



CHARNWOOD LOCAL PLAN 2021-2037

Statement of Common Ground between:

- Charnwood Borough Council ▪
- Leicester City Council ▪

NOVEMBER 2021

**CHARNWOOD LOCAL PLAN
STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL
and CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This statement identifies the areas of common ground between Leicester City Council and Charnwood Borough Council, in respect of those policies contained in the Pre-Submission Draft Charnwood Local Plan. It also identifies those matters remaining that are still the subject to continued discussions.
- 1.2. The statement should be read alongside the representations and it is made without prejudice to the participation in the formal examination of any participant and the views that may then be expressed. Nevertheless, this Statement of Common Ground reflects the agreed position between Charnwood Borough Council and Leicester City Council for submission to the Inspector for the Local Plan Examination of the Draft Local Plan based on cooperation and joint working.
- 1.3. This statement deals with those matters identified by Leicester City Council in their representation to Pre-Submission (Reg 19) Draft Charnwood Local Plan and should be read alongside other Statements of Common Ground:
- Statement of Common Ground for Apportionment of Unmet Need in Leicester and Leicestershire (in preparation)
 - Statement Of Common Ground Between National Highways, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council And Charnwood Borough Council
 - Statement of Common Ground with promoters of Gynsills Lane/ Anstey Lane Site (HA12)
 - Statement of Common Ground Charnwood Borough Council, Blaby District Council, Leicester City Council, regarding Gynsills Lane/ Anstey Lane Site (HA12)

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. The Statement of Common Ground addresses strategic matters and shared issues between the parties. It provides a framework for the delivery of the Duty to Co-operate duties and obligations arising from Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 and paragraphs 24 to 27 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019). The NPPF places a duty on local planning authorities and other bodies to cooperate with each other to address strategic issues relevant to their areas. The duty requires ongoing constructive engagement on the preparation of the local plan and other activities related to the sustainable development of land.
- 2.2. A Statement of Common Ground is an agreed written record which demonstrates how the duty to cooperate has been fulfilled. It sets out that

matters where there is agreement, and if appropriate those matters, where work is ongoing to resolve differences.

- 2.3. Leicester City Council is a specific consultee under the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2.4. Charnwood Borough Council is a public body which is the Local Planning Authority for its administrative area. Leicester City Council is a public body which is the Local Planning Authority and Highway Authority for its administrative area. Both are 'Prescribed Bodies' for the purposes of the Duty to Cooperate.

3. JOINT WORKING

- 3.1. The Borough Council and Leicester City Council have been engaged at the wider Housing Market Area and Functional Economic Market Area level in the production of joint evidence, the Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire and in joint work to produce a statement of common ground for meeting unmet needs. This is covered by a separate statement.
- 3.2. The Borough Council has worked closely with Leicester City Council throughout the plan preparation process to inform our policy development and the approach to strategic cross-border issues. This includes the allocations Charnwood is proposing in close proximity to Leicester City. Charnwood has also consulted with Leicester City on number of draft policies prior to finalising the publication version of the Plan including those relating to Leicester Urban Area, Leicester and Leicestershire Unmet Needs and Infrastructure. A record of bilateral meetings between the two local authorities is set out in Appendix A.
- 3.3. Charnwood will continue to engage in relation to these matters, and with ongoing work with partners in Leicester and Leicestershire to inform a Statement of Common Ground with respect to any objectively assessed needs that cannot be met.

4. KEY ISSUES OF AGREEMENT

Duty to Cooperate

- 4.1. There has been ongoing constructive engagement between Charnwood Borough Council and Leicester City Council on the preparation of the local plan. The Duty to Cooperate has been complied with.

