

The Council Meeting

Moot Hall, Town Hall
18 May 2011 at 10.30am

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, which is usually published 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available at www.colchester.gov.uk or from Democratic Services.

Have Your Say!

The Council values contributions from members of the public. Under the Council's Have Your Say! policy you can ask questions or express a view to meetings, with the exception of Standards Committee meetings. If you wish to speak at a meeting or wish to find out more, please pick up the leaflet called "Have Your Say" at Council offices and at www.colchester.gov.uk

Private Sessions

Occasionally meetings will need to discuss issues in private. This can only happen on a limited range of issues, which are set by law. When a committee does so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

Mobile phones, pagers, cameras, audio recorders

Please ensure that all mobile phones and pagers are turned off before the meeting begins and note that photography or audio recording is not permitted.

Access

There is wheelchair access to the Town Hall from St Runwald Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms. If you need help with reading or understanding this document please take it to Angel Court Council offices, High Street, Colchester or telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number that you wish to call and we will try to provide a reading service, translation or other formats you may need.

Facilities

Toilets with lift access, if required, are located on each floor of the Town Hall. A vending machine selling hot and cold drinks is located on the first floor and ground floor.

Evacuation Procedures

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

www.colchester.gov.uk

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

17 May 2011

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at the Moot Hall, Town Hall on **18 May 2011 at 10:30am** for the transaction of the business stated below.



Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Election of Mayor

A... Motion to elect the Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

The Mayor to make the Declaration and take the customary Oath
(The Mayor and Mayor's Escort will receive the Badges of Office at the conclusion of the Oath.)

The Mayor to return thanks.

2. Minutes

Pages

1 - 7

B... Motion that the minutes of the meetings held on 23 March 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

3. Election of Deputy Mayor

C... Motion to elect the Deputy Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

The Deputy Mayor to make the Declaration and return thanks. *(The Deputy Mayor will receive the Badge of Office at the conclusion of the Declaration.)*

4. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

D... Motion of Thanks.

The Retiring Mayor to make the acknowledgement.

5. Mayor's Chaplain and Other Announcements

The Mayor to intimate the appointment of Chaplain and make Announcements.

6. Adjournment

E...Motion to Adjourn

National Anthem

(Members of the public are asked to remain standing after the National Anthem whilst the Council Procession leaves the Moot Hall.)

RECONVENED MEETING

(at 11.30am or such other time as the Mayor shall determine and announce.)

7. Have Your Say!

The Mayor to invite contributions from members of the public who wish to address the Council on a general matter not on this agenda.

(Note: A period of up to 15 minutes is available for general statements and questions under 'Have Your Say!').

8. Appointment of the Leader of the Council

F... Motion to appoint the Leader of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

9. Delegations made by the Leader of the Council

8 - 27

To note the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet members and the allocation of responsibility for Portfolios as determined by the Leader of the Council and resulting changes (if any) to the Schemes of Delegation to Cabinet Members and to Officers agreed by the Leader of the Council (details to follow).

10. Appointment of Panels, Committees and Sub-Committees

28 - 32

G... Motion to appoint the Standing Committees, Panels and Sub-Committees for the ensuing Municipal Year (details to follow).

11. Former Councillors

H... Motion of Thanks to Former Councillors

12. Section 151 Officer

33

I... Motion that the recommendations in the Chief Executive's report be approved and adopted

13. City Status

34 - 61

J... Motion that the bid by Destination Colchester for City Status be endorsed subject to any minor drafting amendments which may prove necessary and that the final bid be submitted by the Council to the Deputy Prime Minister

COUNCIL 23 MARCH 2011

Present :- Councillor Sonia Lewis (the Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillor Helen Chuah (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Christopher Arnold, Nick Barlow,
Lyn Barton, Kevin Bentley, Mary Blandon,
Elizabeth Blundell, John Bouckley, Nigel Chapman,
Peter Chillingworth, Barrie Cook, Nick Cope, Mark Cory,
Beverly Davies, Tina Dopson, John Elliott,
Margaret Fairley-Crowe, Margaret Fisher,
Stephen Ford, Wyn Foster, Bill Frame, Ray Gamble,
Scott Greenhill, Mike Hardy, Dave Harris, Peter Higgins,
Theresa Higgins, Mike Hogg, Martin Hunt (Deputy
Leader) , Margaret Kimberley, Justin Knight,
Michael Lilley, Sue Lissimore, Jackie Maclean,
Jon Manning, Richard Martin, Colin Mudie, Kim Naish,
Nigel Offen, Beverley Oxford, Gerard Oxford,
Philip Oxford, Lesley Scott-Boutell, Paul Smith,
Henry Spyvee, Terry Sutton, Colin Sykes, Laura Sykes,
Jill Tod, Anne Turrell (Leader of the Council) ,
Dennis Willetts and Julie Young

The meeting was opened with prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Richard Allen.

61. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 16 February 2011 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

(i) In minute 55 in the list of those who voted against the main amendment, the deletion of the reference to Councillor Tod and its replacement with Councillor Turrell;

(ii) In minute 55, the amendment of the final paragraph to read as follows:-

“The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was thereupon put and CARRIED (THIRTY THREE voted FOR, TWENTY THREE voted AGAINST and TWO ABSTAINED from voting).”

(iii) In minute 59 the deletion of the reference to Lexden Court and its replacement with the words “Laxton Court”.

62. Have Your Say!

Will Quince addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) about the issue of dog fouling. When the issue had been raised at the previous meeting, he had been assured that the issue was taken seriously.

However, he had since established that no penalty fines had been issued for dog fouling in 2010. He called on the Portfolio Holder to demonstrate commitment to tackle this issue by publishing on the website monthly reports on the numbers of penalty fines issued for dog fouling.

Councillor Hunt, Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services, stressed that the Council did take the matter seriously. There had been staff shortages amongst the enforcement team but matters would improve with the introduction of new zonal team which would increase the resources available to tackle this issue. All local authorities found it difficult to bring successful prosecutions for dog fouling because of the difficulty in gathering the evidence required.

Andy Hamilton addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). He raised issues about the lack of provision of a charitable mobility scooter service anywhere in the bus station, the relocation of Shopmobility to St Mary's car park and the support the Council gave to firstsite. Concern was also expressed about comments made by Councillor Goss towards a resident who raised the issue of dog fouling and he called on Councillor Goss to apologise.

Councillor Dopson, Portfolio Holder for Communities, stressed that the Council had never refused a request from a voluntary sector organisation to locate Shopmobility or a mobility scooter service at the bus station and called on Mr Hamilton to cease raising this issue.

Liz Adams addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) on behalf of small shopkeepers to explain the difficulties the new cycle lane in Crouch Street was causing small businesses. The new cycle lane was preventing buses from accessing Crouch Street and preventing cars from parking. The new restrictions on deliveries were also impractical. Small shops were gradually disappearing from the streets and more needed to be done to look after their interests.

Graham Phelps addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) representing small traders in Crouch Street. Many of the shops on Crouch Street relied on customers being able to collect goods during normal trading hours. The new cycle lane had narrowed the road and so deliveries and collections now blocked the road. There had been insufficient consultation on the scheme and the results of the consultation had not been heeded.

Dave Richards addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) to raise concerns about the impact of the new cycle lane in Crouch Street. The traffic flow was halted by deliveries and there was an increased risk to health and safety as deliveries to the Bull public house had to be made 25 metres away and then brought to the public house, increasing the risk to pedestrians. The cycle lane itself was dangerous as there was nothing to separate cyclists from pedestrians. New delivery restrictions were due to come into effect on 31 March so there was a need for these matters to be resolved urgently.

Councillor Barlow, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, responded that the Crouch Street scheme was an Essex County Council scheme,

although the Borough Council had been consulted. Essex County Council had been asked to speak to the traders in Crouch Street to see what could be one to alleviate the problems that had arisen. He would contact Essex County Council again and ask them to ensure this meeting took place.

63. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that on 2nd March 2011 she had been honoured to attend the funeral of Lance Corporal Kyle Marshall at St Peters Church. Together with the Deputy Mayor and their respective Escorts, she had sent a donation on behalf of the Council to the regiment, in memory of fallen soldiers in Afghanistan.

The Mayor announced the following forthcoming events:-

A Paranormal Event at the Town Hall on 7 April 2011;
An Antiques Valuation hosted by James Grinter in the Mayoral Suite on 28 April 2011;
The Mayor's Banquet on 13 May 2011.

The Mayor thanked the Senior Management Team for the fundraising heritage event on 15 March 2011 which had raised £350 for Mayor's Charities.

The Mayor thanked Council for their support and consideration during her Mayoral Year.

64. Honorary Alderman

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 18 of the Accounts and Regulatory Committee meeting of 22 February 2011 be approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

65. Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/2011.

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 16 of the Standards Committee meeting of 4 March 2011 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

66. Revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 17 of the Standards Committee meeting of 4 March 2011 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

Councillor Elizabeth Blundell (in respect of her membership of Marks Tey Parish Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

67. City Status

Raymond Moore addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). He explained that he was baffled why Colchester was not a city already. Colchester showcased the best of Essex and had a number of facilities and characteristics commensurate with being a city, such as a modern university, a garrison, historic traditions and associations with the Royal Family. City status would leave a lasting legacy for years to come and would strengthen ties with the Royal Family.

Bill Hayton of Destination Colchester addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). He explained that every new city reported that the becoming a city led to more inward investment with consequential benefits to the economy. Whilst he appreciated there were concerns about the cost of the bid, the bid would be put together by Destination Colchester at little or no cost. The bid would not lead to further development in the borough and there was no reason to fear that the bid would exacerbate conflict between the rural and urban areas of the borough. The villages within the borough already had strong independent identities. Many cities had villages within their boundaries. If awarded city status, Colchester could promote itself with the indisputable title of "Britain's first city".

Wendy Bailey of Destination Colchester addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). She understood there was some concern about the about the status of villages should Colchester win city status. However, Destination Colchester had undertaken research on attitudes towards city status and she provided a number of quotes and comments in support of city status from local businesses, including a number based in rural areas.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Barlow that:-

(a) Council notes that the Government is requesting bids for city status to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. City status merely confers upon a place the right to call itself a city, and does not carry with it any implications as to size and future growth of the area.

(b) Council believes:-

- (i) That as well as being Britain's oldest recorded town - Camulodunum - Colchester is also Britain's first city, and as Colonia Victricensis was the first capital of Britain.
- (ii) That Colchester remains a vibrant and dynamic borough as well as being a key regional hub and the largest borough in Essex.
- (iii) That there is support from across Colchester for a bid for city status.
- (iv) That bidding for city status would provide a great opportunity to promote all that's good about Colchester Borough and allow us to place ourselves in the national

spotlight.

(v) That Colchester deserves to be granted city status in 2012 to recognise it's historic status and future potential.

(c) Council resolves

(i) To support in principle a bid for city status for Colchester.

(ii) To work alongside community and business groups to create a bid for city status at no cost to the taxpayer.

(iii) To request the Leader of the Council and group leaders work together to oversee the detail of the bid before it is brought to the Council meeting in May for a final endorsement.

The MOTION was carried (TWENTY SIX voted FOR, NINETEEN voted AGAINST and FOUR ABSTAINED from voting).

68. Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

| Questioner | Subject | Response |
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| Pre-Notified Questions | | |
| Councillor Bouckley | Whilst the information on acquiring additional home insulation sent to homeowners with their Council Tax demands is always useful, for some residents a more economic deal may be available through energy suppliers, for example, so in future would it not be helpful for CBC to explain this point? | Direct verbal response provided by the Portfolio Holder for Communities |
| Oral Questions | | |
| Councillor Lissimore | Would the Portfolio Holder investigate the supply of biodegradable dog waste bags to residents? | Direct verbal response provided by the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services. |
| Councillor Ford | The signage to the Mayor's Parlour. | Direct verbal response provided by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Diversity. |
| Councillor Bouckley | Whether there were any plans to lease or sell the Town Hall to an outside company. | Direct verbal response provided by the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance. |

69. Amendments to the Constitution

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in the Monitoring Officer's report be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

70. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions for the period 1 February 2011 – 9 March 2011 be noted.

COUNCIL
23 MARCH 2011

Present :- Councillor Sonia Lewis (the Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillor Helen Chuah (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Christopher Arnold, Nick Barlow,
Lyn Barton, Kevin Bentley, Mary Blandon,
Elizabeth Blundell, John Bouckley, Nigel Chapman,
Peter Chillingworth, Barrie Cook, Nick Cope, Mark Cory,
Beverly Davies, Tina Dopson, John Elliott,
Margaret Fairley-Crowe, Margaret Fisher,
Stephen Ford, Wyn Foster, Bill Frame, Ray Gamble,
Scott Greenhill, Mike Hardy, Dave Harris, Peter Higgins,
Theresa Higgins, Mike Hogg, Martin Hunt (Deputy
Leader) , Margaret Kimberley, Justin Knight,
Michael Lilley, Sue Lissimore, Jackie Maclean,
Jon Manning, Richard Martin, Colin Mudie, Kim Naish,
Nigel Offen, Beverley Oxford, Gerard Oxford,
Philip Oxford, Lesley Scott-Boutell, Paul Smith,
Henry Spyvee, Terry Sutton, Colin Sykes, Laura Sykes,
Jill Tod, Anne Turrell (Leader of the Council) ,
Dennis Willetts and Julie Young

71. Honorary Alderman

PROPOSED by Councillor Turrell and *RESOLVED* UNANIMOUSLY that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council conferred the title of "Honorary Alderman" on former Councillor Christopher Basil Hall in recognition of his loyal and eminent service as a Member of the Council and its constituent authority.

The Mayor presented a transcript of the resolution to Honorary Alderman Hall who then offered his thanks to the Council following his appointment.

Colchester Borough Council

SCHEME OF DELEGATION BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO CABINET MEMBERS May 2011

The Leader of the Council in conjunction with the Cabinet leads the implementation of policy within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. In doing this the Leader of the Council in conjunction with the Cabinet carries out all of the Council's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council, whether by law or under this Constitution.

By this Scheme of Delegation the Leader of the Council has delegated to individual members of the Cabinet most of the Leader's executive powers within the confines of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

The Cabinet has also approved a Scheme of Delegation to Officers which is contained in Part 3 of the Constitution.

