

OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN

Duty to Cooperate Statement

January 2018



DUTY TO COOPERATE STATEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement has been prepared to support the Examination Stage of the Local Plan (Regulation 22). The statement presents a summary of the approach taken so far by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to address the duty to cooperate (“the Duty”) and show how the Council has discharged the duty to cooperate in relation to the production of the Local Plan. It identifies and explains ways in which the Council has collaborated and cooperated with other public bodies and stakeholders and organisations throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 1.2 The Localism Act (2011) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) place a duty on local planning authorities and other bodies to co-operate with each other to address strategic issues relevant to their areas. The duty requires ongoing constructive engagement on the preparation of development plan documents and other activities in relation to the sustainable development and use of land.
- 1.3 The document should be read in conjunction with the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Statement of Consultation which provides details of the statutory consultations that have taken place, including who was consulted and how they were consulted at each public consultation stage of the Local Plan, a summary of representations made at each public consultation stage of the Local Plan and how any representations made were taken into account throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.

2 WHAT IS THE DUTY TO COOPERATE?

2.1 The Localism Act (2011) makes strategic planning the responsibility of local councils. Section 110 of the Localism Act, which amended the Compulsory and Purchase Act (2004), introduced in Section 33A, sets out the 'duty to cooperate' and places a legal duty on all Local Planning Authorities, County Council's and other prescribed bodies to cooperate with each other when preparing Development Plan Documents in order to address strategic planning issues relevant to their areas. This duty to cooperate:

- relates to a 'strategic matters' defined as sustainable development or use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two Local Planning Authority areas or on a matter that falls within the remit of a County Council;
- requires that Councils set out planning policies to address such issues;
- requires that Councils and other bodies 'engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' to develop strategic policies; and,
- requires Councils to consider joint approaches to Plan making.

2.2 The prescribed Local Planning Authorities and County Council for Oadby and Wigston Borough Council are identified as follows;

Leicestershire Authorities

- Blaby District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council*
- Harborough District Council
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council*
- Leicester City Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Melton Borough Council *
- North West Leicestershire Borough Council *

*Not adjoining Oadby and Wigston Borough Council but within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area.

2.3 As well as applying to the above, the Duty also applies to a number of other "prescribed" bodies. Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 sets out who those "prescribed" bodies are. Those bodies which are relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan are as follows:

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- The Homes and Communities Agency*
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- The Office for Rail Regulation
- Highways England
- Leicestershire County Council (Highway Authority)
- The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership
- The Leicestershire Local Nature Partnership

*The Homes and Communities Agency was rebranded as Homes England in January 2018.

These bodies or their predecessors have been consulted where appropriate at each stage in the preparation of the Local Plan.

2.4 Through the duty to cooperate the Council is expected to demonstrate evidence of having successfully cooperated to plan for issues with cross boundary impacts when it's Local Plan is submitted for examination. It is considered that the key requirement is therefore to present clear 'outcomes' that have emerged from the process of cooperation that has taken place.

3 NATIONAL POLICY ON DUTY TO COOPERATE

3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) amplifies the requirements of the duty. Paragraph 156 of the NPPF identifies the strategic priorities that a Local Plan should deliver and where co-operation might be appropriate:

- *the home and jobs needed in the areas*
- *the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;*
- *the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunication, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat)*
- *the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities and*
- *climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.*

3.2 Paragraph 162 of the NPPF makes it clear that local planning authorities should work with other local planning authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of a range of infrastructure types. This will ensure that key infrastructure such as transport, telecommunications, energy, water, health, social care and education, is properly planned for.

3.3 Paragraphs 178 to 181 of the NPPF identify that public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those related to strategic issues. Joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot be wholly met within their areas. It also identifies that co-operation should be a continuous process of engagement to ensure that plans are in place to provide the infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development. Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination.

