



SOCG 36
Chelmsford Local Plan
Statement of Common
Ground with the
Ministry of Defence (MOD)

April 2026

Statement of Common Ground

Chelmsford City Council and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) (The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is part the MOD who act as both statutory and non-statutory consultee in planning and energy consenting systems).

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:

- 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 MOD and CCC in relation to MOD's representations on the Pre-Submission Plan and the Additional Sites Document. There are no areas of uncommon ground.

The consultation responses alongside collected evidence and national planning policy and guidance have been used to develop the Local Plan.

CCC has fully engaged with the MOD 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, MOD 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 MOD made comments on the Pre-Submission Plan and Additional Sites Document.

The following table sets out the MODs relevant representations to the Pre-Submission Plan and the Additional Sites Document.

Proposed new text is shown in underline.

| Consultation Document | Rep Number | Local Plan Reference | Summary of representation | Agreed resolution and any proposed modifications |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Pre Submission Plan | PSQ25-6407 | DM19 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy- section 8.170 | The MOD notes the provision for renewable or low carbon energy development proposals within DM19 – RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY within section 8.170. The MOD has, in principle, no objection to any renewable energy development and notes the Planning Practice Guidance on consultation with the potential need to remove PD rights. | Noted. CCC follow the guidance in the PPG therefore no modification is required to the Plan. |
| Pre Submission Plan | PSQ25-6408 PSQ25-6409 PSQ25-6410 PSQ25-6411 | Site 7A (Design and Layout) Site 9A (Design and Layout) Site 11b (Design and Layout) Site 13 (Site Development Principles) | Chelmsford City Council's authority area contains a safeguarding zone designated to preserve the operation and capability of the East 2 WAM Network. MOD recommend that any more detailed policies for these sites include wording which indicates that development should be designed to ensure that it would have no impact on the operation or capability of defence sites or assets. | Modification to site specific policies for Site 7A, Site 9A and Site 11b to add additional bullet point under Design and Layout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ensure there is no impact on the operational or capability of safeguarded defence assets.</u> <p><i>Modification to site 13 to add sub heading for <u>Design and Layout</u> and add criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ensure there is no impact on the operational or capability of safeguarded defence assets.</u> |
| Additional Sites Document | AS-1047 | Site 9a – Waltham Road Employment Area | | |

Areas without agreement

There are no areas of disagreement or unresolved strategic matters.

3. Governance and on-going cooperation

CCC will continue to work collaboratively with the MOD 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/or meetings and the SOCG will be kept up to date accordingly.

4. Signatories

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| Chelmsford City Council Jeremy Potter Spatial Planning Services Manager Signature: <i>J. Potter.</i> Date: 15 th April 2026 | MOD (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) Chris Waldron Assistant Safeguarding Manager Signature: <i>C. Waldren</i> Date: 10 th April 2026 |
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Spatial Planning Services
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