



Harborough District Council

**Summary of
Duty to Cooperate Engagement
New Local Plan Issues and Options
(Regulation 18)**

Date: December 2023

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Summary of Duty to Cooperate Engagement

1. Introduction

1.1 Under the 2011 Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local planning authorities have a legal Duty to Cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on 'strategic matters' which cross administrative boundaries when preparing a Local Plan.

1.2 The Duty to Cooperate (the Duty) is the mechanism for ensuring that the appropriate strategic issues are addressed, in the right way and with the right partners to maximise the effectiveness of policy and plan-making. To meet the 'Test of Soundness' at the Local Plan Examination stage, plans must be considered 'effective'. The NPPF (para. 35) defines effective as *'deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground.'* Therefore, demonstrating that the Duty has been complied with is a fundamental first stage of the Local Plan examination process. If a local planning authority cannot demonstrate this is the case, then the Local Plan will not be able to progress through examination.

1.3 While the approach to the Duty to Cooperate is not prescribed, Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out that to maximise effective working on strategic matters throughout the preparation of Local Plans, authorities have a duty *'...to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis'*.

1.4 Harborough District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan and will be carrying out a consultation on an Issues and Options paper in January 2024. This statement is an interim report that accompanies consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Options (Regulation 18) and summarises Duty to Cooperate work that has been undertaken to date. It sets out the 'strategic planning matters' that have been identified, the 'Partners' (including prescribed bodies) that have been or will be engaged and any Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) that have been prepared or may be required as preparation of the new Local Plan progresses.

1.5 At this stage, the Council welcomes feedback on the strategic matters set out, their appropriateness as a basis for ongoing engagement and whether there are any other issues that should form part of future cross-boundary collaboration. Comments can be submitted as part of the new Local Plan Issues and Options consultation.

2. The Duty to Cooperate

2.1 The Duty to Cooperate was introduced in the Localism Act 2011 and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils and other public bodies (often referred to as 'prescribed bodies') to work together to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. More specifically the Duty to Cooperate:

- relates to a 'strategic matter' defined as sustainable development or use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two local planning areas or on a matter that falls within the remit of a county council
- requires that councils set out planning policies to address such issues

- requires that councils and other bodies ‘*engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis*’ to develop strategic policies
- requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making.

2.2 The NPPF makes it clear that strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans. In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, it sets out that strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more Statements of Common Ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating on these (para.27).

2.3 The Duty to Cooperate is not a duty to agree. However, Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) makes it clear that local planning authorities should make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters before they submit their local plans for examination.

2.4 Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out that the duty applies to local planning authorities, county councils and other prescribed bodies. The other prescribed bodies are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and amended by subsequent legislation. The relevant prescribed local planning authorities and county councils for Harborough District are:

Leicester and Leicestershire authorities:

- Blaby District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicester City Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Melton Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

Non-Leicestershire authorities:

- North Northamptonshire Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Rutland County Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- West Northamptonshire Council.

2.5 Harborough District Council has developed a particularly strong relationship with the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities. The recently completed Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA, 2022) confirmed Leicester and Leicestershire as the Housing Market Area (HMA) and the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA). There is a long history of cooperation and working on joint evidence documents.

2.6 It is important to note however that some strategic planning issues have the potential to impact beyond HMA and FEMA involving neighbouring and other local authority areas. One such potential issue is strategic storage and distribution (large B8 uses in units in excess of 9,000 sqm). Such issues may require the Council to cooperate with additional local authorities which do not adjoin the District boundary but have a spatial relationship with the District. Further clarity will emerge as work on the new Local Plan progresses.

2.7 As well as applying to local authorities, the Duty also applies to a number of other “prescribed” bodies. Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 sets out who those “prescribed” bodies are. Those bodies which are relevant to the preparation of the new Local Plan are as follows.

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board/National Health Service (NHS) England
- Office of Rail and Road
- National Highways
- Leicestershire County Council Highway Authority.

2.8 Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships are not subject to the requirements of the Duty, but local planning authorities, county councils and prescribed public bodies must cooperate with them. Local planning authorities must have regard to their activities when they are preparing their local plans, so long as those activities are relevant to plan-making. There is no Leicestershire Local Nature Partnership, but there will be consultations on the natural environment and biodiversity (including Biodiversity Net Gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy) with relevant bodies including Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Engagement with other key partners who are not prescribed bodies will also take place. This includes infrastructure providers (e.g. water supply and disposal companies, power supply companies), Sport England, Leicestershire and Rutland Sports and Leicestershire Police.

