

**MINUTES OF
CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL CABINET**

on 21 May 2026 at 7pm

Present:

Cabinet Members

Councillor S Robinson, Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor J Lardge, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Culture and
Leisure
Councillor C Davidson, Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor N Dudley, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor K Franks, Cabinet Member for a Fairer Chelmsford
Councillor R Lee, Cabinet Member for Planning and Place-Shaping
Councillor R Moore, Cabinet Member for a Greener Chelmsford

Cabinet Deputies

Councillor S Goldman, Deputy Cabinet Member for Cleaner Communities
Councillor T Sherlock, Deputy Cabinet Member for Economy and Sustainable Transport

Opposition Spokespersons

Councillors, G. Bonnett, S. Dobson, J. Jeapes, M. Steel, R. Whitehead and P. Wilson

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hawkins, Raven, Sullivan and Thorpe-Apps.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members of the Cabinet were reminded to declare at the appropriate time any interests in any of the items of business on the meeting's agenda.

None were raised.

3. Minutes and Decisions Called-in

The minutes of the meeting on 14 April 2025 were confirmed as a correct record. No decisions had been called in.

4. Public Questions

No public questions had been submitted for the meeting.

5. Members' Questions

No questions were asked at this point of the meeting.

6.1 Chelmsford Local Plan – Submission to Secretary of State for Independent Examination (Planning and Place-Shaping)

Declarations of interest:

None.

Summary:

The Cabinet were asked to consider the submission of the Chelmsford Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination and to recommend it to Full Council.

Options:

1. To recommend the Local Plan and the relevant delegations to Full Council for approval.
2. To not recommend the Local Plan and the relevant delegations to Full Council for approval.

Preferred option and reasons:

The preferred option was to recommend the Local Plan and relevant delegations to Full Council for approval, to ensure that a Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination ahead of the relevant deadline.

Discussion:

The Cabinet Member highlighted the importance of having an up to date Local Plan, to prevent speculative and inadequate developments being proposed and that it allowed the Council to push for what was needed on developments, including housing targets and green initiatives. It was noted that all necessary bodies had been consulted with and that the Policy Board had recommended the plan to Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the hard work from officers, who had been working to different moving targets and deadlines throughout the process, but none the less had put forward a good plan that would stand up to scrutiny. In response to a question, it was confirmed that a specific call for sites had been made for Gypsy and Travelling Showperson sites, but that insufficient sites came forward to enable further allocations to be made in the Plan, and that was why windfall sites would be expected to make up the shortfall within the proposed plan period. It was also noted that it was still unknown how decisions on other sites, including the employment area at Junction 17 of the A12, might affect employment requirements as it would depend on the decision and its reasoning.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that;

1. Approval be sought to submit the Chelmsford Local Plan attached at Appendices 1 and 2 to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
2. Approval be sought to ask that the person appointed to carry out the Independent Examination recommends modifications to the Chelmsford Local Plan as part of the

Examination process, in accordance with Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

3. Approval be sought for the Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping to be authorised, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, to prepare all necessary documentation to support the submission of the Local Plan for Independent Examination.

4. Approval be sought for the Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping, relevant Council Officers and consultants to be authorised, to act on behalf of the Council at the Independent Examination in respect of the Chelmsford Local Plan including submitting written statements and making oral representations at the Hearing Sessions.

(7.01pm to 7.16pm)

6.2 Chelmsford Local Plan – Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (Planning and Place-Shaping)

Declarations of interest:

None.

Summary:

The Cabinet considered a report which presented the Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and were asked to approve it for adoption and to publish it before 30th June 2026. It was noted that further minor amendments had been made to align with updated evidence base documents and to correct typographical errors or provide greater clarity. It was also noted that to ensure guidance on the implementation of the new Local Plan in the form of a Planning Obligations SPD, adoption was required before 30th June 2026.

Options:

1. Approve the Draft Planning Obligations SPD for adoption and publication.
2. Approve the Draft Planning Obligations SPD with amendments for adoption and publication.
3. Not approve the Draft Planning Obligations SPD for adoption and publication.

Preferred option and reasons:

To approve the adoption of the Draft Planning Obligations SPD as set out in Appendix 3, to assist with the implementation of policies in the proposed new Local Plan and to meet the Government deadline of 30th June 2026.

RESOLVED that;

1. Cabinet approved the Planning Obligations SPD, as set out in Appendix 3, for publication before the 30 June 2026.
2. Authority be delegated to the Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Place Making to make any necessary minor amendments to the Draft Planning Obligations SPD before adoption

(7.16pm to 7.18pm)

7. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

8. Reports to Council

Item 6.1 was subject of a recommendation to Full Council.

The meeting closed at 7.18pm

Chair