

East Hampshire District Local Plan 2021-2040 (Reg18)

Statement of Common Ground between

East Hampshire District Council and

Hart District Council

February 2024



Version

Table 1: Editions of this document

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Note</u>
Version 0.1	24 November 2023	First draft (EHDC)
Version 0.2	04 December 2023	Hart District Council amends
Version 0.3	05 December 2023	East Hampshire District Council amends
Version 0.4	19 December 2023	East Hampshire District Council signed
Version 0.5	29 December 2023	Hart District Council amends
Version 0.6	11 January 2024	EHDC amends

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (the Statement) has been prepared by East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and Hart District Council (HDC) (the parties) to support the East Hampshire Local Plan 2021-2040.
- 1.2. This Statement ensures that the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 have been met. Paragraphs 24 to 27 of the NPPF state:

Maintaining effective cooperation

24. Local planning authorities and county councils (in 2-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.

25. Strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans. They should also engage with their local communities and relevant bodies including Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Nature Partnerships, the Marine Management Organisation, county councils, infrastructure providers, elected Mayors and combined authorities (in cases where Mayors or combined authorities do not have plan-making powers).

26. Effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.

27. In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these. These should be produced using the approach set out in national planning guidance, and be made publicly available throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency.

- 1.3. In accordance with Paragraph 27 of the NPPF 2023 the purpose of this Statement is to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working and document how any cross-boundary matters are being addressed and progressed in cooperation. It focusses on areas where there is agreement, and if appropriate those matters where work is ongoing to resolve differences.
- 1.4. The Statement is intended to be 'live', updated as agreement occurs on any outstanding issues, and as circumstances change (particularly in light of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and proposed changes to the plan-making system), .

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.

