

**Wood End Farm, Witham (Policy LPP23 Strategic Growth Location)**

This brief written statement has been prepared by Phase 2 Planning on behalf of Countryside Properties, in response to Matter 7.

As noted in our original representation, Countryside Properties has an interest in the proposed allocated site at Wood End Farm, and in 2019, work commenced on the preparation of a planning application for the development of the site, in accordance with the terms of Policy LPP23.

That application was submitted towards the end of 2019 (19/01896/OUT), and as a result of the work done on the planning application, we are able to confirm that there are no objections from any relevant statutory consultees on any technical or environmental matters, and that the application process has effectively demonstrated that the proposed development is suitable and deliverable (as well as obviously being available).

We are currently engaged in final discussions with the Council on the s106 agreement, and our understanding is that the application is shortly to be reported to Committee for approval.

Although the application process has therefore taken longer than originally anticipated, this is because of collaborative working between Countryside Properties and the Council on design matters (which has included the preparation of a Design Code for the site), and which therefore means the applicant will be well placed to proceed swiftly to Reserved Matters following conclusion of the Outline process.

The proposed allocation is therefore considered to be a justified and appropriate allocation, and will contribute to housing supply in the Plan period.