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**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ST HELENS BOROUGH  
LOCAL PLAN 2020-2035**

**DUTY TO COOPERATE STATEMENT**

**October 2020**



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## 1 Introduction and role of this document

- 1.1 St Helens Council (“the Council”) published the submission draft of the St Helens Borough Local Plan 2020-2035 (“the SHBLP”) in January 2019. It proposes to submit the SHBLP to the Government in autumn 2020, after which the SHBLP will be subject to independent examination by a Government Inspector.
- 1.2 In preparing the SHBLP, the Council has needed to comply with the “duty to cooperate”, which is set by national legislation and requires the Council to engage with a range of other local planning authorities and other specified bodies. This statement sets out how the Council has complied with this duty. It will comprise part of the Council’s evidence at the independent examination of the SHBLP.
- 1.3 The “duty to cooperate” is separate from other legal and policy requirements concerning the plan making process. Other documents set out how the Council has complied with these other requirements. For example, a separate report of consultation<sup>1</sup> sets out in more general terms how the Council has involved the public and stakeholder organisations in preparing the SHBLP.
- 1.4 As part of its activities under the duty to cooperate, the Council has agreed statements of common ground with other authorities covering the Liverpool City Region<sup>2</sup> and Warrington<sup>3</sup>. These statements of common ground have been published as separate documents.
- 1.5 Within the remainder of this document:
- Section 2 summarises the legal and national policy requirements concerning the “duty to cooperate”;
  - Section 3 summarises the strategic and sub-regional context within which the Council has worked in complying with the duty, and;
  - Sections 4 and 5 identify the bodies with which the Council has cooperated and the strategic matters on which cooperation has taken place.
  - Further details are set out in the appendices. For each strategic matter Appendix 2 sets out:
    - Description of matter;
    - Specific bodies;
    - How co-operation has taken place; and
    - Outcomes of co-operation.

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<sup>1</sup> The St Helens Local Plan 2020-2035 Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD004)

<sup>2</sup> Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground, October 2019 (SD010). This document also covers West Lancashire.

<sup>3</sup> Warrington Borough Council Draft Statement of Common Ground, March 2019 (SD012)

## 2 Legal and policy context

### The “duty to cooperate”

2.1 The legal requirements concerning the "duty to cooperate" are set out in:

- Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>4</sup> (the “PCPA”); and in
- the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

2.2 Section 33A (1) of the PCPA requires local planning authorities to “...*engage constructively, actively and in an on-going basis...*” with other local planning authorities, county councils and other prescribed bodies when undertaking certain activities.

2.3 The activities to which the duty applies are specified in Section 33(3) of the PCPA and include (in summary) the preparation of development plan documents and activities that support or which can reasonably be considered to prepare the way for the preparation of development plan documents, “... *so far as relating to a strategic matter*”. It is therefore clear that the duty relates to strategic matters and applies to supporting activities such as the preparation of relevant evidence.

2.4 Section 33A (4) of the PCPA goes on to specify that a strategic matter (to which the duty applies) will include “... sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas”. A “planning area” in this context is defined as including (for example) the area covered by a metropolitan district council.

2.5 In order to ensure compliance with the duty, the Council has taken the view that strategic matters can (depending on their nature) be far reaching in geographical extent. It has also taken account of the aim of the cooperation process, which is specified (in Section 33A (1) of the PCPA) as being to maximise the effectiveness of the plan making and supporting activities covered by the duty.

2.6 Section 33A also sets out various other provisions including (in Section 33A(6)(b)) a requirement for local planning authorities to consider whether to prepare development plan documents jointly with other authorities.

2.7 Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) identifies, for the purposes of Section 33A, the prescribed bodies to which the duty applies.

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<sup>4</sup> Section 33A of the PCPA was introduced as a result of the Localism Act 2011.

## National policy and guidance

2.8 National policy concerning the cooperation process in plan making is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the most recent version of which at the time of writing is dated February 2019.

2.9 Paragraph 25 of the NPPF (February 2019) states that:

*“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 ... and combined authorities ... ”*

2.10 Paragraph 26 of the NPPF emphasises the importance of effective and ongoing joint working, in particular to determine where new infrastructure is needed and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.

2.11 Paragraph 27 of the NPPF goes on to state that:

*“... in order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statement of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these”.*

2.12 Guidance about these matters is set out in the national on-line Planning Practice Guidance section on plan making<sup>5</sup>. Whilst the duty to cooperate is not a “*duty to agree*”, the PPG makes it clear that local planning authorities should make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters before they submit their local plans for examination.

2.13 As set out above, the “*duty to cooperate*” is an integral part of national planning legislation, and a robust joint working process must be followed to ensure compliance with national policy and guidance. The subsequent sections of this document confirm how the Council has complied with these requirements.

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<sup>5</sup> Available to view at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

### 3 Strategic context for St Helens

3.1 The Borough of St Helens lies at the heart of the North West between the cities of Liverpool, Manchester and a range of other substantial urban areas. Due to its location and strategic road and rail connections, the Borough has strong linkages to nearby areas in terms of, for example, housing markets, employment and town centre catchments.

#### **The Liverpool City Region**

3.2 St Helens, along with the local authorities of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral, falls within the Liverpool City Region (LCR). Whilst each of the LCR local authorities delivers their own local planning and other services, they have an extensive history of joint working. This was formalised in 2014 through the establishment of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (the LCRCA), which forms a joint entity with a range of functions covering employment and skills, culture and tourism, transport, economic development, and housing and strategic planning.

3.3 The history of joint working on statutory planning matters in the LCR has included the preparation of various joint evidence base studies (for example concerning housing and employment land needs and land supply) and the Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan (adopted in 2013). The LCRCA and the LCR local planning authorities published a statement of common ground on spatial planning matters in 2019. The LCRCA is also in the early stages of preparing a Spatial Development Strategy, which will be a statutory land use planning document covering the whole City Region.

3.4 There are several officer working groups within the LCR including the Liverpool City Region Chief Planning Officers Group and its sub groups. The Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) provides specialist support and advice to the City Region authorities on environmental planning, waste, minerals, contaminated land and ecology.

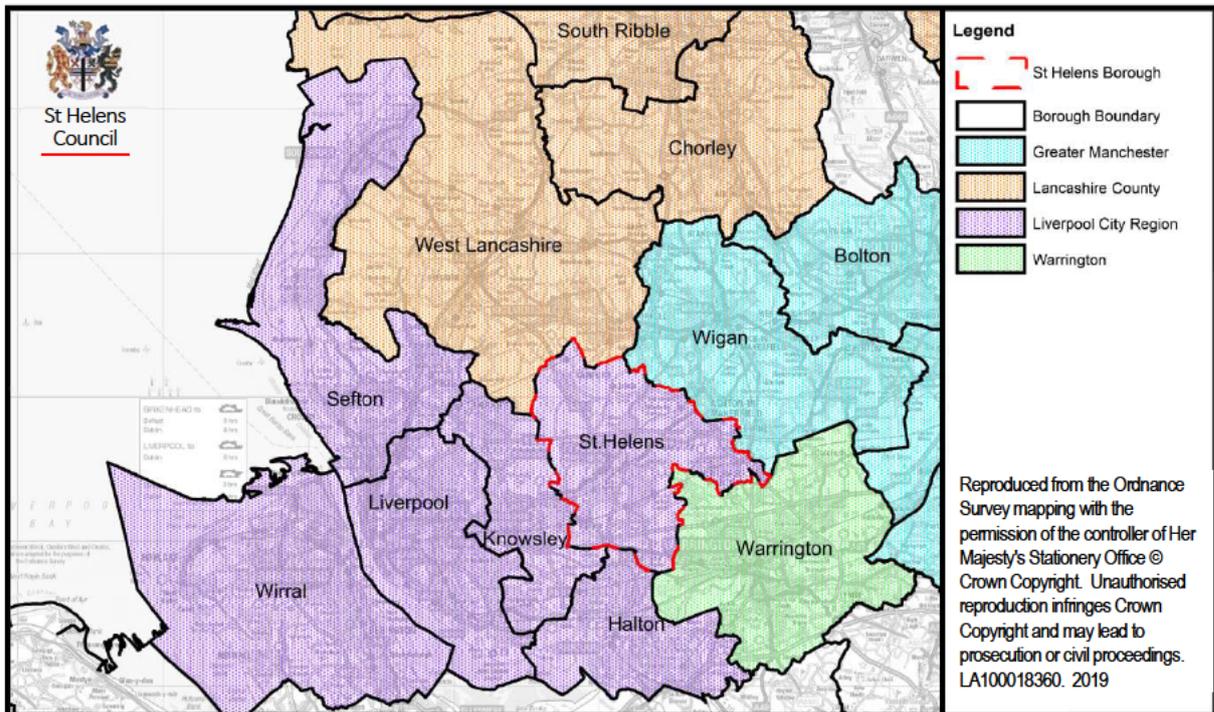
3.5 The LCRCA is responsible (in its capacity as Integrated Transport Authority) for the preparation and implementation of statutory transport plans for the City Region. It has also prepared (in cooperation with the constituent local authorities) a wide range of other plans and strategies, covering for example economic growth, sustainable energy, housing, skills and apprenticeships<sup>6</sup>.

