

# QUESTIONS AND AGENDA FOR THE INITIAL HEARING SESSION ON ISSUE 1

## THE DUTY TO CO-OPERATE

**Venue:** The Council Chamber, St Albans City and District Council, Civic Centre, St Peters Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3JE

**Sitting time:** 14.00 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### **Statements:**

The Inspector requests a written response from the Council to all the questions posed.

Written Statements from other attendees are not compulsory but may assist the debate. If a Statement is produced it should seek only to answer the Inspector's Questions.

The 'Guidance Note' provided sets out the requirements for the presentation of all Statements.

### **Statement deadlines:**

All Statements relating to Issue 1 must be sent to the Programme Officer by midday on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. This deadline relates to the receipt of both paper and electronic copies.

The examination starts from the assumption that the Council considers that it has fulfilled its legal duty with regard to the Duty to Co-operate and has submitted what it considers to be a sound Plan.

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## **AGENDA**

### **Introduction by the Inspector**

### **Opening Statement by the Council**

### **Issue 1 - The Duty to Co-operate**

#### ***Participants***

***St Albans City and District Council  
Central Bedfordshire Council (978337)  
Dacorum Borough Council (872722)  
Hertsmere Borough Council (970262)  
Hertfordshire County Council (978222  
and 905310)  
The Home Builders Federation (814065)***

***Luton Borough Council (861967)  
North Hertfordshire District Council (974380)  
Three Rivers District Council (831896)  
Watford Borough Council (978253)  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (978275)***

## Questions

1. Have cross-boundary strategic priorities been properly identified?
2. What processes and procedures have been initiated to engender co-operation? Is there a commitment to long-term co-operation?
3. From initial thinking has St Albans City and District Council engaged with nearby local planning authorities and other public bodies:
  - Constructively, collaboratively and diligently (for example has the Council responded constructively to requests for co-operation?)
  - actively and in a sustained manner
  - on an on-going basis
  - for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities?
4. Is the evidence of co-operation robust?
5. The outcomes of co-operation – how has co-operation influenced the content of the Strategic Local Plan?

Has the effectiveness of the plan making process been maximised and have effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary matters been produced (including the element of soundness that refers to effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities – NPPF paragraph 182)? For example in relation to:

- Housing (including gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople)
  - Jobs
  - Retail
  - Infrastructure provision (including highways)
  - Green belt
6. Any other related matters

## Comments from the public gallery (and the Council's response)

## Concluding comments from the Inspector