

Appendix 3

Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Duty to Cooperate & Statement of Common Ground proposed approach - For Consultation

May 2020

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1. Introduction

The duty to co-operate in relation to planning for sustainable development was created in the Localism Act 2011 and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 accordingly. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils and other prescribed bodies to co-operate with each other to address strategic cross-boundary matters relevant to their areas. The duty requires on-going constructive and active engagement on the preparation of Local Plans and other activities relating to sustainable development and use of land. At Local Plan examination, the statutory duty to cooperate is considered by the Local Plan inspector as a standalone test separate to consideration of the soundness of the Plan.

Paragraphs 24-27 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and supporting guidance in [Planning Practice Guidance](#), set out requirements relating to maintaining effective cooperation. Plan-making activities addressing these points will help demonstrate that the statutory duty to cooperate has been fulfilled, but they are primarily national policy requirements, tested by the Local Plan inspector in relation to the soundness of a plan. Requirements include:

- The need for strategic policy-making authorities to identify the relevant strategic matters which need to be addressed in plans;
- The need for strategic policy-making authorities to collaborate with other strategic policy-making authorities, and to engage with other relevant bodies¹;
- Effective and on-going joint working to produce a positively prepared and justified strategy;

¹ The NPPF lists the following as relevant bodies: Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Nature Partnerships, the Marine Management Organisation, county councils, infrastructure providers, elected Mayors and combined authorities (in cases where Mayors or combined authorities do not have plan-making powers). Note that engagement between local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies is not covered by the duty to cooperate.

- Joint working should help to determine whether additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere; and
- The need to 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 made publicly available throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency).

This document sets out the proposed approach to addressing the duty to cooperate for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This includes the following key points:

- Strategic cross-boundary matters relevant to Greater Cambridge
- Relevant Duty to Cooperate local authorities and prescribed bodies
- Duty to cooperate engagement
- Documenting the Duty to Cooperate
- Proposed approach to a Statement of Common Ground, including:
 - Strategic geography
 - Parties
 - Strategic matters
 - Governance arrangements
 - Timetable for agreement, review and update

We are seeking your organisation's views on the proposed approach set out here. Questions are included at the end of each section.

2. Strategic cross-boundary matters

This section sets out the topics that are considered to be strategic cross-boundary matters relevant to Greater Cambridge at this stage in the plan-making process. Clearly at this point the list is not definitive and is likely to evolve as the plan progresses; we are seeking your views on what issues need substantive discussion. In particular the full review of responses to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan: First Conversation consultation has yet to be completed, and may inform amendments to the below list.

To inform the topics identified below, an assessment has been completed of all the strategic policies identified in the NPPF, together with commentary on why this topic might or might not constitute a strategic cross-boundary matter (as determined by legislation) relevant to Greater Cambridge. This assessment is set out at Appendix 1.

2.1 Strategy: pattern and scale of growth, including housing need and employment

2.1.1 Why a strategic cross-boundary matter?

National planning policy explicitly identifies the meeting of development needs as a strategic matter to be addressed in the Statement of Common Ground. In addition, choices about a potential spatial strategy to meet such needs may have implications for neighbouring areas.

Further to this, ambitions for the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Arc (OxCam Arc), including the government's [plans for housing and planning](#) following the announcements in the 2020 Budget, provide a further rationale for considering development strategy issues beyond the boundaries of Greater Cambridge.

2.1.2 Evidence

An Employment Land Review is ongoing in 2020 to assess potential future employment needs and supply, including taking into account recent fast growth highlighted in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Economic Review. This work feeds into an assessment of housing growth, which considers minimum housing need using the standard methodology, as well as any case for a higher number having regard to potential economic-led housing demand.

2.1.3 Proposed engagement

The Local Planning Authorities will discuss the implications of potential employment and housing growth levels and strategy choices with duty to cooperate partners following completion of the work outlined above. Equally, the Local Planning

Authorities want to understand at an early stage whether neighbouring authorities are likely to need to ask Greater Cambridge to take any unmet housing or employment needs.

