

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

BETWEEN

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (NHDC)

AND

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL (UDC)

IN RESPECT OF

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared jointly by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) and Uttlesford District Council (UDC).
- 1.2 The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between NHDC and UDC with regard to the North Hertfordshire Local Plan and supporting evidence base, which will assist the Inspector during the Examination of the Local Plan.
- 1.3 Local Authorities are required through the Duty to Co-operate (the Duty) to engage constructively and actively on an on-going basis on planning matters that impact on more than one local planning area.
- 1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement that public bodies should cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries and, at Paragraph 156, identifies a series of strategic priorities:
 - The homes and jobs needed in the area.
 - The provision of retail, leisure, and other commercial development.
 - The provision of infrastructure for transport telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management.
 - The provision of minerals and energy (including heat).
 - The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities.
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment including landscape.
- 1.5 The NPPF requires Local Planning Authorities to work collaboratively with other bodies to make sure that these strategic priorities are properly co-ordinated across local boundaries and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.
- 1.6 Local Planning authorities are expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross- boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination.

2 Background

- 2.1 This SoCG relates to the representations made by UDC to NHDC's Proposed Submission Local Plan (2016).

3 Duty to Cooperate

- 3.1 As set out in the North Herts Duty to Cooperate statement, NHDC and UDC have co-operated constructively, actively and on an on-going basis of the plan's production.
- 3.2 UDC has continuously responded to public consultations and liaised with Officers as the Local Plan process has developed which has helped inform both the strategy and policy framework within the plan.
- 3.3 UDC have commented on the North Herts Local Plan at key stages and raised no issues under duty to cooperate. UDC is satisfied that the requirements of the Duty and the NPPF have been met in relation to the NHLP

4 Agreed Matters

- 4.1 NHDC and UDC agree that the North Hertfordshire Local Plan, November 2016 is sound insofar as it relates to matters covered by the Duty to Co-operate.
- 4.2 There is agreement between the authorities that there are no strategic cross-boundary issues owing to the extent of the shared boundary and the limited relationships and links that exists between the two authorities. As such that there are no strategic impacts from the NHDC Local Plan that would warrant discussion under the Duty to Cooperate.
- 4.3 In relation to the strategic issue of housing UDC and NHDC have used the same consultants (ORS) for production of their Strategic Housing Market Assessments (SHMA) and have ensured there is continuity between the methodologies for defining Housing Market Areas and also the resulting geographies. This means that there is agreement across the two authority areas from a housing market area perspective.



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

Signed on behalf of
Uttlesford District Council
XX March 2017