Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between:

The London Borough of Havering
The Greater London Authority
The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
The London Borough of Redbridge
Brentwood Borough Council
Epping Forest District Council
Thurrock Council
Basildon Council
The London Borough of Bexley

Chelmsford City Council
Essex County Council
The London Borough of Newham
The London Borough of Waltham Forest
Rochford District Council

Duty to Cooperate and consultation with adjoining authorities

September 2018
Introduction

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared jointly between:
   a. The London Borough of Havering (Council);
   b. The Greater London Authority (GLA);
   c. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Barking and Dagenham);
   d. The London Borough of Redbridge (Redbridge);
   e. Brentwood Borough Council (Brentwood);
   f. Epping Forest District Council (Epping Forest);
   g. Thurrock Council;
   h. Basildon Council;
   i. The London Borough of Bexley (Bexley);
   j. Chelmsford City Council (Chelmsford);
   k. Essex County Council (Essex);
   l. The London Borough of Newham (Newham);
   m. The London Borough of Waltham Forest (Waltham Forest); and
   n. Rochford District Council (Rochford) (Adjoining Local Authorities).

Background

2. Council has prepared a Duty to Co-operate Statement 2018 (Statement) (references: LBHLP.4.1 and LBHLP.4.2).

3. The Council recognises that planning across boundaries is an important part of the plan making process. It has engaged with its neighbours and other key stakeholders in preparing the Havering Local Plan and has documented the fulfilment of this obligation as required under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by Section 110 of the Localism Act) through the Statement.

4. The Council has been committed to fulfilling its Duty to Co-operate responsibilities and working effectively with Adjoining Local Authorities and other bodies to make sure that it has adequately consulted on issues that extend past administrative boundaries (including during the evidence base building stage and policy preparation stages and beyond).

5. Consultation has included cross-boundary engagement with relevant local authorities as well as a number of other ‘prescribed’ bodies as set out in Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

6. Annex A of the Statement sets out in some detail who the Council engaged with, the manner of that engagement and whether there are any outstanding issues. It includes this information with regard to statutory organisations (Table A.1) and local authorities (Tables A.2 and A.4).

7. Council undertook consultation under regulation 19 between 7 August 2017 and 29 September 2017. Regulation 19 consultation included:
   a. Consultation documents and supporting evidence published on the Council’s Planning Policy Consultation Portal and available to view in person at various identified locations;
b. Notification of the Local Plan consultation to over 3,500 consultees on Havering's consultation database;
c. Notice in local newspapers, social media and various web platforms; and
d. Distribution of leaflets and posters and presence at local community events.

8. Basildon, Brentwood, Essex, GLA, Redbridge, Rochford, Thurrock, and Chelmsford made submissions at the Regulation 19 stage.

9. Brentwood, Redbridge and Chelmsford did not object to the policies set out in the Havering Local Plan.

10. Basildon, Essex, Rochford and Thurrock responded with concerns that the policies in the Local Plan will not enable the Council to meet its objectively assessed housing need, which will in turn result in additional pressure on them develop more housing in their respective areas. Although the Council is not required to meet its objectively assessed need (as provided in the London Plan), the Council considers that the policies in the Local Plan will help ‘close the gap’ between its housing target and its objectively assessed need.

11. Essex also submitted that the Local Plan lacks detail on housing supply in the last five years of the plan period, raised concerns regarding the provision of school places and transport issues arising from cross boundary growth (especially the implications for the A127 road corridor). The Council has indicated in its proposed modifications to the Local Plan, that it will bring forward an early review of the Plan to address concerns about housing supply for the latter part of the plan period. Council also meets with Essex staff on education matters (including school place provision) on a regular basis, and commits to continuing to do so.

12. The GLA submit that the Local Plan is not in general conformity with the London Plan in regard to parking standards as it included minimum parking standards only. Council, have considered matters raised by GLA regarding parking standards against the evidence base and is satisfied the Local Plan approach is appropriate for the circumstances.

13. The Council understands that the Duty to Co-operate obligations do not require planning issues be resolved amongst interested stakeholders, and considers that there are no outstanding issues with any local authorities regarding the performance of its Duty to Co-operate responsibilities.

Common Ground

14. The parties to this SoCG agree that Council has engaged robustly and transparently with its neighbours and other key stakeholders during the preparation of the draft Local Plan and throughout the examination process.

15. The parties to this SoCG considers that Council has fully complied with the Duty to Co-operate requirements in the preparation of the Havering Local Plan and that the Statement adequately documents how Council has met this obligation.
16. The parties to this SoCG are committed to working effectively with each other and other relevant authorities to ensure that continue to work collaboratively on issues that extend past administrative boundaries.

**Endorsement**

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<td>Name &amp; Position</td>
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<td>Martin Thomas</td>
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<td>Development and Transport Planning Manager</td>
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<td>Jeremy Potter, Planning and Strategic Housing Policy Manager</td>
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