



CABINET – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

**LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES: JOINT
STATEMENT OF CO-OPERATION**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval of a revised Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing which confirms the commitment of partner organisations to collaborative working across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the revised Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing (November 2017) attached as an Appendix to this report, be approved.

Reason for Recommendation

3. To ensure that all partners demonstrate commitment to providing for their objectively assessed housing needs and, if they are unable to be accommodated within the local authority area within which they arise, that a collaborative approach is taken to resolving the provision of unmet housing need.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The revised (November 2017) Joint Statement of Co-operation was considered by the Members' Advisory Group (which consists of member representatives from the nine local authorities, i.e. Leicester City Council, the County Council and the 7 District Councils') on 6 November 2017 and it was agreed that it could be published and proceed through the governance arrangements of partners. All partner organisations are being recommended to approve the revised Joint Statement of Co-operation.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. In June 2016 the Cabinet approved the Strategic Growth Statement for consultation. The Strategic Growth Statement formed the first stage of a three-stage approach for the preparation of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.

6. The initial Joint Statement of Co-operation was considered by the Members' Advisory Group (MAG), on 26 January 2017 and thereafter by all partners through their individual governance arrangements..
7. The County Council's Scrutiny Commission considered the Joint Statement on 8 March 2017 and the Cabinet later approved this at its meeting on 10 March 2017.

Resource Implications

8. There are no resource implications arising from this report. Officer time and funding for the Strategic Growth Plan have been contributed to by all partners.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

9. A copy of this report will be circulated to all members under the Members News in Brief Service.

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PART B

Context

10. One of the key pieces of evidence to inform the Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) for Leicester and Leicestershire is the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). This was commissioned early in 2016 and was completed in January 2017.
11. The HEDNA provides information on the quantity of housing and employment land needed from 2011 to 2031 and 2011 to 2036, the type, tenure and size of new dwellings needed, and the quantity and type of employment land needed. It identifies the 'Objectively Assessed Need' for housing and employment land across the region.
12. A Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need for housing was published at the same time as the HEDNA on 27 January 2017. The Joint Statement demonstrates how the local authorities intended to address the matter of spatial distribution in the event that one or more authorities declare an unmet need.
13. The MAG considered the HEDNA and the Joint Statement of Co-operation at its meeting on 26 January 2017 and agreed that both documents could be published and that agreement to the Joint Statement of Co-operation could be sought through the governance arrangements of all partners.
14. The Cabinet and all other partners approved the Joint Statement in early 2017.

Changed circumstances

15. In February and March 2017 respectively, both Leicester City Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Councils declared that they had unmet needs. This position was formally recorded in letters sent to all partner organisations at that time.
16. Since then the position of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has been updated and on 31 October 2017 the Council determined, based on evidence, that it did not have an unmet need for the period 2011-31, but would have for the period 2011-36. This position has been formally recorded in a letter dated 2 November 2017 to all partners.
17. Given these changed circumstances, there is a need to update the Joint Statement of Co-operation. Once agreed, it will be used by the partner authorities when progressing their Local Plans in advance of the Strategic Growth Plan. This includes Melton Borough Council whose Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination; Harborough District Council whose Local Plan is currently the subject of public consultation; Oadby and Wigston Borough Council whose Plan will commence public

consultation in November 2017; and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council whose Local Plan is scheduled to begin consultation early in the new year.

The revised Joint Statement of Co-operation

18. The Joint Statement of Co-operation relates to the eight local planning authorities (Leicester City Council and the seven district councils) and two highway authorities (Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council). The purpose of the Joint Statement is to support those authorities seeking to produce a Local Plan in advance of the Strategic Growth Plan, and to set out how these authorities will collaborate further to ensure that the necessary joint evidence is in place to support subsequent Local Plans. It provides evidence of effective co-operation on planning for issues with cross-boundary impacts; the 'Duty to Co-operate'.
19. The Statement of Co-operation refers to the need for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plans meet the full Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for market and affordable housing in the Housing Market Area (HMA) as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the NPPF (paragraph 47, "boosting significantly the supply of housing land" by meeting OAN, identifying deliverable sites, how they will be delivered and at what density). It then refers to the need to understand the capacity to accommodate additional housing through Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAAs) to establish realistic assumptions about availability, suitability and likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the Local Plan period.
20. Table 1 in the Appendix to this report contains outputs from the HEDNA and SHLAAs and provides a summary of the agreed OAN for housing and the theoretical capacity for the HMA and each local authority. This shows an OAN of 96,580 dwellings for the period 2011 to 2031 for the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA, an OAN of 117,900 dwellings for the period 2011 to 2036 for the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA, and a theoretical total capacity of 207,069 dwellings for the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA. The theoretical capacity is determined by each local authority through its Local Plans process.
21. There is little variation to this table from the original Joint Statement of Co-operation. The theoretical total capacity has been updated and the HMA total increases by 161 dwellings from 206,908 dwellings in the original Joint Statement of Co-operation to 207,069 dwellings in the revised Joint Statement appended.
22. Similarly, the text has been updated in the revised Joint Statement to reflect the changed circumstances. Key changes are in paragraph 2.9 of the Appendix, where reference is made to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council having determined that it will be able to accommodate its needs in the period 2011-2031, but not in respect of the period 2011-36.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

23. There are no equality and human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will be undertaken at key stages in the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan.

Environmental Implications

24. A Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment is to be undertaken, and will inform the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan.

Background Papers

16 June 2016: Cabinet Report: Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan – Strategic Growth Statement

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s119790/FINAL%20Strategic%20Growth%20Statment.pdf>

10 March 2017: Cabinet Report: Joint Statement of Co-operation Relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s127068/FINAL%2017.02.20%20170215%20Joint%20Statement%20of%20Co-operation.pdf>

Appendix

Revised Joint Statement of Co-operation Relating to Objectively Assessed Need for Housing (November 2017)

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