

Duty to Co-operate Framework

November 2025



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Appendix A – The Prescribed Bodies and Strategic Matters

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Duty to Co-operate Framework forms part of East Hampshire District Council's (the Council) evidence base with regards to the Duty to Co-operate, for the purposes of the emerging new Local Plan.
- 1.2 For information on the Duty to Co-operate for plan making, please see the Council's website (<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/duty-cooperate>), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Plan-Making section.
- 1.3 This is a live document, to be updated when appropriate. It is not a Duty to Co-operate Statement of Common Ground (SCG) or a replacement for a SCG.
- 1.4 This document was first published in May 2020, followed by a second iteration in July 2022. This is the third iteration of the Duty to Co-operate Framework (2025), to support the next stage of Local Plan preparation (Regulation 19). The last Local Plan consultation was in 2024, on the Draft Local Plan 2021-2040 (Regulation 18).

2. The role of this framework

- 2.1 This Framework forms part of the Council's evidence to help demonstrate that it is engaging constructively, actively and on an on-going basis, and has done so since the early stages of preparing the new Local Plan.
- 2.2 This Framework identifies the strategic matters which the Local Plan is likely to reflect (and how they have come about). These are the matters 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 matters which effect the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Area and wider area are identified at the earliest stage of plan preparation.
- 2.3 For each strategic matter, this framework identifies authorities/bodies to engage with, the mechanism for engagement and engagement to date.

3. Engagement

- 3.1 In April 2020, the Council circulated a draft framework to the prescribed bodies for comment, prior to first publication in May 2020. In 2022, the second iteration was circulated to the prescribed bodies, adjoining councils and partners for comment in June 2022, prior to publication in July 2022. In 2024, SCGs were published in support of the Draft Local Plan 2024, and since then two more to support other authorities emerging Local Plans (Winchester, August 2024 and Portsmouth July 2024).
- 3.2 This latest iteration has been shared with key organisations and neighbouring councils. Responses have been received from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Chichester District Council, Environment Agency, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Hart District Council, Havant Borough Council, Historic England, Integrated Care Board, Marine Management Organisation, National

Highways, Natural England, Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth Water, Surrey County Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Waverley Borough Council, West Sussex District Council, Winchester City Council, and amends made where appropriate.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 The Council will continue to review this live document, and work with the prescribed bodies and its partners to update and publish SCGs. This will document progress made on strategic matters during the preparation of the Local Plan. Updated SCGs will be published in support of the Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation.

5. Strategic (cross boundary) matters

- 5.1 The definition of a strategic matter as set out in the Localism Act (2011) is in Appendix A. Many matters are considered cross boundary, “sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas”, however, it also captures matters that would be a county matter too in two tier authorities, such as highways (Localism Act 2011).
- 5.2 PPG says “paragraphs 20-23 of the NPPF sets out the matters that the strategic policies should make provision for, this is not an exhaustive list and authorities will need to adapt this to meet their specific needs”. (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 61-014-20190315).
- 5.3 It is not a given that all the topic areas identified require a SCG and extensive cooperation. Rather, the PPG says that whilst cooperating, organisations should work together at the outset of plan-making to identify cross boundary matters which need addressing. (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 61-015-20190315).

6. Consultation and engagement

- 6.1 This table charts consultations and engagement that are of relevance to the Duty to Co-operate. Work started on the new Local Plan in 2018.

Date	Purpose	Targeted consultee	Method of Engagement	Outcome
February and March 2018	Identifying the “duty to co-operate” bodies at the local level, establishing contacts and confirming methods of communication.	LPAs, County Councils and other bodies.	Questionnaire.	Most responded and many working relationships established.
April and May 2018	An analysis paper on the extent of the suitable assessment area for housing and employment	LPAs, Enterprise M3 and Solent LEPs.	Informal consultation via email.	Initiated discussion with partners. Received a number of responses and

	<p>floor-space development requirements applicable to East Hampshire. The paper contained a series of recommendations in response to the evidence and posed three consultation questions.</p>			<p>followed up ensuring we heard from all our partners.</p>
July and August 2018	<p>Gathering evidence on site options for the Local Plan, to inform the Sustainability Appraisal and the formulation of a set of reasonable alternatives (distributions of sites) for assessment in the SA.</p>	<p>Representatives from the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), Hampshire County Council, Thames Water, Portsmouth Water, the Environment Agency and Historic England.</p>	<p>Workshops.</p>	<p>Meeting notes identifying issues for the potential development of sites within the planning area.</p>
5 February 2019 and 19 March 2019	<p>Consultation on the draft Local Plan. This formal process provided another opportunity to engage with our partners and for them to inform us of any strategic matters. A consultation question on each proposed site allocation was also included “What are the cross-boundary considerations?” This was to help draw out any strategic cross boundary matters from our partners which had not been raised before.</p>	<p>Formal public consultation open to all.</p>	<p>Formal Local Plan consultation (Regulation 18 stage).</p>	<p>Formal responses from key partners instigating further dialogue.</p>
3 September to 15 October 2019	<p>Consultation on Local Plan Large Development Sites. This formal process provided another opportunity to engage with our partners and for them to inform us of any strategic matters.</p> <p>A consultation question on each site was also included “What are the cross-boundary considerations</p>	<p>Formal public consultation open to all.</p>	<p>Formal Local Plan consultation (Regulation 18 stage).</p>	<p>Formal responses from key partners instigating further dialogue.</p>

	<p>and the potential implications?</p> <p>How can they be overcome?" This was to help draw out any strategic matters from our partners which had not been raised before.</p>			
2019, 2020 & 2023	Targeted engagement to identify surplus HCC land that could be considered for Traveller accommodation, as reported in more detail in the relevant Background Paper, in response to the identified need for Traveller accommodation.	Hampshire County Council.	Email.	Internal review carried out. Outcome – no available land identified.
August 2020	Targeted engagement on Emerging Local Plan Site Allocations.	Organisations involved in infrastructure planning and local authorities.	Informal confidential engagement by email.	Responses from key partners and organisations to feed into preparation of Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP).
October 2020 and March 2021	Statement of Common Ground with the SDNPA - Housing and Traveller accommodation needs in East Hampshire.	SDNPA.	Collaborative working.	Publication of SCG.
September 2020, Feb 2021 and Oct 2021	Draft Statement of Common Ground with PfSH partners – housing, employment, infrastructure and biodiversity net gain.	LPAs in south Hampshire.	Collaborative working.	Publication of draft SCG.
21 November 2022 to 16 January 2023	Consultation on the Local Plan issues and priorities (part 1) regulation 18 2022-23. This formal process provided another opportunity to engage with our partners and for them to inform us of any strategic matters.	Formal public consultation open to all.	Formal Local Plan consultation (Regulation 18 stage).	Formal responses from key partners instigating further dialogue.
January 2024	Response to Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update 2021 to 2040 Draft for Regulation 18 Consultation January 2024.	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.	Formal response from the Council.	Support.

January 2024	Publication of 7 SCGs to support the Draft Local Plan consultation 2021-2040 Reg18.	Hart District Council Waverley Borough Council SDNPA Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Winchester City Council Chichester District Council PfSH.	Collaborative working.	Publication of SCGs.
22 January 2024 to 8 March 2024	Consultation on the Draft local plan consultation 2021-40 (regulation 18). This formal process provided another opportunity to engage with our partners and for them to inform us of any strategic matters. This consultation was supported by 7 SCGs. Consultation questions included, "How do you feel about the Statements of Common Ground", "What are your comments on the Duty to Cooperate and Statements of Common Ground?" This was to help draw out any strategic matters from our partners which had not been raised before.	Formal public consultation open to all.	Formal Local Plan consultation (Regulation 18 stage).	Formal responses from key partners instigating further dialogue.
March 2024	Response to Portsmouth City Council's request to help meet unmet housing need.	Portsmouth City Council.	Formal response from the Council.	Commentary on unmet needs and current position.
September 2024 & March 2025	Response to the SDNPA Local Plan Review early engagement and Reg18.	SDNPA.	Formal Local Plan consultation. (Regulation 18 stage).	Identifies an area of disagreement.
2023, 2024, 2025	Natural England consults on proposals to include parts of East Hampshire within the revised boundary of the	Natural England.	Formal response from the Council.	Support.

	Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB).			
July 2024	Response to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council request for assistance to meet unmet housing needs.	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.	Formal response from the Council.	Explanation of inability to assist with reasoning.
July 2024	Statement of Common Ground Portsmouth City Council & East Hampshire District Council.	Portsmouth City Council.	Collaborative working.	Publication of SCG.
August 2024	Statement of Common Ground Winchester City Council & East Hampshire District Council.	Winchester City Council.	Collaborative working.	Publication of SCG.
Sept 2024	Response to Winchester City Council Reg19 Consultation.	Winchester City Council.	Formal response from the Council.	No objection.
30 June 2025	Response to Havant Borough Council's Reg18 Draft Local Plan, and response to letter from Havant seeking assistance with unmet housing and employment needs.	Havant Borough Council.	Formal response from the Council.	Commentary re unmet needs. Formal response to request, and request from EHDC.
July 2025	Response to Gosport Borough Council request for assistance with unmet housing needs.	Gosport Borough Council.	Formal response from the Council.	Formal response to request.
18 June 2025	Response to Portsmouth Water Drought Plan SEA Scoping Consultation.	Portsmouth Water.	Formal response from the Council.	Provided additional measures to be considered in the scoping report.
9 October 2025	Meeting to discuss unmet development needs (Housing & Employment) in regard to Portsmouth City Council, Havant Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council.	Portsmouth City Council, Havant Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Winchester City Council, EHDC, Fareham Borough Council.	In person meeting.	Follow up exchange of letters.

7. Collaboration on evidence base

7.1 Many evidence base projects include joint working with partners and other councils. The table below charts this in relation to the new Local Plan.

