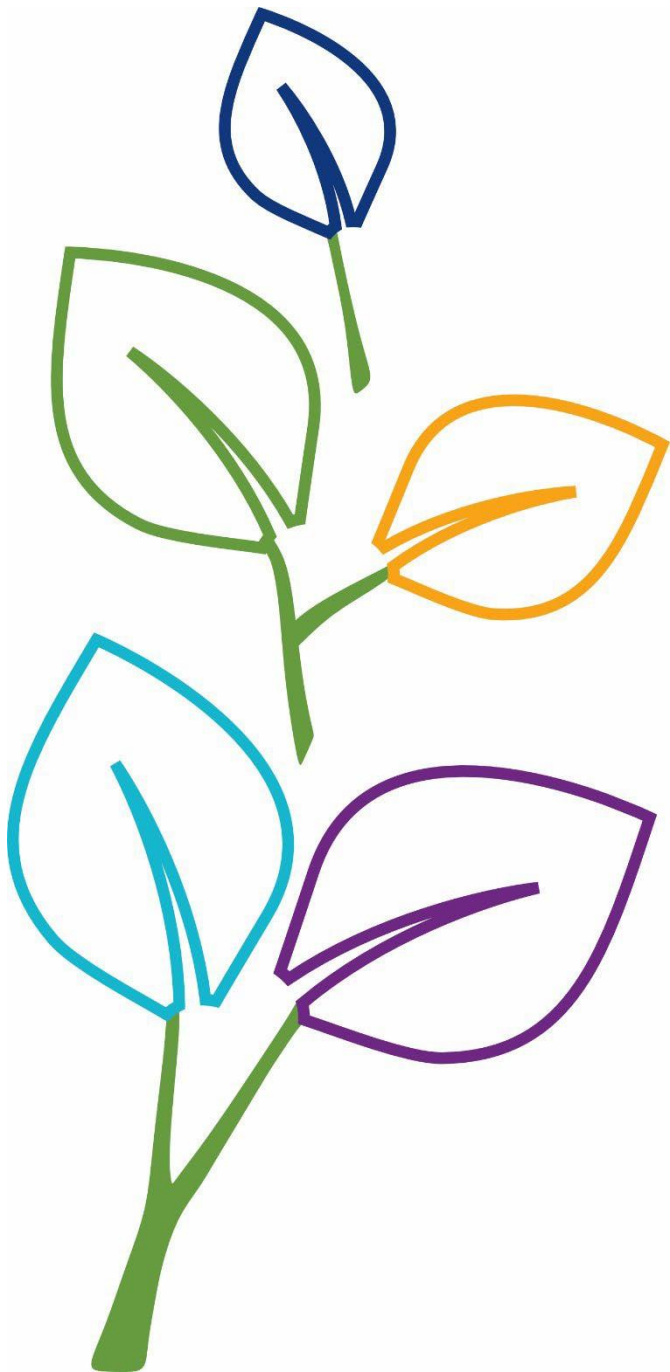




SOCG052

Chelmsford Local Plan Statement of Common Ground with Sport England

April 2026

Statement of Common Ground

1. Introduction

Chelmsford City Council (CCC) is reviewing the Chelmsford Local Plan adopted in 2020. This has reached submission stage (Regulation 22) following consultations on the:

- Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Local Plan (Pre-Submission Plan for short) in Spring 2025 and
- Focused Consultation (Regulation 19) Additional Sites Document (Additional Sites Document for short) in late 2025-early 2026.

This Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) has been prepared to assist the examination of the Local Plan which comprises the Pre-Submission Plan combined with the site allocations and consequential changes in the Additional Sites Document.

It establishes areas of agreement between Sport England and CCC in relation to Sport England's representations on the Pre-Submission Plan.
There are no areas of uncommon ground.

This SOCG also sets out agreed proposed Modifications to the Pre-Submission Plan following email exchanges between CCC and Sport England after the close of the consultations.

For the avoidance of doubt none of the proposed modifications are considered necessary to address soundness issues and instead provide factual updates, clarifications and helpful detail to the Local Plan.

The consultation responses alongside collected evidence and national planning policy and guidance have been used to develop the Local Plan.

CCC has fully engaged with Sport England on the development of the Council's review of the adopted Local Plan from the outset. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Sport England has been formally consulted at each Regulation 18 and 19 stages of consultation together with their accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).

2. Areas of Common Ground

The following table sets out Sport England's relevant representations to the Pre-Submission Plan.

Proposed new text is shown in underline.

Local Plan

Consultation Document	Rep Number	Local Plan Reference	Summary of representation	Agreed resolution and any proposed modifications
Pre Submission Plan	PS25-72 PS25-73 PS25-74 PS25-75 PS25-76 PS25-77	Strategic Priorities 1, 2, 7, 8, Vision (paragraph 4.2),	Support the Strategic Priorities and the Vision which aim to support and enhance the provision of leisure facilities, promoting health and wellbeing through good design, encourage active travel and active lifestyles and protect existing assets.	No modification required to the Plan.
Pre Submission Plan	PS25-78 PS25-80 PS25-82 PS25-79 PS25-81	Strategic Policy S2 Strategic Policy S5 Strategic Policy S9 Strategic Policy S14 Strategic Policy S16	Strategic Policies S2, S5, S7, S9 are considered consistent with the NPPF. Support their recognition of the importance of sports and leisure facilities and multi functional green infrastructure as key infrastructure and ensuring development facilitates active travel and health lifestyles.	No modification required to the Plan.
Pre Submission Plan	PS25-83	Strategic Growth Site Policy 1b. – Former St Peter's College	Paragraph 7.46 of the reasoned justification should make it explicit that the evidence based study referenced should consider the Council's current Playing Pitch Strategy when showing how deficiencies in the locality can be remedied.	<i>Minor modification proposed</i> <i>Insert the following text into the first sentence of paragraph 7.46:</i> An evidence based study, <u>informed by CCC's Playing Pitch Strategy</u> , should be provided to show how existing open space and play deficiencies in the locality can be remedied, and how the needs generated by development on site will be

