Chelmsford Local Plan Review 2022 – 2041

Examination

Inspectors – Mr H Baugh-Jones BA(Hons) DipLA MA CMLI

Mrs R Morgan BSc(Hons) MCD MRTPI

Programme Officer – Mrs Annette Feeney

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HEARING SESSION AGENDA

19 November 2026 9.30 am

MATTER 7

Inspectors' openings and introductions

Issue 1 - Whether the Plan will contribute to the vitality and viability of City, Town, and Neighbourhood Centres

Strategic Policies S12 and S17
Policy DM4

1.1 Does Policy S12 provide sufficient flexibility to respond to changing retail and commercial circumstances whilst maintaining the role, vitality and viability of the hierarchy of centres?

1.2 Is the approach to the future role and regeneration of Chelmsford City Centre, including The Meadows, justified, effective and deliverable?

1.3 Does Policy DM4 strike an appropriate balance between protecting employment land and allowing sufficient flexibility to respond to changing economic circumstances and alternative employment-generating uses?

Issue 2 – Is the approach to delivering and protecting community facilities justified and effective?

Policy S5 – Protecting and Enhancing Community Assets
Policy DM20 – Delivering Community Facilities
Policy DM21 – Protecting Community Facilities
Policy DM22 – Education Establishments and Policy SPA6 – ARU Writtle Special Policy Area

1.4 Policy S5 – Protecting and Enhancing Community Assets

- Modifications to add *'fire and rescue'* to the list of community assets in policy S5 and paragraph 5.58 (MOD refs 56 and 57)

1.5 Policy DM20 – Delivering Community Facilities

- Proposed clarification that access to adequate sustainable transport links can be existing or proposed (MOD ref 287)
- Proposed modifications to promote flexibility and shared use (MOD refs 288 and 289)

1.6 Policy DM22 – Education Establishments and Policy SPA6 – ARU Writtle Special Policy Area

- Proposed requirement in Policy DM22, Policy SPA6 and paragraph 7.482 that development proposals at ARU Writtle site should accord with an approved masterplan (in Council's hearing statement)
- Proposed amendments to paragraph 8.190 (in SD005 and Council's hearing statement)

1.7 Any other comments on the approach to protecting, enhancing and delivering community facilities and assets?