



SOCG042

Chelmsford Local Plan

Statement of Common Ground with
the Marine Management Organisation

April 2026

Statement of Common Ground

Chelmsford City Council and the Marine Management Organisation

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:

- Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Local Plan between May and June 2024
- 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 the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and CCC in relation to MMO's representations on the Preferred Options Local Plan. **There are no areas of uncommon ground.**

This SOCG sets out changes that were made to the Pre-Submission Local Plan in response to the representations from the MMO to the Preferred Options Local Plan. The consultation responses alongside collected evidence and national planning policy and guidance have been used to develop the Local Plan.

A map of CCC's administrative area in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils is attached at Appendix A. A map showing the area of the South East Marine Plan within the Chelmsford City Council area boundary is attached at Appendix B.

CCC has fully engaged with MMO 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, the MMO 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 MMO made comments at the Preferred Options stage but made no comments to either the Pre-Submission Plan or the Additional Sites Document.

In this version only, new text in this version of the SOCG is shown in buff in the second and fourth column.

Proposed new text is shown in underline. Proposed deleted text is shown as ~~striketrough~~.

Consultation Document	Rep Number	Local Plan Reference	Summary of representation	Agreed resolution (Changes have been made in the Pre-Submission Local Plan, further proposed modifications shown below.)
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10398	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the South East Marine Plan remit which ranges from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) or the tidal limit out to the territorial limit (Marine Management Organisation) • All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and any relevant adopted Marine Plan • Recommend a reference to the requirement of a marine licence for certain activities 	<p>Modify paragraph 1.42:</p> <p>The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) adopted its South East (Inshore) Marine Plan in June 2021. It includes land to the south of South Woodham Ferrers. The Marine Plan's jurisdiction overlaps with the Council's responsibilities (which <u>extend to mean low water</u>). <u>The South East Inshore Marine Plan area ranges from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) or the tidal limit out to the territorial limit to the south of South Woodham Ferrers.</u> This remit covers both the marine area and tidal rivers, and extends up to MHWS where there is an overlap with terrestrial planning. <u>The Marine and Coastal Access Act requires public authorities to have regard to marine plans when taking any non-enforcement or non-authorisation decision, such as the development of a local plan. The Local Plan has had regard for the South East Inshore Marine Plan during its development.</u></p>

Consultation Document	Rep Number	Local Plan Reference	Summary of representation	Agreed resolution (Changes have been made in the Pre-Submission Local Plan, further proposed modifications shown below.)
			carried out within the UK marine area.	<u>Decisions on land, or in the intertidal area that affect the south east marine plan area will be undertaken in accordance with both the Local Plan and the South East Inshore Marine Plan.</u> As such, the South East (Inshore) Marine Plan, must be considered alongside the Local Plan, to provide a consistent approach for planning on land, and within the inter-tidal and marine environment. It should also be noted that a marine licence may be required for certain activities carried out within the UK marine area.
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10399	Strategic Priority 1	Add reference to the remit of the South East Marine Plan and the requirement of a marine licence	As stated above in response to PO24-10398, this information has been added to the paragraph 1.42 (Introduction) of the PS LP. The Local Plan should be read as a whole, so no further reference is considered necessary. No further modification required to the Plan.
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10400/10401	Strategic Policy S2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South East Marine Plan policies such as SE-EMP-1 should be used as evidence to support the local plans policies • Add reference to the South East Marine Plan remit and requirements for marine licences • Recommend reference to the marine/coastal/intertidal element of the policy area, 	<p>The South East Marine Plan has been used as evidence to inform the Pre-Submission Plan policies.</p> <p>As stated above in response to PO24-10398, additional references to the South East Marine Plan remit and requirements for marine licences have been added to paragraph 1.42 (Introduction) of the PS LP. The Local Plan should be read as a whole, so no further reference is considered necessary. No further modification required to the Plan.</p>

Consultation Document	Rep Number	Local Plan Reference	Summary of representation	Agreed resolution (Changes have been made in the Pre-Submission Local Plan, further proposed modifications shown below.)
			particularly where both terrestrial and marine habitats have potential to be impacted by the policy	
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10409 POQ24-114	Strategic Policy S3 Section 5 (including Strategic Policy S6)	Recommend use of the South East Marine Plan policies as evidence to support the plan policies	As stated above in response to PO24-10398, additional references to the South East Marine Plan remit and marine licences have been added to paragraph 1.42 (Introduction) of the PS LP. The Local Plan should be read as a whole, so repetition is not considered necessary. No further modification required to the Plan.
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10424	Strategic Policy S4	Local Plan could draw on policies in the South East Inshore Marine Plan	The South East Marine Plan has been used as evidence to inform the Pre-Submission Plan policies. No modification required to the Plan.
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10421	Strategic Policy S5	Policy could be extended to community coastal assets using the South East Marine Plan policies as evidence	Policy S5 covers a wide range of community assets. Listing all types of assets is not considered necessary. No modification required to the Plan.
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10412	Strategic Policy S8	The South East Marine Plan policies such as SE-EMP-1 should be used as evidence to support the local plans policies	As stated above in response to PO24-10398, additional references to the South East Marine Plan have been added to paragraph 1.42 (Introduction) of the PS LP. As the Local Plan should be read as a whole, it is not considered necessary to repeat this in Policy S8. No further modification required to the Plan.