				accommodated, with the advice of Sport England.
Pre Submission Plan	(PS25-84) (PS25-85) PS25-87 PS25-88 PS25-91	Strategic Growth Site Policy 2, Strategic Growth Site Policy 3a Strategic Growth Site Policy 7a Strategic Growth Site Policy 8 Strategic Growth Site policy 10	Support Strategic Growth Site Policy approach to secure provision through a masterplan led approach to provide a coherent network of space and facilities.	No modification proposed to the Plan.
Pre Submission Plan	PS26-86 PS25-89	Strategic Growth Site policy 6 – North East Chelmsford Strategic Growth Site 16A (Hammonds Farm)	Support is offered for the following elements of Strategic Growth Site Policy 6 and 16A: • The provision of pedestrian, cycleway and bridleways; • The provision of coherent network of public open space, formal and informal sport, recreation and community space; • The provision of, or making financial contributions to, new or enhanced sport, leisure and recreation facilities.(including shared facilities with education) ;	No modification proposed to the Plan.
Pre Submission Plan	PS25-90	Strategic growth site 16B	Support is offered for the following elements of Strategic Growth Site Policy16B •The provision of pedestrian and cycle connections within the site and to the wider area; • The provision of coherent network of new and accessible open space, within the site; • The provision of sport, leisure and recreation facilities within the site as an employment site	No modification proposed to the Plan.

Pre Submission Plan	PS25-92	Policy DM20 – Delivering Community Facilities	The policy is welcomed as it takes a positive approach towards the principle of proposals for new or extended community facilities which are defined in the reasoned justification to include indoor and outdoor sports facilities.	No modification proposed to the Plan.
Pre Submission Plan	PS25-93	Policy DM21 – Protecting community Facilities	The policy is welcomed as it seeks to protect community facilities which includes sports facilities that are required for meeting current and future needs.	No modification proposed to the Plan
Pre Submission Plan	PS25-94	DM24 – Design and Place Shaping Principles in Major development.	Support Policy DM24 which encourages development to provide opportunities to promote healthy living and improve health and well-being.	No modification proposed to the Plan

Areas without agreement

There are no areas of uncommon ground.

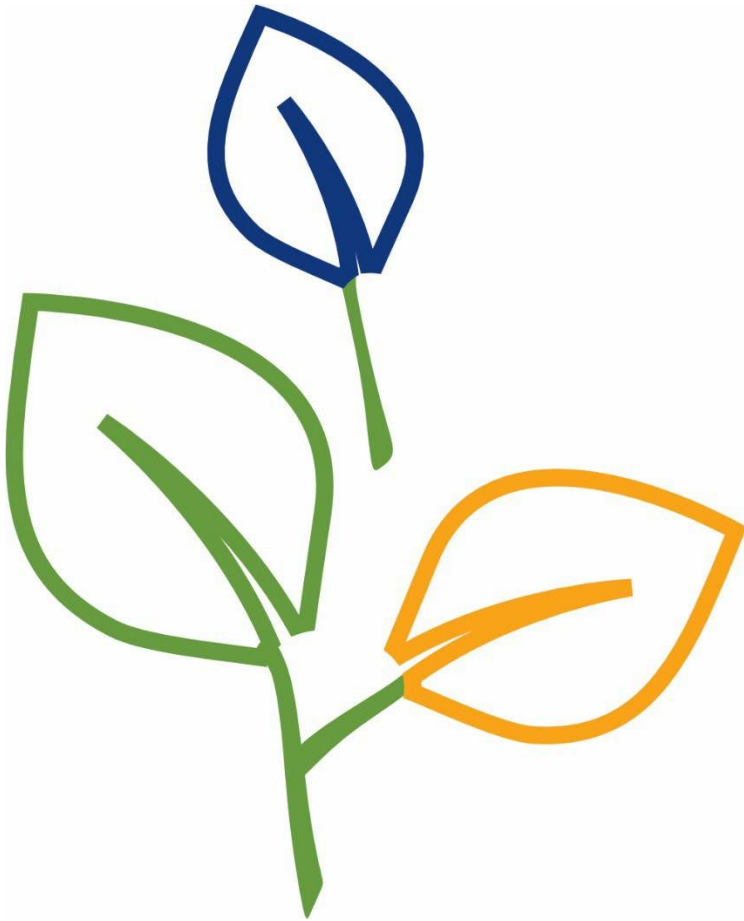
3. Governance and on-going cooperation

CCC will continue to work collaboratively with Sport England to address strategic matters that, in addition to those above, arise through the examination process (or require a resolution where there is yet to be an agreed matter). This will occur on an ongoing basis through emails and/or meetings and the SOCG will be kept up to date accordingly.

It is agreed that CCC is working collaboratively with Sport England to ensure that cross-boundary strategic issues are properly considered and where appropriate reflected in the review of the Local Plan and effective and on-going joint working has and will continue to be undertaken.

4. Signatories

Chelmsford City Council Jeremy Potter Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping Signature: <i>Jeremy Potter</i> Date: 28 th April 2026	Sport England Roy Warren Planning Manager Signature: <i>Roy Warren</i> Date: 28 th April 2026
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