

MINUTES
of the
CHELMSFORD POLICY BOARD
held on 25 June 2026 at 7pm

Present:

Councillor C. Adutwim (Chair)

Councillors J. Armstrong, H. Clark, D. Eley, I. Fuller, J. Jeapes, S. Manley, A. Sosin, and A. Thorpe-Apps

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Massey, Scott and Young. Cllr H. Clark substituted for Cllr Young.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they must disclose any interests they knew they had in items of business on the meeting's agenda and that they must do so at this point on the agenda or as soon as they became aware of the interest. If the interest was a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they were also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting. Any declarations are recorded in the relevant minute below.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 18th May 2026 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. Public Questions

No public questions had been submitted for the meeting.

5. Review and Revision of Chelmsford City Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2025-30

The Board were asked to consider a proposed revision to the strategy, to ensure it remained relevant and consistent with the government's national strategy, A National Plan to End Homelessness. [The Board acknowledged the green sheet of amendments, which can be viewed here, which detailed that a consultation would take place on the revisions, following legal advice, before consideration by the Council's Cabinet in September.](#)

The Board noted that the Council had recently published its strategy in the Autumn of 2025, but shortly afterwards the Government published its strategy, as a result rather than rewriting the strategy, an addendum had been prepared to cover the additional requirements. The Board were informed that the addendum would be, an effective and expedient way to maintain the Council's legal duty under the Housing Act, considering the recently published strategy in 2025. The Board were informed that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government were content with the proposed approach and that key partners would be

consulted with rather than a full public consultation, however the government requirements were stipulative, so it was unlikely that any significant changes could be made.

RESOLVED that;

1. The Addendum to Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2025-2030 be approved for consultation as presented.
2. Following the consultation any minor amendments be delegated to the Director of Sustainable Communities in consultation with the Chair of Policy Board, before submission to Cabinet, with a recommendation to approve the addendum thereby ensuring the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2025-2030 remained relevant and consistent with the Government's national strategy, A National Plan to End Homelessness.

(7.02pm to 7.07pm)

6. Adoption of the Revised Essex Coast Recreational disturbance and Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)

The Board were asked to consider the revised RAMS and associated tariff and to recommend it for adoption by the Council's Cabinet. The report also sought approval to revoke the existing RAMS Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which no longer aligned with the revised RAMS and to replace it with a Technical Advice Note (TAN). It was noted that RAMS was a strategic approach to protect internationally protected coastal habitats and bird populations.

The Board were informed that a review of RAMS had been carried out, leading to an updated mitigation package, updated tariff fee and amended development types to pay the tariff. The Board noted that the tariff fee was proposed at £476 per new dwelling instead of the current £175.55, to deliver a new total mitigation package of £72.59m, which would be used for various scaled up mitigations including an expanded and more specialised Ranger service and increased visitor engagement and education. The Board were informed that it was a legal requirement for Local Planning Authorities to comply with the Habitat Regulations and to implement the RAMS in the Council's adopted and emerging Chelmsford Local Plan. It was noted that the revisions led to a robust evidence-led and legally compliant framework, with the full costs of mitigation fairly and proportionately secured for the lifetime of the development. It was noted that adoption was essential to enable the continued lawful determination of planning applications and to ensure the protection of the Essex coast's internationally important habitats.

In response to questions from the Board, officers noted that;

- Any funding requirement on new housing had the potential to affect viability of affordable housing, but that certain elements of developments were legal requirements, also it was noted that the Local Plan Review had foreseen the higher tariff and viability calculations had been performed against the expected higher tariff figure as a result.
- The majority of the money collected was for revenue measures and engagement measures, rather than capital expenditure, as a key part of the strategy was to engage and educate visitors to the coast on how to minimise disturbance. It was noted that an amount had been set aside for capital projects however that was evidence based led and that some site specific projects were detailed in the appendix of the report.
- The main aim of RAMS was to mitigate the impact of people and one of the best ways to do so was to educate and engage with those visiting the coast accordingly. It was

also noted that some money would be set aside in a suitable in-perpetuity investment fund to assist with delivering mitigations over the next 80 years.

- The further review in 5 years time, will pick up changes on how people visit the coast and any mitigation measures could then be tweaked.
- RAMS did not own any coastal land and it would be very expensive to purchase any as well and creating a new site would be compensating rather than mitigating impacts.
- Rangers were not primarily an enforcement measure, instead they are for educating on responsible visits to the coast on how to minimise disturbances.
- Other partner authorities in Essex support the proposals and are taking similar reports through their relevant decision making processes.

RESOLVED that;

1. the Board notes the revised Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) 2026 and associated tariff as set out in Appendix 1, superseding the original RAMS (2018-2038).
2. the Board recommend to the Council's Cabinet that it adopts the revised Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) 2026 and associated tariff as set out in Appendix 1.
3. the Board recommend to the Council's Cabinet that it approves the implementation of a revised Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) 2026 tariff of £476 per net additional dwelling (or equivalent qualifying development and index linked), to take effect from 1 August 2026.
4. the Board recommend to the Council's Cabinet that it revokes the adopted Essex Coast RAMS Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), noting that its content is no longer fully aligned with the revised Strategy, evidence base and tariff.
5. the Board recommend to the Council's Cabinet that it agrees to replace the Essex Coast RAMS Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) with an Essex Coast RAMS Technical Advice Note (TAN) and that the Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Place Shaping, to finalise and publish the TAN for use alongside the revised Essex Coast RAMS Strategy 2026.

(7.08pm to 7.43pm)

7. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm

Chair