

Brentwood Borough Council response to the Chelmsford City Council Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation 2022

1. Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) welcomes the opportunity to engage with Chelmsford City Council (CCC) on their Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation 2022.
2. BBC supports the proposed strategic priorities which have been identified to deliver an updated Vision. BBC wishes to highlight the importance of cross-boundary planning in helping to address aspects across all identified strategic priorities, particularly in the context of infrastructure.
3. BBC identifies no overall preference amongst the five options for growth but encourages CCC to promote a strategy that makes best use of previously developed land and areas with the best access to infrastructure, including both built facilities and the strategic road and sustainable transport networks.
4. BBC wish to emphasize the following cross boundary matters at this stage in the Local Plans preparation:

Strategic cross boundary matters

Housing Need

5. It's noted CCC expect to have a housing shortfall of around 8,000 homes between 2022 and 2041. BBC support CCC's intention in meeting its identified housing needs in full, inclusive of a 20% buffer which would create greater resilience and flexibility in housing supply.

Economy and jobs

6. BBC broadly support the ways in which the Local Plan Review seeks to address the need for economic growth and job creation. Although would stress the need for the Local Plan Review to take account of and take opportunities to grow the linkages between the Chelmsford economy and the South Essex economy. Of relevance are emerging growth projects within South Essex, including the Thames Freeport and Lower Thames Crossing, which are likely to create both direct and indirect growth in jobs and supply chains beyond the boundaries of South Essex.

Transport Infrastructure

7. BBC acknowledges that the need for new or improved transport infrastructure will be assessed further once the preferred locations for new development have been identified and BBC awaits further information on the potential impacts of growth options on the wider highways network.

8. BBC would like to take this opportunity to highlight the need for continued future cross-boundary engagement should the growth strategy selected create infrastructure demands beyond Chelmsford's administrative boundary. Stressing the importance of understanding and mitigating likely impacts upon shared infrastructure, most significantly transport corridors including the A12, between Chelmsford and the M25, and onward impacts onto the A127.
9. BBC would not support any option that creates an unsustainable demand on transport networks or other infrastructure that could not be satisfactorily addressed through investment.

Future Engagement

10. BBC wishes to emphasize the importance of ensuring compatibility with Brentwood's own emerging Local Plan Review and in doing so, stresses the importance of ongoing and effective engagement to understand likely cross-boundary impacts as technical assessment takes place and the emerging Local Plan progresses.
