

**Winchester City Council  
Duty to Cooperate  
Statement of Compliance  
Local Plan Review 2020 - 2040**

**September 2024**



**Winchester**  
City Council

**Winchester Local Plan 2020 – 2040**  
**Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance**

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# 1.Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this statement is to summarise how Winchester City Council in its role as Local Planning Authority, has proactively engaged with appropriate bodies and stakeholders on an ongoing basis, during the development of the Winchester District Local Plan (Local Plan). This is a requirement of the 'Duty to Cooperate' as set out in planning legislation and guidance.
- 1.2. The engagement concerns neighbouring Local Planning Authorities, Hampshire County Council and other prescribed bodies in relation to strategic cross-boundary matters during the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 1.3. Such matters include (but are not limited to) housing and employment needs and distribution, gypsy and traveller needs, infrastructure affecting more than one planning area, highways/transport matters, and nutrient neutrality.
- 1.4. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the intention of this document to provide the details of every discussion and all joint working that supports the Local Plan, but it outlines all matters that contribute to the Duty to Cooperate process. Where documentation is published on the Council's website, links are added for ease of reference. Indeed the Council has undertaken a number consultations under Regulation 18 and representations received can be viewed on the Council's [website](#), albeit these may not be couched in terms of responses under the Duty to Cooperate, but may raise matters that may fall under cross boundary topics and have been followed up under the Duty.
- 1.5. All agreed and duly signed Statements of Common Ground between the Council and neighbouring authorities/prescribed bodies are published on the Local Plan website, and can be viewed [here](#). A number of statements are in the process of being agreed and these will be uploaded to the website in due course.

## 2. Duty to Cooperate

### Localism Act 2011

- 2.1 The “Duty to Cooperate” was introduced by Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). Section 110 of the Localism Act (2011) sets out the requirements of the duty to cooperate as per Section 33A, in relation to the planning of sustainable development. It places a legal duty on Local Planning Authorities, County Councils and prescribed public bodies to engage constructively, actively, and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of a local plan in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.
- 2.2 Strategic matters regarding plan-making refers to: *“sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas.”* (Section 33A, (4)(a)).

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 2.3 This Statement of Compliance refers to the current wording in the NPPF (December 2023), albeit the government is currently undertaking public consultation on proposed changes to the NPPF. Any future updates to this statement will therefore reflect the latest expression of national planning policy.
- 2.4 Paragraph 20 of the NPPF outlines the strategic matters that a local plan should make provision for:
- a) *“Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;*
  - b) *infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);*
  - c) *Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and*
  - d) *Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”*
- 2.5. Paragraphs 24 – 27 of the National Planning Policy Framework recognises this duty and considers effective, joint working between relevant bodies as integral to a positive and well-prepared strategy. Paragraph 26 also identifies joint working as helping to determine additional infrastructure, and whether

development needs that cannot be wholly met within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere. PPG paragraphs 029 – 033, and 075 provide further information on meeting the Duty to Cooperate, explains the differences between the Duty to Cooperate and a SoCG, and explains how the Duty to Cooperate is considered during a local plan examination.

- 2.6. Further to this, two of the four “tests of soundness” of Local Plans (NPPF Paragraph 35) directly relate to the Duty to Cooperate, specifically:
- a) *“Positively prepared – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;*
  - c) *Effective – 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”*

#### Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

- 2.7. In regard to the production of a SoCG, paragraph 27 of the NPPF specifically states:

*“In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, 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 to address these. These should be produced using the approach set out in national planning guidance and be made publicly available throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency.”*

- 2.8. The Plan Making chapter of the PPG and in particular the *Maintaining Effective Cooperation* section (paragraphs 009 – 028) provides additional information (non-exhaustive) and guidance on how authorities should produce a SoCG: what cross-boundary matters should be included, carrying out effective cooperation, activities documented, functional geographical area, and preparation and publication.

#### Levelling UP and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA)

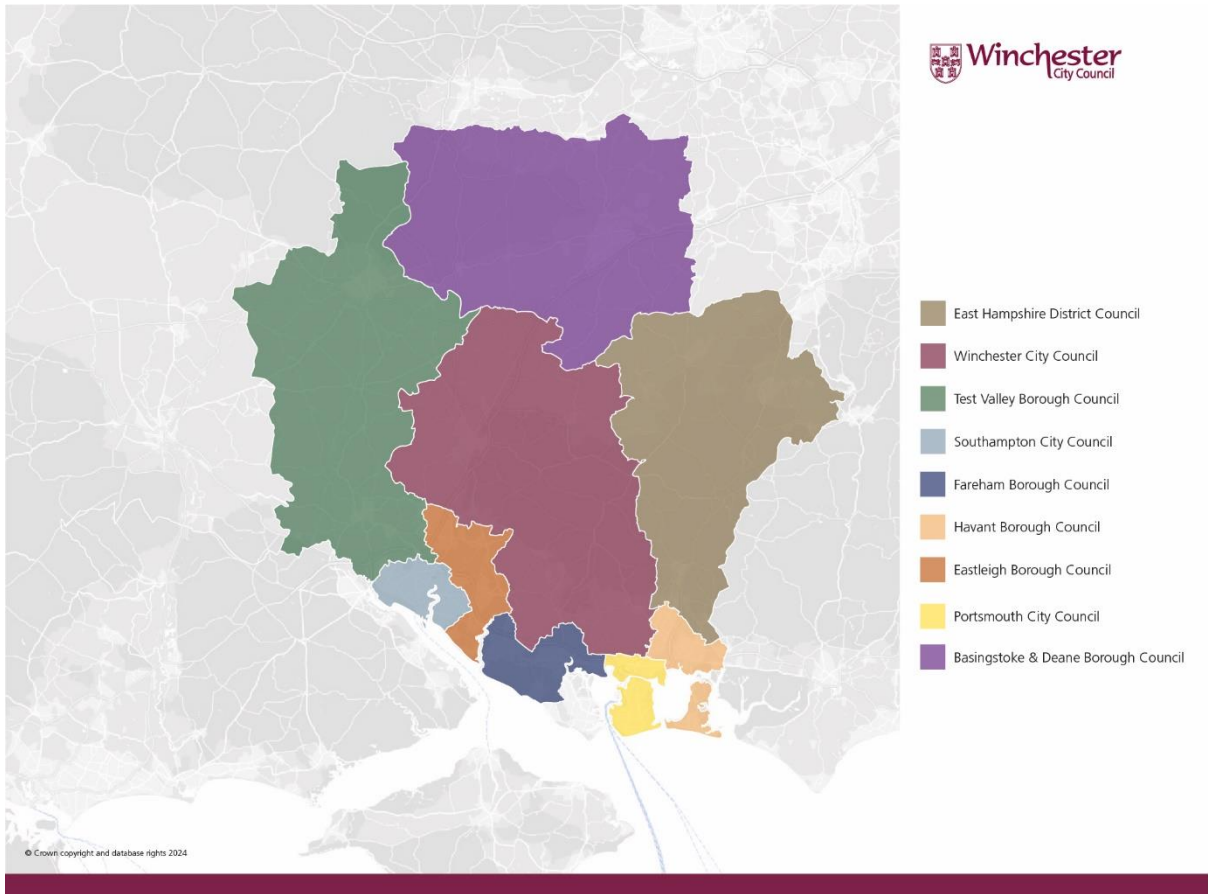
- 2.9. The Government consulted upon reforms to national planning policy during December 2022 as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB). One of the proposals was to remove the Duty to Co-operate and replace it with an Alignment Policy, its purpose to secure appropriate engagement between authorities where strategic planning considerations concern cross-boundary matters.

2.10. Whilst the LURA was enacted during November 2023 and includes provisions to remove the legislation that imposes the Duty to Co-operate, these provisions have not yet been enacted.

