

Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report

Executive Summary

Chelmsford City Council (CCC) will need to co-operate with other public bodies to satisfy the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate in the Localism Act.

This Scoping Report seeks to ensure that CCC, from the outset of its Local Plan preparation, has identified the key strategic cross boundary issues that could have a significant impact on two more planning areas. This includes the identification of Duty to Co-operate bodies that the Council will need to engage with to address each matter and the methods of engagement.

CCC has already undertaken a variety of Duty to Co-operate activities on its emerging Local Plan. This includes the preparation of joint evidence base studies with other Essex authorities, consultation on a Draft Duty to Co-operate Strategy and one-to-one meetings with adjoining Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Essex County Council (ECC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

These activities have helped CCC to identify the potential strategic matters set out within the Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report and opportunities to address them. Further strategic matters are likely to arise as the Local Plan evolves and following this consultation.

To ensure the Council is taking the correct approach to identifying and considering cross boundary strategic issues, we welcome your feedback on the Scoping Report. It also provides an opportunity for Duty to Co-operate partners and stakeholders to help shape the new Local Plan at the earliest possible stage.

Part 1 - Introduction

1. The Duty to Co-operate was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 following the abolition of regional planning. It places a duty on local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis when producing their local plans. Whilst not a duty to agree, it should facilitate the production of effective local plan policies on strategic cross boundary matters.
2. In meeting the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate, Government Guidance recommends that local planning authorities 'scope' the Local Plan strategic matters at the beginning of the preparation process. This should take into account the functional geography of the strategic matters and identify the local authorities and prescribed bodies that need to be co-operated with. Guidance also advises that consideration is given to preparing joint-evidence base documents and Local Development Documents.
3. As recommended by Government, Chelmsford City Council (CCC) has prepared a 'Scoping Report' to identify authorities and bodies that CCC will need to co-operate with in seeking to address each strategic matter, and the proposed methods for doing this. The Scoping Report will help ensure that cross-boundary issues are addressed at the earliest possible stage. This should maximise effective working on the preparation of the Local Plan in relation to strategic matters and reduce the risk of challenge at Examination.
4. The Council has already undertaken a variety of Duty to Co-operate activities to inform the Scoping Report. This includes the preparation of joint evidence base studies with other Essex authorities, consultation on a Draft Duty to Co-operate Strategy and one-to-one meetings with adjoining Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Essex County Council (ECC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). These activities have helped CCC to identify the potential strategic matters set out within this report. Further strategic matters may be identified following this consultation and as the Local Plan evolves.

Strategic matters are defined in the Localism Act 2011 as: (a) Sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and (b) Sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use - (i) is a county matter, or (ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter. Strategic matters can include providing for homes and jobs needed in the area, the provision of infrastructure for transport, wastewater and flood risk and provision of facilities for education and health.

Please note that the Local Plan will guide growth and development in Chelmsford City Council's administrative area for the period up to 2036 and beyond. It will provide the Council's vision, objectives and Spatial Strategy. It will also contain Strategic Development Policies, Development Management Policies, Site Specific land use allocations and a Local Plan Policies Map. Once adopted, the Local Plan will replace the existing Local Development Framework (LDF).

This Scoping Report takes into account the City Council's Duty to Co-operate Strategy adopted in March 2015. The Strategy establishes a clear framework for co-ordinating partnership working with others and demonstrates a clear commitment by CCC to addressing common strategic issues.

Consultation Arrangements

5. As a Duty to Co-operate authority or other relevant body we would welcome your views on the Scoping Report. These comments will be used to ensure CCC takes the correct approach to meeting its duty to co-operate throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.
6. There are some specific questions related to the broad strategic matters in Part 5 of document. However it would be helpful if the following questions are also addressed in responses:
 1. Do you agree that the correct cross-boundary strategic matters have been identified?
 2. Do you agree that the Council has identified the correct relevant authorities and bodies to co-operate with on each strategic matter?
 3. Do you agree with the proposed co-operation methods for considering/ addressing strategic matters?
 4. Do you have any suggestions for how the Council could encourage co-operation on cross-boundary strategic matters?
7. The consultation period runs for 6 weeks from XX July 2015 to XX August 2015. You are encouraged to submit comments online using our consultation portal at <http://consult.chelmsford.gov.uk/portal>. Alternatively you can make comments in writing to:
 - Email: planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk, or
 - Planning Policy, Chelmsford City Council, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE.
8. If you wish to discuss the content of this Scoping Report or any issue relating to the preparation of the Chelmsford City Local Plan, please telephone us on (01245) 606330.