3.6 The Liverpool City Region also has a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Local Nature Partnership (LNP), both of which were created in 2012.

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<sup>6</sup> A full list of Liverpool City Region policy documents is available to view at <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/governance/policy-documents>

**Figure 1 Strategic context of St Helens**



### Links with areas outside the Liverpool City Region

3.7 Due to its location on the edge of the Liverpool City Region, St Helens also has strategic cross boundary links with West Lancashire, Warrington and Wigan. St Helens Council has therefore cooperated extensively with these neighbouring authorities in preparing the SHBLP.

3.8 West Lancashire (which is immediately to the north of St Helens) is outside the LCR. However, West Lancashire Borough Council became an associate member of the LCRCA in 2014 and has been closely involved in much of the LCR joint working on planning matters (see paragraph 3.3 above). This has included involvement in the joint working on housing and employment land needs and supply. West Lancashire and St Helens Councils have also cooperated for example in relation to the proposed Skelmersdale rail link (see Strategic Matter 7 – Appendix 2).

3.9 Warrington Borough, immediately to the south east of St Helens, is also located outside the Liverpool City Region but has very strong economic, housing and infrastructure links with St Helens. For example, it falls within the mid-Mersey housing market area which also covers St Helens and Halton. This point has been addressed through joint working on the housing needs evidence base. Warrington and St Helens Councils have also worked closely together, for example, on the potential expansion of Omega, which is a large employment location next to the boundary between the two Boroughs. These and other relevant points have been addressed in the Draft Warrington Statement of Common Ground (March 2019) and in the strategic matters set out in Appendix 2 of this document. The Warrington Borough Council Draft Statement of Common

Ground (March 2019), was published alongside the Warrington Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2017 - 2037 (March 2019). The Warrington Borough Council Draft Statement of Common Ground (March 2019) (and some minor suggested revisions relating to St Helens, as outlined in Submission Document SD012.1), were approved by St Helens Council's Cabinet on 18th September 2019. The revisions were proposed to be incorporated into a final Warrington Borough Council Statement of Common Ground which was due to be published when the Warrington Local Plan was submitted for examination in autumn 2020. However, in October 2020 Warrington Borough Council decided to pause work on its Local Plan. Warrington Borough Council have indicated that they hope to be able to progress with their Local Plan in the summer of 2021.

- 3.10 Wigan Borough, to the north east of St Helens, forms part of Greater Manchester and will be covered by the emerging Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). The GMSF will form a statutory plan for the whole of the Greater Manchester City Region. St Helens has been involved as a neighbouring authority in the preparation of the GMSF, for example, in the process of helping to define housing and employment land requirements. Whilst it is in a different housing market area, Wigan also has strong economic and infrastructure links to St Helens. Officers from St Helens and Wigan Councils have worked closely together for example on the M6 Junction 23 study (see strategic matter 7 – Appendix 2).

## 4 The “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to St Helens

- 4.1 The Council has cooperated with a wide range of bodies in compliance with the “duty to cooperate”. The relevant bodies (identified in figure 2 below) are those with which cooperation has been required by Section 33A of the PCPA and its supporting regulations (see Section 2 of this statement).
- 4.2 The Council has also engaged with a wide range of other organisations and persons who are not subject to the statutory “duty to cooperate”. This wider engagement activity is described in the Council’s report of consultation<sup>7</sup>.
- 4.3 In defining the list of bodies with which to cooperate, the Council has had regard to the fact that the legislation requires cooperation in relation to “*strategic matters*” where there would be a significant impact. Whilst the SHBLP may have impacts on bodies that are not listed in Figure 2 (for example other local authorities beyond those listed), the Council does not consider that these impacts would be significant. The duty has therefore only been triggered in relation to those bodies that are listed in Figure 2.
- 4.4 The SHBLP will have a varying level and type of impact on the activities and responsibilities of the bodies listed. The Council has therefore tailored the approach to cooperation with each body according to the nature of the relevant issues affecting them. The detail of how the Council has cooperated with each relevant body on each Strategic Matter is set out in Appendix 2. Paragraphs 4.5 to 4.14 below set out further details of the role of each body.

### **Liverpool and Greater Manchester City Region Combined Authorities**

- 4.5 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has a role in strategic plan-making and as Integrated Transport Authority and is a prescribed body. The Greater Manchester City Region Combined Authority covers an area that adjoins St Helens to the east and has also been identified as a body with which cooperation has been required.

### **Local planning authorities**

- 4.6 The local planning authorities listed are those which (like St Helens) fall within the Liverpool City Region or which adjoin St Helens Borough. The authorities listed have also been involved in their capacity as highway authority.

### **Lancashire County Council**

- 4.7 Lancashire County Council (LCC) is the only County Council that borders St Helens and is listed. The role of LCC focusses on transport, economic development, minerals and waste, and a limited number of planning functions.

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<sup>7</sup> The St Helens Local Plan 2020-2035 Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD004).

Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England

4.8 The Council has worked closely with the Environment Agency; for example, in addressing flood risk issues. The role of Natural England in relation to the preparation of the SHBLP has focussed on green infrastructure, whilst that of Historic England has focussed on the built and historic environment. These constitute matters 8, 14 and 15 respectively in Appendix 2.

Civil Aviation Authority and Office of Rail and Road

4.9 The Civil Aviation Authority and Office of Rail and Road have been consulted on transport matters as prescribed bodies (see matter 7 in Appendix 2).

Homes England

4.10 Homes England's role is to ensure more people have access to better homes, improving local economic growth and helping to increase the supply of public land for development and the number and quality of affordable homes.

National Health Service bodies

4.11 The list of bodies includes the NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS England. Prior to 1 April 2013, NHS England was known as the NHS Commissioning Board. The St Helens CCG and NHS England are both prescribed bodies.

Highways England

4.12 Highways England operates, maintains and improves England's motorways and major 'A' roads on behalf of the Department of Transport. It therefore has a significant role in St Helens.

Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

4.13 The MMO is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs which licenses, regulates and plans marine activities in the seas around England so that they are carried out in a sustainable way. Whilst St Helens has no coastline, the MMO is listed in Figure 2 given its potential interest in, for example, waste water management within the Mersey catchment (see strategic matter 9 in Appendix 2).

Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership (LNP)

4.14 The Liverpool City Region LEP and LNP were both created in 2012 and include representatives from the private, voluntary and local authority sectors. They are also prescribed bodies.

**Figure 2 List of bodies with which the Council has “cooperated” under Section 33A of the PCPA**

**Combined authorities**

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority

**Local planning authorities**

- Halton Borough Council
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Warrington Borough Council
- West Lancashire Borough Council
- Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
- Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

**County Councils**

- Lancashire County Council

**Other prescribed bodies**

- the Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- the Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England
- The Office of Rail and Road
- Highways England (as highway authority for the strategic road network)
- the Marine Management Organisation
- Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership.

## 5 The strategic matters relating to St Helens

5.1 The Council has identified 15 matters which, in the context of the emerging SHBLP, constitute strategic matters with a significant impact on at least 2 planning areas. These 15 matters (set out in Figure 3 below) have therefore fallen within the scope of the duty to cooperate.

5.2 The matters cover a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues and have a close relationship with the strategic priorities set out by the Government in paragraph 20 of the NPPF. The relationship between each matter and the relevant NPPF priority is illustrated below in Figure 3. The matters also relate closely to the Key Issues for St Helens identified in Chapter 2 of the SHBLP.

5.3 Further details including: the nature and geographical coverage of each matter; the “duty to cooperate” bodies affected; and the methods and outcomes of the cooperation on each matter are set out in Appendix 2 of this statement.