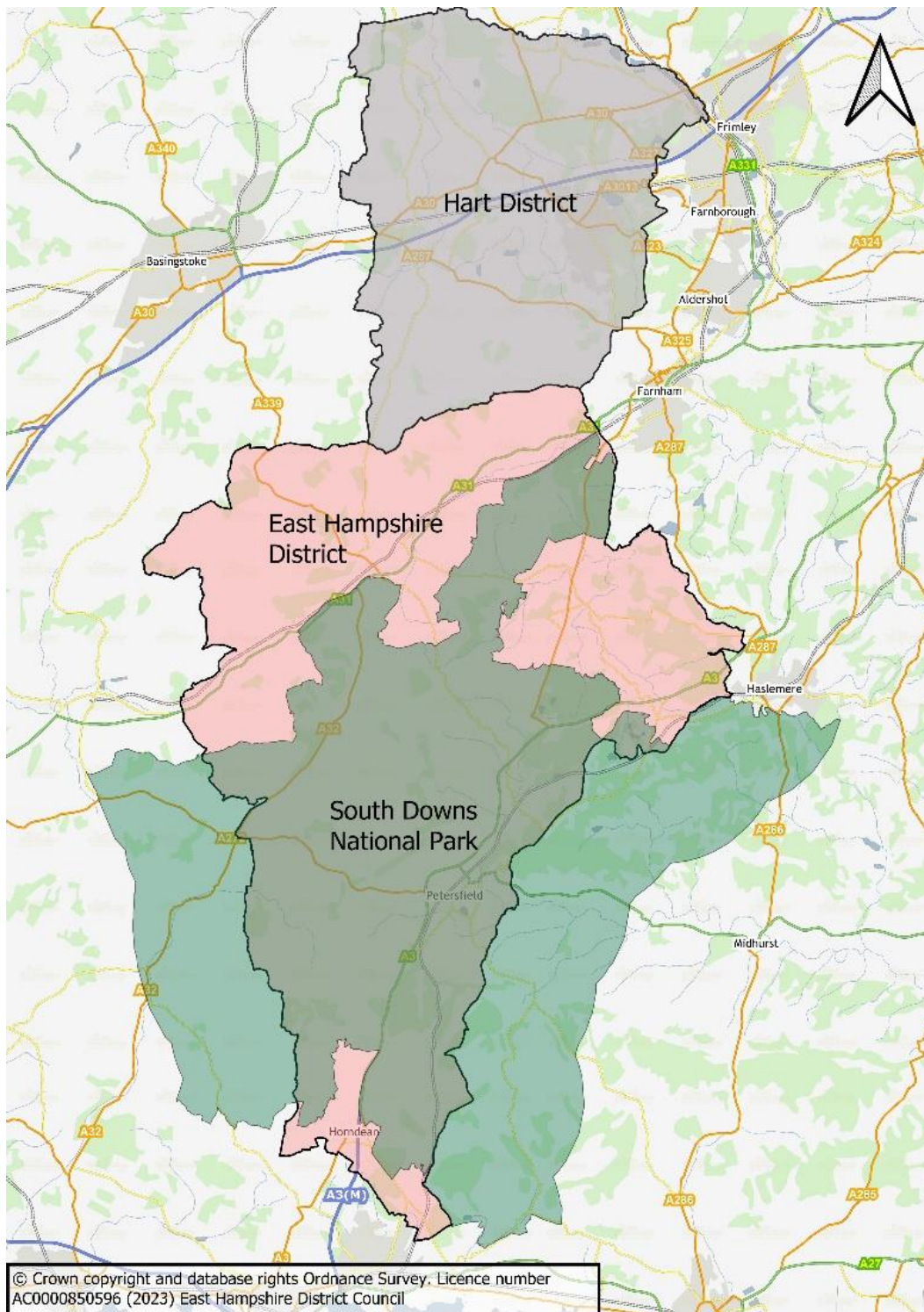
2. Parties and signatories involved

- 2.1. East Hampshire District Council. On behalf of East Hampshire District Council - Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation, Cllr Angela Glass.
- 2.2. Hart District Council. On behalf of Hart District Council –Planning Policy and Place Portfolio Holder, Cllr Cockarill.

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](#).

4. Strategic Geography



- 4.1 The Southern boundary of Hart District meets with the eastern part of East Hampshire's northern boundary.
- 4.2 This is a rural area, with no large villages or settlements on or close to the boundary. Bentley, Alton and Lower Froyle are the main closes settlements, with the A31 being the closest significant transport route, but running parallel to the boundary between the two administrative areas. Rural lanes run from the A31 into Hart.

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. In addition, there are six Neighbourhood Plans.
- 5.3. In Hart, the local plan comprises the Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 (adopted 2020) and remaining saved policies from the Hart Local Plan (replacement) 1996-2006 (updated 2020). There are also several Neighbourhood Plans. Hart District Council must review its Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 by April 2025, and decide whether an update is needed. No date is currently set to start a new Local Plan.

6. Identified Strategic Matters

- 6.1. As documented in the Duty to Co-operate Framework 2022, East Hampshire District Council consider the strategic cross boundary matters concerning the two authorities to comprise:
- 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; and
 - Responding to Climate Emergency.
- 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 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 Hart District Council agree the following:

7.2. 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 effect the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Area and wider area are identified at the earliest stage of plan preparation.

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

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

Over the course of plan preparation, the approach to calculating housing need could change in light of any changes to national planning policy.

In 2020, having reviewed the proposed East Hampshire Local Plan site allocations at the time, Hart District Council raised no specific site issues. However, this was in the absence of the transport modelling, and at a point in time. The East Hampshire proposed spatial strategy will be presented in the forthcoming Local Plan consultation (Jan 2024), to which Hart District Council will respond.

East Hampshire District Council will engage with Hart District Council on the transport modelling process if there are issues at the district boundary and invite Hart District Council to any relevant scheduled workshops to consider mitigation.

Both Councils recognise the need to plan to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Travellers, and to monitor and share data on unauthorised encampments to inform any planning decisions regarding proposed transit sites (as recommended by the GTAAs).

