



## Duty to Cooperate meeting between St Albans DC and Dacorum BC

**VENUE: Via MS Teams**

**DATE: 1 November 2024 @ 14.00**

### Meeting Notes

#### 1. Introductions

SADC – Cllr de Kort, Chris Traill, Chris Briggs  
 DBC – Cllr England, Ronan Leydon

#### 2. Update on St Albans Local Plan

##### a. Timetable for new Local Plan

Cllr De Kort – outlined the Local Plan Regulation 19 Publication now live from 26 Sep until 8 Nov; Planning Policy & Climate Committee meeting 28 November; aiming to Submit circa 29 November

Cllr England – asked what response level to the Reg 19 SADC were expecting – CB – very hard to estimate as so many will be submitted in the last 72 hours, but expectation roughly mid hundreds of responses

RL – Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) – what timescale are SADC hoping to agree the SoCG within? – CB – SoCG signed and returned to by 20 November to enable sending to PINS with Submission on 29 November is the aim

RL – query about submission printing – CB – happy to set out that PINS have confirmed that no printing is required and Submissions can now be made effectively electronically only

##### b. SADC current Local Plan Reg 19 Publication

CB – outlined 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 numbers in full

RL – question about Standard Method housing number, is there a buffer? – CB yes about 2.6% buffer

RL – DBC read the SADC LP in detail

RL – DBC will not be objecting on DtC – strong alignment on DtC

RL – DBC support lots of the aspects of the draft Local Plan and the overall approach; there is only one point of soundness that DBC will raise likely raised, as DBC has raised the issue before on Gypsy and

Traveller provision at HGC – 1 – size and scale; - 2 – Gypsy and Traveller needs appear to have gone up and SADC has not allocated enough sites to meet need in full

CB – SADC technical work on provision for G&T still ongoing – no expectation for DBC or other LPAs to meet any of SADC's Gypsy and Traveller needs

RL – Affordable Housing – DBC intending to support the policy – DBC would like something set out in the draft Local Plan itself about DBC having some rights to Affordable Housing nomination rights at HGC – something to be added to the supporting text

CB – SADC have agreed that DBC should have some Affordable Housing nomination right at HGC over some time – Cllr De Kort – supports this position on Affordable Housing and DBC having some nomination rights –

RL – Household Waste Recycling Centre – DBC happy to support the joint policy approach in both Local Plans

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

CB – as in previous DtC discussions, outlined SADC have limited non-Green Belt capacity so the draft LP allocates circa 10,000 houses and other uses in the Green Belt – can DBC assist SADC so SADC will not need to use Green Belt?

Cllr England / RL – as DBC have set out before in DtC discussions, there is no DBC capacity to meet SADC needs

RL – reciprocal question - can SADC assist DBC so DBC will not need to use Green Belt? – CB / Cllr De Kort – SADC has no capacity to meet DBC needs

d. Statement of Common Ground inc. updated DtC Matrix

CB – outlined the DtC Matrix and the SoCG and that it would be very helpful if DBC were able to sign by 20 November so SADC could send with Local Plan Submission on 29 November

RL – timescale for DBC to start Reg 19 is tight and DBC will respond shortly to the SoCG with some limited changes

RL – something concise in the form of a DBC SoCG coming soon from DBC for SADC

RL – confirm the intention for SADC SoCG is for Cllrs to sign for LPAs – CB - yes

3. Update on Dacorum Local Plan

a. Timetable for new Local Plan

Cllr England – looking forward to 12.00 and DBC go live for the Reg 19 on Monday 4 November for 6 weeks until just before Christmas  
Cllr England – looking closely at what the new NPPF will say  
RL – evidence base mostly publicly available already

b. DBC draft Local Plan

RL – finalising a few matters of detail  
RL – meeting Standard Method from housing in full; challenges around Habitat Regulations and the pressures on the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC  
RL – comprehensive IDP  
RL – Hemel Sustainable Transport Study  
RL – whittled down the draft LP in terms of length  
CB – had an initial read through the DBC committee version of the Reg 19 and initial high level response is support from SADC, with caveat that need to look at the detail appropriately in due course  
RL – important to remain aligned on HGC – CB – agree that it is important that both SADC and DBC will remain aligned to assist delivery of both LPs

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

All – agree no need to schedule another meeting currently

*<sup>1</sup> 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.*