

Title of Report	STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND – CHARNWOOD BOROUGH	
Presented by	Ian Nelson Planning Policy and Land Charges Team Manager	
Background Papers	Report to Local Plan Committee – 15 January 2020	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	All local authorities are required to satisfy the Duty to Cooperate when preparing Local Plans. The Statement of Common Ground relates specifically to the Charnwood Local Plan as the onus to demonstrate cooperation rests with Charnwood Borough Council.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None identified	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To note the agreement of a Statement of Common Ground with Charnwood Borough Council in respect of the Charnwood Local Plan	
Recommendations	THAT LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE NOTES THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will recall that a report in respect of the Draft Charnwood Borough Local Plan was considered at a meeting of this Committee on 15 January 2020. It was agreed to make comments on a small number of aspects of the plan.
- 1.2 The Regulation 19 (pre-submission version) Plan was published by Charnwood Borough Council on 12 July 2021. In view of the fact that the consultation period did not coincide with a meeting of this Committee, the Council's response was agreed by the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure.
- 1.3 Members will be aware local authorities are under an obligation to satisfy the Duty to Cooperate when preparing their Local Plans. A way to demonstrate this is through a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).

- 1.4 Charnwood Borough Council has prepared a SoCG which sets out the cooperation that has taken place to date with this Council as part of the Charnwood Local Plan review. A copy is attached at Appendix A of this report.
- 1.5 Sections 1 and 2 of the SoCG provide background information. Section 3 provides details of the cooperation that has taken place, including in the context of wider discussion across Leicester and Leicestershire.
- 1.6 Section 4 outlines those matters upon which there is agreement, whilst section 5 does the same in respect of those matters where we are not in agreement. It highlights that both authorities are open to further cooperation and discussions. Those matters set out in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.4 were the subject of 'objection' from this Council as part of the consultation on the Regulation 19 (i.e. pre-submission) plan by Charnwood and were agreed by the Strategic Director of Place as outlined in paragraph 1.2 above.. Section 6 then provides a commitment from both authorities to continue to cooperate
- 1.7 Appended to the SoCG is a discussion paper prepared by officers of this Council and Charnwood Borough Council in respect of the Leicestershire International Gateway (LIG), one of a number of specific areas for growth identified in the Strategic Growth Plan (SGP). The paper sets out a shared understanding of the LIG, in particular that there is not a requirement for a bespoke policy approach but that instead that the LIG concept has and will continue to influence our respective local plan policies.
- 1.8 The SoCG is a factually correct record and there is no reason as to why this should not be signed by the Council. A decision to this effect was made on 15 November 2021 by the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning and Infrastructure.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	None
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	None specific.
Equalities/Diversity:	None specific
Customer Impact:	None specific
Economic and Social Impact:	None specific
Environment and Climate Change:	None specific
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Consultation with Portfolio Holders for Planning and Infrastructure
Risks:	None specific
Officer Contact	Ian Nelson Planning Policy & Land Charges Manager 01530 454677 IAN.NELSON@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