The following conditions apply to this Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members and shall be complied with at all times:-

1. Every delegated power shall be exercised in the name of the Council;
2. The exercise of delegated powers shall be subject to the decision not being contrary to Cabinet functions and the Council's Budget and Policy Framework as embodied in a formal resolution and recorded in the minutes of the Council.
3. All decisions taken under this scheme are subject to the Call-In Procedure with the exception of those taken under the urgency provision.
4. A Cabinet Member exercising delegated powers shall do so in a manner consistent with the policy of the Council current at the time. The Proper Officer shall be the final arbiter of the interpretation of policy in relation to any matter.
5. In exercising delegated powers, a Cabinet Member may incur expenditure only if appropriate provision has been made in the approved annual estimates and/or capital programme except as otherwise provided for in Financial Regulations.
6. No action may be taken which is contrary to the Council's Constitution.
7. Where powers to acquire or dispose of property or land are being exercised, the delegation is subject to such acquisition or disposal being in accordance with terms approved by the District Valuer or other professional adviser.
8. Delegated powers to acquire property shall not include power to acquire property compulsorily and any proposal to make a Compulsory Purchase Order shall be submitted to the full Council as a recommendation.

9. A Cabinet Member exercising delegated powers shall record the decision and the reasons for it on the Decision Notice and shall deliver it to the Proper Officer who shall publish the Decision Notice in accordance with the Constitution.
10. No Cabinet Member shall exercise any delegated power that comprises a Key Decision unless that decision is contained within the Council's Forward Plan and complies with the Forward Plan process.
11. Nothing in this scheme of delegation shall be construed in such a way as to remove the requirement that any proposal involving the granting of planning permission shall be submitted to the Planning Committee.

C O N T E N T S

Portfolio Holder

Page

All Cabinet Members

Strategy and Performance – Councillor Turrell
(Leader of the Council)

Commerce and Sustainability – Councillor Barlow

Communities and Diversity – Councillor Dopson

Customers – Councillor B. Oxford

Housing and Community Safety – Councillor T. Young

Renaissance – Councillor Barton

Resources and ICT– Councillor Smith

Street and Waste Services – Councillor Hunt
(Deputy Leader of the Council)

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| Delegation to all Cabinet Members |
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1. To comment on any consultative document.
 2. Grant applications.
 3. The award of the lowest tenders under £500,000 and for which there is financial provision.
 4. To fix fees and charges.
 5. To authorise the write-off of individual bad debts over £5,000 on the recommendation of the Head of Resource Management and appropriate Head of Service.
 6. To approve minutes of any Cabinet Committee, Panel or Group in respect of which they have responsibility.
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Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| <h3>Functions retained by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance</h3> |
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1. The promotion of the Council on regional and sub-regional bodies in relation to developing regional partnerships.
2. Relations with the general public, local authorities, the media and all other external agencies including the Local Strategic Partnership (Colchester 2020).
3. Matters relating to financial strategy, the budget and resource allocation.
4. All strategic matters relating to major strategic partnerships e.g. ALMO & Waste
5. Following consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments during the municipal year to Council Groups and Outside Bodies.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The understanding of the Council's vision, actions and objectives throughout the Borough of Colchester and beyond.

HEALTH & SAFETY

1. To be responsible for the management and monitoring of health and safety provision across the whole of the Councils' undertakings.
(NB. Cabinet are jointly and severally the primary duty holders for health and safety across the Councils' undertakings.)

PERFORMANCE

1. Monitoring of the Council's performance in relation to national performance indicators and any other Government performance scheme.
2. Monitoring of the Council's performance dashboard.

COMMUNICATIONS

To procure and or encourage the procurement of the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. External communications with the media and partners.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| Functions retained by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance (continued) |
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| Portfolio Responsibilities |
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1. To oversee the development and ongoing review of the Council's Strategic Plan.
2. To monitor the implementation of the Council's Strategic Plan, including ensuring Council resources are deployed to support strategic priorities.
3. To promote the Council's Strategic Plan to Councillors, partners and the community as a whole.
4. To develop and promote community leadership in the Borough.
5. To oversee and monitor the Council's financial strategy, budget and resource allocation.
6. To review the opportunities to work with other partners, both within the public and private sectors, to assist in developing 'joined-up' government.
7. To determine a communications strategy that will support and deliver the Council's vision and policy priorities.

Major Project(s) in Portfolio:

Haven Gateway Partnership, Regional Cities East Partnership, Colchester 2020, Waste Strategy, Strategy for the ALMO and Fundamental Service Reviews

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Commerce and Sustainability

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

To procure and or encourage the procurement of the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Economic development issues affecting Colchester.
2. The preparation and publication of an annual economic prosperity strategy delivery plan.
3. Partnerships that improve and encourage business opportunities within the Borough.
4. Appropriate exhibitions, seminars etc for local businesses and economic development at local, national and international events.
5. Promotion, influence and improvement of the skills base of the Borough.

TOURISM

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The Visitor Information Centre and the promotion of the Borough for tourism purposes.
2. Liaison with other tourism agencies for the development of tourism in the Borough.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The Council's involvement in the Mercury Theatre, Colchester Arts Centre, Firstsite and similar organisations.
2. The Council's art collection and artefacts.
3. Events of cultural and artistic merit.
4. To exercise the functions delegated to the Colchester and Ipswich Joint Museums Committee on behalf of the Cabinet.
5. Archaeological sites and monuments.
6. Approval of expenditure under the Heritage Fund.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| <h2>Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Commerce and Sustainability (continued)</h2> |
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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:

1. Functions as Local Planning Authority.
2. Building Regulations and allied legislation relating to dangerous buildings and safety at sports grounds.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents and the issue of draft Supplementary Planning Documents for consultation.
2. To agree the Statement of Community Involvement and the Annual Monitoring Report.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. To develop policies in relation to sustainability and to oversee and promote the implementation of the Nottingham Declaration objectives.

ENVIRONMENT

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Sea defence and coast protection matters.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Commerce and Sustainability (continued) |
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| Portfolio Responsibilities |
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1. To encourage a buoyant and diverse local economy, which encourages full employment and works towards the creation of more high-value local jobs.
2. To champion the Borough of Colchester as a centre of business excellence, and to help local companies grow and flourish.
3. To help sustain a thriving town centre which satisfies the needs of all sectors of the community.
4. To encourage lifelong learning and skills development for the whole community to maximise job opportunities.
5. To promote Colchester as a key destination for visitors.
6. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Council's policies and services relating to heritage and culture.
7. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Council's policies and services relating to all planning activities including conservation and building control.
8. To monitor the implementation of the Local Plan.
9. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Borough Council's services and policies relating to environmental initiatives.

Major Project(s) in Portfolio:
"Cycle Colchester"

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| <h2>Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Diversity</h2> |
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RECREATION

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Sports and leisure facilities, parks and gardens, allotments, playing fields, beach facilities, public open spaces, amenity areas and country parks.
2. Liaison with voluntary organisations and clubs in the development and use of sporting and recreational facilities.
3. The promotion and encouragement of recreational events.
4. Colchester Leisure World.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

To procure and or encourage the procurement of the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The promotion of public health matters so as to increase public awareness.
2. Services for the elderly.
3. Community projects supporting the Council's work on life opportunities.
4. Welfare rights.
5. Matters relating to young people.
6. Grants to the voluntary and community sector and village and community halls.
7. The Council's work with partners aimed at improving the life opportunities of residents.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Diversity (continued) |
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| Portfolio Responsibilities |
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1. To determine investment in “third sector” organisations which deliver services to help the Council to meet its corporate objectives.
 2. To ensure that the Council is working with partners to meet partnership targets.
 3. To support initiatives which tackle deprivation throughout the Borough, but with specific reference to the Council’s work on Life Opportunities.
 4. To engender partnership working between the Council and Town and Parish Councils within the Borough of Colchester.
 5. To explore the significance of rural issues in the Borough and determine what programmes and actions may be needed to address these.
 6. To authorise any grants to Town or Parish Councils.
 7. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Council’s policies and services relating to sport, recreation, leisure and the Olympics.
 8. To monitor the implementation of the Council’s Single Equality Scheme and Diversity Policy.
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Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Customers

CUSTOMERS

To procure and or encourage the procurement of the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Customer Service across the Council as a whole.
2. Performance of the Customer Service Centre.
3. Co-ordination of Infopoint@Colchester.
4. Way We Work Programme.
5. Development of Customer Connected Initiative.

GENERAL

1. Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations.
2. Cemeteries, crematorium and allied services.

Portfolio Responsibilities

1. To monitor, fund and arrange for the continuing delivery of the Council's t-government agenda.
2. To examine and review the Council's customer service culture, processes and performance and to champion the customer point of view.
3. To review, monitor and improve consultation and communication between the Council and its customers.
4. To monitor customer compliments and complaints and referrals to the Local Government Ombudsman.
5. To improve communications and access to Council services by urban and rural communities within the Borough.
6. To examine and review the development of all forms of communication and community engagement.

Major Project(s) in Portfolio:

Customer Service Centre, Customer Connect and Infopoint@Colchester

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety

PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Public sector dwellings, management of Council owned dwellings and other properties and their environs including the setting of rents in accordance with the Management Agreement dated 11 August 2003 between the Council and Colchester Borough Homes Limited as varied by Deeds of Variation dated 9 October 2008 and 10 December 2009 and any subsequent agreement or arrangement entered into between the parties.
2. Management of the Housing Revenue Account. (NB. All decisions relating to the financial management of the HRA are reserved to Cabinet).
3. Tenant selection/nomination criteria and conditions of tenancy.
4. The Council's statutory responsibilities to homeless persons.
5. The Council's relationship with Registered Social Landlords.
6. The Right to Buy Scheme.

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Non-statutory housing functions such as housing advice, etc.
2. The Council's statutory responsibilities in respect of housing standards.
3. Support schemes to Building Societies and Banks and the making of mortgage advances by the Council for house purchase and improvement.
4. Housing standards and the protection of persons from unlawful eviction or harassment.
5. Private sector housing grants.

GENERAL HOUSING MATTERS

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The promotion of the Council on regional and sub-regional bodies in relation to housing completions, housing developments.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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| Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety (continued) |
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2. To procure the specified service for the dissemination of information regarding all housing matters.
3. Home loss, disturbance and similar payments.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Community safety.
2. Crime Prevention including CCTV.
3. Street Wardens

LAND RESOURCES

In respect of all land and buildings owned by the Council in its capacity as Housing Authority, to procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of :-

1. Acquisitions and disposals including terms for acquisitions or disposals.
2. Commercial lettings.

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Portfolio Responsibilities |
|-----------------------------------|

1. To promote the Council's Housing Strategy and to monitor its implementation.
 2. To examine and review the operation of Colchester Borough Homes.
 3. To agree the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and ensure that the Council is working with partners to meet the key targets identified within the strategy.
-

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Renaissance

1. The delivery of the Council's renewal agenda including sustainable housing, infrastructure, employment and leisure facilities.
2. To assist the Leader of the Council in the promotion of the Council on regional and sub-regional bodies in relation to developing regional partnerships.

Portfolio Responsibilities

1. To oversee major regeneration projects which impact upon the Council's landholdings.
2. To support local and regional partnerships which can lever in new investment into the Borough's four regeneration areas.
3. To oversee the development and implementation of the Council's renewal agenda including the following projects:
 - (a) Town Centre
 - (b) Cultural Quarter
 - (c) Vineyard Gate
 - (d) North Colchester
 - (e) East Colchester

Major Project(s) in Portfolio: Renewal of Colchester's built environment

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and ICT

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The functions of the Council as the Billing Authority (except the power to levy the amount of the Council Tax for each category of dwelling).
2. The operation of Council Tax and residual Community Charge legislation, Council Tax Benefits Scheme legislation, Housing Benefit Scheme legislation and the National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) legislation.
3. Collection, enforcement and matters of security in relation to the General Fund monies payable to the Council.
4. Determination of interest paid to investors and arrangements to meet the Council's borrowing requirements.
5. Matters relating to financial management, corporate governance, audit, risk management and business continuity.
6. Determination of the Council's financial provisions.
7. Appointment of the Council's bankers.
8. Financial resources in relation to ICT

LAND RESOURCES

In respect of all land and buildings owned by the Council (except in its capacity as Housing Authority), to procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of :-

1. Acquisitions and disposals including terms for acquisitions or disposals.
2. Industrial estates and commercial lettings.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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|--|
| <h2>Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and ICT (continued)</h2> |
|--|

GENERAL

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Approval and maintenance of Standing Approved Lists of Contractors.
2. Matters relating to the management of the Council's assets.
3. Matters relating to procurement.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. The employment of staff, the terms and conditions of service of all Council employees and industrial relations.
2. Corporate in-service training arrangements.
3. Schemes operated by the Council under Government Training Programmes.
4. Negotiations on corporate terms and conditions of service with Bodies recognised for the purposes.
5. Councillor Development.

GENERAL

1. Legal Services.

ICT

To procure and or encourage the procurement of the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Information Communication Technology.

Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and ICT (continued)

CIVIC

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. All civic matters including civic aspects of town twinning.

TOWN TWINNING

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of the Council's role in town twinning and encourage exchange visits between local groups and similar groups in twinned towns.

Portfolio Responsibilities

1. To monitor the operation of Council Tax, Business Rates and the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Schemes.
2. To produce and implement the Council's financial strategy, budget and resource allocation.
3. To monitor progress of obtaining disability access within Council buildings.
4. To monitor the management of repairs and maintenance and planned maintenance programmes for Council buildings (excluding property managed by Colchester Borough Homes).
5. To review sales, purchases and overall management of the Council's property portfolio.
6. To monitor the development of the Asset Management Plan.
7. To monitor the maintenance of the Council's asbestos register.
8. To examine and review the Council's Information Communication Technology Strategy.
9. To oversee all tender and contract processes in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

Major Project(s) in Portfolio:

Visual Arts Facility, renewal of ICT contract, photovoltaic contract.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services and Deputy Leader of the Council</p> |
|---|

WASTE

1. To develop and promote policies in relation to waste reduction, re-use and recycling.

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Refuse collection.
2. Street cleansing.
3. Litter collection and removal.
4. Recycling/Composting.
5. Workshops/Fleet and Toilets.

HIGHWAYS

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Maintenance of Borough Council owned highways, except for regulatory matters within the remit of the Cabinet.
2. All Borough Council (district) highway functions.
3. Local Highway Panels

CAR PARKS

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Operational Car parking.
2. To exercise the functions delegated to the North Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee on behalf of the Cabinet.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services and Deputy Leader of the Council (continued)</p> |
|---|

TRANSPORTATION

To procure and or encourage the procurement of the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Traffic management schemes funded by the Borough Council.
2. Public transport infrastructure.
3. Concessionary Fares.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Public conveniences and baths.
2. Licensing matters.
3. Premises and/or vehicles used for the preparation, storage, sale, slaughter and/or consumption of food and the enforcement of standards for food, health and safety at work, hygiene, quality and allied matters.
4. Infectious diseases, disinfestations and the prevention of the spread of disease by or to animals.
5. Pollution and nuisances.
6. Matters relating to the control of dogs.
7. The control of rodents/pests.
8. Premises used for the provision of services to the public and/or the keeping of animals.
9. Water supplies.
10. Port Health matters.
11. Monitoring of travellers sites.
12. Matters relating to the removal of persons residing unlawfully in vehicles on land in the Borough.

Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

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|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services and Deputy Leader of the Council (continued)</p> |
|---|

GENERAL

To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

1. Street Naming and Numbering.
2. Caravans and Caravan Sites.
3. Street trading.
4. Markets within the Borough.

| |
|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Portfolio Responsibilities</p> |
|--|

1. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Borough Council's services and policies in relation to waste collection, litter enforcement and cleansing operations.
2. To encourage operational activities which support the corporate priority to be the cleanest and greenest Borough in the Country.
3. To encourage strategic activities which support the corporate priority to be cleaner and greener.
4. To monitor the implementation of the Council's Waste Strategy.
5. To oversee and monitor the Council's engineering services.
6. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Council's policies and services relating to all licensing activities.
7. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Council's policies and services in respect of car parking.
8. To promote and procure the implementation of the Borough Council's Transport Strategy in partnership with Essex County Council, the responsible Transport Authority and other partners to improve infrastructure.
9. To promote partnership working with Essex County Council, the responsible Transport Authority.
10. To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Council's services relating to markets.

Membership of Cabinet, Panels and Committees

Municipal Year 2011/12

Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Hunt

| Cabinet (8 seats) | |
|--|---|
| Councillors:- Barlow, Barton, Dopson, Hunt, B. Oxford, Smith, Turrell and T. Young | |
| Group representation – Lib Dem 5, Labour 2, Highwoods Independent 1 | |
| Members: | |
| Councillor Barlow | - Commerce and Sustainability Portfolio Holder |
| Councillor Barton | - Renaissance Portfolio Holder |
| Councillor Dopson | - Communities and Diversity Portfolio Holder |
| Councillor Hunt | - Street and Waste Portfolio Holder |
| Councillor B. Oxford | - Customers Portfolio Holder |
| Councillor Smith | - Resources and ICT Portfolio Holder |
| Councillor Turrell | - Strategy and Performance Portfolio Holder |
| Councillor T. Young | - Housing and Community Safety Portfolio Holder |

Municipal Year 2011/12

| Accounts and Regulatory Committee (10 seats) | | | Finance and Audit Scrutiny Panel (10 seats) | | | Licensing Committee (12 seats) | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Group Representation | | | Group Representation | | | Group Representation | | |
| Con | 3 | | Con | 3 | | Con | 5 | |
| Lib Dem | 5 | | Lib Dem | 5 | | Lib Dem | 5 | |
| Lab | 1 | | Lab | 1 | | Lab | 2 | |
| H/wood | 1 | | H/wood | 1 | | H/wood | - | |
| Members: | | | Members: | | | Members: | | |
| Councillor Cory Councillor Feltham Councillor Greenhill Councillor Hazell Councillor Knight Councillor Lilley Councillor Lissimore Councillor Manning Councillor G. Oxford Councillor Quince | | | Councillor Cory Councillor Feltham Councillor Greenhill Councillor Hazell Councillor Knight Councillor Lilley Councillor Lissimore Councillor Manning Councillor G. Oxford Councillor Quince | | | Councillor Bouckley Councillor Blandon Councillor Cook Councillor Cope Councillor Garnett Councillor Harris Councillor Hazell Councillor Hogg Councillor Kimberley Councillor Lilley Councillor Mudie Councillor Quarrie | | |

| Local Development Framework Committee (9 seats) | | | Planning Committee (12 seats) | | | Policy Review and Development Panel (7 seats) | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Group Representation | | | Group Representation | | | Group Representation | | |
| Con | 4 | | Con | 5 | | Con | 3 | |
| Lib Dem | 4 | | Lib Dem | 5 | | Lib Dem | 3 | |
| Lab | 1 | | Lab | 1 | | Lab | 1 | |
| H/wood | - | | H/wood | 1 | | H/wood | - | |
| Members: | | | Members: | | | Members: | | |
| Councillor Blundell Councillor Cory Councillor Davies Councillor Ellis Councillor Goss Councillor Jowers Councillor Naish Councillor Spyvee Councillor C. Sykes | | | Councillor Arnold Councillor Chillingworth Councillor Elliott Councillor Ford Councillor Gamble Councillor P. Higgins Councillor T. Higgins Councillor Lewis Councillor Maclean Councillor Manning Councillor P. Oxford Councillor L. Sykes | | | Councillor Chapman Councillor Cory Councillor Fairley-Crowe Councillor Harrington Councillor Offen Councillor Scott-Boutell Councillor J. Young | | |

| Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel (10 seats) | | | Crime and Disorder Committee (10 seats) | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Group Representation | | | Group Representation | | |
| Con | 4 | | Con | 4 | |
| Lib Dem | 4 | | Lib Dem | 4 | |
| Lab | 1 | | Lab | 1 | |
| H/woods | 1 | | H/woods | 1 | |
| Members: Councillor Cope Councillor Chapman Councillor Ellis Councillor Frame Councillor T. Higgins Councillor Naish Councillor G. Oxford Councillor Quince Councillor C. Sykes Councillor Willetts | | | Members: Councillor Cope Councillor Chapman Councillor Ellis Councillor Frame Councillor T. Higgins Councillor Naish Councillor G. Oxford Councillor Quince Councillor C. Sykes Councillor Willetts | | |

Municipal Year 2011/12

In accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it will be proposed that appointments to the undermentioned Committees/Groups shall not be on a Group basis and membership shall be as follows for the ensuing Municipal Year:-

| Standards Committee (4 seats) | Task and Finish Groups |
|---|--|
| <p>Members:</p> <p>Councillor Arnold Councillor Chapman Councillor Gamble Councillor Spyvee</p> <p>Independent members:</p> <p>Ian Andrews Derek Coe Sven Farmer Peter Fitton Steven Roberts-Mee</p> <p>Parish members:</p> <p>Parish Councillor Terence Abnett Parish Councillor Malcolm Bartier Plus one further Parish Council representative to be nominated by the Colchester Association of Local Councils</p> | <p>20 mph speed limit</p> <p>Councillor Ford Parish Councillor Gili-Ross Councillor Hardy Councillor Offen Councillor G. Oxford</p> <p>Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal</p> <p>Councillor Cope Councillor Ellis Councillor P. Oxford Councillor Offen Councillor J. Young Councillor Willetts</p> <p>Older Persons Accommodation</p> <p>Councillor Kimberley Councillor Lewis Councillor Lilley Councillor Mudie Councillor B. Oxford Councillor L. Sykes</p> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Report of | Chief Executive | Author | Adrian Pritchard ☎ 282211 |
| Title | Section 151 Officer | | |
| Wards affected | N/A | | |

This report recommends to the Council the designation of the Section 151 Officer

1. Decision Required

- 1.1 To designate Sean Plummer as the Council's Section 151 Officer, (Chief Finance Officer) with effect from Monday 6 June 2011.

2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1 The Council is obliged by the Local Government Act 1972 to designate an officer as the Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer). This is a statutory requirement and comprises one of the three statutory officer posts which every local authority is required to appoint (the others being the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer).
- 2.2 The current S151 Officer, Charles Warboys, Head of Resource Management is leaving the authority for a new position with another local authority. Whilst considering the long-term position of Head of Resource Management interim arrangements need to be put in place and this S151 officer appointment is one part of these arrangements.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 There are no alternative options as the Council is statutorily required to designate one of its officers to the post of Section 151 Officer.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The designation of the Section 151 Officer is a non-executive function and as such it is the Council's responsibility to designate an officer.
- 4.2 The Section 151 Officer is the officer responsible for ensuring the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs.
- 4.3 It is proposed that Sean Plummer who, as Finance Manager be designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from Monday 6 June 2011.

5. Standard References

- 5.1 There are no standard references.

Colchester: Britain's Oldest Recorded Town and First City

Colchester: the town with the city outlook

Colchester's history may have shaped its streets and its skyline, but we haven't let ourselves be shackled by it – it gives us confidence in our past and hope for our future.

We're proud of our town and our borough and we enjoy sharing it with visitors, businesses, students and the growing numbers of new people who move here to work and live, making a positive contribution to our wider society.

We absorb the best of what new influences can teach and share with us – and our outlook is the more generous for it.

We're a proud borough, but we're not inward looking. We were Britain's first city, but it hasn't left us with a sense of entitlement.

And as a new city we'll remain a community in which we relish the things we have in common – and learn to be the better for our differences.

This is our story.

Britain's oldest recorded town

When Pliny the Elder gave readers of his *Natural History* directions to the Island of Anglesey, he reached for the name of the nearest important settlement.

"It is about 200 miles from Camulodunum, a town in Britain," he wrote.

It was the kind of self-confident remark you might hear from one of our residents today, but when Pliny penned it in the middle decades of the 1st Century AD he also immortalised Camulodunum – Roman Colchester – as Britain's first recorded settlement.

In exactly the same century it became its first city – and its first capital.

The early royal stronghold

To fully understand modern Colchester, you need to know it was forged in a Roman crucible. It shaped our streets and it shaped our international outlook.

The Iron Age settlement of Camulodunum (meaning 'Fortress of Camulos, god of War') had grown to be the most significant in Britain by the end of the 1st Century BC. On the site that includes the present-day Gosbecks Archaeological Park, it was the capital and stronghold of the Trinovantes – a powerful tribe that held sway over much of modern-day Essex and southern Suffolk – and was the royal seat of a succession of native kings.

One of those kings was Cunobelin, who is best known to us as the inspiration for Shakespeare's romance, *Cymbeline*. He was king of the Trinovantes' greatest rival tribe – the Catuvellauni – and was minting coins at Camulodunum as early as AD 9. He used the Latin title 'Rex' on those coins, indicating he had strong links with Rome, while archaeological evidence shows that Camulodunum was the port through which luxury goods such as Italian wine, Spanish sauces and Gallo-Belgic tableware entered Britain.

By AD 43, Camulodunum was a royal stronghold of Cunobelin's son Caratacus – and it became the principal prize of that year's Roman invasion, with the Emperor Claudius taking the fortification at the head of his legions – with war elephants – and receiving the submission of 11 British kings.

Colchester at a glance

- **Britain's first city** and Roman capital
- A 2,000 year **military tradition** and home to a respected 21st century garrison
- An **international centre** since classical times
- Strong **royal links** throughout medieval and modern times
- More **architectural continuity** than any other town in England
- A thriving **cultural centre** of national importance
- **Britain's fastest-growing town**
- Has **more quality-assured visitor attractions than any other town** in England
- Home to **Britain's most international university** and many **international companies**
- Site of new buildings **by international architects** – Viñoly's *firstsite* and Libeskind's Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution

Colchester's confidence is rooted in its shared achievements and culture – and a talent for holding its own on an international level.



Britain's first city

The Roman conquest did more to shape our town's fabric and outlook than any other historical event. Its effects are still visible today.

One of the Romans' first actions was to build a major legionary fortress near the original settlement. It was the first in Britain ever to be built using bricks and mortar, but before it had even been finished, its purpose changed: in AD 50 it became a *colonia*, a city for retired Roman soldiers, and was named *Colonia Victricensis* – or 'City of Victory'.

In building the *colonia* within the bounds of the legionary fortress, using its street plan and converting the barracks into houses, the Romans not only created Britain's first city but – thanks to our modern-day garrison – one with a military heart that beats just as strongly to this day.

Capital of Britannia

As Britain's first *colonia*, Colchester became the Roman's administrative capital in Britain, but it was almost completely destroyed in AD 60 by the famous rebellion against Roman rule, led by Queen Boudica of the Iceni. Her warriors laid waste to the town, burning down the Temple of Claudius and slaughtering all who had taken refuge there.

Although Boudica's uprising was ultimately crushed, the Roman capital moved to Londinium. But Colchester soon rose from the ashes – and its status as an international city within the Roman Empire is indelibly written into the fabric of our modern town.

Our High Street follows the line of the *Via Praetoria* and both Head Street and North Hill follow the *Via Principalis*.

They are the oldest urban streets in Britain – and today they are among its most rich and vibrant, their fine architecture now bristling with shops, restaurants, cultural venues and places of education.

An international city for two millennia

Our Roman heritage helps us to trace Colchester's cosmopolitan way of life and outlook to a two-thousand-year old city – a city that was home to:

- **The temple of the deified Emperor Claudius** – the largest classical temple in Britain – upon which our Norman castle is built
- **Britain's only known Roman circus** – capable of seating a crowd of 15,000 and a testament to Colchester's significance in this period
- **The most complete Roman city walls in Britain** – containing the country's largest surviving Roman gateway
- **Two Roman theatres** – including the largest known in Britain, seating 5,000 people
- **Over 50 mosaics** – some in a remarkably fine state of preservation
- **A 4th Century Christian church** – one of the earliest known in the UK
- **International trade** – silk from China and amphorae from Egypt can be counted among our finds

These treasures provide us with valuable evidence for a city of status, culture, architecture, business and sport – and one in which people of many nationalities learned to coexist peacefully.

Not unlike Colchester as it is today.

The shaping of our confidence and culture

If our confidence and culture can be traced to Roman times, our identity and traditions have been forged and shaped by many subsequent influences.

These are just some of them.

“While the Britons were preparing to throw off the yoke, the statue of victory, erected at Camulodunum, fell from its base, without any apparent cause, and lay extended on the ground with its face averted, as if the goddess yielded to the enemies of Rome.”

Tacitus



Royalty

As Britain's first city, Colchester has always benefited from close Royal connections – and they continue to this day.

The Saxon kings Athelstan and Edmund held *witans* – royal councils – here in the 10th century; and by 1086, with a population of around 2,500, Colchester was one of 14 settlements described as *civitas* (a city) in the Domesday Book.

Colchester's value to William I, along with its strategic importance, ensured it gained the first royal castle in England (outside London) that he built of stone. With the largest Norman keep ever constructed, the castle was placed on the foundations of the Roman temple to Claudius – a lasting metaphor for Colchester's ability to incorporate the best of its past into its future.

King Richard I confirmed the Colne Oyster Fishery to the borough of Colchester in 1189. By the 16th century, a close season from Easter to Holy Rood day (14 September) was declared, allowing oyster stocks to replenish. In an annual ceremony that dates back to 1540 and continues to this day, Colchester's mayor samples the first new crop of oysters and offers a toast of gin and gingerbread to the monarch – Queen Elizabeth II is now sent a telegram proclaiming the fishery to be open.

