

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

BETWEEN

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (NHDC)

AND

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (SCDC)

IN RESPECT OF

**THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN, PROPOSED SUBMISSION VERSION,
OCTOBER 2016**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared jointly by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC).
- 1.2 The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between NHDC and SCDC with regard to the North Hertfordshire Local Plan and supporting evidence base, which will assist the Inspector during the Examination of the Local Plan.
- 1.3 Local Authorities are required through the Duty to Co-operate (the Duty) to engage constructively and actively on an on-going basis on planning matters that impact on more than one local planning area.
- 1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement that public bodies should cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries and, at Paragraph 156, identifies a series of strategic priorities:
 - The homes and jobs needed in the area.
 - The provision of retail, leisure, and other commercial development.
 - The provision of infrastructure for transport telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management.
 - The provision of minerals and energy (including heat).
 - The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities.
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment including landscape.
- 1.5 The NPPF requires Local Planning Authorities to work collaboratively with other bodies to make sure that these strategic priorities are properly co-ordinated across local boundaries and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.
- 1.6 Local Planning authorities are expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross- boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination.

2 Background

- 2.1 This SoCG relates to the NHDC Proposed Submission Local Plan (October 2016).
- 2.2 At the time of writing SCDC is currently undergoing Examination in Public on their Local Plan.
- 2.3 Both parties signed a Statement of Common Ground in 2014 in the lead up to the SCDC Local Plan Examination and ahead of the NHDC Local Plan Preferred Options consultation.

3 Duty to Cooperate

- 3.1 As set out in the North Hertfordshire Duty to Cooperate statement, NHDC and SCDC have co-operated constructively, actively and on an on-going basis on the plan's production insofar as has been necessary given the limited nature of cross-boundary issues between the two authorities.
- 3.2 SCDC have raised no issues under the duty to cooperate. SCDC is satisfied that the requirements of the Duty and the NPPF have been met in relation to the NHDC Local Plan.

4 Agreed Matters

- 4.1 NHDC and SCDC agree that the North Hertfordshire Local Plan, October 2016 is sound insofar as it relates to matters covered by their Duty to Co-operate.
- 4.2 It is **agreed** that there are no significant strategic cross-boundary issues owing to the extent of the shared boundary and the limited relationships and links that exist between the two authorities.

Housing

- 4.3 It is **agreed** that, although there are some housing market linkages between the two authorities – notably between Royston and the wider Cambridge area – these are not sufficiently substantive to warrant significant joint work or consideration under the Duty; NHDC's evidence base shows only one small, mainly rural area in SCDC around Guilden Morden within a shared housing market area. SCDC's evidence concludes that the authority shares its housing market area with other Cambridgeshire and Suffolk authorities.
- 4.4 SCDC has no objection to NHDC's housing target of at least 14,000 new homes for North Hertfordshire's own needs for the plan period 2011-2031.
- 4.5 SCDC **agrees** that NHDC has planned to meet its identified housing needs in full and therefore does not require assistance from any other authority, including South Cambridgeshire, to help meet its objectively assessed needs.

- 4.6 The two authorities **agree** that, in light of a number of factors, it would not be appropriate for SCDC to make provision for any portion of NHDC's OAHN over the period to 2031. These factors include (but are not necessarily limited to):
- SCDC's own substantial OAHN and the need to identify sufficient sites and land within SCDC to address this;
 - The absence of any substantive overlap of housing market areas;
 - That NHDC's evidence base identifies sufficient opportunities to meet the District's OAHN in full; and
 - The sustainability implications of making housing provision away from the location in which the need has been identified.
- 4.7 SCDC has no reason to consider that the Strategic Housing Market Assessment prepared as evidence for the NHDC Local Plan has not been prepared on a robust basis and that the Housing Market Areas have been correctly identified.

Commitment to Future Co-operation

- 4.8 Both authorities are committed to working together and through wider forums on strategic matters where there is a cross boundary issue. This includes continuing to work constructively during respective future Local Plan reviews.



Stephen Kelly
Joint Director for Planning and Economic
Development for Cambridge and
Cambridgeshire
Signed on behalf of
South Cambridgeshire District Council
19 May 2017



Cllr David Levett
Executive Member for Planning and
Enterprise
Signed on behalf of
North Hertfordshire District Council
19 May 2017