3.4 In paragraph 182, the NPPF also sets out the tests which will be used in the examination of Local Plans. A Local Planning Authority must be satisfied that the submitted Local Plan is 'sound' and that it is:

- *Positively prepared – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;*
- *Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategy priorities.*

4 HOW LOCAL AUTHORITIES WORK JOINTLY ACROSS THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE HOUSING MARKET AREA?

- 4.1 Across the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) there has been wide ranging co-operation, particularly in respect of joint evidence gathering, and some that pre-dates the Duty to Co-operate requirement. Later parts of this statement detail where such joint evidence gathering has taken place.
- 4.2 There are a number of officer forums within the HMA which aim to promote joint work and to address key strategic issues such as delivery of housing, employment and key infrastructure by local planning authorities, Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership. These are as follows:
- Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Group
 - Planning Officers' Forum (POF)
 - Development Management Forum
 - Development Plans Forum (DPF)
- 4.3 The role of Strategic Planning Group (SPG) is to oversee policy development for spatial planning, housing and infrastructure amongst Leicestershire local authorities. The Group meets regularly and is attended by senior management team representatives from all authorities across the HMA (including Leicestershire County Council, Homes England and LLEP).
- 4.4 SPG oversees the commissioning and running of joint work, for example, the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA, 2017) and provides a forum at a high level for discussing common issues and developing understanding. It provides a direct link to the work of the LLEP and is currently leading on, the development of a Strategic Growth Plan for the HMA.
- 4.5 The Planning Officers' Forum (POF) is a formal meeting of Chief Officers (or their nominee) responsible for planning and transport services within the HMA. The Forum provides professional advice to the Strategic Planning Group that supports its overall direction and work programme and the Chair of POF represents the views of the wider Forum at meetings of SPG. POF meets regularly in synergy with SPG.
- 4.6 The Development Plans Forum (DPF) is a formal meeting of the managers responsible for planning and transport policy within the HMA and reports to POF with the Chair attending POF as required.
- 4.7 The work of SPG and the subsidiary officer groups is overseen by a Member Advisory Group (MAG) which comprises of one senior Member representative from each local authority, plus an observer from the LLEP. The MAG meets on a regular frequency and its role is advisory with decisions being the responsibility of each individual member authority.

STRATEGIC CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES

During the course of preparing the Local Plan, the Borough Council has identified a number of strategic cross boundary issues over which it has sought to co-operate with duty to co-operate partners. These are set out in the table below.

NPPF Strategic Priorities	Strategic Cross Boundary Issues
Homes and Jobs	Housing Provision Employment Land Provision Allocations Provision for Gypsies and Travellers Green Wedges
Retail, Leisure and Commercial	Retail Provision and Hierarchy of Centres
Infrastructure	Transport and Highways Education Utilities
Health, Security, Community and Cultural Infrastructure	Provision of Health and Emergency Services
Climate Change, conservation and natural and historic environment	Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, Climate Change and Flood Risk

NPPF Strategic Priority	Homes and Jobs
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Housing Provision
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	There is a need to undertake an assessment of Objectively Assessed Need for housing in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area and to establish whether each of the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities can meet its own need within its boundaries. If this is not the case, arrangements must be put in place to establish how this need will be met elsewhere.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Blaby District Council Charnwood Borough Council Harborough District Council Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Leicester City Council Leicester City Highways Authority Melton Borough Council North West Leicestershire District Council Leicestershire County Council Leicestershire Highways Authority Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	<p>The partner organisations have worked together to commission a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which was prepared by G L Hearn and Justin Gardner and Associates. An officer level working group was established with representation from each partner organisation to oversee the production of the HEDNA and the whole project was overseen by Strategic Planning Group. The completed report was reported to the Member Advisory Group. It has been accepted as the most up to date evidence by all partner organisations in the Housing Market Area.</p> <p>The partner organisations set up an officer level Spatial Options Working Group with representation from each partner organisation to draw together discussions as to whether each partner can accommodate its Objectively Assessed Need for housing and to consider matters associated with any potential unmet need.</p> <p>The partner organisations have prepared a Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need which documents the outcomes of this work. This was reported to Strategic Planning Group and the Member Advisory Group. It was also approved by the appropriate decision making body within each of the partner organisations.</p> <p>The partner organisations are also working together over the preparation of a Strategic Growth Plan. This work is being overseen by the Strategic Planning Group and the Member Advisory Group. The Strategic Growth Plan identifies that up to 2031 housing needs can be met through Local Plans. The Strategic Growth Plan will put in place a plan led mechanism for meeting housing needs beyond 2031 looking ahead to 2050.</p>