Next Steps

9. All comments will be considered, published on the Council's website in accordance with the Data Protection Act and used to prepare the Issues and Options Local Plan scheduled for consultation in Autumn 2015.
10. Throughout the development of the Local Plan, the list of strategic matters and opportunities for joint working will be kept under review and influence the engagement and co-operation activities promoted.

Part 2 - Who is the Scoping Report for?

11. The Scoping Report is aimed at neighbouring and nearby local planning authorities, Essex County Council and a range of other prescribed bodies as defined in legislation and guidance. These are listed in Appendix 1 and are bodies required to co-operate with CCC on strategic cross-boundary planning matters of common concern.
12. The Scoping Report is also aimed at other relevant bodies that the Council might need to co-operate with when preparing the Local Plan. These include the Local Enterprise Partnership, Local Nature Partnerships and private sector utility and infrastructure providers (see Appendix 1). These other bodies may have a key role in supporting the Council in its Local Plan preparation and developing the evidence base.

Please note that this Scoping Report provides the opportunity for Duty to Co-operate authorities and other relevant bodies to highlight strategic matters that CCC may have missed. The Scoping Report is not aimed at other Local Plan consultees such as local residents, community groups and Parish and Town Councils. However, the Council will seek to involve and engage these people and organisations during consultations on the next Local Plan. More details are set out in its adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Part 3 - About Chelmsford

Geography

13. Chelmsford is located in the East of England, 30 miles north-east of London. The City Council is within a two-tier area, with Essex County Council providing public services such as education, highways and social services. The principal settlements are Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers. It also has 28 Defined Settlements (substantially built-up villages). The Metropolitan Green Belt covers almost 34% of the land in the south and west of the Council's administrative area.
14. Chelmsford shares boundaries with seven Local Planning Authorities and covers around 34,000 hectares (see plan in Appendix 2). It has a population of approximately 170,000 and is the focus for government, business, retail, leisure and culture in Essex. It will continue to be a major centre of development, with an estimated population of 192,000 by 2022.

Accessibility

15. Chelmsford benefits from good road and rail accessibility to London and the wider region. The journey time by road to London is 30 minutes. Stansted Airport can be reached in 25 minutes via the A120 – which also links with the M11, connecting London and Cambridge and towards the North of England. Regular rail services connect Chelmsford with London Liverpool Street (with up to ten trains per hour), Ipswich and Norwich. A new rail station in North Chelmsford will improve rail infrastructure from 2021 onwards.

Economy

16. The local economy is strong supporting around 85,000 jobs – the highest of any district (or unitary) in Essex. According to Experian there are around 12,000 businesses in the area. Over 60% of Chelmsford's working population work in Chelmsford. Around 17% of the workforce commutes to London. Other popular destinations for Chelmsford residents to work are Basildon, Brentwood and Braintree. Around 30% of people working within the CCC's administrative area live outside the area.
17. Unemployment is low (around 1.3% based on ONS JSA claimants) when compared to the Eastern Region and Great Britain. Chelmsford has a well-qualified workforce with a high proportion of its workforce holding NVQ4 level (degree and above).

Environment

18. Chelmsford enjoys a very high quality environment with 700 hectares of recreational space, including nine Green Flag accredited parks, complemented by an extensive network of green corridors, gardens and nature reserves. Chelmsford has three rivers and a range of habitats and high levels of biodiversity.

Education

19. Chelmsford provides many important services for the City and its wider catchment including Broomfield Hospital, Writtle College, Anglian Ruskin University, two Grammar Schools, Essex Police Headquarters and the County Court.

20. Chelmsford has economic, social and environmental links to its neighbouring authorities. This includes travel to work areas, housing market areas, retail and leisure trips, health facilities, higher education and tourism.

