



Duty to Cooperate meeting between St Albans DC and Hertfordshire CC

VENUE: Via MS Teams

DATE: 1 November 2024 @ 15.00

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions

HCC – Cllr Boulton, Rupert Thacker, Jamie Alderson, Charlie Thompson, Anthony Collier

SADC – Cllr De Kort, Chris Traill, Chris Briggs

2. Update on St Albans Local Plan

a. Timetable for new Local Plan

Cllr De Kort – Reg 19 live til 8 November; PP&C 28 September; intended Submission 29 November; Full Council approval to Submit the Plan

b. SADC current Local Plan Reg 19 Publication

CB – LP content largely similar to Regulation 18 Consultation version in 2023 – same Broad Locations but capacities for some updated; policies largely similar but updated; meeting the Standard Method for housing in full

Cllr Boulton – check it is the current Standard Method, not the Government’s proposed new Standard Method – CB – yes that is correct and as allowed for in the Government’s proposed new NPPF transition arrangements

c. NPPF paragraph 146 - *Before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries*¹

N/A

d. Statement of Common Ground inc. updated DtC Matrix

CB – outlined that the Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) is high level

JA – yes HCC consider that SADC have fully met the DtC; HCC will be supportive of the Local Plan but will raise a number of areas where the Local Plan can be made more effective

JA – from a Highways perspective also supportive of the SADC Local Plan

JA/AC – will be a number of points of detail where HCC will be raising soundness objections in order to make the Local Plan more effective

CT – language is important for SADC that HCC reps and the wording around being ‘unsound but being capable of being sound’ if matters of detail in policies have relatively minor amendments is key

JA – HCC reps have been structured to be along the lines set out by CT

JA – tone will be supportive to SADC but raising matters of detail

CB/JA – also agree in some instances further work is required – much of which is already in progress – eg on IDP and HGC transport evidence

RT – HCC will be ticking the unsound box at this point in time for a number of matters of detail, but they are capable of being addressed

RT – making sure that there is the joined up approach

Cllr De Kort – comfortable with the discussion today

Cllr De Kort – SADC continues to give the commitment to further work and routes to deal with points of detail that we will need to work on jointly to resolve in due course

ChT – SoCG – process for the finalisation of the SoCG – HCC will be circulating a slightly revised draft in coming days

CB - will circulate a slightly updated SoCG with draft Meeting Notes next Tuesday 5 November

CB – if HCC could return a signed version by roughly 20 November to enable SADC to send with the Local Plan Submission on 29 November that would be very helpful

Cllr Boulton/JA/ChT – should be possible

3. Update on Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan

a. Timetable for new Local Transport Plan

RT – HCC moving forward, but still awaiting Government guidance that has been outstanding for some time

RT – key route for HCC is the HERT

CB – SADC fully supportive of HERT

b. HCC draft Local Transport Plan

As above

4. A.O.B and Date of Next Meeting

All – agreed no need for a follow up meeting at this time

¹ NPPF paragraph 146 - Before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, the strategic policy-making authority should be able to demonstrate that it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development. This will be assessed through the examination of its strategic policies, which will take into account the preceding paragraph, and whether the strategy... has been informed by discussions with neighbouring authorities about whether they could accommodate some of the identified need for development, as demonstrated through the statement of common ground.