**Figure 3 Strategic matters for St Helens and relationship with the NPPF strategic priorities**

| <u>Strategic Matter</u>  | <u>Relevant NPPF (paragraph 20) strategic priority</u>  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1. The level and type of proposed housing development in St Helens<sup>8</sup> relative to nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region.</b></p> <p><b>2. The proposed level of gypsy and traveller accommodation in St Helens relative to other areas</b></p> <p><b>3. The amount and type of land needed for employment development in St Helens relative to nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</b></p> <p><b>4. The review of Green Belt boundaries to meet development needs</b></p> <p><b>5. Cross boundary impacts from specific sites identified for future housing or employment development</b></p> <p><b>6. The proposed role of St Helens town centre (and of other centres in the Borough) relative to centres in nearby</b></p> | <p>(a) housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development</p> |

<sup>8</sup> The references to “St Helens” in this table refer (except where specified) to the Borough as a whole rather than the town of St Helens.

| <u>Strategic Matter</u>   | <u>Relevant NPPF (paragraph 20) strategic priority</u>  |
|---|---|
| <p><b><i>authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b></p>   |   |
| <p><b><i>7. The effect of the SHBLP on transport infrastructure in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b></p> <p><b><i>8. The proposed strategy for managing flood risk within the Sankey Valley catchment area</i></b></p> <p><b><i>9. The effect of the SHBLP on utilities infrastructure (e.g., digital communications, water supply and waste water management) in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b></p> <p><b><i>10. The effect of the SHBLP on the low carbon infrastructure potential of the Liverpool City Region and wider area</i></b></p> <p><b><i>11. The proposed approach to dealing with waste management issues</i></b></p> <p><b><i>12. The safeguarding and supply of minerals resources</i></b></p> | <p>(b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);</p> |
| <p><b><i>13. The effect of the SHBLP on community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure) in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b></p>   | <p>(c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure)</p>   |
| <p><b><i>14. The effect of the SHBLP on green infrastructure in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b></p> <p><b><i>15. The effect of the SHBLP on the built and historic environment in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b></p>   | <p>(d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>       |

## **Outcomes of the cooperation process relating to development needs and land supply**

5.4 A key role of the cooperation process is to help inform the distribution of development between districts to ensure that needs, for example for new housing and employment development, are met. The following headline conclusions relating to this point are set out in the SHBLP and have (alongside the other conclusions of the cooperation process) played a key role in shaping the strategy set out in the Plan:

- None of the neighbouring districts have identified a need for St Helens Borough to accommodate any of their housing development needs;
- No spare capacity has been identified in any neighbouring local authority areas to accommodate any of the housing needs arising in the Borough of St Helens;
- A need has been identified within the Liverpool City Region as a whole (including St Helens Borough) to accommodate the growth of the logistics and warehousing sector (associated with underlying economic trends and the growth of the port of Liverpool), with a particular focus on the need for large scale units of over 9,000m<sup>2</sup>;
- Warrington Council has identified scope for a site at Omega South West within St Helens Borough to be developed to help meet its employment needs (this land is identified as site allocation 1EA in the SHBLP); and
- All of the immediately neighbouring districts to St Helens Borough have (due to restrictions on the supply of land in their existing urban areas) recently undertaken or are in the process of undertaking Green Belt reviews to meet their development needs.

## **6 Conclusion**

6.1 This statement sets out how the Council has complied with the statutory “duty to cooperate” in preparing the SHBLP. The details of the matters that the Council has cooperated on, with which bodies, and of the outcomes of the cooperation are set out in Appendix 2.

## **Appendix 1      Glossary**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| DtC bodies            | Organisations with which the Council has needed to cooperate in preparing the SHBLP  |
| FEMA                  | Functional Economic Market Area  |
| HER                   | Historic Environment Record  |
| LCC                   | Lancashire County Council  |
| LCRCA                 | Liverpool City Region Combined Authority   |
| Other LCR authorities | Halton Borough Council<br>Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council<br>Liverpool City Council<br>Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council<br>West Lancashire Borough Council<br>Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council |
| PCPA                  | Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004  |
| SHMBC                 | St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council   |
| SHBLP                 | St Helens Borough Local Plan 2020-2035: Submission Draft, January 2019   |

**Appendix 2      Details of the cooperation undertaken on each  
strategic matter**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 1)</b>  | <b><i>The level and type of proposed housing development in St Helens relative to nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region.</i></b>  |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b> | <p>St Helens shares a housing market area with Warrington and Halton. It also has links with the other housing markets that operate across the Liverpool City Region and in West Lancashire and Wigan.</p> <p>The proposed levels and types of housing growth in St Helens relative to these other authorities had to be confirmed when preparing the SHBLP. The Plan also had to consider whether there was scope, in the interests of sustainable development, for neighbouring districts to absorb some of the shortfall of land in urban areas that exists in St Helens.</p>  |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>     | <p>Other LCR authorities<br/>West Lancashire Borough Council<br/>Warrington Council<br/>Wigan Council<br/>Greater Manchester Combined Authority</p>   |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                 | <p>The Council has taken part in a range of joint working projects with other authorities to cover this matter including those set out below.</p> <p>The LCR Housing Strategy 2007 identified that St Helens, Halton and Warrington form the mid-Mersey Housing Market Area (HMA). Another HMA was identified covering Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral, Knowsley and West Lancashire.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region Housing and Economic Development Evidence Base Overview Study<sup>9</sup> (2011) assessed land supply and needs for housing across the LCR and West Lancashire. It identified shortfalls of urban land to meet development needs for housing in a number of areas (including St Helens).</p> |

<sup>9</sup> Housing and Economic Development Evidence Base Overview Study, GVA 2011 (document ref: SUB005)

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>As a result of this (and also due to shortages of employment land) a number of authorities have subsequently undertaken, or are undertaking, Green Belt reviews.</p> <p>The mid-Mersey Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2016<sup>10</sup> was commissioned jointly by Halton, St Helens and Warrington Councils and assessed overall housing needs, as well as needs for affordable housing and specialist housing across the mid-Mersey HMA. This study also assessed the mix of different types and sizes of dwellings needed.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) 2018<sup>11</sup> was commissioned jointly by the Council, together with the other authorities in the LCR and West Lancashire Borough Council. The SHELMA assessed overall housing needs, as well as affordability issues, housing mix and specialist housing needs across the whole city region. It was also subject to technical consultation with other Duty to Cooperate (DtC) bodies.</p> <p>This matter is also addressed in the Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019)<sup>12</sup> and the Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019)<sup>13</sup>.</p> <p>The Greater Manchester authorities (including Wigan) are undertaking a joint Green Belt review to meet housing and employment development needs. It has been established in email correspondence (see Appendix 3) that St Helens does not propose to help the Greater Manchester authorities meet their housing needs by providing additional land for housing within its own area.</p> <p>The level of housing growth has been covered in meetings that Council officers have held with officers from the relevant local authorities.</p> |
|--|---|

<sup>10</sup> Mid Mersey Strategic Housing Market Assessment, GL Hearn 2016 (document ref: HOU003)

<sup>11</sup> Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing & Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA), GL Hearn 2018 (document ref: SUB001)

<sup>12</sup> Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground: July 2019 (document ref: SD010)

<sup>13</sup> Warrington Borough Council Statement of Common Ground: March 2019, (document ref: SD012)

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017). This process has involved all the DtC bodies listed for this matter.</p>  |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p> | <p>The key outcomes of cooperation on this matter are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None of the neighbouring districts have identified a need for St Helens to accommodate any of their housing needs. Wirral Council did make a formal request under the Duty to Cooperate for St Helens Council's views about whether it would be appropriate and/or possible to identify any additional land within St Helens to meet any of the housing needs arising in Wirral (see Appendix 4 for further information).</li> <li>• No spare capacity has been identified in any neighbouring local authority areas to accommodate any of the housing needs arising in St Helens;</li> <li>• St Helens Council has undertaken a Green Belt review to enable its development needs (including for housing) to be met;</li> <li>• There is no identified requirement for St Helens to accommodate any of the affordable or specialist housing needs arising in any neighbouring local authority area, or to adjust its mix of proposed housing types due to needs in any neighbouring local authority area;</li> <li>• No requirement has been identified for any neighbouring local authority area(s) to accommodate any of the affordable or specialist housing needs arising in St Helens or to adjust their mix of proposed housing types due to needs arising in St Helens.</li> </ul> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with the outcomes of the cooperation on this matter, the SHBLP does not rely on any neighbouring district to accommodate any of St Helens' housing needs or include any provision to accommodate the needs of any neighbouring district.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SHBLP identifies a housing requirement of 486 dwellings per annum in St Helens. Whilst this figure does not equate to the housing growth scenarios set out in the SHELMA<sup>14</sup>, it is justified by more recent evidence and changes to national policy (see paragraph 4.18 of the SHBLP for further details).</li> <li>• In line with the outcomes of cooperation on this matter, the approach to meeting affordable housing needs and housing mix (see Policies LPC01 and LPC02 of the SHBLP) is solely intended to meet needs arising in St Helens.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Mersey Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2016</li> <li>• Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing &amp; Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) 2018</li> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 2, page10)</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement points 1 and 2 on page 9)</li> <li>• Warrington Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2017-2037 (March 2019) (see Policies DEV1 and DEV2 – pages 32 to 42)</li> <li>• Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (revised draft - January 2019) (see section on homes for Greater Manchester – pages 111 to 125)</li> </ul> |

<sup>14</sup> The SHELMA identified a Demographic Based Objectively Assessed Need for 416 dwellings per annum and a Growth Scenario of 855 dwellings per annum in St Helens.