### **3. Strategic Geography**

#### Strategic Context

- 3.1 Winchester City is in the centre of the county of Hampshire and is the designated county town. The district is located between the Test Valley borough (to the west) and the East Hampshire district (to the east), with the Basingstoke & Deane borough to the north. To the south-west is Eastleigh, and Havant to the south-east. Both Portsmouth and Fareham also border the south of the district. Part of Winchester District is within the South Downs National Park, which extends beyond the District to the east, and the National Park Authority is the planning authority for this part of the District.
- 3.2 For the purpose of the Duty to Cooperate, the aforementioned administrative areas are pertinent to the obligations under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and are the only authorities that are required to be contacted in regard to strategic cross-boundary matters. This does not preclude other authorities being contacted for the purpose of plan-making, however, additional authorities that do not border the Winchester district are not considered to have direct cross-boundary implications. Where an authority is contacted as part of the Duty to Cooperate, this will be recorded and presented as evidence within this document. Other authorities that are not subject to the duty but are within Hampshire comprise the New Forest District Council; New Forest National Park Authority, Gosport Borough Council; Hart District Council; Isle of Wight and Rushmoor Borough Council.



*Fig 1: Map demonstrating the strategic geography of Winchester and surrounding authorities in Hampshire*

### Hampshire County

3.3 The county of Hampshire is situated to the south-east of England and is bordered by: Berkshire to the north, Surrey and West Sussex to the east, the Isle of Wight across the Solent to the south, Dorset to the west, and Wiltshire to the north-west. With the exceptions of the unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton, Hampshire is governed by Hampshire County Council which for the purpose of plan-making concerns (non- exhaustive) Educational, Transport, and Highways matters. Land designations that affect the county comprise the New Forest greenbelt and National Park, and the South Downs National Park (of which affects the Winchester district).

### Neighbouring Local Authorities

#### Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

3.4 The Basingstoke and Deane borough is situated to the north of the Winchester administrative area with the south of the borough bordering both the Winchester and East Hampshire districts. The M3 forms the main



connecting route into the district from Basingstoke and Deane, which passes through Basingstoke on into the north of the Winchester district, through to the city and then travels south into the borough of Eastleigh. The other connecting route that passes from the west of the borough is the A34 of which briefly cuts through the Test Valley district on into the north of the Winchester district and ends at the city of Winchester. Both authorities are in the County of Hampshire but only Winchester forms part of the Partnership for South Hampshire group. Both authorities have their own Functional Economic Market Area and Housing Market Area.

#### East Hampshire District Council

- 3.5 East Hampshire District Council is situated to the east of the Winchester administrative area with the majority of the boundary adjoining the districts. The A31 forms the key connecting route, running from Guildford to Farnham to Alton and into the Winchester district where it passes through New Alresford on to Winchester Town where it links to the M3. The other major road is the A272 connecting Winchester to Petersfield, and then onwards to the A3 towards East Hampshire's southern parishes. Significant areas of both districts are covered by the South Downs National Park planning designation and has led to both authorities in conjunction with the South Downs National Park Authority previously producing individual Joint Core Strategies to guide development within the respective districts. Both authorities are within the county of Hampshire and are both involved in the Partnership for South Hampshire.

#### Eastleigh Borough Council

- 3.6 Eastleigh Borough Council is situated to the southwest of the Winchester administrative area with the whole of Eastleigh's northern and eastern borders adjoined to the district. The M3 forms the key connecting route between the areas, entering the Winchester district in the north (from Basingstoke), travelling through to Winchester City, carrying on south passing a number of villages before entering the Eastleigh borough, where it passes through the town of Eastleigh before merging into the M27. The authorities are affected by the river Itchen Special Area of Conservation and the Solent water catchment area and will need to work cooperatively to address nutrient neutrality issues. A key piece of new infrastructure that has cross-boundary implications is the delivery of the Botley Bypass. Both authorities are within the county of Hampshire and are both involved in the Partnership for South Hampshire.

#### Fareham Borough Council

- 3.7 Fareham Borough Council is situated to the south of the Winchester administrative area with the whole of Fareham's northern border adjoined to the district. There are two main connecting routes into Fareham from the Winchester district; the A32 (Wickham Road) forms a direct route from the

village of Wickham directly south into the town of Fareham whilst the M3 travels south-west from Winchester town into Eastleigh where it merges in to the M27 and travels east through the Winchester district at the south and on into Fareham's administrative area. The authorities are affected by the Solent water catchment area and SSSI nutrient neutrality catchment and will need to work cooperatively to address these issues. Both authorities are within the county of Hampshire and are both involved in the Partnership for South Hampshire.

#### Havant Borough Council

3.8 Havant Borough Council is situated to the south-east of the Winchester administrative area with the East Hampshire district to the north and the Portsmouth district to the south-west. The strategic road network does not pass through from one area to the other; however, the A27 that runs through the Havant borough merges into the M27 of which allows access into the Winchester district to the south. Waterlooville physically adjoins the boundary of Winchester and forms part of a Strategic Urban Extension in the Winchester Local Plan. The South Downs National Park planning designation effects both planning areas and whilst the park does not venture into the Havant Borough, its proximity is considered as part of the plan-making exercises. Both authorities are within the county of Hampshire and are both involved in the Partnership for South Hampshire.

#### Portsmouth City Council

3.9 Portsmouth City Council is situated to the south of the Winchester district with Portsmouth's north-western border adjoining the district. The Strategic Road Network does not directly pass from the Winchester district into Portsmouth, however, the M27 does enter the Portsmouth administrative area from the west after travelling through Fareham and merging into the M3 at Eastleigh. The authorities are affected by the Solent water catchment area and SSSI nutrient neutrality catchment and will need to work cooperatively to address these issues. The *Land West of Portsdown Hill* development allocation for employment uses in the emerging Portsmouth City Council Local Plan has cross-boundary implications due to the elevated location of the site. Both authorities are within the county of Hampshire and are both involved in the Partnership for South Hampshire.

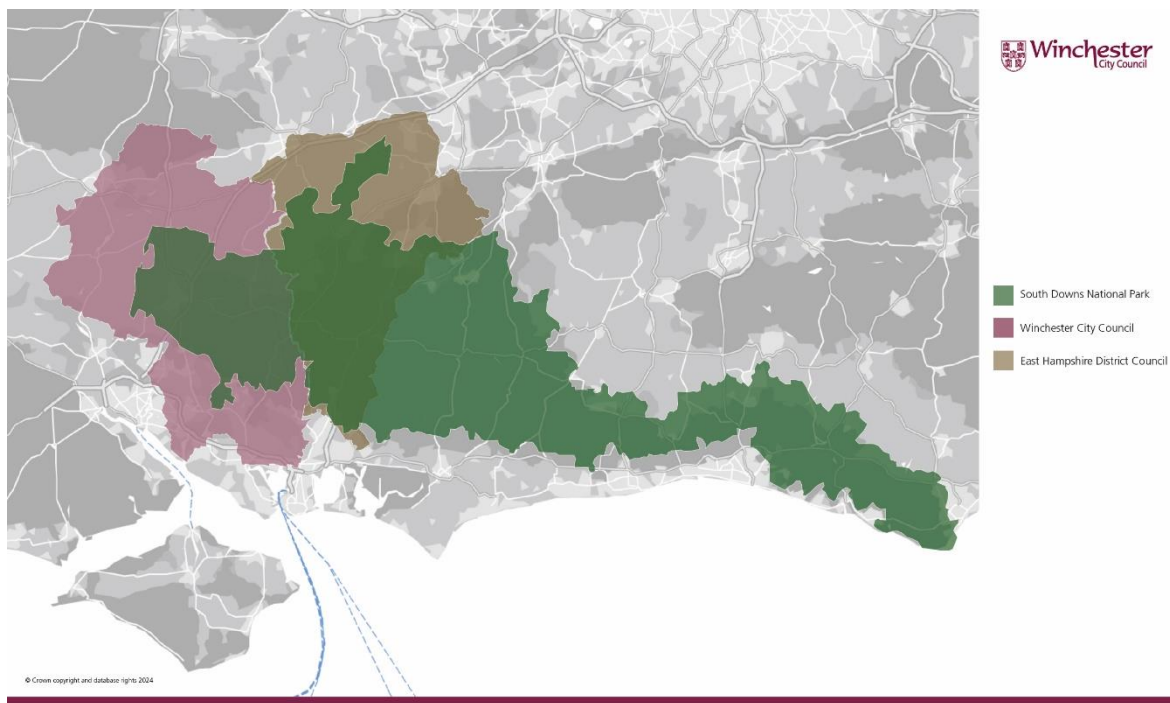
#### Test Valley Borough Council

3.10 Test Valley Borough Council is situated to the west of the Winchester administrative area with the majority of the Test Valley eastern boundary adjoining the districts. The main road network that links the districts is the A303 in the north of Winchester that passes the town of Micheldever and continues into the Test Valley district through to the town of Andover and exits