21. It is within this context that Chelmsford will need to consider how best to achieve the future growth and infrastructure requirements within the next Local Plan. This includes the consideration of a number of issues and challenges such as:

- A changing population
- Strengthening economic growth in the City and providing new jobs
- Providing housing to meet aspirations and identified needs
- Promoting sustainable and renewable energy sources
- Protecting and enhancing open spaces, the natural environment and historical assets
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change and flood risk
- Developing an environment that supports healthy lifestyles and wellbeing
- Improving the City Centre, and
- Providing the infrastructure needed to support existing and future communities and businesses.

Existing Local Plan 2001-2021

- Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (2008) and its Focused Review (2013)
- Chelmsford Town Centre Area Action Plan (2008)
- North Chelmsford Area Action Plan (2011), and
- Site Allocations Plan (2012).

Adopted Spatial Strategy, Core Strategy 2008



24. The adopted development plans are supported by a range of Supplementary Planning Documents. The Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule came into effect on 1 June 2014. Further information on CCC's existing plans is available via <http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicy>.

Next Local Plan 2021-2036

25. The next Local Plan will take the form of a single document. It will set out the amount and site allocations for future growth, investment and infrastructure provision to 2036 and beyond. It will seek to deliver our Objectively Assessed Need for homes and jobs over the plan period. The timetable for preparing the Chelmsford Local Plan is summarised below.

Stage	Timescale
Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report - Consultation with relevant Planning Authorities and duty bodies	Summer 2015
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report - Consultation with relevant Planning Authorities and duty bodies	Summer 2015
Local Plan Evidence gathering and public participation – Scoping Consultation (Regulation 18)	Autumn/Winter 2015
Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation (Regulation 18)	Summer/Autumn 2016
Draft Local Plan Pre-Submission Document Consultation (Regulation 19)	Spring 2017
Submission of Local Plan to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	Late Summer 2017
Independent Examination	Late Autumn/Winter 2018
Adoption	Spring 2018

Part 5 - Strategic Matters with Cross Boundary Implications

26. This Scoping Report identifies a number of potential broad strategic matters with possible cross-boundary implications. These will need to be considered/addressed as part of the preparation of the Local Plan and have been identified during pre-Plan evidence gathering, consultation on the Council's Draft Duty to Co-operate Strategy and early discussions with Duty to Co-operate bodies.
27. The Scoping Report also identifies Duty to Co-operate bodies that could be impacted and therefore who the Council may need to work with to consider/address them. It also explains the methods that may be used to engage with relevant duty to co-operate bodies.
28. Throughout the Local Plan preparation process, the list of strategic matters and co-operation activities will be kept under review. New strategic matters may also come forward following this Scoping Report consultation. However, it is important to note that not every Duty to Co-operate body will automatically share a cross boundary impact with Chelmsford.

Housing and Travellers

Potential requirement

29. It is estimated that 3,500 new homes will be rolled over into the next Local Plan period of which 2,000 already have planning permission. This reflects poor completion rates in the early part of the Plan period largely due to the economic recession.
30. Work is currently being undertaken to establish Chelmsford's 'Objectively Assessed' development needs. Current national demographic projections indicate around 700 homes per annum will be required. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment indicates an annual requirement of between 701-925 homes. This compare to 800 dwellings per year currently.
31. The Essex-wide Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpersons' Accommodation Assessment (2014 GTAA), identifies a requirement of 55 additional pitches to be developed between 2013 and 2033 within Chelmsford. The 2014 GTAA also identifies a need for at least two publicly provided transit Gypsy and Traveller sites to be delivered in Essex County with at least 10 pitches per site. However, there may be a need to re-examine the 2014 GTAA and its figures in the light of proposed changes to Government policy as outlined in Consultation: Planning and Travellers, DCLG (September 2014).
32. Chelmsford is seeking to meet its objectively assessed needs within the next Local Plan (the Council's emerging Strategic Land Availability Assessment, or SLAA, and other local evidence indicates that this will be possible). The Council has also held one-to-one meetings with all neighbouring authorities, none of which have indicated that they need Chelmsford to accommodate any of their future housing. However, Castle Point District Council has to date not been able to identify a sufficient supply of housing to meet its objectively assessed needs.
33. Potential cross-boundary issues have emerged from initial Duty to Co-operate discussions around the provision of transit sites within Essex and the potential need to refresh the 2014 GTAA in light of recent appeal decisions and the Inspector's Interim

Report into the Maldon Local Plan. Basildon Borough Council has also advised that the preliminary site assessment feedback in relation to potential Gypsy and Traveller sites indicates that Basildon's full needs cannot be met by these sites and around 60-70 additional pitches could be required elsewhere. Basildon Council may be looking to set up future discussions with neighbouring authorities to see if there is any spare capacity outside of Basildon's boundaries.

