



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Warrington Borough Council

Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (2021)

Duty to Cooperate Statement Addendum

April 2022

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Document

- 1.1 This document is an addendum to the Council's Updated Proposed Submission Version (UPSVP) Duty to Cooperate (DtC) Statement 2021. It provides a record, post the start of the 2021 UPSVP consultation, of the DtC work undertaken by the Council as part of its ongoing duty, ahead of submission of the Plan for Examination in Public. The Council previously prepared a DtC Statement in 2019 in respect of the previous Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2019.
- 1.2 The 2021 and 2019 DtC Statements and supporting information can be accessed from the links below:
<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/evidence-base-proposed-submission-version-local-plan>
https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-10/duty_to_co-operate_statement_update_-_september_2021.pdf
- 1.3 The Council has also prepared a separate and updated Statement of Common Ground (SoCG-2022) which provides a written record of the progress made by the Council in planning for strategic cross-boundary matters.
- 1.4 The updated SoCG can be accessed from the link below:
<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/local-plan-examinations>
- 1.5 The Duty to Cooperate Statements, alongside the Council's Statement of Common Ground, are documented evidence to demonstrate that the Council has complied with the Duty to Co-operate requirements, by engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis during the Plan making process.

Record A: Table of Meetings (No Formal Minutes-Microsoft Teams Meetings)

Organisation	Date	Summary of Meeting (Key Points)
National Highways	06/10/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WBC provided update on progress to date with the revised Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (UPSVLP 2021) and the Regulation 19 public consultation currently underway. NH confirmed that the draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) had been sent to them by WSP to review, with some suggested amendments. NH noted that they would prefer a standalone SoCG between NH and WBC, as opposed to the current single SoCG that includes other Local Authorities and Organisations, the format preferred by WBC. NH noted they are generally happy with the contents of the SoCG, but reiterated the preference for a standalone SoCG to sign. General discussion around the Council's Multi Modal Transport Model and where the information can be found in the relevant reports that accompany the UPSVLP 2021.
Cheshire East Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council	22/11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General discussion around the proposed development in the south of the Warrington, the potential impacts on neighbouring Local Authorities and outputs from the Council's Multi Modal Transport Model (MMTM). Following an initial review of the highway modelling, Cheshire East Council raised particular issues regarding potential highway impacts on Swineyard Lane, High Legh and HGV movements. Cheshire East Council consider that it is essential that measures are taken to discourage HGV traffic being directed towards Swineyard Lane. They also seek the strengthening of measures to enhance public transport with the specific aim of mitigating cross boundary flows with Cheshire East. WBC noted that all the Reports that support the Local Plan modelling work are available on the Council's website as part of the Local Plan evidence base. Evidence shows that at the end of the Plan period the road network operates, but with some issues. It was noted that the MMTM is a strategic model with assumptions, and no detailed designs for junctions etc. It was agreed that the SoCG will be amended to reflect the comments submitted during the Local Plan consultation period and the comments made at today's meeting.
St Helens Council	29/11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update provided on the St Helen's Local Plan and the examination progress to date, with the Main Modifications process finishing in mid-January 2022, and it is currently anticipated, subject to the necessary approvals, that the Plan will be adopted in June 2022. General discussion around the additional land available at

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		<p>Omega west, over and above that already agreed as counting to Warrington's employment land need, and the wider need in the Liverpool City Region for employment land, that has yet to be aggregated down to Borough wide level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timescales for Bold Forrest Garden Suburb allocation discussed and it was indicated that the first completions on the site are anticipated to be during 2028/2029, with 510 units being delivered in the Plan period and a further circa 2,400 beyond the Plan period. Further consultation will be undertaken on a 'Development Framework' for the in principle allocation, where the finer details will be outlined. • Update provided on WBC Local Plan and progress to date. It is anticipated that the Draft Local Plan will proceed to Cabinet in March 2022 to seek the necessary approvals to submit the Local Plan for Examination in Public, prior to proceeding to Full Council in April 2022, with submission anticipated soon after Full Council. • WBC's SoCG will need to be updated as appropriate and signed and returned, if possible, by the end of February 2022, ahead of submission of the Plan. • Agreed that both authorities will continue to have dialogue as appropriate about the additional employment land available at Omega west, and the SoCG will be updated to reflect this. • Agreed that strategic issues have been discussed and considered in relation to Burtonwood in the Borough of Warrington, and the proposed Bold Forest Garden Suburb development in St Helens.
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	17/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion around WBC Local Plan progress and Places for Everyone progress, evidence bases and the authority and process required to sign the SoCG's. Amended wording will be provided in SoCG's ahead of securing signatures.
National Highways	24/01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion with National Highways to discuss Motorway Service Area provision in the Borough through the Local Plan process. It was confirmed that there is no specific requirement for the Local Plan to make provision for a Motorway Service Area. National Highways also confirmed they do not have responsibility for meeting the need for Motorway Service Areas and this is not a strategic issue they would expect to be addressed through Duty to Co-operate discussions as part of the Local Plan process.
Natural England	On-going discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of discussions, since October 2021, regarding Natural England's representation to the Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (2021) and the concerns raised in respect of the Council's accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has provided clarification and additional information on a number of areas of the assessment. • Through Duty to Cooperate discussions, the Council has resolved in principle the issues raised by Natural England in respect of the Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (2021)'s Habitats Regulations Assessment, with the exception of the issue relating to the 'in combination effects' on air quality on Holcroft Moss, part of the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC). • WBC has agreed to continue to work with Natural England (and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority) to fully assess the impact on Holcroft Moss within the SAC; confirm any mitigation measures if they are required and provide an updated HRA that is acceptable to Natural England, prior to the Examination in Public.
Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership	08/02/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion to confirm joint working between the LEP and the Council and the updates required for the SoCG. • It was noted that the LEP are now moving to a sustainable growth agenda, with net zero and inclusiveness being priorities for the LEP. • General discussion around the LEP's High Speed Growth Corridor and the relationship to the regeneration of Warrington Town Centre. • WBC to circulate Statement of Common Ground for LEP signature.
Warrington Transformation Estates Enabling Group	10/02/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBC provided an update on Local Plan progress to date and the relevant policies and allocations within the Draft Local Plan as part of the wider discussions relating to the NHS and wider public estate.
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	17/03/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the need for a coordinated approach to responding to the HS2 consultation, relating to potential impacts on Holcroft Moss. • WBC provided an update on the additional work the Council is undertaking to assess air quality impacts on Holcroft Moss. • Agreed that a further meeting will be held once this work has been completed (likely to be completed before the end of May) to discuss joint approach to mitigation.
Local Nature Partnership	31/03/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBC attended LNP Board Meeting (via teams) to seek their approval as a signatory to the SoCG (circulated prior to meeting). • Update provided on WBC Local Plan and progress to date. Outlined that the Draft Local Plan was on the agenda for Full Council in early April 2022, to seek the necessary approvals to submit the Local Plan for Examination in Public, with submission anticipated soon after Full Council. • WBC's SoCG will need to be updated as appropriate and signed and returned ahead of submission of the Plan and

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		<p>if possible, prior to the Full Council Meeting in early April 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the key elements of the SoCG to the members of the Board and shared the proposed wording for LNP sign off. • LNP agreed to support and sign off.
Marine Management Organisation	March 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General email exchange about requested amendments to the SoCG to reflect activity and engagement between both parties to date.