

EXTRACT of MINUTES of a meeting of the LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE held in the Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2026

Present: Councillor J G Simmons (Chair)

Councillors M Ball, A Barker (substitute for Councillor C A Sewell), D Bigby, P Lees, J Legrys, R L Morris, P Moulton, L Windram and M B Wyatt

In Attendance: Councillor R Sutton

Officers: Ms J Althorpe, Mr B Dooley, Mr C Elston, Mrs C Hammond, Mr T James and Ms S Lee

#### **43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor S Lambeth and Councillor C Sewell for whom Councillor A Barker was a substitute.

#### **44 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members declared the following interests:

All members declared that they had been lobbied without influence by Councillor R Sutton on all items on the agenda.

#### **48 LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND – STRATEGIC DISTRIBUTION**

The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented the report.

At the request of a member, it was minuted that they were not supportive of the draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), as it was believed it required further investigation due to the negative impact it would have had on the rural parts of the District. It was added that the Council had worked collaboratively with only two of the seven councils that border the District on the SoCG, which left many areas which the Council did not have much detail on to inform the SoCG. It was emphasised that further investigation should have been carried out before members could have made a well-informed decision.

During discussion, members agreed that it was important to maintain the rural identity of the District but commented that, due to Local Government Reorganisation, it was important to get the Local Plan finalised by the end of the year. It was mentioned that, subject to the officers having the resources once the Local Plan had been submitted, the points raised by members could have been investigated.

Members were thanked for their comments which were to be considered by Council at their meeting on 12 May 2026.

#### **49 LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND – HOUSING DISTRIBUTION UNDER THE NEW STANDARD METHOD**

The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented the report.

A discussion was had during which several questions of clarity were addressed by the planning policy officers. Members expressed concern over whether Oadby and Wigston Borough Council could have met their own housing need and what implications this would have had on this process and the Local Plan.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer responded that, in the event their housing needs were not met, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council would have to have justified their unmet need.

Members were thanked for their comments which were to be considered by Council at their meeting on 12 May 2026.