CHELMSFORD LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2022-2041 EXAMINATION

HEARING STATEMENT - Matter 8
Creating Sustainable Development

Representor	Mr Rian Wispy
Representor number	1372718
Original Regulation 19 responses	PSQ25-3958 and PSQ25-88 (Site 16A); PSQ25-3960 and PSQ25-89 (Site 16B)
Matter	Matter 8 - Creating Sustainable Development
Participation	Written representations only - not attending the hearing sessions

1. Scope and relationship to original representations

This statement supplements, and should be read together with, my duly made Regulation 19 representations concerning Sites 16A and 16B. Those representations raised environmental impacts, biodiversity and ecological considerations, infrastructure, development impacts and the adequacy and effectiveness of safeguards within the Local Plan. This statement does not withdraw or replace those representations and is confined to the Inspectors' questions that engage those existing concerns.

MIQs 8.1, 8.3 and 8.10-8.11 - climate, natural environment and flood risk

My original representation raised environmental and development impacts and the adequacy of safeguards. Matter 8 is therefore relevant insofar as climate, flood-risk and natural-environment policies operate on Sites 16A and 16B.

The requirement for no significant harm to the natural environment should be clear and effective. The flood-risk framework should ensure that assessment and mitigation occur early enough to influence the form and phasing of development and should address cumulative effects where relevant.

Flood-risk and sustainable-development safeguards should not be left until a stage at which the strategic scale or location of development can no longer realistically be adjusted.

Modifications / outcome sought

- Retain and clarify the requirement to avoid significant harm to the natural environment.
- Ensure flood-risk assessment and mitigation are linked to site phasing and occur before affected development proceeds.
- Make any consequential modifications needed to Strategic Policy S2 and Policy DM18 for effectiveness.

Conclusion

The purpose of these changes is to ensure that the Plan is effective in practice: environmental and development impacts must be assessed at the appropriate stage, necessary safeguards and mitigation must be secured, and development must remain aligned with infrastructure and environmental capacity actually available.