34. In terms of London, the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP)¹ allocates 42,000 homes per annum (pa) to the Capital. This falls below the level of need identified in the London Strategic Housing Market Assessment of between 49,000 - 62,000 homes pa. This could have implications for authorities that surround London such as Chelmsford who may be required to take a proportion of London's unmet housing need in the longer-term. Whilst the Mayor of London has not formally requested that Chelmsford City Council accommodate any proportion of its needs, the FALP introduces a level of uncertainty for authorities in the South and South-East. The latest Greater Essex demographic forecasts² include a Greater London Authority (GLA) scenario using GLA projections. This scenario is being assessed by consultants preparing this Council's Objectively Assessed Housing Needs Report.

Strategic Matters

35. In view of the above, the key housing strategic matters that will need to be addressed under the Duty to Co-operate are:
1. The future housing requirement for Chelmsford
 2. How the future housing requirement could be accommodated within Chelmsford City Council's administrative area
 3. The future Traveller pitch/plot and transit site requirement for Chelmsford
 4. How any additional pitch/plot and transit site requirement might be accommodated within Chelmsford City Council's administrative area
 5. Whether there is scope for a new/refreshed Essex-wide GTAA
 6. Whether there is scope for any joint or aligned plans across Council
 7. Whether there will be any need for Chelmsford to assist in meeting other authorities' housing and Traveller requirements.

Relevant Duty to Co-operate Bodies

36. A wide range of Duty to Co-operate bodies listed in Appendix 1 will need to be engaged to identify and consider/address potential strategic housing matters including neighbouring LPAs, Essex County Council, Homes and Communities Agency, Mayor of London, the Environment Agency and utility and infrastructure providers.

Co-operation methods

37. Much work has already been undertaken to understand the housing demand, preferences for housing and potential supply within Chelmsford and any potential cross-boundary implications. This includes the preparation of joint evidence base reports, consultation on the Council's SLAA methodology and initial Duty to Co-operate meetings. The Council also discusses strategic matters through the Essex Planning Officers Society

¹ Adopted by the Mayor of London in January 2015

² Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts 2013-2037 Phase 7 Main Report, May 2015, Edge Analytics

(EPOA), the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Officer Group, the Chelmsford Tomorrow Local Delivery Mechanism and the Officer Strategic Spatial Planning Liaison Group (associated with the London Plan).

38. In line with its Duty to Co-operate Strategy, the Council will seek to continue and expand on these engagement activities as the Local Plan develops. This may include the development of new evidence base and ongoing discussions. Where appropriate, CCC will also support the development of more formal agreements including the emerging Heart of Essex Partnership.

Please give us your views - Has the City Council identified the strategic housing and Traveller matters? Have the correct bodies for engagement been identified and are the proposed methods for co-operation the most appropriate?

Employment

Potential requirement

39. The Chelmsford Employment Land Review (ELR), emerging Strategic Economic Growth Plan and national demographic projections help to understand the employment land requirements and potential supply within Chelmsford.
40. These documents reveal that Chelmsford is an excellent location for business and economic growth, playing an important strategic role in the economic function and growth of the wider area role. Since 2001, Chelmsford has delivered significant jobs growth - approximately 16,000 new jobs. Chelmsford is seeking to maintain and enhance its strong economy and to meet its future employment land requirements in full within the next Local Plan. For the period 2021-2036 this equates to up to 16,500 new jobs. The Council's emerging SLAA and other local evidence indicates that this will be possible. Chelmsford will also be the location for a new Anglian Ruskin medical technology campus. This will follow the development of similar parks in Harlow and Southend-on-Sea and could create around 4,000 new jobs.
41. Initial discussions with all adjoining authorities indicate that no neighbouring Council requires Chelmsford to accommodate any of their future employment land or jobs growth. However, the developing Heart of Essex Strategy will help member LPAs to understand the Heart of Essex strategic economic area, opportunities for future growth and the different roles that their areas play within it.