Beyond the above, consideration of the Cambridge Green Belt under the new Local Plan will create an additional specific need for the Greater Cambridge authorities to discuss development needs with neighbours, on an in-principle basis, under the duty to cooperate. Testing of strategic options for the new Local Plan will need to include consideration of the role that land in the Cambridge Green Belt could play in a sustainable development strategy. A particular consideration is whether any exceptional circumstances exist that would necessitate a review of the defined Green Belt boundaries as part of the strategy for the new Local Plan. Therefore, in line with paragraph 137 of the NPPF, and without prejudging the outcome of the testing of reasonable options, at an early stage in the plan-making process the authorities will start engagement with neighbouring authorities to seek their in-principle view on taking any unmet needs from Greater Cambridge, in order to inform consideration of any amendments to the Green Belt.

In relation to the OxCam Arc, given the wide geography and related distributed nature of responsibilities it is somewhat challenging to identify and engage with relevant stakeholders for this theme who would be able to provide input to Greater Cambridge duty to cooperate issues from an OxCam Arc-wide perspective, or else to identify an appropriate forum to discuss such issues. Given these challenges it is proposed to engage with neighbouring and nearby authorities within the Arc, but not to seek to engage more widely with the Arc as a whole.

2.2 Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs

2.2.1 Why a strategic cross-boundary matter?

By definition, Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs are a strategic matter crossing administrative boundaries.

2.2.2 Evidence

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are partners in a joint Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) being undertaken for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough in 2020².

2.2.3 Proposed engagement

Any duty to cooperate issues arising through the GTANA work will be discussed via duty to cooperate meetings with neighbouring authorities, following the completion of the study.

2.3 Transport

2.3.1 Why a strategic cross-boundary matter?

The scale of the Cambridge Travel to Work Area and congestion on rail and road routes within and crossing the boundaries of Greater Cambridge make transport a strategic cross-boundary issue. Further to this, there are also a number of strategic transport infrastructure projects proposed in the area which will cross the boundaries of Greater Cambridge, including East West Rail, Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro, as well as transport studies in development such as the Royston to Granta Park study.

2.3.2 Evidence

The Councils are fulfilling their duty to cooperate role in part as active partners to the development of transport evidence studies, strategies, and infrastructure projects and that go beyond the boundaries of Greater Cambridge, including the following among others:

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Transport Plan (working with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, and the other Cambridgeshire authorities)

² N.B. Progress on this study will be significantly delayed by the social distancing guidelines associated with the Covid-19 epidemic. Revised timings have yet to be confirmed.

- A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme (working with Highways England, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Central Bedfordshire Council)
- East West Rail Central Section proposals (working with East West Rail Company, East West Rail Consortium, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council)
- East West Rail Eastern Section project (working with Cambridgeshire County Council and local authority partners in Norfolk and Suffolk)
- Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) (working with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Greater Cambridge Partnership, and neighbouring authorities affected by the proposed routes). Greater Cambridge Partnership transport corridor schemes form phase 1 of the CAM. These schemes don't cross local authority boundaries themselves, but have implications for neighbours in terms of influencing future travel patterns, and in terms of the extent to which the selected phase 1 routes influence the choices over phase 2 CAM routes, which will cross into neighbouring districts.
- Royston to Granta Park Strategic Transport Study (working with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, Uttlesford District Council, Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council, North Hertfordshire District Council and Highways England).

More details can be found within the [Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues & Options Infrastructure section](#).

The Councils are preparing a specific transport evidence base to support the Local Plan, which will model the impacts of potential strategy options. The Cambridge Sub-Regional Model (CSRМ) used to do this will incorporate assumptions that are consistent with those used for other projects and for neighbouring areas, as far as is reasonably possible.

2.3.3 Proposed engagement

A steering group for the Local Plan transport evidence base includes the Highways Authority, Transport Authority, and Greater Cambridge Partnership – the body delivering the current transport infrastructure programme within Greater Cambridge, to ensure relevant connections are made. Engagement on this topic with neighbouring local authorities will also be made as issues arise.

The Councils will continue to engage directly with neighbours and relevant partners on the other projects listed above, feeding in relevant emerging evidence from the Local Plan transport evidence to ensure coherent input is provided from the Cambridgeshire area, and to ensure that a coherent transport strategy is produced for Greater Cambridge.