Date	Evidence base	Purpose	Partners	Outcome
2017, 2020, 2024	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.	To ensure that wider issues that may impact on this project are fully understood.	Prepared jointly with SDNPA. Liaison with Planning Officers in neighbouring planning authorities.	Sharing of information, consistent methodology.
February – March 2018	Land Availability Assessment (LAA).	Seeking feedback on proposed LAA methodology, and two specific questions about joint working and constraints.	Partner organisations and other councils.	Responses documented in LAA 2018 Appendix E, and how considered.
May 2018	Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA).	Determining the extent of the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) and Housing Market Area (HMA).	Neighbouring authorities.	Agreed extent of FEMA and HMA.
22 June 2018-3 August 2018	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report.	To establish the scope for the SA work on the draft Local Plan and a baseline of information against which to assess the likely effects of reasonable alternatives using the SA framework.	The Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.	A revised interim SA Report.

July 2018	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).	Gathering information about flood catchments and incidents outside of East Hampshire.	Neighbouring planning authorities.	A number of neighbouring planning authorities responded with information to inform the SFRA.
October 2018	Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy.	To gain an understanding of the cross-boundary GI issues and opportunities in relation to the Council's GI Strategy. Also, to understand what GI initiatives are planned or in progress that could be linked to the district.	Neighbouring planning authorities and South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).	Sharing of information.
November 2018	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).	Preparation of the SFRA and sign off.	Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority).	Sign off prior to the draft Local Plan consultation (Reg18).
5 February 2019 and 19 March 2019	Duty to Co-operate Background Paper.	To scope the cross boundary strategic matters.	All.	Responses as part of the draft Local Plan consultation that have informed this framework.
1 October 2019	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA, 2020).	Meeting with GTAA consultant, Council officers and Hart DC officer to discuss cross boundary issues as consultant preparing both GTAAAs at same time.	Hart District Council.	Sharing of information.

January 2020	Large sites sequential test for flood risk	To undertake sequential testing for the large site promoted through the Large Sites Consultation.	Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority).	A sequential test assessing all the proposed 'Large sites' was carried out.
2020 – ongoing	Nutrient Neutrality.	As a member of PfSH at the time, part fund an Officer to seek and provide mitigation for nutrient neutrality.	PfSH members plus Chichester DC and Basingstoke & Deane DC.	PfSH Officer appointed and mitigation sites approved and legal mechanisms up and running.
June 2021	Updated EHDC Sequential test for flood risk.	To update the sequential testing carried out in 2018 for the Regulation 18 Consultation.	Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority).	To assess new sites put forward and consider all sources of flooding.
June 2021	Biodiversity Guidance for East Hampshire.	To provide local guidance on biodiversity to applicants, developers and consultants.	Hampshire County Council (HCC) Ecology.	Provide local guidance on biodiversity in East Hampshire.
Jan 2022-ongoing	SA Report on the Regulation 19 Local Plan.	To identify reasonable alternatives for the Local Plan strategy that take account of emerging unmet housing needs.	Havant Borough Council, South Downs National Park Authority and Chichester District Council.	Sharing of information on unmet needs, strategic and local constraints, to help EHDC review its reasonable alternatives (note Chichester Local Plan now adopted, more information further on).
2022 - ongoing	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) update.	To update the previous SFRA produced in 2018.	Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority).	Updated information.

May 2022 – Oct 2022	Net Zero Carbon Study.	Evidence base to inform emerging Local Plan on the extent to which the climate impact of new development can be minimised through the Local Plan by means of policy and spatial strategy.	Partners: Town/Parish Councils, Neighbouring councils and key environmental organisations.	Outcome Engagement with key stakeholders (including the SDNPA) through a questionnaire and subsequent focus workshop prior to preparation of final version of document.
2020 & 2022	Duty to Co-operate Framework.	Agree the strategic matters.	Circulated draft framework to the prescribed bodies for comment.	Agreed, and published.
2022, 2023, 2024	Community Facilities Study.	Informs Infrastructure Plan.	Integrated Care Board, Hampshire County Council Education.	Collaborative working on 'health' and 'education' and 'libraries' chapters, agreeing content.
2024, 2025	East Hampshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).	Informs Infrastructure Plan.	Hampshire County Council.	Collaborative working on local transport.
2025	Community Buildings Assessment.	Informs Infrastructure Plan.	SDNPA.	Assessment includes SDNP area.
August 2023 Updated January 2024	Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report.	IIA combines processes to allow for a single appraisal integrating the requirements of SEA, HIA and EqIA into the SA process.	Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.	A revised SA Scoping Report which now includes an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) alongside Sustainability.
June 2024	East Hampshire Landscape Character Assessments.	Sets out the landscape character of	Hampshire County Council.	Hampshire County Council acted as a critical friend.

		the planning authority area.		
2024	Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy.	Informs Infrastructure Plan.	Evidence gathering across boundaries.	Evidence base to inform neighbouring Infrastructure Plans.
May 2025 - onwards	Strategic Access Management and Monitoring measures – Wealden Heaths to support the Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessment.	Project brief to evidence future SAMM measures to support the Habitat Regulations.	Natural England, Waverley Borough Council and South Downs National Park Authority.	Joint production of project brief and commissioning of consultants. All three authorities plus Natural England members of the Project Steering Group.
Summer 2023	Transport evidence base.	Assess impact and identify mitigation.	HCC Highways Highways England.	Endorsement of methodology and continuous liaison.
2022/23 & 2024	Transport evidence base.	Assess position and potential of rail network.	Network Rail.	Preparation of a briefing note included in the Transport background paper Jan 2024. Preparation of an appendix to the Infrastructure background paper for Reg18 Consultation, November 2022 – January 2023.
Summer Autumn 2025	South Downs National Park Standard Method Apportionment Study.	Evidence regarding disaggregation of housing needs.	SDNPA Authorities within the SDNP.	Links to emerging HEDNA, as HEDNA will utilise outputs.
August 2025	SDNPA Local Plan viability.	Tests viability of Local Plan.	Neighbouring authorities workshop.	Input to evidence base.
August 2025	Updated Sequential test for flood risk.	To update the sequential test to include all site promoted through the	Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council (as Lead Local	A sequential test assessing all the included Land Availability Assessment site.

		most up to date LAA.	Flood Authority).	
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8. Membership of cross authority working groups

8.1 The Council is a member of many cross-authority working groups which consider cross boundary issues.

8.2 The Council has also been a member of groups that it has withdrawn from or the group has ceased to exist. This includes PfSH (the Partnership for South Hampshire) and the Gypsy and Traveller Community Support Panel organised by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire. Whilst no longer a member, the period of membership has contributed towards the Duty to Co-operate.

8.3 The table below identifies current memberships.

Group	Membership	Purpose	Outcomes
Cross Boundary Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Working Group	East Hampshire District Council, SDNPA, Waverley Borough Council and Natural England.	Enable joint authorities/bodies to work together towards a consistent mitigation strategy for the Wealden Heaths Phase I & II SPAs/SACs and Thames Basin Heaths SPA.	Meet quarterly – ongoing progress.
Solent Mitigation Partnership	Collaborative initiative formed by 16 Local Authorities within the Solent region.	To provide environmental mitigation to facilitate sustainable development across the Solent, considering nutrient neutrality and biodiversity net gain.	Have adopted a proactive approach to developing a mitigation strategy that helps developers minimise the environmental impact of projects.
Hampshire and IOW Planning Officers Group (HIPOG)	Hampshire and IOW local planning authorities.	Meets quarterly to discuss issues of relevance to development planning within Hampshire.	Joined up thinking on evidence base and local plan production for a consistent approach.
Planning Research Liaison Group (PRLG)	Sub-regional partnership of unitary and district authorities in Hampshire, together with Hampshire County Council.	A sub-group of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Planning Officers Group (HIPOG) that meets quarterly to discuss issues of relevance to development planning within Hampshire in	Enabling Hampshire Authorities to address research and reporting in a consistent manner. Local Plan progress and evidence base development also discussed regularly.

		respect of technical research and reporting.	
Bird Aware Solent	A partnership made of Natural England, wildlife conservation bodies and local authorities.	Additional housing will lead to more people visiting the coast. This has the potential to cause more disturbance to the birds. The work of the partnership is funded by developer contributions.	The Bird Aware Solent Strategy is being administered by local authorities falling within the Solent 5.6km zone of influence.
Local Nature Recovery Strategy local authority working group	Hampshire County Council, Local Planning Authorities in Hampshire, Natural England and South Downs National Park Authority.	To produce the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Key mechanism for planning and delivering the National Nature Recovery Network.
PfSH Natural Environment Group	Chaired by PfSH includes additional members from Natural England, Environment Agency, Basingstoke & Deane BC, East Hampshire DC, Chichester DC, SDNPA, Southern and Portsmouth Water.	Enable authorities, to administer a joint strategic approach to issues set out in the Environment Act. The group has replaced the original PfSH Water Quality group.	Enabling local authorities to work together to address the issues set out in the Environment Act.
Farnham Infrastructure Programme – Adjacent Council Collaboration	Surrey County Council (hosts), East Hampshire District Council, Hart District Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, Guildford Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.	Information sharing from Surrey County Council about transport programme of schemes occurring and planned in Farnham to relevant surrounding Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) that share boundary. Attending LPAs also share relevant transport and development information that could impact cross-authority.	Enabling local authorities to be informed of transport schemes occurring and planned in nearby Farnham and to have input if required.
PfSH Quality Places	All PfSH authorities plus representatives	Discuss urban design issues across	Contribute to design guidance, and policy

Practitioners Group	from the South Downs National Park, EHDC and Basingstoke and Deane.	Hampshire and to learn from best practice examples elsewhere.	active work in delivering the Solent Quality Places Awards.
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8.4 The following are groups that the Council has been a member of for a period of time during Local Plan preparation

Group	Membership	Purpose	Outcomes
PfSH (the Partnership for South Hampshire)	Sub-regional partnership of unitary and district authorities in south Hampshire, together with Hampshire County Council.	Promoting economic success and building cohesive communities, where the homes that are required are provided in sustainable communities alongside new or improved infrastructure.	Enabled local authorities to work together to address strategic issues for local plans across south Hampshire In June 2016, PfSH published a Spatial Position Statement ¹ which set out the employment and housing development that is needed to promote economic growth and address housing needs through to 2034.
Gypsy and Traveller Community Support Panel (<i>formed in 2020, placed on hold in 2022, no longer operational</i>)	Regional Officer group and councillor group, on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire.	Joint working across authorities and the police in relation to unauthorised encampments, and evidence gathering.	Enabled local authorities and the police to work together to consider cross boundary strategic issues in relation to Traveller accommodation.

