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Part 2 - Regulation 19 and 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 "Pre-Submission LDP" consultation

Please note that all comments on the Pre-Submission LDP consultation should be provided by completing Part 2 of this form. A separate completed Part 2 should be provided for each comment made within a representation.

2.1 To which part of the Maldon District Pre-Submission Local Development Plan (LDP) does this representation relate?

a. Paragraph number		b. Policy reference	S8
c. Proposals map		d. Other section (please specify)	

2.2 Do you consider the Maldon District Pre-Submission LDP to be . . . (✓ as appropriate)

a. Legally compliant YES ☐ NO ☑

To be legally compliant the LDP has to be prepared in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate and legal and procedural requirements. This is required by Government guidance.

b. Sound YES ☐ NO ☑

To be 'sound' a Local Plan should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. This is required by Government guidance.
If you do not consider the LDP to be sound, please complete section 2.3 below

2.3 Do you consider the Maldon District to be unsound because it is not . . . (✓ as appropriate)

a. Positively prepared ☐

To be positively prepared the Plan should be prepared on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements

b. Justified ☑

To be justified the Plan must be:
- Founded on a robust and credible evidence base
- The most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives

c. Effective ☐

To be effective the Plan must be:
- Deliverable;
- Flexible;
- Able to be monitored

d. Consistent with National Policy ☑

The Plan must be consistent with Government guidance as set out within the National Planning Policy Framework

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On the following pages, please explain why you think the Plan is unsound or not legally compliant, and set out any changes you feel should be made to the Plan to make the Plan sound or legally compliant.

Please note: As there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations, please include all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify your representation and the suggested change(s) to the Plan. After this stage, further submissions will only be invited at the request of the Planning Inspector, based on the matters and issues the Inspector identifies for examination.

2.4 If you consider the Maldon District LDP to be unsound or not legally compliant please explain why in the box below. Please be as precise as possible. Please also use this space for any comments in support of the LDP.

If the box is not big enough for your comments, please attach another page marked appropriately.

We are supportive of a hierarchy of settlements however the hierarchy should not just focus on a settlement's size, but its function too. A settlement's position within the hierarchy should not dictate growth purely on its size, instead villages should be able to evolve in order to enhance and support services and functions within the village that are no longer viable such as leisure and recreational facilities. Proportionate development sites within settlements provide an opportunity for an appropriate level of growth, contributing towards a sustainable settlement.

We are not supportive of the Settlement Hierarchy Categories table contained within section 2.100. The criterion set out within the table is all encompassing and does not appear to account for other important variables. Whilst it is recognised the hierarchy will not wholly dictate where growth will occur, it will inform future DPDs and may prejudice the Council's opinion. We contend that whilst a village is considered small, due to its size and population, some settlements are being classified as small to the detriment of their future sustainable growth potential. Equal consideration should be given towards the proximity of villages to larger settlement outside Maldon's administrative area. Residents of Woodham Mortimer benefit from a frequent and accessible bus services to Danbury with all its facilities and services and onwards to the regional centre of Chelmsford city., Woodham Mortimer is ranked as a 'smaller village' within the settlement hierarchy. The definition for a smaller village is as follows: defined settlements containing few or no services and facilities, with limited or no access to public transport, very limited or no employment opportunities. When analysing the village's location and ease of access to nearby amenities and services we do not agree that the village has limited or no access to public transport. The village is served by several bus routes that provide services to Maldon, Danbury, Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers. In addition to this residents of Woodham Mortimer can access the regional city of Chelmsford within 30 mins which in turn provides access to jobs, shopping and further public transport links such as the London to Norwich East coast main rail line and bus services to Stansted and Southend Airports. Whilst we accept and recognise that Woodham Mortimer is a small village physically the village has a disproportionately higher level of access to public transport and in turn jobs and a higher range of facilities and services than other villages and settlements listed in the table.

2.5 Please explain in the box below what change(s) you consider necessary to make the Maldon District LDP legally compliant and sound.
Please be as precise as possible. Please explain why this change will make the Maldon District LDP legally compliant and sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward any suggested revised wording of the policies or supporting text.

If the box is not big enough for your comments, please attach another page marked appropriately.

2.6 Do you consider it necessary to attend and give evidence at the hearing part of the examination? (✓ as appropriate)

NO, I wish to communicate through written representations	✔
YES, I wish to speak to the Inspector at the hearing sessions	

Please note: The Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the hearing part of the examination

2.7 If you wish to participate at the hearing part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary

If the box is not big enough for your comments, please attach another page marked appropriately.

This is the end of Part 2 (Regulation 19 and 20) of the response form. Please complete this form for each representation you wish to make. You only need to complete Part A once. Please submit all of your response forms together.