

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Clare Clarke, Group Leader Plans, Policies and Place-Making

Officer Making the Decision

Richard Bennett, Head of Planning and Regeneration

Recommendation

That the Statement of Common Ground prepared by North West Leicestershire District Council be signed.

Reason

An agreed Statement of Common Ground is required by North West Leicestershire to provide evidence of effective cooperation with neighbouring authorities under the Duty to Cooperate required by the 2011 Localism Act. The Statement provides an accurate summary of the cooperation that has taken place and the jointly agreed position between the authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Authority for Decision

Under the provisions of Section 8.1 of the Council's Constitution, the Head of Service has delegated authority to take such action as may in his or her opinion be necessary or appropriate in connection with all operational management matters for those functions and service areas for which he or she has responsibility.

Decision and Date



10/1/20

Background

The Statement of Common Ground has been prepared by North West Leicestershire District Council, and is an agreed position statement between Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

North West Leicestershire District Council have prepared the Statement to support the partial review of their Local Plan. The review was included as a requirement in their adopted Local Plan in Policy S1 by the inspector to address the possible unmet need for homes arising from Leicester City and shortage of employment land up to 2031. The policy requires the submission of a partial review to the Secretary of State within two years of adoption.

The Statement confirms that a number of planning permissions mean good progress is being made towards addressing the shortage of employment land. It also highlights that there remains a lack of sufficient clarity regarding the issue of unmet housing need in Leicester City and how such need would be redistributed amongst the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities. It is therefore stated that submission of a partial review within two years is no longer feasible.

North West Leicestershire District Council is now proposing that the partial review be limited to a review of Policy S1 which sets out the requirement to submit a partial review within two years. A substantive review will also be progressed.

The key strategic matters, which the Statement sets out as agreed between the authorities are:

- A commitment to joint working on long term strategic planning for housing and economic growth and the associated strategic infrastructure required to support growth across the Leicester and Leicestershire, including meeting the areas housing and economic needs within its boundaries.
- The Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) (2017) is the most recent Housing Market Area wide based evidence study.
- The annual housing requirement need for Leicester and Leicestershire set out in the HEDNA for the period to 2031 is 4,829 dwellings, or 96,580 for the period 2011-2031. The figure for North West Leicestershire for the same period is 481 dwellings. This is the housing requirement set out in the adopted North West Leicestershire Local Plan.
- The annual housing need for Leicester and Leicestershire using the standard method (2014-based) is 4,867 dwellings. The figure for North West Leicestershire is 379 dwellings. For the purpose of the partial review it is agreed that no change should be made to the housing requirement of the adopted North West Leicestershire Local Plan.
- To date only Leicester City has declared that it will not be able to meet all of its housing needs up to 2031 and that the amount of the unmet need has yet to be resolved in discussion with the housing market area partners.
- The redistribution of unmet housing needs from Leicester City (or any other authority declaring and quantifying an unmet need) will be agreed through the established joint working mechanisms.
- No authority has declared that it is unable to meet its own economic development needs.

- It is recognised that there have been changes in circumstances since the North West Leicestershire Local Plan was adopted. These changes are such that completing the partial review within the two years specified is not feasible.

Comments from HR

The report has no HR implications.

Financial Implications

This report has no financial implications.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial
Review Statement of Common Ground