8.5 In April 2025, following agreement from Joint Committee, the Council officially withdrew from PfSH. Joint working through PfSH provided a common strategic framework to inform local plan-making within the Solent area. It became apparent that a more efficient way of engaging could be achieved, given that PfSH only relates to the southern parishes of East Hampshire, and other relevant partners such as

¹ This position statement is supported by an evidence base including a strategic housing market assessment and a review of employment land requirements and availability, prepared by GL Hearn. The Position Statement and supporting evidence is available to view on the PfSH website (www.push.gov.uk/work/planning-and-infrastructure/push-position-statement). The implications of the position statement for plan-making in East Hampshire have been considered through the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Chichester District Council and SDNPA are not members. It is considered that EHDC's joint working for strategic planning will be done more efficiently through individual meetings and discussions that are managed by Council officers. In comparison with PfSH arrangements, this enables the Council to have more control over the agenda and more influence and to direct the joint working to the planning issues that are most relevant to East Hampshire.

8.6 The Gypsy and Traveller Community Support Panel no longer exists. In 2025, attempts were made to understand more about what liaison exists across wider organisations with regards to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, but no specific panel/group is known to be operational in Hampshire.

9. Working closely with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)

9.1 There is a requirement for relevant authorities, including the Council, to seek to further the purposes of the South Downs National Park as set out in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, as amended by Section 245 of the 2023 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act. The purposes are 'to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area' and 'to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public.'

9.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has historically collaborated with the SDNPA. In 2014, both authorities adopted the Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (JCS, 2014) covering the whole of East Hampshire District including the SDNP. The JCS set both authorities' overall approach towards local application of sustainable development through its objectives and core policies over the period 2011 to 2028. The authorities have also collaborated on assessing Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, open space assessment and habitats and biodiversity issues.

9.3 Moving on, whilst preparing separate Local Plans (the SDNPA Local Plan was adopted in July 2019), a series of SCGs have been signed (2018, 2021 & 2024) setting out the position and understanding with respect to the strategic cross boundary matters and agreed actions to resolve outstanding matters. The latest SCG is available on the Council's website at www.easthants.gov.uk/duty-cooperate.

9.4 The SDNPA is reviewing its Local Plan and carried out early-stage consultation in September 2024, and a Reg.18 Draft Local Plan consultation in early 2025. The Council responded to both consultations. The Council did raise some concerns at that stage regarding housing provision and continues to work with the SDNPA on this and all strategic matters. In particular, further work is being done in the form of the South Downs National Park Standard Method Apportionment Study. The SDNPA is looking to consult on a Pre-Submission version of its Local Plan review in May 2026, following elections and then submission for examination in October/November 2026.

10. Working closely with Havant Borough Council

- 10.1 Havant Borough is a neighbouring administrative area that lies to the south of East Hampshire District.
- 10.2 There is a historic working relationship between the two authorities which underpins continuous and ongoing engagement between the two Planning Policy Teams supporting each other working through cross boundary and/or wider strategic matters. In 2022, Havant Borough Council withdrew its Local Plan from examination and identified that it may require assistance in meeting its housing requirement. In 2024, letters were exchanged between the two Councils, with Havant clarifying the extent of its unmet need, and the Council responding acknowledging the requirement for unmet needs to be considered in the plan making process, and for further discussion.
- 10.3 A SCG wasn't available between Havant Borough Council and the Council for the East Hampshire Draft Local Plan 2024 Reg18 Consultation. Both Councils have formally responded to each other's Reg18 Draft Local Plan consultations, setting out the latest position on unmet needs (2024 & 2025). Havant Borough Council formally sought assistance from East Hampshire to meet housing and employment unmet needs in June 2025, to which EHDC replied in July 2025.
- 10.4 As the Local Plan progresses, work will continue to clarify the extent of unmet needs from Havant Borough, and the Council's ability to assist.

11. Responding to requests to engage and co-operate

- 11.1 The Council responds and engages with other authorities and bodies when requested to do so. To this end the Council will continue to:
 - Respond positively to requests from other authorities and bodies for engagement on strategic matters which have been identified as likely to affect the district, its interests or the wider geographic area; and
 - Attend and contribute towards duty to cooperate meetings or events at Officer and where necessary Councillor level which are organised by other authorities/bodies on matters which have been identified as being of relevant cross boundary significance; and
 - Consider requests for joint evidence studies and where appropriate agree joint approaches to strategic matters where this will achieve sustainable development; and
 - Respond in a timely manner to authority consultations and respond positively where joint working between East Hampshire and other authorities has facilitated agreement or joint approaches under the duty to cooperate.
- 11.2 Whilst the Council will be constructive in its approach, it retains the right to object or raise concerns to an authority or body's Local Plan or Strategy where a strategic issue affecting East Hampshire has been identified but engagement has not been forthcoming or has been untimely. The right to object will also be retained should discussions under the duty fail to be active, constructive or on-going.
- 11.3 The Council is formally aware of unmet development needs arising from:
 - Havant Borough Council
 - Portsmouth City Council

- Gosport Borough Council
- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

11.4 In addition, from engagement and plan preparation to date, the Council is aware of emerging unmet needs from:

- South Downs National Park Authority in East Hampshire.

12. Strategic Cross Boundary Matters

12.1 This section identifies the strategic cross boundary matters identified thus far in the preparation of the new Local Plan.

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 1

Meeting our identified housing needs and consideration of wider unmet housing needs

Partners and Considerations

South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)

Within the SDNP, housing provision will be restricted to that needed to serve its communities. The National Park Circular states that “The Government recognises that the National Parks are not suitable locations for unrestricted housing and does not therefore provide general housing targets for them. The expectation is that new housing will be focussed on meeting affordable housing requirements, supporting local employment opportunities and key services.”

The Monitoring Reports published each year by both authorities chart progress on the delivery of new homes.

It is important to continue to work with the SDNPA to ensure there is sufficient housing supply across the district to meet the required need for housing. The Council is doing this by working on joint evidence base (including the South Downs National Park Standard Method Apportionment Study), publishing regular updates to its SCG with the SDNPA and responding to consultations.

Hampshire County Council (HCC)

HCC Adult Services responded to the Local Plan Large Development Sites consultation, focussing on the identified Affordable Extra Care Housing for Older Persons and supported housing to meet the specific needs of those adults with mental health, learning or physical disability. A meeting was held with HCC officers, including Adult Services, on 22 January 2020 to discuss further. Further dialogue took place with HCC in 2023 prior to consultation on the draft Local Plan 2024, and a subsequent meeting in August 2025.

Havant Borough Council

Havant Borough Council carried out a Reg18 consultation on a Draft Local Plan in June/July 2025, which identified an unmet need for housing and employment.

Havant Borough Council wrote to EHDC to seek assistance with their unmet housing need in June 2025, to which EHDC replied in July 2025.

Portsmouth City Council

In early 2024, Portsmouth asked EHDC to assist with unmet housing need, to which EHDC replied in March 2024, expressing its position in relation to the stage of plan making. There has been a delay to the Portsmouth Local Plan submission, which is now scheduled prior to June 2026. Portsmouth City Council will be consulting (Reg19) in Winter 2025. Portsmouth has a remaining unmet need of 3116 dwellings (September 2025). Further meetings are being undertaken by the two councils as part of wider South East Hampshire Duty to Co-operate discussions in October 2025.

Gosport Borough Council

Gosport Borough Council has worked closely with the authorities that comprise the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) including the work that led to the production of the PfSH Spatial Position Statement (SPS) 2023. Gosport Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan, with a Reg19 consultation scheduled for early 2026. The Council wrote to EHDC in July 2025 seeking assistance with its unmet housing need, to which EHDC responded.

*note, Havant, Portsmouth and Gosport are within the same Housing Market Area.

Winchester City Council

The Winchester Local Plan Examination is still ongoing. In the Post Hearings Action Points note (ED38a), the Examination Inspector has advised of changes which will result in a reduced amount of housing available to meet unmet needs in neighbouring authorities. The most recent calculation of the amount available for unmet needs in other authorities is 495 dwellings for the period 2024-2040. This is subject to ongoing consideration by the Inspector and the outcomes of the forthcoming Main Modifications consultation.

Chichester District Council

The Chichester Local Plan 2021-2039 has been adopted. The Site Allocation DPD or a review of the Local Plan will address the unmet need from the adopted Local Plan.

Other Neighbouring Local Authorities

Wider South Hampshire

Many of the local planning authorities already mentioned fall within or partially within the south Hampshire sub-region and form part of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). EHDC has historically been part of the Partnership and has contributed to its collective work on housing need and unmet housing need. Whilst EHDC formally withdrew from PfSH in April 2025, the joint evidence base and agreed frameworks remain material to the Duty to Cooperate (DtC) and the preparation of the East Hampshire Local Plan.

The PfSH Spatial Position Statement (2023) replaced the similar 2016 non-statutory strategy and set out principles to guide Local Plan preparation across PfSH authorities. At the time it recognised the then standard method for calculating local housing needs whilst highlighting significant environmental and infrastructure constraints (nutrient neutrality, water quality, flood risk, Solent/New Forest recreation pressures) that limit capacity to absorb additional unmet need elsewhere in the sub-region. It confirmed a “cities and larger towns first” approach, while noting that in practice some authorities may not be able to fully meet their

Standard Method requirement. However, it did not distribute or apportion unmet need to other districts at that stage. Instead, it committed authorities to:

- Keep housing delivery and capacity under review.
- Consider unmet needs through further evidence and Statements of Common Ground.
- Use the Spatial Position Statement as a non-statutory framework to demonstrate DtC compliance, with a view to local plans addressing unmet need pragmatically as examinations progress.