Colchester is one of only two towns in mainland Britain that is a Royal Saluting Station – and HM The Queen's birthday is marked annually with a 21-gun salute in Castle Park. The privilege was granted to Colchester in 2006, and it would be a great honour for the town to attain the city status of these other saluting stations – London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, York, Stirling and Plymouth.

The Military

Colchester first became a garrison 2,000 years ago, and today its military tradition is an essential part of its outlook and character.

Our first modern garrison was built during the Napoleonic Wars and was the largest in Britain by 1805, with a larger and permanent one established during the Crimean War.

Today the Garrison is home to the 16 Air Assault Brigade, which comprises 3 air assault infantry battalions, 3 air assault aviation battalions, 1 artillery regiment and a number of supporting units.

With many recent casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, Colchester is fiercely supportive of its Garrison and proud of its achievements. In February 2011, a turf cutting ceremony was held to mark the beginning of the first purpose-built Personnel Recovery Centre (PRC) – a Help for Heroes and Royal British Legion funded facility that will help soldiers through their injury or illness and return to duty or into a supported civilian life.

Architecture

The magnificent buildings of Roman Colchester – from the Temple of Claudius to Britain's only known Roman circus – began a tradition of architectural excellence that continues to this day. The borough of Colchester contains 22 conservation areas, 1,555 listed buildings and 52 scheduled ancient monuments. We have a distinctive skyline, instantly recognisable from the silhouettes of our grand Victorian town hall and 'Jumbo', our imposing central water tower.

Many of these buildings are detailed in our submitted profile of Colchester, including the new *firstsite* building – a cultural and arts centre designed by the award-winning Rafael Viñoly that is opening in late 2011. Its unique engineering preserves the Roman treasures that may lie beneath it and allows future access to them.

“The conferring of saluting station status on Colchester acknowledges the growth in prestige of the town with its unique and valued military community.”
Colonel Tony Barton
Garrison Commander, 2006

“Colchester has significance as a town in the constellation of wonderful places the UK has, but it also has a special quality of its own. Creating the *firstsite* gallery within this extraordinary well of tradition goes well beyond what is typical even in the UK and will make a visit to Colchester part of an international conversation that makes the most of what the town itself and the people in it are like.”
Rafael Viñoly, *firstsite* architect, 2008

Legends

With such a long history, it's not surprising that Colchester has produced many legends.

The Colchester Legend claims that Helena our patron saint, the daughter of King Coel and mother of Constantine the Great, was born in Colchester. Credited with discovering the graves of the Three Kings and with discovering relics of the True Cross, these elements feature in the Borough's arms.

The nursery rhyme Old King Coel is connected with Colchester, as is Twinkle Twinkle Little Star – familiar to almost every child, it was written by sisters Ann and Jane Taylor who lived in West Stockwell Street from 1796 to 1811.

Colchester isn't alone in claiming to be the scene of the Humpty Dumpty rhyme, and although the story is likely to be legend rather than fact it is tied to one of the most significant events in our history – the Civil War Siege of Colchester. It's said that a Royalist cannon placed on the tower of St Mary-at-the-Wall was hit by returning fire from Lord Fairfax's troops, causing the gun – or Humpty Dumpty – to come tumbling down.

Traditions

Related to the annual opening of the Oyster Fishery at Colne (see 'Royalty' above'), our most renowned tradition is the Colchester Oyster Feast. Originally dating back to the medieval St Denis' Fair, the modern feast traces its roots to 1845 and is held on the last Friday in October. Guests have included members of the Royal Family (including George VI and Edward VIII) as well as prime ministers David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, Ramsay MacDonald, Harold Macmillan, Harold Wilson and Edward Heath.

Not all our traditions are rooted in the past – one of the most important is very much of the present. Since the 16 Air Assault Brigade was honoured with the Freedom of the Borough in 2009, it has exercised its right to march through the town – to the great support of local people.

Internationalism

Colchester's location, thriving community and accessibility from Europe have ensured it has retained a international dimension for two millennia – whether through war, trade, religion, education or cultural exchange.

Colchester russet cloth was exported as far as Damascus in the 13th century, and by the 14th Century Flemish settlers arrived in the town to work in the cloth industry. Two hundred years later, large numbers fled here to escape religious persecution and settled in what became known as the Dutch Quarter (which, even earlier, was the centre of Colchester's medieval Jewish community).

In the 19th Century, the British German Legion was stationed at the Garrison during the Crimean War, and during the Second World War American servicemen had a strong presence in and around the town – many of their descendants still live here.

More recently, Colchester has become a popular visitor destination and its links with Europe are as strong as ever – many local businesses trade through the international port of Harwich and the town is twinned with Avignon (France), Wetzlar (Germany) and Imola (Italy). The University of Essex is the most international in the country, and our blossoming cultural scene further contributes to the cosmopolitan mix of the area.

Culture

Colchester is the acknowledged ‘Cultural Capital’ of Essex. Unique in Roman times for its two theatres, it is now home to a bustling cultural scene.

Today Colchester is a hub for world-class arts and cultural activity, with three organisations funded under Arts Council England’s new National Portfolio – Colchester Arts Centre, The Mercury Theatre and *firstsite*.

Residents and visitors alike are drawn to our theatres, galleries, music venues and cinema, and culture is also key to our present-day regeneration – the focal point of our new cultural quarter, *firstsite*, is a major arts and cultural centre built by an award-winning architect.

Firstsite will help stimulate further regeneration, but the green shoots of the quarter are already visible with a creative members’ hub thriving at 15 Queen Street and Slack Space Colchester encouraging arts usage of empty shops and locations to promote local artists, present new work to the public and generate a cultural buzz in the town centre.

Business and Economy

As a young city in the making, Colchester has productive partnerships between the private, public and third sectors which together contribute to a diverse economy that’s worth in the region of £17 billion. Colchester also plays a leading role in Regional Cities East, a consortium that works to improve infrastructure, tourism, enterprise and employment in East Anglia’s main regional centres.

Our borough is a nursery for entrepreneurship, and with a strong culture of self-reliance and opportunity it’s a natural location for people wanting to start their own businesses. The Colchester Business and Enterprise Agency (COLBEA) supports business start-ups through their early stages, and its success has led it to open a new Business Incubation Centre in North Colchester – in a location where new businesses rub shoulders with big players like Care UK, Park City Consulting and AXA Insurance. Similarly, The Knowledge Gateway at the University of Essex will soon bring together businesses and other organisations together in the same campus as the academic community.

Colchester is also main regional centre for shopping, with visitors drawn from a wide area – attracted by the town’s shopping centres, supermarkets and diverse independent retail sector. It is classified as Primary Centre in the 2010 CACI Retail Footprint survey.

Looking ahead to the future, Colchester’s international links and digital strategy are opening it up further to the global marketplace – and taking Colchester’s spirit of entrepreneurship to countries across the world.

Colchester’s modern renaissance

Colchester’s bid for city status isn’t simply about recognition of its history or achievements.

We’ll always remain proud of our past, our traditions and our place in the world.

But pride in our past and our position is only part of what it means to be a city.

And while any town can have historic foundations, what marks out a city is the outlook of its people – an outlook that’s characterised by tolerance, openness to change and confidence in the future.

Colcestrians have it already.

Some notable Colchester residents

Thomas Malory (c1405-1471): author of *Le Morte d’Arthur*.

William Gilbert (1544-1603): Chief physician to Queen Elizabeth and pioneering Experimental scientist, coined the word ‘electric’ and first to recognise the Earth as a giant magnet.

Margaret Cavendish (1623-1673): poet, philosopher and essayist, writing under her own name on topics including women’s and animal rights, and one of the earliest examples of science fiction (1666).

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892): Victorian England’s greatest preacher.

Sir Archibald Wavell (1883-1950): Field Marshal, commander of the British Army in the Middle East in World War II

Sir Roger Penrose (b. 1931): physicist and mathematician, co-recipient with Stephen Hawking of 1988 Wolf Prize for their contribution to the understanding of the Universe.

Damon Albarn (b. 1968): singer-songwriter front man for Blur and Gorillaz.

Jay Kay (b.1969): Jamiroquai singer

Dermot O’Leary (b. 1973): TV and radio presenter.

Colchester: a profile of a modern city

Introduction

Colchester is a self-confident borough that has evolved into a modern city.

Our worldview is rooted our heritage – with a long history that saw us become the Roman’s first British city, we’re secure in our sense of the past.

But it’s our fast growth as a community and the outlook of the people who live and work here that really mark Colchester out as a modern city – and one that has become the focal point of a region.

People increasingly flock to our borough to live, to work, to shop and to play – and as they contribute to our community, we grow in size, stature, self-belief and in openness to new influences.

Backing for city status comes from members of the whole community, from both urban and rural areas of our borough. You will find their messages of support throughout this profile document.

Location and size

The borough of Colchester covers an area of 324 square kilometres in North East Essex. It borders the Suffolk in the north, along with three Essex districts – Tendring in the east, Braintree in the west and Maldon in the south east.

At its centre is the town of Colchester, surrounded by villages and smaller towns of distinct and complementary character. Some are in the Dedham Vale, a designated area of outstanding natural beauty.

Our largest towns are Wivenhoe, Tiptree and West Mersea. The island of Mersea is at the south of our borough, and it forms the borough’s principal coastal area.

The centre of Colchester, broadly defined by the area within the Roman city walls, is a focal point for the whole borough – containing one of the Eastern region’s busiest shopping destinations, as well as many major cultural attractions and civic amenities.

“Colchester was a wonderful town to grow up in. The people of Colchester made my family feel very welcome when they arrived from Ireland (no mean feat in the 70s)... I hope that Colchester receives its city status and that it grows sustainably, responsibly and continues to be a unique and welcoming place to live and visit.”
Dermot O’Leary, TV Presenter

Access

Colchester is highly accessible from within the UK and from overseas and it has developed the transport links of a major regional destination. Because we’re easy to reach from London, the Eastern region and the continent, our borough is a popular place to live, work, visit and study.

Colchester is less than an hour’s rail journey from London and the Olympic Park at Stratford, and is on the main line route from Liverpool Street to Norwich. Chelmsford, Clacton-on-Sea, Harwich and Ipswich can all be reached in 30 minutes or less.

Colchester is also connected to the capital by the A12, and a new £11.2 million junction recently opened up trunk road access to north Colchester.

The town and borough are a short distance away from Harwich International Port, the Port of Felixstowe and London Stansted Airport, ensuring our international connections remain fresh and strong – and stimulating international trade, tourism and business.

Online access

Colchester is not only very accessible physically, but it recognises the importance of being digitally accessible and fully engaged in the global online community.

Residents in the borough are already highly engaged online: in 2011, people in the Colchester area were the most prolific visitors per head of population of the Census 2011 website – and were almost twice as likely



to complete the Census online than the average UK citizen (Source: Experian Hitwise, 'Colchester top city to complete 2011 Census online').

Colchester Borough Council's digital strategy is set to increase Colchester's online participation – whether for business, education or leisure – as well as to help open the borough further to investment and the global community.

The borough is now contracting with suppliers to make sure all homes, business premises and mobile users will be able to connect to Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband much sooner than most people in Britain. While the Government has a target of all household accessing at least a 2Mbps download speed by 2012, Colchester is reaching for an open access network with a download speed of at least 20 Mbps by 2012 and at least 40-50 Mbps by 2013.

Corporate Governance

There are two main bodies responsible for corporate governance: Essex County Council (ECC) and Colchester Borough Council (CBC).

Essex County Council has responsibility for countywide services such as schools, libraries, social services, trading standards, planning and development policy, road safety, highway maintenance and civic amenity sites. Colchester is represented on Essex County Council by 9 councillors out of a total of 75 – in May 2011 they comprised 4 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats and 1 Labour councillor. Overall control of the council is held by the Conservative Party.

Colchester Borough Council has responsibility for major local services such as economic regeneration, refuse collection and recycling, social housing, planning and development control, museums, parks and leisure services, cemeteries and the crematorium, car parking, food hygiene and environmental protection.

The Borough Council has 27 wards represented by 60 councillors. As a result of the election on 5th May 2011, these political parties held seats on the council: Conservative (24), Labour (7), Liberal Democrats (26) and Independent (3). The council is controlled by a coalition of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent councillors, with an 8-strong cabinet responsible for executive functions.

Additionally, the borough of Colchester has 29 town and parish councils, with a total of 253 people serving their local community as councillors. There are also two parish meetings – in Layer Breton and Layer Marney – which do not have elected councillors, but provide local people with a community forum.

Day-to-day administration of Colchester Borough Council is the responsibility of its Executive Management Team, which develops and manages the Council's strategic plans and works with other agencies, businesses and local groups to help Colchester succeed as a borough. It also leads the modernisation of council services. The team comprises a Chief Executive and three Executive Directors, with support from six Heads of Service with full responsibility for delivering services, implementing plans, and staff management.

Regional memberships and alliances

Colchester is part of the Haven Gateway Partnership, a strategic alliance to promote economic opportunities and prosperity in the area of North East Essex and South East Suffolk that forms the Haven Gateway sub-region – an international gateway to Britain.

Colchester is also a member of Regional Cities East – a partnership of major regional centres in the Eastern Region – which work together to create additional jobs and affordable homes.

"I think it is entirely appropriate that the oldest city in Britain in Roman days becomes the newest city in modern times. Colchester is the fastest growing area in the UK. City status would help Colchester's standing and status in attracting inward investment."

George Kieffer, Chairman, Haven Gateway Partnership

Population

Colchester is an increasingly popular place to live and work – people like it here.

That's the main reason why the number of residents has grown fast over the last decade, transforming us into a major regional centre and city-in-waiting.

Our population is increasing more quickly than any other district in Essex and is rapidly becoming more diverse. It is growing proportionately more quickly than any of the 56 existing cities in Britain.

Colchester's people, whether they have been here for generations or are newer arrivals, are the main contributors to our self-conception as a city – and our character is enriched by the increasingly varied backgrounds and life experience of our residents.

COLCHESTER'S POPULATION AT A GLANCE

The borough's **current population** is 181,000. It is home to 123% of Essex's people, making it the largest district in the county. (*ONS, 2008*)

Colchester is also **growing at a faster rate than the rest of Essex**. Its population is predicted to grow to 223,500 people by 2021. (*Colchester Borough Council, 2010*)

With the exception of London boroughs, metropolitan districts and counties, Colchester is currently the **second largest district in England**. (*Oneplace, Colchester Borough Council Organisational Assessment, 2009*)

Colchester has a **comparatively young population**. In 2009, 23.4% of the local population were aged under 20 years – comparable to Essex (23.7%) and England as a whole (23.9%). However, since 2001, Colchester has seen a significant growth in younger age groups, particularly people in their 20s.

