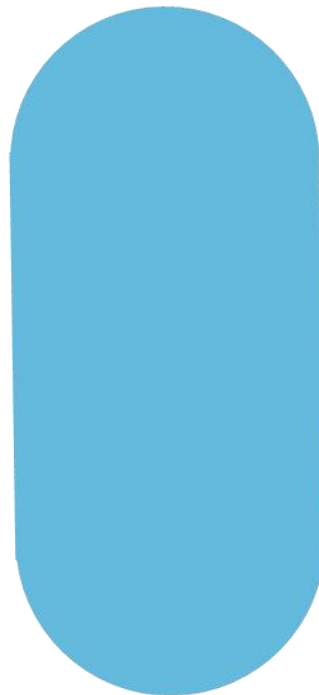


**WRITTEN STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE  
CHARNWOOD LOCAL PLAN 2021-37  
EXAMINATION - HEARING SESSIONS 2023**

**MATTER 1- DUTY TO COOPERATE AND OTHER  
LEGAL MATTERS**

On Behalf of Richborough Estates, the Bowler Family and William  
Davis Ltd



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Statement is made on behalf of our client, Richborough Estates, the Bowler Family and William Davis in response to the Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions for the examination hearings for the Charnwood Local Plan 2037.
- 1.2 Richborough Estates, the Bowler Family and William Davis have previously made representations to the Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions in 2022 and Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation in respect of Policy DS3, site reference HA15.
- 1.3 Richborough Estates and the Bowler Family, William Davis Homes and the Council have agreed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) which has been submitted to the examination (Exam 24g).
- 1.4 This Statement should be read alongside the previously submitted Matter Statements made on behalf of our client. It responds to the Inspector's Supplementary Questions and provides an update to the previous Matter Statements where necessary.

## 2. MATTER 1 - DUTY TO COOPERATE AND OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

### Issue 3 – Whether the Plan has been prepared in compliance with other legal requirements

- 2.1 The Charnwood Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft (SD/2) has a plan period to 2037. The Local Development Scheme that accompanied submission (SD/16) included a programme that envisaged adoption in October 2022 which would have allowed the strategic policies to look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption (Paragraph 22 of the Framework).
- 2.2 The Local Development Scheme April 2022 (EXAM 34) recognised a short delay and programmed hearings during the Summer of 2022 and

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envisaged adoption in December 2022/January 2023 – on the cusp but possibly not providing a 15 year plan period. Further delays to the hearing sessions will inevitably lengthen the programme and it is likely that the plan period will be 14 years or possibly less.

- 2.3 We note that the Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (April 2022) runs until 2036 (13 years) and the impact of this was considered in our original Matter 1 Statement – considering there sufficient headroom in the housing provision (at that time) to continue with the distribution set out in the SOCG for a further year. The same principle applies now of course and in our view there is sense in providing for a further year in the plan period to boost the supply of homes and together with a trigger policy allow the plan to respond to changing circumstances.
- 2.4 We note that MIQ 1.9 concerning the issue that could trigger a plan review is now to be considered under Matter 9 and we will respond on this through our statement to that Matter.
- 2.5 We also note MIQ Matter 1 Supplementary Question 2 asks whether an update to EXAM 34 is necessary. We believe an updated Local Development Scheme should be prepared and the plan period extended to reflect the Council's programme for adoption of the Local Plan and provide for the minimum 15 year period set out within the Framework.