2.9 The NPPF sets out that authorities should prepare Statements of Common Ground, throughout the plan-making process to evidence effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters. A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written record of the progress made by strategic policy-making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It demonstrates the progress and decisions made in resolving any issues that arise from these matters through various discussions and joint-working where appropriate. While this document highlights work that has already taken place on the preparation of such statements, the need for further SoCG will continue to be discussed with key partners as preparation of the new Local Plan progresses. Any finalised SoCG will be submitted alongside the Local Plan for examination as evidence to demonstrate that the Duty has been complied with.

2.10 Ultimately the Local Plan examination will test whether the Council has complied with the Duty to Cooperate. If not addressed properly the Inspector will recommend that the Local Plan is not adopted and the examination will not proceed any further.

3. Strategic Planning Matters

3.1 The ‘strategic planning matters’ identified to date include:

- Housing requirements and distribution (including unmet need issues)
- Affordable housing, housing mix, homes for older persons and others with specialist needs
- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- Economy and employment requirements and distribution including strategic distribution (strategic B8)
- Retail, leisure and other commercial development
- Highways and transport
- Water issues (supply, wastewater, water quality, flood risk)
- Other infrastructure including telecommunications, security, waste management, minerals and energy
- Community facilities (health, education, cultural infrastructure)
- Conservation of the natural environment including Biodiversity Net Gain/Local nature Recovery Strategy/landscape/Green and Blue Infrastructure
- Conservation of the built and historic environment, including quality and character
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation including renewable energy
- Green wedges
- Cross boundary sites/impact of potential strategic sites.

3.2 As the new Local Plan is at a relatively early stage in its preparation, cooperation on strategic matters has primarily involved the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities. The authorities belong to the same Housing Market Area (HMA) and the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) and share a long history of joint working and evidence gathering. However, as work progresses on the identification of a preferred spatial strategy and on policy formulation, cooperation and dialogue with other prescribed bodies will become increasingly meaningful and constructive.

4. Key Strategic Matters for Partners

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the strategic matters which will or may require cooperation with the partners identified in Section 2 above. Only as the Local Plan progresses will the scope of the involvement of partners become fully clear.

4.2 This section focuses on the key strategic matters that have been the focus of cooperation with partners to date and require ongoing cooperation. For some partners, discussion of strategic matters has not yet started and the Regulation 18 consultation will be the first step in the cooperation process. However, at this stage it is helpful to identify the key strategic issues forming the main focus of upcoming cooperation.

4.3 The table at Appendix 2 sets out further detail of any collaboration with Duty to Cooperate partners that has already taken place and summarises outcomes of that collaboration to date. Where cooperation has not yet started, the table highlights the issues that are likely to need some discussion as the Local Plan progresses. The final 'Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance' will include further evidence relating to discussions with partners and will be one of the documents submitted for examination alongside the Local Plan.

The following paragraphs set out the main issues likely to form the basis of ongoing and future cooperation with specific partners or groups of partners.

The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA)/Functional Economic Market Area partners

4.4 The Leicester and Leicestershire authorities are key partners in ensuring the Council meets the Duty to Cooperate in relation to strategic matters. Effective cooperation with these authorities has become well established over many years and included the preparation and agreement of the non-statutory Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP,

2018) which sets out an aspirational vision for delivering growth across the area to 2050. Continuing support for the role of a dedicated Joint Strategic Planning Manager demonstrates the authorities' commitment to collaboration and joint working across the HMA/FEMA.

4.5 In terms of governance, joint strategic planning work is overseen by the Members' Advisory Group (MAG). The MAG comprises a councillor from each of the authorities, plus an observer from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) and it meets on a regular basis, currently every two months. Any proposals or recommendations of the MAG pertaining to key strategic planning issues are subject to ratification by individual local authorities.

4.6 MAG is supported by a Strategic Planning Group (SPG) made up of senior officer representatives responsible for overseeing strategic planning in each of the constituent authorities. SPG meets on a regular basis, currently monthly. The SPG is itself supported by further officer groups including the Planning Officers' Forum (POF), which is a formal meeting of Chief Officers responsible for planning and transport services across Leicester and Leicestershire. The Forum provides professional advice to the SPG and is supported by joint officer level meetings, which includes managers responsible for planning and transportation policy within Leicester and Leicestershire.

