

St Albans City and District Council Strategic Local Plan (SLP)

DUTY TO COOPERATE WRITTEN STATEMENT

Hertfordshire County Council (representor 905310)

Introduction

- 1.1 Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Property (Development Services) made representations in relation to the St Albans City and District Council (SACDC) Strategic Local Plan (SLP) Publication Draft. They represented the interests of various departments within the County Council, including Children's Services (CS), Health and Community Services, (HCS), Libraries and Community Protection.
- 1.2 HCC Development Services objected to the plan on the basis that it failed to acknowledge the need for and location of a new secondary school within Harpenden in both SLP policy, and on the key diagram. It is considered that inclusion within the SLP is necessary to facilitate a detailed Site Allocation to be made through the Detailed Local Plan (DLP). Failing to deal with the issue more positively and proactively at this stage is considered unsound. Specific objections were made to the following policies:
- SLP 3 Metropolitan Green Belt
 - SLP 6 Education
- 1.3 HCC has previously outlined the need for school places across the district within representations made to the SLP. SACDC has decided to deal with this issue at Detailed Local Plan stage. The wider requirement includes two new secondary schools (one at Harpenden, required now and the other at St Albans, required later in the plan period) and a number of primary schools. HCC objected to the SLP in relation to the Harpenden site, since a body of evidence had been put forward which would have enabled SACDC to identify a site at SLP stage.

Duty to Cooperate response

- 2.1 The following responses to the Inspectors Duty to Cooperate Questions have been prepared to outline HCC Development Service's position with regard the Duty in the context of the representations made on the SLP.

Question	Response
1. Have cross-boundary strategic priorities been properly identified?	The SLP recognises the need for additional school places within the plan period but as outlined in our representation HCC considers that a new secondary school site should have been identified at Lower Luton Lane Harpenden.
2. What processes and procedures have been initiated to engender co-	SACDC's Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance (CD015)

operation? Is there a commitment to long-term co-operation?	documents discussions and procedures for ongoing cooperation with HCC.
<p>3. From initial thinking has St Albans City and District Council engaged with nearby local planning authorities and other public bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? 	HCC Development Services considers that engagement has taken place but as outlined within our representations a site for a secondary school in Harpenden should have been identified.
4. Is the evidence of co-operation robust?	SACDC's Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance (CD015) documents discussions and procedures for cooperation with HCC.
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)?	As stated, the SLP recognises the need for additional school places within the plan period and that sites for new schools will be required. HCC Development Services' objections are on soundness grounds. Evidence was put forward to support the identification of a new secondary school site at Lower Luton Lane Harpenden.
6. Any other related matters	No.

Matthew Wilson
Principal Planning Officer