Strategic Matters

42. In view of the above, the key employment strategic matters that will need to be addressed under the Duty to Co-operate are:
8. The future employment land requirement within Chelmsford
 9. What type of jobs and employment sectors will be promoted within Chelmsford
 10. How the future employment land requirement could be accommodated within Chelmsford City Council's administrative area
 11. Whether there is scope for joint or aligned plans across Council areas
 12. Whether there will be any need for Chelmsford to assist in meeting other authorities' employment land requirements.

Relevant Duty to Co-operate Bodies

43. A wide number of Duty to Co-operate bodies listed in Appendix 1 need to be engaged to identify and consider/address potential strategic employment matters. This includes transport and utility providers, neighbouring LPAs, Essex County Council and the South-East Local Economic Partnership. The latter includes business representation through the Greater Essex Business Board.

Co-operation methods

44. CCC will continue to engage with relevant Duty to Co-operate bodies in respect of the economy and employment land needs through ongoing discussions at meetings and through correspondence. The emerging Heart of Essex Strategy will also provide an opportunity to examine the potential for strategic employment and a sub-regional spatial economic vision, with potential allocations in Chelmsford.

Please give us your views - Has the City Council identified the strategic employment matters? Have the correct bodies for engagement been identified and are the proposed methods for co-operation the most appropriate?

Infrastructure

45. A key consideration when preparing the next Local Plan will be the additional demand on existing infrastructure as a result of new development and how this can be accommodated and/or mitigated. Infrastructure covers transport, healthcare, education, energy, utilities, emergency services and waste management.
46. As part of the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council will produce an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) setting out details of the infrastructure identified by the Council and other service providers as being needed to support the delivery of new development across the City up to 2036. Initial duty to co-operate activities indicate that there may be cross boundary impacts related to education provision, primary healthcare provision (GP surgeries, dentists), protecting emergency access from Maldon District to Broomfield Hospital and providing new or improved transport infrastructure.
47. There is likely to be a high level of need for additional primary and secondary education provision over the Plan period to support new housing development and population growth. The Council will work with Essex County Council and other education providers including Chelmsford College, Writtle College and Anglian Ruskin University to ensure sufficient provision is made for education requirements. The impacts that future education provision may have on adjoining areas will be informed by forecasts in updates to the County's School Organisation Plan. It will also become clearer once the preferred locations for new development and the quantum and phasing of new development have been identified in Chelmsford and in surrounding LPA Local Plans. The Council will consult on the Preferred Options Local Plan in Summer/Autumn 2016. At this stage, CCC does not expect other LPAs will be required to assist in the provision of education services to support new development in Chelmsford.
48. There is likely to be additional demand for extra health services (GPs and Dentists) to serve new communities in areas of new development. The Council will work with health bodies including the Clinical Commissioning Group and National Health Service Commissioning Board, to ensure sufficient provision is made for health service provision.

CCC acknowledges that new housing development in Chelmsford could increase demand on healthcare services beyond the City Council's boundary. However, this will become clearer once the preferred locations for new development and the quantum and phasing of new development have been identified in Chelmsford and in surrounding LPA Local Plans. At this stage, CCC does not expect other LPAs will be required to assist in the provision of health services to support new development in Chelmsford.

49. Transport infrastructure matters include the potential need to improve sustainable transport travel options such as, new bus routes to Beaulieu rail station in North Chelmsford and improvements to the strategic road network including the A12, A414, A130, NE Bypass and A131. There may also be additional impacts on the non-strategic road network as a result of new development along or close to neighbouring Council borders. However, potential transport infrastructure issues will become clearer as the Local Plans for Chelmsford and its neighbouring areas evolve.

