

## **Statement of Common Ground DRAFT**

### **Staffordshire County Council, Warwickshire County Council And North Warwickshire Borough Council**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) sets out the position on Duty to Cooperate matters at upper tier authority level in relation to the preparation of the North Warwickshire Local Plan.
- 1.2 The overall aim is to plan for the cross boundary strategic infrastructure planning issues that exist and/or likely to arise in the foreseeable future between Staffordshire and Warwickshire, Local Planning Authority Areas of Tamworth and North Warwickshire.

#### **2 Purposes**

- 2.1 The main purposes of this SoCG are to:
- establish what the authorities agree on;
  - pinpoint any relevant areas of disagreement; and,
  - set out what future work the authorities are committed to.

#### **3. Scope**

- 3.1 The scope of this SOCG is to cover:
- Wider transport impacts and mitigation proposals associated with development proposed in the North Warwickshire Local Plan; and,
  - The school place planning implications and education infrastructure requirements associated with housing growth in the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

#### **4. Specific Co-operation on Development Plan Preparation**

- 4.1 It is agreed that:
- Each authority has consulted the other at every preparatory stage of Plan preparation;
  - The authorities have engaged with each other on specific cross boundary matters arising during the preparation of the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

#### **5. Meeting Development Infrastructure Requirements**

- 5.1 It is agreed that:
- Cross border infrastructure issues in relation to education and transport infrastructure exist and are relevant duty to cooperate matters.
  - The geographical scope for cross border infrastructure impacts relate to proposed allocations and directions for growth in Polesworth and

Dordon and the allocation at Land west of Robey's Lane, adjacent to Tamworth.

- North Warwickshire Borough Council will also consult and discuss with Staffordshire County Council in any pre-application discussions and consult on major planning applications in the areas mentioned above.
- Policy LP1 provides where necessary for developer contributions to be utilised to mitigate infrastructure impacts within Staffordshire.

### Transport Infrastructure

5.2 It is agreed that:

- The Strategic Transport Model and Strategic Transport Assessment provide appropriate consideration of the cross border traffic movements associated with the North Warwickshire Local Plan.
- Policy LP25 - Transport Assessments is appropriate and allows for consideration of cross border impacts in assessments

### Educations Infrastructure

5.3 It is agreed that:

- Staffordshire County Council and Warwickshire County Council have and will continue to work together on School place planning matters covering eastern Tamworth and the areas of Warwickshire set out above. This will be set out in an agreed school place planning methodology.
- For the Land West of Robey's Lane Allocation child yield data from Tamworth will be utilised to determine likely school places.
- Timing for the delivery of the new primary school at Land west of Robey's Lane will be agreed between Staffordshire County Council and Warwickshire County Council such that there are no unmitigated interim impacts on Staffordshire schools or developer contributions from the site may be used at a local Staffordshire Primary school to provide necessary places locally.
- At Secondary phases of education Polesworth School historically has attracted pupils from within Staffordshire. Staffordshire County Council and Warwickshire County will devise a strategy to accommodate sufficient places across both Local Education Authority Areas taking into account housing growth in both and maintaining as far as reasonably practicable historic patterns of pupil movement.

## **6 North Warwickshire Local Plan**

6.1 It is agreed that the following minor changes have been made to the Local Plan to make the Plan clearer and assist with the interpretation of policy.

1. In paragraph 1.8 after the sentence "The Borough Council has a proven track record in cooperating with neighbouring authorities in strategic planning matters and has been working with neighbouring authorities to consider their future development needs and if they can accommodate them." add "*The Borough Council alongside Warwickshire County Council is also cooperating on cross border infrastructure issues with Staffordshire County Council.*"

2. At the end of paragraph 1.8 add *“In addition the Borough Council continues to commit to working collaboratively with neighbouring infrastructure providers to ensure housing and employment growth impacts are mitigated.”*
3. Add an additional sentence after the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence in paragraph 12.6 - *“The STA will outline the transport infrastructure requirements necessary to mitigate the cumulative impacts of the proposed growth, including where necessary where these impacts occur outside of Warwickshire.”*
4. Add to the final sentence of paragraph 14.37 *“including consideration of the stretch within Tamworth as identified in the STA.”*

## 7. **On-going Matters**

- 7.1 Whilst there has been on-going cooperation on cross border infrastructure issues and broad agreement on delivery of solutions there are two issues where more detailed work is required. These will be part of the on-going co-operation between the parties.
- 7.2 The first is in relation to future versions of the IDP. As the IDP is updated it will reflect the STA proposed infrastructure needs within Staffordshire and the education provision section will be amended to reflect the outcome of on-going work in relation to school place planning.
- 7.3 The second issue is in relation to highways. The precise mitigation package for the cumulative impacts of the proposed growth on the Staffordshire road network as set out in the STA will be worked up further including agreeing an appropriate delivery mechanism.

**Signed:**

**For Staffordshire County Council**

**Dated:**

**Signed:**

**For Warwickshire County Council**

**Dated**

**Signed:**

**For North Warwickshire Borough Council**

**Dated:**