2.4 Wildlife habitats, green infrastructure and landscape

2.4.1 Why a strategic cross-boundary matter?

Clearly wildlife and the natural environment do not respect administrative boundaries. It is therefore important to consider how matters relating to wildlife habitats, green infrastructure and landscape will be effectively planned for across administrative boundaries.

2.4.2 Evidence

A green infrastructure evidence base is being prepared in 2020, with its scope informed by discussion with Natural England and the Environment Agency. In addition, there are a number of natural environment projects being prepared by partners in the area, such as the Future Parks Accelerator and OxCam Local Natural Capital Plan. A Landscape Character Assessment is also being procured, which will inform the green infrastructure work.

2.4.3 Proposed engagement

The Local Planning Authorities will engage with the relevant statutory bodies, the Local Nature Partnership, neighbouring authorities and partners leading relevant natural environment projects as appropriate to ensure a coherent approach to

habitats, green infrastructure and landscape within and outside Greater Cambridge, including through specific duty to cooperate meetings and by involving these parties in the process of preparing the evidence base.

2.5 Water, including supply, quality, wastewater and flood risk

2.5.1 Why a strategic cross-boundary matter?

Water issues are shaped by river basins which cross boundaries. Greater Cambridge is in a water stressed area with low levels of rainfall. A particular challenge currently is the ecological impact of water abstraction, including from development, on the chalk streams that supply the River Cam.

2.5.2 Evidence

An integrated Water Cycle Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will commence in spring 2020 to support the joint Local Plan. The Water Cycle Study includes a specific element on exploring the impact of water abstraction.

2.5.3 Proposed engagement

The Local Planning Authorities will engage with the relevant statutory bodies, water companies, neighbouring authorities and other relevant partners to ensure a coherent approach to water issues within and outside Greater Cambridge, including involving these parties in the process of preparing the evidence base, engaging with those partners' own programmes, and through specific duty to cooperate meetings.

2.6 Energy, carbon offsetting and renewable energy generation.

2.6.1 Why a strategic cross-boundary matter?

The current electricity grid infrastructure affects supply across administrative boundaries. Equally, carbon offsetting might best be done at a wider than Greater Cambridge level, on the basis that there may be better opportunities to offset if considered over a wider area.

2.6.2 Evidence

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has undertaken recent evidence on electricity demand in the area. Further evidence on this will be gathered as part of the Greater Cambridge Infrastructure Delivery Plan. A Zero Carbon evidence base is being progressed in 2020, which will consider offsetting opportunities. In addition, green infrastructure opportunity areas identified through the Green Infrastructure evidence base may also provide carbon offsetting opportunities.

2.6.3 Proposed engagement

The Local Planning Authorities will engage with the energy providers, neighbouring authorities and other relevant partners to ensure a coherent approach to energy and carbon issues within and outside Greater Cambridge, including involving these parties in the process of preparing the identified evidence base and through specific duty to cooperate meetings where appropriate.

2.7 Social, health and community infrastructure

2.7.1 Why a strategic cross-boundary matter?

Cambridge plays a sub-regional and regional role in terms of social, health and community infrastructure provision, as follows:

- Education provision – further education colleges in Cambridge attract students from a wide area beyond the boundaries of Greater Cambridge
- Health – Located at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus in South West Cambridge, Addenbrooke's Hospital and the Rosie Hospital provide a regional healthcare role, and Addenbrooke's is also a leading national centre for specialist treatment for rare or complex conditions. Royal Papworth Hospital, the UK's leading heart and lung hospital, moved to the Biomedical Campus in 2019, adding to the concentration of health services and expertise located in Cambridge.

- Cultural – The range of museums, theatres and other cultural provision around Cambridge attract visitors from beyond the boundaries of Greater Cambridge.
- Leisure and retail – Cambridge is a regional retail centre, driven in part by its role as a tourist destination.
- Tourism – related to the above two points, Cambridge is a national and international visitor destination.

2.7.2 Evidence

An Infrastructure Delivery Plan is being produced to support the draft Local Plan. This will quantify the needs for all types of infrastructure, including social, health and education, associated with the growth proposed in the Plan. A Retail and Leisure study is due to report in summer 2020.

2.7.3 Proposed engagement

The Councils are not aware of specific duty to cooperate issues arising in relation to social, health and community infrastructure that would require substantive discussion with duty to cooperate bodies at this point in the process. However, this issue will be kept under review, including in the light of responses to the Issues & Options consultation, and to this Duty to Cooperate – proposed approach consultation.

