 2030. Environment and Climate Change is an essential cross-cutting theme in the Council's recovery planning, a core theme of the new Strategic Plan and a clear category of investment through the capital programme.

Background Papers

None

Appendix B Capital Schemes

New Proposed Schemes – Previously Approved

Project Name	Total Budget	How the Budget is funded					Forecast in 2023/24	Forecast in 2024/25	Forecast in 2025/26	Forecast in 2026/27
		Capital Receipts	Borrowing	Revenue	Grants	S106				
LUF - Shop Front Improvements	100	0	0	0	100	0	100			
Levelling up	100	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	
ECONOMIC GROWTH	100	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	
Anglican Chapel Renovations	270	0	270	0	0	0	218	52		
Bereavement Services	270	0	270	0	0	0	218	52	0	
Stanway Community Hall - S106	52	0	0	0	0	52	52	0		
Rowhedge Allotments	181	0	0	0	0	181	0	181		
Community & Partnerships	233	0	0	0	0	233	52	181	0	
HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS AND WELLBEING	503	0	270	0	0	233	270	233	0	
Hollytrees Museum	500	0	272	0	228	0	228	272		
Colchester Museums	500	0	272	0	228	0	228	272	0	
MUSEUMS, CULTURE AND TOURISM	500	0	272	0	228	0	228	272	0	
Street Hoover	18	0	0	0	18	0	18			
Street Care & Safety	18	0	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	
Garden Waste	1,655	0	1,655	0	0	0	583	557	515	
Recycling & Waste	1,655	0	1,655	0	0	0	583	557	515	
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES	1,673	0	1,655	0	18	0	601	557	515	
Castle Park Café - DDA and EPC compliant	51	0	0	0	0	51	51			
Eight Ash Green Village S106	190	0	0	0	0	190	190			
Highwoods Play Area	140	0	0	0	0	140	140			
Langham PC Play Equipment - S106	49	0	0	0	0	49	49			
Parks and Open Spaces	430	0	0	0	0	430	430	0	0	
SUSTAINABILITY	430	0	0	0	0	430	430	0	0	
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME - NEW APPROVED	3,206	0	2,197	0	346	663	1,629	1,062	515	

Appendix C Capital Schemes

New Proposed Schemes – Not Previously Approved

Project Name	Total Proposed Funding	How the Budget is funded					Forecast in 2023/24	Forecast in 2024/25	Forecast in 2025/26	Forecast in 2026/27
		Capital Receipts	Borrowing	Revenue	Grants	S106				
Middle Mill	80	0	80	0	0	0	80	0	0	0
Ferry Marsh	46	0	46	0	0	0	46	0	0	0
Smart Locks	44	0	44	0	0	0	44	0	0	0
Castle Park Area replacement	700	0	271	100	0	329	20	680	0	0
Parks and Open Spaces	870	0	440	100	0	329	190	680	0	0
SUSTAINABILITY	870	0	440	100	0	329	190	680	0	0
New sweeper	320	0	320	0	0	0	0	320	0	0
Street Care & Safety	320	0	320	0	0	0	0	320	0	0
2 x 50.50 split RCVs	460	0	460	0	0	0	0	460	0	0
Bin Lift	912	0	912	0	0	0	0	316	480	115
Hard 2 reach	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	200	0	0
HGV Split triple lift - recycling	230	0	230	0	0	0	0	230	0	0
Recycling & Waste	1,802	0	1,802	0	0	0	0	1,206	480	115
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES	2,122	0	2,122	0	0	0	0	1,526	480	115
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME - NEW - (NOT YET APPR)	2,992	0	2,562	100	0	329	190	2,206	480	115

Appendix C Capital Schemes

Completed Schemes – Removed

Programme	Project
Capitalised Maintenance	Leisure World – Pool Filters
Capitalised Maintenance	Town Hall Fire Alarm System
Communities	St Botolph's Priory Lighting
Communities	Heritage Lighting
Communities	Replacement of Cremators
Communities	Mobile Skatepark
Communities	Mile End Sports Ground
Corporate & Improvement	Purchase of Properties for Temporary Accommodation
Corporate & Improvement	Leisure World – conversion of artificial pitch
Corporate & Improvement	Leisure World – Aqua Springs Refurbishment
Corporate & Improvement	CCTV Monitoring
Corporate & Improvement	Leisure World – Pool View
Corporate & Improvement	Leisure World – Health and Fitness Extension
Environment	LED Lighting in MSCP
Environment	Wivenhoe Adult Gym
Environment	Tiptree PC Stores and WC
Environment	Highwoods Country Park Visitors Centre
Environment	Rowan House EV Charging Points
Environment	Fleet Upgrade Caged Tipper
Environment	Northern Gateway Mile End Cricket Club
Place & Client	Heritage Fund Town Walls
Place & Client	Sheepen Road Phase Two
Place & Client	Moorings Utility Work
Place & Client	Creative Business Centre
Place & Client	Relocation of Museum Resource Centre22
Place & Client	Breakers Park
Place & Client	Pre-Development and Feasibility Fund
Place & Client	Northern Gateway North
Place & Client	Broad Lane Sports Ground Wivenhoe
Place & Client	East Colchester Enabling Fund works
Place & Client	Jacks - St Nicholas Street
Environment	St Johns Car Park
Environment	Food Waste Vehicles
Environment	Waste Fleet Vehicles
Environment	King George Basketball Court
Corporate & Improvement	Sport and Leisure Asset Review
Corporate & Improvement	Laptops
Communities	All St Church
Communities	Cemetery Improvements
Communities	Lion Walk Activity Centre
Communities	Oak Tree Community Centre Roof
Communities	West End Bowls Club
Communities	Floodlights Gilbred School
Communities	Castle Park Improvements
Communities	Old Heath Recreation Ground Improvements
Communities	Priory Street Mosque
Communities	St Botolph's Public Realm

Capitalised Maintenance	Leisure World – Access Control Gates
Capitalised Maintenance	Leisure World – Capital Maintenance Roof
Capitalised Maintenance	Town Hall Boilers

