

Other performance news

- **Awards and accreditations**

The highlights are summarised here and also the Council's website www.colchester.gov.uk in the [achievements](#) section

Achieved April 2016 to March 2017:	
Living Wage Employer	Colchester Borough Council has renewed its commitment to being a Living Wage Employer , after taking out CBC's first annual licence with the Living Wage Foundation on 1 February 2016. The licence is a formal agreement for CBC to adhere to the criteria set out by the Living Wage Foundation. This means that as well as paying the Living Wage to all directly employed staff, a phased plan for third-party contracted staff is in place as relevant contracts come up for renewal. Grounds Maintenance was the first CBC contract to include paying the Living Wage when this contract started in April 2016.
Best Product Awards - Association of Cultural Enterprises 2017	Colchester and Ipswich Museums won Best Guidebook for a Museum category in the Association of Cultural Enterprises' national awards, for its 'Colchester Castle – 2,000 years of history' publication. Colchester Castle was also a finalist in the Best Product category for the Fenwick replica bangle.
Creative and Cultural Skills Awards	Colchester and Ipswich Training Museum was shortlisted in the Cultural Heritage category of these national awards. The Training Museum team were able to showcase their work around diversity, through the traineeships, schools activities and volunteering, as well as demonstrating commitment to championing new talent through the Transforming People conference.
Colchester - A Fairtrade Town	The Fairtrade Foundation awarded Colchester the title of 'Fairtrade Town', an official status awarded to towns that have a proven commitment to supporting Fairtrade. Colchester has maintained this status every year since 2006, and it demonstrates the town's commitment to raising awareness of the benefits of Fairtrade products in the community. A combined Commonwealth Day and the start of Fairtrade Fortnight event was held in March 2017 at the Town Hall.
Primary Times - Star Awards	Colchester Castle has won the award for Best Museum or Historical Attraction in Essex for 2017. The awards, which are now in their fourth year, champion the best places and best businesses within Essex for families with young children. Winners are selected solely by votes from the readers of Primary Times in Essex (readers also voted Colchester Castle into top place in 2015).
Countywide Essex Business Awards	Winner of the Environmental Awareness category for the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and related work. The Strategy sets out how Colchester will be a prominent sustainable borough by being a leading example in the community and helping communities become more resilient to climate change. The Environmental Sustainability Strategy and CBC's #greenercol film can be seen at www.colchester.gov.uk/sustainability
Gold Travel Award	Colchester Borough Council's Staff Travel Plan has retained its 'Gold' status as part of Essex County Council's travel plan accreditation awards.

Appendix 1 – Other Performance News

<u>Britain in Bloom</u>	Colchester achieved silver-gilt in the small city category (Anglia region).
<u>Park Mark - the safer parking scheme</u>	Twenty of Colchester Borough Council's car parks across the town centre and borough were given the nationally recognised Park Mark award following an independent Police inspection and assessment in September 2016. The annual award is given in recognition of investment to keep the car parks to a high standard, ensure the safety of customers and their vehicles, and where there are low instances of crime.
<u>Anglia in Bloom</u>	Winners included High Woods Country Park (winner of <i>Parks [Large Over 10 Acres]</i> and gold award); the Big Garden at High Woods Country Park (winner of <i>Best Garden for Special Needs</i>); Castle Park (<i>Parks [Large Over 10 Acres]</i>) gold award; the Castle Park 'three bees' (winner of <i>best local authority floral display</i>) - and Colchester earned a gold award in the city category. Colchester Cemetery was awarded silver-gilt (<i>cemeteries over 10 acres</i>).
<u>Green Flag Awards</u>	Castle Park and High Woods Country Park have again both been awarded Green Flag Awards, recognising them as two of the best parks in the UK. Green Flags set a benchmark of standards for management and maintenance of publicly accessible urban and countryside parks, and promotes the community value of green spaces. The Castle Park also earned <u>Green Heritage Site</u> status.
<u>The Geography of Creativity in the UK</u>	A national report highlighted a boom in the growth and significance of creative industries in Colchester. NESTA and Creative England launched a new report 'The Geography of Creativity in the UK'. The report ranks Colchester as 8th in the country for Creative Industries' Importance in terms of drawing people in to work in the sector from a wider area. Colchester also ranks 20th in the UK for high concentration and growth - beating places such as Brighton and Newcastle.
<u>Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)</u>	Successfully reassessed as being a CIPFA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Accredited Employer for best practice.
<u>Newquest's North Essex Business Awards</u>	The Council won the Environmental Awareness category for its Environmental Sustainability Strategy and related work. The strategy outlines its approach to environmental issues and identifies what it is aiming to achieve by 2020, setting out how Colchester will be a prominent sustainable borough by being a leading example in the community and helping communities become more resilient to climate change.
<u>Adult Learners Awards</u>	The Training Museum is a three-year project by the Colchester + Ipswich Museums Service, set up in 2015 with funding from Arts Council England to develop the next generation of museum staff. Seven full-time trainees on this course scooped the Arts and Cultural Learning prize.
<u>Charter Status for Elected Member Development</u>	The Council passed its interim reassessment in June 2016. This award recognises that the Council has achieved best practice in the way it provides learning and development opportunities for its elected members (councillors). This helps ensure that elected members have the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively represent the community.

Tripadvisor certificate of excellence	Awarded to High Woods Country Park for the first time - joining the Castle Museum, Hollytrees Museum and the Castle Park – for consistently achieving outstanding reviews from visitors.
LEXCEL	Legal Services were re-accredited against this Law Society standard. Lexcel is the Law Society's legal practice quality mark for excellence in legal practice management and excellence in client care.
GeoPlace – national Exemplar Gold award	Gold Performance Award for Address Data - for consistently maintaining the highest level of data quality. The Exemplar Awards recognise excellence in local authority business-critical data creation of Address data, known as a Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and Street data, known as a Local Street Gazetteer (LSG). Only 15 authorities in the east of England achieved this Gold standard.
Essex Digital Awards 2016	These awards recognise the online achievements of businesses, charities and public bodies from across the county. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parking Blog of 'Anna Tendant', a Civil Enforcement Officer working for the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), won the Gold Awards in the 'Business Blog' category, for its weekly updates with 7,000 views to April 2016. • 'Pritchard's Point of View' won the Bronze Award in the 'Blog: Entertainment' category. Since its launch in February 2015, this has become a regular platform for Adrian's sometimes serious, sometimes quirky musings on issues, projects and important matters concerning Colchester and the work of the Council from his viewpoint as Chief Executive. • CBH was shortlisted in the 'use of video for business' category.
Financial Sustainability: new essential guide	The Council features as a case study in this best practice guide from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). " <i>Colchester is currently involved in projects which will see increased business rates and rental income for the Council, and improve transport in their area</i> " (page 10 for full item).

• **Other performance news for April 2016 to March 2017**

Datashare – a wide range of performance data is available 24/7 via the online Datashare tool on the Council's website [here](#). Categories include spending, business rates, democracy, housing, land, parking, planning, licensing, recycling and waste.

The Council also publishes the information from Datashare on [data.gov.uk](#), which currently shows 85 datasets about the Council / [104](#) about Colchester. Data.gov.uk is a key part of the Government's work on Transparency and Data. The data.gov.uk implementation is being led by the Data team in the Cabinet Office, working across government departments to ensure that data is released in a timely and accessible way – and brought together into one searchable website.

Annual reports – the Council produces annual reports on its performance in various areas. These reports are brought into one place on the website [here](#) for ease of reference, and to make it easier for the public to find which annual reports are available.