2.8 Strategic developments on the boundary of Greater Cambridge

The authorities are not aware of any strategic scale developments currently proposed by neighbouring authorities (noting the withdrawal of the Uttlesford Local Plan in April 2020). The Local Planning Authorities will engage with all neighbouring districts on an ongoing basis (see Governance arrangements section below) to understand and discuss any relevant proposals and potential impacts, including discussing with neighbours relevant sites proposed to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan process.

Question: do you have any comments on the proposed initial list of strategic matters to be addressed in the Statement of Common Ground? Within these matters, what, if any, specific issues need addressing?

3. Relevant Duty to cooperate local authorities and prescribed bodies

The Councils consider that the above strategic cross-boundary matters relate primarily to authorities' areas bordering Greater Cambridge. As such, they consider that the following bodies are those that the Councils primarily need to engage with to fulfil the statutory Duty to Cooperate:

Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and County Councils

- Huntingdonshire District Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Braintree District Council
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- West Suffolk Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Uttlesford District Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Essex County Council
- Suffolk County Council

Prescribed duty to cooperate bodies:

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (Local Transport Authority; includes the Business Board which is in effect the Local Enterprise Partnership – a prescribed duty to cooperate body; responsibility to prepare a Non-Statutory Strategic Spatial Framework; responsibilities for funding

including: Housing Investment Fund, Single Pot Infrastructure Fund, and Adult Education Budget)

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Highways England
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Health Service Commissioning Board
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- Office of Rail Regulation
- Mayor of London
- Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership)

4. Duty to cooperate engagement

It is proposed that engagement on the duty to cooperate will include:

Initial engagement:

- Initial bilateral duty to cooperate meetings with the duty to cooperate partners the three key statutory consultees that are also prescribed bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) to establish relationships, and to begin more detailed substantive discussion of the relevant strategic matters.
- Contacting duty to cooperate partners, prescribed bodies, and the additional participants identified in the Statement of Common Ground: Parties Involved section of this document below, seeking views on the proposed approach to be taken to the duty to cooperate as set out in this document.

Ongoing engagement to continue throughout the plan-making process

- A duty to cooperate roundtable meeting to be established to meet on an ongoing basis at key stages in the process involving all the duty to cooperate partners and prescribed bodies to discuss duty to cooperate issues in the

round, with an officer meeting immediately followed by a member meeting. The first of these is proposed for summer 2020. Further roundtable meetings will be held on an ongoing basis, and could be spatially or thematically specific, involving relevant partners, as the need for discussion arises. The format and timing of these meetings will be kept under review.

- Further bilateral meetings on an ongoing basis with relevant bodies if required to address substantive strategic cross-boundary matters.
- In addition to the above, discussion of duty to cooperate issues involving Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and West Suffolk authorities will take place through the existing Planning Policy Forum.

Question: do you have any comments on the proposed engagement under the duty to cooperate?

5. Documenting the duty to cooperate

To address the statutory Duty to Cooperate, the Councils propose to develop a Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance providing an audit trail showing how the Duty has been addressed. This will include:

- A summary of the process taken to addressing the Duty, including all engagement undertaken
- Explanation of how strategic cross-boundary matters have been identified and addressed, sign-posting to other documents as appropriate
- Records of relevant meetings collated into an appendix

As part of the evidence to demonstrate compliance with the duty to cooperate, and to meet the NPPF requirements relating to effective cooperation, the Councils will publish one or more Statements of Common Ground at key stages (see below section) as the outcome of the Duty to Cooperate process undertaken. The Statement of Common Ground will:

- Follow the [template recommended by the Planning Advisory Service](#)
- Be a single overarching document covering all strategic matters, with duty to cooperate bodies signing up only to sections relevant to them. At all points in the process there is the potential that if discussion of specific

strategic cross-boundary matters become complex there would be scope for appending additional topic-specific Statements of Common Ground with relevant parties, covering the relevant functional geography.