Additionally, in 2009, 18.2% of people in Colchester were of retirement age – far fewer than Essex as a whole (24.6%). (*Local Investment Plan Colchester, Evidence Base, 2010*)

Colchester's **population is rapidly becoming more diverse**, with an increase in ethnic minority residents from 3.82% in 2001 to 7.9% in 2009 - higher than the county average of (6.5%). (*LIPC, EB, 2010*)

Employment levels are above average, with 81.2% of the working age population being economically active in the period July 2008 to July 2009, compared to 78.9% in Great Britain as a whole. (*LIPC, EB, 2010*)

Unemployment levels are below average with 2.9% of the working age population claiming Jobseekers Allowance in February 2009, compared to 4.3% nationally. (*LIPC, EB, 2010*)

Colchester attracts a significant number of workers from outside the borough – according to the 2001 census, 19,692 non-residents came into the borough to work (*ONS, 2001*)

School and Education Attendance

Education provision is growing in Colchester because of a burgeoning birth rate and increasing numbers of people settling in the borough – and the profile of students is becoming more varied.

That's good news for Colchester, which has been a centre of educational excellence ever since Henry VII bestowed a royal charter on Colchester Royal Grammar School.

Colchester is home to a growing number of young families – the number of pupils in primary school education grew between 2005 and 2009, compared to a county-wide decline in primary school places.

In terms of its people, Britain's oldest town is becoming one of its youngest.

Colchester has 66 primary, junior and infant schools, 13 secondary schools, two further education colleges (Colchester Institute and Colchester Sixth Form College) and the most international university in Britain – the University of Essex.

COLCHESTER'S GROWING SCHOOL AND COLLEGE POPULATION

In January 2009, **23,040 pupils attended Colchester schools**.

11.3% of those pupils belonged to **ethnic minority groups**.

The **numbers of primary school pupils increased** 0.8% between 2005 and 2009 – compared to a fall of nearly 4% across Essex.

In January 2009, **896 pupils aged 16-18 attended Colchester school sixth forms**.



Most 16-18 year olds in education attend one of two excellent further education colleges. In 2008/09 2,947 young people attended Colchester Sixth Form College and 3,605 attended Colchester Institute.

Pupil numbers are growing faster as Colchester's population expands – Colchester is predicted to need a greater percentage of new primary school places by 2014 than any other area in Essex.

(Figures from Essex Schools Organisation Plan, 2009-2014)

Education for all

Colchester crackles with educational opportunity, and not just for young people – our people have a real thirst for learning, reflected in the wide variety of provision open to them.

Many local residents learn part-time or full time at the University of Essex and the Colchester Institute, studying courses that range from Fashion and Textiles and Fine Art to Photography and Hotel Management.

Adult community learning is also provided by Essex County Council at the Wilson Marriage Centre, offering courses that include English, Maths, Accountancy and Business Studies, Humanities and IT.

Learning new skills helps grow our local economy, and the Colchester Learning Shop offers free impartial advice to people who want to return to work or study, change jobs, improve their qualifications, update their skills, start a degree, research a new career, create a professional CV or learn for the pleasure of doing so.

The University of Essex

With more than 9,000 students from 142 countries, the UK's most international campus university is based in our borough. Home to some of the best academic departments in the country, it was recently ranked by the national Research Assessment Exercise as ninth out of 159 UK universities for the quality of its research.

The University is vital to Colchester's economy and is a major employer. Its facilities and resources are often shared with the public, and it is host to the University of Essex Knowledge Gateway, the new home for social and scientific research and to business space with the potential to create up to 2,000 jobs locally.

The University's international outlook will soon be expressed in the iconic new **Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution**, designed by alumnus Daniel Libeskind – the masterplan architect for the reconstruction of the World Trade Center site. The new university building will be a global beacon for democracy within the Knowledge Gateway, and will be only the third Libeskind building in the UK.

"This is a very exciting time for Colchester as the fastest growing borough in the country and with the firstsite contemporary art venue, for example, about to open to provide a new focus for the creative arts regionally and nationally.

The University's own plans for the Knowledge Gateway research and business park are set to provide new economic opportunities for the whole region and extend our global influence through the establishment of a new home for the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (IDCR).

"Colchester is at the heart of the economic and cultural life of the eastern region, but many of its businesses and institutions - including the University - have a strong international profile.

"All these factors provide a compelling case for Colchester to be given City status."

*Dr Tony Rich, Registrar and Secretary,
University of Essex*

The University of Essex at a glance

- **Founded 1964 and received its Royal Charter in 1965.** First Chancellor was R.A. Butler and Vice Chancellor A.E. Sloman.
- **Main campus buildings designed by Kenneth Capon** in 200 acres of parkland of Special Historic Interest.
- **More than 9,000 students from 142 countries**, making it the UK's most international campus university.
- **The campus is home to...** state-of-the-art teaching facilities, award-winning accommodation, shops, banks, bars and cafés, a gallery and theatre and first-class sports facilities.
- **22% of research is world leading.** 63% is at least internationally excellent. 93% is at least internationally recognised (*RAE, 2008*)
- **Rated 15th in the UK for offering the best all-round student experience**, scoring strongly for its high-quality and helpful staff, well-structured courses, and good extracurricular activities, community atmosphere and campus environment. (*Times Higher Education Survey, 2010*)
- **Research and knowledge transfer projects have involved partnerships** with many organisations including: BT Group, Vodafone, UNESCO, Nokia, Fujitsu, Acatel, GlaxoSmithKline, London Aquarium, The Victoria & Albert Museum and The National Trust. (*University of Essex*)
- **Academic staff with international reputations include:** Professor Dawn Ades OBE FBA, (Tate Gallery trustee); Professor Huosheng Hu; Professor Stephen Jenkins, (National Equality Panel); Professor Anthony King; Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, (UN Human Rights Committee); Professor Jules Pretty OBE; Professor Marina Warner CBE. (*University of Essex*)
- **Development of the University of Essex Knowledge Gateway**, the new home for social and scientific research and business space, is under way between the Colchester Campus and the town, with the potential to create up to 2,000 high quality jobs.
- **The iconic new Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution** will be only the third building in the UK by Essex University alumnus Daniel Libeskind.

Colchester Garrison – a military connection since Roman times

Colchester is proud host to a major garrison, and has a military connection that stretches back to Roman times – when retired soldiers colonised what became Britain's first ever city.

Today the British Army garrison is an integral part of the wider community and there is a great sense of mutual support. Since 1946, regiments based in Colchester have been granted the freedom of the borough – it was granted to 16 Air Assault Brigade in 2008 in appreciation of the public service they provide.

The garrison traces its roots to the Napoleonic Wars, but it is very much a modern and vital part of the UK's military capability. A new garrison development is the largest infrastructure PFI initiative in Europe – with a contract worth approximately £2 billion over 35 years – and is a significant part of Land Command's improvements for a modern army.

Colchester Garrison is also at the forefront of care for sick, wounded and injured personnel, and the first new Personnel Recovery Centre – funded by Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion – is now being constructed. It will cater for up to 20 full-time residents and 40 day visitors, and will also contain two en suite rooms for families. The centre will be run jointly by the Royal British Legion and the Army.

Business in Colchester – a nursery for entrepreneurship

Colchester is enjoying a private sector renaissance. Between 1998 and 2008, the number of private sector jobs in Colchester rose by 11.5% – which would have given us the 9th highest growth of any city in England (*Private Sector Cities: a new geography of opportunity, 2010*).

It's because our borough is a nursery for entrepreneurship, and it's home to a thriving business scene.

"When the Romans garrisoned Colonia Claudia Victricensis, Colcestrians became the first 'citizens' of Roman Britain. We still have a garrison, but we now boast a fine university, first-rate hospitals and a thriving business community. Because Colchester Chamber of Commerce encourages and supports commerce and industry, it would welcome citizenship of Colchester, and not just of Rome!"
Bryan Johnston, President of the Colchester Committee of the Essex Chambers of Commerce.

There's a lot of get-up-and-go among all sectors of business, and businesspeople support each other through a large variety of networking and referral groups and business-to-business publications. One, Colchester Connected, has exported its successful magazine-and-networking model to Chelmsford.

The business community benefits from support in many quarters. The Colchester Business and Enterprise Agency aids business start-ups with great success. The Knowledge Gateway at the University of Essex will soon bring businesses together with the academic community. The Essex Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses are highly active and engaged in the Colchester area. And Newsquest (publishers of *The Gazette*, the borough's most popular newspaper) sponsors our region's most prestigious business awards scheme – giving recognition to successful businesses in the Colchester area and also county-wide.

Quick facts: business in Colchester

- **In August 2008, 7,399 businesses in Colchester employed 71,596 people.** Micro businesses (1-10 employees) accounted for 84.9% of businesses; small businesses (11-49) accounted for 11.8%; medium businesses (50-199) accounted for 2.8%; large businesses (200+) accounted for 0.5%. (CBC Annual Business Enquiry)
- In terms of business clusters, in 2008, **Colchester had the highest number of creative industry businesses (400+) in Essex** with one in six of Colchester jobs in this sector. This amounts to 1 in 14 jobs. (CBC)
- **There were 7,380 VAT and/or PAYE based Local Units in March 2010**, of which 4,645 were urban and 2,735 were rural. The greatest numbers of local units were in Construction 13.7%, Professional, Scientific & Technical 12.9%, Retail 10.5%, Business Administration & Support Services 8.3% and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services 6.6%.

Businesses and entrepreneurs are partly attracted to Colchester by its links to London and the continent, and its rapidly-emerging status as the main regional centre in the southern half of East Anglia – city status would only accelerate the already exceptional growth of its private sector.

Opportunity and Entrepreneurship – just some prominent Colchester businesses

- **Spicerhaart.** Britain's largest independent estate agent group.
- **Cants of Colchester.** The UK's oldest rose growing firm, dating to 1795.
- **Fläkt Woods Group.** Produces 150,000 fans per year for building ventilation or fire safety. 200,000 buildings in 50 countries are equipped with FW air handling units.
- **Helmsman Safety Services.** Provides a range of First Aid training to the Royal Household at Buckingham Palace.
- **Jardine Motors Group.** A top 10 retail dealership specialising in the world's most prestigious marques.
- **Chandos Records Ltd.** Founded in 1979 and now one of the world's leading independent classical labels and the first to offer mp3 downloads from its website.
- **JobServe Ltd.** Online recruitment firm.
- **Wilkin & Sons Ltd.** First awarded a Royal Warrant from King George V in 1911, and again from Queen Elizabeth II in 1954 for the supply of jam and marmalade.
- **Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd.** Major insurer.
- **Philips Dictation Systems.** A Philips centre of excellence,
- **The Chameleon Group.** The largest supplier of hands-free car kits in the world.
- **Betts UK.** One of the world's leading producers of laminate tubes.
- **Reader Offers Ltd.** Cruise travel agent.
- **Coast Digital.** Sunday Times Tech Track 100 listed internet marketing agency.
- **The Wine Company.** Major UK wine merchant.

Colchester's voluntary sector – grass roots action, community co-operation and council support

Colchester has a dynamic voluntary sector, which is not only characterised by grass-roots enterprise and initiative, but also by community co-operation and council support.

The Colchester Community Voluntary Service (CCVS) is an umbrella organisation that represents the interests of many voluntary and charitable groups working in Colchester – it currently has over 100 affiliated

members and links to over 400 charitable and voluntary organisations. In 2011, Colchester Borough Council will provide CCVS with £42,405.92 of revenue funding, also covering the Shopmobility scheme to help people with limited mobility shop and enjoy the facilities of Colchester town centre.

Colchester Borough Council also provides a cross section of other voluntary sector organisations with funding, including:

Voluntary Sector Organisations funded by Colchester Borough Council

Colchester Borough Council allocated over £250,000 to voluntary welfare funding in 2011, including to these groups and organisations.

Revenue Funding

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Colchester Community Voluntary Service (CCVS) (Core) | £42,405.92 |
| CCVS Shopmobility | £221,250.82 |
| Rural Community Council of Essex | £659.19 |
| Colchester Furniture Project (The Shake Trust) | £9,054.83 |
| Colchester & Tendring Women's Refuge (core) | £7,439.24 |
| Colchester & Tendring Women's Refuge (outreach) | £16,699.75 |
| Colchester Emergency Night shelter | £5,718.17 |
| Colchester Rural Age Concern | £2,807.84 |
| Age UK Colchester | £8,695.04 |
| Colchester United Community Sports Trust | £19,776.03 |
| Colchester Citizens Advice Bureau | £97,840.00 |

Project Funding

| | |
|---|------------|
| Age UK Colchester | £16,037.51 |
| Tendring & Colchester Minority Ethnic Partnership | £4,000.00 |

Section 106 Capital Grants Funding

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| The April Centre | £8,885.00 |
|------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Total CBC funding | £250,173.33 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|

Colchester Borough Council also funds not-for-profit organisations from the Enterprise, Skills and Employment (ESE) budget, available to 'not for profit' organisations that promote business creation and provide employment and skills training within the Borough.

In this way, public funding is targeted at increasing employment and stimulating local economic prosperity at a time when the borough is facing the challenges common to fast-growing urban and rural areas. The organisations funded include:

1. Signpost

An independent charitable organisation with 16 years' experience of helping people of all ages and from all walks of life to get back into work or to move on. *ESE funding: £21,500*

2. Colchester Business Enterprise Agency

Offering free advice, support and training to those starting new businesses. Also provides incubation and grow-on space to help nurture new businesses. *ESE funding: £16,000*

The Borough Council also funds specialist organisations to help tackle the problem of homelessness. They include The April Centre (£39,450), Open Road (£8,500) and the Youth Enquiry Service (£40,184).

Council support of the voluntary sector isn't limited to funding and grants, and it stimulates growth within it by offering charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) an 80% tax relief on business rates.



The Council also promotes a volunteering scheme for its own staff, encouraging them to get involved in voluntary work and offering relevant paid leave for those volunteering as school governors or magistrates.

Council support of the voluntary sector is important, but it is only one aspect of Colchester's approach to community action. Our borough is home to many independent charities and organisations making a significant difference to our community. We have listed just some of them below.