	In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan over housing matters.
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of a HEDNA setting out the extent of the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area and the Leicester and Leicestershire Functional Economic Market Area • Production of a HEDNA setting out Objectively Assessed Need for housing • Evidenced agreement that all partner organisations can meet their Objectively Assessed Need for housing up to 2031 with the exception of Leicester City Council • Evidenced agreement that the Objectively Assessed Need for housing arising in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area can be met within the Housing Market Area up to 2031 • Evidenced agreement that the Objectively Assessed Need for housing arising in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area cannot be met within Oadby and Wigston after 2031 unless large scale strategic highway and transport infrastructure is provided within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area. • Agreement of a trigger mechanism setting out the circumstances when, under the duty to co-operate, a partner organisation would commit to undertake a review of its Local Plan • Agreement of a Joint Statement of Co-operation relating to Objectively Assessed Need • The preparation of a Strategic Growth Plan that will provide a plan led framework beyond the plan period.
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	No impact. The Local Plan sets out how the Objectively Assessed Need for housing for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston can be met in full within the Borough up to 2031.
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Affordable Housing
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	According to the latest Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment that has been undertaken for the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area, the Borough has an identified Affordable Housing need. Given the location of the Borough adjacent to Leicester City and within the Leicester Principal Urban Area it is appropriate to consider this in a strategic context. The Council has also identified delivery of affordable housing as one of its priorities because it recognises the important role it plays in providing homes for all within the community.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Blaby District Council Charnwood Borough Council* Harborough District Council Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council* Leicester City Council Leicester Highways Authority Melton Borough Council* North West Leicestershire District Council*</p> <p>*local authorities comprising the Leicester and Leicestershire</p>

	<p>Housing Market Area, however do not share boundaries with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.</p>
<p>What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?</p>	<p>The partner organisations have worked together to commission a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which was prepared by G L Hearn and Justin Gardner and Associates. An officer level working group was established with representation from each partner organisation to oversee the production of the HEDNA and the whole project was overseen by Strategic Planning Group. The matter of affordable housing so far as it relates to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston is complex due to inter-relationship between the Borough and neighbouring local authority areas, particularly Leicester City. The Borough Council engaged in detailed dialogue with the consultant team and the partner organisations in the process of preparing the HEDNA to ensure that these interrelationships were appropriately recognised and reflected in the study. The Objectively Assessed Need for housing for the Borough and each of the other local authorities within the HMA took account of affordable housing need as per policy and guidance set out within national policy and guidance documentation.</p> <p>The completed report was reported to the Member Advisory Group. It has been accepted as evidence by all partner organisations in the Housing Market Area.</p> <p>The Council commissioned Andrew Golland Associates to produce an Affordable Housing Viability Assessment (AHVA) to provide the Council with evidence relating to an appropriate affordable housing threshold by which to require affordable housing provision on a development site and an appropriate percentage of affordable housing provision should a development proposal meet the prescribed threshold.</p> <p>During the production of the AHVA, Andrew Golland Associates undertook consultation with local and national Housing Associations, local and national housing developers, local estate agents, the Home Builders Federation and local authorities within the HMA. Andrew Golland Associates also undertook a consultation workshop comprising local Housing Associations, local housing developers, local estate agents, the Home Builders Federation and local authority officers within the HMA. In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan over housing matters.</p>
<p>What were the outcomes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of a HEDNA setting out the Objectively Assessed Need for housing that took account of affordable housing need as per policy and guidance set out within national policy and guidance documentation • The Council will use the nationally set threshold of 11 or more dwellings when requiring affordable housing provision on a residential development site • Relating to the provision of affordable units on a development site once the threshold is met, the Local Plan will apply the following splits, as evidenced by the AHVA, to each of the

