



Chelmsford City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 July 2023

Annual Report from the Chelmsford Policy Board

Report by:

Cllr Ian Fuller, Chair of the Chelmsford Policy Board 2022/23

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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members on the work of the Chelmsford Policy Board during 2022/23.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the work of the Chelmsford Policy Board.

1. Background

The Chelmsford Policy Board is responsible for reviewing existing council policies, developing new ones and making policy recommendations to the Cabinet and Council as appropriate. The functions and purpose of the Chelmsford Policy Board as set out in the Constitution include:

- To review existing and develop new policies and strategies, including statutory development plans, in relation to any function for which the City

Council is responsible and to make recommendations to the Cabinet and Council, as appropriate

- To establish working groups to examine in detail existing policies, develop new ones and to make recommendations on new or revised policies to the Chelmsford Policy Board
- To consider draft new policies and strategies, including statutory development plans, for the purposes of engagement and formal consultation, as appropriate
- To recommend to the Cabinet approval and adoption of the final versions of Masterplans, Supplementary Planning Documents and other non-statutory planning and housing policy documents
- To consider responses to any formal policy related consultations from external bodies which the relevant Director considers should be referred to the Policy Board

Six meetings took place during the 2022/23 municipal year. The range of issues considered included:

- Longfield Solar Farm Development Consent Order - consideration of the consultation response and draft Local Impact Report [26 May 2022]
- Review of Adopted Chelmsford Local Plan – an update on the review focusing on changes to legislation, national policy and guidance since adoption, updates to the Council’s Technical Evidence Base, changes to the Council’s Strategic Priorities, meeting the development needs of Chelmsford within the new plan-period and an analysis of the performance of the adopted Local Plan through its monitoring framework [26 May 2022]
- Strategic Housing and Employment Land Assessment (SHEELA) – including an update to the methodology and criteria [26 May 2022]
- Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register – consideration of the proposed consultation including the introduction of a locality test [26 May 2022]
- National Grid East Anglia Green Energy Enablement Project – consideration of the consultation Response [14 July 2022]
- Review of Adopted Chelmsford Local Plan Options and Issues Consultation – approval of consultation document prior to publication [14 July 2022]
- A Plan for Improving the Rivers and Waterways in and around Chelmsford – approval of the plan to improve the environmental quality, attractiveness and recreational potential of the rivers and waterways in and around Chelmsford [14 July 2022]
- Chelmsford Cathedral Precinct Enhancement Plan – endorsement of the scheme and authority to progress the detailed design [29 September 2022]

- A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme Development Consent Order - consideration of the consultation response and draft Local Impact Report [29 September 2022]
- Chelmsford Garden Community [Strategic Growth Site 6] Development Framework – Development Framework Document recommended to Cabinet for approval [19 December 2022]
- Great Leighs Masterplan – consideration of the masterplan for Strategic Growth Site 7 [12 January 2023]
- Review of the adopted Chelmsford Local Plan Issues and Options – consideration of the consultation feedback [28 February 2023]
- Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy – consideration of proposed consultation response [28 February 2023]
- Great Leighs Masterplan – masterplan for Strategic Growth Site 7 recommended to Cabinet for approval [28 February 2023]

List of appendices:

None

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: None

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel:

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

(For new or revised policies or procedures has an equalities impact assessment been carried out? If not, explain why)

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees:

Chair of the Chelmsford Policy Board 2022/23

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Not applicable