- Existing and/or emerging Local Plan documents for other neighbouring districts.

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 2)</b>  | <b><i>The proposed level of gypsy and traveller accommodation in St Helens relative to other areas</i></b>  |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b> | The Government’s “Planning Policy for Traveller Sites” (DCLG 2015) requires local authorities to work collaboratively to develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.   |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>     | Other LCR authorities<br>West Lancashire Borough Council<br>Warrington Borough Council<br>Wigan Council   |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                 | <p>The Council worked in partnership with other LCR authorities and West Lancashire Borough Council to commission the Merseyside and West Lancashire Gypsy &amp; Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). This Assessment was undertaken in 2014 and revised in January 2015. It included extensive fieldwork by interviewers to understand current and future housing need from the members of the Gypsy &amp; Traveller community. It has also been made available as part of the evidence base for the emerging SHBLP.</p> <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017). This process has involved all the DtC bodies listed for this matter</p> |
| <b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b>           | The GTAA found that across Merseyside and West Lancashire as a whole there was a need for 42 net additional permanent pitches between 2013/14 and 2032/33, of which 8 should be in St Helens Borough. The GTAA also found a need for 3 transit pitches to be provided in St Helens (capable of accommodating 6 touring caravans) for Gypsies and Travellers for the period 2013 to 2033. The GTAA did not identify a need for accommodation for Travelling Show People in St Helens.  |

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| <b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b> | The SHBLP proposes to meet the identified need for permanent and transit pitch provision in full within St Helens. Further details are set out in Policy LPC03 and paragraph 6.9 of the SHBLP.   |
| <b>Key evidence</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Merseyside and West Lancashire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Knowsley Council, Liverpool Council, Sefton Council, St Helens Council, West Lancashire Borough Council, and Wirral Council Final Report August 2014 (revised January 2015), Arc 4 Consultants</li></ul> |

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| <p><b>STRATEGIC MATTER 3)</b></p>  | <p><i>The amount and type of land needed for employment development in St Helens relative to nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region.</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b></p> | <p>St Helens, along with the other LCR authority areas and West Lancashire, has been identified as constituting a Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA). St Helens Borough also has strong linkages in terms of economic development and travel to work areas with Warrington and Wigan. The Council has had to work collaboratively to ensure that future needs for employment development<sup>15</sup> are met.</p>   |
| <p><b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b></p>     | <p>Other LCR authorities<br/>West Lancashire Borough Council<br/>Lancashire County Council<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Wigan Council<br/>Greater Manchester Combined Authority<br/>Liverpool City Region LEP</p>  |
| <p><b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b></p>                 | <p>The Council has taken part in a range of joint working projects with other authorities to cover this matter including those set out below:</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region Housing and Economic Development Evidence Base Overview Study (2011) assessed land supply and needs for employment development across the LCR and West Lancashire.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) 2018 was commissioned jointly by the Council, together with the other authorities in the LCR and West Lancashire Borough Council. The SHELMA assessed employment land needs across the whole city region. It was also subject to technical consultation with other bodies including (for example) Wigan Council, Warrington Council and the LEP.</p> |

<sup>15</sup> “Employment development” in the context of this document includes development for uses within classes B1, B2 and/or B8 of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended)

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|  | <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and the Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> <p>The Greater Manchester authorities (including Wigan) are undertaking a joint Green Belt review to meet housing and employment development needs. It has been established in e-mail correspondence (see Appendix 3) that St Helens does not propose to help the Greater Manchester authorities meet their employment needs by providing additional land for employment development within its own area.</p> <p>The level of employment land supply required has been covered in meetings that Council officers have held with officers from the other relevant local authorities. In the case of Warrington, these discussions have included the scope for land to the west of Omega (within St Helens) to be allocated for development to help Warrington meet its employment land needs.</p> <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017). This process involved all the relevant DtC bodies.</p> |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p> | <p>The key outcomes of cooperation on this matter are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Liverpool City Region SHELMA indicated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Within the city region as a whole (also including West Lancashire) sites with a combined capacity of at least 397 hectares need to be developed for large scale Class B8 (storage or distribution) uses between 2012 and 2037.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Within St Helens, sites with a combined capacity of at least 61.4 hectares need to be developed for Class B1, B2 and/or smaller scale B8 (storage or distribution) uses between 2012 and 2037</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR authorities have agreed to work collaboratively to identify the minimum proportions of the need for strategic B8 uses which should be accommodated within each local authority.</li> <li>• Warrington Council has identified scope for a site at Omega South West within St Helens Borough to be developed to help meet the employment needs of Warrington.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SHBLP proposes that (in line with the outcomes of the cooperation) land at Omega South Western Extension, totalling 31.22 hectares in area, will be allocated to meet employment needs arising in Warrington.</li> <li>• The SHBLP identifies a total of 234.08ha of other site allocations for employment use. In combination with other sites in the supply, this will be sufficient to meet the Borough-specific needs of St Helens, and also contribute substantially to meeting the sub-regional need for strategic Class B8 uses identified in the SHELMA.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing &amp; Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) 2018.</li> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 3, page 11).</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement point 3 and 9 on pages 10 and 14 respectively).</li> <li>• Warrington Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2017-2037 (March 2019) (see Policy DEV4 – page 48).</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (revised draft - January 2019) (see section on “A Prosperous Greater Manchester” – pages 94 to 110).</li> </ul>  |

- Existing and/or emerging Local Plan documents for other neighbouring districts.

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| <p><b>STRATEGIC MATTER 4)</b></p>  | <p><b><i>The review of Green Belt boundaries to meet development needs</i></b></p>  |
| <p><b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b></p> | <p>The review of the Green Belt is a strategic cross boundary matter affecting all local planning authorities in the areas surrounding St Helens.</p> <p>Green Belt was first established across substantial parts of the Liverpool City Region in the 1980s. In recent years, the capacity of existing urban areas in the City Region to meet evidenced development needs (both for housing and employment uses) has become severely constrained. As a result, most authorities within the Liverpool City Region (also including West Lancashire) have either undertaken or are undertaking Green Belt Reviews to inform existing and/or emerging development plans. A similar situation exists across Greater Manchester (including in Wigan) and in Warrington. The Green Belt in St Helens (which covers just over half of the Borough) is contiguous with Green Belt areas in all immediately adjacent Boroughs.</p> <p>For these reasons, it has been important for the Council to engage with other local planning authorities to address this issue.</p> <p>The Green Belt review process in St Helens has also included consideration of matters such as flood risk, heritage and transport which fall within the responsibility of other (non-local planning authority) DTC bodies.</p> |
| <p><b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b></p>     | <p>Other LCR authorities<br/>West Lancashire Borough Council<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Wigan Council<br/>Greater Manchester Combined Authority<br/>Lancashire County Council<br/>Environment Agency<br/>Historic England<br/>Natural England</p>   |

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| <p><b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b></p>       | <p>In undertaking the St Helens Green Belt Review, the Council has engaged closely with the neighbouring districts and other DtC bodies. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with some bodies on an initial draft of the proposed methodology for the Review (in 2013); and</li> <li>• Consultation on the draft St Helens Green Belt Review (in late 2016/early 2017).</li> </ul> <p>Further details of the methodology for the St Helens Green Belt Review are set out in chapter 3 of the Green Belt Review document.</p> <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017). This process involved all the relevant DtC bodies. Where DtC bodies have commented (for example on individual sites proposed for release from the Green Belt) the Council has carefully considered the comments and made changes to the Plan at subsequent stages where justified.</p> <p>The Greater Manchester authorities (including Wigan) and Warrington Council are – like St Helens – undertaking a Green Belt review to meet housing and employment development needs. St Helens Council has been consulted at all relevant stages in these reviews.</p> <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and the Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR authorities (also including West Lancashire Borough Council) have agreed to continue involving each other closely when considering the case for localised changes to the Green Belt.</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR authorities (also including West Lancashire Borough Council) have also agreed that if they decide in future that it is necessary to conduct a joint strategic review of the Green Belt in the LCR, the reasons and agreed approach will be set out in a future Statement of Common Ground</li> <li>• All DtC bodies have been able to input into the St Helens Green Belt Review from an early stage. Changes have been made (e.g., to the range of sites proposed for release from the Green Belt) where justified.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The results of the Green Belt Review have informed the changes to Green Belt boundaries which are proposed in the SHBLP.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 4, page 12)</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement point 4 on page 12)</li> <li>• St Helens Green Belt Review, December 2018</li> <li>• Existing and/or emerging Local Plan documents for all neighbouring districts</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 5)</b>  | <b><i>Cross boundary impacts from specific sites identified for future housing or employment development</i></b>   |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b> | <p>Some of the sites which are being considered as site allocations for new development in St Helens are of considerable size and/or are located close to neighbouring districts. Substantial areas are also being considered to be released from the Green Belt but safeguarded to meet potential development needs after 2035.</p> <p>As a result, this constitutes a strategic matter which is likely to affect adjacent local planning authority areas and other “DtC” bodies.</p>   |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>     | <p>Other LCR authorities<br/>West Lancashire Borough Council<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Wigan Council<br/>Homes England<br/>Environment Agency<br/>Historic England<br/>Natural England<br/>Highways England</p>   |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                 | <p>Site specific proposals (for site allocations and safeguarded sites) were set out in the Preferred Options stage of the emerging SHBLP. Comments made by specific bodies in relation to specific sites have been addressed where appropriate in the submission draft of the SHBLP (see the Council’s Report of Consultation<sup>16</sup> for further details).</p> <p>Site specific issues have also been addressed where necessary in discussions held with officers of neighbouring local authorities.</p> <p>Sites that currently fall within the Green Belt have all been assessed in detail through the Green Belt review process (see Strategic Matter 4 set out earlier). Relevant DtC bodies have been consulted as part of this process.</p> |

