

# Harborough Local Plan

## Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground with Leicestershire County Council

*June 2025*

### Introduction

1. The following table lists the signatories to this Statement of Common Ground, and outlines their role, responsibility, or interest in the production of the Harborough Local Plan.

Parties	Role, responsibility, or interest in the production of the Harborough Local Plan
Harborough District Council (HDC)	The local planning authority responsible for the production of the Harborough Local Plan.
Leicestershire County Council (LCC)	Relevant upper-tier authority for the area. Prescribed Duty to Cooperate body.

2. The Duty to Cooperate (DtC) is a legal duty for local planning authorities, county councils and relevant bodies to 'engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in any process' including the preparation of development plan documents. To demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recommends that authorities 'prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these'.
3. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been jointly produced by the parties listed above, to confirm that the parties have effectively and regularly cooperated to consider strategic and cross boundary matters associated with the production of the Harborough Local Plan. This SoCG focuses on the engagement related requirements of the DtC and is produced without prejudice to other matters of detail that the parties may wish to raise during the Local Plan examination.
4. The HDC [Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance](#) (January 2025, reference S-NLP 2) was published as part of the Regulation 19 Local Plan evidence base. The Statement details:
  - DtC related activities which have taken place between the parties in relation to the production and progression of the Harborough Local Plan.
  - Relevant strategic and cross boundary matters between the parties.
  - How any identified strategic and cross boundary matters have been considered to date in relation to the production and progression of the Harborough Local Plan, and the outcomes of this engagement.

### Consideration of strategic cross boundary matters

5. Through ongoing engagement and correspondence between the parties outlined within the DtC Statement of Compliance, the following strategic cross boundary matters were identified as relevant considerations for the drafting of the Harborough Local Plan:
  - Unmet housing needs, relating to how the Local Plan growth strategy contributes towards meeting Leicester's unmet housing needs.
  - Planning for growth in the logistics sector (strategic B8 storage).
  - Expansion of Magna Park, including the consideration of impacts on the Strategic Road Network – SRN (For the purpose of clarity, National Highways is the body responsible for the SRN's maintenance and improvement).
  - Impacts of site allocations within the emerging Local Plan, relating particularly to strategic and/or cross boundary sites being considered within the Local Plan growth strategy.
6. HDC has taken these matters into account in drafting the Harborough Local Plan. The Council will continue to engage with Leicestershire County Council to ensure that these matters, and any other additional matters identified, are appropriately considered within the Local Plan.

### Meeting the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate

7. LCC has submitted a Regulation 19 representation which raises concerns regarding the soundness of the draft Local Plan in respect of transport considerations.
8. The parties will continue to engage over the coming months to discuss and seek to address the issues raised. In doing so, it is acknowledged that this further engagement will require the parties to discuss relatively more detailed and technical matters relating to the content of the draft Harborough Local Plan and associated evidence base. Throughout the further engagement, all parties will ensure that they are satisfied that the production of the Harborough Local Plan has appropriately considered and will continue to appropriately consider strategic cross boundary matters in accordance with the requirements of the DtC.
9. The outcomes of this further engagement will be presented within a further detailed SoCG between the parties.
10. The parties agree that through the extensive engagement which has taken place, as summarised in within the HDC DtC Statement of Compliance, to date and subject to successful further engagement as cited above, the requirements of

the DtC have been and will continue to be met between the parties in support of the production of the Harborough Local Plan.

### Signatories

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Position</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	Harborough District Council
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Position</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

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