

Shadow Dorset Council

Date of Meeting	17 December 2018
Lead Member	Cllr David Walsh (Lead Member for Planning)
Officer	Hilary Jordan, Corporate Manager, Planning (Community & Policy Development)
Subject of Report	Dorset Statement of Common Ground on Strategic Planning Matters
Executive Summary	National planning policy requires that a Statement of Common Ground is prepared to demonstrate the cooperation that has taken place between adjoining local planning authorities and other bodies involved in the preparation of local plans. A first draft of a Dorset-wide Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and is going through the individual councils for approval. An agreed version is required to accompany the submission of the Purbeck Local Plan but the Statement will be revised regularly in future, including when the new Councils are in place.
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>Equalities impact assessments are prepared on the local plans but are not necessary for the Statement of Common Ground.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>The Statement draws on the evidence that has been used to support the various local plans.</p>
	<p>Budget:</p> <p>No financial implications: the Statement has been prepared by officers working together, within existing budgets.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the LGR approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: MEDIUM Residual Risk: LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p>

Recommendation	That the draft Statement of Common Ground, attached as Appendix 1, be approved.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that the requirement for a Statement of Common Ground to be prepared, in association with the development of Local Plans, is met.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – draft Statement of Common Ground
Background Papers	National Planning Policy Framework 2018 and accompanying online Planning Practice Guidance
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Date agreed by Lead Member	19 November 2018
Date agreed by Statutory Officers	Jonathan Mair – Interim Monitoring Officer 4 th December 2018

1. The Localism Act 2011 includes the Duty to Cooperate between local planning authorities and other organisations in preparing local plans. The new National Planning Policy Framework 2018 and its associated Planning Practice Guidance introduced a new requirement for a Statement of Common Ground to be prepared.
2. A Statement of Common Ground is a written record of progress made on planning for strategic matters across local authority boundaries. It is intended to record where effective cooperation is or is not taking place, demonstrate that plans are deliverable, and provide evidence that the duty to cooperate has been fulfilled.
3. Statements should be jointly produced by those authorities which have agreed to collaborate with each other to address strategic matters across local authority boundaries.
4. In Dorset there is a Strategic Planning Forum comprising member representatives of all the local planning authorities, together with representatives of the Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Nature Partnership. This group meets regularly to discuss strategic planning matters on which the authorities need to work jointly.

5. The Forum agreed a 'Summary of Cross-Boundary Planning Issues in Dorset' paper in 2015 and this was taken through all of the individual councils at the time for approval. The Forum agreed at its meeting in June this year that a single Statement of Common Ground would be prepared across the Dorset area, based on this earlier paper. The draft Statement of Common Ground was prepared by officers of the Dorset councils working together, and was discussed by the Strategic Planning Forum at its meeting in September 2018, where members agreed that the document would be brought to the individual councils for approval.
6. The Statement of Common Ground needs to be in place at the time of each local plan examination, and the first agreed Statement therefore needs to be in place in time for the submission of the Purbeck local plan review in February/March 2019. The draft Statement has already been published with the other supporting documents during the publication of the draft Purbeck local plan in October 2018.
7. The draft Statement will need to be reviewed regularly. In particular, it will be reviewed when any significant changes to local housing requirements are made, as this will affect the extent to which cooperation will be necessary to meet housing needs across the area. It will also need to be reviewed soon after its first publication in order to reflect the new council areas.