

Duty to Co-operate Statement

January 2022



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Duty to Cooperate is a statutory duty for local planning authorities. It requires engagement and cooperation on strategic matters with specified organisations.
- 1.2 This report supports the Local Plan Update: Revised Growth Strategy consultation running from November 2021 to January 2022. The Revised Growth Strategy follows consultation on a full Draft Local Plan in February 2020, and is a key step in producing the final Wokingham Local Plan Update. This report sets out a summary of the engagement that has been undertaken so far on strategic matters with those organisations relevant to the Duty to Cooperate.
- 1.3 This report should be read alongside the separate Statement of Consultation which provides details of wider engagement activity and the main issues raised.
- 1.4 Representations made to the Revised Growth Strategy will inform further work and engagement. The council will consider all representations when progressing the next steps in the local plan process.

Background and Legal Requirements

- 1.5 The Duty to Cooperate is a statutory duty for local planning authorities set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (section 33 (a)) as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (section 110) and Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. All local planning authorities must cooperate with other local planning authorities, county councils, and bodies or other persons as prescribed.
- 1.6 Paragraph 24 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021) also states that “local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries”. Moreover, according to paragraph 25 local authorities should also “collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans” and “engage with their local communities and relevant bodies including Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Nature Partnerships, the Marine Management Organisation, county councils, infrastructure providers, elected Mayors and combined authorities (in cases where Mayors or combined authorities do not have plan-making powers)”.
- 1.7 Paragraph 27 of the NPPF states that “In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these.”
- 1.8 Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 identifies the following prescribed bodies with whom all planning authorities should co-operate with:
 - The Environment Agency
 - Historic England (formerly English Heritage)
 - Natural England
 - The Mayor of London
 - The Civil Aviation Authority
 - Homes England (formerly the Homes and Communities Agency)
 - Each established Primary Care Trust
 - The office of Rail Regulation
 - Transport for London

- Each integrated transport authority
- Each highway authority
- The Marine Management Organisation
- Each local enterprise partnership

- 1.9 The Planning Practice Guidance on ‘Plan-making’ provides further details on the Duty to Cooperate and Statements of Common Ground.
- 1.10 The government published a white paper on planning reform in August 2020 – [Planning for the future – White Paper](#) – and one of its proposals was to remove the Duty to Co-operate. As of January 2022, no timetable had been published for the abolition and replacement of that Duty. Co-operation with other local planning authorities is key to establishing the LPU in the context of the wider economy and environment. WBC is committed to updating its planning policies through the progression of the LPU based on the current planning system. Therefore, the council will continue to co-operate under the Duty as set out in law, policy and guidance.

What is the timetable for producing the Local Plan Update?

- 1.11 The council’s [Local Development Scheme \(LDS\)](#) sets out which Local Plan documents to be produced and a timetable for each. The Local Plan Update will be examined publicly by a government appointed, Planning Inspector.

Progress with the LPU to date

- 1.12 The consultation on the Issues and Options report ran for approximately 8 weeks between 4 August 2016 and 4pm on 30 September 2016. This represented the first formal consultation stage of the LPU and opened discussion about what the local plan ought to contain¹. We asked a number of questions about different planning issues that we felt should be dealt with in the LPU to get people’s views on how these should be planned as well as general views on what people wanted the future Wokingham borough to be like.
- 1.13 Secondly, the council carried out further Regulation 18 consultation between 12 November 2018 and 22 February 2019 which was specifically aimed at aiding progress towards the strategy options for the Plan. The consultation asked about where new development should go – concentrated in new communities or spread throughout the borough – and whether there are locations that may be suitable for higher densities, and taller buildings. There were also questions about land for new employment centres. All of the land promoted for development as part of this process was publicly available, with the opportunity to provide comments on its suitability.
- 1.14 Lastly, the council consulted on a full Draft Local Plan between 3 February and 3 April 2020. This set out the proposed spatial strategy for the borough to 2036, including proposed allocations for housing and other development, and also contained a full suite of development management policies covering climate change, sustainable transport, affordable housing, biodiversity, flooding and more.

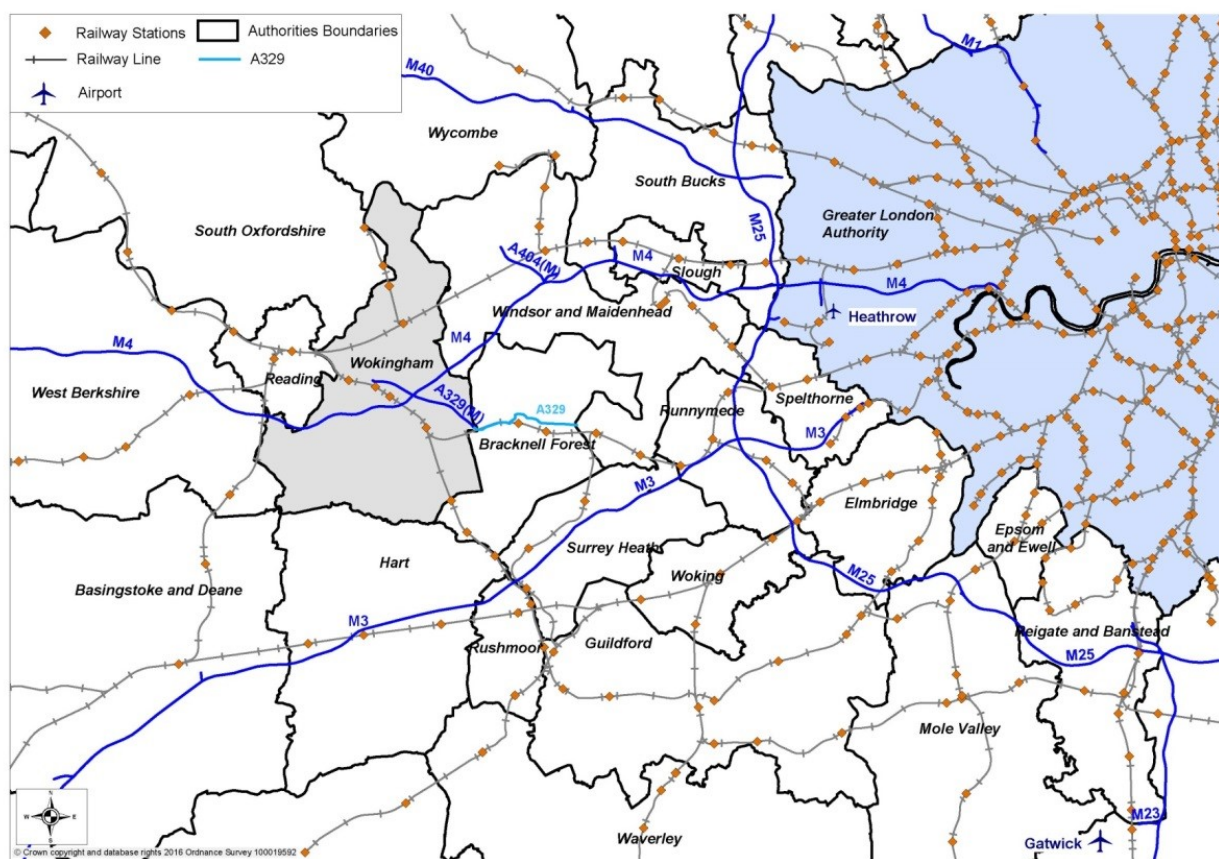
Where we are now?

¹ In accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/regulation/18/made>

- 1.15 A central plank of the Draft Local Plan (2020) was the creation of a garden town at Grazeley in the west of the borough. This provided an opportunity to create a new community of around 15,000 homes across land within Wokingham Borough and West Berkshire District.
- 1.16 Subsequent to our work and agreeing the Draft Local Plan (2020), a change in legislation resulted in the redetermination of emergency planning arrangements around AWE Burghfield. The redetermination unexpectedly and significantly extended the area where emergency plans must be in place to incorporate for the first time both the area of Grazeley as well as the villages of Three Mile Cross and Spencers Wood. The change resulted in objections to the Grazeley garden town proposal from the Defence Nuclear Organisation (part of the Ministry of Defence) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation. In light of the changed circumstances, the Grazeley garden town proposal, and therefore the strategy proposed by the Draft Local Plan (2020), is no longer achievable. It should be acknowledged that Duty to Co-operate regarding our plan slowed following the need to reflect on the issues raised with the extended DEPZ and then to reconsider potential development options.
- 1.17 Given the changed circumstances around Grazeley, the council are now consulting on a Revised Growth Strategy between November 2021 and January 2022. The majority of policies contained within the Draft Local Plan (2020) are not impacted on by the loss of the Grazeley garden town proposal, and therefore the Revised Growth Strategy consultation focusses primarily on the areas of change. That is policies relating to the amount of development required and how this is proposed to be met across the borough, including the land proposed to be specifically allocated to achieve this.
- 1.18 In summary, the consultation includes the following:
- Removal of the proposed creation of a garden town at Grazeley;
 - A new strategic allocation to create a garden village, including significant parkland, on land to the south of the M4 between Shinfield, Arborfield and Sindlesham, known as Hall Farm / Loddon Valley;
 - Details of additional allocations for housing across the borough;
 - Additional allocations for Local Green Space across the borough; and
 - Extension of the plan period to 2038.

2. Strategic Context

- 2.1 Wokingham Borough is located within central Berkshire, approximately 30 miles west of London, as can be seen in [Error! Reference source not found.](#) It adjoins Buckinghamshire County to the North; the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest to the east; Hart and Basingstoke and Deane to the south and south west respectively; and West Berkshire District, Reading Borough and South Oxfordshire to the west.
- 2.2 Wokingham Borough covers an area of 17,892ha. The population of the borough at the time of the 2011 census was recorded as 154,380. The majority of the population live in the larger centres of Wokingham, Earley, and Woodley. Further information regarding the borough's strategic context can be found in the [West of Berkshire Strategic Planning Framework](#) (this is discussed in more detail in the subsequent sections).



National Context

- 2.3 National planning policy has altered during the local plan process to date. The NPPF was originally introduced in 2012. In 2018, the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a revised NPPF, with further updates published in 2019 and 2021.
- 2.4 One of the substantial changes introduced through the revised NPPF was a standard method for calculating the minimum number of homes that should be planned for. This replaced the previous system of Strategic Housing Market Assessments.

Local Context

- 2.5 Similar to the council, neighbouring local planning authorities have reviewed, or are in the process of reviewing their local plans. Table 1 below summarises the status of neighbouring local authorities at the time of writing.

Table 1. Neighbouring authorities Local Plan Status

Local Authority	Local Plan Status
Bracknell	Regulation 19 consultation undertaken March – May 2021. Currently preparing to submit to Secretary of State for examination by an independent inspector.
Reading	Reading Borough Local Plan adopted 4 th November 2019.
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Various examination hearings have taken place on the Borough Local Plan (BLP) between 2018 and 2020, . Main Modifications consultation undertaken July – September 2021.
West Berkshire	Currently preparing a new local plan. Consultation on a Regulation 18 draft plan was undertaken December 2020 to February 2021.
South Oxfordshire	The South Oxfordshire Local Plan was adopted in December 2020. Along with the 5 other Oxfordshire authorities, South Oxfordshire is working to produce the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, in line with £215m Housing & Growth Deal. This plan will look beyond each local planning authority's adopted local plan at a strategic, county wide level.
Basingstoke and Deane	The Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan was adopted in 2016, and a Local Plan Update was commenced in 2019, with a Draft Plan consultation (Reg 18) timetabled for Spring 2022.
Hart	The Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 was adopted in April 2020.
Wycombe (now part of Buckinghamshire Council)	The Wycombe Local Plan was adopted in August 2019.