Strategic Matters

50. In view of the above, the key infrastructure strategic matters that will need to be addressed under the Duty to Co-operate are:
- 13. The future transport related infrastructure requirements for Chelmsford related to new growth and development in respect of access to Broomfield Hospital, the strategic and non-strategic road network and bus services to the new Beaulieu rail station
 - 14. The future education related infrastructure requirements for Chelmsford related to new growth and development in respect of primary and secondary school provision
 - 15. The future healthcare related infrastructure requirements for Chelmsford related to new growth and development in respect of access to GPs and dentists
 - 16. How the future infrastructure requirements could be accommodated, funded and delivered within Chelmsford City Council's administrative area, in particular improvements to strategic road infrastructure
 - 17. Whether there is scope for joint or aligned plans across Council areas
 - 18. Whether there will be any need for Chelmsford to assist in meeting other authorities' infrastructure requirements.

Relevant Duty to Co-operate Bodies

51. Many different Duty to Co-operate bodies need to be engaged to identify and consider/address the potential cross boundary impact of new development in Chelmsford on infrastructure. This includes The South-East Local Economic Partnership, Clinical Commissioning Group, transport, education, health and utility providers, emergency services, neighbouring LPAs and Essex County Council.

Co-operation methods

52. CCC will continue to engage with relevant Duty to Co-operate bodies in respect of infrastructure through ongoing discussions. Workshops and/or individual meetings with specific infrastructure providers and duty to co-operate bodies to discuss any significant issues identified may also be set up. All the above bodies will also be formally engaged through formal consultation stages on the Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The developing Heart of Essex Strategy will help member LPAs to understand and promote infrastructure requirements across the Heart of Essex and explore opportunities for this to be funded and delivered.

Please give us your views - Has the City Council identified the strategic infrastructure matters? Have the correct bodies for engagement been identified and are the proposed methods for co-operation the most appropriate?

Retailing

53. The Chelmsford Retail Capacity Study 2015 sets out information on the current performance and future retail prospects for the areas main centres. Chelmsford City Centre is a strong and popular centre which draws trade from a wide catchment area. It is ranked within the top 100 of retail destinations nationally and has capacity for new retail development over the Plan period. This is primarily focused on the convenience or food sector - if current market shares are to be maintained.
54. The natural catchment of SWF town centre also extends beyond CCC's administrative boundary although to a lesser extent than Chelmsford City Centre. The Study identifies weaknesses in the centre's health and retail offer.
55. Early duty to co-operate engagement indicates that there may be retail strategic cross boundary issues around inflows of trade to centres in Chelmsford from outside its boundary. The Council does not envisage there will be a need for others to meet its future retail requirements or any need for Chelmsford to assist in meeting other authorities' requirements.

Strategic Matters

56. In view of the above, the key retail strategic matters that will need to be addressed under the Duty to Co-operate could be:
- 19. The existing inflows and outflows of trade from populations beyond CCC's administrative area
 - 20. Future retail development in Chelmsford's administrative area and how these may affect inflows and outflows of trade from neighbouring LPAs
 - 21. The role of Chelmsford City Centre as a regional retail centre.

Relevant Duty to Co-operate Bodies

57. The above potential strategic retail matters will need to be discussed with relevant neighbouring LPAs.

Co-operation methods

58. The Council will discuss strategic retailing matters including the 2015 Retail Study directly with relevant other local authorities, most likely via meetings and correspondence.

Please give us your views - Has the City Council identified the strategic retail matters? Have the correct bodies for engagement been identified and are the proposed methods for co-operation the most appropriate?

Leisure and open space

59. A new Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Assessment will provide information on existing facilities and future needs. Existing leisure facilities in Chelmsford primarily serve the local population and the Council will seek to meet its own requirement for future leisure development. Furthermore, the Council does not envisage there will be a need for Chelmsford to assist in meeting other authorities' leisure development requirements. However, early duty to co-operate engagement indicates that there may be strategic cross boundary issues related to the role of Chelmsford's canal and cycle links between Chelmsford and Maldon.

Strategic Matters

60. In view of the above, the key leisure related strategic matters that will need to be addressed under the Duty to Co-operate could be:

22. Any future leisure requirement within Chelmsford in respect of access and use of its Canals

23. How any leisure requirement might be accommodated within Chelmsford Council's administrative area in respect of access and use of its canals.