the district to the west. The A34 also travels north from Winchester town, through the village of Sutton Scotney (which borders the district) and into Test Valley where it merges on to the A303. The authorities are affected by the Solent water catchment area and SSSI nutrient neutrality catchment and will need to work cooperatively to address these issues. Both authorities are within the county of Hampshire and are both involved in the Partnership for South Hampshire.

### The South Downs National Park Authority

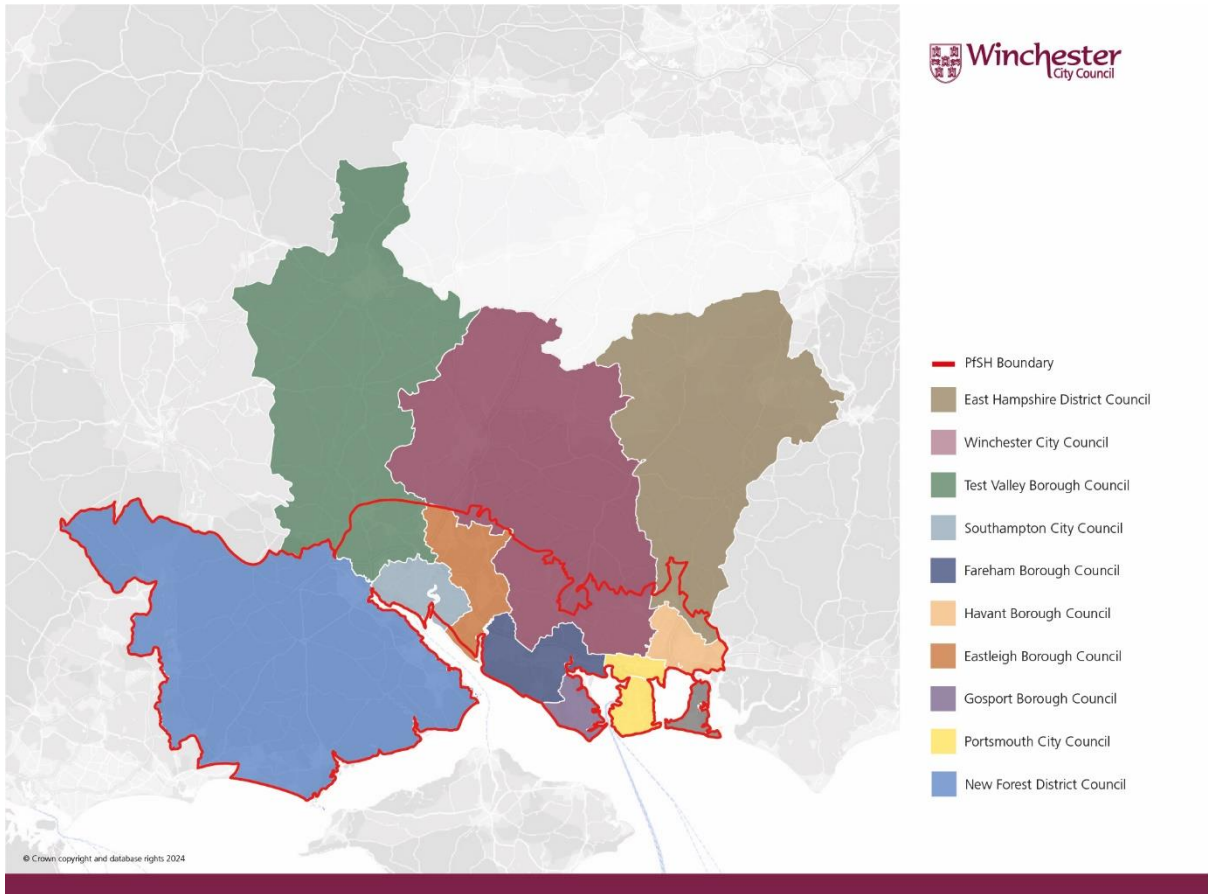
3.11 The South Downs National Park stretches along the south coast of England from Eastbourne to the east and culminating in Winchester to the west. Some 40% of the Winchester district is covered by the national park; within this area the landscape is characterised by rolling downland, notably large grass and arable fields, and small pockets of woodland. The chalk Rivers Itchen and Meon flow through the area adding to the variety and form of the landscape. The National Park's boundary is adjacent to a number of urban areas, most notably Winchester itself and the larger settlements of New Alresford and there are a number of settlements such as Bishops Waltham that directly border the National Park. Development in these areas has the potential to impact on the landscape and amenity of the National Park and must be carefully managed and potential adverse effects mitigated.



*Fig 2: Map demonstrating the strategic geography between Winchester, East Hampshire and the SDNP*

### Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH)

- 3.12 The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) – formerly the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) – was originally formed in 2003. It is a partnership of district and unitary authorities, together with the county council and New Forest National Park Authority, working together to support the sustainable growth of the South Hampshire sub-region. The partnership focuses on three key areas of work:
- Housing
  - Energy and green environment – including nutrient mitigation
  - Cultural and creative industry initiatives
- 3.13 The local authorities that comprise the partnership are:
- Winchester City Council
  - East Hampshire District Council
  - Test Valley Borough Council
  - Eastleigh Borough Council
  - Southampton City Council
  - Fareham Borough Council
  - Havant Borough Council
  - Gosport Borough Council
  - Portsmouth City Council
  - New Forest District Council
  - New Forest National Park Authority
- 3.14 The partnership has produced and regularly updated a Statement of Common Ground, leading to a [Spatial Position Statement](#) that was agreed in December 2023, this sets out the overall need for and distribution of development in south Hampshire. The Spatial Position Statement does not carry the same weight as a local plan; however, the statement does provide guiding principles for local plans to help deliver sustainable development within south Hampshire.



*Fig 3: Map demonstrating the PFSH authorities and area covered by the sub-region*

## 4. Prescribed Bodies

- 4.1 In addition to the neighbouring authorities, the duty places a legal obligation on Local Planning Authorities to engage constructively and on an ongoing basis with a number of prescribed bodies in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. The duty is also placed on the prescribed bodies to actively engage with any relevant Local Planning Authorities and County Councils in England on any strategic cross-boundary matters that may affect their planning area. All parties should approach the duty in a proportionate way, tailoring cooperation according to where they can maximise the effectiveness of plans.
- 4.2 The prescribed public bodies are outlined at Part 2 Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in relation to the Duty to Cooperate, comprising:
- Environment Agency
  - Historic England (English Heritage)
  - Natural England
  - The Mayor of London / Greater London Authority (GLA) – not relevant for Winchester City Council
  - Transport for London (TfL) – not relevant for Winchester City Council
  - Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)
  - The Homes and Communities Agency (now Homes England)
  - The National Health Service Commissioning Board
  - Local Highway Authority
  - Highways England (now National Highways)
  - Integrated Transport Authorities (Hampshire County Council)
  - The Civil Aviation Authority
  - The Office of Rail and Road
  - Marine Management Organisation
- 4.3 Local Enterprise Partnerships (which no longer exist) and Local Nature Partnerships are not subject to the requirements of the duty, but Local Planning Authorities must cooperate with them and have regard to their activities when they are preparing their local plans, so long as those activities are relevant to plan-making.
- 4.4 The above bodies have been and will continue to be consulted at formal stages of the Local Plan preparation. In some instances, more detailed discussions have taken place with relevant bodies when pertaining to and implementing specific matters of the Plan's content and the delivery of key pieces of infrastructure. An [Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#) has been produced to support the Local Plan and demonstrate that there is a sufficient level of infrastructure provision in place, or that it will be delivered throughout the plan period to support the level of growth proposed.

