

East Hampshire District Local Plan 2021-2040 (Reg18)

Statement of Common Ground between

East Hampshire District Council and

Waverley Borough Council Jan 2024



Version

Table 1: Editions of this document

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Note</u>
Version 0.1	24 November 2023	First draft (EHDC)
Version 0.2	4 December 2023	Waverley Borough Council amends
Version 0.3	7 December 2023	EHDC accept track changes
Version 0.4	19 December 2023	Signed by Cllr Angela Glass, EHDC
Version 0.5	2 January 2024	Signed by Cllr Liz Townsend, WBC

1. Introduction

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

2. Parties and signatories involved

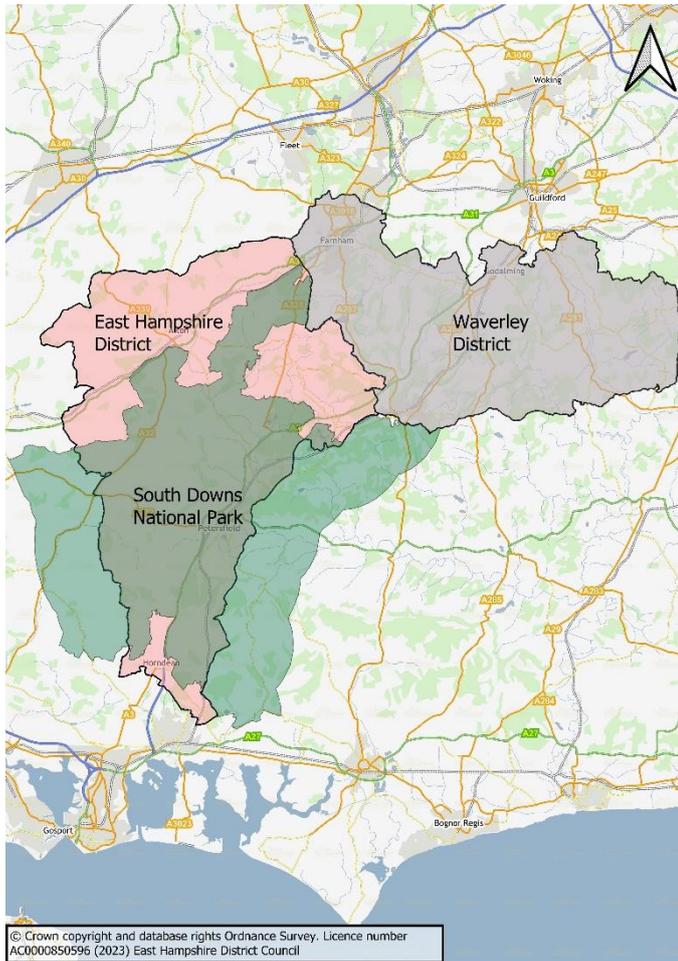
- 2.1. East Hampshire District Council. On behalf of East Hampshire District Council - Portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement, Cllr Angela Glass.
- 2.2. Waverley Borough Council. On behalf of Waverley Borough Council - Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Cllr Liz Townsend.

3. Relationship with other documents

- 3.1. Where appropriate East Hampshire District Council has prepared separate Statements with other duty to cooperate prescribed bodies. All Statements will be published on East Hampshire District Council's [website](#).
- 3.2. Unless otherwise stated, all evidence documents referred to in this Statement have been published on East Hampshire District Council's [website](#).

¹ Paragraph 24, NPPF (2023)

4. Strategic Geography



- 4.1. A significant part of Waverley's western boundary meets with the north eastern boundary of East Hampshire District.
- 4.2. Although adjoining administrative areas, East Hampshire District is within Hampshire and Waverley is in Surrey. The administrative boundary between the two local authorities marks the boundary between the two counties.
- 4.3. Key travel routes that pass through East Hampshire, continue into Waverley; the A31 to Farnham and connecting to the A31 in Guildford, and the A3 through Waverley and Guildford and onto London. Railway lines connect between Waverley borough and East Hampshire; the Alton branch, and London to Portsmouth line.
- 4.4. A key environmental consideration for both Councils is the Wealden Heaths SPA and the Thames Basin Heaths SPA with buffer zones affecting both administrative areas. The Surrey Hills National Landscape within Waverley borough borders East Hampshire and the South Downs National Park within East Hampshire borders Waverley.

5. The Development Plan and emerging planning documents

- 5.1. At the time of signing of this Statement of Common Ground;
- 5.2. East Hampshire District Council is preparing to consult on a draft Local Plan 2021-2040, Reg.18 stage. Consultation is scheduled to start on 22 January 2024 for 6 weeks, in line with the [Local Development Scheme 2023](#). The existing Development Plan is the Joint Core Strategy 2014, The Local Plan (Part 2): Housing and Employment Allocations 2016, and the saved policies of the Local Plan Second Review 2006. When adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the current Development Plan.
- 5.3. Waverley Borough Council's Development Plan is the Local Plan Part 1 Strategic Policies and Sites 2018, and Local Plan Part 2 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies 2023. Work has commenced on preparing a new Local Plan for Waverley Borough, which is currently focussing on the evidence base.

