

## CHELMSFORD POLICY BOARD – 26 June 2025

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

#### Item 5 - Chelmsford Local Plan – Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Consultation Feedback

##### 1) Statement from Mr R

Chair, Councillors – thank you.

Let's start with a staggering fact: over 22,000 objections were submitted against Hammonds Farm and the Pigeon site contained in this Local Plan.

That's not just a response — it's the democratic equivalent of a fire alarm.

And yet, you are all still asleep.

You'd never know it from reading your document summary — because that number is buried in an appendix.

Across all three stages of consultation, over 22,000 objections have been lodged — believed to be more than any other Local Plan campaign in the UK.

Just let that sink in for a moment.

And still, your final report buries those objections deep in the appendices.

You say you value transparency.

But this isn't transparency — it was a magic trick.

The objections went in... and spin and PR came out.

This isn't democracy.

It's damage control.

And here's the part no one wants to say out loud:

You're not just misleading the public — you're being misled yourselves, councillors.

You're being handed a narrative, wrapped in PR and backed by spin, and asked to sign it off like a delivery from Amazon.

Why was the largest Local Plan objection in Chelmsford's history — and possibly the UK's — buried in an appendix?

Over 22,000 objections, all submitted in good faith —

How can you justify a process that incorrectly treats them as irrelevant, duplicative, or mere amplifications,

when in reality, they raise valid and distinct issues — from transport and biodiversity,

to breach of the Duty to Cooperate, failure to follow due process, and the loss of quality

farmland?

You still have a choice — but not for long.

Because if you wave this through, you are co-signing a betrayal:

A betrayal of process.

A betrayal of public trust.

A betrayal of every resident who still believes this council stands for something.

And when the legal challenges begin —

And when the press comes calling —

Remember today.

Not because you didn't know.

But because you did.