	<p>Borough's settlements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 per cent of the total number of units should be affordable for sites located within the settlement of South Wigston, - 20 per cent of the total number of units should be affordable for sites located within the settlement of Wigston, and - 30 per cent of the total number of units should be affordable for sites located within the settlement of Oadby
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	Limited. Within the confines of national planning policy and guidance the Local Plan aims to seek as high a level of affordable housing as possible to meet its identified need yet still ensuring development is viable and deliverable. This is evidenced by the split affordable housing requirement that the Local Plan applies on a settlement basis as well as the viability evidence set out within the AHVA and the Council's Local Plan Whole Plan Viability Assessment. However, it is recognised that within a densely urbanised area such as the Leicester Principal Urban Area there will be inter-relationships as far as affordable housing is required. Due to this, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan over affordable housing matters.
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Employment Land Provision
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	There is a need to undertake an assessment of the Objectively Assessed Need for employment land in the Housing Market Area and to establish whether each of the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities can meet its own need within its boundaries. If this is not the case arrangements must be put in place to establish how this need will be met elsewhere.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Blaby District Council Charnwood Borough Council* Harborough District Council Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council* Leicester City Council Leicester Highways Authority Melton Borough Council* North West Leicestershire District Council* Leicestershire County Council Leicestershire Highways Authority Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>*local authorities comprising the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area, however do not share boundaries with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.</p>
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	The partner organisations have worked together to commission a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which was prepared by G L Hearn and Justin Gardner and Associates. An officer level working group was established with representation from each partner organisation to oversee the production of the HEDNA and the whole project was overseen by Strategic Planning Group. The completed report was reported to the Member Advisory Group. It has been accepted as the most up to date evidence by all partner organisations in the Housing Market

	<p>Area.</p> <p>The partner organisations set up an officer level Spatial Options Working Group with representation from each partner organisation to draw together discussions as to whether each partner can accommodate its employment land need and to consider matters associated with any potential unmet need.</p> <p>The partner organisations have co-operated over the production of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2020 which has been led by the LLEP. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council also liaises directly with the LLEP over inward investment and opportunities to invest and deliver economic growth in the Borough.</p> <p>The partner organisations are also working together over the preparation of a Strategic Growth Plan. This work is being overseen by the Strategic Planning Group and the Member Advisory Group. The Strategic Growth Plan identifies that up to 2031 the Objectively Assessed Need for employment land needs can be met through Local Plans. The Strategic Growth Plan will put in place a plan led mechanism for meeting employment land needs beyond 2031 looking ahead to 2050.</p> <p>In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan over employment land matters. This includes the Oadby and Wigston Employment Land and Premises Study 2017 which has formed part of the Council's evidence base during consultation periods.</p>
<p>What were the outcomes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of a HEDNA setting out the extent of the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area and the Leicester and Leicestershire Functional Economic Market Area • Production of a HEDNA setting out employment land need • Evidenced agreement where partner organisations can meet their employment land need up to 2031 • Evidenced agreement that the employment land need arising in the Housing Market Area can be met within the Housing Market Area up to 2031 • Evidenced agreement that the employment land need arising in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area cannot be met within Oadby and Wigston after 2031 unless large scale strategic highway and transport infrastructure is provided within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area • The preparation of a Strategic Growth Plan that will provide a plan led framework beyond the plan period. • The preparation and implementation of a Strategic Economic Plan.
<p>What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners</p>	<p>No impact. The Local Plan sets out how the Objectively Assessed Need for employment land needs of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston can be met in full within the Borough up to 2031.</p>

Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Allocations
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	The Local Plan allocates three Direction for Growth areas, employment land sites, town centre redevelopment sites, and smaller residential sites in order to meet the Borough's housing and employment land needs. Some of these sites are close to the boundary with neighbouring districts and have the potential for cross boundary impacts, in particular relating to highway and transport infrastructure capacity. One of the sites requires the release of Green Wedge land.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Blaby District Council Charnwood Borough Council* Harborough District Council Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council* Leicester City Council Leicester Highways Authority Melton Borough Council* North West Leicestershire District Council* Leicestershire County Council Leicestershire Highways Authority Leicestershire Education Authority</p> <p>*local authorities comprising the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area, however do not share boundaries with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.</p>
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	<p>The Borough Council has proactively co-operated with the local authority partner organisations over the production of a joint methodology for the review of Green Wedges in Leicester and Leicestershire. The methodology has informed the Council's Green Wedge Review 2017 which made recommendations regarding the release of Green Wedge land, specifically taking account of the greenfield release site options progressed through the Local Plan process.</p> <p>Through the production of the Local Plan the Council has consulted with both Leicester City Council and Harborough District Council on the allocation of the Stoughton Grange Direction for Growth Area, which involves the de-designation of a small area of the Oadby, Thurnby, Stoughton Green Wedge. Both authorities have also been consulted on the proposed extension to the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge. Consultation also took place relating to the Council's Green Wedge Review through the production of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Council has worked with Harborough District Council and the two Highways Authorities over the production of a South East Leicestershire Transport Study 2017. This study has considered the level of planned growth proposed in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston and Harborough District and considered its cumulative effect to the south and east of Leicester and the Leicester Principal Urban Area in this vicinity. The study concluded that the infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate the planned level of growth up to 2031 subject to the implementation of an identified set of mitigation works. The same authorities have subsequently agreed</p>

	<p>a Joint Position Statement on the matter which sets out how they will work together to finance and deliver the necessary mitigation works.</p> <p>The Council has engaged in meetings with Leicestershire County Council's Education department to ensure that its Allocations reflect any resulting increased demand on education provision. These discussions have led to the requirement for the provision of a new Primary School to be provided as part of the Wigston Direction for Growth. The Council has also engaged with other infrastructure providers, including utility companies in the preparation of its Local Infrastructure Plan. The Local Infrastructure Plan set out infrastructure requirements relating to each of the Direction for Growth Areas.</p> <p>In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan in respect of the Allocations set out in the plan.</p>
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed release of land from the Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge to enable allocation of the Stoughton Grange Direction for Growth • Evidence agreement of a Joint Position Statement relating to the implementation of the South East Leicestershire Transport Study • The requirement for the provision of a new Primary School at the Wigston Direction for Growth • A Local Infrastructure Plan setting out infrastructure requirements for each of the Direction for Growth areas
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	Limited. Provision will be made to ensure that education provision can be met within the Borough and without creating additional pressure in Leicester. The Joint Position Statement relating to the implementation of the South East Leicestershire Transport Study will ensure that identified mitigation schemes are implemented to limit the impact of growth on the highway network within and adjoining the Borough. The release of land from the Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge to enable allocation of the Oadby Grange Direction for Growth will not have any impact on duty to co-operate partners.
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Provision for Gypsies and Travellers
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	It is important to provide for the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within the wider context of meeting identified local housing needs. There are distinct differences in the culture and way of life of Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough Council</p> <p>Blaby District Council</p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council*</p> <p>Harborough District Council</p> <p>Leicester City Council</p> <p>Melton Borough Council*</p> <p>North West Leicestershire District Council*</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council</p>

