

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

BETWEEN

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (NHDC)

AND

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP)

IN RESPECT OF

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) and Hertfordshire LEP.
- 1.2 The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between NHDC and Hertfordshire LEP 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 Statement of Common Ground relates to the representations made by Hertfordshire LEP to the District Council's Proposed Submission Local Plan (2016) regarding a number of matters.

3 Duty to Cooperate

- 3.1 As set out in the Council's Duty to Cooperate statement the District Council has continuously engaged with Hertfordshire LEP over the duration of the plan's production.
- 3.2 Hertfordshire LEP has continuously responded to public consultations and liaised with Officers as the Local Plan process has developed which has helped inform both the strategy and policy framework within the plan.
- 3.3 Comments received from Hertfordshire LEP have been used to draft the different iterations of the plan so that it delivers the infrastructure and framework required to support sustainable development in North Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire in general.

4 Agreed Matters

- 4.1 NHDC and Hertfordshire LEP **agree** that the draft North Hertfordshire Local Plan, November 2016 is sound insofar as it relates to matters covered by the Duty to Cooperate.
- 4.3 Subject to inclusion of the relevant Proposed Additional Modifications (detailed in Appendix 1) Hertfordshire LEP **agree** that the strategy, sites and policies within the NHDC Local Plan provide a sound basis for the delivery of economic growth and infrastructure in the area of the district up to 2031.
- 4.4 Hertfordshire LEP **agree** that the housing figure identified in the plan is correct and reflects an appropriate quantum of growth for the district for the period 2011-2031. NHDC acknowledge Hertfordshire LEP's aspiration – as set out in their representations to the plan - for accelerated levels of housing delivery and t consideration of a further uplift of the housing target. However, it is **agreed** that the strategy set out in the plan maximises reasonable development opportunities and that ongoing and future joint working should focus on the realisation of these and the identification of schemes and options that can be considered in the next review of the NHDC plan.
- 4.5 Hertfordshire LEP **agree** that the supporting evidence including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan provides a robust assessment of the extent and requirement of infrastructure to support the planned growth.

- 4.6 It is **agreed** that there are no outstanding issues in relation to infrastructure in the area of North Hertfordshire served by Hertfordshire LEP (in addition to the changes set out in the schedule of minor modifications). It can therefore be agreed that the plan constitutes sustainable development in accordance with paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012.
- 4.7 It is **agreed** that providing for future development needs beyond the current Plan period will be challenging and that joint working (also involving other agencies and neighbouring authorities) will be required in order to properly investigate future spatial options.
- 4.8 In the context of the factors set out above, it is **agreed** that Hertfordshire LEP will seek to respond positively to requests for assistance by NHDC and provide appropriate support to both deliver the schemes identified in the current plan and also to help 'unlock' future housing and economic growth options. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to:
- Delivering the accelerated house building rates required by the NHDC plan;
 - Consideration of factors which currently inhibit the development of land within NHDC to the west of the A1(M) at Stevenage;
 - Any new settlement(s) within NHDC; and / or
 - Infrastructure, particularly in relation to east-west transport connectivity and any other schemes which may help realise additional and alternate spatial options.
- 4.9 It is **agreed** that any outcomes from the above (and any other relevant issues) will help to inform the next review of the NHDC Local Plan which will need to be completed by the mid-2020s at the latest.



Adam Wood
Infrastructure Delivery Manager

Signed on behalf of
Hertfordshire LEP
9 May 2017



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

Appendix 1: Proposed Additional Modifications to the Plan in response to representations by Hertfordshire LEP

Para / page	Change	Reason
Policy SP7(e) P45	Work with landowners, developers and other agencies in facilitating the delivery of sites identified in the Local Plan and associated infrastructure and seek to overcome known obstacles	Representations by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) [14949]
Para. 14.9, p.218	...continued and proactive engagement with relevant parties, such as the developers, Highways Agency and Highways Authority, the Local Education Authority, the Environment Agency and Water companies, the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Hertfordshire Local Nature Partnership is fundamental in achieving appropriate solutions.	Representations by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) [14949]