Consultation Document	Rep Number	Local Plan Reference	Summary of representation	Agreed resolution (Changes have been made in the Pre-Submission Local Plan, further proposed modifications shown below.)
Preferred Options Local Plan	PO24-10404	Strategic Growth Site Policy 10	Refer to the marine/coastal/intertidal element particularly where both terrestrial and marine habitats have the potential to be impacted by the policy and interpretation of the South East Marine Plan	As stated above in response to PO24-10398, reference to marine and terrestrial planning have been added to paragraph 1.42 (Introduction) of the PS LP. As the Local Plan should be read as a whole, it is not considered necessary to repeat this in Growth Site Policy 10. No further modification required to the Plan.

3. Governance and on-going cooperation

CCC will continue to work collaboratively with the MMO to address strategic matters that, in addition to those above, arise through the examination process. This will occur on an ongoing basis through emails and the SOCG will be kept up to date accordingly.

4. Signatories

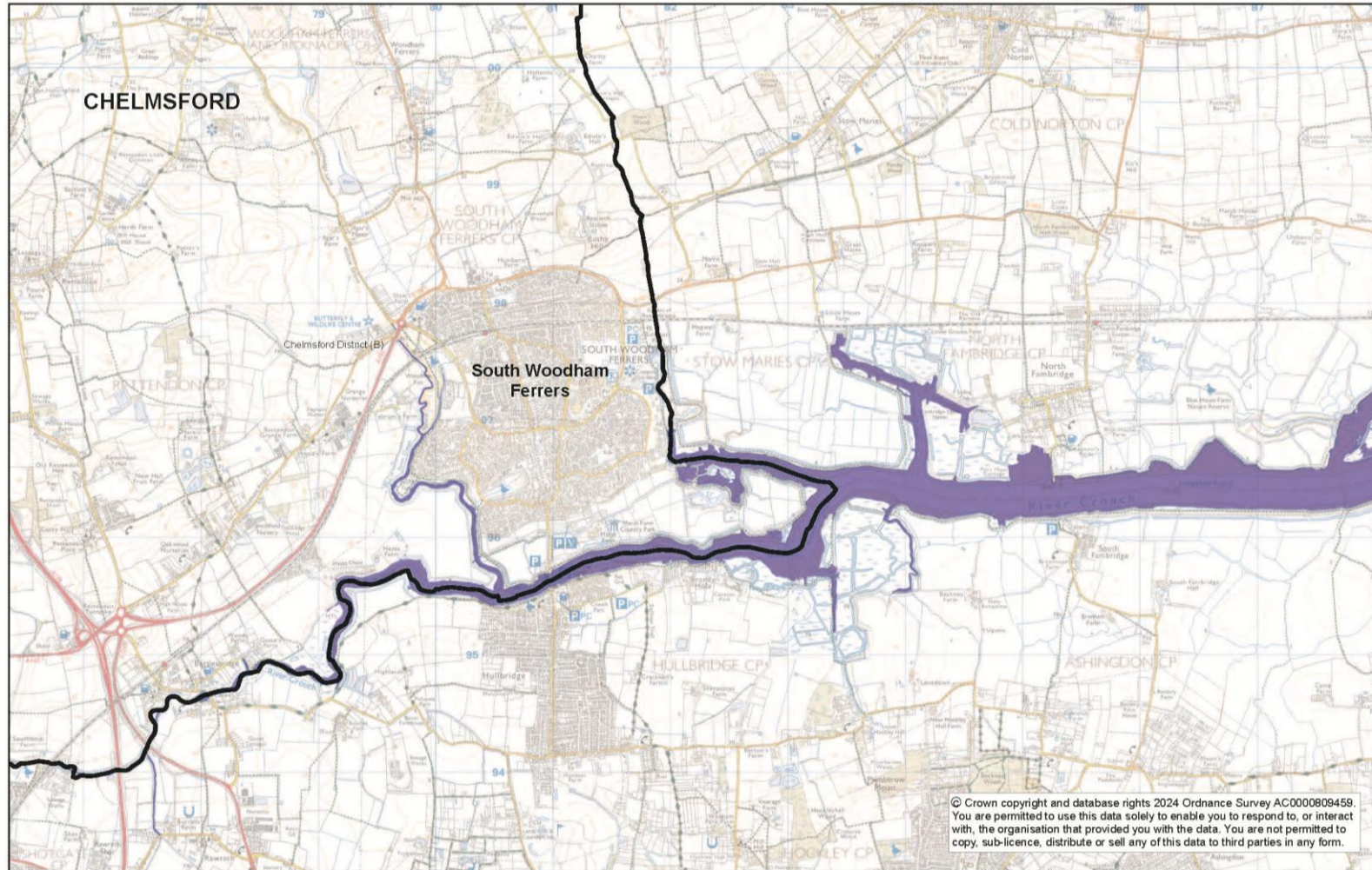
Chelmsford City Council Jeremy Potter Assistant Director – Planning and Place Shaping <i>Jeremy Potter</i> Date: 21.04.26	Marine Management Organisation Clare Kavanagh Marine Planning Manager <i>Clare Kavanagh</i> Date: 16.04.26
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Appendix A – Map of Chelmsford City Council’s administrative area in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils

Chelmsford City Council is adjoined by seven local planning authorities. Essex County Council is the local Highways and Transportation Authority and Education Authority. It is also responsible for the Minerals and Waste Local Plans with Southend-on-Sea Unitary Authority.



Appendix B - Area of South East Marine Plan within Chelmsford City Council boundary



South East Marine Plan Area



0 250 500 1,000 Meters

Spatial Planning Services
Directorate for Sustainable Communities
Chelmsford City Council
Civic Centre, Duke Street,
Chelmsford, CM1 1JE





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Please call 01245 606330
Spatial Planning Services
Directorate for Sustainable Communities
Chelmsford City Council
Civic Centre
Duke Street
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1JE

Telephone 01245 606330
planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk
www.chelmsford.gov.uk

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