

Title of Report	LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND - HOUSING DISTRIBUTION UNDER THE NEW STANDARD METHOD	
Presented by	James Arnold Strategic Director of Place	
Background Papers	<p>National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)</p> <p>Minutes of Cabinet 24 March 2026</p> <p>Minutes of Local Plan Committee 18 March 2026</p> <p>Item 30 Report to Council 6 September 2022</p> <p>Item 5 Report to Local Plan Committee 25 May 2022</p> <p>Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground (April 2022)</p> <p>Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) (2022)</p>	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	<p>The cost of preparing the Statement of Common Ground and its supporting evidence is met by all the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities making agreed contributions.</p> <p>Signed off by the Acting Section 151 Officer: Yes</p>	
Legal Implications	<p>The Local Plan is required to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and other government guidance and requirements. This includes working effectively on cross-boundary strategic matters. The Statement of Common Ground helps to address this requirement.</p> <p>Signed off by the Interim Monitoring Officer: Yes</p>	

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 for strategic warehousing (January 2026) at Appendix A to this report.
Recommendations	<p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <p>AGREES THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND - HOUSING DISTRIBUTION UNDER THE NEW STANDARD METHOD (DECEMBER 2025), INCLUDED AT APPENDIX A OF THIS REPORT.</p>

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a formal, written agreement between local planning authorities dealing with cross-boundary strategic matters. Having a SoCG 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 (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 2024* (December 2025). The SoCG is underpinned by a *Housing Distribution Update Paper* (HDPU), prepared by the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities. The SoCG is at **Appendix A** of this report and the HDPU is at **Appendix B**.
- 1.3 The SoCG was presented to the 18 March 2026 meeting of the Local Plan Committee. The Local Plan Committee covering report, which explains the purpose, background and implications of the SoCG and the HDUP is at **Appendix C**. The Local Plan Committee report provides Council with the information it needs to consider the issue of housing distribution. The minutes of the 18 March meeting are linked in the background papers section at the start of this report.
- 1.4 The SoCG was then presented to Cabinet on 24 March 2026 which noted the report. For completeness, the minutes from the meeting are also linked in the background papers section above.
- 1.5 The full list of appendices is as follows:
- **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** – Local Plan Committee Report, 18 March 2026

2.0 NEXT STEPS

- 2.1 Should the Council agree to signing the Statement of Common Ground, the new Local Plan will be progressed using a housing requirement of 690 dwellings per annum for North West Leicestershire.
- 2.2 Subject to the housing figures being agreed by the Leicester and Leicestershire 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 developments needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.
Safeguarding:	None 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 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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