	<p>Leicestershire Multi Agency Traveller Unit</p> <p>*local authorities comprising the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area, however do not share boundaries with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.</p>
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	The partner organisations have worked together to commission a Leicester and Leicestershire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (2017) which was prepared by Opinions Research Limited (ORS). An officer level working group was established with representation from each partner organisation to oversee the production of the Leicester and Leicestershire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment and the whole project was overseen by Strategic Planning Group and Planning Officers Forum. It has been accepted as evidence by all partner organisations in the Housing Market Area. A separate study was commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) due to Local Plan deadlines. This was also completed by ORS using the same methodology.
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment helps to understand the latest accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople within the Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities involved. • The needs assessment has an identified need for the Borough of 0 (zero), both for static and transit pitches • However, should a need arise in the future the Local Plan provides a criteria based policy to inform the consideration of potential sites.
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	No impact. The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment identifies a 0 (zero), both for static and transit pitches in the Borough. However, should a need arise in the future the Local Plan provides a criteria based policy to inform the consideration of potential sites.
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Green Wedges
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	There are two Green Wedges in the Borough. The Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge spans the administrative boundary with Leicester City to the north west. It runs north west to south east from Leicester City out towards the open countryside to the south of Oadby and east of Wigston. The Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge is situated to the north east of Oadby and crosses administrative boundaries with Leicester City and Harborough District.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Blaby District Council* Charnwood Borough Council* Harborough District Council Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council* Leicester City Council Melton Borough Council* North West Leicestershire District Council*</p> <p>*local authorities situated within the Leicester and Leicestershire</p>

	Housing Market Area that do not have cross boundary green wedges with the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	<p>The Borough Council has co-operated with the local authority partner organisations over the production of a joint methodology for the review of Green Wedges in Leicester and Leicestershire. The methodology has informed the Council's Green Wedge Review 2017 which made recommendations regarding the release of Green Wedge land.</p> <p>Green wedges within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area are an item discussed by all partner local authorities at Developer Plans Forum and Spatial Options Working Group (where relevant).</p> <p>Through the production of the Local Plan the Council has consulted with both Leicester City Council and Harborough District Council on the allocation of the Stoughton Grange Direction for Growth Area, which involves the release of a small area of the Oadby, Thurnby, Stoughton Green Wedge. Both authorities have also been consulted on the proposed extension to the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge. Consultation also took place relating to the Council's Green Wedge Review through the production of the Local Plan.</p>
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The release of land from the Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge Green Wedge to enable allocation of the Stoughton Grange Direction for Growth • Extension to the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge to guide development form and prevent coalescence of the two settlements of Wigston and Oadby.
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	No impact. The release of land from the Green Wedge from the Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge to enable allocation of the Stoughton Grange Direction for Growth and the identified extensions to the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge will not have any impact on duty to co-operate partners.

NPPF Strategic Priority	Retail, Leisure and Commercial
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Retail Provision and Hierarchy of Centres
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	Within the Borough, Wigston is identified as a main town. Oadby and South Wigston are identified as district centres. Each of these centres form part of the hierarchy of centres in the Leicester Principal Urban Area. The hierarchy is also influenced by Leicester City Centre and Fosse Park out of town retail park both of which are in close proximity to the centres within the Borough. The hierarchy is also influenced by the market town of Market Harborough in Harborough district.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Harborough District Council Leicester City Council Blaby District Council
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	The Borough Council appointed Nathaniel Litchfield & Partners to prepare the Oadby and Wigston Retail Capacity Study (2016). Nathaniel Litchfield & Partners undertook account of all neighbouring local authorities retail evidence base and sought to undertake consultation with appropriate stakeholders, as and when appropriate. In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan in respect of the Retail Provision and Hierarchy of Centres.
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The identification of Wigston as a main town, Oadby and South Wigston as district centres and a number of local centres in the Local Plan • Future policies should continue to define separate Town Centre Boundaries (TCBs) and Primary Shopping Areas (PSAs). • The Development Plan should distinguish between Primary and Secondary Frontages in Wigston and Oadby.
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	Limited impact. The partner organisations are aware of the hierarchy of centres which is relatively unchanged in recent years. The Borough Council is confident that the centres identified in the Local Plan can function appropriately and effectively at their identified level within the wider hierarchy in the Leicester Principal Urban Area and neighbouring local authority areas and without a detrimental impact on other centres.

