



Chelmsford City Council

6 December 2023

Our Chelmsford Our Plan

Report by: Leader of the Council

Officer contact:

Keith Nicholson, Director of Public Places, keith.nicholson@chelmsford.gov.uk,
01245 606775

Introduction

- 1.1. 'Our Chelmsford Our Plan' was adopted by Council on 22 January 2020 setting out the ambition, strategic direction and priorities for the City Council over the subsequent years. A refresh of this Plan is now proposed. 'Our Chelmsford, Our Plan' sets out priorities to help create a greener, fairer and more connected place. Chelmsford will be a vibrant and appealing place where people want to live, work, study and visit.
- 1.2. We reaffirm our ambition for the area to be a highly sustainable and creative community at the heart of Essex, recognised as a leading regional centre and destination in the East of England.
- 1.3. Once the ambition, direction and priorities have been agreed a more detailed Action Plan will be developed to deliver the key outcomes identified.

Recommendation:

- 1) The Council's ambitions, strategic direction and the key priorities set out in 'Our Chelmsford Our Plan' be approved.
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Background papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Our Plan Framework

‘Our Chelmsford, Our Plan’ sets out priorities to help create a *greener, fairer and more connected place*. Chelmsford will be a vibrant and appealing place where people want to live, work, study and visit.

We reaffirm our ambition for the area to be *a highly sustainable and creative community at the heart of Essex, recognised as a leading regional centre and destination in the East of England*.

A fairer and more inclusive place

<p>Promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible growth to stimulate a vibrant, balanced economy, a fairer society and provide more homes of all types</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ bringing investment into the area, together with an increase in skills, jobs, and overall employment ○ meeting the demand for new homes of all types and tenures, in particular homes to rent that local people can afford ○ adopting an approach whereby growth and development also delivers a broad range of social, community and environmental benefits that are sustainable over time
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Priority A Set out the approach and planning principles to guide housing and economic growth, promoting sustainable development and helping to create greener, fairer and more connected communities

Priority B Put in place measures to help tackle local housing needs so everyone can aspire to having a home that they can afford, and which help address the causes of, and mitigate the impacts of, homelessness

Priority C Promote the area as a place for investment and business location, encouraging the creation of a wider range of jobs and excellence in education, skills and vocational attainment, thereby improving income equality

Key outcomes, what success will look like ...

- 🏠 Local Plan Review adopted in 2026
- 🏠 High quality, sustainable forms of development delivered, where all new dwellings incorporate design features to reduce their carbon footprint and improve their environmental efficiency
- 🏠 Housing delivery targets set out in the Local Plan achieved
- 🏠 Increased supply and improved mix of the type and tenure of affordable housing

- 🌱 Key infrastructure delivered to support the development of Chelmer Waterside and other strategic growth sites
- 🌱 Beaulieu Park Station fully operational
- 🌱 Chelmsford attractive to new businesses, particularly in the technology and innovation sectors
- 🌱 An ongoing business support programme in place for small and medium-sized enterprises
- 🌱 A wider range of jobs created in Chelmsford
- 🌱 New cemetery and modern crematorium constructed and in operation
- 🌱 Improved ‘work and local economy’ scores in the Thriving Places Index

A greener and safer place

<p>Creating a distinctive sense of place, making the area more attractive, promoting its green credentials, and ensuring that people and communities are safe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ protecting and enhancing wildlife, habitats, and landscapes and connecting people with the built and natural environment ○ providing attractive, high quality green areas and public places that are clean, safe and easily accessible for all ○ managing in a sustainable way to help reduce energy consumption and waste and to preserve natural resources
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Priority D Lower energy consumption, reduce waste, carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality, creating a more sustainable approach to growth, development and everyday living

Priority E Protect, expand and improve the quality and accessibility of green spaces, improving habitat value and increasing biodiversity

Priority F Improve the environmental quality, attractiveness, safety, leisure and recreational potential of public spaces, green areas, rivers and waterways

Key outcomes, what success will look like ...

- 🌱 Council’s operations and activities to be net-zero-carbon by 2030
- 🌱 Significant reduction in the amount of waste generated; reuse, recycling and composting levels exceed targets set out in the Environment Act 2021
- 🌱 Public realm enhancements implemented
- 🌱 Significant increase in woodland and tree cover with a target to plant at least 192,000 additional trees, creating the equivalent of 71 hectares of woodland and achieving tree cover of at least 20% in the Chelmsford area by 2030

- 🌿 Continuous natural green wedges and wildlife corridors established running from Chelmsford City Centre north through the Chelmer river valley to the Walthams and east along the River Chelmer to Sandford Mill and beyond
- 🌿 Habitat value of green spaces and waterways enhanced to promote greater biodiversity across the area
- 🌿 A biodiversity net gain of at least 10% achieved in new developments
- 🌿 Improved ‘sustainability’ scores in the Thriving Places Index

A more-connected place

<p>Bringing people together and working in partnership to encourage healthy, active lives, building stronger, more resilient communities so that people feel proud to live, work and study in the area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promoting physical and mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation ○ providing access to sport, leisure and recreational activities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles ○ enlivening and enriching people’s lives through creative and cultural activities and events ○ engaging with local communities and fostering strong relationships, knowing that more can be achieved by working together
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Priority G **Improve opportunities for adults and children to live well, reducing health inequalities and social isolation, so that they can enjoy a healthy, safe and fulfilling life**

Priority H **Through a network of community facilities and support for diverse communities provide opportunities and access for people of all backgrounds to engage in healthy, active and socially connected lifestyles**

Priority I **Celebrate Chelmsford as a culturally ambitious place providing opportunities for people to engage creatively and productively within their communities**

Key outcomes, what success will look like ...

- 🌿 Increased number of visitors attracted to culture, sports and leisure facilities, activities and events
- 🌿 Network of indoor sports and recreation spaces, community facilities and creative hubs in place and extensively used, with new facilities strategically located to meet the needs of growing communities
- 🌿 Play areas and informal recreation spaces integrated into all new developments

- A comprehensive 'Livewell' programme in place to improve the health and wellbeing of residents
- Increased level of community involvement and volunteering where people feel better connected to their built and natural surroundings
- Improved 'people and community' and 'mental and physical health' scores in the Thriving Places Index