



STANFORDS

ESTABLISHED 1879

**Colchester City Council Preferred Options Local Plan
Regulation 18 Consultation 2025**

Draft Planning Policy Comments For and on Behalf of Stanfords Colchester LLP

Section: ST2

**Policy ST2: Environment and the Green Network and
Waterways**

We support the objective of securing an integrated green network, with open space, SuDS and biodiversity designed as a coordinated system rather than in isolation. That outcome is already routinely achieved on major schemes through a combination of landscape strategies, ecology/BNG reports, SuDS strategies and Design and Access Statements.

However, the draft policy appears to assume that a separate “Green Network and Waterways Plan” will always be required for all major residential developments. For many sites, particularly smaller or less complex major schemes, this is unnecessary duplication which risks creating a tick-box exercise, adding cost and delay without improving environmental outcomes.

To be justified and effective, we consider ST2 should:

- Make clear that any requirement for a stand-alone Green Network and Waterways Plan will be applied proportionately, having regard to site scale and complexity; and
- Confirm that, where equivalent information is already provided in existing drawings and reports (landscape, ecology/BNG, SuDS, DAS etc.), a separate plan will not be required.