A cross section of Colchester charities and not-for-profit organisations

For a much fuller list, please visit http://www.ccvcs.org/index.php?Membership_of_CCVS:Affiliated_Members

- | | |
|--|---|
| Age Concern Colchester – improving the quality of life of the elderly | Fair Access 2 Colchester – helping to improve the quality of life for disabled and non disabled people in Colchester |
| Autism Anglia – welfare, education and treatment of people with autism | Headway Essex – provides support and services to people with acquired brain injury and their families. |
| Brainwave Children's Therapy Centre – therapy for 6-12 month old children with delayed development | Home-Start Colchester – supporting families with at least one child under 5 through difficult times |
| Colchester Credit Union Ltd – encouraging thrift and saving and providing affordable homes | Hythe Community Centre Association – for the benefit and wellbeing of residents in this area of Colchester |
| Colchester and District Talking Newspaper – for the blind and visually impaired | Molly's Wood – a Community Orchard and facilities for teaching of natural history to junior school children. |
| Colchester Furniture Project (The SHAKE Trust) – providing furniture and electrical items for those in need | St Helena Hospice – care for terminally ill people and their families |
| Colchester Nightshelter – helping homeless people find a more permanent home | Take Heart Cardiac Support Group – supporting heart patients and their families |
| Emmaus Colchester – giving people a bed, and a reason to get out of it | The Stockwell Centre – counselling and psychotherapy |
| Epilepsy Action – information and awareness about epilepsy | Winsley's Charity – provides almshouses for the elderly and needy |

Shopping Centres – Colchester as a primary retail centre

Colchester is one of 38 retail centres classified as a Primary Centre in the 2010 Retail Footprint survey published by CACI. It is ranked as one of the top 50 retail centres in the UK with an estimated expenditure of £540m. (CACI 2010)

With no city in the region, Colchester is the main beacon for shoppers from the borough and beyond.

There are two major shopping centres in central Colchester, which are home to national chains and independent stores and are well integrated with older retail streets such as the High Street and Eld Lane – both noted for their number and variety of small independent and specialist shops.

Lion Walk Shopping Centre was bought by La Salle Investment Management for £69m in 2008 and comprises 35 units covering 236,000 sq ft including Marks & Spencer, BHS, Boots, New Look, HMV, River Island and WH Smith. It attracts 6 million visitors every year (Lion Walk figures) and it recently underwent the first two stages of a £5m refurbishment which, by blending state-of-the-art design with historical surroundings, earned it a Commendation in the British Council of Shopping Centre's (BCSC) Gold Awards for 2010.

Culver Square Shopping Centre is owned by Prudential Property Investment and covers 340,000 sq ft including Debenhams, TK Maxx, H&M, Monsoon, Gap and Republic.

There are also two smaller shopping centres in Colchester – St John's Walk Shopping Centre covering 83,000 sq ft and including Wilkinson, Blacks and Iceland. Priory Walk Shopping

“It's got to be a good move for our town. Being a city would make us feel more prosperous, help raise our profile and it would be good for the local economy.” *Derek Ashbee, Manager, Culver Square Shopping Centre.*

“It can only be a good thing for local businesses in Marks Tey if Colchester became a city. The more people who visit the area the better it is for all the businesses – it can only be good. I can't see a negative.”
Andy Jackson, Fresh Food Manager, The Food Company, Marks Tey.

Ben Locker & Associates Limited, The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Rd, Colchester CO2 8J

Centre covers 48,000 sq ft and includes J Sainsbury, Peacocks and Clarks.

Colchester is also home to the famous Williams & Griffin department store, now owned by Fenwicks and named Best Independent Department Store of the Year in an award sponsored by *Drapers* magazine.

A Warm Welcome: why visitors are choosing Colchester

Colchester is an increasingly popular place to live and work, and it is a major visitor destination as well as a retail hub.

There are many good reasons to visit Colchester and we are proud to welcome people to our borough.

Even a single day spent in the Colchester area reveals a borough with the confidence of a long history, combined with an optimistic and energetic outlook on the future.

In 2009 alone, visitors made 4.5 million trips to Colchester, including 59,000 stays by overseas visitors and 224,000 by UK visitors. The borough also benefited from 4.2 million day trips. In 2010 the VisitColchester Information Centre helped 82,651 people make the most of our borough and its website attracted an average of 100,000 visitors each month.

As a major tourist destination only 42 minutes by train from the Olympic Park, Colchester's visitor numbers are set to grow even further – and work is already underway to further improve the amount and quality of accommodation on offer.

At present, there is an excellent mix of accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets, from rooms in the Grade I listed 15th-century Red Lion Hotel to the modern Holiday Inn at Eight Ash Green, not to mention the luxury of the Maison Talbooth Hotel, many welcoming village inns and bed and breakfasts, plus camping and caravanning facilities.

However, thanks to three new developments, the borough will soon offer 257 additional hotel rooms – including an 80% increase in provision within 1 mile of the ancient city centre.

BOOM TIME FOR ACCOMMODATION IN COLCHESTER

Colchester can currently offer **900 hotel rooms within 10 miles** of the town centre. Of those, **145 are within 1 mile of the centre** and **339 between 1 and 5 miles**.

In spring 2012, the **University of Essex will reopen the Wivenhoe House Hotel** as the Edge Hotel School – it will offer **40 hotel rooms** while training future leaders of the hotel and hospitality industry.

Three new hotels are planned near the new *firstsite* international gallery, at the heart of Colchester's new cultural quarter. **A hotel on the Grey Friars site will provide 21 guest suites and rooms** in a new boutique hotel development in the Georgian and later buildings of a former convent site. **A new hotel** in the cultural quarter will offer **another 95 hotel rooms**, while a 'restaurant with rooms' is also planned for East Hill.

One new **Holiday Inn Express** will soon open at Langham with 101 rooms on offer.

There are **150 bed & breakfast and guest house rooms** within a 10 mile radius of the centre.

There are **approximately 30 self catering units** within 10 miles, along with **16 static caravans** and **over 210 campsite pitches**.

The **University of Essex offer additional accommodation during student vacations** – adding a significant resource for visiting groups during the key summer season, and for those attending short courses at the University during the holiday periods.

Visitor attractions and places of interest

There are thousands of reasons why visitors are increasingly drawn to Colchester – but not least because it has more quality-assured visitor attractions than any other town in England. Tourism is worth £216.8 million to the borough economy in 2009 and has risen by 243% from £63.1 million in 1993 (Source: *Economic Impact of Tourism to the Borough of Colchester (Cambridge Model) 2009*).

There are many sides of Colchester for visitors and residents to explore, including its culture, heritage, vineyards, culinary excellence, green spaces, events, sports and leisure facilities and shopping centres.

We have covered just some to give you a flavour of our borough's vibrant tourist and cultural economy.

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS: ART & DRAMA

Colchester is home to four theatres, a renowned arts centre, a vibrant artistic and musical scene and is in the process of creating a brand-new cultural quarter – which will act as a beacon for culture across East Anglia and internationally. At its heart will be the brand-new *firstsite* gallery, designed by renowned architect Rafael Viñoly.

The visual and performing arts organisations in our town centre also contribute over £23million to the economy each year and support over 400 jobs – figures that are set to grow significantly with the development of *firstsite* and the cultural quarter.

1. The Mercury Theatre: staging classic works and showcasing new writing

The highly regarded regional theatre that is home to the critically-acclaimed Mercury Theatre Company, it stages classic works and showcases new writing, as well as working extensively with the local community.

The theatre works to enrich people intellectually, emotionally and spiritually, and to reach younger and broader audiences. The building also houses a studio space, the Digby art gallery (of work by local professional artists) and bar. 130,000 people visit or participate each year.

2. The Headgate Theatre: the community theatre for amateur productions

The popular home of amateur theatre in Colchester with an 80-seat auditorium and large rehearsal studio.

3. Lakeside Theatre: international theatre with a culturally diverse repertoire

At the University of Essex, this is the venue for international and culturally diverse theatre, dance, live art, film and comedy nights. It showcases students' work and supports community and education work.

4. Colchester Arts Centre: not just for arts, but home to popular community events

A converted church and the venue for events as wide ranging as gigs, farmers' markets, comedy nights, beer festivals, performance art and comedy nights. Promotes contemporary arts and commissions live art.

"The next few years will be an exciting time for Colchester, as it looks forward to the economic benefits which will flow from being the fastest growing borough in the country, and the opening of a world class visual arts facility attracts further visitors to the town.

"City status would give us the opportunity of showing that Colchester is a thriving and forward looking community as well as being a place of great historical significance. First city, and latest city has a certain ring to it!"

Tony Fisher, Partnership Member, Fisher Jones Greenwood LLP.

5. Firstsite: the international focal point of a new cultural quarter

A Tate Plus partner, *firstsite* exists to bring art, artists and audiences together through a programme of contemporary visual art that is both locally relevant and internationally significant.

In 2011, *firstsite* will be moving to a new £24 million gallery designed by internationally acclaimed architect Rafael Viñoly – where it will become the focal point of Colchester’s new cultural quarter and act as a catalyst for a further £50 million regeneration of the area.

Rather than being a traditional art gallery, it will be a cultural and social space with contemporary art at its core, which will attract visitors from across Europe to experience its vibrant programme of exhibitions, workshops, lectures and community events.

The new *firstsite* building will attract a projected 150,000 visitors per year – and will join the front rank of contemporary art venues in the UK.

6. Slack Space: using empty shops to promote local art to a new audience

This volunteer-run initiative, launched in 2009, uses empty shops and locations to promote local artists and present new work to the public. It gets involved in community events like Colchester Carnival (see below) and fundraises for causes such as aid for those affected by the Japanese earthquake.

7. The Minorities Art Gallery: contemporary art in a Georgian setting

A Grade II* Georgian town house occupied by the Colchester Institute School of Art, Design and Media. Holds exhibitions by students, the Colchester Art Society and contemporary artists. Home to a popular café.

8. The Art Exchange: renowned artists and new talent at Essex University

At the University of Essex, this is one of our region’s leading galleries of contemporary visual art, showing the work of internationally-renowned artists as well as much new talents.

9. The University of Essex Collection of Latin American Art: unique in Europe

Founded in 1993 with assistance from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this is the only collection in Europe dedicated to modern Latin American art - containing items from 1900 to the present day. With more than 600 works by 200 artists from 14 countries, its also runs an outreach programme of workshops and talks in schools, colleges and community centres.

“Arts Council England strongly welcomes this bid as Colchester is highly deserving of city status. We are investing £5.5million into Colchester’s rich variety of arts venues, such as firstsite, a new world-class arts centre which is due to open in September. Funded by Arts Council England and other partners, the centre will not only bring new business, investment opportunities and jobs to the town, it will also act as a catalyst to the regeneration of the St Botolph’s area. The town is now a major centre for artists, creating a vibrant hub of creativity for the local community.”
Andrea Stark, Area Executive Director, East and South East, Arts Council England

10. Art Cafés: culture, coffee and cuisine

There is a variety of popular cafés holding exhibitions, including Slice, The Artcafé (two branches – one in Colchester and one in West Mersea) and Level Best Artcafé.

11. Other art attractions

The borough is home to many other cultural attractions, including:

- **The Hay Gallery** – local, national and international collections at the Colchester Institute School of Art, Design and Media.
- **The Gallery, Church Walk** – contemporary art, graphic design, illustration and photography
- **Les Livres Gallery** – local art exhibited at Colchester Library
- **The Geedon Gallery** – a Fingringhoe gallery mounting two major annual exhibitions of 20th and 21st century British artists and sculptors of national and international repute.
- **Dedham Art and Craft Centre** – paintings and original work by local artists and craftsmen
- **Shakespeare House Gallery, Dedham** – art gallery
- **Wivenhoe Gallery** – art gallery

- **Birch Gallery** – watercolours by John Harrison
- **Sir Alfred Munnings' Art Museum, Dedham** – home to the largest single collection of Munnings' works.

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS Pt 2: KEEPING COLCHESTER COOL

Colchester has a vibrant music and arts scene, featuring almost nightly gigs, live music, specialist nights and DJs – taking place in many different venues, from arts centres to pubs and country inns.

Daily music and arts events are compiled by a group called Keep Colchester Cool, which has a highly successful Facebook page with over 2,500 followers.

With such levels of support, it's easy to see why 1 in 14 jobs in Colchester is in the cultural sector – and why Colchester has emerged as a Mecca for the arts in East Anglia.

HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS

As Britain's oldest recorded town, and its first Roman city, Colchester's heritage is a major asset. There are 22 conservation areas and 1,555 listed buildings in Colchester borough.

These popular attractions all help visitors and residents interpret our rich history and heritage, and learn how it has shaped our present-day borough.

1. Colchester Castle Museum

This multi award-winning museum is situated in Colchester Castle – where the largest Norman keep in Britain is built on the foundations of a Roman temple dedicated to the Emperor Claudius.

There has been a museum housed in the castle since 1860 it has Iron Age and Roman collections that are designated as being of international importance. The museum's collection includes some of the finest Late Iron Age and Roman artefacts in Britain, including the Roman 'Colchester Vase', the tombstone of Roman Centurion Marcus Favonius Facilis and the 'Dagenham Idol', a neolithic figure carved from pinewood in c.2250 BC and one of the oldest representations of the human form known in the British Isles.

Colchester Castle Museum (and the Museums Service as a whole) works closely with schools and local people to bring its treasures and history to a wider community audience.

88,337 people visited this collection of national and international importance during 2009/10 (*Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service*). Our collaborative museums service – Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service – is also outstanding for offering exceptional provision to residents in two counties.

2. Hollytrees Museum: about families, for families

A museum of family and domestic life over the last 300 years, situated in a beautiful Georgian town house.

The museum is free, and is very popular with schools and families who enjoy its hands-on interpretations, including the chance to create silhouette portraits and listen to the life stories of real people. 38,991 people visited Hollytrees Museum in 2009/10 (*Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service*)

3. Natural History Museum: biodiversity and climate change over two millennia

Housed in the former All Saints Church, the Natural History Museum focuses on North East Essex's rich natural heritage – covering the rich biodiversity of the Essex coast and the effects of climate change over thousands of years. Its hands-on displays are popular with schools and families, and it has a nature reserve in the adjoining churchyard. 32,645 people visited in 2009/10 (*Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service*).

4. Tymperleys Clock Museum: home of the 'father of electricity'

Situated in a 15th century timber-framed house, which was once home to William Gilbert (the 'father of electricity'), Tymperleys is home to a fine collection of 18th and 19th century Colchester-made clocks. 7,481 people visited in 2009/10 (*Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service*).

5. Mersea Island Museum: our coastal story

This independent museum tells the story of Mersea Island's fishing, oystering, wildfowling and boat-building heritage. It also has a reconstruction of a typical weather-boarded fisherman's cottage, complete with a Victorian kitchen range.