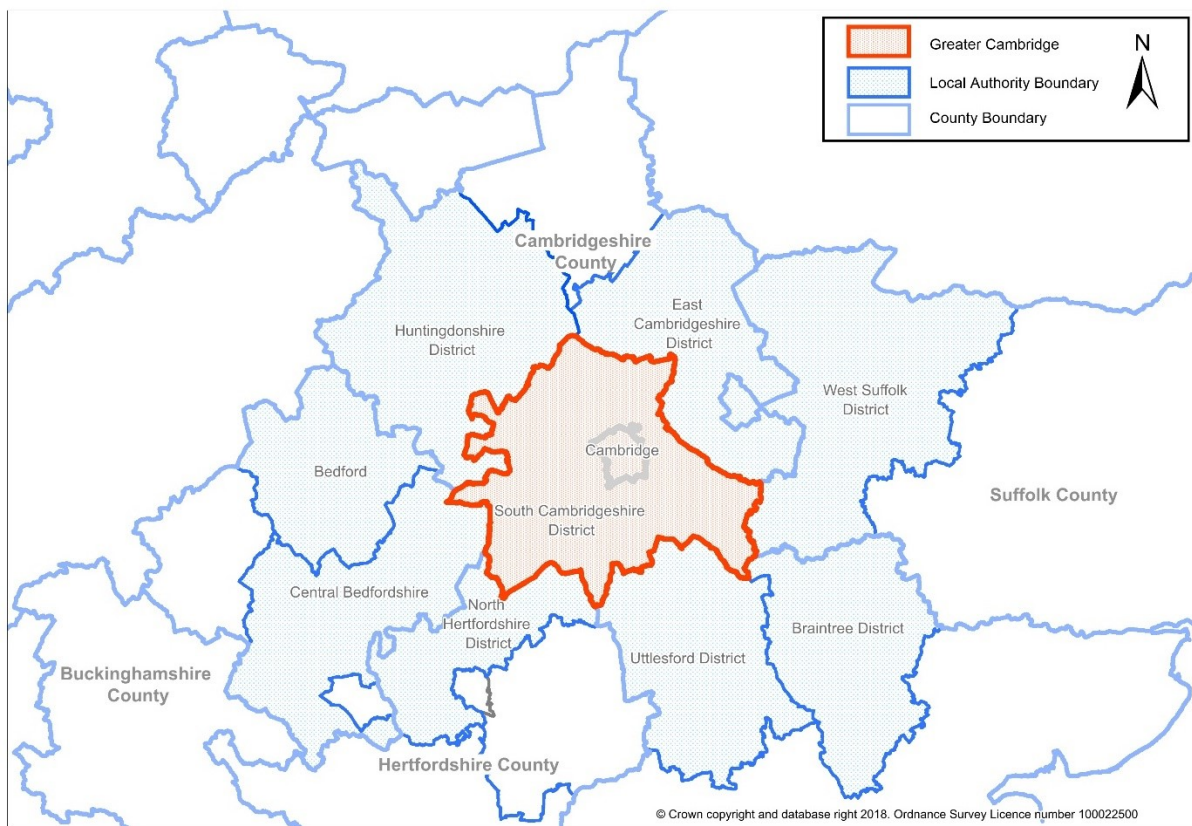
Question: do you have any comments on the proposed approach to documenting the Duty to Cooperate?

6. Statement of Common Ground/s – proposed approach

6.1 Strategic geography

It is proposed that a Statement of Common Ground will be produced to address strategic cross-boundary matters (discussed above) relating to the Greater Cambridge geography, incorporating Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire districts. Clearly, addressing such strategic matters will involve looking at the functional geographies beyond Greater Cambridge's boundary. Figure 1 below shows the Greater Cambridge area, and the administrative areas covered by local authorities that are strategic policy-making authorities and proposed to be signatories to a Statement of Common Ground, alongside the proposed additional signatories of Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Consideration is given later to additional participants that also have a relationship with Greater Cambridge on strategic matters, including those covering a wider geography such as nearby councils and service and utility providers (see the Parties Involved section below).

Figure 1: Proposed strategic geography for a Greater Cambridge Statement of Common Ground



Note: It is proposed that a Statement of Common Ground should be prepared for the Greater Cambridge area shown in red. It is proposed that the signatories to the Statement of Common Ground should include the neighbouring districts (shaded blue), Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, as well as those prescribed bodies for which substantive strategic cross-boundary matters are identified.

