

Other performance news

- **Awards and accreditations**

The highlights are summarised here and are also shown on www.colchester.gov.uk in the [achievements](#) section

Achieved April 2015 to March 2016:	
TPAS Awards	CBH's 'Respect Difference' Equality and Diversity Training Programme was shortlisted in the Equality and Diversity category of the TPAS awards which showcase compelling and inspirational stories of tenants, landlords and contractors working together.
Local Government Association (LGA) best practice	CBC has been selected as a case study on the LGA's website for our behaviour change programme. This includes a 'transforming CBC through behaviour change' summary , using text messaging for influencing behaviour, and managing demand through improved letter writing . There are also Youtube videos from Adrian Pritchard on the approach Colchester has taken to managing demand and the use of behavioural insights and from Mandy Jones on how CBC's approach to demand management has developed and broadened from applying behavioural insights to encompass other approaches, including digital inclusion.
National Land Information Service (NLIS)	CBC is in the top ten best performing NLIS level 3 local authorities in the country, in the 'silver medal' position behind the overall winner. Judges use NLIS Hub data to evaluate this award and look for evidence of the highest number of NLIS electronic searches during the period, and the fastest electronic turnaround time (ie the time it takes to return the search to the customer). Local Land Charges is an essential part of the conveyancing process and is a statutory function for local authorities.
British Parking Awards	The North Essex Parking Partnership was shortlisted as finalists in the 'team of the year' category. In its entry, the NEPP included examples of its commitment to positive change, team building and staff development through focus groups, internal communications and professional development opportunities. Also submitted were examples of customer compliments and testimonials, media coverage and its use of social media to educate and engage with local motorists.
Purple Flag	Colchester has retained the prestigious Purple Flag status for its evening and night-time economy. Purple Flag is a national accreditation for well-managed town and city centres after dark.
Living Wage Foundation	CBC is now an accredited Living Wage Employer . 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.
Investors in People (IIP) CBC	CBC's reassessment against the IIP standard was successful . The independent assessor's report noted that "great strides had been made in developing the culture necessary for staff to think about and approach their responsibilities in a more flexible, skilled and engaged way, and that a range of activities had been initiated to continue to boost staff engagement in future strategies for the organisation and the community". IIP is the national standard awarded to organisations that demonstrate a commitment to supporting the training and development needs of their staff to achieve their business goals.

<u>Investors in People (IIP)</u> CBH	CBH has achieved the Silver IIP standard. The IIP framework is a standard of best practice, awarded to organisations that demonstrate and meet key criteria in areas such as personal learning and development, leadership skills and recognition and reward.
<u>East Anglia Residents' Awards</u>	CBH won the 'Best Tenant Training Programme' in recognition of the work that CBH does with its tenants. Throughout the year CBH runs a series of free training and development courses for its tenants and leaseholders to help them seek new employment and develop new skills.
<u>Britain in Bloom</u>	Silver Gilt for Colchester - small city category. One of 70 finalists chosen from more than 1,000 groups.
<u>Anglia in Bloom</u>	Gold award for Colchester, Castle Park and High Woods Country Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Park took the prize for the best public open space, and its drought garden was judged the best drought, or sustainable, garden in the east of England. • High Woods Country Park also won the award for best conservation project and a special award for the best new entry. Silver Gilt award for the Cemetery and Crematorium. Gold award for 2 Charles Smith House residents for Best individual/Community Floral Display (CBH).
<u>Carbon Action Network Awards 2015</u> HECA East - winner	The Strategic Housing Team won for two projects that support Carbon Action Network objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team supported the Big Energy Saving Network (BESN) project by assisting with an application for DECC funding to deliver a project to support vulnerable people to switch energy suppliers. For the last two years, this project has run alongside the Council's Big Community Switch (BCS), which is only available online. The BESN project enabled the BCS to be digitally inclusive by supporting vulnerable people in Colchester to successfully switch energy supplier. • Through partnership working with En-form, the team also supported the first Colchester Green Open Homes event. This was so successful that the project has been extended to the whole of Essex, and to community buildings and businesses as well as homes, with energy efficiency measures at work and open to the public throughout September 2015.
<u>Park Mark - the safer parking scheme</u>	Twenty of the Council's car parks across the borough were given the nationally recognised Park Mark award following independent assessment including a Police inspection. 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>Green Flag Awards</u>	Castle Park has received its thirteenth consecutive Green Flag, with High Woods receiving its twelfth. 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.
<u>GeoPlace</u> – 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 ten authorities in the east of England achieved this Gold standard.
<u>LEXCEL</u>	Legal Services achieved the Law Society's practice management standard – a Centre of Excellence.
<u>Essex Digital Awards</u>	Now in its second year, the Essex Digital Awards look to reward innovation and progressive thinking by businesses. CBC won in the Best mobile App category for Leisure World's MyLeisure App.

- **Other performance news for April 2015 to March 2016**

Open and transparent data – making information about our performance clear and accessible to everyone

- Colchester has been selected in a new scheme to create a register of derelict/underused or “brownfield” land which is available locally for housing. Following a competitive bid, the Council will receive a £10,000 government funding to help set up its brownfield register as part of [this pilot project](#). The councils taking part in the brownfield pilots will inform future government policy and guidance on the operation of the brownfield registers. Registers will eventually become mandatory for all councils under proposals going through Parliament in the Housing and Planning Bill.
- The Open Data Institute/LGA have developed three e-learning modules with practical guidance about publishing open data and using standards. This is underpinned by nine local authority examples, including Colchester. We feature in '[making standards work for you](#)' for our work on developing the [Datashare](#) resource on the Council's website. Datashare makes it possible for anyone to view and download a range of council databases and information required under the statutory Transparency Code, along with other information such as Planning applications database, NNDR database, performance statistics, Council spending and parking data. This work has also helped the Council to access the £10,000 funding shown above. The case study is summarised in italics below:

The benefits of publishing to standard schemas: local authority examples

Publishing against standard schemas can save your authority time and money. The results can also make your data more attractive to developers and other users. The following examples show how some authorities around the UK are already using standard schemas to their advantage.

Starting small: Colchester Borough Council

When Colchester Borough Council came to publish open data under the transparency code they were faced with a choice. The council could either spend time and resources developing its own schemas or use an existing one. Calling upon the online open data resources assembled by the LGA, Colchester was able to access the full range of schemas for transparency code datasets, ensuring its results would be clean, simple and compatible with the data of neighbouring authorities. The result is [Datashare](#).

- **Annual reports** – the Council produces a number of annual reports on its performance. These have been brought into one place on the website [here](#) for ease of reference, so that it is easier for the public to see which annual reports are available.
- [Single Data List- current list for districts](#) - DCLG has just published the SDL for 2016-17. It contains the entirety of central government departments' data requirements from local government, which means that councils know exactly what information Government will ask for over the course of the year. Councils do not have to provide anything that is not on the list, unless extra funding is provided.