5. MATTERS WHERE BOTH PARTIES ARE OPEN TO FURTHER COOPERATION

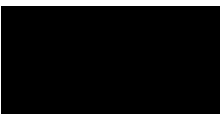
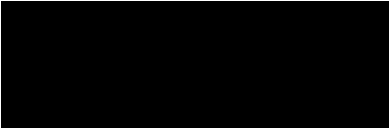
- 5.1. The following matters are where both parties are open to further cooperation and discussion:
- a. Policy DS1 Development Strategy and specific reference to the Statement of Common Ground for the apportionment of unmet need.
 - b. Policy DS2 Leicester and Leicestershire Unmet Needs and reference to wording to determine how and when a local plan review would be triggered.
 - c. Policy LUA1 Leicester Urban Area and reference to how the policy will be delivered and who the Council will work with to do so.
 - d. Policy CC5 Sustainable Travel and reference to working with Leicester City Council to deliver cross-boundary sustainable transport options.
 - e. Policy EV12 Burial Space and the inclusion of additional text which sets out that there are other circumstances where the provision of new burial space is justified, including provision by private sector providers or neighbouring authorities. This text would reference that Leicester City Council has produced a Burial Space Strategy 2014 which identifies that a new burial site is required in the timeframe 2025 to 2030 as a long term solution to the decreasing availability of burial space in the city. The text would identify that proposals for new burial space in Charnwood to meet such need are likely to be acceptable in areas of Countryside, Green Wedge and Areas of Local Separation where there is limited built form, and the layout and landscaping is appropriate to the character of the area.
 - f. Policy INF1 Infrastructure and Developer Contributions and referencing Leicester City Council as a key delivery partner and clarifying the relationship between policy text and the Infrastructure Schedule at Appendix 4.
 - g. Policy INF2 Local and Strategic Road Network and reference to the additional transportation assessment work underway with partners to provide a more detailed understanding of the Plan's impact upon the highway network and required mitigation measures and how they will be delivered, as set out in the Transport Statement of Common Ground between the Borough Council, National Highways, Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council.

6. GOVERNANCE

6. 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.

7. SIGNATORIES TO THE STATEMENT

Signed on behalf of: Leicester City Council	Signed on behalf of: Charnwood Borough Council
	
Name: Andrew Smith	Name: Richard Bennett
Position: Director of Planning, Development and Transportation	Position: Head of Planning and Regeneration
Date: 02 Dec 2021	Date: 03 December 2021

APPENDIX A - JOINT WORKING

The following list is summary of meetings and exchanges of information between Charnwood Borough Council and Leicester City Council. These meetings will continue to take place on a regular basis.

Event	Date	Outcomes
Charnwood and Leicester City Duty to Co-operate Meeting	7 th October 2021	Leicester City Council confirmed that with the exception of burial space matters discussed above there were no other issues with compliance with Duty to Cooperate. Other matters relate to soundness and can be subject to further cooperation and be dealt with through Statement of Common Ground and hearing sessions of Charnwood Local Plan. Charnwood Borough Council set out their position that the duty cooperate has been complied with. It was agreed Charnwood Borough Council would propose a way forward in relation to the concerns on burial space and draft a Statement of Common Ground.
Charnwood and Leicester City Duty to Co-operate Meeting	17 th November 2020	Green Wedge and site capacity assessments were discussed. Development at Anstey Lane/ Gynsill Lane was discussed and the need for cross-boundary working. CBC confirmed that a burial site for Leicester City in Charnwood was not included in the draft Local Plan and further site assessment work was discussed. Leicester City unmet employment need was also discussed.
Charnwood and Leicester City Duty to Co-operate Meeting	27 th February 2020	It was agreed that Leicester's unmet need is a strategic issue which should be dealt with through DtC. Leicester City set out that they had unmet burial space need and were looking to promote a site in Charnwood at Anstey/ Thurcaston. The need for a SoCG to be progressed expeditiously was noted by both parties.
Charnwood and Leicester City Duty to	22 nd July 2019	There was discussion around cross-border infrastructure requirements

Co-operate Meeting		such as school provision, sports facilities and cemeteries. Joint working and shared information was recognised as important to address many of these issues such as education and transport. The cross-boundary impacts of development on transport were discussed and the potential effect of development in Charnwood on arterial routes into the city was recognised. It was agreed that every effort would be made to ensure that a collaborative approach was undertaken as both plans progressed. The benefit of duty to cooperate discussions was recognised and both authorities undertook to hold regular meetings as and when necessary.
Charnwood and Leicester City Duty to Co-operate Meeting	14 th March 2018	The purpose of the meeting was to brief City colleagues on the emerging options and evidence identified in the 'Towards a Development Strategy for Charnwood' discussion paper, which will inform the preparation of the Charnwood Local Plan. It was agreed that there would be continued engagement between City and Charnwood colleagues to discuss emerging strategies and sites for both Charnwood and Leicester Local Plans including continued engagement with highways colleagues at City and Leicestershire County Council to discuss impacts and mitigation of emerging development strategy in Charnwood.
Charnwood and Leicester City Duty to Co-operate Meeting	11 th October 2017	The following matters were discussed - the need for homes and jobs, the evidence for Leicester unmet need, the emerging strategy for homes in Charnwood and the implications for edge of City locations; the emerging strategy for employment in the City and the relationship with homes including the strategic framework for meeting employment OAN and declaring unmet need for homes; and

		<p>the emerging strategy for employment in Charnwood and implications for edge of City locations including a focus on office growth and role of the City. It was agreed that both local authorities should meet regularly to discuss cross-border matters.</p>
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