

## **Authority Monitoring Report 2019:** **Duty to Cooperate**

The 'Duty to Cooperate' is one of the indicators that must be monitored and reported by local authorities in line with the regulations.

The 'Duty to Co-operate' was introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. The Duty requires Local Planning authorities to work collaboratively with prescribed public bodies in relation to strategic issues throughout the plan-making process. Local authorities that are unable to demonstrate that they have met the requirements of the Duty are likely to have any Local Plan they are preparing found unsound at Examination.

As part of the plan-making process as well as Council's on-going commitment to meeting the requirements of the Duty, active engagement with the neighbouring Local Planning authorities and other organisations has taken place. This engagement will continue as part of the Local Plan process even after adoption.

Active engagement with the housing market area (HMA) authorities and those outside the HMA has taken place at Member and officer level. HMA authorities include Leicester and Leicestershire authorities including the Leicestershire and Leicester Local Enterprise Partnership (LLEP). These are:

- [Leicester City Council](#)
- [Leicestershire County Council](#)
- [Blaby District Council](#)
- [Harborough District Council](#)
- [Hinckley and Bosworth Council](#)
- [North West Leicestershire District Council](#)
- [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council](#)
- [Charnwood Borough Council](#)

Continuous dialogue and participating in formal consultation processes has taken place with those authorities outside the HMA. These authorities include:

- [Rushcliffe Borough Council](#)
- [South Kesteven District Council](#)
- [Rutland Council](#)

- [Newark and Sherwood District Council](#)
- [Lincolnshire County Council](#)
- [Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Active engagement in the form of meetings and the preparation of some statements of common ground also took place with the following organisations as part of formal consultation process:

- [Environment Agency](#)
- [Historic England](#)
- [Natural England](#)
- [Clinical Commissioning Groups](#) formerly known as Primary Care Trust
- [Highways England](#)
- [Sport England](#)
- [Office of Rail and Road](#) / [Network Rail](#)

Apart from regular engagement with the organisations above and neighbouring authorities, Melton Borough Council has also been involved in the preparation of the Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) along with the Leicestershire authorities and the LLEP. The SGP is a non-statutory document which addresses strategic housing, strategic infrastructure and employment issues across the County with a horizon to 2050. It was agreed by all participating organisations including Melton Borough Council in late 2018 and will be implemented by the Commitment made by the partner Authorities to align their Local Plans/Reviews to its content.

In terms of governance arrangements, the Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP), work collaboratively to address strategic issues relevant to the area. This work is led by the Members' Advisory Group (MAG) which comprises a councillor for each local authority and an observer from the LLEP. Proposals or recommendations of MAG are not binding on the constituent member authorities. The MAG is supported by a Strategic Planning Group (SPG) made up of senior management representatives of each local authority. The SPG is supported by the Planning Officer's Forum (POF) made up of Chief Officers (or their nominee), who provide professional advice to the SPG. Finally, the Development Plans Forum (DPF) made up of planning managers (or their nominee) from the local authorities reports to POF.

In this context, the Leicestershire authorities including Melton and other bodies are currently working on a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) to address strategic issues, and particularly the unmet housing need from Leicester City. To date, only Leicester City has declared that it will not be able to meet all of its housing needs up to 2031 and that the amount of the unmet need has yet to be quantified and resolved in discussion with the housing market area partners.