This strategic geography is proposed for a combination of functional geographic and pragmatic reasons, following the approach set out in Planning Practice Guidance³.

6.1.1 Functional geographic reasons

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire districts have a very strong functional relationship between them: for example, parts of the Cambridge urban area are located within South Cambridgeshire, and there are very significant in-commuting flows from South Cambridgeshire into Cambridge urban area. This relationship has

³ Planning Practice Guidance, Reference ID: 61-017-20190315

long been acknowledged through close joint working between the Local Planning Authorities, reflected in the City Deal for that area, the joint development strategy included in the adopted Local Plans for each district, and the agreement to produce the joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan now being prepared.

The Greater Cambridge area forms the centre of the previously identified Cambridge sub-region Housing Market Area⁴ and the Cambridge Travel To Work Area⁵. While other districts are included within these defined geographies, the strongest housing market and commuting connections are between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Districts in the wider Housing Market Area are identified as additional participants to the Statement of Common Ground (see Parties Involved section below).

The combined Greater Cambridge area also forms the core part of the functional 'Greater Cambridge' economic geography identified in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Economic Review; other areas identified within that geography include parts, but not all of, Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire.

6.1.2 Pragmatic reasons

Planning Practice Guidance (Guidance) states that Local Planning Authorities should prepare and maintain the Statement of Common Ground on an ongoing basis, and that they should make it available on their website by the time they publish a draft plan⁶. A further version will need to be prepared to support the proposed submission plan and any stages in between. This requirement suggests that any Statement of Common Ground covering more than one administrative area would need to support either a joint plan, or separate plans running to an aligned timetable. Guidance also states that authorities are expected, wherever possible, to detail cooperation in a

⁴ The Cambridge sub-region Housing Market Area identified in the Cambridge Sub-region Housing Market Assessment 2013 includes Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath (now merged to become West Suffolk) authority areas.

⁵

<http://ons.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=397ccae5d5c7472e87cf0ca766386cc2>

⁶ Reference ID: 61-020-20190315

single statement⁷. This requirement implies that a Statement of Common Ground would be expected to cover more than one strategic cross-boundary matter.

Drawing on the above, the Greater Cambridge authorities consider that it would not be appropriate to extend the geographic focus of the proposed Statement of Common Ground to a wider functional geography such as the Housing Market Area or Travel to Work Area, given that not all of the other authorities within those areas are producing a plan currently, and that there is currently no statutory sub-regional strategic planning arrangement. Equally, to extend the geographic focus of a Statement of Common Ground would also be likely to raise strategic matters which might not necessarily be relevant to Greater Cambridge, and would add to the complexity of preparation.

Given all of the above, it is proposed to prepare a specific Statement of Common Ground to support the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, but that addresses the strategic cross-boundary matters that relate to functional geographies affecting Greater Cambridge. However, notwithstanding the above, the councils remain open to the potential that further Statements of Common Ground may be required to address specific strategic cross-boundary matters, which could address functional geographies covering a wider area than just Greater Cambridge.

6.2 Relationship with other Statements of Common Ground

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are also party to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Plan Statement of Common Ground being prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council. The strategic geography focus for the Minerals and Waste Statement supports a single plan-making process, following similar pragmatic logic to the approach proposed for Greater Cambridge. It is expected that all strategic matters relating to minerals and waste for Greater Cambridge will be addressed through that process, and will therefore not be included in the Greater Cambridge Statement of Common Ground.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council will engage as required in other Local Planning Authorities' Statements of Common Ground as these come forward.

⁷ Reference ID: 61-012-20190315

Question: do you have any comments on the proposed strategic geography for the Statement of Common Ground? Do you think the Local Planning Authorities should consider a different strategic geography? If you are producing a Statement of Common Ground please let us know.

