

# East Hampshire District Local Plan 2021-2040 (Reg18)

**INTERIM** Statement of Common Ground between

East Hampshire District Council and

Winchester City Council

January 2024



## Version

Table 1: Editions of this document

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Note</u>
Version 0.1	10 November 2023	First draft (EHDC)
Version 0.2	6 December 2023	Winchester City Council amends
Version 0.3	11 December 2023	EHDC amends
Version 0.4	19 December 2023	EHDC signed

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Interim Statement of Common Ground (the Statement) has been prepared by East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and Winchester City Council (the parties) to support the East Hampshire Local Plan 2021-2040 Regulation 18 consultation. This Statement is interim pending Winchester City Council's Regulation 19 consultation and will be finalised in support of this once in a position to do so.
- 1.2. This Statement ensures the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have been met. The NPPF states: '*Local planning authorities are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.*'<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the Statement is to document the strategic matters being considered and the progress made in cooperating to address them at this stage of the plan making process. It focusses on areas where there is agreement, and if appropriate those matters where work is ongoing to resolve differences. The Statement is intended to be 'live', updated as circumstances change, and agreement occurs on any outstanding issues. The Statement also forms part of the evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Duty to Cooperate during the preparation of the East Hampshire Local Plan 2021-2040.

## **2. Parties and signatories involved**

- 2.1. East Hampshire District Council. On behalf of East Hampshire District Council - Portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement, Cllr Angela Glass.
- 2.2. Winchester City Council. On behalf of Winchester City Council – Adrian Fox, Strategic Planning Manager, Winchester City Council.

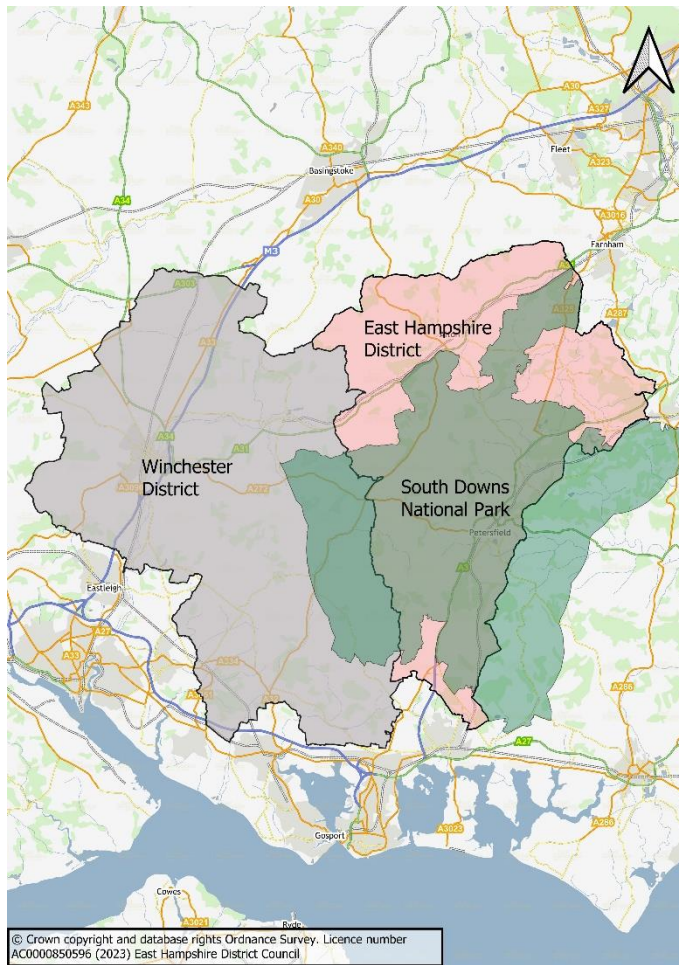
## **3. Relationship with other documents**

- 3.1. Where appropriate East Hampshire District Council has prepared separate Statements with other duty to cooperate prescribed bodies. All Statements will be published on East Hampshire District Council's [website](#).
- 3.2. Unless otherwise stated, all evidence documents referred to in this Statement have been published on East Hampshire District Council's [website](#).
- 3.3. In 2018, a Statement of Common Ground was signed between Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council, to support Winchester City Council's Traveller DPD (now adopted). A short agreement in relation to a specific policy, which is now policy within the Development Plan. The 2018 Statement of Common Ground remains evidence in terms of the plan making process for Winchester Traveller DPD (2019) but is not directly relevant to this document.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 24, NPPF (2023)

## 4. Strategic Geography



- 4.1. The majority of the western boundary of East Hampshire district adjoins Winchester City Council's boundary. The A31 forms the key connecting route, running from Guildford to Farnham to Alton and onto Winchester. It is approx. 10 miles from Ropley (on East Hampshire's western boundary) along the A31 to Winchester. The A272 connects Winchester to Petersfield, and then onwards on the A3 towards East Hampshire's southern parishes.
- 4.2. Both administrative areas are within Hampshire County.

## 5. The Development Plan and emerging planning documents

- 5.1. At the time of signing of this Statement of Common Ground;
- 5.2. East Hampshire District Council is preparing to consult on a draft Local Plan 2021-2040, Reg.18 stage. Consultation is scheduled to start on 22 January 2024 for 6 weeks, in line with the [Local Development Scheme 2023](#). The existing Development Plan is the Joint Core Strategy 2014, The Local Plan (Part 2): Housing and Employment Allocations 2016, and the saved policies of the Local Plan Second

Review 2006. When adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the current Development Plan.

