

**Braintree District Council Duty to Co-operate Statement (Update November 2019)**

This statement is prepared by Chelmsford City Council (“Chelmsford”) and the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) and is a supplemental to, and updated Braintree’s Duty to Co-operate Statement dated October 2017 (SDB/005) and May 2018 (SDB/005A) (“the statement”).

A “Memorandum of Co-operation: Collaborative Working on Strategic Growth Priorities in North and Central Essex” between the NEAs (Braintree District Council Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council), Chelmsford and Essex County Council was signed in June 2016.

That Memorandum identifies the key strategic issues that the authorities need to address collaboratively as being:

- a. transport infrastructure and connectivity;
- b. providing sufficient new homes;
- c. providing for employment
- d. addressing education and healthcare needs; and
- e. ensuring high quality outcomes.

The NEAs and Chelmsford share a Housing Market Area (HMA) and have developed a joint evidence base on housing need. This work included the development of a joint evidence based on housing need, which included assessing the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to require over the plan period.

As part of the on-going engagement, Chelmsford and the NEAs discussed the progress of the emerging Section 1 Local Plan and potential cross-boundary strategic issues.

As noted on page 13 of the Statement, Chelmsford is aware of and supportive of the approach taken by the NEAs to deliver the identified housing numbers.

After reviewing the Monks Wood proposal, the NEAs concluded that it did not justify any change to their proposed Local Plan Strategy. Chelmsford agree that the Duty to Co-operate raises no expectation on their part that Braintree should highlight rejected Local Plan options or objection sites to them.

Following on from the hearing sessions in 2018, the NEA's have conducted additional evidence base work and consultation known as the Technical Section 1 Examination Consultation 2019.

Chelmsford City Council have raised no objections to this consultation and continue to support the approach that Braintree District Council and the NEAs, and still believe that the requirements of the Duty to Co-Operate continue to be met.

Signed on behalf of Braintree District Council

Emma Goodings  
Head of Planning and Economic Development  
Date 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

Signed on behalf of Chelmsford City Council

Jeremy Potter Spatial  
Planning Services Manager  
Date 2 December 2019

Signed on behalf of Colchester Borough Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Vipond', written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Ian Vipond

Strategic Director

Date 2 December 2019

Signed on Behalf of Tendring District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Bicknell', written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Catherine Bicknell

Head of Planning

Date 2 December 2019