CARNEYSWEENEY

HS054

PLANNING AND REGENERATION

Hearing Statement Matter 5 – Securing the Right Type of Homes



Client Name: Hammonds Estates LLP and Wates Developments

Site Address: East Chelmsford Garden Community (Hammonds Farm)

Date: 21 October 2026

Chelmsford Local Plan Review Examination

Representor ID: 872955
On behalf of: Wates Developments Ltd and Hammonds Estates LLP
Date: 21 October 2026

Issue 1 – Whether the Plan will provide for the right mix of housing

Policy DM3 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Question 5.8 – Are the allocations in the Plan justified, soundly based and consistent with national policy? Will the allocations meet identified accommodation needs?

1.1.1 The Council's allocations are underpinned by the level of need identified by the Chelmsford Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (AH003), and the Council's stated desire to, interalia, locate these uses with strategic site allocations.

1.1.2 In relation to Site 16a, the emerging Framework Masterplan, Capacity Plan and Sequencing Plans make provision for two Gypsy and Traveller sites in accordance with their place in the Council's trajectory (See Matter 6 Site 16a response).

1.1.3 Wates' Regulation 19 representation on draft Policy S7 and Policy 16a (Rep PS25-247) sought the removal of the allocation for 13 Travelling Showpeople pitches. Following discussions with CCC (as detailed in SOCG046 Site Allocations SoCG and SOCG050 Masterplan SOCG), Wates is willing to accept responsibility for this element of the policy requirement associated with Site 16a; however, flexibility is being requested, through this current examination process, to be able to deliver this land use either 'on' or 'off' site.

1.1.4 This will ensure that the identified need is met as a requirement of the policy allocation, whilst allowing the masterplanning and application process to inform the most suitable location for the pitches. There are practical reasons why an off-site location may be more appropriate than an on-site location within the Framework Masterplan at Site 16a, and these are discussed in our Matter 6 response.