

Statement of Common Ground between Lichfield District Council and Stafford Borough Council

Lichfield District Local Plan 2040

29June 2022

# Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Lichfield District Council (LDC) and Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

## Introduction

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Lichfield District Council (LDC) and Stafford Borough Council (SBC), hereafter referred to as “the parties” to inform the submission of the Lichfield District Local Plan 2040.
2. This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with national guidance and is intended to cover matters of strategic importance relevant to the parties. It documents those matters agreed by the parties regarding the Lichfield District Local Plan 2040 and any areas which remain subject to further discussion and therefore will be updated accordingly. In terms of outstanding issues between Lichfield District Council (LDC) and Stafford Borough Council (SBC) there are no issues at present. However, LDC and SBC will continue to work together on any issues going forward.

## Geography covered by Statement of Common Ground

1. This SoCG covers the Local Planning Authority areas of Lichfield District Council and Stafford Borough Council.

## Key Strategic Matters

1. The local authorities have had on-going dialogue on cross-boundary planning issues over the course of many years, discussing a broad range of planning issues including strategic matters. These include: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation provision. These discussions have informed the development of adopted plans and other related documents.
2. The following issues, in subsequent sections, are considered to be the key strategic matters with regards to on-going plan making, although there are other issues which may have cross boundary impacts. Both authorities are committed to further dialogue moving forward, not just limited to the periods of plan preparation.
3. It is acknowledged that LDC published consultation material and invited comments relating to its Local Plan 2040 process at the following stages:
   * Scope, Issues and Options – April to June 2018.
   * Preferred Options and Policy Directions – January to March 2019.
   * Preferred Options – November 2019 to January 2020.
   * Publication Version – July to August 2021.
4. At each stage SBC have been consulted on these documented and responded as they considered appropriate.

### Housing

1. LDC is one of fourteen authorities which make up the Greater Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area (GBBCHMA) and is an active member of the GBBCHMA Technical Officers Group since it was established. SBC is not within the GBBCHMA. As such it is noted that there are no housing related issues between the authorities.

## Other Strategic Matters / Cross boundary matters

### Transport

1. Lichfield District Council and Stafford Borough Council are committed to continue working together in partnership, with the aim of ensuring the necessary transport and highways improvements to support sustainable growth are achieved where relevant to the geographical area. Both parties will keep each other fully informed of any changes to highways improvements and will continue to liaise on this matter where appropriate.

### Gypsy & Traveller Provision

1. LDC will support the delivery of a minimum of seven residential pitches to meet the identified needs of gypsies and travellers to 2040 including meeting the identified need for four of these pitches by 2024. The Lichfield District Local Plan 2040 does not identify sufficient sites to meet these requirements.
2. LDC has previously written to neighbouring authorities, including SBC in March 2017 as part of the Local Plan Site Allocations, to ascertain if authorities were able to assist Lichfield District Council in meeting the unmet need in relation to accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. SBC confirmed they were unable to assist in meeting this unmet need.
3. LDC and SBC will continue to cooperate with neighbouring authorities in relation to housing matters, including gypsy and traveller provision.

### Infrastructure

1. LDC and SBC are committed to continue working together in partnership, with the aim of ensuring the necessary infrastructure improvements to support sustainable growth across the relevant geographical area. Both parties will keep each other fully informed of any changes to infrastructure matters and will continue to liaise on this matter where appropriate.

## Natural and Historic Environment

1. LDC and SBC are committed to continue working together as part of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Partnership with the aim of ensuring that the integrity of the Cannock Chase SAC is protected and that appropriate mitigation measures are secured in order to ensure development does not have adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC.
2. SBC supports the policies and approach taken within the Lichfield District Local Plan 2040 with regards to the Cannock Chase SAC.
3. Both LDC and SBC acknowledge the need for both authorities to continue working collaboratively with Natural England and other partners in relation to visitor impacts from the residents of new development within 15 km of the SAC, and in relation to air quality impacts from new development and associated commuting.
4. LDC and the SBC are committed to continue working together in respect of matters relating to the natural and historic environment where these are applicable to the authorities.

## Signatures

We confirm that the information in this Statement of Common Ground reflects the joint working to address identified strategic matters that has been undertaken between Lichfield District Council and Stafford Borough Council. The authorities will continue to work together to address cross-boundary issues

**Lichfield District Council**

**Name: Councillor Iain Eadie**

**Position: Deputy Leader**

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**Date: 29/06/22**

**Stafford Borough Council**

**Name: Craig Jordan**

**Position: Interim Head of Development**

**Signature: A picture containing antenna

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**Date: 30th June 2022**