

## **Summary of representations received on Core Strategy Initial Issues and Options (Regulation 25) Draft**

### **HOUSING**

The general feeling is that there is already enough housing and that some settlements are full. Strong feeling that the green belt should not be built on. Common response is to develop brownfield sites in existing settlements. The option of providing a new settlement was largely rejected. No clear preference as to which settlements should take new housing and which should not. There is a need to improve infrastructure.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The general feeling is that more affordable housing is needed for local people. Strong feeling that too much expensive housing has been built over recent years. Housing for key workers also considered an issue, but difficulty in defining who is a key worker. Strong feeling that affordable housing must be available only to those who need it.

### **JOBS**

The general feeling is that existing employment land is poor quality and needs updating. New employment land needs to be accessible and to have an attractive design. There is a need to improve infrastructure. Strong feeling that there should be no land released from the green belt, but instead that existing land should be redeveloped.

### **PROTECTION**

The general feeling is that existing green belt, parks and countryside should be protected and that there should be better access to these areas, particularly on foot, bike or horse. Strong feeling that the Roach Valley and Hockley Woods are important, together with the Rivers Roach and Crouch. Need to enhance and advertise the green spaces. There was a feeling that the Council had done a good job in recent years to protect the district, but that it should over-focus on this.

## **CHARACTER**

The general feeling is the district does have a distinct character, although this is good in Rochford and poor in Rayleigh. There is a strong feeling that landscaping and design are vital in planning process. There was a feeling that the Council had done a good job in recent years to ensure the retention of the character of district, but that it should over-focus on this. The idea of bringing back the local list was supported.

## **ENERGY & WATER**

The general feeling is that there is a strong need for work to ensure that energy and water use is reduced and that opportunities are taken now to provide for the use of renewable energy sources and the recycling of water. There was a strong feeling that high standards have to be incorporated in new buildings, including water butts and solar panels. There was a feeling that large scale wind energy schemes should be offshore.

## **LEISURE, TOURISM & COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

The general feeling is that facilities are about right, as there is no infrastructure to support extra facilities. There was a feeling that there should be more for youths to do in the evenings and that there was a need for a swimming pool in Rayleigh. There was a strong feeling that there is a lack of medical and dental facilities. There was a feeling that more use should be made of the rivers and their banks.

## **COMPULSORY PURCHASE & PLANNING OBLIGATIONS**

There was a strong feeling that money raised from development should be spent locally and to resolve existing issues. There was a strong feeling that the approach put forward by the Council was reasonable. There was a feeling that compulsory purchase should be used as a last resort and not for road building.