4.7 The key strategic matter for Leicester and Leicestershire is housing and employment needs and addressing the issue of Leicester's unmet need for housing and employment land. This has involved collaborative working on several joint evidence studies, some of which are still ongoing, and the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground on the apportionment of the unmet need across the Leicestershire authorities.

4.8 Key strategic matters requiring cooperation between all or some of the Leicester and Leicestershire partners are set out below:

- Housing requirements and distribution (including unmet need issues)
- Affordable housing, housing mix, homes for older persons and others with specialist needs
- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- Economy and employment requirements and distribution including strategic distribution (Strategic B8)
- Retail/leisure/commercial development
- Highways and transport
- Water issues (supply, wastewater, water quality, food risk)
- Other infrastructure including telecommunications, security, waste management, minerals and energy
- Community facilities (health, education, cultural infrastructure)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation including renewable energy
- Potential cross boundary sites/impact of potential strategic sites.

Detailed matters discussed have included:

- New evidence of housing and employment land needs
- The quantity of unmet need from Leicester City
- The apportionment of Leicester City's unmet need and the SoCG
- New evidence on the need for Strategic B8 floorspace across Leicester and Leicestershire and SoCG
- Emerging evidence on the apportionment of Strategic B8 floorspace need

- Emerging Strategic Transport Assessment evidence
- Emerging Strategic Growth Options and Constraints Mapping evidence.

Environment Agency

4.9 The key strategic matters involving the Environment Agency (EA) will emerge more fully once potential sites are identified and are likely to include:

- Water issues (supply, wastewater, water quality, food risk)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation including renewable energy
- Conservation of the natural environment including Biodiversity Net Gain/Local nature Recovery Strategy/landscape/Green and Blue Infrastructure.

Potential matters for discussion:

- Matters arising from EA comments on draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Engagement on the preparation of a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Ongoing preparation of a Water Cycle Study
- Potential flooding and water quality impacts of proposed site allocations, cumulative impacts and acceptability of mitigation measures
- Green and Blue Infrastructure protection, improvement and provision
- Wording of emerging policies related to water/flooding issues.

Historic England

4.10 The key strategic matters involving Historic England (HE) will emerge more fully once potential sites are identified and are likely to include:

- Conservation of the built and historic environment, including quality and character

Potential matters for discussion:

- Matters arising from HE comments on draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Impact of emerging site allocations on heritage assets, or setting, and the wider historic environment
- Wording of emerging policies related to the historic environment and its conservation and enhancement.

Natural England

4.11 The key strategic matters involving Natural England (NE) will emerge more fully once potential sites are identified and are likely to include:

- Conservation of the natural environment including Biodiversity Net Gain/Local nature Recovery Strategy/landscape/Green and Blue Infrastructure.

Potential matters for discussion:

- Matters arising from NE comments on draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Having regard to any emerging objectives relating to, or emerging/completed, Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire
- Reflecting mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain satisfactorily into policy
- Air quality, water quality, agricultural land issues
- Access to and enhancement of Green/Blue infrastructure, nature and high quality green spaces (access standards)

- Understanding the impact of potential site allocations on important habitats, species and protected sites (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and consideration of any enhancement or mitigation
- Wording of emerging policies
- Acceptability of the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

National Highways

4.12 The key strategic matter involving National Highways:

- Highways and transport
- Cross boundary sites/impact of potential strategic sites.

Potential matters for discussion:

- Impact of proposed development sites on the Strategic Road Network and mitigation measures needed
- Requirement for strategic transport infrastructure to support new transport movements resulting from proposed growth, particularly in relation to new settlements and strategic sites
- Advice and evidence in relation to the delivery of strategic development and supporting strategic growth.

NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board /National Health Service (NHS) England

4.13 The key strategic matter involving NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (/National Health Service (NHS) England) is:

- Community facilities (health, education, cultural infrastructure).

Potential matters for discussion:

- Identification of current capacity issues
- Advice on the requirements for primary health care arising from proposed growth
- Potential thresholds for new provision associated with new strategic growth
- Clarity over financial contributions and/or on-site provision of health infrastructure
- Location and management of primary care facilities.