<sup>16</sup> The St Helens Local Plan 2020-2035 Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (SD004)

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|  | <p>The largest proposed site allocations (at Bold Forest Garden Suburb and Parkside) have been addressed in the Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> <p>Transport impacts arising from the site allocations proposed at Preferred Options stage have been addressed in the St Helens Local Plan Transport Impact Assessment, undertaken in close cooperation with Highways England.</p>   |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p> | <p>Changes have been made to some of the proposed site allocations between Preferred Options and proposed submission stages. For example, the former Eccleston Golf Course site (site 3HS in the SHBLP), which gave rise to concerns from Knowsley Council as a neighbouring authority, has been changed from a proposed site allocation for housing development to a proposed safeguarded site.</p> <p>Changes have been made to relevant policy provisions that will help control the development of the sites, for example relating to infrastructure, heritage, green infrastructure and transport matters.</p> <p>Warrington Council has agreed in principle that the western extension of Omega in St Helens (one of the strategic site allocations, referenced 1EA in the submission draft of the SHBLP) will contribute to meeting Warrington’s employment needs, subject to addressing access issues, in liaison with Highways England. Warrington Council has also agreed that consideration of any additional sites in St Helens close to Omega will require cumulative traffic assessment of the impact on junction 8 of the M62 and will require a consistent approach between the two Local Plans. This point is relevant to the consideration of the proposed safeguarded site 1ES in the SHBLP (Omega North Western Extension)</p> |

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|  | <p>Warrington Council and SHMBC have agreed to work together, in liaison with Highways England, to consider any cross boundary infrastructure or other issues related to the development of Parkside West for a range of employment uses and Parkside East for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange and other rail served employment development.</p> <p>Warrington Council and SHMBC have agreed to work together, in liaison with Highways England, to consider any cross boundary infrastructure or other issues related to the development of the proposed Bold Urban Extension.</p> |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <p>The proposed areas for release from the Green Belt are as set out in the SHBLP. As stated above there have been changes since the earlier stages of the Plan process, including some which have addressed comments made by DtC bodies.</p>  |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representations received from relevant DtC bodies at Preferred Options and Submission Draft stages.</li> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 4, page 12)</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Council Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement points 9, 10 and 11 on page 14 and 16)</li> </ul>   |

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| <p><b>STRATEGIC MATTER 6)</b></p>  | <p><i>The proposed role of St Helens town centre (and of other centres in the Borough) relative to centres in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region.</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b></p> | <p>St Helens town centre plays a strategic role as a ‘second tier’ centre in the Liverpool City Region. Its future role (and the role of other centres in the Borough) forms a strategic cross boundary matter affecting St Helens and nearby authority areas.</p>  |
| <p><b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b></p>     | <p>Other LCR authorities<br/>West Lancashire Borough Council<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Wigan Council<br/>Lancashire County Council<br/>Greater Manchester Combined Authority<br/>Liverpool City Region LEP</p>   |
| <p><b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b></p>                 | <p>The Council commissioned WYG Consultants to undertake the St Helens Retail and Leisure Study 2018. This considers the need for future retail and other uses in St Helens and other centres. It also includes a health check of all the Borough’s town, district and local centres. The Council consulted the LCR authorities and other neighbouring local planning authorities on the draft findings of the Study in November 2017. Warrington Borough Council responded to confirm that they had no significant comments and that the Study followed a similar methodology to one undertaken for Warrington.</p> <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and the Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> <p>The role of town centres has been covered in meetings that Council officers have held with officers from the relevant local authorities.</p> <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017).</p> |

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| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p>                           | <p>The LCR authorities agree that there is a need to promote regeneration and successful place making in each centre in the City Region within the context of the current retail hierarchy. The LCR authorities will maintain this approach through appropriate cooperation in plan making and in decisions on planning applications.</p> |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <p>The SHBLP does not propose any substantive change to the strategic role of St Helens or of any other centre in relation to other centres in the LCR, or to those in West Lancashire, Warrington or Wigan.</p>  |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 5, page 12)</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see paragraphs 4.69 to 4.71 on page 26)</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 7)</b>  | <b><i>The effect of the SHBLP on transport infrastructure in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region.</i></b>  |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b> | The effects of the SHBLP on the highway and public transport networks, and on strategic infrastructure proposals needed to be considered. These effects constitute a strategic matter.   |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>     | Other LCR authorities<br>West Lancashire Borough Council<br>Warrington Borough Council<br>Wigan Council<br>Highways England<br>Greater Manchester Combined Authority<br>The Office of Rail and Road  |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                 | <p>The Council commissioned a strategic assessment of impacts on the highway network, and a related transport impact assessment to inform the emerging SHBLP. This work was commissioned in close cooperation with Highways England.</p> <p>The Council has also (in partnership with Highways England and Wigan Council) commissioned a strategic assessment of options for the upgrading of Junction 23 of the M6. This is identified as a key priority and has been undertaken using funding provided by the LCR Combined Authority.</p> <p>The Council has worked in cooperation with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Borough Council to identify land within St Helens that may be required to implement the proposed Skelmersdale Rail Link (which would provide a rail link to Skelmersdale town centre from the Liverpool-Wigan railway line).</p> <p>The Council has worked in close cooperation with the LCR Combined Authority (in its capacity as Integrated Transport Authority) to identify key transport infrastructure priorities.</p> |

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|  | <p>This strategic matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and the Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p>  |
|  | <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017). This process has involved all the relevant DtC bodies.</p>  |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p> | <p>The LCR authorities have agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to work collaboratively, including in their respective Local Plans as appropriate, to support delivery of the key initiatives set out in the Transport for the North (TfN) Strategic Transport Plan including Northern Powerhouse Rail;</li> <li>• to work collaboratively with other relevant bodies to identify and address required improvements to the Strategic Road Network and Major Route Network;</li> <li>• the details of an LCR Key Route Network to support new housing and employment development across the Liverpool City Region and unlock growth; and,</li> <li>• that there are junction bottlenecks along the A580 (a prime corridor for development of new logistics sites to support the Port of Liverpool), and will continue to work together to address these issues.</li> </ul> <p>Warrington Borough Council and SHBC have agreed to work together, in liaison with Highways England, to consider any cross boundary infrastructure or other issues related to the development of the proposed Bold Urban Extension and site at Parkside East and West.</p> <p>Key transport infrastructure priorities identified via the cooperation process are included in the St Helens Infrastructure Plan 2020.</p> |

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| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transport impact assessment process has informed the submission draft of the SHBLP.</li> <li>• The SHBLP and its supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) confirms key transport infrastructure priorities. These include, for example, the improvement of J23 of the M6 and other key motorway junctions.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Helens Local Plan: Transport Impact Assessment 2019</li> <li>• St Helens Saturn Model: Local Model Validation Report 2018</li> <li>• St Helens Local Plan: Forecasting Report 2018</li> <li>• St Helens Local Plan: Sustainable Transport Impact Assessment Report 2019</li> <li>• St Helens Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2018</li> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 6,7 and 9, pages 13 to 17)</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement points 10 and 11 on page 26)</li> <li>• Greater Manchester’s Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment – Overview (page 33 – reference on map to M6 junction 23 improvements)</li> </ul> |

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 8)</b>  | <b><i>The proposed strategy for managing flood risk within the Sankey Valley catchment area</i></b>   |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b> | The Sankey Valley catchment, which covers most of St Helens Borough, also includes areas in Warrington and Halton. The management of the river catchment is a strategic matter affecting each of the three authorities’ areas.  |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>     | Halton Borough Council<br>Warrington Borough Council<br>Wigan Council<br>Environment Agency   |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                 | <p>The Council has worked with the Environment Agency and other bodies to prepare the St Helens Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2014. This provides comprehensive evidence on flood risk matters.</p> <p>The Council has also worked in partnership with relevant DtC bodies and other partners to prepare the Sankey Catchment Action Plan 2018. This identifies a need to attenuate approximately 720,000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water in a 1 in 100 year event. It also sets out measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the reactive nature of the catchment by “<i>Slowing the Flow</i>” in the rural headwaters, filtering agricultural run-off and improving water quality and wildlife habitats;</li> <li>• address issues in the urban areas of the catchment such as inadequately designed connections; and,</li> <li>• remove pinch-points that can contribute to poor water quality and localised flooding.</li> </ul> <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and the Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> |