- 5.3. In Winchester, the Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy (adopted 2013), Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Allocations (adopted 2017) and Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpersons Development Plan Document (Traveller DPD) (adopted 2019) form the Development Plan.
- 5.4. Winchester City Council is producing a new Local Plan. Two consultations have taken place so far; Strategic Issues and Priorities (2021) and a draft Local Plan (Reg.18) (2022). Consultation on a refined Local Plan (Reg.19) is due to take place summer 2024, with submission scheduled for the end of 2024, and adoption anticipated towards the end of 2025.

## **6. Identified Strategic Matters**

- 6.1. As documented in the East Hampshire [Duty to Co-operate Framework 2022](#), and consultation responses, the strategic cross boundary matters concerning the two authorities are:
  - Meeting identified housing needs within the District and wider unmet housing needs
  - Meeting the identified need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation within the District and wider unmet needs
  - Consideration of the potential need for transit accommodation for Travellers (with regards to travelling routes across districts/boroughs).
  - Supporting economic growth and opportunity, creating the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt
  - Transport impacts and mitigation from proposed development
  - Responding to Climate Emergency
  - Achieving nutrient neutrality - the potential impacts of development on water quality in the Solent.
- 6.2. As documented in the Duty to Co-operate Framework 2022, the two authorities have been conversing on matters related to the preparation of the East Hampshire District Local Plan and Winchester City Council emerging plan since its early stages.
- 6.3. The following agreements and detail of further work are as at a point in time and will be updated during the preparation of the East Hampshire District Local Plan. The date of this document is the latest date listed in Table 1: Editions.

## 7. Record of Agreement

7.1. East Hampshire District Council and Winchester District Council agree the following:

Table 2: In Agreement

The EHDC Duty to Co-operate Framework identifies the strategic cross boundary issues which the Local Plan is likely to reflect (and how they have come about). These are the issues on which there has been and continues to be engagement with other councils and bodies as part of the Duty to Co-operate. This ensures all the strategic issues which affect the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Area and wider area are identified at the earliest stage of plan preparation.

There is no unplanned housing need arising from Winchester City on which it is seeking assistance from East Hampshire District Council.

There is no unplanned housing need arising from East Hampshire District on which it is seeking assistance from Winchester City Council. It is acknowledged that in the short to medium term that both EHDC and Winchester City Council should be able to meet and potentially exceed NPPF 2023 standard-method based housing needs.

To support a new Local Plan, Winchester City Council has prepared an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2022) and a Pitch Delivery Assessment (2022). Whilst the Pitch Delivery Assessment identifies scope to deliver some of the identified need, Winchester City Council cannot accommodate all of its need over the plan period and is looking to other councils to assist. To that end, a letter was sent to East Hampshire District Council in August 2023 seeking assistance.

However, at a similar time, East Hampshire wrote to all its neighbouring councils seeking assistance, with the same challenge and similar evidence to demonstrate difficulties meeting needs.

Neither council can assist the other, as both are facing very similar challenges as evidenced in the respective evidence base and request for assistance in meeting the need.

The East Hampshire GTAA 2020 states, "it is not recommended that there is a need for a formal public transit site in East Hampshire at this time" and carries on by recommending monitoring of this situation and establishing an evidence base.

Both authorities continue to keep such records of incidents of unauthorised encampments and will review them collectively as part of a future update of the GTAA.

## **8. Record of Further Work**

- 8.1. Table 3 identifies further work for both councils, which may result in additional areas of agreement.

Table 3: Further / future work

Winchester City Council will work with East Hampshire District Council and other councils to discuss wider unmet needs for Traveller accommodation.
Winchester City Council will continue to work with East Hampshire District Council to discuss transport implications of proposed growth and take part in East Hampshire District Council workshops where appropriate following initial results of transport modelling, to look at mitigation schemes.

## **9. Governance arrangements**

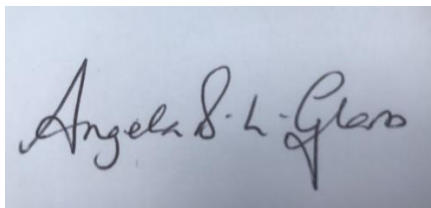
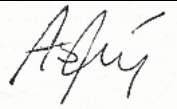
- 9.1. In terms of governance arrangements, the two parties agree to:
- Keep a dialogue open on matters arising which are likely to have significant impacts and implications for the delivery of local plan policies
  - To work together to achieve identified outcomes in relation to strategic matters
  - To review and update this Statement in light of any material change in circumstance and
  - To maintain positive principles of cooperation

## **10. Timetable for agreement, review and updating**

- This statement has been informed by ongoing engagement between the two parties and the parties will continue to work together to address identified strategic matters. This Statement is intended to be a living document that can be reviewed and updated, informed by continued communication between the parties through meetings, statutory consultation at key plan making stages and electronic communication.

**11. Signatories**

- We confirm that the information in this Statement reflects the joint working to address identified strategic matters that has been undertaken between East Hampshire District Council and Winchester City Council. The parties will continue to work together to address cross boundary issues.

Signed:	Signed:
	
Name: Cllr Angel Glass	Name: Adrian Fox
Position: Portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement	Position: Strategic Planning Manager
East Hampshire District Council	Winchester City Council
Date: 16/01/2024	Date: 17/01/2024