Homes England

4.14 The key strategic matters involving Homes England are:

- Housing requirements and distribution (including unmet need issues)
- Affordable housing, housing mix, homes for older persons and others with specialist needs.

Potential matters for discussion:

- Advice on the delivery of strategic growth
- Availability of funding streams to support strategic scale development
- Clarity on policy relating to the delivery of affordable housing.

5. Next steps

5.1 This summary document is available as part of the new Local Plan Issues and Options (Regulation 18) consultation. For many of the Duty to Cooperate partners, this consultation will be the start of the dialogue and comments are welcomed on the specifics set out in this paper including:

- the strategic planning matters identified as the basis for collaboration
- the appropriateness of the strategic matters identified for ongoing engagement or potential ongoing engagement for specific partners (set out in Appendix 1)
- any specific matters or issues that partners consider should form part of future collaboration due to its cross-boundary nature.

5.2 Following on from the consultation and analysis of responses, work on identifying a preferred strategy and potential site allocations will commence. As part of this process, contact with partners will be instigated to discuss the level and timetabling of collaboration. The need for further SoCG with prescribed bodies will be kept under review as plan preparation progresses.

Appendix 1: Duty to Cooperate Matrix

Key

Symbol	Level of engagement envisaged
✓	Strategic matter that requires ongoing engagement
◆	Strategic matter that may require ongoing engagement
✘	Strategic matter that is not envisaged to require ongoing engagement

Strategic Matters/ Partners	Housing Requirements and Distribution (including unmet need issues)	Affordable Housing, Housing Mix , Homes for Older Persons & Others with Specialist Needs	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Economy and Employment Requirements & Distribution incl. Strategic Distribution (B8)	Retail, Leisure, Commercial Development	Highways and Transport	Water (supply, wastewater, water quality, flood risk)	Other Infrastructure (including telecoms, security, waste management, minerals, energy)	Community Facilities (health, education, cultural infrastructure)	Conservation of Natural Environment including BNG/ LLRS/ Landscapes / Green & Blue Infrastructure	Conservation of Built and historic Environment (including quality and character)	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (including renewable energy)	Green Wedges	Site Selection	Cross Boundary Sites/ impact of potential strategic sites
Local Planning Authorities/County Councils															
Leicestershire County Council (includes Highway Authority and LLFA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆	◆	✓	✓
Leicester City Council (including Highways)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆	✓	✓	◆	✓	✓		✓
Blaby District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆	◆	✓	◆	✓	✓		✓
Charnwood Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆	◆	✓	◆	✓	✓		✓
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	✓		✓
Melton Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	×		◆
North West Leicestershire District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	◆	◆	×	×	◆	×	◆	×		×
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	◆	✓	◆	◆	✓	✓	◆	◆	✓		✓

Strategic Matters/ Partners	Housing Requirements and Distribution (including unmet need issues)	Affordable Housing, Housing Mix , Homes for Older Persons & Others with Specialist Needs	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Economy and Employment Requirements & Distribution incl. Strategic Distribution (B8)	Retail, Leisure, Commercial Development	Highways and Transport	Water (supply, wastewater, water quality, flood risk)	Other Infrastructure (including telecoms, security, waste management, minerals, energy)	Community Facilities (health, education, cultural infrastructure)	Conservation of Natural Environment including BNG/ LLRS/ Landscapes / Green & Blue Infrastructure	Conservation of Built and historic Environment (including quality and character)	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (including renewable energy)	Green Wedges	Site Selection	Cross Boundary Sites/ impact of potential strategic sites
Warwickshire County Council (including Highways)	x	x	x	◆	x	◆	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		◆
Rugby Borough Council	✓	◆	◆	✓	◆	◆	x	x	x	◆	◆	◆	x		◆
Rutland County Council (including Highways)	✓	◆	◆	✓	◆	◆	x	x	x	◆	◆	◆	x		◆
North Northants Council (including Highways)	✓	◆	◆	✓	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	x		◆
West Northants Council (Including Highways)	✓	◆	◆	✓	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	x		◆
Other Prescribed Bodies															
Environment Agency	◆	x	x	◆	◆	◆	✓	◆	x	◆	◆	◆	◆	✓	◆
Historic England	◆	x	x	◆	◆	◆	x	x	x	◆	✓	◆	◆	✓	◆
Natural England	◆	x	x	◆	◆	◆	◆	x	x	✓	◆	◆	◆	✓	◆
Homes England	✓	✓	x	x	x	◆	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	◆	◆
National Highways	◆	x	x	◆	◆	✓	x	x	x	x	x	◆	x	◆	◆