## 5. Strategic Matters

5.1 A number of core cross-boundary strategic matters have been identified and are outlined below. It should be noted that this document does not list each cross-boundary matter that affects the Winchester administrative area and a neighbouring authorities' – matters that have been identified that are particular to a neighbouring authority may not be applicable to another; therefore, in such a case where this occurs, the specific issue is referenced and a position agreed in the respective [SoCG](#). Below provides an overview of the key issues but does not present an agreed position, this can be seen in the individual SoCG's.

### Housing Delivery

5.2 The Regulation 19 Local Plan aims to deliver sufficient land to meet the housing need for the Local Plan area and, in assessing the housing requirement for the plan-period, the amount of existing pipeline development is taken into consideration. The Standard Method output has established an overall need for Winchester District over the plan-period of 13,565 dwellings; the Standard Method is updated on an annual basis with the first 4 years from 2020 resulting in yearly needs for 685, 666, 707 and 691 dwellings (2,749 total). The remaining 16 years of the plan-period (2024-2040) equates to 676 dwellings per annum i.e. 10,816, totalling 13,565 dwellings.

5.3 It remains WCC's intention to meet the Standard Method housing need of the Local Plan area. In addition to this the plan makes provision for an 'unmet needs allowance' to help with meeting the (currently undefined) unmet needs of neighbouring authorities in accordance with the Partnership for South Hampshire's 2023 'Spatial Position Statement'.

5.4 The below table illustrates the overall position in terms of housing need and supply for the Winchester District:

Winchester District Housing Need		Winchester District Housing Provision	
Standard Method need for Plan period 2020-2040 (see Table H1)	13,565	Completions since start of Local Plan period (2020-2023)	3,170
Unmet Needs Allowance (for unmet need in neighbouring authorities)	1,900	Outstanding planning permissions	6,780
		Other Commitments (previous Local Plans incl. SDNP)	745
		Windfall development	1,895

Winchester District Housing Need		Winchester District Housing Provision	
		Additional allocations made in this Local Plan	2,875
<b>Total District_Housing Requirement</b>	<b>15,465*</b>	<b>Total District_Housing Provision*</b>	<b>15,465</b>

\* Includes approximately 350 dwellings within the South Downs National Park part of Winchester District.

5.5 The table relates to housing need and supply for the whole of Winchester District, reflecting the area covered by the Standard Method figure. The Local Plan area excludes that part of the District within the South Downs National Park, where it is assumed that about 350 dwellings will be completed. The remaining housing requirement for the Local Plan area is 15,115 dwellings (15,465 – 350 = 15,115).

#### Gypsy & Traveller Development

5.6 In support of the Local Plan review, a [Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment](#) has been produced to inform the likely need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation over the plan period. The GTAA breaks down the overall Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople need into 4-year bands. The need identified takes into account unauthorised pitches, pitches with temporary planning permission, concealed and doubled-up households and movement from bricks and mortar in the first 4 years. The total net new household formation is then applied proportionately across the remaining 4-year bands.

5.7 The GTAA identifies an overall need for:

- 115 pitches for Gypsy and Travellers that met the PPTS planning definition of a traveller
- 85 pitches for Gypsy and Travellers that at the time of preparing the GTAA did not meet the planning definition of a traveller
- 27 plots for Travelling Showpersons that met the PPTS planning definition of a traveller
- 6 plots for Travelling Showpersons that at the time of preparing the GTAA did not meet the planning definition of a traveller.

5.8 The consultants were also appointed to prepare a [Pitch Deliverability Assessment](#) (PDA) with the objective to provide advice on the suitability, availability, and achievability of any existing private Gypsy and Traveller sites (with permanent planning permission) to assist in meeting the identified accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers.

5.9 The Council has undertaken further work following the GTAA to take account of changes to the definition of travellers in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and changes in traveller needs and on key sites. This has reduced the



overall need for pitches, particularly for gypsy travellers, and has examined various potential sources of supply. A [Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper](#) has been produced to evidence this work, which reaches the following conclusions on traveller pitch / plot needs and supply:

	Gypsy traveller (Years 0-5)	Gypsy traveller (Years 6-19)	Travelling showpersons (Years 0-5)	Travelling showpersons (Years 6-19)
Pitch / plot need	51	40	22	13
Pitch / plot supply	38	90	11	6
<b>Surplus / Shortfall</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>+50</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-7</b>

- 5.10 There is scope to meet the need for about 68 additional gypsy traveller pitches through the intensification or expansion of existing sites. In addition, the Council is seeking to bring the former public site at Tynefield (Whiteley) back into use and to expand the number of pitches provided to about 30 and there is scope to achieve about 30 additional pitches, if needed, through windfall provision.
- 5.11 The need for plots for travelling showpeople is much more modest and there is scope to provide about 17 additional plots through site intensification or expansion and maintaining travelling showpersons' use of plots at The Nurseries, Shedfield.
- 5.12 As a result, the Council expects to be able to meet gypsy traveller needs over the Local Plan period as a whole, but is unable to identify sufficient available and deliverable sites to meet current needs (years 0-5, 2022-2026). For travelling showpersons, the Council is unable to meet either short-term or longer-term needs.

#### Employment Land Development

- 5.13 As part of the Local Plan review, a [Town Centre Uses Study](#), and [Employment Land Review](#) was updated in July 2024. The Council have included additional scenarios in the Employment Land Review that presents a range of need that assists in supporting the Council's position and it is concluded that the Council do not need to allocate additional land over and above the existing supply. The Council (at this point in time) would not be approaching neighbouring authorities to assist in meeting any employment need.

#### Nutrient Neutrality

- 5.14 On 16 March 2022 Natural England up-dated guidance which it shares with local authorities in relation to nutrient pollution, in particular, the Solent area which includes all of Winchester district. Residential development can potentially have an adverse impact on nationally protected sites in the district and broader Solent area because of the wastewater generated. The Council, when making planning decisions, is required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (and subsequent Planning Practice Guidance) to ensure new development does not increase the level of nutrient pollution to the water catchment. Permission can only be granted if the council is satisfied that a development will not harm these nationally protected sites, a solution of which is by achieving 'nutrient neutrality'.
- 5.15 In regard to Nitrates, mitigation measures have been established (where not possible to achieve on-site) via the upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Works and / or the purchase of Nitrate credits from elsewhere. However, the latest guidance that relates to the River Itchen catchment has introduced consideration relating to Phosphorous in addition to Nitrates. Winchester City Council is working with PfSH and is currently working on a number of planned upgrades to the City Council's owned sewerage treatment facilities with the support of Government funding which will address the needs of the Local Plan site allocations and sites that need reserved matters approval.

#### Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH)

- 5.16 The [PfSH Spatial Position Statement](#) (2023) sets out the overall need for and distribution of development in south Hampshire. The Spatial Position Statement refers to the agreed course of action with regard to the provision of sufficient housing and employment land across the sub-region. It sets out the approach by which the PfSH authorities will collectively deliver on the housing and employment requirements set out in national planning policy, and on other key strategic issues. The Spatial Position Statement is not a statutory document, neither is it intended as a strategic plan for south Hampshire. It does however provide strong evidence of joint working between the PfSH authorities and expresses a strategic planning strategy relating to cross-boundary matters such as housing and employment. In addition to the position statement there is also an agreed [Statement of Common Ground](#).

