

Statement of Common Ground
between Lichfield District Council
and [Insert Local Authority Name]

DRAFT



Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Lichfield District Council (LDC) and [Insert Local Authority Name]

Introduction

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Lichfield District Council (LDC) and [Insert name], hereafter referred to as “the parties” to inform the submission of the Lichfield Local Plan 2040.
2. This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with national guidance and is intended to cover matters of strategic importance relevant to the parties. It documents those matters agreed by the parties regarding the Lichfield Local Plan 2040 and any areas which remain subject to further discussion and therefore will be updated accordingly. [insert here text to reflect contents of SoCG / outstanding issues]

Geography covered by Statement of Common Ground

3. This SoCG covers the Local Planning Authority areas of Lichfield and [Insert name].
4. These authorities are both within the Greater Birmingham & Black Country Housing Market Area (GBBCHMA). The GBBCHMA is made up of 14 authorities including Birmingham City Council, Bromsgrove District Council, Cannock Chase District Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, North Warwickshire District Council, Redditch District Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Stratford upon Avon District Council, Tamworth District Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and Wolverhampton City Council.

Key Strategic Matters

5. The local authorities have had on-going dialogue on cross-boundary planning issues over the course of many years, discussing a broad range of planning issues including strategic matters. [Insert here summary of issues pertaining to the relevant authority] These discussions have informed the development of adopted plans and other related documents.
6. The following issues are considered to be the key strategic matters with regards to on-going plan making, although there are other issues which may have cross boundary impacts. Both authorities are committed further dialogue moving forward, not just limited to the periods of plan preparation.

Housing

7. Lichfield District Council along with [Insert name] have been active members of the GBSLEP HMA Technical Officers Group [where this applies] since it was established and both authorities have contributed to discussions relating to the delivery of unmet housing need within in the HMA.
8. The GBBCHMA authorities published a position statement in 2020 in respect of housing needs. This statement details that the need arising from Birmingham in particular has primarily now been met. Additionally, unmet need arising from the Black Country authorities is detailed within the position statement and it is anticipated this need will begin to arise part way through the plan period from 2027/28 onwards. The GBBCHMA authorities are currently in the process of updating the 2020 position statement, however at the time of writing this updated statement has not yet been completed.

9. Lichfield District Council as part of the Local Plan 2040 are proposing to contribute 2,665 to the HMA shortfall from 2027. Of the 2,665 homes, a capped contribution of 2,000 is to be made for the Black Country authorities' needs starting after 2027 to assist with their identified shortfall up to 2040. This contribution is considered by Lichfield District Council to be appropriate and deliverable within the District in addition to Lichfield District Councils Local Housing Need. [Insert here whether the LPA agrees / disagrees with HMA contribution]. Whilst [Insert name] are supportive / have concerns about this figure [delete as appropriate] for the following reasons [insert reasons], this amounts to an issue of soundness of the Local Plan 2040. [Insert name] agree that Lichfield District Council has satisfied the legal duty to cooperate test.

10. It is acknowledged that Lichfield District Council published consultation material and invited comments relating to its Local Plan 2040 process at the following stages:

- Scope, Issues and Options – April and June 2018
- Preferred Options and Policy Directions – January and March 2020
- Preferred Options – November 2019 and January 2020
- Publication Version – July and August 2021

11. At each stage [Insert name] have been consulted on these documented and responded as they considered appropriate.

12. Other HMA evidence / Green belt release discussions

Other Strategic Matters / Cross boundary matters

Employment

13.

Transport

14. Lichfield District Council and [Insert name] are committed to continue working together in partnership, with the aim of ensuring the necessary transport and highways improvements to support sustainable growth across the housing market area. Both parties will keep each other fully informed of any changes to highways improvements and will continue to liaise on this matter where appropriate.

Gypsy & Traveller Provision

15. Lichfield District Council will support the delivery of a minimum of seven residential pitches to meet the identified needs of gypsies and travellers to 2040 including meeting the identified need for four of these pitches by 2024.

16. Lichfield District Council and [insert name] will continue to cooperate with neighbouring authorities within the HMA area in relation to housing matters, including gypsy and traveller provision.

Infrastructure

16.

Natural and Historic Environment

17.

Signatures

We confirm that the information in this Statement of Common Ground reflects the joint working to address identified strategic matters that has been undertaken between Lichfield District Council and [Insert Name]. The authorities will continue to work together to address cross-boundary issues

Lichfield District Council

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

[Insert Name]

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date: