

Wethersfield

Utilisation of Contingency Bedspace & Surge Inflow Preparations

Summary of notifications in accordance with Schedule 3, Paragraph 26(5)(b)(ii), which relates to the Local Services Programme. *“...the period in which [local service providers] were able to make representations about local service impacts to the Home Secretary, b not less than 14 calendar days and beginning with the date on which they were invited to make such representations.”*

30 June 2025 CRH (Lead Service Provider) – Notified to implement mobilisation plan. HO informed CRH that max occupancy will 1200 (not 1245) as per agreed banding increases of 200 and that there will a Go/No-Go (health check) with Service Partners at 750 and 1000 occupancy before exceeding 800 and 1000 occupancy limits

2 July 2025 Weekly Heads of Dept

- Home Office
- CRH
- Medical Centre (Commisceo)
- Essex Police
- Mitie Security
- Kier FM
- Migrant Help

Confirmation to all heads that HO may utilise contingency bedspace, increasing max headcount to 1200, from 1 Aug depending on demand and will potentially increase max inflow from 60 to 100 per week using existing governance procedures. Will also be briefed at the MAF.

17 July 2025 (scheduled) **Strategic MAF**

- Home Office
- Braintree District Council
- Mid & South Essex NHS
- Commisceo
- Essex County Council
- Migrant Help
- Essex Police
- Essex Fire & Rescue

notified of HO of (potential) utilisation of contingency bedspaces to increase occupancy from 800 to 1200. Informed contingency utilisation may require an increase inflow from max 60 per week (2 x 30) to max 100 per week (2 x 50) from w/c 4th Aug dependent on demand. Confirmed weekly planned inflow will continue to be critically reviewed via Friday Inflow Impact Review meetings (for following week) in line with established governance procedures. HO will pause Inflow if there are any concerns from any service partner pending mitigation. Use of contingency bedspaces and increased maximum weekly inflow limits if enacted will be strictly temporary and short term, to support demand for accommodation that cannot in immediately met by wider accommodation estate, and HO will revert to BAU occupancy and inflow limits (800 and 60 per week) by end of Oct. Inflow cohorts will remain unchanged.

Requested to raise any concerns regarding increasing inflow to max 100 to HO SRO team.

21 July 2025 additional engagement meeting with EELGA Strategic Migration Partnership Strategic Migration Partnership to provide further opportunity for feedback. No issues raised.

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29 July Extraordinary MAF

Scheduled by Home Office to provide additional opportunity to discuss as a group any immediate concerns or issues.

No issues raised regarding use of contingency bedspaces up to 1200 occupancy and plans to potentially increase max inflow from 60 per week to 100 per week under existing governance procedures.

HO confirmed that requested inflow for w/c 4th August will remain at 60 (2 x 30) and any increase in inflow above 60 per week will not occur before w/c 11 Aug following weekly Inflow Impact Review on 8 Aug.

Essex County Council

Confirmed no concerns regarding increasing occupancy to 1200, and increasing inflow to up to 100 per week

Braintree District Council: Other than reiterating opposition to site in general confirmed no concerns regarding increasing occupancy to 1200, and increasing inflow to up to 100 per week.

Clearsprings Ready Homes Confirmed no concerns regarding increasing occupancy to 1200 and have mobilisation plans to increase restaurant capacity through continual service between 09:00 and 19:15hrs. Transport and onsite Security have capacity for increase in occupancy and increase in weekly inflow up to

Mid and South Essex NHS: Confirmed in writing (21 July 2025) they have no concerns regarding their resourcing, capacity and increased occupancy and weekly inflow, though may call upon more of their agreed funding

Migrant Help: Confirmed have no concerns regarding increase in occupancy capacity and increasing weekly inflow limit using existing governance procedures of 2 inflows per week and continuation of weekly (Friday)) Inflow Impact Review meetings to discuss and agree following weeks' inflow volumes. Confirmed (if required) will invoke remote resources to provide support to Service Users

Essex Police: Confirmed have no concerns regarding increase in occupancy capacity and increasing weekly inflow limit using existing governance procedures and have sufficient on-site and off-site resources available.

Essex Fire and Rescue advised they are reviewing their existing incident management plan established when the site was initially stood up in 2023 and had maximum expected occupancy of 1700.

30 July Braintree District Council, HO Facilities Management and Kier to discuss potable and foul water adequacy, and water testing regime. HO FM and Kier explained provision of supply, water testing regime and testing results. BDC had no issues or concerns.

30 July Essex Fire & Rescue confirmed their operational plan for managing incidents on site remains unchanged and in place.



Deputy Senior Responsible Officer
New Sites Oversight & Assurance
Wethersfield Accommodation Centre
Home Office