In addition to the Spatial Position Statement, a PfSH SCG (2023) highlighted that there was a shortfall of housing within the sub-region of 14,531 homes over the period 2022-2036. However, it acknowledged that the specific housing requirements for each PfSH local authority will be determined in the individual Local Plans with the appropriate housing figures and locations for development tested in local plan examinations.

EHDC has engaged fully in the 2023 SoCG and SPS workstreams and remains committed to addressing cross-boundary housing issues in line with the DtC. Both documents will continue to be cited as evidence of past and constructive cooperation when explaining EHDC's approach to housing need and unmet need in its emerging Local Plan. However, withdrawal from PfSH (April 2025) means EHDC will now pursue bilateral SoCGs with neighbouring authorities (e.g. Portsmouth CC, Chichester DC, SDNPA) to demonstrate ongoing engagement on unmet need.

Waverley Borough Council

There is potential unmet housing need emerging from Waverley Borough. Currently the Council has a housing requirement of 29,160 homes between 2023 – 2043. Waverley Borough Council is at the earlier stages of preparing a new Local Plan and is gathering supporting evidence. A Reg18 Issues and Options consultation commenced in October 2025.

Scale of unmet need

At the time of writing, the exact figure may not be certain, but the scale is clear. There is considerable unmet housing need adjoining the district and in the wider area.

Requests

Havant Borough Council

The outcome of much dialogue over the years is a formal request from Havant Borough Council to EHDC for assistance in meeting housing and employment unmet needs, and a formal request from EHDC to Havant Borough Council for assistance with meeting Traveller accommodation unmet needs.

EHDC recognises the need to carefully consider the unmet development needs of Havant Borough as it prepares its new Local Plan.

Chichester District Council

A letter was received from Chichester District Council on 10 December 2021, explaining their current position that they would be unlikely to meet the Local Housing Need of the area. The letter asked for East Hampshire's initial views on the potential to help meet Chichester's unmet need.

The Council met with Chichester in February 2022 to discuss the matter and to understand in greater detail the issues and the total unmet need. At that time, the exact quantum of unmet need was not known but should be able to be quantified following Chichester's transport assessment. A workshop was held on 3 May 2022 with Chichester, looking at SA Reasonable Alternatives. A further letter was received from Chichester District Council dated 12 December 2022, which quantified the unmet need, which was then set out in the Statement of Common Ground (Jan 2024).

No further formal request for assistance was received, and the Chichester Local Plan is now adopted.

Portsmouth City Council and Gosport Borough Council

Both councils have written to EHDC seeking assistance with meeting unmet housing needs. Whilst these are not neighbouring authorities, they form part of the Portsmouth housing market area which is shared with the southern parishes of East Hampshire District (Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle).

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (Surrey)

In July 2024, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council wrote to the Council seeking assistance with unmet housing need. A response was sent on 15 July 2024, stating that "The geography and housing market is such that providing new homes in East Hampshire district would be ineffective in alleviating housing needs in Epsom and Ewell Borough and we are not convinced there is evidence to the contrary" and encouraging review of Green Belt, noting, "Our absence of Green Belt does not in itself justify us accommodating the unmet housing needs of Surrey Green Belt authorities". Epsom and Ewell's Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 10 March 2025 and is at examination. EHDC did not agree to assist with unmet need.

Elmbridge Borough Council (Surrey)

A letter was received from Elmbridge Borough Council on 27 January 2020, asking whether East Hampshire District Council would be able to help meet any of Elmbridge's unmet housing need.

The Council responded on 3 March 2020 to say that is in unable to assist for the following reasons;

- 1) The geography and housing market is such that providing new homes in East Hampshire district would be ineffective to alleviating housing needs in Elmbridge, and we are not convinced there is evidence to the contrary
- 2) East Hampshire District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, for which the next steps are publication of a Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19). We still need to finalise the details of that document to show we can meet our own development needs in a sustainable way, particularly taking account of key current and emerging issues such as nitrate neutrality, and climate change (the council has declared a climate change emergency)
- 3) Your letter states a likely 4000 homes shortfall over the plan period. A brief look at information on your website suggests this relates to the selection of option 4 - optimising urban areas. If our understanding is correct, we note this does not use potential weaker Green Belt land that has been identified in the Green Belt review."

The response was acknowledged, but no further engagement. Elmbridge Borough Council submitted a plan for examination but in 2024 was advised by the

inspectorate to withdraw or be found unsound. The Council withdrew, and has a new LDS dated March 2025, which estimates adoption in December 2028.

Authorities Engaged

- SDNPA
- PfSH
- Havant Borough Council
- Chichester District Council
- Waverley Borough Council
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
- Winchester City Council
- Portsmouth City Council
- Gosport Borough Council

Bodies Engaged

- Homes England

Mechanism for Engagement

Meeting housing need

- Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to agreeing Statements of Common Ground prior to Pre submission consultation
- Collaboration on evidence base where appropriate

General

- Consultation on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)
- Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTERS 2 and 3

- Meeting our identified need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation and consideration of wider unmet needs
- Consideration of the potential need for transit accommodation for Travellers (with regards to travelling routes across districts/boroughs).

Partners and Considerations

South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)

The Council and SDNPA work together to prepare joint evidence on this matter (GTAA 2017, 2020 and 2024).

The SCG (2024) with the SDNPA refers to the GTAA (2020), as the SCG (2024) was prior to the completion of the GTAA (2024). At that time, the SCG (2024) recognised the potential for Traveller accommodation permitted and completed in the SDNP within East Hampshire post March 2020 to count towards meeting the need identified in East Hampshire outside SDNP, on a case-by-case basis, until such time of a new GTAA (which there now is, dated 2024).

Waverley Borough Council

Waverley Borough Council approached the Council in 2017 whilst preparing its new Local Plan with regards to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller

accommodation. As neighbouring councils there is potentially extended families living in both areas. Regular dialogue to date has continued with Waverley Borough Council. Whilst there is currently no unplanned need for Traveller accommodation² arising from Waverley Borough on which it is seeking assistance from neighbouring councils, the Council is gathering evidence to prepare for its new local plan including an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

Winchester City Council

A SCG was signed in May 2018 between Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council, to support Winchester City Council's Traveller DPD (2019). The Traveller DPD (2019) reported a shortfall of 8 Travelling Showpeople plots in Winchester City. At the time, this was raised by Winchester City Council in duty to co-operate meetings with Basingstoke and Deane, Havant, Test Valley, Portsmouth, Fareham and Eastleigh Council, but this need was not able to be accommodated elsewhere.

Winchester City Council responded to an email from the Council in June 2020, setting out the latest position with regards to the update of the GTAA (see below in requests to other authorities section). Winchester City Council explained it may well find itself in a similar situation to the Council with regards to meeting needs. The response encouraged a Hampshire wide approach. Winchester City Council has prepared a new Local Plan (examination stage) which will consider the accommodation needs of the Traveller community, and as such replace the Traveller DPD (2019).

The SCG (2024) documents the latest position, saying “the Council expects to be able to meet gypsy traveller needs over the Local Plan period as a whole but is unable to identify sufficient available and deliverable sites to meet current needs (years 0-5, 2022-2026). For travelling showpeople, the Council is unable to meet either short-term or longer-term needs.” There are therefore unmet needs.

Hart District Council

The Council met with Hart DC planning policy team in March 2019 for a general Local Plan Reg18 discussion. A further meeting was held on 1 October 2019, that included the consultant preparing the GTAA update 2020, to discuss the Hart Traveller DPD being prepared and the GTAA. The Hart GTAA (2020) identifies a significant need for accommodation.

In March 2020, the Councils discussed the unmet need in Winchester City and consideration of it with regards to the preparation of the Hart Traveller DPD. At the time, it was the view of Hart District Council that as Winchester City is not its direct neighbour, the unmet need would not be of specific relevance to an emerging Traveller DPD. Hart is now progressing a new Local Plan and intends to address Traveller sites within the next local plan rather than through a separate Traveller Accommodation DPD. A new LDS was published in September 2025..

Havant Borough Council

The borough has a low need for Traveller accommodation. Responding to an email sent to all neighbouring councils in June 2020 providing an update on the East Hampshire GTAA, it stated that the borough is constrained in terms of sites with the Borough being built up and those areas that remain identified for greenfield bricks and mortar housing development.

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

On 18 August 2023, EHDC contacted Havant and all neighbouring councils asking for assistance with meeting potential unmet Traveller accommodation needs, supported by evidence showing our assessment of sites. Havant Borough Council responded in October 2023, saying *“in terms of our ability to assist with the need for meeting GTAA – the ability to accommodate further pitches in the Borough is likely be challenging. As alluded to the email exchange with Adam last week, the emerging Constraints Study confirms the Borough is exceptionally constrained which will significantly limit our ability to meet general housing need. Within the update to your GTAA, it would be useful to understand whether there is any indication of the geographical spread in terms of the need for pitches particularly within the southern parishes. We have just received an update of our GTAA, and whilst we’ve yet to review in detail - the expectation is that need and supply for the Borough will remain at 1 pitch”*.

On 2 July 2025, EHDC formally asked Havant for assistance with meeting the need for Traveller accommodation, saying “Please consider this a formal request from East Hampshire for your assistance with unmet needs for Traveller accommodation, and a specific request with regards to Site allocation 1 (Soughleigh) and potentially Allocation 25: Campdown.” Havant responded to this request within a letter dated 10 September 2025, having explored the request in relation to specific sites, and will continue to consider this as part of ongoing discussions.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

In March 2019, a general Local Plan Regulation 18 meeting was held with the Local Plan lead officer from Basingstoke, at which recent cases of Gypsy and Traveller planning applications and appeals were discussed. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council responded to an email from the Council in June 2020, setting out the latest position with regards to the update of the GTAA (see below in requests to other authorities section). Basingstoke set out its intention to consider allocating sufficient sites for the full need (not just the knowns and a % of unknowns). However, practically this will be challenging, for all the same reasons as other councils. Unauthorised encampments in this area follow an unusual pattern and are not considered a cross boundary issue. Correspondence in 2023, when EHDC contacted all neighbouring authorities, indicated that Basingstoke and Deane was in a similar position to ourselves. Basingstoke and Deane is updating its Local Plan and a Reg18 consultation is scheduled in autumn 2025.

