

## **Joint Statement by the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities on Collaborative Planning**

1. The Leicester and Leicestershire authorities have worked collaboratively on both strategic and local planning matters for many years. This has included joint working on the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and the subsequent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (November 2014). The MoU relates to the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing and how it would be met within the Housing Market Area (HMA). They have also worked collaboratively on a subsequent joint statement by the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities relating to strategic planning in 2016, together with Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). They have also worked on an associated Joint Statement of Cooperation relating to the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing, both in January 2017.
2. The authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEEP) have reached an advanced stage concerning the preparation of a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) which will set out the aspirations of the partner organisations to plan positively for growth in Leicester and Leicestershire in the period to 2050. A joint consultation on the first stage of the SGP (the 'Strategic Growth Statement') took place in August/September 2016 and it is currently anticipated that consultation on the Draft SGP will take place during early 2018 with a view to adoption in summer 2018. The SGP will provide the overarching strategic framework for the preparation of Local Plans.
3. In the meantime, the partner organisations recognise the need for all local authorities to have an up to date Local Plan in place and are keen to ensure that the current programme of Local Plans can be expedited. In the light of this work on the SGP and current local plans, including a series of studies have been undertaken in parallel, including some work being jointly commissioned. The up to date OAN for housing and an up to date assessment for jobs are now in place. A full up to date revised MOU is currently in preparation. It is anticipated that this up to date MOU will be in place in January 2018. The partner organisations continue to proactively engage with stakeholders around the HEDNA, the OAN arising and the Functional Economic Area (FEA). The partner organisations recognise that the OAN will be thoroughly examined through the development plan process, and continue to discuss authority level OAN and how this will contribute to the OAN for the wider HMA.
4. The HMA authorities understand that some particular spatial scenarios may exist in particular authority areas. For example, the presence and effects of economic growth and regeneration may give rise to locally specific upward pressure on housing requirements in those authorities that are over and above the OAN. It is also recognised that it is possible that such local circumstances could have wider effects on housing needs over and above the OAN across authority boundaries. Partner organisations are committed to collaboratively ensuring that such housing needs are met.

5. Appropriate trigger mechanisms have been incorporated into local plans currently under preparation in order for full or partial reviews of these plans as and when circumstances require such a review.
6. The wording for trigger mechanisms has been agreed collaboratively by the HMA authorities and, in summary, together provide for an early, full or partial, review of a Local Plan should the OAN, or any subsequent redistribution of development, result in a significant change (upwards or downwards) in the amount of growth requiring to be provided for by additional allocation in a given authority unless there is sufficient flexibility already provided for in the Plan. The agreement is based on the principle that the trigger mechanisms would be applied on a consistent basis across the HMA and would ensure that all Local Plans that are submitted in advance of the adoption of the strategic growth plan will contain sufficient flexibility to respond to any significant change that might arise following submission of a Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate, for example, robustly evidenced and agreed levels of unmet need<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Leicester City Council to confirm the dates at which respective unmet needs arise.

**Table 1: OAN as defined in HEDNA (January 2017) and Theoretical Capacity based on assumptions set out in notes**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>OAN*1 (2011- 2031)</b>	<b>OAN*1 (2011 - 2036)</b>	<b>Theoretical Total Capacity*2</b>	<b>Local Plan Provision TBC</b>
Blaby	7,400	9,025	24,096*3	
Charnwood	20,620	24,850	34,756*3	
Harborough	10,640	12,850	30,578*3	12,800 to 2031
Hinckley & Bosworth	9,420	11,350	25,498*3	
Leicester City	33,840	41,700	26,230*3	
Melton	3,720	4,250	36,650*3	6,125 to 2036
Northwest Leics	9,620	11,200	26,301*3	
Oadby & Wigston	2,960	3,875	2,799*3	2,799 to 2031
<b>HMA Total*4</b>	<b>96,580</b>	<b>117,900</b>	<b>206,908*3</b>	
<p>*1 The OAN is set out in the agreed HEDNA (January 2017)            *2 This figure is based on information on completions, commitments, windfalls (in some authorities) and SHLAAs            *3 The final figure will be determined by each authority through the Local Plans process.            *4 The Total received OAN for the HMA is lower than the sum of the OAN for individual authorities because the OAN for Melton BC and North West Leicestershire DC has been increased to meet economic needs locally.</p>				

7. In terms of determining housing targets to be included in their Local Plans, local planning authorities will take account of the requirements of both national policy and local circumstances, including the need to base Local Plans on a strategy that seeks to meet the OAN for housing. In this regard, it is recognised that all authorities are at different stages of plan preparation and that this situation must be accommodated. In determining their housing target over the relevant plan period, therefore, each authority will take into account the HEDNA and other relevant evidence. In this respect, the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities recognise the desire of Melton Borough Council, Harborough District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to submit their Local Plans to the Planning Inspectorate as soon as possible and are content for these Local Plans to include the agreed trigger mechanisms. Melton Borough Council, Harborough District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council together with the other HMA authorities will continue to work collaboratively on cross-boundary matters going forward

**Note:**

It should be noted that nothing contained in this statement should be taken to prejudice the duly made representations by individual authorities on either the Melton Borough Local Plan, the Harborough District Local Plan or the Oadby and Wigston Borough Local Plan.

Signed by:

- ..... OBO Blaby District Council
- ..... OBO Charnwood Borough Council
- ..... OBO Harborough District Council
- ..... OBO Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- ..... OBO Leicester City Council
- ..... OBO Leicestershire County Council
- ..... OBO Melton Borough Council
- ..... OBO North West Leicestershire District Council
- ..... OBO Oadby & Wigston Borough Council