NPPF Strategic Priority	Infrastructure
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Transport and Highways
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	The Borough is located to the south east of the Leicester Principal Urban Area. It has several main routes that extend from Leicester City through the Borough into Harborough district. It also has several routes in an east-west direction through the Borough. These routes extend beyond the Borough and enable traffic to move around the edge of Leicester. Most of the routes are presently constrained and congested, particularly at peak times. There is a need to ensure that growth within and adjacent to the Borough can be accommodated either within the existing infrastructure network or with appropriate and viable mitigation.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Harborough District Council Leicester City Council Leicester Highways Authority Leicestershire County Council Leicestershire Highways Authority Leicestershire Education Authority
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	The Council has worked with Harborough District Council and the Highways Authorities over the production of a South East Leicestershire Transport Study 2017. This study has considered the level of growth proposed in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston and Harborough District and considered its cumulative effect to the south and east of Leicester and the Leicester Principal Urban Area in this vicinity. The study concluded that the infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate the planned level of growth subject to the implementation of an identified set of mitigation works. The same authorities have subsequently agreed a Joint Position Statement on the matter which sets out how they will work together to finance and deliver the necessary mitigation works. In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan in respect of the transport and highways matters set out in the plan.
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The production of a South East Leicestershire Transport Study 2017 • Evidence agreement of a Joint Position Statement relating to the implementation of the South East Leicestershire Transport Study
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	Limited. The Joint Position Statement relating to the implementation of the South East Leicestershire Transport Study will ensure that identified mitigation schemes are implemented to limit the impact of growth on the highway network within and adjoining the Borough.
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	The Local Plan allocates three Direction for Growth areas in order to meet the Borough's housing and employment land needs. Some of these sites are close to the boundary with neighbouring districts and have the potential for cross boundary impacts. One of the sites requires the release of Green Wedge land.

Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Education and Utilities
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	The Borough is located to the south east of the Leicester Principal Urban Area and it is necessary to ensure that growth does not result in additional pressures on education or utilities without an appropriate mechanism in place to mitigate such pressures.
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Leicester City Council Leicestershire County Council Leicestershire Education Authority Utilities Companies – Electricity, Gas and Water Statutory Bodies – Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	<p>The Council has engaged in meetings with Leicestershire County Council’s Education department to ensure that its Allocations reflect any resulting increased demand on education provision. These discussions have led to the requirement for the provision of a new Primary School to be provided as part of the Wigston Direction for Growth Area.</p> <p>The Council has also engaged with other infrastructure providers, including utility companies, in the preparation of its Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out both strategic and local infrastructure requirements relating to the Borough and each of the Direction for Growth Areas.</p> <p>In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with neighbouring and other partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan in respect of the Allocations set out in the Plan.</p>
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement for the provision of a new Primary School at the Wigston Direction for Growth • A Infrastructure Delivery Plan setting out infrastructure requirements for the Borough and each of the Direction for Growth areas
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	Limited. Provision will be made to ensure that education provision can be met within the Borough and without creating additional pressure in Leicester and Leicestershire. Similarly, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will ensure that utilities and other infrastructure requirements are adequately met through the development process, through regularly engaging with the appropriate companies about planned growth.

