



Brentwood Borough Council, officers' response to the Epping Forest District Council Further Main Modifications Local Plan

December 2022

1. Thank you for inviting Brentwood Borough Council to provide comments as part of the Epping Forest Further Main Modification on the emerging Local Plan.
2. Brentwood Borough Council did not respond to the last Main Modifications consultation in 2021, as we did not have any objections to the emerging Plan. The Council last responded to the Epping Forest draft Local Plan, Regulation 18 consultation, expressing general support in the Council's efforts in progressing their Local Plan, however raised concerns regarding the Council's ability to meet its housing needs within its housing market area. At the time of our response there was a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) published between the local authorities within the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area. Since then, the concerns regarding Epping Forest's ability to meet its housing needs have been resolved and this is no longer a concern.
3. It is acknowledged that since the previous Main Modifications consultation took place, Epping Forest has undertaken a significant amount of additional evidence which supports the changes made to the latest iteration of the Epping Forest emerging Local Plan. Key changes made include:
 - a. Stronger requirements regarding air quality and protection of Epping Forest
 - b. Stronger climate change policies including on-site low carbon and renewable technologies requirements
 - c. Amendments made to align with the Use Class Order changes
 - d. Removal of rural residential sites
 - e. Inclusion of developer's contributions for infrastructure improvements both on and off site



4. Brentwood Borough Council felt it was appropriate to respond to the Epping Forest Further Main Modifications consultation to express our support in the efforts the Council has made to progress their Local Plan and acknowledge the additional work undertaken by officers to ensure the Plan meet the four tests of soundness in order to be legally compliant. It is important that local planning authorities have up-to-date plans in place to manage growth that meets development needs within a local context.