#### Infrastructure

- 5.17 The delivery of necessary infrastructure in association with planned growth is dealt with in the [Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#) (IDP). For the purpose of this document key infrastructure relates to:
- Education provision;
  - Highways and Transport provision (outside of the Strategic Road Network); and
  - Social Care and Health (outside of the national provision provided for by the NHS and subsequent Integrated Care Boards).

## **6. Duty to Co-operate Engagement**

- 6.1 This section details the record of engagement that has been undertaken by the Council to comply with its Duty to Cooperate obligations, throughout the Regulation 18 stage of local plan preparation, leading up to publication under Regulation 19. All identified strategic matters and associated agreements / disagreements are detailed in the respective Statements of Common Ground.
- 6.2 The following demonstrates the engagement between Winchester City Council, neighbouring authorities, and any other relevant body the Council has had meetings with. Given the amount of on-going engagement, the following is broken down into specific sections:
- Engagement with neighbouring local authorities
  - Focussed engagement on Gypsy and Traveller matters
  - Officer led groups
  - Partnership for South Hampshire
  - Engagement with prescribed and other bodies

## Neighbouring Local Authorities:

The following summaries all engagement through preparation of the local plan, but more detail of responses received to the August 2023 request is set out at Appendix 1.

Local Authority	Date	Type	Summary
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	05/12/23	SoCG	<b>Final <a href="#">SoCG</a> agreed and signed on 28/08/2024.</b>  Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to neighbouring authority for comment; comments received, and document amended 04/01/24
	17/10/23	Meeting	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update, discuss strategic matters and potential SoCG
	08/02/23	Meeting to discuss resources	Meeting to discuss resources, the timing of LP's and initial thoughts on a SOCG. Basingstoke & Deane have appointed Elementa Consulting (the same consultation that Winchester have used) to undertake work on LETI energy efficiency standards. It was agreed that the SOCG between Winchester City Council and Basingstoke & Deane would state that each LPA was intending to meet their own housing need. No other cross boundary issues could be identified at this stage of the process. It was agreed that a draft SoCG would be sent to Basingstoke & Deane in due course.
	10/11/22	Meeting to discuss Local Plans	Discussed Local Plan issues

Local Authority	Date	Type	Summary
	30/09/2021	Officer meeting	To discuss local plan updates from both authorities, current consultations and 5 year housing land supply.
	02/06/2021	Local Plan update meeting	To discuss local plan updates
	19/10/20	Officer meeting	To discuss local plan updates from both authorities, current consultations and 5 year housing land supply.
East Hampshire	17/01/24	SoCG	<b>Final <a href="#">SoCG</a> agreed and signed on 27/08/2024</b>  Interim SoCG entered into with EHDC to support the EHDC Reg 18 consultation Jan 2024; WCC SoCG to be updated and finalised for WCC Reg 19 consultation.
	5/12/2023	SoCG	Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to neighbouring authority for comment; comments received 12/12/23
	11/10/23	Meeting	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update, discuss strategic matters and potential SoCG
Eastleigh	8/12/2023	SoCG	<b>Final <a href="#">SoCG</a> agreed and signed 2/9/2024.</b>  Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to neighbouring authority for comment; comments received 16/01/24.
	26/10/23	Meeting	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update, discuss strategic matters and potential SoCG

Local Authority	Date	Type	Summary
Fareham	16/01/24	SoCG	Final SoCG is in the process of being agreed and signed and will be published on the Council's website in due course.  Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to neighbouring authority for comment
	07/11/23	Meeting	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update, discuss strategic matters and potential SoCG
Havant Borough Council	5/3/2024	Correspondence	<b>Final SoCG agreed and signed on 30/08/24.</b>  HBC formally requested assistance in meeting their unmet housing needs and highlighting a possible shortfall of employment land. WCC responded by letter sent on 25/03/2024.
	05/01/24	SoCG	Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to neighbouring authority for comment.
	02/11/23	Meeting	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update, discuss strategic matters and potential SoCG
	16/01/2023	Meeting	Meeting to discuss issues raised in representations on each other's emerging Local Plans, particularly housing provision and unmet needs. Officers explained their respective authority's approach, programme and areas of work. Discussion of scope for joint working on site availability/selection, agreed HBC would send their draft consultants brief for site constraints work. WCC declined to jointly

Local Authority	Date	Type	Summary
			commission this work but were happy to talk to the appointed consultants. No formal minutes but each authority would be responding to the other's Local Plan consultation.
	10/12/20	Officer meeting	To discuss the upcoming Regulation 19 consultation from Havant and any amendments needed to the <a href="#">statement of common ground</a> .
Portsmouth		SoCG	<b>Final <a href="#">SoCG</a> agreed and signed on 25/08/24.</b> Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to neighbouring authority for comment.
	11/1/2024	Correspondence	PCC made a formal request in the assistance of meeting their unmet housing needs on 11/01/2024. WCC responded by letter sent on 22/05/2024. Following further discussions, final signed SoCG agreed.
	7/12/23	Officer meeting	Matters discussed - Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; allocation at Portsdown Hill; Employment needs update; discussion surrounding Nutrient Neutrality and the Council's response; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG
	21/9/23	Officer meeting	Matters discussed - Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; allocation at Portsdown Hill; Employment needs update; discussion surrounding Nutrient

Local Authority	Date	Type	Summary
			Neutrality and the Council's response; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG
South Downs National Park		SoCG	<b>Final <a href="#">SoCG</a> agreed and signed on 21/08/2024</b>  Draft SoCG produced and forwarded for comment.
	05/04/24	On site meeting	On site meeting to discuss potential allocations at Bishop's Waltham and Kingsworthy.
	December 2023	Email exchange	Confirmation of SDNPA housing position (including response from WCC)
	29/11/2023	Meeting	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update, discuss strategic matters and potential SoCG
	22/5/2023	Meeting	Discussed the contribution the park will make to the district housing figure and discussed the statement of common ground
	5/5/2020	Meeting	Meeting to discuss policies that we need to look to include in our Local Plan – including Local Plan policies; Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment work; SDNPA housing needs and contribution; Statement of common ground
Test Valley	30/8/24	SoCG	<b>Final <a href="#">SoCg</a> agreed and signed on 30/08/2024</b>  Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to neighbouring authority for comment.
	15/01/24		
	1/11/23	Meeting	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update, discuss strategic matters and potential SoCG



Local Authority	Date	Type	Summary
	2/12/20	Officer meeting	To discuss local plan updates from both authorities, current consultations and 5 year housing land supply.

## Focussed engagement on Gypsy and Traveller matters

Given the known challenges with meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Traveller, the Council specifically engaged with its neighbours requesting assistance under the Duty to Cooperate to identify suitable sites. The following summaries the responses received to a specific request issued in August 2023 to assist with meeting the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers.

<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	<b>Nature of Engagement</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
All neighbouring authorities	Letter	16/08/23	WCC sent Gypsy and Traveller unmet needs, and Duty to Cooperate letters to all neighbouring authorities
BDBC	Response	24/08/23	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers
EBC	Response	19/09/23	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers
EHDC	Response	21/08/23	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers
FBC	Response	12/09/23	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers
HBC	Response	04/01/24	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers
PCC	Response	19/12/23 (full response)	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers
SDNPA	Response	25/08/23	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers
TVBC	Response	01/11/23	Confirming unable to assist in meeting the unmet needs of Gypsy and Travellers

In addition to requesting assistance under the Duty to Co-operate, as set out above, the Council also contacted major landowners to explore all opportunities for the delivery of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. Landowners contacted included:

- Winchester College
- Winchester University
- Southwick Estates
- Rookesbury Estates
- Hursley Estates
- Sutton Scotney Estate
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation / MOD
- Church of England

The [Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper](#) details the letters sent and replies received and demonstrates the engagement carried out, which results in a position where none of the major landowners are able to assist the Council meeting the demonstrable need.