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|  | <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017). This process has involved all the relevant DtC bodies.</p>  |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR authorities agree that they will continue to work with partners in relation to strategic management of flood risk across river catchments and in relation to other sources of flooding where appropriate.</li> <li>• Halton and Warrington Councils agree that the Sankey Catchment Action Plan provides for a long term integrated water management approach across the Sankey catchment.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy LPC12: Flood Risk and Water Management sets out how the strategic approach to river catchment management in the Sankey Catchment Action Plan will be addressed in land use planning terms.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Helens Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2014</li> <li>• Sankey Valley Catchment Action Plan 2018</li> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 18 on page 23)</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see paragraph 4.47 on page 21).</li> </ul>  |

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| <p><b>STRATEGIC MATTER 9)</b></p>  | <p><i>The effect of the SHBLP on utilities infrastructure (e.g. digital communications, water supply and waste water management) in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b></p> | <p>The impacts of the SHBLP and the proposed levels of development within it on these forms of utilities infrastructure needed to be considered.</p>  |
| <p><b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b></p>     | <p>Other LCR authorities<br/>West Lancashire Borough Council<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Wigan Council<br/>Environment Agency<br/>Marine Management Organisation</p>   |
| <p><b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b></p>                 | <p>The Council has consulted relevant DtC bodies and infrastructure providers while preparing the Local Plan. This work has informed the Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2018.</p> <p>St Helens, Halton and Warrington Borough Councils worked in cooperation to commission the Mid Mersey Water Cycle Study 2011.</p> <p>The Council has also worked in cooperation with the LCR Combined Authority on digital infrastructure provision. The LCR authorities have formally consulted each other on relevant aspects of their Local Plans.</p> <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p>           | <p>The Mid Mersey Water Cycle Study 2011 identified potential constraints on headroom capacity at St Helens waste water treatment works. However, the comments of the relevant infrastructure provider (United Utilities) on the SHBLP do not indicate that this matter constitutes a serious constraint on the levels of growth proposed in the SHBLP.</p>   |

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|  | <p>The LCR authorities agree to identify areas where improvements to utilities infrastructure are needed to support schemes of city region significance and will broadly set out working arrangements to deal with cross-boundary issues.</p>   |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <p>Paragraph 4.30.8 of the SHBLP sets out how the Council intends to address the potential capacity constraints concerning St Helens waste water treatment plant.</p> <p>In line with the priorities of the LCR Combined Authority, Policy LPD07 Digital Communications sets out a supportive approach to the development of the latest generation of information and digital communication (ICT) networks. This includes (in paragraph 8.21.10) support for Dig Once principles on development sites.</p> <p>Infrastructure issues have been taken into account in identifying the indicative capacities of sites allocated or safeguarded for future development (e.g., due to pipelines crossing the sites).</p> |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 12 on page 19)</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 10)</b>   | <b><i>The effect of the SHBLP on the low carbon infrastructure potential of the Liverpool City Region and wider area</i></b>   |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b>                 | The potential to generate energy through wind and other forms of renewable energy is a strategic matter on which a consistent sub-regional approach is considered to be appropriate.   |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>                     | Other LCR authorities<br>Warrington Borough Council<br>West Lancashire Borough Council<br>Wigan Council  |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                                 | <p>The Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study 2010 assessed the scope for large scale wind and other forms of renewable energy generation across the City Region. Although it identified some areas of search for wind energy development, none of these were in St Helens Borough. This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground.</p> <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017).</p> |
| <b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b>                           | <p>The LCR authorities and West Lancashire Borough Council have agreed to generate a new evidence base regarding renewable energy, including wind.</p> <p>The LCR CA has also committed to continue to develop the business case and preferred solution for the Mersey Tidal Power project.</p>  |
| <b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b> | This matter is addressed in Policy LPC13 “Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development” and its supporting text.  |
| <b>Key evidence</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 13 on page 20).</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 11)</b>                                       | <b><i>The proposed approach to dealing with waste management issues</i></b>   |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b> | Waste management is a strategic matter affecting the LCR as a whole along with neighbouring authorities.  |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>     | Other LCR authorities<br>West Lancashire Borough Council<br>Warrington Borough Council<br>Wigan Council<br>Environment Agency<br>Lancashire County Council<br>Greater Manchester Combined Authority   |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                 | <p>The 6 local planning authorities of the LCR adopted the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan in 2013. This is a joint development plan document which sets out a vision, site allocations and policies to guide the management of waste across the whole City Region. It also addresses cross boundary movements of waste affecting areas outside the Liverpool City Region.</p> <p>The 6 LCR local planning authorities have also cooperated to prepare annual monitoring reports for the Joint Waste Local Plan since 2013.</p> <p>Under current planning legislation, the Joint Waste Local Plan must be regularly reviewed. The LCR authorities are currently considering the scope of the review process which is required.</p> <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and in the draft Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017).</p> |

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| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p>                           | <p>The annual monitoring reports for the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan in 2013 set out in detail the progress that has been made in implementing that Plan.</p> <p>The LCR authorities agree that the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan continues to provide a suitable vision for the management of waste up to 2027 and that the need for any changes to this Plan will be addressed on an on-going basis as required by relevant legislation</p> |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <p>This matter is addressed in Policy LPC15 “Waste” of the SHBLP and its supporting text.</p>   |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan 2013.</li> <li>• Monitoring reports for the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan</li> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement box 20 on page 24)</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement point 16 on page 24)</li> </ul>   |

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| <p><b>STRATEGIC MATTER 12)</b></p>                                       | <p><b><i>The safeguarding and supply of minerals resources</i></b></p>  |
| <p><b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b></p> | <p>St Helens contains reserves of coal, brick clay, fire clay and sandstone. It is important that any impacts of the SHBLP on the future sub-regional supply of these minerals is identified and addressed.</p>   |
| <p><b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b></p>     | <p>LCR authorities<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Lancashire County Council<br/>Greater Manchester authorities</p>  |
| <p><b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b></p>                 | <p>Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) represents the 6 LCR local authorities (including St Helens) on the North West Aggregate Working Party (NWAWP). The Borough also subscribes to the national Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS). These processes have resulted in the production of annual NW Aggregates Working Party Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and in the draft Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019).</p> <p>The Council has also addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017).</p> |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p>           | <p>The LCR authorities agree that they will maintain their commitment to the Managed Aggregate Supply System through continued representation in the North West Aggregates Working Party and will continue to work with MEAS and each other on minerals issues and will continue to consult with Lancashire County Council on relevant matters as Minerals Planning Authority.</p> <p>No outstanding objections have been received from any DtC body to the approach to minerals supply or safeguarding set out in the SHBLP.</p>   |

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| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <p>This matter is addressed in Policy LPC 14 “Minerals” of the SHBLP and its supporting text.</p>  |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NW Aggregates Working Party Monitoring Reports 2014, 2015 and 2016.</li> <li>• Joint Local Aggregates Assessment: Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton, and Warrington 2019.</li> <li>• The LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (see agreement box 20 on page 24).</li> <li>• The Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground 2019 (see agreement point 15 on page 23).</li> </ul> |

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 13)</b>   | <b><i>The effect of the SHBLP on community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure) in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region.</i></b>  |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b>                 | Hospital services and certain other forms of community and cultural infrastructure are planned on a strategic basis across different local authority areas. The potential impact of the SHBLP e.g., through increased pressure of usage means that this is a strategic matter.   |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>                     | Other LCR authorities<br>West Lancashire Borough Council<br>Warrington Borough Council<br>Wigan Council<br>NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)<br>NHS England   |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                                 | The Council has addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017).<br><br>NHS St Helens CCG officers were invited to input into the preparation of the St Helens Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2018).<br><br>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019) and in the draft Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (2019). |
| <b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b>                           | The LCR authorities have agreed that they will continue to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups, hospital and health trusts regarding health needs, future housing and other development and the estate management programmes of these trusts.  |
| <b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b> | Community infrastructure issues covered by this strategic matter are addressed in Policy LPA08 “Infrastructure Delivery and Funding” and its supporting text and in the St Helens Infrastructure Delivery Plan.  |