NPPF Strategic Priority	Health, Security, Community and Cultural Infrastructure
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Provision of Health and Emergency Services
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	<p>It is important to ensure that the Local Plan meets the needs of the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service and Leicestershire Police, particularly insofar as ensuring the availability and allocation of land to meet any development requirements in the Borough.</p> <p>There is currently a need to consider land requirements in Oadby to improve provision of General Practitioners and related services.</p>
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough Council East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG East Midlands Ambulance Service Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Leicestershire Police NHS England</p>
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	<p>The Council has engaged in and continues to engage in specific meetings with GPs and the East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG in order to consider land requirements in Oadby to improve provision of GP and related services. Discussions are currently ongoing.</p> <p>The Council met with Leicestershire Police to discuss their infrastructure growth plan. There are no known additional infrastructure requirements in the Borough at present.</p> <p>The Council also consulted East Midlands Ambulance Service and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service and there are no known additional infrastructure requirements in the Borough at present.</p>
What were the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regards to the provision of General Practitioners and related services in Oadby, detailed outcomes are still to be agreed, but the Local Plan allows the flexibility to ensure that any land requirements can be met, subject to the availability of a suitable site for the intended use. This position will be kept under review and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be updated accordingly in due course.
What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners	<p>Positive. Subject to the availability of a suitable site, the Local Plan allows the flexibility to enable an improvement to provision of General Practitioners and related services in Oadby. There is potential for this to benefit residents of neighbouring Local Authority areas, as well as residents within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.</p>

NPPF Strategic Priority	Climate Change, Conservation, Natural and Historic Environment
Strategic Cross Boundary Issue	Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, Climate Change and Flood Risk
What is the nature of the strategic issue?	<p>The Council, together with partner organisations and other public and private sector agencies, has a responsibility to plan for and implement a strategic approach that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the quality of natural green assets as well as to ensure a net gain in the quantity of these assets • ensure new developments adapt to, and mitigate for, the potential impact of climate change upon the natural and built environment • increase the energy efficiency of all new developments and major refurbishment, thus reducing carbon emissions • proactively seek to utilise more renewable and low carbon energy solutions within the Borough • proactively manage flood risk
Who are the relevant duty to co-operate partner organisations?	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Blaby District Council Charnwood Borough Council* Harborough District Council Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council* Leicester City Council Leicester Highways Authority Melton Borough Council* North West Leicestershire District Council* Leicestershire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority Leicestershire County Council as the Highways Authority Leicestershire County Council Ecology Unit Leicestershire County Council Waste and Recycling Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Statutory Bodies – Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England</p> <p>*local authorities comprising the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area, however do not share boundaries with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.</p>
What have we co-operated on and how has co-operation been carried out?	<p>Working collaboratively with Leicestershire County Council's Ecological Unit, the Council commissioned an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (2017) which was prepared by WYG Ltd.</p> <p>The Borough has one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), one Local Nature Reserves (LNR), 22 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), and 21 potential or candidate LWS(pLWS/cLWS) falling wholly or partially within it's boundary.</p> <p>The ecological value of each of the assessment sites has been assessed according to a three tier criteria which has been developed on behalf of the Borough Council by WYG Ltd in consultation with Leicestershire County Council and has been adopted by other local authorities in Leicestershire.</p>

	<p>We have worked together with Leicester City Council to commission a Climate Change Study (2015) which was prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure UK Limited.</p> <p>We have worked with Blaby District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and in liaison with the Environment Agency to commission a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which was prepared by JBA Consulting Limited (2014).</p> <p>In addition, the Borough Council has engaged continuously and as appropriate with statutory bodies, duty to cooperate authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire and all other relevant partner organisations during the course of preparing the Local Plan in respect of the Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, Climate Change and Flood Risk matters.</p>
<p>What were the outcomes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The findings from the Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (2017) have been used to address the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework to identify important habitats and areas of biodiversity, (including wildlife corridors) within or adjoining sites that have been assessed through the Local Plan, in the Borough. • Recommendations from both the Climate Change Study (2015) and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2014) have been used to inform the policies included within the Local Plan seeking to address these tissues up to 2031.
<p>What is the impact of the Local Plan on duty to co-operate partners</p>	<p>Positive. The Local Plan will ensure that where appropriate, development will deliver gains in respect of biodiversity, green infrastructure and climate change. It will also ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flooding and that where appropriate and necessary, mitigation measures are put in place.</p>