6.3 Parties involved

6.3.1 Signatories

Given the proposed strategic geography for the Statement of Common Ground and drawing on the Relevant Duty to Cooperate local authorities and prescribed bodies section above, it is proposed that the following bodies are proposed to be signatories to the Statement of Common Ground for the specific strategic matters relevant to them:

- neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (identified as strategic policy-making authorities in the NPPF and PPG)
- neighbouring County Councils for which substantive strategic matters are identified
- Cambridgeshire County Council (Local Highways Authority and responsible for a range of infrastructure and services including education and social care)
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (Local Transport Authority; includes the Business Board which is in effect the Local Enterprise Partnership – a prescribed duty to cooperate body; responsibility to prepare a Non-Statutory Strategic Spatial Framework; responsibilities for funding including: Housing Investment Fund, Single Pot Infrastructure Fund, and Adult Education Budget); and
- The prescribed bodies for which substantive strategic matters are identified (to be confirmed through duty to cooperate discussions).

See Figure 1 above for the area covered by the local authorities proposed to be included.

6.3.2 Additional participants regarding strategic matters

The following bodies are proposed to be additional participants, to ensure the Councils maintain effective cooperation with strategic policy-making authorities that are not adjacent to Greater Cambridge, as well as relevant bodies that are not strategic policy-making authorities, as required by the NPPF and Guidance. It is not currently proposed that these bodies will necessarily be formal signatories, in order to ensure that the Statement of Common Ground process does not become overly complex. However, should specific strategic matters arise through the course of preparing the Local Plan requiring particular focus, there is potential that any of the participants identified below could become additional signatories to specific elements of the Statement of Common Ground (or to any additional topic-specific Statement of Common Ground that might be prepared addressing a wider strategic geography):

- Local Authorities:
 - Fenland District Council (Local Planning Authority within Cambridge Sub-region Housing Market Area; Combined Authority partner)
 - Peterborough City Council (Combined Authority partner)
 - East Hertfordshire District Council (close to South Cambridgeshire boundary)
 - Bedford Borough Council (close to South Cambridgeshire boundary and on the route of the proposed East West Rail Central Section)
- Infrastructure providers:
 - Anglian Water
 - Cambridge Water
 - Network Rail
 - UK Power Networks
 - National Grid
- Service providers:
 - Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service
 - Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Non-government organisations (such as advisory bodies) the authority cooperates with to address strategic matters:
 - Sport England
 - Wildlife Trust
- Transport organisations:

- England's Economic Heartland (Sub-national Transport Body incorporating Greater Cambridge area)
 - Transport East (neighbouring Sub-national Transport Body)
 - East West Rail Company (delivery body for strategic transport infrastructure)
 - East West Rail Consortium (strategic transport infrastructure partnership relevant to Greater Cambridge)
 - Abellio Greater Anglia (rail operator)
 - Stagecoach East (bus operator)
 - Whippet Coaches Limited (bus operator)
- Strategic partnerships:
 - Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Corridor Place Board (strategic local authority partnership incorporating Greater Cambridge)
 - London Stansted Cambridge Consortium (strategic economic partnership incorporating the Greater Cambridge area)
 - Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor (strategic economic partnership incorporating the Greater Cambridge area)
- Neighbouring Local Enterprise Partnerships, including:
 - New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
 - South East Local Enterprise Partnership
 - Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
 - South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
- Neighbouring Local Nature Partnerships, including:
 - Wild Anglia (Local Nature Partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk)
 - Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership
 - Hertfordshire Local Nature Partnership

Question: do you have any comments on the proposed list of signatories and potential additional participants to the Statement of Common Ground? Are there any further organisations we should be engaging with?

6.4 Governance arrangements

For Greater Cambridge, sign-off of the Statement of Common Ground, or multiple Statements of Common Ground if more than one is required (see above under Documenting the Duty to Cooperate), will include member engagement, including consultation with lead members on behalf of the two councils.

It is anticipated that the other signatories to the Statement of Common Ground will identify the relevant person to sign the document as they see fit.

Question: do you have any comments on the proposed approach to governance? If your organisation has been identified as a signatory, please identify your primary contact.:

- **at officer level – who will be responsible for coordinating discussion, and**
- **at member level – who will be responsible for signing off the Statement of Common Ground?**

6.5 Approach to agreement, review and update

The Greater Cambridge Local Planning Authorities will work with relevant parties to address identified strategic matters on an ongoing basis, and in relation to the output timings of relevant evidence.

It is proposed that an initial Statement of Common Ground will be published once strategic matters have been confirmed, having regard to the outcome of the Issues and Options consultation held January-February 2020, and the initial engagement set out above. Further to this, a full Statement of Common Ground will be published alongside each future public consultation stage of the Local Plan, including at least:

- Draft Local Plan
- Proposed Submission Local Plan

Question: do you have any comments on the proposed approach to agreement review and update of the Statement of Common Ground?