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| <b>Key evidence</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The draft LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (see agreement box 14 on page 21)</li></ul> |
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| <p><b>STRATEGIC MATTER 14)</b></p>                                       | <p><b><i>The effect of the SHBLP on green infrastructure in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b></p>   |
| <p><b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b></p> | <p>Green Infrastructure in St Helens Borough and surrounding areas comprises a network of multifunctional natural assets, including green space, trees, woodlands, mosslands, grasslands and wetlands, in a range of urban, semi-urban and countryside locations.</p> <p>St Helens contains important strategic greenspaces and links such as Bold Forest Park and the Sankey Valley, which play roles due for example to their recreational, landscape and ecological value. The contribution of these and other green infrastructure assets to the wider area needed to be addressed as the SHBLP was prepared.</p> <p>St Helens contains a number of important sites and habitats, including sites which are designated at the national or local level for their biodiversity or geological interest. The scope for protecting and enhancing biodiversity in St Helens as part of a consistent approach for the wider area needed to be considered.</p> <p>Nearby districts contain sites which are designated at a European level for their nature importance, including the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA), Martin Mere SPA, Mersey Estuary SPA, Liverpool Bay SPA and the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It has been identified that the Borough contains Functionally Linked Land (FLL) connected with some of these sites. Potential ‘in combination’ recreation pressure impacts on the internationally important nature sites have also been identified. The impact of the SHBLP on these sites and habitats needed to be established and mitigated.</p> |

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| <p><b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b></p> | <p>Other LCR authorities<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>West Lancashire Borough Council<br/>Wigan Council<br/>Greater Manchester Combined Authority<br/>Natural England<br/>Environment Agency</p>  |
| <p><b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b></p>             | <p>The LCR authorities have cooperated to prepare the Liverpool City Region Ecological Network. This provides an evidence base concerning the City Region’s key ecological assets. It also identifies Nature Improvement Areas, 2 of which are in St Helens, which will act as a focus for ecological enhancement.</p> <p>The North Merseyside Local Sites Partnership (LSP) includes officers from voluntary and statutory agency partners and co-ordinates the Local Wildlife and Geological Sites system across the City Region. Its role includes selection of sites recommended for designation against consistent and agreed selection guidelines.</p> <p>The effects of the emerging SHBLP on protected European sites have been assessed through the habitats regulation assessment process. DtC bodies have been consulted on drafts of the St Helens Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessment at relevant stages of Plan preparation.</p> <p>The LCR authorities and Natural England have started work to prepare a Recreation Mitigation Strategy to address the issue of “in-combination” increased recreational pressure on the European sites within and close to the City Region.</p> <p>The Sankey Valley Catchment Action Plan (see strategic matter 8) addresses (as well as flood management) the wider recreational and biodiversity role of green infrastructure within the catchment. The LCR authorities and Warrington Borough Council also work in partnership to deliver the Mersey Forest Plan.</p> |

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|  | <p>This matter is also addressed in the LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground and in the draft Warrington Statement of Common Ground.</p>  |
|  | <p>The Council has addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP.</p>   |
| <p><b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b></p>                           | <p>The LCR authorities agree that they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to work with a range of partners to protect, enhance and where possible extend the strategic natural assets of the City Region;</li> <li>• work towards a co-ordinated interim policy approach for mitigating impacts on the LCR coast, pending completion of the Recreation Mitigation Strategy, and work towards implementation and delivery of the strategy across the City Region; and,</li> <li>• continue to work with partners to make the most of the opportunities and benefits offered by the Mersey Forest and Northern Forest.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b></p> | <p>The relevant policies of the Plan (in particular Policies LPA09, LPC06, LPC07, LPC08, and LPC10) seek to ensure that the strategic function of green infrastructure in St Helens is retained and enhanced.</p> <p>Policy LPC06 “Biodiversity and Geological Conservation” addresses the effects of new development in St Helens on the European sites and other protected sites and habitats. Policy LPD09 “Air Quality” (part 3) addresses a specific impact concerning air quality at the Manchester Mosses SAC (which is in Greater Manchester).</p>   |
| <p><b>Key evidence</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCR Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (see agreement boxes 15 and 17 on pages 22 and 23).</li> <li>• Warrington Borough Statement of Common Ground (see section 4.48 to 4.51 – pages 21 and 22).</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>STRATEGIC MATTER 15)</b>   | <b><i>The effect of the SHBLP on the built and historic environment in nearby authorities within and outside the Liverpool City Region</i></b>  |
| <b>Reason(s) why “duty to cooperate” triggered by this matter</b>                 | A need has been identified to address this matter on a strategic basis, taking account of the approach in other parts of the City Region and in other neighbouring districts.   |
| <b>Key “duty to cooperate” bodies relating to this matter</b>                     | Other LCR authorities<br>West Lancashire Borough Council<br>Warrington Borough Council<br>Wigan Council<br>Greater Manchester Combined Authority<br>Historic England  |
| <b>How has this cooperation been carried out?</b>                                 | <p>The Merseyside authorities have cooperated over many years to develop the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER). This has been used to help inform the preparation of the SHBLP, for example in relation to the selection of sites within the Green Belt review.</p> <p>The Council has addressed this strategic matter at relevant consultation stages for the emerging SHBLP (the scoping consultation in 2016 and the Preferred Options consultation in late 2016/early 2017).</p> |
| <b>What have been the outcomes of this cooperation?</b>                           | <p>The Merseyside HER provides a key source of evidence to underpin the consideration of development proposals which could affect heritage assets.</p> <p>The response from Historic England (11 March 2019) to publication of the SHBLP confirms that previous comments have been addressed and that HE has no further comments to make.</p>   |
| <b>How have the outcomes of the cooperation been incorporated into the SHBLP?</b> | This matter is addressed in Policy LPC11 “Historic Environment” of the SHBLP.   |
| <b>Key evidence</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter from Historic England (11 March 2019)</li> </ul>  |

### **Appendix 3 E-mail correspondence with Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

#### **Email to Rebecca Friday and Miles McCrave, GMCA, 06.04.2020**

Dear Rebecca / Miles,

I hope you are both well.

Further to the email request from Anne below, I can confirm that St. Helens is **unable** to meet growth needs arising from Greater Manchester.

In the emerging new St. Helens Local Plan, St. Helens Council is proposing to release land from the Green Belt in order to meet its own local housing and employment needs. There is therefore no available land within St. Helens to meet needs arising in Greater Manchester.

I wish you well with the next stage of the Spatial Framework.

Regards

Lyndsey

**Lyndsey Darwin**  
Principal Planning Officer (Policy)  
St. Helens Council

#### **Email, from Anne Morgan, Head of Planning Strategy, GMCA – 01.04.2020**

Colleagues,

I hope that you and your families are all keeping well in these strange times.

As hopefully you know, the Greater Manchester authorities are preparing a joint plan, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and whilst clearly the situation that we find ourselves in may impact on our timetable, we are continuing to prepare for the next consultation this summer. At the moment the GMSF is being prepared as a joint Development Plan Document so the next stage will be Publication Stage.

As part of the planning process we have been in contact with you in the past to identify strategic issues of cross boundary importance. We will be looking to arrange telephone conversations with yourselves to continue these conversations, but in the

first instance we wanted to ask you about your Council's position in relation to accommodating some of Greater Manchester's growth.

Using the standard methodology, the Local Housing Need for Greater Manchester is just under 180,000 homes. Employment land requirements are in the region of 4,220,000sqm of new industry and warehousing and 2,700,000sqm of offices. Further work is ongoing, and this may have some effect on figures and distribution, although significant changes are not expected. We have been working across all 10 districts to maximise the contribution of urban land, brownfield in particular. We are looking at increasing densities, re-purposing our town centres, re-allocating employment land for housing and we have identified a significant supply, however at this stage we do not consider that we are in a position to fully meet our development requirements within our existing urban area on policy compliant land.

An important element of our Duty to Co-operate requirements is to understand whether any of our requirements for development up to 2037 can be accommodated in adjoining districts, especially as the Greater Manchester districts may need to release Green Belt to meet their need. We would like to know, on behalf of the ten GM local planning authorities, if your district position has changed since we last asked you (in 2018) and whether you consider there is any potential for your district to accommodate any of Greater Manchester's growth, and if so, whether this is either housing, employment or both.

Please could you confirm your district position via email to Becca Friday ([rebecca.friday@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.friday@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)) and Miles McCrave ([miles.mccrave@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:miles.mccrave@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)) by Friday 24 April.

Given the current situation, please let us know if this date is not achievable. We will follow up the responses by telephone as appropriate.

Many thanks and take care,

Anne

Anne Morgan  
Head of Planning Strategy  
Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

**E-mail to Anne Morgan, Head of Planning Strategy, GMCA - 23/07/2018**

From: Jonathan Clarke/envpro/STHMBC

Dear Ms Morgan,

I refer to your e-mail dated 3 July 2018, to which I have been asked to respond.