## Hampshire Officer led groups

To facilitate on going cooperation and engagement, a number of officer led group meetings exist across Hampshire and are well established. These allow for the respective officers and topic experts to meet on a regular basis to discuss emerging policy and trends.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Matters Discussed</b>
Hampshire Development Plans Group (LPA officers in planning policy teams)	Meetings held regularly every quarter throughout the year.	Meeting	local plan updates, 5 year land supply, Government advice & consultations, appeals, training and any other relevant matters.
Hampshire Planning Research and Liaison Group (LPA officers in planning policy, economic development, monitoring teams)	Meetings held regularly every quarter throughout the year,	Meeting	OAN statistics, housing delivery, land supply and monitoring issues, demographics, census, current research projects and any other relevant matters.
HIPOG Sustainable Design Group (LPA officers involved with design matters)	Meetings held regularly approx. every quarter	Meeting	innovations / approaches to sustainable design and try to achieve a consistent approach across Hampshire.
Hampshire Biodiversity Net Gain Officer Group (Policy and ecology officer meetings for all Hampshire local authorities and Natural England)	Meetings held regularly throughout the year,	Meeting	BNG Environment Act, formation of policy for Local Plans use of the Metric. LNRS

<b>Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Matters Discussed</b>
Hampshire LPS's Liaison Meeting for Developer Contributions	Meetings held regularly.	Meeting	S106/CIL contributions monitoring fees and contributions reporting

## Partnership for South Hampshire

The following only covers regular officer meetings, in addition a [Joint Committee](#) and [Overview and Scrutiny](#) Committee are held regularly, to allow for discussion and agreement between the representative local authorities at member level.

Group	Date	Type	Matters Discussed
Partnership for South Hampshire Planning Officers Group	Regular monthly officer meeting	Meeting	To discuss progress on joint working in relation to <a href="#">Statements of Common Ground</a> and Joint Strategy/strategic cross-boundary matters. Joint evidence studies and funding; Workshop on potential Strategic Development Opportunity Area issues, scope for new settlements; Proposed changes by Government to the NPPF; Updates on nutrient issues - nutrient mitigation and successful joint funding bid to government to upgrade Waste Water Treatment Work
Partnership for South Hampshire Water Quality Working Group (now Natural Environment Group)	Meetings held regularly every couple of months.	Meeting	Joint working to address water quality issues, particularly nutrient neutrality and mitigation.

## Engagement with prescribed and other bodies

WCC specifically sent letters to all the prescribed bodies during August to September 2023, covering both Duty to Cooperate matters and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Although not Prescribed Bodies, the Council is also required to cooperate with the Local Enterprise Partnership, and the Local Nature Partnership. The table below provides a summary of responses received, more details are set out in Appendix 2.

Organisation	Date	Matters Raised
Hampshire County Council	21/9/2023	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan update and discuss Infrastructure matters
	19/09/23	Full response received covering : Land holdings for adult social care; Gypsy and Travellers encampment policy and land (confirmation of inability to assist with unmet need); PROW; Broadband; Transport; and Education.
Environment Agency	28/09/23	Response received confirming no infrastructure projects planned over the plan period and no further comments to make
Historic England	09/4/2024	Further discussion with WCC Heritage team and policy officers to discuss Reg 18 reps and how to address them
	20/11/23	Confirming requirements to satisfy HE approach to plan-making; confirming minutes of meeting; confirming HE are content with the WCC approach to plan-making cooperation
	25/10/2023 30/7/2023	Duty to Cooperate meetings held to provide local plan review update and discuss matters relating to the Reg 18 response and requirements for the Council to meet in order to resolve
Natural England	10/02/2022 20/04/2023 28/09/2023	Meeting to discuss the draft Local Plan and content. In person Duty to Cooperate meeting to discuss Reg 18 representation Response confirming NE do not deal with infrastructure; meeting requested however, staff capacity resulted in no meeting taking place – WCC sent email 23/01/24 requesting confirmation of DTC position.

Organisation	Date	Matters Raised
	25/03/24 12/08/2024	Meeting with NE to discuss content of Nutrient Neutrality topic paper, BNG and SRMP. Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to Natural England for comment.
Southern Water	21/11/2020 17/07/2020 07/11/2023 11/12/2023 04/07/2024 17/07/2024 14/08/2024	<b>A <u>SoCG</u> has been agreed and signed.</b>  Stakeholder workshops on Water for Life. Ongoing regular discussions concerning water issues within the district as part of the Water for Life consultation. Ongoing discussions around water and sewerage issues in Sutton Scotney and Colden Common (Brambridge). Duty to cooperate meeting to discuss issues raised at Reg 18 consultation and how these have been addressed in the Reg 19 LP. Ongoing discussions around water and sewerage issues in Sutton Scotney and Colden Common (Brambridge). Draft SoCG produced and forwarded to Southern Water for comment.
SSEN DFES Distribution Future Energy Scenarios/LENSA/LAEP (Southern Central England)	13/10/2021	Infrastructure provider (Electric) meeting as a part of their stakeholder engagement on the DFES process, Connections workshop to discuss the electricity needs of specific sites.
NHS – Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust	17/11/23	Response received detailing infrastructure position and meeting discussion
NHS – Integrated Care Board	02/11/23	Response received detailing infrastructure position in relation to the capacity of GP's and space standards. Additional supporting text included in the Regulation 19 Local Plan in relation to site allocations encouraging early dialogue with the HIOW ICB. In addition, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan records the most recent information supplied



<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Matters Raised</b>
		by the ICB on the surgeries which provide services to those living in the local plan area.
NHS - HHFT	24/10/23	Duty to Cooperate meeting held to provide local plan review update and discuss Infrastructure matters
Homes England	16/01/24	Following initial email and reminders, confirmation received regarding position – HE does not wish to make comment on the LP review
National Highways	18/09/23	Regular meetings have been held with National Highways in relation to the Strategic Transport Assessment which commenced in June 2023. In terms of a response to the August 2023 request this referred to; unable to fully assess until full Transport Modelling complete, requires that development does not overly impact the SRN without suitable mitigation measures put in place; provides details regarding M3 jct 9 improvements
Civil Aviation Authority	16/01/24	Following initial email reminder sent 16/01/24 – response received confirming no comment to make on LP review
Office of Rail and Road	16/01/24	Following initial email reminder sent 16/01/24 – response received confirming no comment to make on LP review
Marine Management Organisation	19/09/23	Full response received - MMO do not provide infrastructure; provided list of infrastructure to be considered as part of plan-making and gave information regarding decision taking
LEP – EnterpriseM3	16/01/24	Following initial email reminder sent 16/01/24 – response received confirming no comment to make on LP review.
Local Nature Partnership	21/09/23	Response received stating the LNP do not respond to consultations
National Air Traffic Services	25/08/23	Response received stating NATS have no comments to make on the LP review

## Appendix 1 Summary of Discussions – Neighbouring Authorities

The following provides more detail of the recent discussions held and agreements with neighbouring local authorities, in response to specific requests issued in August 2023 under the Duty to Cooperate. The following provides a summary of responses received as at August 2024.

### Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

BDBC were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. BDBC responded on the 24/08/23 stating that the Council were in a similar position; that the emerging GTAA study presented a significant increase in need for Gypsy and Traveller development; and that the Council could not currently demonstrate a 5YHLS of adequate sites. A Call for Sites had been carried out and failed to identify any sites for development – therefore, BDBC consider that, with the demonstrable increase of need, the existing issues faced, and the lack of available sites, the Council is not in a position to assist WCC in meeting their need.

