

# COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Superintendent Minister: the Reverend Alan Jenkins (tel. [REDACTED], email [REDACTED])

39 New Town Road  
Colchester CO1 2EF

Spatial Policy Team  
Colchester Borough Council  
Rowan House  
33 Sheepen Road  
Colchester CO3 3WG

6<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Spatial Policy Team

## **Local Plan Consultation; Colchester Borough Council; 'Issues and Options'**

A representative of the Colchester Methodist Circuit has attended at a consultation 'drop-in' session and my Circuit Leadership Team has subsequently discussed the contents of your Local Plan document.

We note the growth strategy options and in particular those concerning developments to the west of Colchester town. You will be aware that in liaison with ecumenical colleagues we are currently involved in discussions with your project management and planning teams concerning the proposed 'faith provision' at Stanway. This is following upon a response that we made to a 2014 consultation exercise conducted by Fay Mather. We will be interested to be kept informed of all future initiatives where community and faith provision might be envisaged as we believe we have a contribution to make in 'promoting healthy communities' ('Issues and Options', pages 23 & 24).

It is primarily in connection with 'promoting healthy communities' that my Leadership Team wishes to express a strong measure of disappointment with your consultation document. No-where is there mention of the role that an organisation the likes of our own might play in delivering aspects of the Local Plan. Indeed, in addition to a lack of mention of the role that churches or Christian groups might play in contributing to community cohesion and welfare, there is an absence of any mention of the role that charitable, community or voluntary groups might play in your plans. I and my Leadership Team colleagues are of the opinion that without a commitment to deliver the Local Plan through an involvement with and the co-operation of local organisations and groups, whether they be religious or secular, it is unlikely that the Borough's residents will feel any type of ownership for your plans and that this would inevitably lead to a lack of support for them.

Yours faithfully,



(Rev'd) Alan Jenkins