

RECORD OF CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Decision Ref. No.	PH050
Decision made by	Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity
Decision Title	Leicester & Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing & Logistics Need
Key decision?	No
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	29 November 2021
Name and job title of Officer requesting the decision	Jim Worley Assistant Director for Planning and Delivery
Officer contact details	jworley@melton.gov.uk
Decision	Authority to approve and publish the Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing & Logistics Need
Background	<p>A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is the means by which strategic policy-making authorities can demonstrate that a plan is based on effective cooperation and that they have sought to produce a strategy based on agreements with other authorities.</p> <p>This SoCG (Appendix 1), that has been prepared by the eight local planning authorities and Leicestershire County Council, addresses the need for large (>9,000 sqm) warehousing and logistics floorspace to 2041. Matters related to small warehousing and other employment uses are addressed in the SoCG relating to housing and employment land needs (SoCG from June 2021).</p> <p>This SoCG refers to the Warehousing and Logistics in Leicester and Leicestershire: Managing growth and change (April 2021) study as the most updated evidence on the needs of the sector. The study suggests the need in Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L) for additional 2,750,000 sqm between 2020 and 2041 (43% of these at rail served sites).</p> <p>Considering the current supply, the shortfall is divided in:</p> <p>a) 768,000 sqm of rail served floorspace, which starts to</p>

	<p>emerge around the mid-2020s. This shortfall could be largely fulfilled by the proposed Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange if it is permitted. The proposal is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) meaning that the Secretary of State is responsible for the decision. The application, expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate Q4 2021, will be considered as supply only when approved by the Government. Each Local Authority is expected to respond to the proposal through the NSIP process as appropriate.</p> <p>b) 392,000 sqm of non-rail served floorspace, that starts emerging around the mid-2030s. The floorspace is distributed across several Areas of Opportunity (AoO), which represent the most likely general broad areas for new large warehousing and logistics up to 2041. See <i>Figure 15</i> in the study.</p>
<p>Reason for Decision/Main Considerations</p>	<p>Given the background, the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), which supports the Members Advisory Group (MAG), recommended the following:</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop an appropriate system to monitor progress in site allocation, consents and delivery at the Leicester and Leicestershire level. • To develop a collective understanding of the geographical distribution and phasing of the current supply. • To develop a collective understanding of deliverable and developable sites for large warehousing, including through the commissioned Strategic Growth Options & Constrains Study (and other work as appropriate) • This will help inform an approach to meeting the Leicester and Leicestershire need which maintains an appropriate supply across the AoO, in terms of geography and trajectory, as recommended by the study. <p>In relation to needs from neighbouring areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities intend the need for 2,570,000 sqm of large warehousing and logistics floorspace 2020-2041 will be met in Leicester and Leicestershire. • Authorities are not aware of any unmet need from neighbouring areas for large warehousing and logistics floorspace that should be accommodated in Leicester and Leicestershire. <p>This SoCG addresses the ongoing legal duties associated with the Duty to Cooperate.</p>
<p>Alternative options rejected</p>	<p>None. If the Council decides not to approve and publish the SoCG the decision will have a negative impact on the Council's</p>

	Duty to Cooperate (a legal duty as stated in the 'legal implications' section below) and consequently put at risk the review and potential update of the Melton Local Plan.			
Legal implications Officer/Date provided:	<p>Local planning authorities are bound by the statutory duty to cooperate. The duty to cooperate (introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) places a legal duty on local planning authorities and county councils in England, and prescribes public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation (including local plan review and update) in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.</p> <p>Paragraph 27 of the National Planning Policy Framework indicates that the duty to cooperate should be demonstrated through joint preparation of statements of common ground.</p> <p>A record of duty to cooperate agreements, including SoCGs needs to be available in the Authority Monitoring Reports that the Council is publishing on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Statement of Common Ground is not planning policy, but rather a strategic document and therefore the Portfolio holder for Growth and Prosperity has authority to approve.</p> <p>Monitoring Officer – 18 November 2021</p>			
Financial implications Officer/Date provided:	<p>There are no financial implications associated with this decision notice</p> <p>Corporate Services Manager – 12 November 2021</p>			
Other implications	The process for updating and maintaining the statement associated with this decision will be managed through ongoing joint work between the authorities.			
Background papers considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1: Strategic Warehousing SoCG (FINAL TEXT) Oct 2021 Warehousing and Logistics in Leicester and Leicestershire: Managing growth and change (April 2021). Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2021). 			
List consultees (Where applicable)		Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward Councillors	N/A		
	Human Resources	N/A		
	Equalities	N/A		
	Communications	N/A		
Confidential Decision?	No			

Call In Waived by Scrutiny Committee Chair? (Under urgency Procedures)	N/A
Has this been discussed by Cabinet Members?	No
Cabinet Portfolio Holder Signature	Email approval received Councillor Rob Bindloss Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity
Declarations/conflict of interest?	-

ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.

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Form Received	29 November 2021	
Date published to all Councillors	29 November 2021	
Call In Deadline	N/A	