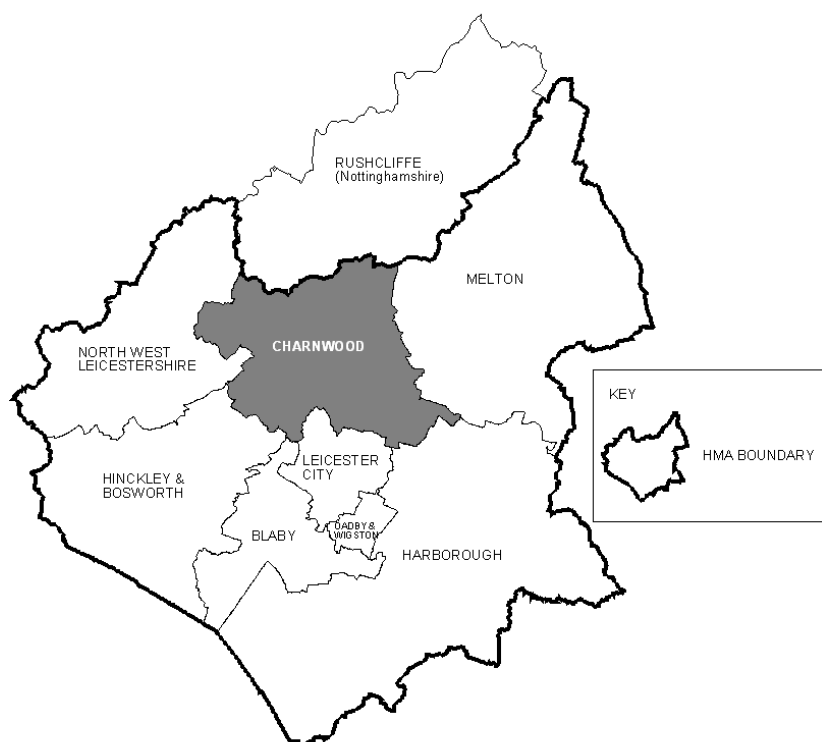


CHARNWOOD LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this memorandum is to demonstrate the outcome from joint working and cooperation which has taken place between Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire local authorities in the preparation of the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy. It also illustrates the shared understanding of development requirements, which have not only shaped the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy, but also other core strategies that have been adopted by Leicestershire local authorities.

Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area



2. PURPOSE OF OUR CO-OPERATION

- 2.1 The purpose of our co-operation has been to ensure that each partner engages constructively, actively, expediently and as part of a continuous process to support effective planning activities which impact beyond their own area, and to provide a consistent strategic approach for the housing market area (HMA). This has included the assembly of evidence, policy preparation and implementation. This Memorandum of Understanding stands as a demonstration of that agreement across the HMA and as the basis for collaborative working in future.

3. OUTCOME OF JOINT WORKING

- 3.1 There is a close functional relationship and a range of inter-dependencies between the local authorities across Leicester and Leicestershire. This has encouraged local authorities to cooperate on strategic planning matters and to collaborate on the preparation of evidence covering a wide range of topics such as housing, employment, transport, infrastructure planning and environmental protection.
- 3.2 Local authority partners in Leicester and Leicestershire have worked cooperatively to develop policy from the following areas:
- the definition of the Housing Market Area;
 - the strategic housing requirements of the East Midlands Regional Plan;
 - the joint evidence base for employment land planning;
 - cross boundary transportation issues through the use of the Leicester and Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model;
 - the assessment of housing needs through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in 2008 and the commencement of joint work to refresh its findings from 2013;
 - assessing the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers;
 - assessing the viability of introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy;
 - agreeing sub regional investment priorities in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency through the Local Investment Plan; and
 - implementing the Green Infrastructure Strategy and partnership working for Charnwood Forest.
- 3.3 There has been a strong commitment over a number of years to working together dating back to the Leicester and Leicestershire Structure Plan and more recently the evidence base that supported the approved housing provision figures for the Regional Plan which remained part of the development plan system until April 2013.
- 3.4 The housing provision and urban concentration and regeneration strategy for the Housing Market Area were initiated in the Regional Plan and derived from a common evidence base and an objective assessment of alternative options that were subject to Sustainability Appraisal. The strategic approach was also subject to examination by an independent panel of inspectors with the comprehensive engagement of all Leicestershire local authorities.
- 3.5 Six of the nine local authorities that make up the HMA have adopted core strategies based on the evidence and agreements garnered by the Regional Plan process. These are:
- Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City (Waste) (2009)
 - Leicestershire County Council (Minerals) (2009)
 - Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2009);
 - Leicester City Council (2010);
 - Oadby & Wigston Borough Council (2010))
 - Harborough District Council (2011); and

- Blaby District Council (2013).

3.6 Charnwood Borough Council is the next local authority in line to bring a Core Strategy for examination. It will provide the second largest share of growth in Leicester and Leicestershire and, if found sound, it will complete the policy framework for the Principal Urban Area.

4. CHARNWOOD LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY

4.1 The Charnwood Core Strategy has been prepared in light of the collective agreement garnered through the Regional Plan process and an evidence base which has been subject to joint working amongst Leicestershire Districts. The Core Strategy sets out a strategy that:

- is based on urban concentration and regeneration;
- recognises the extent of the Leicester Principal Urban Area (PUA) in Charnwood;
- sets out clear policies for the development of sustainable urban extensions both within the Charnwood part of the Leicester PUA and at Loughborough.
- meets the objectively assessed need of 790 dwellings per year in Charnwood as a contribution towards the approved provision of 4,020 dwellings per year in Leicester and Leicestershire; and
- recognises that 330 of the 790 dwellings per year in Charnwood should be within or adjoining the Principal Urban Area;

5. LIMITATIONS

5.1 Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding should be taken to fetter the future close working and agreement between local authorities within the HMA obtained through a formal strategic planning process.