



Planning Inspectorate

Castle Point Plan

Technical questions for the Council

We would like the Council to answer the following questions.

The Council's answers will help inform the examination. These are technical questions directed solely to the Council and we do not require responses from any party other than the Council. Responses should be sent to the Programme Officer by 1 July 2026.

- What is the rationale for the plan period starting in 2026/27 which is after the date of submission?
- When will the monitoring data for the 2025/26 year be available?
- There are discrepancies in the housing commitments figure and date between the Plan, the Housing Capacity Topic Paper [7.09] and the housing trajectory in the Housing Topic Paper [10.03]. What is the correct figure at 1 April 2025?
- What percentage of land in Castle Point is designated as Green Belt? There is an apparent inconsistency between para 17.2 of the Plan (55.9%) and para 6.1 of the Housing Capacity Topic Paper (53%) [7.09].
- Paragraph 17.4 of the Plan states around 32% of Green Belt land in the Borough is covered by national wildlife designations, ancient woodland or flood risk limitations. The Housing Capacity Topic Paper [7.09] states 22.8% of Green Belt land is affected by NPPF 'footnote 7 constraints', listed on page 22 of the topic paper as habitats sites, SSSI, ancient woodland and Flood Risk Zone 3b. What is behind the difference in these two percentages?
- Is there any update on Thurrock Council's position in being able to accommodate unmet need? (Statement of Common Ground with Thurrock Council 9 January 2026 paragraph 5.2)

Mike Worden and Catherine Carpenter

INSPECTORS

17 June 2026