Strategic Matters/ Partners	Housing Requirements and Distribution (including unmet need issues)	Affordable Housing, Housing Mix , Homes for Older Persons & Others with Specialist Needs	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Economy and Employment Requirements & Distribution incl. Strategic Distribution (B8)	Retail, Leisure, Commercial Development	Highways and Transport	Water (supply, wastewater, water quality, flood risk)	Other Infrastructure (including telecoms, security, waste management, minerals, energy)	Community Facilities (health, education, cultural infrastructure)	Conservation of Natural Environment including BNG/ LLSRS/ Landscapes / Green & Blue Infrastructure	Conservation of Built and historic Environment (including quality and character)	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (including renewable energy)	Green Wedges	Site Selection	Cross Boundary Sites/ impact of potential strategic sites
NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups / NHS	◆	◆	◆	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	◆	◆
Civil Aviation Authority	×	×	×	×	×	◆	×	×	×	×	×	◆	×		×
Office of Rail and Road Regulation	×	×	×	×	×	◆	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		◆
Integrated Transport Authority	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Must have regard to activities of organisations below in preparing LPs															
LLEP	✓	◆	×	✓	✓	✓	◆	✓	◆	◆	◆	◆	×	◆	◆
Local Nature Partnership	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A

Appendix 2: Cooperation by Strategic Matter

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
<p>Housing requirements and distribution (including unmet need issues)</p> <p>Affordable housing, housing mix, homes for older persons and others with specialist needs</p>	<p>HMA/FEMA partner authorities (Leicestershire County Council Leicester City Council Charnwood Borough Council Blaby District Council Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Melton Borough Council North West Leicestershire District Council Oadby & Wigston Borough Council)</p> <p>Homes England</p>	<p>Nature of cooperation: Extensive, on-going and regular meetings within the strategic planning governance framework including weekly officer (chaired by Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Manager) meetings with all Leicester and Leicestershire authorities in addition to monthly Planning Officers Forum meetings, regular Strategic Planning Group meetings and Member Advisory Group meetings. Main areas of work have been around establishing the housing and employment land needs, the level of Leicester City’s unmet need and the apportionment of the unmet need across the Leicestershire authorities.</p> <p>Joint evidence relating to housing and employment land needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and Economics Needs Assessment (HENA, June 2022): a joint evidence base relating to housing need, economic growth and employment land needs recognising that housing market and functional economic geographies broadly align to the county boundary. This study also looked at the need for different types of homes (affordable housing, size, particular groups). • Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment Housing Distribution Paper (June 2022): Sets out and applies the redistribution process to give a proposed distribution of Leicester’s unmet housing need across Leicestershire. • Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & economic Needs Assessment Employment Distribution Paper: Sets out advice on how Leicester’s unmet employment land need to 2036 should be met. <p>Preparation of Statement of Common Ground (SoCG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022): SoCG prepared setting

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
		<p>out how Leicester City's unmet need to 2036 should be apportioned across the Leicestershire authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities Statement of Common Ground – Sustainability Appraisal Report (June 2022): Assessment of reasonable alternatives to distributing Leicester's unmet housing and employment needs. <p>Strategic Growth Plan Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (2018): A non-statutory plan setting a vision for the future of Leicester and Leicestershire to 2050.</p> <p>Upcoming evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Growth Options and Constraints Mapping for Leicester and Leicestershire: Evidence document (nearing completion) which considers strategic growth options and recommends how future growth could be distributed in L&L to 2050.
Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	<p>HMA partner authorities (including Leicestershire County Council – Multi-Agency Traveller Unit).</p> <p>Adjoining local authorities (Rutland County Council, East Northants Council, West Northants Council, Rugby Borough Council)</p>	<p>Nature of cooperation: Discussed with officers at HMA level as a strategic matter with the potential for joint evidence procurement. An update of 2017 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is required. While some HMA authorities have commissioned their own evidence, others including Harborough have expressed an interest in commissioning joint evidence.</p> <p>Ongoing cooperation Ongoing discussions with selected HMA authorities into potential scope and timescales for joint GTAA. Preparation of the evidence will need to take into account provision and need in neighbouring authority areas and this will require cooperation with other Leicester and Leicestershire and neighbouring non-HMA authorities.</p>
Economy and employment requirements and distribution	HMA/FEMA partner authorities.	Nature of cooperation: The need for general (i.e. excluding strategic distribution) employment land was part of the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (June