3. Strategic Matters and Priorities

- 3.1 The NPPF identifies a number of matters to be strategic. These include matters such as housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development.
- 3.2 In order to ensure that strategic matters were suitably identified, the council initially engaged with those organisations relevant to the Duty to Cooperate through a Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report in 2016.
- 3.3 Given the passage of time, the council undertook a re-scoping exercise in October / November 2021, the purpose of which was to reaffirm that the strategic matters identified continued to be the correct ones, as well as ensuring that we have identified the correct bodies to co-operate with for each matter. The Re-Scoping consultation document has been published separately. The feedback received through these engagement exercises has been used to produce the updated Table 2 below. Table 2 sets out the strategic matters, prescribed bodies they relate to, and the scope of each matter as relevant to each body.
- 3.4 This table will be kept under review as the plan making process progresses and will be updated as relevant. Further detail on the scope of each strategic issue is set out in Section 5 of this report.

Table 2	Strategic Theme															
	Housing, employment and economic development					Infrastructure provision					Natural and historic environment, biodiversity and climate change					
	Housing need and supply	Gypsy and Travellers, travelling show people	Supply of employ-ment land	Town centre and retail	Development allocations (all types)	Education	Health facilities	Utilities and infrastructure	Flood risk	Strategic transport links	Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Landscape including Greenbelt	Atomic Weapons Establishment Consultation zones	Historic environment	Open Space	Climate change
Organisation																
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision as appropriate</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area</p>		<div>✓</div> <p>Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the CCG)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of utility capacity</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Down stream implications (i.e. development within Basingstoke and Deane) of development on flood risk (River Loddon)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations (primarily A33)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Co-ordinated mitigation in response to water quality (nitrates and phosphorous issue)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Strategic landscape planning issues, incl. Local Recovery Networks.</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations (cumulatively) within the OCZ</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary</p>		<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary</p>
Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust											<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on habitats / wildlife conservation</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on Green Belt purposes and landscape character</p>				<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have nature conservation implications</p>
Berkshire Local Nature Partnership									<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on flood risk</p>		<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on nature conservation</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on Green Belt purposes and landscape character</p>				<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have nature conservation implications</p>
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs (including potential for future unmet need arising from Reading Borough) and its spatial distribution within the HMA and potentially beyond</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising within the FEMA.</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the CCG)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of utility capacity</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Down stream implications of development on flood risk</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the TBH SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership) and implications of development on cross-boundary ecological assets</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on Green Belt purposes and landscape character</p>		<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary</p>
Buckinghamshire Council	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision as appropriate</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the relevant CCGs)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of utility capacity</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Down stream implications of development on flood risk (particularly River Thames)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations (including Crossrail)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on cross-boundary ecological assets e.g. Temple Island Meadows SSSI</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on Green Belt purposes and landscape character</p>		<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary</p>

	Housing need and supply	Gypsy and Travellers, travelling show people	Supply of employ-ment land	Town centre and retail	Development allocations (all types)	Education	Health facilities	Utilities and infrastructure	Flood risk	Strategic transport links	Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Landscape including Greenbelt	Atomic Weapons Establishment Consultation zones	Historic environment	Open Space	Climate change
Centrica/British Gas								✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity / planned upgrades								
Civil Aviation Authority										✓ Implications of development proposals for tall structures / wind turbines as relevant						
Ealing Council										✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations (principally the M4 and Crossrail)						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Elmbridge Borough Council											✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA and the resultant effects on commuting patterns / jobs		✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area							✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have an impact on the economy
Environment Agency					✓ Flood risk implications of proposed development allocations			✓ Sufficiency of flood infrastructure capacity	✓ Flood risk implications of proposed development allocations and flood alleviation measures		✓ Implications of development on the ecological value around watercourses					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have an impact on flooding and the natural environment
<u>Great Western Railway</u>										✓ Implications of development on rail movement and potential need for						

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										station / service upgrades						
Guildford Borough Council											✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Hampshire County Council						✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development	✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the relevant CCGs)			✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations	✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary
Hart District Council and East Hampshire District Council (<i>East Hampshire District Council has previously had planning policy responsibility for Hart District</i>)	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA	✓ Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision as appropriate	✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area	✓ Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)	✓ Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)	✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development	✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the relevant CCGs)	✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity	✓ Down stream implications of development on flood risk	✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations	✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership) and implications of development on cross-boundary ecological assets	✓ Implications of development on landscape character		✓ Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary	✓ Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space	✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary
Hillingdon Council										✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations (principally the M4)						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Historic England														✓ Heritage implications of proposed developments and policy responses		

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Homes England	✓ Meeting housing needs especially via strategic site delivery	✓ Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. as part of strategic mixed communities														
London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA and the resultant effects on commuting patterns / jobs		✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area							✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have an impact on the economy
Marine Management Organisation																
Mayor of London	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA							✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity		✓ Implications of development on movement (including via rail) and potential mitigations						
Mole Valley District Council											✓ Implications of development on nature conservation including Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA					
National Grid								✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity and necessary upgrades								
National Highways										✓ Implications of development on the strategic road network						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have traffic / modal choice implications
National Rail										✓ Implications of development on rail movement and potential need for						

	Housing need and supply	Gypsy and Travellers, travelling show people	Supply of employment land	Town centre and retail	Development allocations (all types)	Education	Health facilities	Utilities and infrastructure	Flood risk	Strategic transport links	Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Landscape including Greenbelt	Atomic Weapons Establishment Consultation zones	Historic environment	Open Space	Climate change
										station / service upgrades						
Natural England									✓ Flood risk implications of proposed development allocations and associated ecological / natural environment impacts		✓ Implications of development on nature conservation including Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA				✓ Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space (including SANG sufficiency)	✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have nature conservation implications
NHS England	✓ Implications of housing need and supply for health provision						✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development – strategic coordination									
NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group	✓ Implications of housing need and supply for health provision						✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development and spatial consideration of new provision									
Office for Nuclear Regulation													✓ Implications of potential allocations (cumulatively) within the DEPZ, OCZ or 12 km zone, or that otherwise meets special case development criteria			
Office of Rail and Road										✓ Implications of development on rail movement and strategic road network (link to Network Rail and National Highways)						
Oxford City Council										✓ Implications of development on movement (including via rail) and potential mitigations						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic

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																implications beyond administrative boundaries
Oxfordshire County Council					✓ Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)	✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development			✓ Down stream implications of development on flood risk	✓ Implications of development on movement (including via rail) and potential mitigations including consensus on new cross Thames Route				✓ Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary		✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Oxfordshire 2050	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA	✓ Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision as appropriate	✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area	✓ Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.	✓ Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)	✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development	✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the relevant CCGs)		✓ Down stream implications of development on flood risk	✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations		✓ Implications of housing or transport development on landscape character, including Chiltern's AONB.		✓ Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary		✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary
Oxfordshire LEP	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA and the resultant effects on commuting patterns / jobs		✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area							✓ Implications of development on movement (including via rail) and potential mitigations including consensus on new cross Thames Route						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have an impact on the economy
Reading Borough Council	✓ Meeting needs (including potential for future unmet need arising from Reading Borough) and its spatial distribution within the HMA and potentially beyond	✓ Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision	✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising within the FEMA.	✓ Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.	✓ Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)	✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development	✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the CCG)	✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity	✓ Down stream implications of development on flood risk	✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations	✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)	✓ Implications of development on Green Belt purposes and landscape character relating to exceptional circumstances should they arise	✓ Implications of potential allocations (cumulatively) within the DEPZ and OCZ	✓ Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary	✓ Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space	✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	✓ Meeting needs (including potential for future unmet need arising from Reading Borough) and its spatial distribution within the adjoining HMAs and potentially beyond	✓ Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision	✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising within the FEMA.	✓ Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.	✓ Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)	✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development	✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the CCG)	✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity	✓ Down stream implications of development on flood risk	✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations	✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership) and implications of	✓ Implications of development on Green Belt purposes and landscape character			✓ Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space	✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary

	Housing need and supply	Gypsy and Travellers, travelling show people	Supply of employment land	Town centre and retail	Development allocations (all types)	Education	Health facilities	Utilities and infrastructure	Flood risk	Strategic transport links	Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Landscape including Greenbelt	Atomic Weapons Establishment Consultation zones	Historic environment	Open Space	Climate change
											development on cross-boundary ecological assets					
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds											✓ Implications of development on bird habitats / conservation					
Runnymede Borough Council	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA										✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Rushmoor Borough Council	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA		✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area								✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
<u>Scotia Gas Networks (SGN)</u>								✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity / planned upgrades								✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have energy infrastructure implications
Scottish & Southern Energy								✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity / planned upgrades								
Slough Borough Council	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA	✓ Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision	✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising within the FEMA.	✓ Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.		✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development	✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the CCG			✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations (including Crossrail)		✓ Implications of development on Green Belt purposes				✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries

	Housing need and supply	Gypsy and Travellers, travelling show people	Supply of employment land	Town centre and retail	Development allocations (all types)	Education	Health facilities	Utilities and infrastructure	Flood risk	Strategic transport links	Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Landscape including Greenbelt	Atomic Weapons Establishment Consultation zones	Historic environment	Open Space	Climate change
South East Water								✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity / planned upgrades								
South Oxfordshire District Council	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA	✓ Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision as appropriate	✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area	✓ Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.	✓ Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)	✓ Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development	✓ Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the relevant CCGs)		✓ Down stream implications of development on flood risk	✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations		✓ Implications of housing or transport development on landscape character, including Chiltern's AONB.		✓ Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary		✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary
South Western Railway										✓ Implications of development on rail movement and potential need for station / service upgrades						
Spelthorne Borough Council											✓ Implications of development on nature conservation including Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA					
Sport England															✓ Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space and sports pitches	
Surrey Heath Borough Council	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA		✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area						✓ Down stream implications of development on flood risk (particularly River Blackwater)		✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Surrey County Council										✓ Implications of development on movement and	✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to

	Housing need and supply	Gypsy and Travellers, travelling show people	Supply of employment land	Town centre and retail	Development allocations (all types)	Education	Health facilities	Utilities and infrastructure	Flood risk	Strategic transport links	Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Landscape including Greenbelt	Atomic Weapons Establishment Consultation zones	Historic environment	Open Space	Climate change
										potential mitigations	recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)					climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	✓ Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA and the resultant effects on commuting patterns / jobs		✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising within the FEMA.	✓ Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations within the Berkshire area.						✓ Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations / strategic interventions						✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Thames Water								✓ Sufficiency of utility capacity / planned upgrades								
Transport for London										✓ Implications of development on strategic road and rail movement and potential need for station / service upgrades						
Transport for the South East										✓ Implications of development on strategic road and rail movement and potential need for strategic transport interventions / upgrades						
Vale of White Horse District Council			✓ Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the functional area													✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries
Waverley Borough Council											✓ Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint					✓ Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond

	Housing need and supply	Gypsy and Travellers, travelling show people	Supply of employment land	Town centre and retail	Development allocations (all types)	Education	Health facilities	Utilities and infrastructure	Flood risk	Strategic transport links	Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Landscape including Greenbelt	Atomic Weapons Establishment Consultation zones	Historic environment	Open Space	Climate change
											Strategic Partnership)					administrative boundaries
West Berkshire District Council	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs (including potential for future unmet need arising from Reading Borough) and its spatial distribution within the HMA and potentially beyond</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for permanent pitches inc. consideration of any unmet needs; consideration of cross-boundary transit provision</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs for employment land inc. consideration of any unmet needs arising within the FEMA.</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development in existing and new centres and out of centre locations on the catchment of relevant centres in each authority.</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Cross-boundary implications of potential allocations (not otherwise picked up under other strategic issues)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of school places and cross-boundary travel implications arising from new residential development</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of health care capacity arising from residential development (link to the CCG)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Sufficiency of utility capacity</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Down stream implications of development on flood risk</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on movement and potential mitigations</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on Green Belt purposes and landscape character relating to exceptional circumstances should they arise</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations (cumulatively) within the DEPZ and OCZ</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations on the significance of heritage assets located close to the shared administrative boundary</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential allocations on the sufficiency of open space</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications close to the shared administrative boundary</p>
Woking Borough Council	<div>✓</div> <p>Meeting needs including consideration of any unmet needs arising from within the HMA</p>										<div>✓</div> <p>Co-ordinated mitigation in response to recreational pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (link to the Joint Strategic Partnership)</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of development on Green Belt purposes</p>				<div>✓</div> <p>Implications of potential policy responses to climate change which have land, character or traffic implications beyond administrative boundaries</p>