Hampshire County Council

The role of Gypsy Liaison officer for the area sits with HCC. In May 2019, a meeting was held with the officer in this role for a general discussion and to understand HCC’s role. The officer assisted with the site visits for the GTAA 2017, and was contacted during the preparation of the GTAA (2017 and 2020) to share information and input. HCC does not own or manage any Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople or transit sites within East Hampshire District Council’s authority area. A further meeting took place on 28 February 2025 with the Hampshire Gypsy Liaison officer, to seek an update on personnel and work.

Surrey County Council

On 24 March 2025, an informal meeting took place with the Enforcement & Encroachments Officer at Surrey County Council, to share information in terms of potential cross boundary panels/working groups in Hampshire. None known at present.

Hampshire Police

Dialogue regarding monitoring travelling routes and the potential need for transit accommodation. Meeting held with District Commander for East Hampshire and Havant on 7 Feb 2019 to discuss.

In 2020, the Gypsy and Traveller Community Support Panel was established by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. There were two panels, one for councillors and one for officers. East Hampshire District Council attended both panels, along with representatives from Hampshire districts. The panel was established to enable better cross boundary working on unauthorised encampments and potential consideration of transit accommodation (in an appropriate form, including negotiated stopping). Whilst these meetings have now ceased, contact has been maintained with the PCC with meetings in response to unauthorised encampments when needed. In the meantime, councils will respond individually to unauthorised encampments. In March 2025, contact was made with the District Commander for East Hants and Havant, to establish if there were any working group/panel, but the response remains not at present.

At present, there is no formal identified need for transit accommodation in East Hampshire District.

Requests from other Authorities

Waverley Borough Council

In October 2017, Waverley Borough Council contacted the Council seeking an update on our position with regards to assessing and meeting need, opportunities for joint working and providing sites to meet Waverley Borough Council's need, and any work carried out with regards to transit accommodation.

A response was sent, providing an update on progress, and seeking positive working relations. At that point we did not know if we could meet our own need, so could not offer any assistance with regards to meeting needs in Waverley borough. It was suggested in the response that the consideration of transit accommodation be most appropriately addressed at that time through establishing, sharing and discussing monitoring processes and information.

A meeting was held in November 2017 for a general discussion, and about transit accommodation. No further requests have been received, and as above, it is noted that there is no unplanned need arising from Waverley borough on which it is seeking assistance to meet, and there is no available monitoring information with regards to transit accommodation from Waverley Borough Council.

A meeting was held on 18 October 2021 for general discussion, where it was confirmed that the large development site at Dunsfold aerodrome, in Waverley, is not likely to include provision for Traveller accommodation.

Winchester City Council

In November 2017, Winchester City Council informed the Council that it was progressing with its Traveller DPD but struggling to identify sufficient sites to meet the need for Travelling Showpeople accommodation. The Council responded but stated it was unable to offer assistance at this time but encouraged maintaining close contact and partnership working. In April 2018, Winchester City Council contacted us stating its intention to submit its Traveller DPD in May 2018, with a shortfall in deliverable land for Travelling Showpeople accommodation, asking if

there were any sites in East Hampshire that could assist towards meeting this need.

A response was sent stating that, at that time, we are not in a position to conclude whether we are able to meet all of our identified need for Traveller accommodation, and as such, cannot identify specific scope to assist with meeting the identified need of another area. We expressed our desire to continue dialogue and updates.

The Council responded to the consultation on Winchester City Council's Traveller DPD in August 2017, providing comments.

Since then, Winchester has updated its GTAA and progressed a new Local Plan (at examination).

Requests to other Authorities

Hampshire County Council

In June 2019, the Council wrote to HCC identifying a potential shortfall in land for Travelling Showpeople accommodation and asking HCC to consider if it has any land within its ownership for this use. A response was received stating there is currently no surplus County Council land available within the East Hampshire District authority area that could be suitable for this use. A further request was made in March and June 2020, asking to consider all land within Hampshire.

A response was received in November 2020, following an internal review of land holdings. It said, "our internal review has re-affirmed the County Council's landowner position in 2019 which is that there is unfortunately no available or suitable land in the East Hants District that could have future development potential for Gypsy or Traveller related accommodation. In summary, the County Council's land holdings were either in operational use, identified as allocations for development in the East Hants Local Plan or were unsuitable due to their physical constraints including limited size, flood risk, topography, trees or ecological designation."

With regards to potential land in Hampshire, the response stated, "Hampshire County Council, in its capacity as landowner, is working in partnership with James Payne the Chief Executive for the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office (OPCC) in this matter. As you may already be aware, the OPCC are in the process of forming a strategic and co-ordinated approach to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in collaboration with elected Members and Officers (in housing / planning) from the Hampshire Borough and District Authorities. I believe this formerly existed as the Joint Authorities Gypsy and Traveller Panel." This is the group that has been mentioned that was established in 2020, and of which East Hampshire District Council was a member but has now ceased.

Further correspondence took place in 2022 and 2023, seeking updates on this position, to which the response was; "an updated internal review of the County Council's land and assets within East Hants District (excluding SDNP) has been completed. The outcome re-affirms the previous position in 2022 whereby the County Council's land holdings are either in operational use, identified for development in the Local plan or unsuitable due to physical constraints. Therefore,

unfortunately there is no available or suitable lane in the East Hants District for this type of accommodation”.

Slough Borough Council

The Council responded to Slough Borough Council’s Local Plan Spatial Strategy Consultation in December 2020, raising concerns about the lack of consideration of the potential need for Traveller accommodation, and the lack of up-to-date evidence base. The Council was made aware of this consultation due to material submitted in an appeal of a planning decision in East Hampshire District that cited personal circumstances linked to Slough. The consultation closed on 21 January 2021. No further update has been received.

Neighbouring Councils

An email was sent to all neighbouring councils in June 2020 updating them on preparation of the East Hampshire GTAA 2020 and setting out the potential scenario of difficulties meeting needs and the actions proposed (including a targeted call for sites). The email also expressed the Council’s keenness to explore monitoring unauthorised encampments and sought any information collated. The collaborative consideration of unauthorised encampments was taking place through the Gypsy and Traveller Community Support Panel established by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton, but this has now ceased, and collaboration is now back functioning at the individual authority level.

A further email was sent to all neighbouring councils in 2023, providing evidence demonstrating challenges to meet needs, and seeking an update on their position and ability to assist. All responded, but no ability to assist identified.

Authorities Engaged

- South Downs National Park Authority
- Waverley Borough Council
- Winchester City Council
- Hart District Council
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
- Chichester District Council
- Havant Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council

Bodies Engaged

- Hampshire Police
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

Mechanism for Engagement

Evidence base preparation

Contact via the consultants that prepared the GTAA update

Target

Meetings/discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to entering into agreements prior to Proposed Submission consultation

Sites

Meetings/discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to entering into agreements prior to Proposed Submission consultation

General

- Consultation on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)
- Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 4

Meeting our identified need for economic development and consideration of wider unmet needs

Partners and Considerations

Neighbouring Local Authorities

Meeting needs within Functional Economic Areas. Throughout the production of the Local Plan, the Council will continue to monitor needs and the provision of economic floor space. An updated HEDNA is being prepared to support the Local Plan Reg19.

Economic Growth

Whilst during the plan preparation period the Covid pandemic had a significant impact on business, economic growth is now the key aim of the current Government.

Key partners:

- The Prosperity Partnership Board within HCC
- The Hampshire Chambers of Commerce
- Business South and the Federation of Small Businesses

Requests

Havant Borough Council

On 12 June 2025, Havant Borough Council formally asked EHDC to assist with meeting 51,424 sq. m of unmet employment need. The Council responded on 2 July 2025 saying, "In terms of employment, at present, we have not been asked to meet unmet employment needs from any other authority other than Havant Borough (51,424 sq. m) but appreciate that with additional housing comes employment needs. We have just commissioned an update to our Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA), so at present, we cannot identify a definitive amount for employment needs in East Hampshire, and as such cannot offer a position on assistance with unmet employment needs from elsewhere."

At present, Havant Borough Council is the only neighbouring authority to seek assistance with unmet employment need.

Authorities Engaged

- All neighbouring local authorities
- Havant Borough Council

Bodies Engaged

- Hampshire County Council

Mechanism for Engagement

General

- Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level
- Consultation on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)
- Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 5

Transport impacts and mitigation from proposed development

Partners and Considerations

Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council is the local Highways Authority for East Hampshire District Council. Hampshire County Council Countryside Service acts as the Highway Authority with regards to Public Rights of Way (PROW).

A written response was received to the draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation. The response detailed concerns that the existing Transport Strategy for Whitehill & Bordon should be reviewed in conjunction with a proposed allocation in the draft Local Plan³.

Hampshire County Council provided a written response to the Regulation 18 Large Development Sites Consultation requesting a roundtable meeting to discuss the large sites in more detail. Consequently, a duty to co-operate meeting was held on 22 January 2020 with multiple departments of the County Council, including transport. Two key themes of sustainability and access were discussed for all large development sites. Regarding site access, at the time, Hampshire County Council's policy was for access to be provided from lower hierarchy roads, with the aim of limiting impacts of increased delay to existing road users.

Since the beginning of 2022, the Council has met with HCC Highways once a month to discuss the Local Plan sites (access and high-level considerations of deliverability) and Local Plan transport modelling. The Council and the County Council have also met with the Whitehill & Bordon LDS project team. Regular monthly meetings with HCC are currently on-going.

