

Staffing and Corporate Implications	No staffing implications are associated with the specific content of this report. Links with the Council's Priorities are set out at the end of the report.
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes
Purpose of Report	To consider the draft Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground relating to housing distribution (December 2025) at Appendix A to this report so that the view of Cabinet can be forwarded to Council when it considers the Statement of Common Ground at its meeting on 12 May 2026.
Reason for Decision	To determine Cabinet's views on the proposed Statement of Common Ground for forwarding to Council.
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: PROVIDES COMMENTS ON THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND RELATING TO HOUSING DISTRIBUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 12 MAY 2026.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A statement of common ground is a formal, written agreement between local planning authorities dealing with cross-boundary strategic matters. Having a statement of common ground in place helps to ensure effective, transparent cooperation, identifying agreed facts and any outstanding issues. Such statements can be an important way to demonstrate effective joint-working (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 36c).
- 1.2 This report is concerned with the *Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2025* (SoCG, December 2025). The SoCG is underpinned by an *Updated Housing Distribution Paper* (UHDP, November 2025), prepared by the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities.
- 1.3 The SoCG is being considered by Local Plan Committee on 18 March 2026. The Local Plan Committee covering report, which explains the purpose, background and implications of the SoCG and the UHDP is at **Appendix 1**. The content of the Local Plan Committee report provides Cabinet with information it needs to consider on the issue of housing distribution.

1.4 Appended to the Local Plan Committee report at **Appendix 1** are:

- **Appendix A:** *Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024* (December 2025)
- **Appendix B:** *Updated Housing Distribution Paper* (November 2025)
- **Appendix C:** *FAQs - Updated Housing Distribution Paper and associated Statement of Common Ground* (January 2026)

1.5 The March Cabinet agenda papers will be published before the 18 March Local Plan Committee is held. The comments of the Local Plan Committee will be reported verbally at the Cabinet meeting.

2.0 NEXT STEPS

2.1 The 2025 Statement of Common Ground relating to housing distribution will be considered by each individual authority through their governance processes.

2.2 A decision on the Statement of Common Ground will be made by North West Leicestershire District Council at its meeting on 12 May 2026. The views of Cabinet and Local Plan Committee will be forwarded to Council to help inform its decision

2.3 Subject to the housing figures being agreed by the respective councils, they will be tested through the examinations of the North West Leicestershire, Blaby, Hinckley and Bosworth and Oadby and Wigston Local Plans.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning and regeneration - Communities and housing
Policy Considerations:	The Local Plan is required to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and other government guidance and requirements. This includes effecting and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities to help determine whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.
Safeguarding:	Non-discernible.
Equalities/Diversity:	An Equalities Impact Assessment of the new Local Plan will be undertaken to accompany the Regulation 19 version of the plan.
Customer Impact:	No issues identified.
Economic and Social Impact:	The Statement of Common Ground results in an increased housing requirement for North West Leicestershire which seeks to build more homes in alignment with the provision of jobs in the district.

Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	The Statement of Common Ground results in a minor increase to the number of homes planned for to date. It is anticipated that this additional requirement can be met on small scale windfall sites, within the Limits to Development
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Further consultation on the Local Plan, including its approach to strategic warehousing outline in this report, will be undertaken at Regulation 19 stage.
Risks:	A risk assessment for the new Local Plan has been prepared and is kept up to date. As far as possible control measures have been put in place to minimise risks, including regular risk review.
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