

Colchester City Council wishes to note the Rule 17 letter issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 27th July 2026. The questions issued by the Planning Inspectorate were:

- a) Will the funds be available for any suitable projects within the designated landscape compensation, offsetting and enhancement areas, or just within the 2 or 3km buffer areas?
- b) How would such areas or projects relate to landscape character areas or visual receptors which may be affected by the proposed development?
- c) Provide your succinct views on how the masterplans would meet (or otherwise) the relevant tests for requirements and obligations set out in paragraphs 4.1.16 to 4.1.18 of NPS EN-1 (November 2023).

The Council has reviewed the questions and after discussion with other district and county councils has decided not to submit an individual response to these questions but instead to simply support the comments made in Essex County Council's response to the Rule 17 letter that has been shared with us.