6. Tiptree Visitor Centre: the story of the Royal conserve makers

Part of the European Route of Industrial Heritage, this centre is on the site of where the first Tiptree conserves were made in 1885 by Wilkin and Sons. Home to Wilkin's tea room, jam museum and jam shop.

"It would only be a good thing if Colchester became a City – it can only benefit the area." *Walter Scott, Joint MD, Wilkin and Sons.*

7. Layer Marney Tower: popular with families and home to events and festivals

The tallest Tudor gate tower in England with a Grade II listed garden, this grand home was constructed by Henry 1st Lord Marney but never finished. The tower, garden, farm, play area, shop and tea room are open to the public from April to September – and Layer Marney is also a popular venue for events and festivals. 9,856 people visited in 2009 (*Visit England*).

8. Heritage is all around us...

Colchester has some of the richest heritage of any town or city in the UK, and it would be impossible to list every attraction. These are just a small number of additional venues popular with both residents and visitors.

- **Shalom Hall.** A yellow brick and stucco early Victorian house with a fine collection of 17th and 18th century furniture, Sèvres porcelain and portraits by Gainsborough and Reynolds. Open during August.
- **Bourne Mill.** 16th century fishing lodge converted into a mill, with much intact machinery. National Trust property open Thursdays and Sundays in July and August. 1,223 people visited in 2009 (*Visit England*).
- **St Michael's and All Angels Church.** In Copford, this 12th century church contains magnificent medieval frescoes uncovered in the late 19th century and restored circa 1990.

TRANSPORT HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS

With close links to the sea and a proud railway heritage, transport heritage is a significant attraction of the Colchester area.

1. East Anglian Railway Museum

Based at Chappel Station, about six miles from central Colchester, this museum has a major collection of railway architecture, steam and diesel locomotives, carriages and other artefacts that tell the story of East Anglia's railway heritage. It welcomes approximately 80,000 visitors annually and belongs to the European Route of Industrial Heritage.

The museum also hosts two popular annual beer festivals and was the venue for Britpop band Blur's first ever gig in 1988 – the band came back for a warm-up date before its 2009 tour.

2. Nottage Maritime Institute

A registered charity in Wivenhoe established in 1896, the NMI teaches Royal Yachting Association Shorebased Courses among others. It also houses a maritime museum with a fine collection of paintings, photographs and models.

COLCHESTER ZOO

Colchester Zoo is one of the best European zoos with a highly-effective development programme, and is a winner of the "Large Visitor Attraction of the Year" Award and the "Sustainable Tourism Award" from the East of England Tourist Board for its efforts in recycling and green practices.

One of the most modern zoos in the world

Colchester Zoo is one of the most modern zoos in the world, with an ongoing reinvestment programme to create naturalistic enclosures for over 260 rare and endangered species. Its latest development is Orangutan Forest and it is also home to the Playa Patagonia, the sea lion pool with a 24m viewing tunnel under water, a Komodo Dragon enclosure, wallaby walkabout, rare Amur, leopards, tigers and the sun bears.

The Wild About Animals Theatre holds daily presentations in addition to regular displays, and the zoo is exceptionally popular with families and schools, as well as visitors. It also offers adventure play areas, an undercover soft play complex, road train rides, panning for gold and a new undercover Discovery Centre.

The zoo also has a charity, Action for the Wild, which is dedicated to assisting conservation projects worldwide including its own project: the UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

Open daily, Colchester Zoo welcomed 517,178 visitors in 2009 (Visit England).

GREEN SPACES

The jewel in the crown of the borough's green spaces is the award-winning Castle Park, boasting over 1 million visitors per year – but Colchester is also home to nature reserves, heritage gardens, an archaeological park, meadows, islands and many other open spaces for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy.

We are also lucky in that a number of our open spaces are on the National Register of Special Historic Interest. They include Colchester Castle Park, Layer Marney Tower Gardens (see 'Heritage' above) and Wivenhoe Park. Gosbecks Archaeological Park and Hilly Fields are also distinguished as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

1. Castle Park: 'Britain's Best Park'

The award-winning park in central Colchester is the setting for the renowned Colchester Castle and its museum (see above). Designated Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England it has consistently been awarded Green Flag status.

The park is the location for 21 gun salutes in the Queen's honour (Colchester is one of only two towns in mainland Britain with privilege of making these) and it is the venue for an extraordinary array of events, from food festivals and community fairs to the renowned Colchester Carnival (see 'Events' below).

The park is divided into an Upper and Lower Park by the Roman Town Wall. The Upper Park consists of formal flower beds and gardens, a Sensory Garden, a brand-new children's playground as well as two award winning museums. It now boasts around 550 mature trees, 100 staked trees, 5000 shrubs, and each year it plants 52,000 bedding plants, 50,000 bulbs and around 20,000 plants in the badge bed and 3D sculptures.

Lower Castle Park includes a boating lake and is bisected by the picturesque River Colne. offers the perfect venue for fairs, festivals, open-air concerts and displays. You can also take picturesque walks along the River Colne.

Colchester Castle Park was most recently awarded "Britain's Best Park" in 2009 and Best Local Authority Floral Display in Anglia in Bloom 2010.

The park covers 13.5 hectares, including the adjacent **Bull Meadow** – a local nature reserve.

Castle Park has over 1 million visitors annually (*CBC figures*)

2. High Woods Country Park – woods and grassland near the heart of Colchester

Covering 134 hectares to the north of central Colchester. Formerly part of the Royal Forest of Kingswood, the land was given to the people of Colchester by King Henry VIII in 1535. About one third is woodland and the remainder is a patchwork of grassland, scrub, marsh and wildflower meadows.

The park's Visitor Centre contains the Ranger's office and a selection of hands-on interactive displays about the country park, as well as a small shop selling refreshments, books, activity trail leaflets for children and mementoes. Estimated 150,000 visitors annually (CBC).

3. Gosbeck's Archaeological Park – site of the largest Roman theatre in Britain

50 acres of open grassland and home to the site of the largest known Roman theatre in Britain, an impressive Romano-Celtic temple complex and the Royal household of Cunobelin. This Scheduled Ancient Monument offers visitors a mix of fascinating archaeological evidence, historic and natural landscape and country walks. The theatre, temple and portico – its corridor is almost ¼ mile long – are fully indicated in outline.

4. Wivenhoe Park – the landscaped park painted by Constable

Covering approximately 34 acres around Wivenhoe House – now the Wivenhoe House Hotel at the University of Essex. The park was originally landscaped by Richard Woods and was later drawn and painted by Constable. Open to the public, the University has owned the park since 1964. Nearby **Wivenhoe Wood** (22 hectares) is fine coppice woodland and **Wivenhoe Marsh**, a 5 hectare area of former grazing march, are both on the east bank of the Colne estuary.

5. Fingringhoe Wick – Essex Wildlife Trust's first nature reserve

Home to over 250 species of birds and 350 species of flowering plants, Fingringhoe Wick was Essex Wildlife Trust's first nature reserve, and the first with a visitor centre. It has a viewing tower with panoramic views and is popular with families, organised wildlife groups, school parties and walkers.

6. Abberton Reservoir – internationally important for water birds

Abberton Reservoir, a 496 hectare Essex & Suffolk Water reservoir, is internationally important for wild duck, swan and other water birds. The surrounding nature reserve is managed by Essex Wildlife Trust, and was created in 1975 with advice from conservationist Sir Peter Scott. The visitor centre was build with the support of Essex & Suffolk Water and Colchester Borough Council.

7. Abbotts Hall Farm – restoring nationally threatened habitats

This 280 hectare site was bough by the Essex Wildlife Trust in 2000 with the support of WWF-UK, the Environment Agency, English Nature and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The seawall has been breached to return about half of the area to saltmarsh, saline lagoons and grazing marsh – all nationally threatened habitats. The remaining area is farmed in a wildlife-friendly way.

8. Abbey Fields – heart of a new urban village

Abbey Fields is an exceptional site made up of 29 hectares of open parkland including a sports pavilion, running track, various pitches and a number of large mature trees. The heart of the former garrison (building of a new garrison is underway), the parkland will become the centrepiece of a new urban village to the south of Colchester town centre – which will be home to a new primary school, health centre, and improved pedestrian and cycle links to the town centre. Where possible buildings and facilities will be retained and improved to enhance the area's existing character.

Abbey Fields is also the site where the only Roman Circus in Britain has been discovered, and will become home to an education centre – opening up discovery of the site to all.

9. St Botolph's Priory – an accessible public green space

The grounds of St Botolph's Priory in Colchester town centre were improved in 2010 to create a more accessible public green space for visits, events and picnics. Work was completed on trees, hedgerows, new paths, seats and bins. £80,000 was awarded for the project by the Haven Gateway Partnership.

10. Green space in every neighbourhood...

Public green spaces are vital to Colchester's urban and rural communities, as well as being popular amenities for visitors. These are some of the other public green spaces in our borough:

- **Recreation Ground.** Formerly the drill ground of the Napoleonic Barracks, it was opened in 1885 as Colchester's first public open space. Today it is popular for events like fêtes and circuses, as well as children's activities.
- **East Bay Meadow.** Recently tidied and improved, the meadow was first presented to the town as a recreation ground in 1934.
- **Lexden Park.** Seven hectares of old parkland and mature woodland adjoining a wildflower meadow and ornamental lake. Managed as a local nature reserve since 1981.
- **Lexden Gathering Grounds.** A former gathering ground for water that flowed from its springs.
- **Lexden Springs.** Ancient meadowland with a freshwater spring.
- **Salary Brook.** 20 hectares of marsh, wet grassland and ponds at the eastern fringe of urban Colchester.
- **Welsh Wood.** 2.7 hectares of ancient woodland.
- **Bullock Wood.** A rare surviving medieval plantation in north Colchester.
- **Ray Island.** A popular picnic spot for boating enthusiasts, between Mersea Island and the mainland.
- **Cudmore Grove Country Park.** Adjacent to the Colne estuary on Mersea Island.
- **Tiptree Heath.** The largest remaining area of heathland in Essex. The nearby **Tiptree Parish Field** is wet grassland that has probably never been ploughed.
- **Friday Wood.** 90 hectares of ancient woodland south of urban Colchester. Also nearby is **Roman River Valley Nature Reserve**, a mosaic of ancient and recent woodland, scrub, grassland, heath and fen.
- **The Moors.** A hilly green area between the river Colce and Hythe Hill, maintained by local volunteer group, the Moors Movement.
- Also to the west and north-west of urban Colchester: **Iron Latch** (flower-rich meadow and coppiced wood), **Fordham Heath** (ancient wet heathland), **Hoe Wood** (ancient coppiced wood), **hillhouse Wood** (open ancient woodland) and **Sergeant's Orchard** (arable fields and a 19th century orchard).

VINEYARDS

The Romans first planted vines in the Colchester area and – while not public – our modern vineyards are popular open spaces and significant tourist attractions.

1. Carter's Vineyard

At Boxted, this vineyard covers 40 acres and is also home to wildflower meadows, lakes and woodlands powered by wind and solar energy. Open Easter to October for vineyard tours, nature trails and to study the alternative energy project.

2. Mersea Vineyard

Vineyard on Mersea Island offering tastings of its own award-winning wines and beers.

Major Events

Hardly a week passes without a popular event being staged in our borough, and not just through the spring and summer months. The majority of them are grass-roots events, organised by local people – often with the support of businesses, Colchester Borough Council or other local organisations.

Many of these events attract visitors from all over East Anglia and beyond, and are an important aspect of our thriving visitor economy. Below are some of the most significant annual events.

1. Colchester Medieval Festival and Oyster Fayre (4-5 June 2011) – the biggest fair of its kind

Described by *The Sunday Times* as "A tour de force in medievalism that's the biggest of its type in Europe", this event is a full medieval-style fair that stages many period activities, from strong man challenges and backswording to falconry, archers, storytellers, puppetry and more – recreating an era when people would travel from the countryside and villages to attend the 'big fair' in town. Organised by volunteers, it is sponsored by local businesses and supported by Colchester Borough Council and other organisations.

2. Colchester Food and Drink Festival (25-26 June 2011) – a proud national reputation

This is one of the first-rank food festivals in East Anglia and it has a national reputation – even though it has been running since only 2004. Taking place in Castle Park, it attracts 10,000 people per day. Organised by local company Snake in the Grass.

3. Colchester Carnival (16 July 2011)

This popular event has undergone a renaissance as a completely not-for-profit, voluntary enterprise organised by Colchester Round Table. This year, the main event will be focused on a parade of floats through Colchester's streets, reaching the High Street by early evening. Throughout the day there will family events taking place in central shopping centres and Castle Park, where there'll also be an evening of music.

The Carnival's principal sponsor is Weston Homes plc, but it has won sponsorship and support from a wide range of local businesses and organisations. All profits from the Carnival will go back to the local community. Colchester Round Table is working in conjunction with Grassroots, a local charity, to invite Colchester good causes to seek grants from the money raised. This money will be distributed within a few months of the Carnival.

4. Colchester Free Festival (27 August 2011) – community led, not-for-profit, attracting thousands

A not-for-profit volunteer-led event to celebrate Colchester's music, art and culture, the Colchester Free Festival last year attracted 15,000 people to Castle Park to see a huge variety of bands play and enjoy stalls manned by food producers, businesses, community groups, fair trade and organic produce suppliers and many others. This year the event is sponsored by Lion Walk Shopping Centre and Keep Colchester Cool.

5. Heritage Open Days (8-11 September) – a major destination of this national scheme

More than 30 historic sites open to the public during this national event, including Colchester Town Hall, TS Colne Light Ship, Audley Chapel, Bourne Mill and others. Last year an estimated 9,000 people took part.

6. Colchester Winter Street Fair and Colchester Christmas Market (December 2011) – two winter highlights

Each year, the Colchester Winter Street Fair attracts over 12,000 visitors and Colchester Christmas Market in Castle Park is a highlight of the winter season.

7. Colchester Oyster Feast – the civic ceremony every citizen has the chance to attend

On the last Friday in October, Colchester's mayor hosts the grand civic Oyster Feast in the Moot Hall – in Colchester's town hall. The feast has its origins in the 14th century St Denis Fair, and the modern event dates to 1845 when it was incorporated into the civic calendar the then Mayor of Colchester Thomas Wolton.

Today, the feast is attended by civic dignitaries and prominent guests from across the UK – but the Mayor also invites Colchester citizens by public lottery to ensure every citizen has a chance to attend.