A meeting was held between both authorities on 17/10/23 and topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; an update on the position of the BDBC development at Popham Airfield; discussion surrounding Nutrient Neutrality and the Council's response; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. It was agreed a draft SoCG would be produced that would agree the positions outlined in the correspondence between the authorities – at the time of the production of the draft SoCG (January 2024) both Councils were awaiting an update to the evidence base that would inform the housing position that would form the final wording of the [SoCG](#)

### Eastleigh Borough Council

EBC were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. EBC responded on the 19/09/23 stating that the Council were in the early stages of their Local Plan review after committing to an early review to address a housing shortfall, following adoption in April 2022. As part of the review, the GTAA is undergoing an update, and therefore, EBC were not in a position to confirm their need at the point in time. Further to this, it was confirmed that the Eastleigh Borough covered a relatively small area of land; a high proportion being built up or designated for national or

other purpose with the first priority being to meet the borough's own demonstrable need. EBC consider it therefore unlikely to be in a position to assist in meeting the needs of WCC.

A meeting was held between both authorities on 26/10/23 and topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; Employment needs; discussion surrounding Nutrient Neutrality and potential mitigation scheme at Chicken Hall Farm; safeguarded land at Botley bypass; cross-boundary matters effecting Southampton City Council; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. It was agreed a draft SoCG would be produced that would agree the positions outlined in the correspondence between the authorities. A final [SoCG](#) has been agreed and signed on 2/9/2024.

#### East Hampshire District Council

EHDC were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. EHDC responded on the 21/08/23 stating that the EHDC were in a similar position to WCC, and the Council were due to send a similar request out to all neighbouring authorities. This request set out the EHDC position insofar that the Council were updating their evidence base for their upcoming Reg 18 consultation, stating that their Gypsy and Traveller evidence base was undergoing update, with the existing GTAA identifying a high need for development, and the emerging study to likely increase this need; that the Council could not demonstrate an adequate 5YHLS of sites; and that environmental and historical constraints, further exacerbated by the rural nature of the district, preventing meaningful development. Both Councils therefore agree that neither is in a position to assist the other in relation to gypsies and travellers, given the evidence presented by their respective evidence base and land availability.

A meeting was held between both authorities on 11/10/23 and topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; update regarding the WCC IDP; discussion surrounding Nutrient Neutrality and potential mitigation schemes; Net-Zero Carbon development; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. It was agreed a [SoCG](#) would be produced that would agree the positions outlined in the correspondence between the authorities.

#### Fareham Borough Council

FBC were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. FBC responded on the 12/09/23 stating that the Council had recently adopted their Development Plan (April 2023), and with that in mind, the FBC need for Gypsy and Traveller development was being met; that in line with the previous [SoCG](#), adopted policy HP11 would be the appropriate route of delivering Gypsy and Traveller development, but that no mechanism is in place to quantify how much of the unmet need this could contribute to. Further to this, given the recent adoption of the FBC Local Plan and the current stage of the emerging WCC Local Plan, it is considered that there is no opportunity within the timeframe to reevaluate sites to potentially assist in meeting the WCC demonstrable need.

A meeting was held between both authorities on 07/11/23 and topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs and the potential assistance through windfall development; confirming a housing position; Employment needs; specific matters relating to allocations at Welbourne and Whiteley; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. It was agreed a draft SoCG would be produced that would agree the positions outlined in the correspondence between the authorities. Final SoCG is in the process of being agreed and signed and will be published on the Council's website in due course.

#### Havant Borough Council

HBC were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. HBC responded on the 16/08/23 and then again on 04/01/24 confirming their position. The initial response stated that HBC were able to confirm their position regarding Gypsy and Traveller development or potential assistance due to their GTAA currently being updated but would be in a position to respond once this had been completed.

In the interim a meeting was held between both authorities on 22/11/23 whereby HBC presented their evidence base work constraints study to demonstrate land availability. Further to this, topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. It was agreed a draft SoCG would be produced that would agree the positions outlined in the correspondence between the authorities – at the time of the production of the draft SoCG (January 2024) both Councils were awaiting an update to the evidence base that would inform Gypsy and Traveller and Housing positions that would

form the final wording of the SoCG. Following this, HBC provided an update to their position regarding potential assistance to WCC in meeting their demonstrable Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming that due to the land constraints faced in Havant as evidenced in the constraints study, it would be unable to assist WCC in meeting their unmet need.

HBC wrote on 05/03/2024 formally requesting assistance in meeting their unmet housing needs and highlighting a possible shortfall of employment land. WCC responded by letter sent on 25/03/2024. A final [SoCG](#) has been agreed and signed on 30/8/2024.

#### Portsmouth City Council

PCC were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. PCC responded on the 16/08/23 and then again on 20/12/23 stating that the PCC GTAA had recently been updated resulting in no demonstrable need within the administrative area for Gypsy and Traveller development; and that due to the constraints that faced PCC in regard to land availability, PCC would not be in a position to assist WCC in meeting their demonstrable need. A Call for Sites had been carried out during 2022 which resulted in no sites promoted for Gypsy and Traveller development.; PCC were also struggling to meet their own housing needs due to the lack of land availability.

Two meetings have been held between the authorities on 21/09/23 and 07/12/23 whereby topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; allocation at Portsdown Hill; Employment needs update; discussion surrounding Nutrient Neutrality and the Council's response; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. It was agreed a [SoCG](#) would be produced that would agree the positions outlined in the correspondence between the authorities.

Following this, PCC approached the Council in the form of sending a formal request in the assistance of meeting their unmet housing needs on 11/01/2024. WCC responded by letter sent on 22/05/2024. Following further discussions and drafting, there is an agreed [SoCG](#), dated 27/8/2024.

#### South Downs National Park Authority

SDNPA were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. SDNPA responded on the 25/08/23 stating that the

Council were in the early stages of their Local Plan review confirming that the evidenced need for Gypsy and Traveller development is covered by several GTAA's produced jointly with other Councils, including the Winchester GTAA. The SDNPA are currently assessing the existing GTAA's that have been produced in order to update the evidence to inform their plan review – additionally a Call for Sites was carried out during summer 2022 through which a number of Gypsy and Traveller sites were submitted; these are being assessed as part of the Land Availability Assessment. The SDNPA have further suggested that the authority is unlikely to be in a position to assist in meeting unmet needs on the basis that National Parks are protected under para 176 of the NPPF and that Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks.

A meeting was held between both authorities on 29/11/23 and topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position and in particular the contribution the SDNP can make towards the Standard Method figure for WCC; Employment needs; allocations that affect both districts (Rareridge Lane and the Cart and Horse Junction); Upham Village Design Statement; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. It was agreed a draft SoCG would be produced that would agree the positions outlined in the correspondence between the authorities. Further correspondence and discussion has taken place between the authorities in relation to housing needs and the likely contribution from the SDNP. In addition, there was correspondence and an onsite meeting (5 April 2024) to consider their representations regarding the proposed allocations at Rareridge Lane (BW4) and land at Cart and Horses PH (KW2).

The current positions of the Local Planning Authorities are reflected in the signed [SoCG](#), dated 23/8/2024.

#### Test Valley Borough Council

TVBC were contacted regarding assisting Winchester City Council in meeting their 'unmet' need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. TVBC responded on the 01/11/23 stating that the Council are currently reviewing their development plan with preparation on a Reg 18 draft plan being undertaken. As part of this, evidence base documents relating to Gypsy and Travellers have been updated and resulted in a significant increase in the need for Gypsy and Traveller development. TVBC further confirmed that they are unable to provide for an adequate level of pitch supply with the current 5YHLS of pitch provision being 1.1 years; on this basis, it is unlikely that TVBC will be in a position to assist WCC in meeting their unmet needs on the basis of the difficulties TVBC are facing in meeting their own demonstrable need.

A meeting was held between both authorities on 01/11/23 and topic points for discussion concerned: Plan Review update; formally agreeing the position regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs; confirming a housing position; Employment needs; and issues for inclusion in the SoCG. The current positions of the Local Planning Authorities are reflected in the signed [SoCG](#). dated 30/8/2024.

