

Melton Borough Council Draft Local Plan Duty to Cooperate (DtC) Addendum June 2017

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Duty to Cooperate was introduced in the Localism Act of 2011, and requires local authorities to work with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies in preparing their development plan documents.

1.2 A 'Duty of Cooperate' statement was prepared and published with the draft Pre-Submission Local Plan in November 2016.

1.3 This addendum seeks to set out how Melton Borough Council has discharged its Duty to Cooperate in relation to the production of the Melton Local Plan since its pre-submission version in November last year.

It must be noted that the DtC statement remains work in progress until the Plan is submitted to the Government in order to record and include any ongoing duty till the submission of the Local Plan.

1.4 This addendum includes updates on the strategic matters that made progress after the submission of the pre-submission version, and / or where new evidence has emerged from engagement with the neighbouring authorities or the statutory bodies.

1.5 These updates include:

- Engagement with the Leicestershire authorities on Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) as covered in Item 3B (appendix 1),
- Joint Statement of Cooperation between Leicester and Leicestershire authorities (Item 3B, appendix 4)
- Engagement with the Local Education Authority (LEA)
- Indoor Sports Facilities with Sport England
- Gypsies and Travellers Assessment
- Heritage England

2.0 Housing Need assessment

2.1 Melton Borough Council has been jointly working with the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities to produce the HEDNA, which was published in January this year. HEDNA was published along with the report on 'Towards the Housing Requirement for Melton' (HRR), which outlined the implications of HEDNA and suggested an appropriate housing requirement for the borough. The HRR report recommended a requirement for Melton within the range of 230-280 dwellings per annum (5,750-7,000 over the period 2011-2036).

2.2 A Joint Statement of Cooperation between Leicester and Leicestershire authorities was also published alongside HEDNA in January. The Statement identifies that at present there is no declared unmet need in the HMA but it is recognised that the ability of each local authority to meet its own OAN will vary. With the exception of Leicester City Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, all authorities are able to accommodate their own needs. It is important to note, however, that that further testing will be required by the respective authorities through their Local Plan process. Should an authority identify, quantify and provide robust evidence to demonstrate an unmet need in the future, it will be incumbent upon that authority to resolve any cross-boundary matters with HMA partners under the Duty to Cooperate.

3.0 Engagement with the LEA

- 3.1 MBC has been having a continuous and ongoing engagement with the LEA, apart from the statutory consultation of the draft Local Plan.
The engagement has resulted in agreement and consideration of the updated capacities within the schools in the borough.
These findings have informed the updated site assessment process that has informed the site selection for the housing allocations in the local plan.

4.0 Indoor Sports Facilities with Sport England

- 4.1 A new indoor sports facilities strategy has been prepared and Sport England have been consulted through every stage of the Strategy (see Appendix 9, Item 3I).
- 4.2 The findings of the strategy have led to suggested changes in the r.j and Policy EN7

5.0 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment

- 5.1 A joint report with Leicester and Leicestershire authorities on the accommodation assessment of Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople has recently been prepared.
- 5.2 The findings of the GTAA 2017 on permanent pitch requirements are unchanged from those in the draft version of the GTAA 2016 (as cited in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan): Melton's permanent pitch requirement from April 2016 to March 2021 is 2 permanent residential pitches, and between April 2021 and March 2026 it is 1 permanent residential pitch. There is no further requirement for any permanent pitches from April 2026 to 2036.
- 5.3 The findings of the GTAA 2017 on permanent pitch requirements are unchanged from those in the draft version of the GTAA 2016 (as cited in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan): Melton's permanent pitch requirement from April 2016 to March 2021 is 2 permanent residential pitches, and between April 2021 and March 2026 it is 1 permanent residential pitch. There is no further requirement for any permanent pitches from April 2026 to 2036.
- 5.4 Due to the granting of planning permission for a total of 5 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches in 2015 and 2016, the need identified in the GTAA 2017 is already met, so no further permanent pitch allocations are included in this plan. If subsequent GTAA reviews establish an unmet need (or the planning permissions are not implemented), a review of this policy will be carried out.

6.0 Involvement with Heritage England

- 6.1 Melton Borough Council has been engaging with Heritage England to take their representations on board on the site allocations in the pre-submission draft Local Plan.
- 6.2 A draft statement of common ground has been agreed and prepared, the findings of which have been used to influence the site selection and assessment process for the housing allocations. These are reflected in the site-specific policies and included in the suggested changes to the Policies C1(A) and C1(B) (See Item 3E).

7.0 Strategic Growth Plan

- 7.1 Melton Borough Council along with Leicester and Leicestershire authorities is working towards the preparation of a Strategic Growth Plan in order to guide the strategic distribution of growth within Leicestershire.

- 7.1 The Strategic Growth Plan will be a non-statutory plan so there will be flexibility regarding its content. The MAG has agreed a three-stage process.
- 7.2 The three stages are as follows:
- Stage 1 (consultation Summer 2016): Strategic Growth Statement – a long term vision to 2050.
 - Stage 2 (consultation Summer 2017): Development of the Draft Plan – to include housing targets, employment land, areas of search/directions of growth, major infrastructure requirements, protecting environmental assets.
 - Stage 3 (consultation late 2017/early 2018): Final Plan

8.0 Onward Duty

- 8.1 Apart from the recent engagement with the neighbouring authorities and statutory bodies, the council is committed to invite representations on the focussed changes version of the Local Plan and continues to work with Leicestershire authorities to prepare the Strategic Growth Plan.
- 8.2 It must be noted that the neighbouring authorities outside the HMA (Rushcliffe, South Kesteven, Rutland, Newark and Sherwood, Nottingham County Council and Lincolnshire County) have not raised any issues since the last statement was published and are happy to meet their own needs.
- 8.2 The duty to cooperate is an ongoing process and will be updated at the time of the examination.