The East Hampshire, and Hart, GTAAs are both dated 2020. EHDC's position is that there is likely to be an unmet need for traveller accommodation arising from the East Hampshire District Local Plan 2021-2040. East Hampshire District Council asked Hart District Council for assistance with meeting this need (August 2023).

The East Hampshire Five Year Supply of deliverable land for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation (March 2023) identifies a shortfall of 21 pitches and 38 plots over the next 5 years (up to March 2028). For plan making purposes, the identified unmet need will be calculated following the Reg18 Draft Local Plan consultation (Jan – March 2024) to inform discussions and preparation for the Reg19 Local Plan.

Hart District Council's position is that EHDC should make every effort to address their needs and that the question of whether EHDC can or cannot meet those needs will be a matter at the examination. HDC reserves the right to comment on the draft plan in this regard.

HDC is not in a position to assist with meeting any unmet needs and has its own challenges in terms of traveller accommodation. Following the examination into the Hart Local Plan (Strategy & Sites) 2032 Hart District Council started work on a Traveller Accommodation DPD as referenced in its Local Plan examination report. It undertook the GTAA, consulted on the SEA scoping, and carried out a call for sites, but no suitable sites were forthcoming. In light of the lack of sites, challenges progressing the work due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and the proposed changes to the planning system, it was decided that planning for Traveller accommodation would be more effective if done as part of the next local plan.

At present there is therefore an unmet need in Hart. Hart District Council would therefore support any neighbouring authorities that are able to accommodate any of this need.

At present, neither Hart or East Hampshire's GTAAs identify a need for transit accommodation, but both authorities will continue to monitor unauthorised traveller encampments and share information where appropriate.

NPPF (2023, para 20) says, "Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places (to ensure outcomes support beauty and placemaking), and make sufficient provision for a) housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development.

There is currently no unplanned need for land for employment, retail, leisure or other commercial uses arising from either authority, and neither authority is seeking assistance from the other to meet these needs. HDC reserves the right to comment on the evidence base and draft policies when consulted.

Both Hart and EHDC have declared climate emergencies and wish to adopt progressive policies on this issue. HDC reserves the right to comment on the draft plan in respect of climate change.

There will likely be opportunities for green infrastructure, walking/cycling linkages/routes across authority boundaries, including those identified in Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). Further advancing of such opportunities responds to the issue of tackling the climate emergency, which is a strategic cross boundary matter.

8. Record of Further Work

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

8.2. Table 3: Further / future work

East Hampshire District Council will continue its discussions with all of its neighbouring authorities, including Hart, regarding any unmet needs for Traveller accommodation. Through those discussions HDC would welcome any evidence of cross boundary links between East Hampshire and Hart on this matter.

Hart District Council will continue to work with East Hampshire District Council to discuss transport implications of proposed growth and if relevant, take part in East Hampshire District Council workshops following initial results of transport modelling, to look at mitigation schemes.

Hart's Local Plan was adopted in April 2020, and so must be reviewed by April 2025.

Following the scheduled consultation on the draft Local Plan in January 2024 (Reg.18), East Hampshire District Council's emerging Local Plan is moving towards a Reg.19 consultation in 2024.

Both Councils will continue to consult and engage with each other as the plans move forwards.

Hart District Council will be involved in discussion on proposed site allocations in East Hampshire where there are potential cross-boundary impacts, links and relationships.

East Hampshire District Council will liaise with Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council as it prepares the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, to ensure opportunities for green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes improvements to the highway network, health and education provision etc are identified, where possible and relevant.

Both authorities are committed to helping to tackle the climate emergency through relevant policies in their Local Plans. Sharing information and advice, including the approach to responding to feedback, consultation comments and government initiatives will help assist this.

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 Hart District Council. The parties will continue to work together to address cross boundary issues.

Signed:	Signed:
	Agreed by email dated 01.02.24
Name: Cllr Angel Glass	Name: Cllr Cockarill
Position: Portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement	Position: Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Place
East Hampshire District Council	Hart District Council
Date: 11/01/2024	Date: 01.02.24