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
<p>including strategic distribution (strategic B8)</p>	<p>Adjoining local authorities: East Northants Council, West Northants Council, Rugby Borough Council</p> <p>Strategic Distribution: may need to collaborate with additional local authorities (to be determined)</p>	<p>2022). A separate stream of work under the Leicester and Leicestershire strategic planning governance framework oversaw the preparation of joint evidence relating to the needs of the Strategic B8 (large warehousing) sector.</p> <p>General employment land needs (excluding Strategic B8) Joint evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and Economics Needs Assessment (HENA, June 2022): Assessed and quantified employment land needs (excluding Strategic B8) to 2036, 2041 and 2050. • Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment Employment Distribution Paper: Sets out advice on how Leicester’s unmet employment land need to 2036 should be met. <p>Preparation of Statement of Common Ground (SoCG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022): Sets out the apportionment of Leicester City’s unmet employment land need (23ha) to 2036. <p>Strategic B8 (large warehousing) floorspace needs Joint evidence relating to Strategic B8 (large warehousing):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warehousing and Logistics in Leicester and Leicestershire: Managing growth and change Study (amended March 2022): Analysis of the strategic distribution sector and its future operation, setting out how much additional floorspace is likely to be needed to 2041. <p>Signing of Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic B8: Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing and Logistics Need (September 2021): Addressed the need for Large Warehousing and Logistics floorspace to 2041, including next steps to ensure the needs of the sector are appropriately planned for across Leicester and Leicestershire.</p>

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
		<p>Ongoing cooperation: Following on from the joint evidence and SoCG relating to Strategic B8, the FEMA partners have commissioned further evidence to set out a reasoned basis for apportioning the residual need for Strategic Distribution floorspace across the 6 previously identified Areas of Opportunity. This work is ongoing. This could form the basis of an updated SoCG to inform future local plans across the FEMA/HMA.</p> <p>A process for the joint monitoring of Strategic B8 floorspace has also been set up by the partners.</p>
Retail, leisure, commercial development	Neighbouring HMA and non-HMA local authorities	<p>Future cooperation: It is envisaged that the Council will commission new evidence relating to the need for new retail and leisure uses and supporting town and village centres. There will need to be Duty to Cooperate discussions around any requirements for retail/leisure uses, including policy approaches and provision in connection with potential strategic developments, as a preferred option emerges.</p>
Highways and Transport	<p>Leicestershire County Council Highway Authority</p> <p>Leicester City Highway Authority</p> <p>National Highways</p> <p>HMA partners authorities</p> <p>Neighbouring local authorities</p>	<p>Nature of cooperation: On-going and regular engagement with Leicestershire County Council in its role as Local Highways Authority focused on transport modelling of high level options (at HMA level and sub-HMA level). Leicester City Council Highway Authority and National Highways are also involved.</p> <p>Main outcomes to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (2021): Leicestershire CC Highway Authority fed in comments on selected sites which were taken into account in the final outcomes. • South Leicestershire Local Plan Making – Statement of Common Ground (November 2021): The SoCG commits the Council along with Blaby DC and Oadby & Wigston BC to joint working to produce the following key pieces of evidence to support each of the three authorities’ local plans: a joint strategic transport assessment; a joint infrastructure delivery plan; a whole plan viability appraisal; and to consider any other opportunities for joint evidence preparation.

