Proposed Chelmsford City Council response to Epping Forest District Council Further Main Modifications Consultation

Background

Following the Examination Hearing Sessions for the emerging Local Plan in 2019, Epping Forest District Council prepared several changes, known as Main Modifications in 2021, to the Epping Forest District Local Plan Submission Version (2017) to address issues of soundness and/or legal compliance identified by the Inspector. A consultation period was undertaken on the Main Modifications and supporting documents from July to September 2021. Following the conclusion of the Main Modifications consultation the Inspector outlined a number of actions. Representations are now invited on the further Main Modifications and actions only. The consultation runs for 6 weeks from 28 October 2022 until 9 December 2022.

Summary of the further main modifications

The changes consist of changes to the wording of policies and text to provide clarification, flexibility, consistency and effectiveness and are based on the actions provided by the Inspector following the initial Main Modifications consultation in 2021.

A number of the main changes are summarised below:

Amending the use classes referred to in the policies relating to employment to now refer to Use Class E and F where appropriate. This is to take account of the changes to the Use Classes Order in 2020.

Table 2.3 Housing Supply and Table 2.4 Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Requirement have been updated to reflect the latest information although the minimum number of homes and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches to be provided over the plan period to 2033 is the same - 11,400 and 64 respectively.

Change in wording on how the Plan refers to Strategic Masterplans and Infrastructure Delivery Plan Schedules.

Changes to site allocations including some deletions where a site has been built out.

Amended wording in relation to the Epping Forest Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) Strategy. The wording provides more detail and clarification about how the Strategy will minimise the impact of new development within the District on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation.

Proposed consultation response from Chelmsford City Council

Thank you for consulting Chelmsford City Council (CCC) on Epping Forest District Council's Further Main Modifications Consultation document.

CCC welcomes the delivery of new homes and employment within the Epping Forest District. CCC also welcome the appropriately timed delivery of infrastructure associated with the strategic allocated sites. CCC has no other comments to make.