8. Essex Book Festival (March 2011) – a vibrant arm of this countywide event

Nine venues in Colchester take part in this countywide event to encourage readers to widen their choices and to promote new writers. Colchester is also home to three of the country's best bookshops (as nominated by the Guardian) – the equal highest, with Brighton, of any town or city in the country.

9. Other major events in Colchester...

These are just some of the other popular events taking place in Colchester each year:

- **Regattas.** Well-attended regattas at Wivenhoe (May), Rowhedge (June) and West Mersea (August).
- **Colchester Craft and Country Show.** A new event, scheduled to take place in Castle Park (April 23-25). Will include all day entertainment including birds of prey, working dogs, children's entertainment as well as arts, crafts, gifts and food marquees. A Companion Dog Show takes place on the Monday.

- **Colchester Lecture.** Organised by Mosaic Publicity, speakers in recent years have included Simon Weston, Adam Hart-Davies, Rafael Viñoly and Lord Winston.
- **Roman River Festival.** Top classical, jazz and folk musicians give concerts in ancient churches along the Roman River Valley.

Events are promoted by Colchester Borough Council's VisitColchester Information Centre, which also offers a free service to event organisers to promote their events at www.visitcolchester.com.

Sport and Leisure Facilities

Colchester is home to a wide variety of sports and leisure facilities, run by the Borough Council, businesses and voluntary groups (and sometimes a combination of them in partnership) – meaning there's plenty to choose from for residents and visitors alike.

SPORTS FACILITIES

Colchester Borough Council runs four main sports centres under the 'Leisure World' brand. The main Leisure World venue is one of four designated training centres in Colchester for the 2012 Olympics – along with Colchester Garrison, the University of Essex and the SD Martial Arts Centre.

Together the Leisure World venues offer a competition standard pool, teaching pool, leisure pool, many squash and badminton courts, sports pitches, tennis courts and a huge variety of sports and fitness classes. The venues are situated in central Colchester, Highwoods and Tiptree and two of them are shared with schools.

Among the many sports facilities provided by businesses and voluntary groups are:

1. Weston Homes Community Stadium – a destination venue for East Anglia

The 10,000 seat Weston Homes **Community Stadium** opened in 2008 as the new home of Colchester United Football Club. The cost was largely met by Colchester Borough Council, which owns the stadium and leases it to CUFC as tenants.

Much more than a venue for football, the community stadium provides a unique opportunity for the residents of Colchester, Essex and the East of England to participate in, and benefit from, a diverse range of sporting, recreational, social and economic and regeneration activities.

The stadium has also become the leading conference and banqueting venue in the region and it hosts sporting and social events, including three England international fixtures, boxing dinners, darts opens, comedy nights, music concerts, fashion shows and awards ceremonies.

Weston Home Community Stadium is also home to Colchester United Community Sports Trust (CUCST), one of the leading sports charities in the country which delivers safe and affordable activities that bring together all members of the community, regardless of background.

2. Colchester Garrison Sports Ground – at the heart of the new urban village

This 8-lane athletics track, which was opened in 1983, is financed by the Army, Colchester Borough Council, the local education authority and the National Sports Council was opened at the garrison in 1983.

The existing cricket pitch and pavilion are being retained along with the running track, pavilion and pitches as Abbey Field is developed into an urban village (see 'Green Spaces' above). All these facilities will have improved public access and the public will also be able to use (subject to some restrictions) the new MOD swimming pool, squash courts and gymnasium in the new garrison complex. (*Garrison Masterplan 2002*).

3. Colchester Physical Training and Recreation Centre – a choice of indoor sports

This centre is used for basketball, judo, indoor volleyball and weightlifting and contains eight badminton courts (*Essex Legacy 2012*).

4. The Sports Centre, University of Essex – world class facilities, shared with the public

Open to students, staff and members of the public, The Sports Centre offers extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities including the £1.4m Evolve gym, which opened in July 2010 – it features over 130 stations and state-of-the-art fitness technology in light, spacious air-conditioned surroundings. It also has a large sports hall, badminton courts, squash courts, tennis courts, a climbing wall, and a full range of outdoor all weather courts and pitches – for cricket, football, hockey and rugby. There's also a frisbee golf course, artificial cricket wickets and nets, a floodlit grass training area, floodlit synthetic turf pitch plus jogging and orienteering routes. England National League basketball matches have been hosted here.

5. Colchester School of Gymnastics – purpose built and with hundreds of young members

A purpose-built 6,000 sq ft gymnasium including a sprung floor and foam-filled pit area. The gymnastics facility accredited by the sport's national governing body. The club currently has over 600 young members.

6. Essex Martial Arts Centre for Excellence (SD Martial Arts Centre) – purpose built and catering for everyone

The centre offers a purpose built martial arts centre and holds classes in Judo, Tae Kwon-Do and wrestling that cater for everyone's individual needs in a fun, safe environment. It is also currently home to Colchester Amateur Boxing Club (*Essex Legacy 2012*).

7. Monkwick Sports Centre – inspiring the community to get sporty

Containing an adiZone outdoor gym, basketball court, football and tennis areas, plus a climbing wall, the centre is there to aims to inspire the local community to get involved in sport. It has permanent installations measuring 625m² and boasts sporting facilities inspired by Olympic and Paralympic sports. Funded by Colchester Borough Council, Colchester2020, NHS North East Essex and Colchester Blackwater Schools Sports Partnership.

LEISURE FACILITIES

Colchester's leisure facilities are popular with residents of all ages and draw in visitors from a large geographical area. They include:

1. Rollerworld – the finest roller-skating rink in Europe

A 25m x 50m maple floor roller-skating rink that's internationally recognised as the "finest in Europe", offering facilities for complete beginning right through to international competitors. It is also home to **Quasar**, a futuristic laser game for competitors aged 8 and up.

2. Indikart – one of the first indoor circuits in Britain

An indoor karting circuit that established in 1985 as one of the first indoor circuits in the UK. It offers daily go-karting sessions for individuals and small groups aged 8 years upwards.

3. Go Bananas – on East Anglia's biggest play frame

A 12,000 sq ft indoor adventure play company for 5-12 year olds, housing East Anglia's biggest play frame – the 3 storey Jungle Adventure. There's a large children's village for under 5s and an indoor climbing wall.

4. Childsplay Adventureland – families flock to this indoor play facility

An indoor play facility for the under 9s including an extensive play frame, spooky area, ball fountain and self-contained mini frame.

5. Clarice House – a first class spa and an AA Rosette restaurant

The Colchester branch of this prestigious spa chain is based in a country house set in parkland. Also home to Juniper, an AA Rosette restaurant.

6. Walking facilities – exploring Colchester on foot

Colchester Borough Council provides footpath leaflets for individual green spaces and guided walks led by trained walk leaders. The council's sports development team is also working on new easy access walks that are pushchair and wheelchair friendly.

Walk Colchester is a new green community mapping project that aims to record and protect Colchester's paths, parks, woodland and open spaces, and promotes enjoyable, accessible, informed pedestrianism for walkers of all ages and abilities. It also publishes footpath maps and themed walking guides.

7. A Cycling Town – miles of cycleways, connected to the National Cycling Network

Colchester is a town with more than 21 miles of dedicated cycleways of the town and it includes a section of National Cycle Network Routes 1 and 51. In 2008 Colchester was named as a **Cycling Town**, bringing an investment of £4.2 million over three years to improve cycle paths and signs, offer Bikeability training for children and adults, publish leaflets and maps, and encourage sharing of space and courtesy between cyclists and pedestrians. The project is being delivered by Cycle Colchester, a collaboration between Essex County Council, Colchester Borough Council, local cycling groups and other organisations with funding from Cycling England.

Community and interest groups in the Colchester area

Colchester is an engaged community, with a lively variety of community and interest groups covering a wide range of topics, concerns and interests.

The impetus for Colchester's bid for city status came from one of these community groups – **Destination Colchester**, an independent community interest company established to promote and improve Colchester for the benefit of its residents, workers and visitors. This bid has been prepared by Destination Colchester and volunteers within the borough community – and has therefore cost the local taxpayer nothing, bar advisory time from Colchester Borough Council officers.

Grassroots community involvement like this is a hallmark of Colchester life, and why it is home to a bright constellation of community and interest groups. This section provides just a brief overview of some of the best known.

Arts

Colchester Art Society. Founded in 1946 and now one of the UK most celebrated art societies, it currently has over 200 members. Its permanent collection of member's work is one of the most significant private collections in the country and it holds an annual Fine Art Open Exhibition.

Colchester Film Makers Club.

Affiliated to the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers and supported by the National Lottery – Awards for All
Colchester Photographic Society

Music

Colchester Symphony Orchestra, the **Colchester Sinfonietta** and the **Kingfisher Ensemble**
Colchester Bach Orchestra and **Colchester Philharmonic**
The Colchester Band: traditional brass band

Colchester Chamber Choir

Colchester Accordion Orchestra
Colchester Tudor Dance Society
Danse Royal: classes and performing group
Colne Valley Youth Orchestra and **Colne Valley Training Orchestra**
Colchester Folk Club
Colchester Folk Dance Club
Colchester Morris Men
St. Botolph's Music Society: symphony orchestra and concert choir
Colchester Operatic Society: founded 1924, membership over 150
West Bergholt Concert Band
Wivenhoe Folk Club
Wivenhoe Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Friendly

Colchester Caledonian Society
Colchester Anglo-Italian Society
Colchester Town Twinning Society
Colchester Anglo-French Circle
Camulodunum Speakers Club

History and Heritage

Colchester Civic Society
Colchester Recalled Oral History Group
Essex Society for Archaeology and History
Colchester Archaeological Trust
Colchester Archaeological Group
Friends of Colchester Museums
Lexden History Group
Mersea Island Society
Wivenhoe Society

Outdoor

Colne-Stour Countryside Association
Dedham Vale Society – membership over 800
Colchester in Bloom
Colchester Natural History Society – founded 1953
Colchester Rose & Horticultural Society



Tiptree Garden Club & Horticultural Society – founded 1903, membership over 100

Transport

North East Essex Tractor and Engine Club

Colchester Model Aircraft Club
Colchester Model Car Club
Colchester Society of Model & Experimental Engineers – founded 1946
East Anglian Fighting Vehicle Group

Drama

Orpen Players
Wivenhoe Youth Theatre

Colchester – the signs of a city

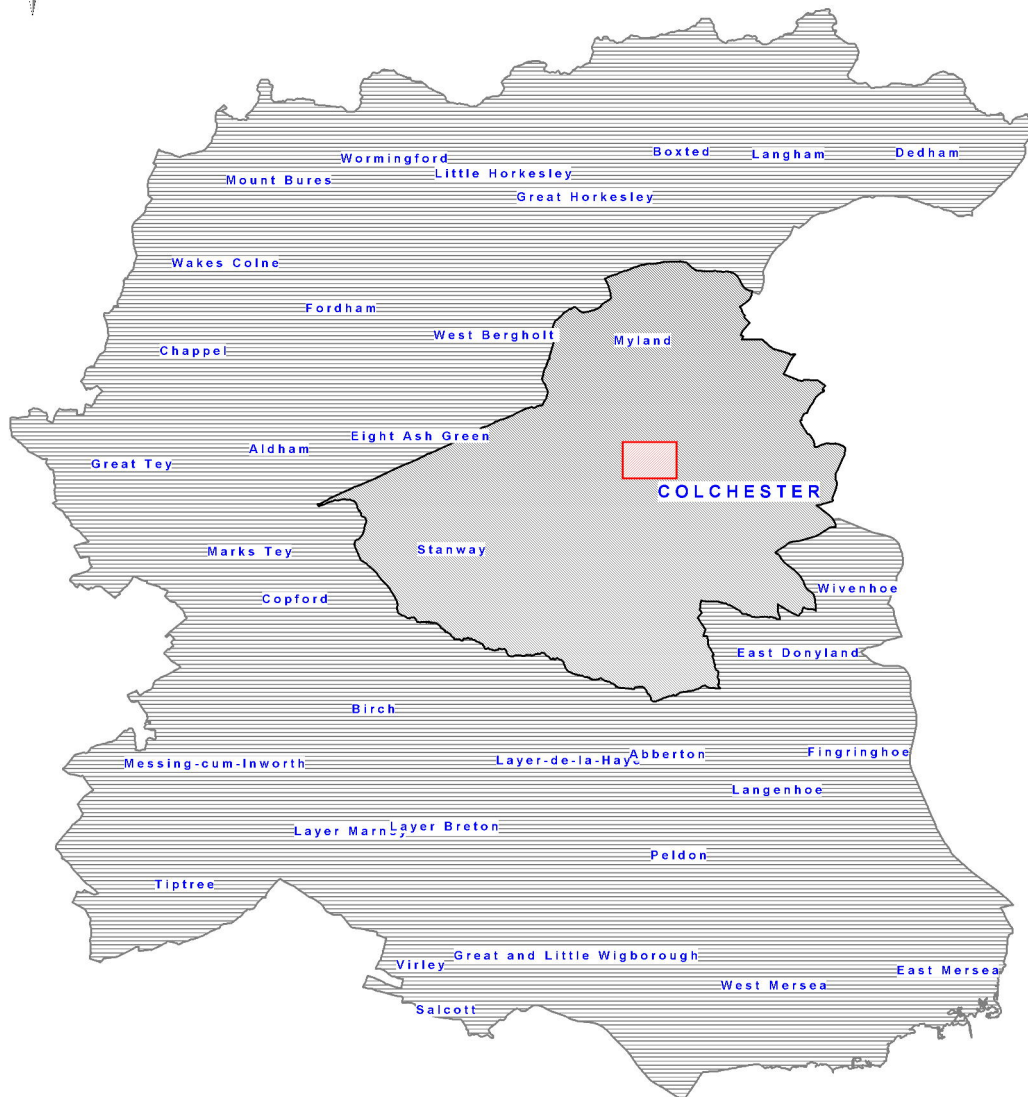
This bid has put many different aspects of Colchester under the spotlight – from our role as a commercial and cultural centre and our rapid growth as a popular place to live and work, right through to our heritage, open spaces, grassroots organisations and welcome to visitors.

And while we're proud to look back to the time when the Romans built their first British city here, our evolution into a 21st-century city has been more organic.




Yes, we're growing. Yes, we've an international outlook. Yes, we're home to a leading university and a major garrison. And yes, our private sector is expanding to meet the needs of today's economy.

But the real reason we believe we're a city is because we've started to think of ourselves as belonging to one. As one supporter posted on our Facebook page: **"Most people think it's a city!"**

We hope we soon will be – officially.



Map Legend

| | |
|---|--------------------|
|  | Central Colchester |
|  | City of Colchester |
|  | Colchester Borough |

 Colchester City Bid