4. Mechanisms for Cooperation

- 4.1 This section sets out the principal mechanisms through which the council has sought to take forward the Duty to Cooperate. Much of the engagement and work developed out of existing arrangements or working relationships, some of which date back many years.
- 4.2 In line with the Planning Practice Guidance [Plan-making](#), the level of engagement and cooperation has been proportionate to the task.
- 4.3 The council's [Statement of Community Involvement](#) was adopted in March 2019 and this sets out how we will consult on various planning documents, including the LPU, Supplementary Planning Documents, and applications.
- 4.4 The mechanisms for co-operation will vary according to the matter and the organisation/s involved. The mechanisms will also evolve as the LPU and supporting evidence base progresses. The following mechanisms could be involved in the duty to co-operate, some of which are already in place:
- Officer and/or councillor meetings (with minutes and terms of reference as appropriate)
 - Correspondence
 - Statements of Common Ground
 - Memoranda of understanding
 - Joint evidence studies
 - Joint methodologies for evidence studies
 - Joint consultations on evidence studies or plans
 - Partnership boards
 - Joint Plans
 - Joint committees
- 4.5 The structures for co-operation for the 6 local authorities within Berkshire (Wokingham Borough, Bracknell Forest, Reading Borough, West Berkshire District, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough Borough) are well established. There are groupings at different levels that meet on a regular basis which include the following:
- Berkshire Leaders
 - Berkshire Chief Executives
 - Berkshire Heads of Planning
 - Berkshire Development Plans Group
- 4.6 In addition to Berkshire-wide cooperation, there are two groupings based on the West of Berkshire local authorities as below. Given the situation around Grazeley (as outlined in section 1) the Grazeley Joint Delivery board is no longer of relevance but is included for completeness.
- West of Berkshire Strategic Planning Group
 - Grazeley Joint Delivery Board
- 4.7 The West of Berkshire local authorities (Bracknell Forest, Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham) signed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) for Local Plan-making in August 2021 (see Appendix X). This provides a framework for strategic planning and the Duty to Cooperate and is a continuation of the approach confirmed in previous SCGs and

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU). The SoCG 2021 documents the cross-boundary matters being addressed, and the progress in cooperating to address these, by the four signatory authorities.

- 4.8 Table 3 below provides an explanation of existing groups through which engagement is undertaken.

Table 3 Existing co-operative groups

Existing co-operative groups	Group organisation/information	Aims/outcomes
<i>Berkshire Leaders</i>	Lead members from: Bracknell Forest Council Reading Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Slough Borough Council West Berkshire Council Wokingham Borough Council	The group provides a high level elected member forum to discuss various matters related to local government, including plan making as an when appropriate.
<i>Berkshire Chief Executives</i>	Chief Executive Officers from: Bracknell Forest Council Reading Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Slough Borough Council West Berkshire Council Wokingham Borough Council	The group provides a high level forum of each authority's most senior officer to discuss various matters related to local government, including plan making as an when appropriate.
<i>Berkshire Heads of Planning</i>	Bi-annual meeting of service area lead officers from the following councils: Bracknell Forest Council Reading Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Slough Borough Council West Berkshire Council Wokingham Borough Council	The group provides a high level forum for discussion of operational matters, strategic planning policy overview for the Berkshire unitary authorities, and a forum for discussion on matters of mutual interest/concern.
<i>Berkshire Members Strategic Planning Group</i>	Executive member / portfolio holder for planning with senior officer support from: Bracknell Forest Council Reading Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Slough Borough Council West Berkshire Council Wokingham Borough Council	The group provides a high level member and officer strategic planning policy overview for the Berkshire unitary authorities, and a forum for discussion on matters of mutual interest/concern.
<i>Development Plans Group (DPG)</i>	Roughly quarterly meetings of planning policy lead officers from: Bracknell Forest Council Reading Council	DPG provides a coordinating role for planning policy officers across Berkshire to share information and discuss matters of mutual planning interest. DPG along with Berkshire Heads of Planning, coordinate evidence base

Existing co-operative groups	Group organisation/information	Aims/outcomes
	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Slough Borough Council West Berkshire Council Wokingham Borough Council	work to inform Local Plans which has included housing and economic studies.
<i>West of Berkshire Strategic Planning Group</i>	Portfolio holders for strategic planning and senior officers (including Chief Executives and planning leads) from: Bracknell Forest Council Reading Council West Berkshire Council Wokingham Borough Council	The group provides a high level member and officer strategic planning policy forum for the West of Berkshire Housing Market Area. The forum which takes the lead on preparing and updating SOCGs relating to strategic planning.
<i>Berkshire Economic Development Officers Group</i>	This group meets every two months and comprises representatives of each of the 6 Berkshire authorities and also the Local Enterprise Partnership.	The group reviews economic development in the Thames Valley Berkshire area, including supporting development of the Strategic Economic Plan, in order to support the economy of the geographic area.
<i>Berkshire Housing Enablers Group</i>	This group is a long-standing group of officers from the 6 Berkshire local authorities and Homes England that currently meet on an ad hoc basis.	The group calls meetings as and when there are issues that warrant sharing of best practice and approaches.
<i>Berkshire Strategic Transport Forum</i>	Wokingham Borough Council is a fully engaged member of the Forum and is represented at both member and officer level.	The Forum brings together the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, the six local transport authorities, the Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail, National Highways, Heathrow Airport Limited, and some train and bus operating companies to discuss and consult on matters of mutual interest relating to strategic transport issues in Thames Valley Berkshire. The Forum aims to agree schemes and work which may be taken forward jointly for bidding and implementation.
<i>Blackwater Valley Network / Countryside Partnership</i>	The Council has been part of this partnership since 1971, with local authorities from Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey, which coordinates works in the Valley.	The role of the BVCP is to deliver an expert, experienced and centralised resource to coordinate projects and actions of all involved parties and stakeholders in the Blackwater Valley for mutual benefit. It also increases sustainable usage of the Blackwater Valley especially for informal outdoor recreation and ensures wildlife and landscape protection.
<i>Elevate Me Berkshire</i>	Supporting of economic development officers from: Bracknell Forest Council Reading Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	This is an online tool for 16-24 year olds in Berkshire to access help, advice and support on employment, work experience, volunteering and mentoring. Elevate Me Berkshire's work includes driving down the

Existing co-operative groups	Group organisation/information	Aims/outcomes
	Slough Borough Council West Berkshire Council Wokingham Borough Council	skills gap that exists, which in some cases can mean young people are not accessing any employment opportunities that may be available, and investing in the necessary infrastructure, including homes and transport, necessary to support young people.
<i>South East England Aggregates Working Party (SEEAWP)</i>	SEEAWP brings together representatives from the aggregates, secondary aggregates and recycling industry and the mineral planning authorities.	The group assesses the potential for supply of secondary and recycled materials, and reserves (land bank) of primary aggregate. The group helps the central and eastern Berkshire authorities work towards a robust joint plan which will provide policies against which development proposals will be assessed.
<i>South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG)</i>	Bracknell Forest Council Brighton & Hove City Council Buckinghamshire Council East Sussex County Council Hampshire County Council (incorporating Southampton City, Portsmouth City and New Forest National Park Waste Planning Authorities) Isle of Wight Council Kent County Council Medway Council Milton Keynes Council Oxfordshire County Council Reading Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Slough Borough Council South Downs National Park Authority Surrey County Council West Berkshire Council West Sussex County Council Wokingham Borough Council	SEWPAG ensures waste planning authorities collaborate in a meaningful way with the waste industry and the EA on strategic issues. The group helps the central and eastern Berkshire authorities work towards a robust joint plan which will provide policies against which development proposals will be assessed.
<i>Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board</i>	Bracknell Forest Borough Council Elmbridge Borough Council Guildford Borough Council Hart District Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Runnymede Borough Council Rushmoor Borough Council Surrey Heath Borough Council Waverley Borough Council Woking Borough Council Wokingham Borough Council Hampshire County Council	To provide a forum for joint working and liaison between the local authorities and other organisations affected by the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, to address matters relating to the management and protection of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and associated land management and planning issues that are of interest to the member organisations.

Existing co-operative groups	Group organisation/information	Aims/outcomes
<i>Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership</i>	Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership is a business-led, multi-sector partnership mandated by government to lead activities that drive local economic growth. To date it has secured and allocated £182m of UK and European public funds to deliver a wide range of initiatives in the Thames Valley Berkshire area. Alongside London, the area is the UK's economic powerhouse contributing over £42.5bn in GVA (2018 provisional) to the national economy. The LEP engages with all authorities across Berkshire.	<p>The local authority members of the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership work together to prioritise economic development and work collaboratively across the geographic area.</p> <p>This has included work to prepare the Berkshire Local Industrial Strategy (BLIS), engagement on an economic recovery strategy.</p>

- 4.9 The below provides an overview of key areas of engagement and cooperation undertaken to date which are not related to evidence studies.

Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework

- 4.10 There are also well established structures for co-operating on matters outside Berkshire with regards to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA) which covers 11 local authority areas including Wokingham Borough. There is an officer working group and a Joint Strategic Members Board which includes Natural England. Agreed avoidance and mitigation measures are implemented through the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework 2009.

West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework

- 4.11 Work on the Berkshire SHMA (2016) identified two housing market areas, and identified a high level of need for new housing. The four local authorities in the Western Berkshire HMA (Reading Borough, Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire District and Wokingham Borough), agreed to cooperate on how best housing needs could be met. This led to the production of the West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework.
- 4.12 The Framework has a number of elements that are of relevance to the Duty to Cooperate including the principle that the local authorities would seek to meet the area's housing need within the HMA. The document represents a commitment to cross boundary working to identify large scale opportunities to meet identified future development needs in the area. Cross boundary working has been supported by this group, alongside a strategic commitment to identify large scale opportunities to meet identified future development needs in the area. The Framework therefore identified Grazeley (south of Reading) as one of a number of opportunities to deliver strategic scale development. As set out above, circumstances have now changed with regards to Grazeley.

Growth Scenarios Reports

- 4.13 As part of the update to the local plan, over 300 potential development sites have been submitted for consideration. All of these have been fully assessed as part of the process. In 2018, five larger and more complex areas were looked at in more detail by commissioned (in partnership with West Berkshire Council) consultants – David Lock Associates with Peter Brett Associates (now Stantec).
- 4.14 These five areas were:

- Land around Grazeley
- Land at Barkham Square
- Land to the east of Twyford – largely in Ruscombe
- Land at Hall Farm Arborfield
- Land at Ashridge Hurst

- 4.15 It was considered important to look at these larger sites in more detail because of their potential to provide for large-scale, sustainable and infrastructure-rich housing development, though they have significant challenges which would need to be overcome. The commission involved a range of growth scenarios being tested for each potential growth location. A wide range of stakeholders were engaged in the process, including through technical workshops where discussions related to utilities, transport and highways, environmental health, community wellbeing (including education, health, housing and heritage) and ‘green and blue’ infrastructure (including drainage and flooding and ecology) which were attended by numerous statutory consultees and adjoining authorities (more detail provided in The Housing Need and Supply table in [section 5](#)).
- 4.16 Subsequently, additional masterplanning work was commissioned to look in more detail at a larger area around Hall Farm / Loddon Valley, as well as the possibility of exploring expansion of the area planned for housing within the South Wokingham Strategic Development Location. These areas represented new opportunities to explore strategic growth which were not known to be available previously. As previously, a wide range of stakeholders were engaged in this exercise, as set out in section 5.
- 4.17 The commissioning of this work has not pre-judged the outcome of the LPU. This work has been used to help inform the decision making process on whether development would be suitable at these locations.