On 16 February 2022, the Council met with National Highways and Systra (Transport Assessment Consultants) to seek opinions on the level of validation achieved in the strategic transport models being used for the Transport Assessment (TA), as well as the proposed methodology of using two strategic transport models. Following this meeting, Systra shared supporting model development documents with HCC and National Highways.

To support the draft Local Plan (January 2024) Regulation 18 consultation, the Council liaised with HCC regarding the supporting evidence base of the transport background paper and accessibility study. Ridge Consulting was appointed by the Council in 2023 to undertake an accessibility study to support the Regulation 18

³ Draft Local Plan Site SA11 (Regulation 18)

consultation of the draft Local Plan as well as a strategic transport assessment, utilising a decide and provide approach, for the forthcoming Regulation 19 consultation of the Local Plan. HCC were fully consulted on the accessibility study methodology and outputs, with project meetings held between EHDC, HCC and Ridge Consulting. The Council produced the transport background paper with HCC providing guidance on the content, as well as the paper being shared with HCC for review and feedback. Ridge Consulting developed a decide and provide methodology for the strategic transport assessment (to be utilised to support Regulation 19 consultation), in liaison with HCC. HCC were consulted on the proposed decide and provide methodology for the strategic transport assessment by meetings, emails and a formal scoping document. HCC agreed to the decide and provide methodology of a strategic transport assessment developed by Ridge Consulting.

HCC responded to the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation of the draft Local Plan (January 2024) and included comments relating to highway matters. HCC would like to see PROW and greater inclusivity of “wheeling” in the Plan. The highway authority also provided specific highway comments for each site allocation included in the draft Local Plan. Due to the lack of evidence including a transport assessment to review, the HCC stated that it was currently unable to support the allocation of ALT8 Land at Neatham Manor Farm, Alton.

In 2024 Ridge Consulting were procured to undertake the strategic transport assessment for the Council, utilising the formerly agreed decide and provide methodology. Throughout this project the Council have updated HCC on the progress of the project and sort guidance and advice where necessary. Ridge Consulting have also met with HCC at the beginning of the project and will continue to meet with HCC and NH throughout the project when necessary. This project is currently ongoing.

Hampshire County Council Countryside Planning is the Highway Authority with regards to the PROW network. Countryside Planning is engaged on proposed site allocations, particularly large sites. Countryside Planning provides guidance on what design expectations there are for PROW and developments affecting PROW. Further meetings will continue with Hampshire County Council Highways, including PROW.

Surrey County Council

Surrey County Council is a neighbouring highway authority. Surrey County Council has raised concerns regarding the potential cumulative cross boundary impact on Surrey highway network generated from additional traffic flows of East Hampshire Local Plan development, including multiple large development sites on the A31 corridor and north east of the district⁴, if they were to be allocated.

Written responses were received to both Regulation 18 Consultations on the draft Local Plan and Large Development Sites (dated 19/03/19 and 15/10/19). Both responses referred to two sites⁵, and potential additional cross boundary traffic flows that could be generated on the A31 Farnham By-Pass and A325. Expectation was expressed that such impacts be mitigated against appropriately

⁴ Local Plan Large Development Sites Consultation (Regulation 18) Site Northbrook Park; Whitehill & Bordon; Land South East of Liphook; Neatham Down; Chawton Park; and Four Marks and Medstead sites.

⁵ Draft Local Plan Site SA21 and SA11 (Reg 18).

and/or contributions made to specific transport schemes in Surrey⁶. Comments regarding the sustainability of site locations were also provided.

A meeting was held with Surrey County Council on 9 September 2019 for the purposes of duty to co-operate. Officers from varying departments were present, including transport. This meeting took place during the Local Plan Large Development Sites consultation and provided the opportunity to discuss the sites to help inform the consultation response from Surrey County Council.

A meeting was held with Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council on 27 February 2020 to update the Councils on the Local Plan current position and timescales, discuss transport work submitted to Surrey County Council on transport impacts and sustainability in relation to Northbrook Park, update on other sites that may be of interest to Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council and discuss next steps. A Note of the meeting was circulated on 5 March 2020. A further meeting was held in June 2020.

Surrey County Council responded to the Council's Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation of the draft Local Plan (January 2024). In relation to highway and transport matters, Surrey County Council are interested to know of any future cumulative impacts of the Local Plan on their highway network, specifically impacts that could be generated from proposed future development along the A31 corridor of the district. Surrey County Council acknowledged that the strategic transport assessment would likely provide this information as the Plan progresses.

National Highways

National Highways (NH) (formerly Highways England) manages the strategic road network, of which the A3 and A3(M) passes through East Hampshire District Council. National Highways are interested in any adverse impacts from the Council's planned development on the strategic road network in the district, as well as cross boundary impacts on the A27, M3 and M27.

Written response was received from NH to both Regulation 18 Consultation on draft Local Plan and Large Development Sites Consultation (dated 19/03/19 and 19/09/19). Response received to draft Local Plan Consultation detailed comments relating to the Interim Transport Assessment evidence base. The response received to the Large Sites Consultation provided a summary of each sites likely level impact on the strategic road network.

NH responded to the Council's Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation of the draft Local Plan (January 2024). NH stated that they do not have any objections to the principle of the draft development allocations, nor the dwelling numbers, but any impacts on the SRN will need to be identified and mitigated as far as reasonably possible. NH also requested to work collaboratively with the Council with regard to the forthcoming cumulative strategic transport assessment of the Local Plan.

In 2024, the Council commissioned Ridge Consulting to develop a decide and provide methodology for the strategic transport assessment (to be utilised to support Regulation 19 consultation). NH were consulted on the proposed decide and provide methodology for the strategic transport assessment by meetings, emails and a formal scoping document. NH agreed to the decide and provide methodology of a strategic transport assessment developed by Ridge Consulting.

⁶ Wrecclesham By-Pass and Hickleys Corner Underpass schemes.

South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)

In the response to the Large Sites Consultation, the SDNPA raised concern about additional traffic arising from development causing adverse impacts on rural roads; both those which form part of the transition between the built-up areas of East Hampshire District and the SDNP, and those rural roads and villages within the SDNP itself. The SDNPA requested in their response that investigation of this matter on rural roads, including those within the SDNP is undertaken via traffic modelling and is included as part of Transport Assessment work to inform the emerging East Hampshire Local Plan. The SDNP's planning data has been supplied to inform the Council's Strategic Transport Assessment. It should be noted that since then the methodology of the Transport Assessment has altered, with approval by HCC and NH.

The SDNPA responded to the Council's Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation of the draft Local Plan (January 2024). With regard to highways and transport matters, the SDNPA encouraged the Council to safeguard non-motorised user routes, specifically disused railway lines. The Council questioned the need of safeguarding disused railway lines with HCC, (at a monthly meeting), and HCC stated that it was not thought necessary in EHDC planning area as the routes were not considered of importance or leading to/from key destinations.

Waverley Borough Council

Potential large development site⁷ close to boundary of Waverley borough with potential further land within Waverley borough itself. Also, the possibility of SANG associated with this site within Waverley borough. Understanding potential cross boundary impacts of this development, as well as other large development sites in the north east of the district⁸, on transport network in Waverley, particularly Farnham, is of relevance in terms of developing transport mitigation schemes and/or contributions to infrastructure funds.

Written response was received to both Regulation 18 Consultations of the draft Local Plan and Large Development Sites. The response to the draft Local Plan stated concern over cumulative highway impacts generating cross boundary flows into Waverley, specifically Farnham, and requesting that Waverley's Local Plan is considered in the Transport Assessment evidence base. The response to the Large Development Sites focused on three sites⁹, and the potential for these developments to generate additional traffic that could worsen existing congestion on the highway network in Waverley. Impact on public transport infrastructure was also commented on, specifically concerns about additional car parking at Haslemere train station. Waverley Borough Council's planning data has, been supplied to inform the Council's Strategic Transport Assessment. It should be noted that since then the methodology of the Transport Assessment has altered, with approval by HCC and NH.

A duty to co-operate meeting was held with Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council on 27 February 2020. Locations of the sites was discussed in relation to sustainability, as well as technical transport work completed to date and outstanding. All parties will continue to work positively together and aim for Hampshire County Council to attend future meetings.

⁷ Draft Local Plan Site SA21 (Regulation 18) and Local Plan Large Development Sites Consultation (Regulation 18) Site Northbrook Park.

⁸ Draft Local Plan Sites Consultation (Regulation 18) Site Whitehill & Bordon; and Land South East of Liphook.

⁹ Local Plan Large Development Sites Consultation (Regulation 18) Site Northbrook Park; Whitehill & Bordon; and Land South East of Liphook.

Hart District Council

Written response was received to both Regulation 18 Consultations on the draft Local Plan and Large Sites Consultation (dated 18/03/19 and 11/10/19). Responses received raised concerns about cross boundary traffic impacts from a site¹⁰, specifically potential increases in traffic flows on rural roads and lanes between East Hampshire, the A287 and M3. Hart District Council's planning data has been supplied to inform the Council's Strategic Transport Assessment. It should be noted that since then the methodology of the Transport Assessment has altered, with approval by HCC and NH. Hart District Council anticipate the evidence base of the Transport Assessment for clarification of cross boundary transport impacts. A meeting was held with the Planning Policy Manager of Hart District Council on 1 October 2019 to discuss the transport issues in more detail and to explain the work that the Council will be undertaking to address these concerns.

Hart District Council responded to the Council's Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation of the draft Local Plan (January 2024). With regard to highways and transport matters it was expressed that following the publication of the Council's strategic transport assessment, Hart would be willing to work with the Council and HCC to discuss any potential cross-boundary transport matters and any mitigation required as a result of the Local Plan.