Relevant Duty to Co-operate Bodies

61. The above potential strategic leisure matters will need to be discussed with relevant neighbouring LPAs.

Co-operation methods

62. The Council will discuss strategic leisure related matters including the 2015 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Assessment with relevant other local authorities, most likely via meetings and correspondence.

Please give us your views - Has the City Council identified the strategic leisure related matters? Have the correct bodies for engagement been identified and are the proposed methods for co-operation the most appropriate?

Part 6 - Strategic Matters unlikely to result in Cross Boundary Implications

63. The Council does not at this stage consider that there are likely to be any strategic cross boundary issues related to the following matters. However this will be kept under review during the Local Plan production and following formal rounds of consultation.

Water Supply and Waste Water

64. Although there may be a need for new/improved water related infrastructure in Chelmsford over the Plan period, this is unlikely to be a Duty to Co-operate cross boundary strategic issue. However this matter will be reconsidered following a new Water Cycle Study and discussions with the water and waste water industry.

Flooding

65. The Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme (SFRA) will reduce the risk of flooding locally in various places in and around Chelmsford. Therefore it is unlikely that flooding and the impact of additional development will be a cross boundary strategic issue. However, this will be reconsidered in light of a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and discussions with the Environment Agency.

Green Belt

66. Chelmsford City Council's administrative area comprises around one-third Metropolitan Green Belt. Evidence indicates that sufficient land could be identified outside of the Green Belt to meet Chelmsford's future housing needs. As such, no strategic review of Chelmsford's Green Belt is planned and therefore Green Belt is not expected to be a cross boundary strategic matter.

67. Minor revisions to existing Green Belt boundaries may be considered in order to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect any recent changes on the ground. Consideration will also be given to the boundaries of Writtle College and Hanningfield Reservoir Treatment Works Special Policy Areas to ensure they continue to secure the long-term future and sustainable development of these important institutions.

Climate change, mitigation and adaptation

68. Government guidance expects Local Plan's to contribute towards tackling climate change for example through delivering renewable energy and reducing energy demand. Whilst climate change crosses LPA borders the Council considers that there are no obvious cross boundary issues that will result from its next Local Plan. The Government also intend to move many energy and water standards from the Planning system to Building Regulations. It is therefore considered even more unlikely that there will be any strategic cross boundary issues on this matter.

Natural environment and landscape

69. Chelmsford has numerous designated sites of international, national and local importance including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar Sites and Local Wildlife Sites. Potential impacts and any mitigation measures on these sites will be dealt with through the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment processes. This will involve discussions with the

statutory environment consultees. Therefore, no cross boundary impacts are expected in respect of the natural environment and landscape.

Heritage

70. Chelmsford has a wealth of important heritage assets, many of which are protected for example through Listed Building status and Conservation Area designations. As such, it is not envisaged that there will be any Duty to Co-operate strategic cross boundary matters that will arise in respect to heritage.

Appendix 1 - Relevant "Duty to Co-operate" bodies

The following 'Duty to Co-operate' bodies are relevant to the preparation and implementation of the Chelmsford City Local Plan:

- Essex County Council
- Neighbouring and nearby local planning authorities including Braintree, Basildon, Uttlesford, Castle Point, Colchester, Rochford, Harlow, Southend-on-Sea, Tendring, Thurrock, Brentwood, Epping Forest, Maldon and London Boroughs adjoining Essex
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Health Service Commissioning Board
- Essex Police
- Essex Fire and Rescue
- Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage)
- Integrated Transport Authority
- Highway Authority
- Marine Management Organisation
- Network Rail
- Mayor of London (Greater London Authority)
- Transport for London
- Highways Agency
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Office of Rail Regulation
- Sport England
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Local Nature Partnership (led by Essex Wildlife Trust)
- Relevant private sector bodies (including Writtle College and Anglia Ruskin University)
- Relevant utility and infrastructure providers (Transport network providers and operators, water supply and sewerage providers, energy providers, telecom providers).

These organisations are registered on the Council's Development Plan Consultation Database.

Appendix 2 - Map of Planning Authorities that adjoin or are near to Chelmsford City Council's Administrative Area