Grazeley Garden Settlement Status

- 4.18 Wokingham Borough Council, West Berkshire District Council and Reading Borough Council applied to the Garden Communities Prospectus for capacity funds to assist the investigation of a new garden town at Grazeley.
- 4.19 In March 2019 the government awarded Grazeley Garden Settlement Status.

Housing Infrastructure Fund

- 4.20 Wokingham Borough Council, West Berkshire District Council and Reading Borough Council applied the government’s Housing Infrastructure Fund in March 2019 for £252m to support the delivery of a garden town at Grazeley, should the councils’ local plan processes support the proposal.
- 4.21 The bid passed the gateway assessment but was ultimately unsuccessful.

Garden Communities Programme

- 4.22 Following a successful bid in relation to Grazeley Garden Town, Wokingham Borough Council has submitted a bid to join the Garden Communities programme in relation to Hall Farm / Loddon Valley. The bid has been informed by engagement with DtC bodies, including a letter of support from the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP.

Joint Central and East Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

- 4.23 Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council have agreed to prepare a joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Hampshire Services were subsequently appointed.

4.24 To date, the following progress has been made on the plan:

- An [Issues and Options consultation](#) was conducted Summer 2017
- A [Draft Plan consultation](#) was conducted in Summer 2018
- An additional Call for Sites was carried out in Autumn 2019
- A further focussed consultation on sand and gravel provision and operator performance was carried out in Spring 2020
- Proposed submission (Regulation 19) consultation was carried out in Autumn 2020
- The plan was submitted on 25 February 2021 and Examination hearing sessions took place in September and October 2021

5. Strategic Priorities and evidence of cooperation

5.1 The following section describes the engagement that has taken place in relation to the identified strategic matters

5.2 The following is provided for each strategic matter:

- An overview of the strategic context, including the relevant evidence base
- A list of the relevant strategic partners
- Actions that have been undertaken
- Outcomes from engagement
- Identification of areas for ongoing cooperation

Housing Need and supply

1. Housing need and supply for the Borough

It is a requirement of the NPPF that local plans should, as a minimum, provide for the objectively assessed need for housing. The Wokingham Borough Council intends to meet its own housing requirement in full.

The way that the need for housing is calculated has altered during the local plan process to date. The NPPF 2012 required that local authorities undertook Strategic Housing Market Assessments to calculate the level of housing need. In 2018, the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a revised NPPF, with further updates published in 2019 and 2021. One of the substantial changes introduced through the revision was the introduction of a standard method for calculating the minimum number of homes that should be planned for.

Prior to the latest version of the NPPF, the Berkshire local authorities and the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP jointly commissioned a study to identify the relevant Housing Market Areas for the authorities and to calculate the related housing needs of each.

The study, the Berkshire (including South Bucks) Strategic Housing Market Assessment was published in 2016. It identified two HMA:

1. Western Berkshire HMA focused on Reading comprising of Reading Borough, West Berks District, Wokingham Borough and Bracknell Forest; and
2. Eastern Berkshire HMA focused on Slough comprising of Slough Borough, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and South Bucks District.

South Bucks District Council was kept informed as an interested party in the project, for instance being provided with the opportunity to make comments on draft versions as they emerged. However, SBDC has made clear that it fundamentally disagrees with the extent of the Housing Market Areas identified by the SHMA. SBDC's position is that the Berkshire authorities sit within a single HMA, and its reasons for this are based on the ORS/Atkins work. SBDC have consistently maintained this position ever since. The Buckinghamshire authorities subsequently commissioned further work that argued that, as SBDC had decided to proceed with a joint local plan with Chiltern District Council, the whole area fell within Central Buckinghamshire HMA on a best-fit basis.

Following the publication of the 2014-based household projections, the local authorities within the Western Berkshire HMA commissioned a new assessment to review the level of housing need. The OAN Sensitivity Testing – Western Berkshire HMA was published in 2018.

Both the SHMA and the OAN Sensitivity Testing studies have been superseded by the introduction of the standard method. Whilst this provides a new calculation of housing need, the Berkshire local authorities continue to consider the HMA geography identified by the SHMA as relevant, with engagement and cooperation being focused accordingly.

The Berkshire authorities have worked together on how to assess capacity for housing (as well as economic development uses). West Berkshire District Council, Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council, together with Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough Borough Council, jointly developed a methodology for Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessments, which was finalised in November 2016. This follows the basic method set out in Planning Practice Guidance, but provides more guidance from a local perspective. This should form the basis for carrying out such assessments within those authorities. Bracknell Forest Council has its own methodology which it developed in advance of the joint methodology, but the methodologies are broadly compatible, and BFC was involved in the development of the joint methodology.

The Western Berkshire HMA local authorities jointly produced the [‘West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework – Delivering sustainable new communities to 2036’](#). This document represents a commitment to cross boundary working to identify large scale opportunities to meet identified

future development needs in the area. Cross boundary working has been supported by this group, alongside a strategic commitment to identify large scale opportunities to meet identified future development needs in the area. The Framework therefore identified Grazeley (south of Reading) as one of a number of opportunities to deliver strategic scale development.

To inform the local plan process, a '[Growth Scenarios Report](#)' that assessed the potential opportunities of large areas of land was commissioned. The preparation included representation from all three local authorities, parish councils, and other stakeholders.

In light of the Grazeley Garden Town proposal no longer being deliverable, a review of alternative options was undertaken. This included further masterplanning work being commissioned to explore new strategic scale opportunities for growth which had arisen since the Draft Local Plan (2020). As with previous work, the preparation included representation from surrounding local authorities, parish councils, and other stakeholders.

Wokingham Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Council and West Berkshire District Council have also commissioned needs assessments for affordable housing and other housing needs. The Wokingham Borough Local Housing Needs Assessment was produced in January 2020, whilst the Bracknell Forest Housing Needs Assessment reported in July 2020 (and was amended in March 2021 to correct a small error). The West Berkshire Updated Housing Needs Evidence was produced in May 2020.

The Western Berkshire authorities have established a Statement of Common Ground and MoU. Engagement demonstrates that the Western Berkshire area authorities accept that they will seek to meet their own needs as identified by the use of the Standard Method, with the exception of Reading whose housing requirement in its adopted Local Plan is based on the SHMA as per the transitional arrangements. The Western Berkshire authorities have agreed through a Memorandum of Understanding that Reading's existing unmet need of 230 dwellings (based on current development plan) is a collective responsibility and will be met within the HMA through flexibility included in emerging plans. No authority is required to increase the minimum housing requirement or identify specific sites.

3. Evidence base

Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2015).

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=382819>

OAN Sensitivity Testing – Western Berkshire Housing Market Area (March 2018)

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=452490>

West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework (2016)

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=412488>

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Methodology (2016)

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=410474>

Local Housing Needs Assessment (2020)

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/draft-local-plan-consultation/?assetdet91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=508801&categoryesct91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10728>

National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) [SUPERSEDED]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/national-planning-policy-framework-2>

National Planning Policy Framework (March 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2>

4. Strategic Partners

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
- Bracknell Forest Council
- Buckinghamshire Council
- Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership
- Hart District Council
- Homes England
- London Enterprise Panel Local Enterprise Partnership
- Mayor of London
- NHS England
- NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group
- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Reading Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
- Runnymede Borough Council
- Rushmoor Borough Council
- Slough Borough Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- West Berkshire District Council
- Woking Borough Council

5. Actions

Action: Joint officer meeting of Berkshire Development Plans Group (DPG) and Berkshire Heads of Planning (BHoP), to discuss SHMA governance and finalise the draft SHMA brief.

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities

Outcome: All except RBWM confirm full involvement in the Berkshire SHMA. It was also agreed to invite the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP to be a partner in the SHMA, which it accepted and became an equal partner in the study.

Date: 14/08/2014

Action: Member meeting of Berkshire Leaders to discuss the SHMA brief and governance proposals.

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities

Outcome: All except Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead confirm full involvement in Berkshire SHMA and agree governance proposals. RBWM later (November 2014) agree to be a partner. Governance further discussed and agreed in April 2015.

Date: 22/09/2014, April 2015

Action: Officer meeting of the Berkshire Development Plans Group to discuss and formally evaluate the SHMA tenders.

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

Outcome: Joint agreement to commission GL Hearn to carry out the Berkshire SHMA.

Date: 18/12/2014

Action: Officer Steering Group meetings to progress the SHMA.

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP. South Bucks attended on one occasion.

Outcome: Drafts of the SHMA chapters progressed through discussion and cooperation.

Dates: 17/03/2015, 15/05/2015, 18/06/2015, 28/07/2015, 10/09/2015

Action: SHMA Stakeholder presentation event to discuss SHMA methodology and draft outcomes on Housing Market Areas. Start of 2 week consultation to gather feedback.

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council; Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead; Reading Borough Council; various private sector attendees.

Outcome: Comments received during and after the event taken into account summarised in Statement of consultation attached as an appendix to the final SHMA.

Date: 19/05/2015 – 02/06/2015

Action: Officer and Member engagement with South Bucks District Council once it was identified as part of the area covered by the Berkshire SHMA. South Bucks was invited to be part of the commissioning of the second part of the SHMA once the Housing Market Areas had been defined, but ultimately declined. It was also invited to attend the Member Reference Group to take the SHMA forward.

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

Outcome: South Bucks indicated that it did not want to be actively involved in the Berkshire SHMA but was pursuing alternative options linked to it taking forward a joint local plan with Chiltern District Council.

Date: October 2015

Action: Member Reference Group inception meeting to agree Terms of Reference and discuss the draft SHMA.

Partners: Members from all 6 Berkshire unitary authorities, supported by officers:

Cllr Chris Turrell, Bracknell Forest
Cllr Tony Page, Reading
Cllr John Kaiser, Wokingham
Cllr James Swindlehurst, Slough
Cllr Derek Wilson, Windsor and Maidenhead
Cllr Alan Law, West Berkshire

Outcomes: Agreement to publishing the SHMA through a stakeholder event to be held in October 2015 and to produce a shared press release. Agreement to invite South Buckinghamshire District

Council and the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP to future meetings. Discussion of the draft Terms of Reference.

Date: 15/09/2015

Action: Member Reference Group meeting to agree press release, future strategic working and the next steps for the SHMA.

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP.

Outcomes: May split into HMA sub-grouping to take forward capacity work. Amended Terms of Reference agreed. Joint press release on SHMA discussed and agreed. Timing of release agreed.

Date: 12/10/2015

Action: Duty to Cooperate and Stakeholder event to present and discuss final SHMA outcomes

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities and various private sector attendees.

Outcome: The outcomes of the SHMA become public. DtC partners and stakeholders given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the outcomes of the SHMA.

Date: 20/10/2015.

Action: Joint working across the Western Housing Market Area to accommodate the objectively assessed need for the HMA and to assess strategic development opportunities. This has consisted of two joint planning sessions with planners and transport planners from the authorities within the Western HMA to establish constraints and opportunities across the HMA on a consistent basis. This was then followed up by a meeting with Berkshire Chief Executives.

Partners: West Berkshire Council, Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council, Bracknell Forest District Council.

Outcomes: Agreed that there is added value in continuing to work together with a view to agreeing a joint strategic framework that each Local Plan could then help deliver and support. This approach was then discussed with Berkshire Chief Executives to seek endorsement. A further meeting involving Chief Executives, Council Leaders and Portfolio Holders, supported by senior officers from the four western HMA authorities has been arranged for April 2016 at which The scope of the strategic framework will be discussed. Another strand to this work has been assessing options for wider partnership working and bidding for funding to deliver strategic growth opportunities.

