

Blaby District Council Statement – Matter 10

MATTER 10: LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND NEEDS

10.1 What is the up to date position with the signing of the SoCG (Exam 43) by the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities (including the County Council)? Are there any implications for Plan preparation by the authorities and if so, what are they?

Blaby District Council approved the signing of the Leicester & Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground (SoCG (Exam 43)) at Council on 19th July 2022.

At paragraphs 5.4 - 5.5 Exam 43 is clear that the next stage of work is for each individual Local Planning Authority to test their allocated figure through their plan making, to understand whether the target is deliverable at the local level. As part of the emerging Local Plan, the Council is progressing this evidence to understand the deliverable capacity within the district.

The current Local Development Scheme is out of date and will be updated by the end of 2022. The last consultation on the emerging Local Plan was a regulation 18 Options Consultation in January 2021. The next stage will be the regulation 19 Publication draft currently expected to take place in summer 2023.

Blaby District Council will continue its ongoing Duty to Cooperate that it must fulfil in order to progress the emerging New Local Plan and will continue to use SoCG on relevant strategic matters.

10.26 What consideration has been given to meeting a proportion of the unmet need in Blaby over the longer-term in order to contribute towards maintaining an attractive supply of employment sites in the Leicester area?

The Council's understanding is that this question is a reference to the HENA Employment Distribution Paper (Exam 46) under Paragraphs 1.15 onwards. Leicester's unmet need for employment land relates to the period up to 2036. As such the SoCG and supporting evidence consider the period up to 2036. At paragraph 1.17 the HENA Employment Distribution Paper is clear that the short to medium term is up to 2036.

The SoCG does not consider longer term employment needs at the FEMA level. Table 1.1 of the HENA Employment Distribution Paper identifies a shortfall of 15.7 hectares for the period 2021-2036 for Blaby district. As part of its ongoing work on the emerging Local Plan, Blaby District Council will consider employment needs in the context of the sub regional evidence, SoCG and any district level evidence.

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