

Title of Report	LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES - STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND RELATING TO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND NEEDS	
Presented by	Ian Nelson Planning Policy Team Manager	
Background Papers	National Planning Policy Framework	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	The only cost of preparing the Statement of Common Ground is officer time.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	A Statement of Common is required to demonstrate that the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities are co-operating in respect of strategic cross boundary planning matters.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To highlight that a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities to support the Charnwood Local Plan.	
Recommendations	THAT LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE AGREES THAT THE LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND RELATING TO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND NEEDS (MARCH 2021) BE SIGNED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Localism Act 2011 requires effective cooperation between bodies in relation to strategic cross boundary planning matters. To demonstrate such co-operation as part of the preparation of Local Plans a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is required.
- 1.2 Members will also be aware that the Council has been engaged with the other Leicester and Leicestershire authorities to agree a redistribution of unmet housing and employment needs from Leicester City. It was intended that a SoCG be prepared which would agree this redistribution.
- 1.3 Work on this was progressing well, but late in 2020 the government announced changes to its Standard Method for calculating housing requirements which saw a 35% increase in the needs for Leicester City. This also means that the level of unmet need has increased.
- 1.4 In view of this increase further work is required to establish an appropriate redistribution. This work is ongoing.
- 1.5 However, Charnwood Borough Council is due to submit its Local plan for public examination later in 2021. Charnwood Borough Council, therefore, require a Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground.

1.6 Through the work of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and the Member Advisory Group (MAG) a SoCG has been agreed but needs to be ratified by each authority.

1.7 A copy of the SoCG is attached at Appendix A of this report.

2.0 THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

2.1 The SoCG sets out how the local authorities will collaborate further to ensure that the necessary joint evidence is in place to support the preparation of Local Plans across Leicester and Leicestershire. The SoCG is intended to provide evidence of effective co-operation on planning issues with cross-boundary impacts.

2.2 The SoCG does not apportion and/or redistribute unmet need to any of the other Leicestershire authorities; it is a factual statement that sets out:

- Level of housing and employment need;
- The theoretical supply of housing and employment land;
- The scale of unmet need from Leicester City; and
- The process by which unmet need will be dealt with

2.3 The SoCG commits signatories to joint working on long term strategic planning for housing and economic growth and the associated strategic infrastructure across Leicester and Leicestershire.

2.4 The SoCG is currently being taken through the respective sign-off process by each of the authorities.

2.5 When work on the agreeing a redistribution from Leicester City then it is envisaged that a further SoCG will be prepared and agreed and similarly will require sign off by each authority.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Policy Considerations:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Safeguarding:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Equalities/Diversity:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Customer Impact:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Economic and Social Impact:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Environment and Climate Change:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Risks:	None identified.
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