Date: 03/12/2015, 22/01/2016, 17/02/2016

Action: DtC meeting to discuss OAN and Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) Methodology

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities, Chiltern and South Bucks DCs

Outcome: Commitment for Berkshire authorities to collaborate on a joint HELAA methodology

Date: 22/12/2015

Action: Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) Methodology Consultation

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council, West Berkshire Council. Consultation extended to all parish councils and everyone on the Council's consultation database.

Outcome: A final shared methodology agreed between RBWM, Reading, Slough, West Berks Councils for assessing promoted sites for housing (and other uses)

Date: 09/05/2016 – 03/06/2016

Action: Hart District Council DtC meeting to discuss progress on Local Plans and other issues on which co-operation may be beneficial.

Partners: East Hampshire District Council on behalf of Hart District Council, Bracknell Forest Council, West Berkshire Council

Outcome: Opening lines of communications for cross-boundary working and discussions

Date: 29/07/2016

Action: Letters sent by email to neighbouring LPAs advising of the imminent publication (21st Sept) of the promoted sites received through the LPU call for sites exercise. Letter also highlighted those sites received which straddled the administrative boundary of neighbouring authorities.

Partners: Hart DC, Reading BC, Bracknell Forest and West Berks.

Outcomes: Awareness raised with duty to co-operate partners about potential cross boundary implications of promoted sites within Wokingham

Date: 15/09/2016

Action: Joint Berkshire Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Methodology published by the Berkshire authorities.

Partners: Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council, West Berkshire District Council

Outcome: Clarity to the public and site promoters etc, on how sites will be assessed consistently through each partner authority's local plan process.

Date: 14/11/2016

Action: Inception meeting for Western Berkshire HMA SHMA update.

Partners: West Berkshire, Bracknell Forest, Reading (not a commissioning body due to advanced plan-making stage)

Outcome: Agreed timetable for sensitivity analysis work of SHMA based on latest available datasets.

Date: 08/09/2017

Action: Memorandum of Understanding signed regarding Reading Borough Council's unmet housing need

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire

Outcomes: That agreement was reached between the West Berkshire HMA authorities that Reading could not meet its full identified need and therefore that the authorities should work together to accommodate this within the HMA, and not seek alternative locations outside of this geographic area.

Date: 06-16/10/2017

Action: Masterplanning stakeholder workshops with technical bodies.

Partners: Environment Agency, Natural England, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, West Berks DC, Bracknell Forest Council, Homes England, National Highways, Network Rail Western, Southwest Railways, Great Western railway, Reading Cycling Campaign, Reading Borough Council, Hants CC, ONR, TV Police and Crime Prevention Unit, NHS Wokingham, GP Alliance, Thames Water, South East Water, Thames Waste Water, Thames Water Networks, SGN, SSE, BT open reach,

Outcome: Detailed, open discussion regarding the three masterplanning sites (Grazeley, Barkham Square, land at Twyford/Ruscombe) led by the consultants DLA/PBA and stakeholder opinions collected and documented.

Date: 14,15,16/02/2018

Action: Participated in a meeting where the initial findings of Wider Area Growth Study (funded by MHCLG) were presented. This was part of long term issues around unmet need from Slough and RBWM.

Partners: Slough Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire, Wycombe, Three Rivers, Bucks County Council, Chiltern and South Bucks Councils, Hillingdon, South Oxfordshire.

Outcomes: Greater understanding of the longer term strategic growth in the areas around Slough and Windsor and Maidenhead. The scope of Phase 2 of the report is due to be prepared in the coming months.

Date: 21/02/2019

Action: Joint tender preparation of 'Affordable housing and other housing needs assessment' study.

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council

Outcomes: Study undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS). Updated needs published in February 2020 to inform WBC Draft Plan consultation. Bracknell Forest ultimately decided to pursue a separate commission, as informed by the collaboration on the initial joint tender.

Date: June 2019 – January 2020

Action: DtC meeting

Partners: Basingstoke and Deane Council and Wokingham Borough Council.

Outcomes: Potential for a future review of WBC's ability to meet own housing need in light of the extension to AWE Burghfield DEPZ constraints

Date: 12/11/2020

Action: DtC letter sent to adjoining local authorities providing an update on the evidence base in preparing a revised growth strategy. This highlighted the potential need for a stepped housing trajectory, a summary of the strategic sites being considered to replace (in part) Grazeley Garden Town (including quantum and location), a summary of the smaller sites under consideration in proximity to the borough boundary which are also required to make up the housing need shortfall, Confirmation given by WBC that it expects to meet its own housing need in full.

Partners: Bracknell Forest, Reading, RBWM, West Berkshire

Outcome: Acknowledgement of the intention of WBC's emerging Reg 18 consultation to seek to meet its own housing need in full. Feedback received in relation to the proposed sites and commitment to continue to share evidence when it is finalised and engage with adjoining authorities on an ongoing basis.

Date: 09/08/2021

Action: DtC letter sent to key bodies providing update on the evidence base in preparing a revised growth strategy. This highlighted the potential need for a stepped housing trajectory, a summary of the strategic sites considered and the emerging preferred option (including quantum and location), raising the potential for new links to the strategic highways network

Partners: National Highways

Outcome: Agreement to arrange a Duty to Cooperate meeting to discuss the matters raised, and initial feedback provided on the feasibility of potential works to the A329M and M4.

Date: 16/08/2021

Action: Memorandum of understanding

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire, Wokingham Borough Council

Outcome: Agreement that the West Berkshire HMA authorities will work together to accommodate Reading's unmet housing need within the HMA area. This will be achieved through flexibility in emerging plans. No authority is required to increase the minimum housing requirement or identify specific sites.

Date: August 2021

6. Outcomes from strategic working

Agreed functional geography for cooperating on housing need – the Western Berkshire HMA which remains relevant despite the introduction of the standard method for calculating housing need.

Agreed that housing need should be addressed within the HMA. There is a commitment amongst the West Berkshire authorities to meet the identified unmet need for Reading as calculated by the

extant local plan through flexibility in emerging plans, and the remaining three West Berkshire authorities are committed to meeting their own housing needs in full.

7. Ongoing cooperation

Ongoing cooperation is required regarding the potential of creating a garden village at Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and the extension of the South Wokingham SDL, including assessing infrastructure impacts and funding requirements.

Ongoing co-operation is required to sure that emerging plans include sufficient flexibility to address the unmet need identified in Reading's Local Plan.

Longer-term co-operation will be required to consider the future development need and growth of Reading.

Ongoing cooperation on future governance arrangements to ensure efficient and effective decision making

Gypsy and Travellers, Travelling Showpeople, and Boatdwellers

<p>1. Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showpeople accommodation , Boat dweller accommodation</p> <p>The accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and Boatdwellers require cooperation between local authorities.</p> <p>National policy, set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), is aimed at ensuring “fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.” It requires local planning authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, and to set targets to address this. This is consistent with duties under the Housing Act 1985 (as amended by the Housing and Planning Act 2016). This requires consideration of the needs of people living on sites on which caravans can be stationed. This will include Gypsies and Travellers who, though they may have ceased to travel and therefore no longer meet the PPTS definition, nevertheless continue to have a cultural aversion to bricks and mortar accommodation and therefore require specific, culturally relevant accommodation. For these Gypsies and Travellers, the relevant national policy is the NPPF (paragraph 62).</p> <p>Wokingham Borough Council commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which was published in May 2017 and updated in September 2017. This identified the need for PPTS and ‘cultural’ Gypsies and Travellers i.e. those who have ceased to travel and therefore fall under the NPPF.</p> <p>It is recognised that Gypsy and Traveller issues are not necessarily tied to the HMA boundaries, and discussions around unmet needs are likely to be required with authorities outside West of Berkshire. It is important that local planning authorities work in partnership to ensure that the assessment of needs is robust and that there are sufficient sites in suitable locations to meet the accommodation needs, including transit sites and mooring places.</p>
<p>2. Evidence base</p> <p>Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2017)</p> <p>Wokingham Boat Dwellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (December 2019) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/draft-local-plan-consultation/?assetdet91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=508604&categoryesctl91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10728</p> <p>Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2021) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p>
<p>3. Strategic Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council• Bracknell Forest Council• Buckinghamshire Council• Hart District Council• Homes England• Reading Borough Council• Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead• Slough Borough Council• South Oxfordshire District Council

- West Berkshire District Council
- National Bargee Traveller Association

4. Actions

Action: Regular officer meetings – to update on current status regarding Gypsy and Traveller planning across Berkshire.

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council

Outcome: Updates provided by officers with regard to progress/status on Gypsy and Traveller planning within each local authority

Date: Ongoing Quarterly / Six monthly meetings

Action: Officer meeting to explore possibility of conducting a Berkshire wide (excluding Slough Borough Council) Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham Borough Council

Outcome: Confirmation of full participation in the work by Wokingham Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire Council. Bracknell Forest Council unable to commit to the work at this stage, but acknowledged the benefits of joining the wider study. Reading Borough Council unable to commit but is likely to be involved in the methodology. It was agreed to prepare a joint methodology for the participating Berkshire authorities, followed by individual GTAA's for each authority area. It was later confirmed that Bracknell Forest Council would fully participate in the work and Reading Borough Council would participate in the preparation of a joint methodology only.

Date: 20/03/2014

Action: Officer meeting with consultants (ORS) to discuss technical detail of the joint methodology and resolve any outstanding issues in order to finalise methodology.

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham Borough Council

Outcome: Outstanding issues discussed and it was agreed that once all matters have been finalised within the document the joint methodology would be published. This was followed up by ORS who distributed the final joint methodology via email to all participating Berkshire authorities (31 March 2015). Once methodology was finalised it was agreed each local authority would publish their individual GTAA once complete – all working on different timescales.

Date: 03/03/2015

Action: Wokingham Borough Council held a DtC meeting to discuss progress on its GTAA and overall policy position.

Partners: Berkshire unitary authorities excluding West Berkshire

Outcome: It was agreed that the Berkshire authorities would stay in contact and share outcomes of GTAA's once finalised/published. West Berkshire Council could not attend this meeting but

sent an update via email (16 March 2015) regarding its policy position and progress on the West Berkshire GTAA.

Date: 19/03/2015

Action: Publication of the Wokingham GTAA (2015) and circulation to Berkshire authorities.

Partners: Berkshire unitary authorities

Outcome: Sharing of need evidence to allow cross boundary implications to be considered.

Date: 11/05/2015

Action: Letter sent to West Berkshire requesting joint working regarding Gypsy and Traveller Provision on the West Berkshire / Wokingham boundary.

Partners: West Berkshire

Outcome: Ongoing discussions regarding Gypsy and Traveller provision. The final version of the plan excluded the proposed site allocation on the Wokingham – West Berkshire Boundary

Date: 14/01/2016

Action: Following updates to the PPTS in August 2015 a new brief was devised to commission an updated GTAA which reflected national policy changes. Using this brief, WBC commissioned arc4 to undertake a new GTAA. The project brief was shared with Berkshire authorities. Reading BC had already commissioned a new study given their advanced local plan timetable.

Partners: Bracknell, RBWM, West Berkshire

Outcome: Bracknell, RBWM and West Berkshire commissioned arc4 Ltd – the consultants who WBC commissioned to undertake its new GTAA – using WBC's methodology as a basis.

Date: Differs by authority (May 2017 – June 2018)

Action: arc4 circulated, on WBC's behalf, a stakeholder survey in support of the GTAA aimed at capturing a range of views on specific themes and issues from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.

Partners: All adjoining Local authorities, Thames Valley Police, Gypsy Council, Friends Families and Travellers, Showman's Guild, Various Housing Associations; Internal WBC Departments – education, housing, planning enforcement, environmental health; all parish / town Councils within the borough, individuals who had previously responded to GTLP.

Outcome: 33 responses received to the survey which allowed for a range of views to be qualitatively analysed and to inform the GTAA output.