## Appendix 2 Summary of Engagement – Prescribed Bodies

During August 2023 the Council specifically wrote to all prescribed bodies with requests under the Duty to Cooperate and for data to inform preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The following provides a summary of responses received.

### Hampshire County Council

The County Council were specifically contacted regarding planned infrastructure over the emerging plan-period, particularly concerning: education; transport / highways; adult social care / public health; and broadband. The letter further requested the County Council to consider their land holdings in regard to support the delivery of accommodation for Gypsy and Travellers, and to request a meeting under the Duty to Cooperate obligations, with the potential to enter into a SoCG. HCC responded on 19/09/23 providing answers to the posed questions detailing growth surrounding education and trigger for infrastructure requirements and locations for upgrades; details regarding PROW and transport / highways infrastructure improvements as a result of development; details regarding broadband upgrade provision; land holdings relating to adult social care and public health detailing infrastructure development; and provided an updated in regard to potential Gypsy and Traveller development confirming the County Council are unable to assist in the matter.

A subsequent meeting was held on 21/09/23 and discussed the points that formed the response to the initial Duty to Cooperate letter. Further details relating to the infrastructure matters can be found in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Given the contact between the Council and the County Council, and the matters raised which do not present cross-boundary implications, it is likely a SoCG would be secured. WCC and HCC have however, worked cooperatively during the plan-making process and will continue to engage on plan-making matters. The County Council has responded to the previous Regulation 18 consultation and will continue to be consulted at relevant stages of the plan-making process.

During 2024, there has been engagement with the Public Health team at HCC, to discuss public health implications of the local plan both policies and site allocations. These discussions have informed the production of a Health Topic Paper.

### Environment Agency

The Environment Agency responded on the 28/09/23 that there were no planned infrastructure upgrades over the planning period and subsequently there were no further comments to make. The correspondence between the



Council and the Environment Agency are sufficient in evidencing engagement cooperation in meeting the objectives of the Duty to Cooperate. The Environment Agency have also responded to the previous Regulation 18 consultation and will continue to be consulted upon at relevant stages of the plan-making process. Furthermore, the Council have worked with the Environment Agency in addressing the Regulation 18 response resulting in the Council appointing AECOM to undertake further work on flood risk to address the representation. A Stage 2 SFRA and site Sequential and Exceptions Test was subsequently agreed by the EA and HCC as the Lead Flood Authority. Both of these documents are available on the website.

## Historic England

Historic England were contacted regarding our Duty to Cooperate obligations, and to further discuss matters relating to Historic England's Regulation 18 consultation response, and to continue discussions that had taken place in a meeting between WCC and Historic England 30/07/23. A further meeting was held on 25/10/23 to formally discuss matters addressed in the Duty to Cooperate letter in particular concerning potential allocations at: Winchester Town (CWR (W7) and Station Approach (W8), W2, W3, W5, W10, W11) and Other (BW4, CC2, CC3, CC4, KW1, and KW2); with the decision made pertaining to the production of Heritage Impact Assessment for a number of specific sites to comprise the [Heritage Topic Paper](#). It was also agreed to enter into a SoCG following the Regulation 19 consultation so as to agree that WCC have carried out the request of Historic England; it was however confirmed in additional correspondence that Historic England have no objection in how the Council are approaching their Duty to Cooperate obligations.

## Natural England

Natural England responded on 28/09/23 confirming open to meet with the Council and that infrastructure planning is beyond the remit of Natural England. Due to staff shortages at Natural England, a meeting has not taken place; an email was sent to Natural England during January 2024 enquiring about the necessity of a meeting and whether Natural England are content with the Council's approach to the Duty to Cooperate obligations. It may therefore not be necessary to formally agree a position given Natural England's status as a statutory consultee, the existing correspondence and future correspondence as part of the Regulation 19 consultation.

A meeting took place in March 2024 to discuss the content of the draft WCC and NE Statement of Common Ground. It was agreed that the content of the SoCG was primarily focused on nutrient neutrality and there was an in depth

discussion on the content of the draft Nutrient Neutrality Topic paper. Other topics discussed during the meeting include BNG, SRMP and the Bird Aware Strategy.

Subsequent discussions took place with NE in July 2024 who confirmed (subject to minor changes) the contents of the [Nutrient Neutrality Topic Paper](#), the [Habitats Regulations Assessment](#) and the outcome of traffic modelling from the [Strategic Transport Assessment](#) which necessitated an additional criterion being included in Policy W5 (Bushfield Camp) in relation air quality and the Itchen SAC.

#### NHS – Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust

Minor exchanges occurred during September with an extension to deadline granted – a meeting was subsequently held between the Council and the HHFT on 24/10/23 discussing the plan review, an overview of the HHFT, the HHFT programme timeline and consultation, and infrastructure matters concerning upgrade, development, and provision. A formal response to the infrastructure and Duty to Cooperate letter was received during November 2023 detailing the meeting held, funding structure, capacity planning, issues surrounding electricity capacity in the location of hospital development and matters regarding net-zero and the HCC movement strategy. There are no strategic matters to agree at this stage, but it may be necessary to enter into a SoCG at some point in the future.

#### NHS – Integrated Care Board

The NHS-ICB were contacted regarding planned infrastructure over the emerging plan-period and Duty to Cooperate obligations. A response was received during November 2023 confirming existing levels of infrastructure and funding source stating additional funding isn't allocated by the NHS and that S106 contributions will be required to enable deliverability of the plan. An additional spreadsheet was supplied providing details of infrastructure upgrades and locations. The Council has made various amendments to the Regulation 19 version of the local plan to highlight where the ICB has advised that the relevant GP surgeries fall below NHS space standards and to ensure that early conversations are held regarding any necessary improvements. In addition, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan records the most recent information supplied by the ICB on the surgeries which provide services to those living in the local plan area.

## Homes England

Minor exchanges took place over the proceeding month comprising reminder email sent and confirmation from Homes England that the letter had been sent to the relevant department. Additional reminder sent January 2024 with response from Homes England confirming position that there are no comments to make on the Local Plan.

## National Highways

A response was received 18/09/23 stating an inability to fully assess the plan and impact potential development may have until full Transport Modelling is complete and requires that development does not overly impact the SRN without suitable mitigation measures put in place. The response further provides details regarding M3 Junction 9 improvements and what the delivery is intended to achieve. National Highways are a statutory consultee and have responded to previous consultations and will be consulted upon for the upcoming Reg 19 consultation. NH's have been fully involved in the development of the Strategic Transport Assessment. At this stage it is not considered necessary to enter into a SoCG with NH's.

## Civil Aviation Authority

Reminder email sent January 2024 with response from the Civil Aviation Authority confirming position that there are no comments to make on the Local Plan.

## Office of Rail and Road

Reminder email sent January 2024 with response from the Office of Rail and Road confirming position that there are no comments to make on the Local Plan.

## Marine Management Organisation

Correspondence took place over the proceeding month comprising confirmation from the MMO that letter had been received with a meeting to take place within the MMO regarding a response; response received during September stating the MMO do not provide infrastructure but provided a list of infrastructure that should be considered as part of plan-making and provided information regarding decision taking; further correspondence confirmed minor area within the Winchester district affected by the Marine Management Plan and that it is unlikely a SoCG would be required.

## Local Enterprise Partnership – EnterpriseM3

Minor exchanges took place over the proceeding month comprising reminder email sent and confirmation from Enterprise M3 that a response will be made. Additional reminder sent January 2024 with response from Enterprise M3 confirming position that there are no comments to make on the Local Plan review. Since April 2024, the LEP is no longer an operating organisation.

## Local Nature Partnership

Reminder email sent during September with response confirming position that the Local Nature Partnership have no comments to make on the Local Plan.

## National Air Traffic Services

Response received stating NATS do not anticipate any impact from development confirming comments would be made on development when consulted upon as a statutory consultee.