Chichester District Council

Written response was received to both Regulation 18 Consultations on the draft Local Plan and Large Sites Consultation (dated 14/03/19 and 14/10/19). Response received to Large Development Sites Consultation provided comments relating to potential transport impacts of two sites¹¹. Comment was made to how consideration should be given to understanding the transport impacts of the cumulative impact of the large development sites, East Hampshire Local Plan, Havant Borough Council's Local Plan and Chichester District Council's Local Plan, specifically on A3(M) junction 2 and vehicular pollution on nearby Special Areas of Conservation.

West Sussex County Council

Written response was received to both Regulation 18 Consultations on the draft Local Plan and Large Development Sites Consultation. The responses requested further information on cross boundary traffic impacts, of a certain magnitude, on junctions in West Sussex due to projected increases in traffic flows from East Hampshire's Local Plan. This will be evidenced in the strategic Transport Assessment. West Sussex County Council expressed that it would welcome the opportunity to work with the Council on developing the technical methodology for this assessment. West Sussex County Council, as well as all other neighbouring authorities and relevant statutory consultees, will be consulted on the full package of transport evidence documents when all related assessments are complete, and the documents are ready to be publicly shared. The strategic transport assessment report will contain a section detailing any projected highway cross boundary impacts, as a result of the Council's Local Plan committed and allocated development. When the documents are shared, we welcome feedback from all parties. The Council will be committed to engaging in discussions and providing

¹⁰ Draft Local Plan Site SA21 (Regulation 18) and Local Plan Large Development Sites Consultation (Regulation 18) Site Northbrook Park.

¹¹ Local Plan Large Development Sites Consultation (Reg 18) Site land South East of Liphook; and Extension to Land East of Horndean.

continued partnership working with neighbouring authorities that could need any projected significant highway impacts mitigated as a result of impacts from the Council Local Plan development.

Havant Borough Council

Sites which border Havant may rely on road access from Havant Borough. Development in the southern parishes may have a cumulative transport impact on Havant Borough subject to the scale and location. Potential sites have been discussed and Havant Borough Council are supportive of those that could come forward on their border. Havant Borough Council's planning data has been supplied to inform the Council's Strategic Transport Assessment. It should be noted that since then the methodology of the Transport Assessment has altered, with approval by HCC and NH.

The Solent transport model is used by both Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council as it covers the district's southern parishes. Shared data and use of the model has been investigated with aligned work and resources occurring where possible.

Integrated Transport Authority

Transport for the South East – currently do not have statutory status, but are going through the process of gaining approval from the Secretary of State for Transport. No response received to consultations.

Network Rail

Met at key staged of the Local Plan with Network Rail since 2019, starting on 16 October 2019. Joint working on evidence base during 2022-2024, for background papers on infrastructure and transport. A further meeting took place on 9 July 2025, to discuss increased housing number (NPPF 2024), and next steps for the Local Plan.

Also dialogue about LAA site AL/001 which is in the ownership of Network Rail. A meeting was held in 2020 to discuss the future of the site.

Office of Road and Rail (ORR)

The Council consulted ORR as part of the targeted Reg18 consultation on Large Development Sites. No response received. However, the Council is advised that ORR is the regulator however they defer matters to Network Rail especially when it comes to Local Plan/planning policy engagement. See above re Network Rail.

Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Collaboration with adjacent councils. Regular meetings were programmed every other month, having commenced in April 2020.

Authorities Engaged

- Hampshire County Council
- Surrey County Council
- Waverley Borough Council
- Hart District Council
- Chichester District Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Havant Borough Council

Bodies Engaged

- National Highways
- Network Rail
- Office of Road and Rail
- Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Mechanism for Engagement

Evidence base preparation

Waverley Borough Council, Hart District Council, South Downs National Park and Havant Borough Council's planning data has been supplied to inform the strategic Transport Assessment.

Sites

Meetings/discussions/workshops with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to entering into agreements prior to Proposed Submission consultation.

General

Consultation on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)

Consultation on Large Development Sites (Regulation 18)

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 6

Infrastructure impacts and mitigation from proposed development, particularly in relation to education, health, drainage, wastewater and water supply

Note: transport is considered separately above, and flood risk below.

Partners and Considerations

Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council is the education authority. The Council has met frequently with the lead officer at HCC for education and the officer attended a Local Plan Large Development Sites consultation event and spoke with site promoters. The education officer has responded to Local Plan consultations. The Council has also met frequently with HCC Early Years officer and visited settings together for the purpose of the Infrastructure plan and CIL. A meeting was held with HCC officers, including the public health officer, on 22 January 2020 and the officer has responded to Local Plan consultations. Further dialogue has continued in relation to the proposed Large Development Site at Whitehill & Bordon, and other potential development sites. The lead officer has fed information in into the annual update of the Community Facilities Study and liaised regularly about proposed development sites and developer contributions. HCC's response to the Councils Draft Local Plan 2024 included information about education requirements in relation to proposed growth.

Surrey County Council

Surrey County Council is a neighbouring education authority. The Council has met with Surrey County Council to discuss the emerging Local Plan, with education a topic of discussion, particularly as the plan progresses.

Waverley Borough Council

Previously, dialogue focussed on a potential large development site¹² close to the boundary of Waverley borough with potential further land within Waverley borough itself. Also, the possibility of SANG associated with this site within Waverley borough and the impact of this development on Waverley borough, particularly Farnham, in terms of infrastructure. However, the Council then identified Whitehill & Bordon as the location for the Large Development Site in the emerging Local Plan. As such, the conversation moved on to general infrastructure considerations, particularly around health and education. The Council met with Waverley Borough Council in June and November 2020 to discuss. The Council also met with Waverley in October 2021 to update on both Local Plans. Waverley also wanted to discuss the addendum to their Local Plan which removed a site in Haslemere and included a new site on the edge of East Hampshire. Since then, dialogue has occurred with individual teams in relation to CIL allocations, particularly cross boundary allocations of funds, which has occurred.

Havant Borough Council

The Havant Thicket Reservoir is an environmentally-led, 8.7 billion litre water storage project under construction in Havant between Rowlands Castle and Leigh Park. It is a collaboration between [Portsmouth Water](#) and [Southern Water](#) to secure the South East's water supply for the future, utilizing spring water and recycled water. The project is designed with the community and environment in mind, incorporating new leisure facilities and wetland areas. The reservoir was granted planning permission by both East Hampshire and Havant in October 2021. Havant Thicket Reservoir could open fully to the public in 2031.

Integrated Care Board (ICB) (formally Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)) CCGs existed at the start of the plan making process, being superseded by ICBs. The Council and the ICB meet regularly, which informed proposed allocations for health facilities in the Draft Local Plan 2024, projects listed in the emerging Infrastructure Plan, allocation of CIL funds to date, and the Community Facilities Study. The ICB has responded to Local Plan consultations.

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Dialogue was established with Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with a meeting taking place in January 2021 to discuss CIL funding. At this time, email correspondence took place with Guildford Royal Surrey Hospital and Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth with regards to potential site allocations, as the other major hospital provision serving East Hampshire District residents.

NHS Property Services (NHSPS)

NHSPS manages, maintains and improves NHS properties and facilities, working in partnership with NHS organisations to create safe, efficient, sustainable, modern healthcare and working environments. NHSPS responded to the Local Plan Large Development Sites consultation, and dialogue has continued, particularly in relation to health care facilities where it is the landlord.

Southern Water, South East Water, Portsmouth Water and Thames Water

¹² Draft Local Plan Site SA21 (Regulation 18) and Local Plan Large Development Sites Consultation (Regulation 18) Site Northbrook Park.

All have responded to Local Plan Regulation 18 consultations. The Council has attended workshops organised by Southern Water in 2020 and 2021, focussing on the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP) programme.

The Council also regularly attends Southern Water's Stakeholder update meetings, whereby attendees are kept up to date regarding the progression of Southern Water's Business Plans and advised on any Company updates.

Authorities Engaged

- Hampshire County Council Education
- Hampshire County Council Public Health
- Surrey County Council Education
- Waverley Borough Council
- Havant Borough Council

Bodies Engaged

- NHS Property Services
- Integrated Care Board
- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Southern Water
- Thames Water
- South East Water
- Portsmouth Water

Mechanism for Engagement

Meetings/discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to entering into agreements prior to Proposed Submission consultation.

With regards to health, direct dialogue with individual GP surgeries and health care facilities, including site visits.

General

- Consultation on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)
- Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 7

Tackling the Climate Emergency

The Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and adopted a wide-ranging climate and environment strategy in August 2020, superseded by the Council's Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-29.

In April 2022, the Council adopted the Climate Change and Sustainable Construction SPD.

The Council has produced a Net Zero Carbon Study and this involved engaging with neighbouring councils and partners as part of its preparation. The Written Ministerial Statement on Local Energy Efficiency Standards (13th December 2023) has affected the extent to which 'best practice' can be followed and how overarching commitments relating to Climate Change (established via the Paris Climate Agreement, the Climate Change Act, 2008 and the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004) affect the actions that a planning authority may consider taking through the English planning system.

Winchester City Council

Winchester City Council is progressing its new Local Plan (at examination) with detailed policies regarding the climate emergency that are substantially similar to the advice contained within the Council's Net Zero Carbon Study. The Council has liaised with Winchester City Council regarding their approach and is awaiting the outcomes of the Winchester Local Plan examination before further liaison.

Authorities Engaged

- Waverley Borough Council
- Chichester District Council
- Havant Borough Council
- Winchester City Council
- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
- Hart District Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- Hampshire County Council

Bodies Engaged

- Renowned sustainability developer organisations and local environmental organisations/networks

Mechanism for Engagement

To develop this further, it will be discussed at future Duty to Co-operate meetings.

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 8

Flood risk (from all sources) impacts and mitigation from proposed development

Partners and Considerations

Environment Agency

The Council has established a strong working relationship with the Environment Agency and continues to work proactively with them to manage flood risk.

A written response was received to the Regulation 18 consultation on the draft Local Plan 2024 and sequential/exception tests. The Council has met jointly both the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to continue to work together to manage flood risk in the planning authority area.