Date: 20/01/2017 – 17/02/2017 (consultation period)

Action: WBC officers completed the stakeholder survey circulated by arc4 Ltd on behalf of Reading Borough Council. The survey was similar to WBC's own survey but focussed on issues within Reading Borough and any cross boundary issues.

Partners: Reading Borough Council

Outcome: Formal response provided by WBC.

Date: January 2017

Action: WBC officers interviewed as part of stakeholder engagement through the preparation of the Cherwell, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse GTAA. Follow up transcript reviewed and updated.

Partners: Cherwell, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse

Outcome: Formal DtC response provided by Wokingham Borough Council providing qualitative and quantitative data.

Date: 28/02/2017

Action: Wokingham Borough Council officers completed the stakeholder survey circulated by arc4 Ltd on behalf of Bracknell Forest Council. The survey was similar to WBC's own survey but focussed on issues within Bracknell Forest and any cross boundary issues.

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council

Outcome: Formal response provided by WBC.

Date: 15/03/2017 - 28/03/2017

Action: Reviewed Reading Borough Council's Draft Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Houseboat Dweller Accommodation Assessment as circulated in draft to neighbouring authorities.

Partners: Reading Borough Council

Outcome: Highlighted the potential implications of the findings for WBC. Increased clarity on the treatment of encampment occupiers in the fieldwork process.

Date: 28/06/2017

Action: Formal response provided to Reading Borough Council's Gypsy and Traveller Provision Consultation

Partners: Reading Borough Council

Outcome: Informing of RBC that WBC is unlikely to be able to accommodate any unmet need.

Date: 20/10/2017

Action: Formal response provided to Reading Borough Council to its request for neighbouring authorities to accommodate unmet need.

Partners: Reading Borough Council

Outcome: Confirmation given to RBC that WBC will not be seeking to accommodate any unmet need.

Date: 06/03/2018

Action: WBC officers completed the stakeholder survey circulated by arc4 Ltd on behalf of West Berkshire Council. The survey was similar to WBC's own survey but focussed on issues within West Berkshire and any cross boundary issues.

Partners: West Berkshire Council

Outcome: Formal response provided by WBC.

Date: 15/10/2018 – 09/11/2018

Action: WBC officers met with a representative of the NBTA to seek guidance on best practice for carrying out a Boat Dweller Accommodation Assessment.

Partners: NBTA

Outcome: Best practice examples shared with, and advice given to, WBC on how to undertake a needs assessment. Commitment by WBC to commission a study to inform Reg 18 plan.

When: 12/03/2019

Action: Wokingham Borough Council officers completed the stakeholder survey circulated by ORS on behalf of Hart District Council. The survey was similar to WBC's own survey but focussed on issues within Hart District and any cross boundary issues.

Partners: Hart District Council

Outcome: A range of qualitative stakeholder views expressed and recorded to inform the assessed need.

When: 14/08/2019

Action: Boat Dweller Accommodation Needs Assessment

Partners: NBTA, interested parties, internal stakeholders from development management and council tax

Outcome: A range of qualitative stakeholder views expressed and recorded to inform the assessed need.

When: 05/09/2019

Action: WBC officers inputted into the Basingstoke and Deane GTAA. Officers provided an updated response to the survey undertaken by ORS in relation to Hart's GTAA in 2019 (see entry above) which set out the need and supply position for WBC.

Partners: Basingstoke and Deane

Outcome: A range of qualitative stakeholder views expressed and recorded to inform the assessed need.

When: 11/11/2021

5. Outcomes from strategic working

The production of a joint GTAA methodology for Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire Council and Wokingham Borough Council in 2015. This ensured a consistent approach to the preparation of GTAA's across Berkshire, leading to confidence in consistency and conclusions. This collaborative approach continued in the use of a standardised brief to commission a new round of GTAA studies to reflect changes in national policy.

Close engagement through the production of the latest GTAA's across Berkshire has ensured further consistent needs analysis which account for cross-boundary implications given the studies have utilised the same consultants and consistent data input.

6. Ongoing cooperation

Each authority will seek to meet its own needs in respect of permanent pitches in the first instance. There is no agreed position across the Berkshire authorities in terms of meeting needs for Gypsies and Travellers across authority boundaries. Where that is not possible, as has for instance been the case in the Reading Borough Local Plan, there will need to be further discussions around unmet needs, but there is no presumption that any specific authority(ies) will meet these needs.

Land in proximity to Reading Borough is impacted by the DEPZ and emergency planners advise against further residential development. They also advise that caravans are unsuitable as places to shelter and so a transient population is at greater risk.

There has been ongoing cooperation with authorities beyond Berkshire regarding the preparation of GTAA's which has ensured that the WBC context has been understood in the preparation of those studies (namely Hart and Basingstoke and Deane).

Employment Land

<p>1. Supply of Employment Land</p> <p>The NPPF identifies employment as a strategic priority to be addressed by local plans. It states that Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt with policies required to set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth,</p> <p>As part of the Local Plan Update WBC will plan for employment growth, including, land requirements. Consultants Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners (NLP) were commissioned by the six Berkshire authorities and the TVB LEP to establish the Functional Economic Market Areas that operate across Berkshire. The study concluded that Wokingham is located within the 'Central Berkshire Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA)' along with Reading, Bracknell and Windsor & Maidenhead Borough Councils. A separate studies were commissioned by the six Berkshire authorities and the TVB LEP called the Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) across each of the FEMAs . The EDNAs considers the objectively assessed economic development needs for each FEMA, including quantitative land and floorspace requirements or individual sectors and employment uses.</p> <p>In addition to this evidence, further employment work was jointly commissioned by the council with Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire Councils. Peter Brett Associates (PBA) (now Stantec) and Aspinall Verdi have reviewed the employment need (floorspace) set out in the EDNA by comparing data with the Inter Departmental Business Register (IBDR). A market analysis has also been undertaken that seeks to identify where there is potential demand for new floorspace, and how far existing stock is meeting current and future requirements. Further work by Stantec uses updated demographic modelling to assess the job growth anticipated across the three authorities that will inform future floorspace and land requirements, as set out in the Employment Land Needs Study (2020).</p>
<p>2. Evidence base</p> <p>Thames Valley Berkshire: Delivering national growth, locally - Strategic Economic Plan 2015/16 – 202/21, http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/getfile/Public%20Documents/Strategic%20Economic%20Plan/TVB%20SEP%20-%20Strategy.pdf?inline-view=true</p> <p>Functional Economic Market Area Final Report (2016) http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=383722</p> <p>Central Berkshire FEMA Economic Development Needs Assessment Final Report (2016) http://thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/Portals/0/FileStore/StrategicInfrastructure/14793%20Central%20Berkshire%20EDNA%20Final%20Report%2028.10.16.pdf</p> <p>Wokingham Borough Employment Land Needs Study (2020) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/draft-local-plan-consultation/?assetdet91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=508872&categoryesctl91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10730</p> <p>Thames Valley Berkshire: Recovery and Renewal Plan (2021) http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/getfile/Thames%20Valley%20Berkshire%20LEP%20Recovery%20and%20Renewal%20Plan-compressed.pdf</p>
<p>3. Strategic Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

- Bracknell Forest Council
- Buckinghamshire Council
- Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership
- Hart District Council
- London Enterprise Panel LEP
- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Reading Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council
- Rushmoor Borough Council
- Slough Borough Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Berkshire Borough Council

4. Actions

Action: Officer and Member engagement with South Buckinghamshire District Council once it was identified as part of the area covered by the Berkshire SHMA.

Partners: All 6 Berkshire unitary authorities and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

Outcome: At October 2015, South Bucks declined to take part in the jointly commissioned work on the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA).

Date: October 2015

Action: Consultation on the methodology for both the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) and the Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA). A short method consultation document was prepared and circulated to invited stakeholders.

Partners: Reading, Bracknell, RBWM, West Berkshire, Slough, Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Outcome: Consultation responses received from key stakeholders on the proposed methodology for both the FEMA analysis and the EDNA. The consultants, NLP, who produced the reports provided a response to each comment and altered the reports where necessary.

Date: 21/10/2015 – 28/10/2015 for the consultation on the FEMA methodology.
30/11/2015 – 11/12/2015 for the consultation on the EDNA.

Action: Meeting where the consultants NLP presented the final findings of the FEMA Report.

Partners: Reading, West Berkshire, Bracknell, Slough, RBWM, Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and the consultants NLP

Outcome: The final findings of the FEMA report were presented and agreement was reached that NLP be commissioned to conduct the second part of the assessment – the Economic Development Needs Assessment.

Date: 14/12/2015

Action: A meeting with the other authorities within the Central Berkshire FEMA to discuss the findings of the Draft Economic Development Needs Assessment with the consultants NLP

Partners: Reading, Bracknell, RBWM

Outcome: Comments fed back to the consultants from the authorities regarding the draft of the EDNA.

Date: 17/03/2016

Action: Stakeholder consultation on emerging findings for the Central Berkshire Economic Development Needs Assessment.

Partners: All local authorities adjoining Wokingham.

Outcome: Consultation responses received from key stakeholders on the draft outputs of the study and tweaks made to the study by the consultants, NLP.

Date: June 2016 – July 2016

Action: DtC meeting to allow discussion on RBWM's progress on its Borough Local Plan work to date (including sensitivity testing of EDNA) and through to Submission RBWM seeking removal of WBC holding objection to BLP.

Partners: RBWM, Bracknell Forest

Outcomes: WBC updated on masterplanning work across large and complex sites in the borough and explained reasoning for sustaining objection to the RBWM Borough Local Plan.

Date: 24/01/2018

Action: Employment Needs Study

Partners: Bracknell, RBWM, West Berkshire, Peter Brett Associates, Aspinall Verdi

Outcome: Discussion of data requirements and agreement of next steps.

Date: 06/06/2018

Action: Employment Land Needs Study DtC Briefing

Partners: Bracknell, RBWM, West Berkshire, Peter Brett Associates, Aspinall Verdi, Chiltern & South Bucks, Rushmoor, Basingstoke & Deane, Slough.

Outcome: Explanation given of study and comments from DtC partners noted.

Date: 20/07/2018

Action: Employment Lands Needs Study – Officer meeting

Partners: Bracknell, West Berkshire, Peter Brett Associates

<p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreed next steps of study, including methodology for calculating jobs forecasts</p> <p>Date: 20/03/2019</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Catch up meeting with Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Wokingham Borough Council, TVB LEP</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Shared update on upcoming work streams and agreed course of action for the LEP responding to DtC Re-scoping consultation and Revised Growth Strategy consultation.</p> <p>Date: 04/11/2021</p>
<p>5. Outcomes from strategic working</p>
<p>The result of the cooperation has been the joint completion of the Berkshire wide FEMA and EDNA studies, jointly commissioned by the 6 Berkshire authorities and the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This resulted in the definition of functional economic areas across the county as well as the need for additional floorspace over the plan period. Wokingham Borough is therefore located within the Central Berkshire Functional Economic Area. There is agreement across the area over the functional geography.</p> <p>The results of the joint working undertaken through the Employment Land Needs Study (2020) show that the council is not reliant on any other local planning authority to meet future economic needs and therefore it is expected that we will not be reliant on another LPA to meet needs.</p>
<p>6. Ongoing cooperation</p>
<p>As the various local plans within Berkshire progress, the Council will continue to work with neighbouring authorities, at both an officer and member level to ensure the delivery of appropriate and sufficient employment floorspace is planned for.</p> <p>Work on the Employment Land Needs Study, including jobs forecasts will inform the local plan strategies of Wokingham, West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest.</p> <p>Further evidence to understand employment needs in the wake of the Covid pandemic will be required, which will involve joint working / engagement with adjoining authorities, the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, and others as appropriate.</p>

Town Centre and Retail

1. Town Centre and Retail
<p>To guide town centre and retail development the Council jointly commissioned The Western Berkshire Commercial Leisure Assessment (2016) – with the Western HMA authorities (Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire and Reading councils). Each of the retail centres provides different retail and leisure offerings. People will therefore travel between them and not just shop within their own Borough. The study helps to inform the Local Plan Update in terms of setting out how much additional expenditure will be available up to 2036 to support new retail and commercial leisure development in the Borough.</p> <p>Although the impact of the pandemic on the High Street is as yet unclear, it is likely that it will have accelerated the shift to online retailing and resulted in store closures. For these reasons, it will be necessary to keep retail evidence under review. It is likely that local authorities will need to apply a flexible approach to additional retail floorspace within identified centres, particularly primary shopping areas, in accordance with market demand. This approach will be kept under review and updated evidence commissioned as necessary, involving key DtC partners as appropriate.</p>
2. Evidence base
<p>Wokingham Town Centre Masterplan (2010) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=365578</p> <p>Western Berkshire Retail and Commercial Leisure Assessment (2016) http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=428847</p>
3. Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Hart District Council • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • Slough Borough Council • South Oxfordshire District Council • Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership • West Berkshire District Council
4. Actions
<p><u>Action:</u> DtC Meeting</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> All Berkshire LPAs</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreement to undertake a joint retail study</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 23/11/2015</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Retail and Commercial Leisure study inception and DtC meeting.</p>

Partners: Reading, Bracknell, West Berkshire, GVA (retail study consultants)

Outcome: Update provided on the retail developments within each local authority area. Refinement of household telephone survey questions for retail study as well as sharing of data and contacts to inform the study.

