

Harborough Local Plan 2020 – 2041 Examination
Stage 2 Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs)
Hearing Sessions November 2026
Leicestershire County Council (ID: 7111)

Matter 1: Procedural and legal requirements

Issue 3: Strategic Cross-Boundary Engagement

- 1. The Council provides its Duty to Cooperate (Effective Cooperation) Statement of Compliance [SNLP9] and all signed Statements of Common Ground [SCG-NLP1-26 and HDC 4B, C, D, 9 and 15]. It considers together those demonstrate that the Council has collaborated effectively and constructively with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies on strategic cross-boundary matters throughout the Plan's preparation. Does this provide the necessary clear evidence of effective and ongoing joint working, in relation to matters including housing, transport, education provision and warehousing?***

Leicestershire County Council is a signatory to the Statement of Common Ground with Harborough District Council entitled “Statement of Common Ground with Leicestershire County Council on Highway and Transport Matters (August 2026)” [HDC 9] and the Statement of Common Ground with Harborough District Council and Warwickshire County Council entitled “Statement of Common Ground with Leicestershire County Council and Warwickshire County Council relating to Strategic Distribution allocations (MP1 and MP2) and the A5 (September 2026)” [HDC 15].

An up-to-date position in respect of transport matters is provided in response to *Matter 1, Issue 3, Question 2* below.

With regards to education provision, at the time of preparing this response Leicestershire County Council's position on education matters is as set out in the report to its Cabinet on 13 October 2026

[<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=8311&Ver=4>].

Harborough District Council has worked closely with Leicestershire County Council as the Education Authority to establish and quantify the scale and distribution of education infrastructure required to accommodate pupil growth during the Plan period.

The commissioning and production of an Education Delivery Strategy (EDS) developed by Flinders Chase involved Leicestershire County Council as a key stakeholder with significant input and critiquing responsibility. However, it remains the case that the EDS as submitted does not identify a delivery strategy and importantly a mechanism for land equalisation.

2. What is the up-to-date position in respect of transport matters?

At the time of preparing this response, Leicestershire County Council's position on transport matters is as set out in the report to its Cabinet on 13 October 2026 [<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=8311&Ver=4>]

Leicestershire County Council has engaged constructively with Harborough District Council to seek to resolve the transport concerns that is expressed in its March 2025 Regulation 19 consultation response. Whilst the work undertaken by the Harborough District Council has been welcomed by Leicestershire County Council, it has not been sufficient at this time to resolve Leicestershire County Council's transport concerns.

It is the view of Leicestershire County Council that the Transport Topic Paper [Part 1 HDC10, Part 2 HDC14] still fails to set out with any clarity a strategy for seeking to address the transport impacts of the Plan, particularly in respect of cumulative impacts on corridors such as the A6, and even at this late stage in the Plan's preparation the position remains in doubt as to how much funding might be available from sites allocated in the Plan towards the delivery of any such strategy.

Furthermore, the A5 Statement of Common Ground on Strategic Warehousing and the A5 [HDC15] merely confirms that Leicestershire County Council and Warwickshire County Council do not agree with the position of National Highways, which it is understood still remains of the view that that there is no requirement for any Strategic Road Network Local Plan mitigation within the Harborough District within the Plan period up to 2041.

However, Leicestershire County Council remains of the view that through a redrafting of the Transport Topic Paper (Parts 1 and 2) and suitable modifications, adoption of this Plan will provide the best overall outcomes for the communities of Harborough district and wider Leicestershire. So, the County Council remains committed to engaging as positively as possible through the Plan's Examination in Public to seek to secure the ultimate successful adoption of an effective Harborough Local Plan.