

## COUNCIL MEETING – 25 February 2026

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

#### 1. **Public Question from Mr G**

As a resident and father of four in Chelmsford, I am concerned about the approved 2,750 homes in the Chelmsford Garden Community around Beaulieu Park. Recent media coverage has highlighted the scale of this development, and I have significant concerns about infrastructure delivery.

I would like to ask the council:

1. Can the council confirm a binding, phased timeline where major roads (like the Northern Radial Distributor), schools, and healthcare facilities will be completed BEFORE the majority of these homes are occupied?

2. What immediate steps are planned to protect existing neighbourhoods from increased traffic in the interim, particularly on local roads like the Army & Navy roundabout?

I support housing for families who need it, but only when infrastructure is delivered responsibly. Residents have already experienced the consequences of rapid expansion without matching infrastructure, and we need assurance that this development will follow an 'infrastructure first' approach.

I would appreciate the opportunity to speak at the meeting and request a recorded commitment from the council on these infrastructure timelines.

Thank you for your consideration.

#### 2. **Public Question from Mr W**

I would like to raise an objection to the Chelmsford housing and development plan that I understand is due for review at this council.

There is strong negative feeling from Chelmsford Residents about the building of more and more property especially flats and there is concern about the impact on infrastructure and critical services such as police, hospitals, doctors and schools. It is not obvious that the committee acknowledges this sentiment and carefully considers this when proposing or approving plans.

I understand that London boroughs are buying and renting property in

Chelmsford for use as social housing. This is due to a favourable cost differential. It is unclear what, if any action is being taken to stop this and if this is incorporated into the plan.

During 2025 approximately 800k non-uk nationals immigrated to the UK and according to the ONS at the start of 2024 there were 11.4m foreign nationals (about 18% of the population) living in the UK. This has increased demand for homes in Chelmsford.

The current central government, I believe under pressure from Reform UK, are strengthening immigration controls as are the other major parties. This does not appear to include the Liberal Democrats.

In this context it is highly possible that immigration controls will be strengthened and it should be assumed that they are successful in reducing immigration.

My question is does the committee agree and to what extent are these or indeed any demand factors incorporated into the Chelmsford plan ?

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### **3. Public Question from Mr G**

Chelmsford Council have maintained that they have no powers to intervene in the situation whereby undocumented male asylum seekers are being bussed into the Town Centre on a daily basis from the Whethersfield migrant camp.

However, it has now become apparent that the private company running these bus services are using the council owned Riverside Leisure centre car park to facilitate this, with the buses in question regularly being parked there.

Are the council aware of this and have given permission for this?

If so, is there a financial agreement in place with the council for them to park, in what is a fee paying car park for everyone else in Chelmsford?

If not, what enforcement action is the council taking to prevent them from parking here for free and avoiding the same fees and fines every other resident of Chelmsford faces for use of this car park?

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