

Council 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Item 7a refers

Recommendation (1) from the Cabinet meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN MAKING – STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

The Cabinet considered the report on the South Leicestershire Local Plan Making Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (November 2021).

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local authorities have a duty to collaborate to address strategic planning matters. The Duty to Cooperate is the mechanism for ensuring that this happens. The Duty requires ongoing constructive engagement on the preparation of development plan documents and other activities in relation to the sustainable development and use of land.

Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) are a means of demonstrating the Duty to Cooperate is met, as evidence of effective ongoing collaboration and engagement between partner authorities. A SoCG is a written record of the progress made by strategic plan-making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters.

The SoCG has been prepared by jointly by Blaby District Council, Harborough District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council working in collaboration. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, as neighbouring authority, is identified as an additional signatory to this Statement of Common Ground. Leicestershire County Council, as Highway Authority, are also an additional signatory. Its purpose is to set out how the Duty to Cooperate has been met in relation to the following strategic issues: transport connectivity; other infrastructure requirements; and development pressures and opportunities.

The SoCG between the south Leicestershire authorities reflects the shared geography underpinning local planning within each of the relevant local authorities. It explains how the authorities share common boundaries and a shared transport network. This means that development in one of the authorities is likely to impact upon each of the others through the strategic and local road networks and other transport routes.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Council becomes a signatory to the Statement of Common Ground (as set out in Appendix A to the report).**

**The associated Report and appendix to the Cabinet meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 are attached**