Date: 10/02/2016

Action: Findings of a draft of the report presented by the consultants GVA to the Western Berkshire Authorities.

Partners: Reading, Bracknell, West Berkshire

Outcome: Authorities fed back their comments to the consultants

Date: 20/07/2016

Action: Publication of Retail and Commercial Leisure Assessment

Partners: Reading, Bracknell, West Berkshire, GVA (retail study consultants)

Outcome: Retail need for the borough and wider area are publicly available on the council's website.

Date: 28/04/2017

5. Outcomes from strategic working

Confirmation of the leisure needs across the Wokingham, Reading, Bracknell and West Berkshire area including the types of retail floorspace required to cover specific geographic areas.

6. Ongoing cooperation

Need for further co-operation with neighbouring authorities particularly concerning the Lexicon in Bracknell Forest now that this is fully opened.

Potential for further evidence to understand retail needs in the wake of the Covid pandemic. This will likely involve joint working / engagement with adjoining authorities, the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, and others as appropriate.

Development allocations (all types)

1. Development allocations (all types)
<p>Development plan allocations, particularly those close to borough boundaries and those of a strategic nature, are likely to have impacts that cross authority boundaries. They are also likely to have impacts on service providers (such as utility companies, health care providers) especially cumulatively. Therefore, the additional DtC strategic matter has been identified in order to capture any specific DtC matters arising from allocations that may not otherwise be picked up under the other identified matters.</p> <p>Of particular note, the NPPF recognises that larger scale developments such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns will require longer time scales to deliver than individual plan periods. It advises that policies around such allocations should be set within a vision that looks further ahead (at least 30 years), to take into account the likely timescale for delivery. Given the strategic scale approach intended for Hall Farm / Loddon Valley, such considerations are applicable and therefore co-operation with a range of organisations over a long time horizon is required.</p>
2. Evidence base
<p>West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework (2016) http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=412488</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2021) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance</p> <p>Strategic Growth Locations Report: Grazeley, Twyford/Ruscombe, Barkham Square. https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=467945</p> <p>Strategic Growth Locations Report: Hall Farm, Ashridge. https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=467933</p> <p>Wokingham Strategic Sites Report (2021) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/revised-growth-strategy-consultation/?categoryesct191f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10786</p>
3. Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire County Council • Environment Agency • Hart District Council • Oxfordshire County Council • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • South Oxfordshire District Council • West Berkshire District Council

4. Actions
<p><u>Action:</u> Technical stakeholder workshop on transport infrastructure in relation to Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL extension.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> WBC (supported by DLA and Stantec), National Highways, Homes England, Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Thames Valley Berkshire LEP</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Knowledge and ideas gathered about the sites in relation to the nature of transport infrastructure and other measures required to achieve sustainable development in and around the sites.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 26/04/2021</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Technical stakeholder workshop on green and blue infrastructure in relation to Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL extension.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> WBC (supported by DLA and Stantec), Environment Agency, Homes England, Natural England, Reading Borough Council,</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Knowledge and ideas gathered about the sites in relation to green space, nature, water and drainage measures required to achieve sustainable development in and around the sites.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 26/04/2021</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Technical stakeholder workshop on community and social infrastructure in relation to Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL extension.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> WBC (supported by DLA and Stantec), Natural England, NHS England, Reading Borough Council, University of Reading</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Knowledge and ideas gathered about the sites in relation the nature of community and social infrastructure required to achieve sustainable development in and around the sites.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 27/04/2021</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> DtC meeting with Oxford 2050 planning team (see minutes at Appendix XX)</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Oxford County Council, South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse District Councils, West Berkshire, Reading, TVB LEP, Berkshire Local Nature Partnership</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Understanding of the latest position regarding each authority's local plan processes, including changes since previous DtC meeting. All participants informed of the ongoing masterplanning work in relation to Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL, which will inform a revised growth strategy. Agreement of updates to Oxfordshire's DtC matrix.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 14/05/2021</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Community representative workshop in relation to potential Hall Farm / Loddon Valley strategic development.</p>

Partners: WBC (supported by DLA and Stantec), local ward members and parish councillors from Arborfield, Barkham, Earley, Finchampstead, Shinfield, Winnersh

Outcome: Views of the community captured and a feedback summary report prepared recording key points which were taken forward into the next stage of the masterplanning.

Date: 27/05/2021

Action: Community representative workshop in relation to potential South Wokingham SDL extension strategic development.

Partners: WBC (supported by DLA and Stantec), local ward members and parish councillors from Wokingham and Wokingham Without

Outcome: Views of the community captured and a feedback summary report prepared recording key points which were taken forward into the next stage of the masterplanning.

Date: 03/06/2021

Action: DtC letter sent to adjoining local authorities providing an update on the evidence base in preparing a revised growth strategy. This highlighted the potential need for a stepped housing trajectory, a summary of the strategic sites being considered to replace (in part) Grazeley Garden Town (including quantum and location), a summary of the smaller sites under consideration in proximity to the borough boundary which are also required to make up the housing need shortfall, Confirmation given by WBC that it expects to meet its own housing need in full.

Partners: Bracknell Forest, Reading, RBWM, West Berkshire

Outcome: Acknowledgement of the intention of WBC's emerging Reg 18 consultation to seek to meet its own housing need in full. Feedback received in relation to the proposed sites and commitment to continue to share evidence when it is finalised and engage with adjoining authorities on an ongoing basis.

Date: 09/08/2021

Action: DtC letter sent to key bodies providing update on the evidence base in preparing a revised growth strategy. This highlighted the potential need for a stepped housing trajectory, a summary of the strategic sites considered and the emerging preferred option (including quantum and location), raising the potential for new links to the strategic highways network

Partners: National Highways

Outcome: Agreement to arrange a Duty to Cooperate meeting to discuss the matters raised, and initial feedback provided on the feasibility of potential works to the A329M and M4.

Date: 16/08/2021

Action: Meeting with National Highways to discuss implications of updated transport modelling and strategic growth scenario work.

Partners: Wokingham Borough Council (supported by consultants Stantec) and National Highways (supported by consultants Jacobs)

Outcome: Sharing of evidence base outcomes and positive discussion about the implications on the strategic road network and what the future evidential threshold will need to be. Agreement to produce an MoU between WBC and National Highways covering principles discussed.

Date: 29/09/2021

Action: Ongoing engagement regarding the Hall Farm / Loddon Valley potential strategic development

Partners: Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

Outcome: Letter of support regarding the potential for the delivery of residential and commercial development at Hall Farm / Loddon Valley

Date: 21/10/2021

5. Outcomes from strategic working

All relevant bodies have been engaged and kept informed of progress with the emerging spatial strategy and been given the opportunity to comment and input along the way. This has informed the production of a robust Strategic Growth Scenario report to inform the current public consultation.

6. Ongoing cooperation

Ongoing co-operation will be required with National Highways, other statutory bodies, and surrounding authorities around the impact of proposed allocations. It is expected that MoUs will be agreed with all relevant partners who will also play a key role in informing expected Masterplanning SPDs that will be required for strategic development proposals.

Education

<p>1. Education</p> <p>Due to the geography of Wokingham Borough, parental preference and school designated areas, some residents will cross local authority boundaries to access education. For example, due to parental preference, there are pupils from Wokingham who opt to attend Yateley School in Hampshire and pupils residing in Bracknell Forest who attend St. Crispins School in Wokingham.. It may be necessary to coordinate provision for primary school places with neighbouring authorities in order to meet demand.</p> <p>The University of Reading's (UoR) main Whiteknights campus is located on the boundary between Wokingham Borough and Reading. Additional UoR facilities are situated in other parts of Wokingham Borough and Reading and therefore collaboration with Reading Borough Council is required.</p>
<p>2. Evidence base</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2019) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/</p> <p>White Knights Campus Development Plan https://www.reading.ac.uk/fmd/projects/Whiteknights_Development_Plan_2.aspx</p>
<p>3. Strategic Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Hampshire County Council • Hart District Council • Oxfordshire County Council • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • Slough Borough Council • South Oxfordshire District Council • West Berkshire District Council
<p>4. Actions</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Workshop to consider what baseline information exists across Berkshire relating to a range of 'infrastructure'.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Bracknell Forest, Reading, Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire Unitary Authorities</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreement to share information on infrastructure provision</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 19/01/2017</p>

Action: Response provided to Reading BC's Pre-submission draft Local Plan.

Partners: Reading

Outcome: Support raised for Reading's policy approach to Whiteknights campus and request to continue to engage around this issue.

Date: 10/01/2018

Action: Masterplanning stakeholder workshop with technical bodies on community wellbeing.

Partners: West Berks DC, Bracknell Forest Council, Homes England, Reading Borough Council, Hants CC, TV Police and Crime Prevention Unit, NHS Wokingham, GP Alliance, internal service leads for education, waste, community, health.

Outcome: Detailed, open discussion regarding the three masterplanning sites (Grazeley, Barkham Square, land at Twyford/Ruscombe) led by the consultants DLA/PBA and stakeholder opinions collected and documented. Agreed to share information on future education requirements as part of wider cooperation.

Date: 16/02/2018

Action: Bid for government funding towards special educational needs (SEN) school places

Partners: Reading, Department for Education (DfE)

Outcome: Successfully secured funds for DfE to build and fund the school to provide additional SEN places to serve Reading / Wokingham area.

Date: xx/xx/2019

Action: Meeting with Bracknell Forest s106/CIL team regarding infrastructure issues around BFC's proposed allocations

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council

Outcome: Agreement to work together moving forward on the matter of school places.

Date: 18/08/2020

Action: Application for SEN school

Partners: Department for Education

Outcome: Application approved so that SEN needs can be met.

Date: 21/05/2021 – 09/09/2021

5. Outcomes from strategic working

Successful government bid for SEN school place funding which will help towards meeting Reading and Wokingham's need which has now progressed to gaining planning permission.

6. Ongoing cooperation
Continued engagement around the provision of SEN school places across the Reading – Wokingham area. Additional engagement will be required around the cross boundary need for schools of the current SDLs and any future strategic new developments.

