



## **Brentwood Borough Council response to: Chelmsford City Council Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation May 2017**

Thank you for inviting Brentwood Borough Council to provide comments as part of Chelmsford City Council's consultation on its Local Plan Preferred Options document. Brentwood Borough Council is a neighbouring local planning authority and there are a number of strategic issues, such as housing and infrastructure, which can be considered at levels greater than a single planning authority area and which concern both Councils. It is important that such issues are addressed through collaborative working and meaningful discussions in accordance with legislation, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and Planning Practice Guidance.

Please note that we have limited comments to high level strategic issues that potentially impact directly on Brentwood Borough. Comments on the Chelmsford Plan are provided below.

### **Regional Context: North and Central Essex (Heart and Haven)**

1. The Council notes the 'Heart and Haven' Strategic Housing Market Area (HMA), comprising the local authorities of Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree and Tending. Brentwood Borough Council is in general support of this approach. Whilst it is accepted that Brentwood Borough does not share a HMA with the Chelmsford City Council area, Brentwood's Strategic Housing Market Assessment evidence suggests there are strong links between our two boroughs.

### **Development Requirements: Strategic Policy S8**

2. The Council notes the commitment to allocating locations for housing, Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, Travelling Showpeople accommodation, employment and retail. Brentwood Borough Council supports the proposed development requirements set out in Strategic Policy S8 of the Chelmsford Draft Local Plan in meeting the City Councils identified development needs in full.

### **Infrastructure Requirements: Strategic Policy S12**

3. The Council notes the identified need to deliver '*improved road infrastructure aimed at reducing congestion and providing more reliable journey times along, for example the A12...*'. Brentwood Borough Council would like to stress the significance of this strategic cross-boundary issue for Essex and the south-east of England as a whole. The Council supports joint efforts to secure investment to improve road infrastructure.

### **Duty to Cooperate: Engaging with other Councils and partners**

4. Brentwood Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with Chelmsford City Council in progressing the plan-making process of both local authority areas on an ongoing basis in line with the requirements of the duty to cooperate.

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