Appendix 1: Assessment of strategic policies (as per NPPF) to identify strategic cross-boundary matters

Strategic policy topic	Specific issues	A strategic matter?	Comment	Relevant geography	Relevant evidence
Strategy (pattern, scale and quality of development) (see also Housing and Employment)	Pattern and scale of growth; Consideration of unmet needs for housing and employment	Yes	Potential location of development in a strategy may have cross-boundary impacts. NPPF requirement to discuss potential to take unmet needs before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries. Specific requirement in NPPF and PPG to confirm provision within own area/or agree redistribution of housing need.	Neighbouring authorities Housing Market Area Travel To Work Area	Housing Growth Assessment Greater Cambridge Employment Land Review Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport evidence base
Housing (including affordable housing) (see also Strategy above)	Overall housing need; Housing Mix Distribution of housing need	Overall housing need and distribution: Yes	Specific requirement in NPPF and PPG to confirm provision within own area/or agree	Housing Market Area	Housing Growth Assessment Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Housing Mix study

Strategic policy topic	Specific issues	A strategic matter?	Comment	Relevant geography	Relevant evidence
		Housing Mix: no	redistribution of housing need.		
Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs	Accommodation Needs Provision of sites	Yes	By nature, travellers move across boundaries.	Neighbouring authorities	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment
Retail, leisure and other commercial development		Yes	Cambridge is a sub-regional leisure and retail centre	To be defined through the Retail and Leisure Study	Greater Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study
Transport infrastructure	Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) East West Rail (EWR) Pinchpoint areas (eg A505)	Yes	Relationship to Travel to Work Area Local Transport Plan forms wider strategy Will we rely on CAM which goes cross-boundary? Commuting impacts	Travel to Work Area Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CAM authorities (HMA) EWR Central Section route authorities?	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Transport Plan Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport evidence base CAM evidence
Telecommunications infrastructure		No			
Security infrastructure		No			
Waste management infrastructure		Yes	Waste infrastructure serves communities across boundaries	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	Addressed separately via Cambridgeshire &

Strategic policy topic	Specific issues	A strategic matter?	Comment	Relevant geography	Relevant evidence
					Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan
Water supply infrastructure		Yes	Water supply infrastructure goes across boundaries	Water catchment	Greater Cambridge Integrated Water Cycle Strategy
Wastewater infrastructure		No	Waste water infrastructure for Greater Cambridge is currently provided within the area.		Greater Cambridge Integrated Water Cycle Strategy
Flood risk infrastructure		Yes	Flood catchments go across boundaries	Flood catchment	Greater Cambridge Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Coastal change management infrastructure		N/A	N/A	N/A	
Provision of minerals		Yes		Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	Addressed separately via Minerals & Waste Local Plan
Energy (including heat);		Yes?	Electricity generation is a challenge for the wider area around Greater Cambridge	Greater Cambridge and neighbouring authorities	Greater Cambridge Partnership energy study
Community facilities (such as health,		Yes in principle,	Cambridge plays a regional health	East of England	Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Strategic policy topic	Specific issues	A strategic matter?	Comment	Relevant geography	Relevant evidence
education and cultural infrastructure); and		although no known specific issues	(Addenbrookes) and cultural role		
Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and	Green Belt Green infrastructure Biodiversity offsetting	Natural Environment: Yes Historic Environment: no	NPPF requirement (para. 137) - Before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, LPAs are required to: make as much use as possible of brownfield land, optimise the density of development, discuss potential to take unmet needs with neighbours. Green infrastructure crosses administrative boundaries Offsetting might best be done on a wider than Greater Cambridge geography Oxford-Cambridge Arc environment workstream	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Oxford-Milton Keynes - Cambridge Arc	Greater Cambridge Green infrastructure evidence OxCam Local Natural Capital Plan

Strategic policy topic	Specific issues	A strategic matter?	Comment	Relevant geography	Relevant evidence
Planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation		Yes	Carbon offsetting might best be done on a wider than Greater Cambridge geography	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	Greater Cambridge Zero Carbon Evidence base