6. Identified Strategic Matters

- 6.1. As documented in the East Hampshire [Duty to Co-operate Framework 2022](#), the strategic cross boundary matters concerning the two authorities are:
 - Meeting identified housing needs within the District and wider unmet housing needs
 - Meeting the identified need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation within the District and wider unmet needs
 - Consideration of the potential need for transit accommodation for Travellers (with regards to travelling routes across districts/boroughs).
 - Supporting economic growth and opportunity, creating the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt
 - Transport impacts and mitigation from proposed development
 - Infrastructure requirements and provision; particularly in relation to education, health, drainage, waste water and water supply
 - Responding to Climate Emergency
 - Flood risk (from all sources)
 - Mitigation strategy for the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA
- 6.2. As documented in the Duty to Co-operate Framework 2022, the two authorities have been conversing on matters related to the preparation of the East Hampshire District Local Plan since its early stages.
- 6.3. The following agreements and detail of further work are as at a point in time and will be updated during the preparation of the East Hampshire District Local Plan. The date of this document is the latest date listed in Table 1: Editions.

7. Record of Agreement

7.1. East Hampshire District Council and Waverley Borough Council agree the following:

Table 2: In Agreement

<p>The EHDC Duty to Co-operate Framework identifies the strategic cross boundary issues which the Local Plan is likely to reflect (and how they have come about). These are the issues on which there has been and continues to be engagement with other councils and bodies as part of the Duty to Co-operate. This ensures all the strategic issues which effect the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Area and wider area are identified at the earliest stage of plan preparation.</p>
<p>There is no unplanned housing need arising from Waverley Borough on which it is seeking assistance from East Hampshire District Council.</p> <p>There is no unplanned housing need arising from East Hampshire District on which it is seeking assistance from Waverley Borough Council.</p>
<p>There is no unplanned need for Traveller accommodation² arising from Waverley Borough on which it is seeking assistance from East Hampshire District Council.</p>
<p>There is likely unmet need for traveller accommodation arising from the East Hampshire District Local Plan 2021-2040. East Hampshire District Council asked Waverley Borough for assistance with meeting this need (August 2023). Sufficient provision has been made within Waverley Borough Local Plan Part 2 to meet the need arising from the gypsy and traveller community within Waverley during the plan period (up to 2032). However, there is insufficient surplus to be able to accommodate any unmet need arising from East Hampshire.</p>
<p>There is no available information that Waverley Borough Council can share with East Hampshire District Council on unauthorised traveller encampments in Waverley borough, in reference to recommendations from the Waverley Borough Council GTAA 2017³.</p>
<p>The Councils are committed to working together on long term development opportunities along the A31 Corridor should they arise, particularly in relation to any sites that cross authority boundaries, and transport implications in relation to traffic movements affecting Farnham and surrounds.</p>

² Traveller accommodation including Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots

³ Para 1.28 onwards of the Waverley Borough Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2018.

8. Record of Further Work

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

Table 3: Further / future work

Waverley Borough Council will work with East Hampshire District Council and other councils to discuss wider unmet needs for Traveller accommodation but needs to understand through those discussions the evidence for cross boundary links.
Waverley Borough Council is happy to start discussions / engagement with partners on HRA partnership working to help form an approach for the new local plan.
Waverley Borough Council will continue to work with East Hampshire District Council to discuss transport implications of proposed growth, and if required, take part in East Hampshire District Council workshops following initial results of transport modelling, to look at mitigation schemes.
Waverley Borough Council will be involved in discussion on large development sites in East Hampshire District Council, where there are links and relationships with Waverley borough.

9. Governance arrangements

9.1. In terms of governance arrangements, the two parties agree to:

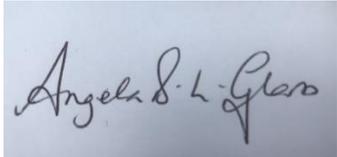
- Keep a dialogue open on matters arising which are likely to have significant impacts and implications for the delivery of local plan policies
- To work together to achieve identified outcomes in relation to strategic matters
- To review and update this Statement in light of any material change in circumstance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

10. Timetable for agreement, review and updating

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

11. Signatories

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

Signed:	Signed:
	
Name: Cllr Angela Glass	Name: Cllr Liz Townsend
Position: Portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement	Position: Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development
East Hampshire District Council	Waverley Borough Council
Date: 19/12/2023	Date: 02/01/2024