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
		<p>Hinckley & Bosworth and Leicestershire County Council are additional signatories to the SoCG. At this stage the focus is on the Joint Transport Evidence (see below) with other evidence coming later in the plan preparation process.</p> <p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transport Assessment: Leicestershire Highway Authority study for the HMA partners involving a high-level assessment and comparison of the respective transport implications of four HMA-wide growth scenarios. It will form part of the strategic evidence for the new Local Plan. • South Leicestershire Joint Transport Evidence project (involving Blaby, Oadby & Wigston): This work will test emerging potential spatial options for the location of development across the 3 authority areas in terms of their transport/highway impacts. It will feed into the assessment of Harborough's options for locating development. • As a preferred option emerges (with proposed site allocations) further detailed transport/highway evidence may be required with details of mitigation.
Water issues (supply, wastewater, water quality, flood risk)	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council: Lead Local Flood Authority</p> <p>Neighbouring authorities</p> <p>(Severn Trent Water/Anglian Water)</p>	<p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint Water Cycle Study Scoping Report has been procured for the areas covered by Blaby DC, Harborough DC, Hinckley & Bosworth BC and Oadby & Wigston BC. The Environment Agency and the water authorities (although not prescribed bodies) were informed and given the opportunity to comment on the draft brief. Further cooperation will be pursued as part of the study. • SFRA for the District: the views of the Environment Agency will be sought on the scope of an updated SFRA to replace the 2017 Leicester and Leicestershire joint SFRA. • As policy formulation and potential site allocations become clearer the views of the listed partners will be sought. Early discussion with these partners will identify the most appropriate time for them to input into the process.

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
Other infrastructure including telecommunications, security, waste management, minerals and energy	Leicestershire County Council: Minerals and Waste	<p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with LCC Minerals and Waste was made during the preparation of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Study and their input on selected sites fed into the assessment outcomes. • As potential site allocations and policies emerge, the input of LCC and infrastructure providers will be sought. • Energy infrastructure constraints will need to be identified and solutions discussed as part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).
Community facilities (health, education, cultural infrastructure)	<p>NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board /National Health Service (NHS) England</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council: Education and Libraries/Museums</p>	<p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial discussions will be arranged to understand potential infrastructure constraints or capacity issues to feed into identification of a preferred option. • Cooperation is needed to gain an understanding of potential mitigations and cost implications as this will feed into the IDP.
Conservation of the natural environment including Biodiversity Net Gain/Local Nature Recovery Strategy/landscape/Green and Blue Infrastructure	<p>Natural England</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council: Ecology</p> <p>Neighbouring HMA and non-HMA authorities</p>	<p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established working relationship with LCC's Ecology team as it provides biodiversity advice to the Council's planning service. • Cooperating with the County Council in respect of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain and preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategy duties. • Habitat Regulation Assessment will be completed alongside Local Plan • Identification of strategic GI and appropriate policy approach with local authority partners • Comments on emerging policy

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
Conservation of the built and historic environment, including quality and character	Historic England Leicestershire County Council: Archaeology	<p>Ongoing/future cooperation: As Local Plan preparation, Historic England will be engaged in consultation on the emerging Local Plan regarding the impacts of allocations on designated and non-designated heritage assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of involvement will depend on proposed allocations. However, comment on emerging policies for the protection of the historic environment will also be subject to collaboration. • LCC archaeology will be contacted as potential allocations emerge.
Climate change mitigation and adaptation including renewable energy	HMA partners Environment Agency	<p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMA partners are discussing the potential scope of joint evidence on Climate Change/Zero Carbon/Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation issues. These discussions are at an early stage. • Ongoing engagement with partners and Environment Agency to address climate change matters.
Green Wedges	Leicester City Council Blaby DC Charnwood BC Oadby & Wigston BC	<p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As development sites are identified there may be the need to justify/ amend existing designations or designate new Green Wedges in association with new development. • Many Green Wedges are cross-boundary and cooperation with partners will be sought to ensure a consistent approach to their designation and accompanying policy is achieved. • The HMA partners have recently been looking at the consistency of Green Wedge policy with the updated NPPF.
Cross boundary sites and the impact of potential strategic sites	Neighbouring HMA partners. Neighbouring non-HMA authorities (depending on proposed site allocations)	<p>Potential cross boundary sites and the impacts of strategic sites beyond the district boundary are key strategic matters not only for the Council's HMA partners but also potentially for other neighbouring authorities. Harborough's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability identified several strategic scale sites and potential cross boundary sites.</p> <p>Ongoing/future cooperation:</p>

Key strategic matter/s:	Key partners:	Summary of any cooperation and main outcomes to date. Outline of ongoing and/or future cooperation.
	Others including: National Highways Historic England Environment Agency Natural England Homes England Infrastructure providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic infrastructure requirements and funding • Protection of historic and natural environments • Delivery and phasing