Your e-mail provides a helpful update on the preparation of the GM Spatial Framework, and we note your intention to await the publication of the Sub National Household Projections later this year before progressing to the next stage.

With regard to the last paragraph of your e-mail I can confirm that we do not see any scope for St Helens to accommodate any of the housing or employment development needs of Greater Manchester (GM).

The reasons for this are:

1. We acknowledge the linkages (for example in terms of travel to work) which exist between St Helens and parts of GM. However, these are not sufficiently strong to mean that St Helens shares a housing or functioning economic market area (as referred to in national planning policy) with any of the GM districts. This view is consistent with the draft Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Needs Assessment (SHELMA) 2017 and the St Helens Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2016.

2. there is no spare land capacity within the urban areas of St Helens to help meet the housing or economic development needs of GM. Indeed, land supply constraints in St Helens have led us to propose our own Green Belt review (to meet needs arising in St Helens) as part of our emerging Local Plan.

I hope that this e-mail answers your enquiry. Please contact me if you require any further details.

Best Regards,

Jonathan Clarke,

Development Plans Manager,  
St Helens Council  
Town Hall Annexe  
Corporation Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1HF

**E-mail from Anne Morgan, Head of Planning Strategy, GMCA – 03/07/2018**

Dear all

Following last week's meeting of the Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive, the second draft of the GMSF is timetabled for approval at the end of October 2018. This will be followed by a 12 week consultation period.

To progress to the next stage of the GMSF it is important to fulfil our Duty to Co-operate requirements and understand whether any of our requirements for development up to 2036 can be accommodated in adjoining districts, especially as some of this may be on Green Belt.

The publication of the SNPP and the population growth reductions have led to the delay of the Second Draft of the GMSF and we are awaiting the Sub National Household Projections, which may change our housing requirement. At this stage, we are not clear exactly how this may affect the strategy in terms of housing and employment or potential Green Belt requirement, but we want to be prepared by looking at our available options. We would like to know if your district is interested in accommodating any additional growth, on top of your own, generated from GM and whether this is housing or employment or both.

Please could you confirm via email, if you are interested in accommodating any of GM's growth and we will contact you for a fuller discussion. If you are not, please can you confirm that is the case too.

Many thanks,

Anne

Anne Morgan

Head of Planning Strategy

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

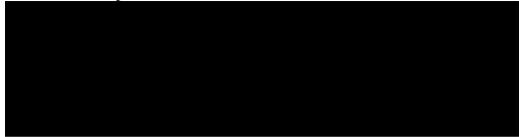
Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

## **Appendix 4      Correspondence with Wirral Council**

*Please reply to:*

**Councillor Anita Leech**  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**

Town Hall, Brighton Street  
Wallasey, Wirral  
Merseyside, CH44 8ED



BY EMAIL

to Councillor Richard McCauley  
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration  
And Housing

date 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Councillor McCauley

## WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN - REQUEST FOR VIEWS ON MEETING ANY OF WIRRAL'S HOUSING NEEDS

Your Council should already have had a separate notification informing you that in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), Wirral Council has commenced consultation on the Wirral Local Plan Issues and Options document, with a deadline for receipt of comments of 5pm on Monday 23 March 2020.

Based on the standard method set out in national planning guidance, Wirral's locally assessed housing need is 12,000 net new dwellings over the fifteen-year plan period to 2035, equivalent to 800 dwellings per year. In order to comply with the national Planning Practice Guidance on the calculation of five-year housing land supply, an additional 20% buffer will also need to be applied for the first five years (brought forward from later in the plan period). This has significant implications for the Borough's housing land supply.

The Council's Preferred Option is to meet all its housing growth needs within the urban area without the need for Green Belt release. However, based on the latest assessments published as part of the current consultation, Wirral could have a shortfall in the urban housing land supply of up to 2,500 dwellings over the next 15 years. The Issues and Options document sets out a range of measures which should ensure that this shortfall is accommodated within the urban area. However, if the land identified to meet the total requirement cannot be shown to be 'deliverable' or 'developable' in line with the definitions set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), then some development could possibly be required in the Green Belt. The Issues and Options document therefore includes two potential Green Belt Options.

The Council does not at this stage believe that there would be any need to identify any additional land for employment development.

Before the Council could conclude that exceptional circumstances existed to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, it will have to demonstrate that it has examined fully all reasonable options for meeting the identified needs for development. This will include demonstrating that the strategy has been informed by discussions with neighbouring authorities about whether they could accommodate some of the identified need for development, as demonstrated through one or more Statements of Common Ground (NPPF paragraph 137 refers).

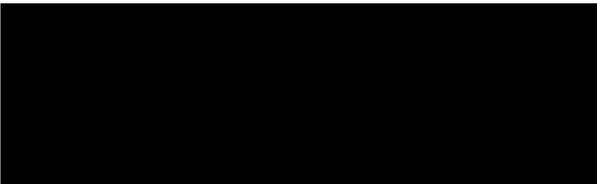
It is acknowledged that the recently approved Liverpool City Region (LCR) Statement of Common Ground states that the LCR authorities agree that there is no unmet housing need to be redistributed among or beyond the seven local authorities during current local plan periods. However, given the potential for Green Belt release and the requirements of national policy set out above, I now need to make a formal request under the Duty to Cooperate for your Council's views about whether you believe it would be appropriate and/or possible to identify any additional land within your local authority area to meet any of the housing needs arising in Wirral and the reasons for those views.

I would be grateful if you could respond before the close of the Wirral Local Plan Issues and Options consultation on 23 March 2020.

If you require further information, please contact David Ball, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] or John Entwistle, [REDACTED].

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Anita Leech  
Cabinet Portfolio: The Local Plan



St. Helens Council

Councillor Anita Leech  
Deputy Leader of the Council  
Wirral Council  
Town Hall, Brighton Street  
Wallasey, Wirral  
Merseyside, CH44 8ED

Development Plans  
St. Helens Council  
Town Hall Annexe  
Victoria Square  
St. Helens  
Merseyside  
WA10 1HP

17 March 2020

Dear Councillor Leech,

**Response to Wirral Council's request for views on meeting any of Wirral's housing needs**

Thank you for your recent letter to Councillor Richard McCauley requesting St. Helens Council consider whether it would be appropriate, and/or possible, to identify additional land within St. Helens to meet housing needs arising in Wirral.

St. Helens Council has considered the request and do not consider it appropriate or possible to meet housing needs arising in Wirral within St. Helens.

From a housing market perspective St. Helens is in a different housing market area to Wirral. The LCR Strategic Housing & Employment Land Market Assessment (2018) indicates that Wirral are in a central LCR housing market area which incorporates Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, West Lancashire and Wirral, and St. Helens are in a mid-mersey housing market area which incorporates Halton, St. Helens and Warrington. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate for St. Helens to meet housing needs arising outside of its own housing market area. Furthermore, in the emerging new St. Helens Local Plan, St. Helens Council is proposing to release land from the Green Belt in order to meet its own local housing need. Therefore, there is no available land within St. Helens to meet housing needs arising in Wirral.

We wish you well with your Local Plan Issues and Options consultation.

Yours sincerely,

**Lyndsey Darwin**  
**Principal Planning Officer (Policy)**

CC: Councillor Richard McCauley, St. Helens Council

## Lyndsey Darwin

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**From:** Leech, Anita (Councillor) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 March 2020 12:47  
**To:** Lyndsey Darwin  
**Cc:** Melanie Anne Hale; Richard McCauley; Turner, Barbara; Entwistle, John C.; Keeley, Keith; Evans, Alan D.; Satoor, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Wirral Local Plan

Ms Darwin

Thank you for considering our request, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Regards

Anita

Councillor Anita Leech  
Leasowe and Moreton East Ward  
Deputy Leader of the Council  
Cabinet Member for The Local Plan

[REDACTED]

**The contents of this email are the personal view of the author and should in no way be considered the view of Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council**

*Please save paper and print only what is necessary*

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**From:** Lyndsey Darwin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 March 2020 12:06  
**To:** Leech, Anita (Councillor) [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Melanie Hale [REDACTED] Cllr R McCauley [REDACTED] Turner, Barbara [REDACTED] Entwistle, John C. [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Wirral Local Plan

Dear Councillor Leech,

Please find attached a letter responding to your recent request for views on meeting Wirral's housing needs.

Regards  
Lyndsey

**Lyndsey Darwin**  
Principal Planning Officer (Policy)  
St. Helens Council

[REDACTED]  
Development Plans, Development & Growth,  
Place Services,

Town Hall Annexe, Victoria Square,  
St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1HP

**Please note - my working days are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 10 March 2020 13:26

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Wirral Local Plan

Please find attached a letter from Councillor Anita Leech, Deputy Leader of Wirral Council.

Regards

Barbara

**Barbara Turner**

**Personal Assistant & Office Manager**

Leader's Office

Wirral Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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