

Title of Report	LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND - STRATEGIC DISTRIBUTION	
Presented by	James Arnold Strategic Director of Place	
Background Papers	<p>Item 6 Report to Local Plan Committee 18 November 2025</p> <p>Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing & Logistics Need (September 2021)</p> <p>Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Distribution Need and Apportionment Study (2025)</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)</p> <p>Draft minutes of Local Plan Committee 18 March 2026</p> <p>Draft minutes of Cabinet 24 March 2026</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 new 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 request that Council agrees the 'Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground for Strategic Warehousing (March 2026)' at Appendix A to this report.
Recommendation	THAT COUNCIL: AGREES THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND RELATING TO STRATEGIC WAREHOUSING NEED (MARCH 2026) INCLUDED AT APPENDIX A OF THIS REPORT.

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 paragraph 36c).
- 1.2 This report is concerned with the 'Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need March 2026' ('SoCG 2026'). The full text of the SoCG 2026 is included in Appendix A.
- 1.3 The SoCG 2026 has been considered at the following meetings:
- **Local Plan Committee 18 March 2026.** The covering report for this meeting which explains the purpose, background and implications of the SocG 2026 is included at Appendix B. The report provides helpful background information and explains the importance of the SoCG 2026 for this Council's emerging Local Plan. A link to the minutes from the Local Plan Committee is included in the 'background papers' box above.
 - **Cabinet 24 March 2026.** Cabinet noted the report. Draft minutes from the meeting are linked in the 'background papers' box above.
- 1.4 The SoCG 2026 is being considered by each of the signatory Leicester and Leicestershire authorities through their governance processes.
- 1.5 Council is requested to agree the SoCG 2026.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	- Planning and regeneration
Policy Considerations:	The Local Plan is required to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and other government guidance and requirements
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 SoCG 2026 deals with the provision of new strategic warehousing floorspace which in turn will impact positively on the economy of the district in the form of additional investment and jobs.
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	The decision, of itself, will have no specific impact. The new Local Plan as a whole, will aim to deliver positive environmental and climate change impacts and these will be recorded through the Sustainability Appraisal.
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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