Hampshire County Council

HCC is the LLFA covering the district and provides advice on surface water and groundwater flooding. The Council met with the LLFA in March 2020 and July 2025. They have also provided training to council officers on best practice in relation to carry out exception tests.

Authorities Engaged

- Hampshire County Council as LLFA

Bodies Engaged

- Environment Agency

Mechanism for Engagement

Both the EA and the LLFA were members on the Council's SFRA (2018) Steering Group and provided advice on the SFRA and signed off the final document.

The Reg18 Sequential Test, which is in line with guidance set out in the NPPG for flood risk, has now been reassessed in line with Environment Agency advice and now takes into consideration all sources of flooding not just flood zones and adjacent flood risk.

Written responses were received from by both the EA and the LLFA (as part of HCC's response) to all stages of the Local Plan process including the Regulation 18 Consultation on the draft Local Plan and associated sequential and exception tests.

The Council continues to meet and liaise regularly with both the EA and the LLFA to work together to proactively manage flooding risk.

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 9

Protecting the natural, built and historic environment

Partners and Considerations

Natural England

The Council has established a strong working relationship with Natural England and will continue to work proactively with them on promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity. Written responses were received from Natural England to all stages of the Local Plan process including the recent Reg18 Consultation on the Draft Local Plan. Key strategic cross boundary matters include the development of the Wealden Heaths Phase I and II SPA mitigation strategy, achieving nutrient neutrality and the recent draft boundary variation to the Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB).

Hampshire County Council (Ecology) and (Landscape)

Through a Service Level Agreement, the County ecologist provides advice and guidance to Council officers on planning applications. However, the Council has its own in-house Ecologist who provides ecological advice on the Local Plan. The

landscape team at Hampshire County Council has acted as a critical friend in the production of the updated Landscape Character Study 2024. The County lead on the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy which the EHDC is a supporting authority.

South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)

The Council is required, as per section 62 of the Environment Act, to have regard to the purposes of the National Park, which includes conserving and enhancing wildlife. The SDNPA actively responded to the Local Plan. Written responses were received to all consultations relating to the emerging Local Plan.

Part of the SDNP lies within the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA buffer and they are members of the HRA Cross Boundary Working Group chaired by EHDC working jointly on a strategic mitigation strategy for the Wealden Heaths Phase I and II SPA.

Waverley Borough Council

The borough lies within the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA buffer and through the HRA Cross Boundary Working Group, is working in partnership with the Council, Natural England and SDNPA on a strategic mitigation strategy for the Wealden Heaths Phase I and II SPA.

Solent Mitigation Partnership

The Partnership is a collaborative initiative formed by 15 Local Authorities within the Solent region. They provide environmental mitigation to facilitate sustainable development across the Solent, considering nutrient neutrality and biodiversity net gain. With regards nutrient neutrality, the partnership has adopted a proactive approach to developing a mitigation strategy that helps developers minimise the environmental impact of projects. Two successful bids to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's "Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund", is being used to create nutrient reduction projects around the Solent – including large-scale agricultural reversion projects, package treatment plant/septic tank upgrades and water efficiency improvements to council owned homes. This work is being undertaken through the Solent Mitigation Partnership but other key members are: the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Portsmouth Water, Havant Borough Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Isle of Wight Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Chichester District Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, East Hampshire District Council and the PfSH authorities.

Historic England

Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. Historic England responded to all Reg18 Local Plan consultations and a meeting took place in 2025 to discuss the response to the Draft Local Plan 2024 consultation, including the need for proportionate evidence to underpin proposed site allocations.

Portsmouth Water

Portsmouth Water is a member of the Partnership for South Hampshire Water Quality group and provides information and support for items such as Nitrate Neutrality, Biodiversity Net Gain and rural sewage infrastructure upgrades (Septic tank to package treatment plants). Portsmouth Water also engages with East Hampshire Catchment Partnership and provides support and information on their strategic plans and projects such as investigations and assessment of water quality, water resources and biodiversity within the catchment area. Portsmouth

Water also fed into the consultation for South Downs National Park (SDNP) Authority's "Water in the Park" strategy and supports its development. Portsmouth Water currently has a Biodiversity Grant Scheme, and we regularly support applications, particularly from SDNP Trust for applications for Dew Ponds and Conservation Ponds across the Downs. We see the development and restoration of these ponds within EHDC as important biodiversity features alongside wider water resource resilience.

Authorities Engaged

- Hampshire County Council - Ecology/HBIC/Landscape
- PfSH
- SDNPA
- Waverley Borough Council
- Isle of Wight Council
- Chichester District Council
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Bodies Engaged

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Southern Water
- Portsmouth Water
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Historic England

Mechanism for Engagement

Natural England provide an advisory service to the Council on all aspects relating to biodiversity and habitats. HBIC provide the Council with specific biodiversity/habitat data and surveys. A Biodiversity Guidance for East Hampshire June 2021 was collaboratively produced by EHDC which will support the Local Plan.

As the role of a supporting authority the Council is assisting Hampshire County Council in the production of the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

As part of the evidence base accompanying the Local Plan, the Habitats Regulations Assessment, Natural England provide advice to the Council. This involves regular discussions, meetings, site visits and attendance at workshops. EHDC chairs a cross boundary HRA steering group involving representatives from Natural England, SDNPA and Waverley Borough Council. The steering group work together towards a mitigation strategy for the Wealden Heaths Phase I and II SPA. The group are currently progressing a Strategic SAMM strategy to cover the Wealden Heaths Phase I and II SPA.

Nutrient neutrality is an issue which affects the Council as it falls in both the Test & Itchen and Solent water catchments. Lead by the Solent Mitigation Partnership, the Council is represented on the PfSH Natural Environment group which replaces the original PfSH Water Quality group, and now not only looks at nutrient neutrality but also biodiversity net gain.

The Council, along with other members from PfSH, are represented on the Solent Recreation and Mitigation Partnership which is run by Bird Aware Solent which addresses recreational impacts on the Solent.

NPPF, footnote 7, outlines that specific areas and assets which should be considered protection under planning policies. These include National Landscapes and National Parks. NPPF para 187 states “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)”. Further evidence on specific impacts was requested during consultation responses, for example, on Valued Landscapes.

The Council meets regularly through the Duty to Cooperate meetings with the SDNPA. Consultants produced a Large Sites Valued Landscape Assessment which accompanies the Landscape Capacity Study and in March 2022 the consultants also produced an Addendum to the Landscape Capacity Study on valued landscapes. This Addendum sets out the term valued landscape and provides an evidence base highlighting how valued landscapes were assessed in the 2018 study.

Discussion continues with Historic England regarding the need for proportionate evidence to underpin proposed site allocations.

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY MATTER 13

Safeguarding mineral resources and minerals and waste infrastructure.

Partners and Considerations

Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority.

Whitehill and Bordon development area is specifically referenced within the current adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013) for mineral safeguarding. As a Major Development Area located on Soft Sand there is a continued interest in safeguarding due to the further expansion plans for Whitehill & Bordon.

Kingsley and Frith End Quarries are both located in East Hampshire, producing Soft Sand and Silica Sand. Their location has meant they have been used for the importation of minerals from nearby sites for processing. The Local Aggregate Assessment produced for Hampshire highlights the importance of these minerals. The NPPF requires Mineral Planning Authorities maintain a minimum 7 year landbank for Soft Sand, however in Hampshire the landbank is far below this threshold.

The potential for the prior extraction of minerals should be explored and considered at the policy making stage.

In terms of waste planning:

Policy 27 sets out the needs of waste infrastructure capacity

Policy 29 sets out the locations for new waste sites, which includes areas of major or new development.

HCC responded to the Draft Local Plan 2024, including comments relating to minerals and waste.

Surrey County Council

The East Hampshire Plan Area borders Surrey and there are also potential mineral safeguarding issues which affect Surrey.

Surrey County Council has responded formally to Local Plan consultation about Alton Road Sandpit minerals site, which is on the boundary with East Hampshire, and which is safeguarded from incompatible development which could affect its operations, including within East Hampshire. The site is currently active and has consent for the extraction of sand and clay and infilling with inert waste. Sites in proximity should reference this within the list of constraints and opportunities associated with any proposed development.

Portsmouth Water

As part of Hampshire County Council Planning consultation on Waste and Minerals, Portsmouth Water reviews and provides comments on these plans. Any proposed or existing waste & minerals developments do pose a risk to the water environment, and Portsmouth Water would scrutinise any application or ongoing operations where applicable.

Authorities Engaged

- Hampshire County Council
- Portsmouth Water

Mechanism for Engagement

The Council meets with Hampshire County Council as part of the Duty to Co-operate. In addition, during key Local Plan consultation stages, provide the opportunity to meet with the Minerals and Waste team.

Appendix A

Extract from the Localism Act (2011)

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), each of the following is a “strategic matter”—

(a) sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and

(b) sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use—

(i) is a county matter, or

(ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter.

The Prescribed Bodies

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended state:

Duty to co-operate

4.—(1) The bodies prescribed for the purposes of section 33A(1)(c) of the Act are—

(a) the Environment Agency;

(b) the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as English Heritage);

(c) Natural England;

(d) the Mayor of London;

(e) the Civil Aviation Authority

(f) the Homes and Communities Agency;

(g) each clinical commissioning group established under section 14D of the National Health Service Act 2006;

- (ga)the National Health Service Commissioning Board;
- (h)the Office of Rail and Road;
- (i)Transport for London;
- (j)each Integrated Transport Authority;
- (k)each highway authority within the meaning of section 1 of the Highways Act 1980 (including the Secretary of State, where the Secretary of State is the highways authority); and
- (l)the Marine Management Organisation.

(2) The bodies prescribed for the purposes of section 33A(9) of the Act are—

- (a)each local enterprise partnership; and
- (b)each local nature partnership

(3) In this regulation—

“local enterprise partnership” means a body, designated by the Secretary of State, which is established for the purpose of creating or improving the conditions for economic growth in an area; and

“local nature partnership” means a body, designated by the Secretary of State, which is established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it.