Health

1. Health Facilities <i>Define the issue</i>
<p>Healthcare facilities can have cross boundary implications as residents from Wokingham Borough use facilities outside of the Borough such as Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, the Heatherwood Hospital in Ascot, Frimley Park Hospital in Frimley and Wexham Park Hospital in Slough. As such co-operation with neighbouring authorities and their relevant Clinical Commissioning Groups (including North Hampshire CCG, North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG, North and West Reading CCG, South Reading CCG, Surrey Heath CCG, Slough CCG) is important, as well as co-operation with Wokingham CCG especially regarding the sustainability and transformation plans of the two footprints covering Berkshire's health economies. As such, the ownership, management and operating procedures of the NHS have recently undergone a period of considerable transition. There have been substantial changes to the organisation of GP practices, with a shift away from single-handed practices towards larger practices to enable greater capacity and resilience in a challenging financial landscape for public services.</p> <p>Generally, population growth will lead to increased need for health care provision within Wokingham Borough and beyond, particularly with growing numbers of elderly people. As such close co-operation with the CCG who now have commissioning responsibility for GP services, and NHS England, who oversee the budget, planning, delivery and day to day operation of the CCGs, is required.</p>
2. Evidence base
<p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: http://jsna.wokingham.gov.uk/</p>
3. Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Hampshire County Council • Hart District Council • NHS England • NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • Slough Borough Council • South Oxfordshire District Council • West Berkshire District Council
4. Actions
<p><u>Action:</u> Workshop to consider what baseline information exists across Berkshire relating to a range of 'infrastructure'.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Bracknell Forest, Reading, Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreement to share information on infrastructure provision</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 19/01/2017</p>

<p><u>Action:</u> DtC meeting</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Reading Borough Council</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Discussions regarding health infrastructure needs moving forward</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 12/09/2017</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Masterplanning stakeholder workshops with technical bodies.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> NHS, GP Alliance (for others see entry under housing)</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Detailed, open discussion regarding the three masterplanning sites led by the consultants DLA/PBA and stakeholder opinions collected and documented regarding the health infrastructure (and other infrastructure) required.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 14,15,16/02/2018</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> DtC meeting</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Basingstoke and Deane Council and Wokingham Borough Council.</p> <p><u>Outcomes:</u> WBC welcome joint sub-regional working on a single model for monitoring air quality between surrounding boroughs.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 12/11/2020</p>
<p>5. Outcomes from strategic working</p>
<p>Views gathered on the likely health facilities required as part of new strategic developments across the borough which has informed the masterplanning work undertaken.</p>
<p>6. Ongoing cooperation</p>
<p>Ongoing engagement with health service providers will take place once site assessments are finalised and draft allocations decided upon. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be kept up to date as a live document, produced in consultation with service providers which will address the specific infrastructure requirements arising from LPU proposed allocations.</p>

Utilities and infrastructure

<p>1. Utilities and infrastructure</p> <p>Utilities infrastructure includes water supply, wastewater treatment, energy supply and telecommunications. These services and their associated infrastructure are provided by the private sector utility companies, which operate within and around Wokingham Borough.</p> <p>The provision of large scale utility infrastructure is an issue that can have cross-boundary consequences. Utility providers are not subject to the duty to co-operate. However, the NPPF states that local planning authorities should also work collaboratively with utility and infrastructure providers (paragraph 25). The Council will work with utility providers to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is delivered.</p>
<p>2. Evidence base</p> <p>Water Cycle Study (2019): http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=475412</p> <p>TVBLEP Utility Infrastructure Study 2018 http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/documents?view=files&folder=180</p> <p>WBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2020) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/draft-local-plan-consultation/?assetdet91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=508988&categoryesct91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10727</p> <p>WBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2021) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/revised-growth-strategy-consultation/?categoryesct91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10782</p>
<p>3. Strategic Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Bracknell Forest Council • Centrica/British Gas • Environment Agency • Hart District Council • Mayor of London • National Grid • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • Scotia Gas Networks • Scottish and Southern Energy • South East Water • Thames Water • West Berkshire District Council
<p>4. Actions</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Workshop to consider what baseline information exists across Berkshire relating to a range of 'infrastructure'.</p>

<p><u>Partners:</u> All six Berkshire Unitary Authorities.</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreement to share information on infrastructure provision</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 19/01/2017</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Liaison meeting with Thames Water to update on LPU and connection changes for developers to TW network.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Thames Water</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreed to further engagement once indicative list of preferred development sites prepared</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 19/01/2018</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Water Cycle Study inception meeting to discuss and set project context, objectives, programme and deliverables for</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> JBA Consulting, Thames Water</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreed to share data and engage through the lifetime of the project</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 30/04/2018</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Water Cycle Study engagement via email and phone with neighbouring LPAs.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> All neighbouring LPAs</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Sharing of various data on growth plans to inform the study.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 01/07/2018</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Local Plan Update Regulation 18 consultation (Homes for the Future) with statutory utility providers.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> All statutory utility providers</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Comments received which have informed draft policy wording and draft plan supporting text.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 12/11/2018 – 22/02/2019</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Meeting between council officers and Thames Water.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Thames Water</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Sharing of various data and agreement to work together when sites/strategy at a more advanced stage</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 25/02/2019</p>

<p><u>Action:</u> Engagement with SGN regarding future</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> SGN</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreement to share information about anticipated housing delivery in Wokingham Borough.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 02/04/2019</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Production of Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support Draft Plan</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> National Highways, utilities/service providers, CCG, internal specialists</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Publication of an update IDP identifying required infrastructure as informed by feedback from stakeholders, including infrastructure and utilities required in association with a potential Grazeley Garden Town.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> December 2019 – January 2020</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Production of Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support Revised Growth</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> National Highways, utilities/service providers, CCG, internal specialists</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Publication of an update IDP identifying required infrastructure as informed by feedback from stakeholders, including infrastructure and utilities required in association with a potential Hall Farm / Loddon Valley Garden Village and South Wokingham SDL extension.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> March 2021 – November 2021</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Production of renewable energy mapping in relation to the proposed strategic developments (Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL extension).</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Utilities/service providers, internal specialists</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Publication of a report which highlights the range of renewable energy technologies that could be accommodated across the sites, and the feasibility of incorporating these into masterplanning including any gaps in existing infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> March 2021 – November 2021</p>
<p>5. Outcomes from strategic working</p>
<p>Successful completion of a Water Cycle Study Stage 1 including input from service providers. Successful completion of IDP to support Draft Plan consultation and completion of further update to reflect the changes in the Revised Growth Strategy consultation.</p>
<p>6. Ongoing cooperation</p>
<p>Ongoing engagement with service providers will take place once site assessments are finalised and draft allocations decided upon. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be kept up to date as a live document, produced in consultation with service providers which will address the specific infrastructure requirements arising from LPU proposed allocations.</p>

Flood Risk

1. Flood Risk
<p>The Borough is situated within the Thames river basin district and a number of main rivers run through the Borough including the River Thames and its tributary the Foudry Brook, and the River Loddon and its tributaries the Twyford Brook, Emmbrook, Barkham Brook and the River Blackwater. There are also seven major reservoirs ($\geq 25,000\text{m}^3$ of water) located in Wokingham Borough. The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for the flood defences on main rivers and is a key duty to co-operate body. Natural England is also identified as a duty to co-operate body as river corridors are an important wildlife feature. Any new development in Wokingham Borough will have implications across a wider area, including neighbouring authorities. For example the Foudry Brook flows through the west of Wokingham Borough before crossing the boundary into Reading Borough and therefore the risks of flooding in Wokingham can have consequential impacts in Reading. Likewise areas identified as being at risk of flooding from the River Blackwater in Bracknell Forest borough extend into Wokingham Borough.</p>
2. Evidence base
<p>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2020) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/draft-local-plan-consultation/?categoryesctl91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10724</p> <p>Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (site specific) (2021) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/revised-growth-strategy-consultation/?categoryesctl91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10786</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2021) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/</p>
3. Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane • Berkshire Local Nature Partnership • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Environment Agency • Hart District Council • Natural England • Oxfordshire County Council • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • South Oxfordshire District Council • Surrey Heath Borough Council • West Berkshire District Council
4. Actions

Action: Local Plan Update Regulation 18 consultation (Issues and Options).

Partners: Environment Agency

Outcome: Comments received highlighting the importance of selecting sites based on sequential testing, water quality testing, and biodiversity impacts as well as policy requirements for water efficiency. EA confirmed that it would welcome any further opportunities to work with the Council to ensure that matters within its remit are considered during the plan making process.

Date: 04/08/2016 – 30/09/2016

Action: Meeting between stakeholders to discuss climate change national guidance and how this should be reflected in the SFRA work

Partners: WSP (SFRA consultants) and EA

Outcome: Agreement for EA to formally provide comments on project brief to undertake climate change analysis work

Date: 13/02/2017

Action: Masterplanning stakeholder workshops with technical bodies.

Partners: Environment Agency, (for other attendees see housing section)

Outcome: Detailed, open discussion regarding the three masterplanning sites led by the consultants DLA/PBA and stakeholder opinions collected and documented.

Date: 14,15,16/02/2018

Action: Framework agreement with EA to provide non-statutory local plan advice

Partners: Environment Agency

Outcome: Agreement for EA to provide advice to WBC on an agreed fee basis for non-statutory work

Date: 15/08/2018

Action: Targeted consultation on SFRA Level 1 draft document.

Partners: Environment Agency, Natural England, Thames Water, South East Water, all adjoining LPAs, all town / parish councils.

Outcome: Consultation responses received from key stakeholders on the draft outputs of the study and tweaks made to the study by the consultants.

Date: 04/09/2018 – 10/10/2018

Action: Meeting to discuss progress with the SFRA and next steps.

Partners: Environment Agency, WSP

<p><u>Outcome:</u> EA agreed to provide written response regarding sequential test and climate change methodologies. Written confirmation subsequently received endorsing methodology</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 06/08/2019</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Briefing meeting regarding the second cycle flood risk management plans (FRMPs).</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Environment Agency,</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Understand of what FRMPs are, how they are being produced (by the EA), what to expect from the upcoming consultation, and how this impacts upon local plan making.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 21/10/2021</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Production of Level 2 SFRA in relation to potential strategic developments (Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL extension).</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Environment Agency</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Understanding of the potential flood risk across the two strategic sites</p> <p><u>Date:</u> March 2021 – November 2021</p>
<p>5. Outcomes from strategic working</p>
<p>Successful completion of a Level 1 SFRA which has been reviewed and endorsed by the Environment Agency. Leve 2 SFRA specific to Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL extension produced and made available for comment.</p>
<p>6. Ongoing cooperation</p>
<p>Ongoing co-operation required through the production of the full borough SFRA Level 2 work to ensure it is compliant with national policy and supported by the Environment Agency.</p>

Strategic Transport Links

<div><div>1. Strategic Transport Links</div><div><p>Transport infrastructure will always require strategic cross boundary co-operation given the way roads, rail etc. extend beyond a single administrative boundary. The delivery of any transport infrastructure capacity and improvements arising from the Local Plan Update may have an impact outside the Borough and likewise Local Plans produced by other local authorities may have an impact on transport infrastructure within Wokingham Borough. Wokingham already works with the Berkshire authorities in relation to cross boundary infrastructure matters, including meetings of Berkshire transport officers (Berkshire Strategic Transport Forum; Berkshire Heads of Service meetings) which includes representation from all Berkshire authorities. Moving forward, specific issues such as cross-Thames travel will be of particular importance. As potential transport projects emerge through the local plan process, early discussions with neighbouring authorities at the concept stage is vital.</p><p>A specific example of where we have already worked with neighbouring authorities is the work undertaken with Bracknell Forest Council to deliver improvements to ‘Coppid Beech’ roundabout on London Road/A329(M). In addition, data is shared with Bracknell Forest Council to facilitate co-ordinated transport planning. Due to the integrated nature of transport infrastructure, there are numerous authorities identified in Error! Reference source not found. as key co-operation partners which includes all adjoining authorities and additional authorities from further afield where there is specific strategic transport infrastructure (such as Hillingdon Council for Crossrail and Wiltshire Council for the M4). National bodies such as National Highways, who are responsible for the Strategic Road Network, and Network Rail have and will continue to be engaged with. Error! Reference source not found. also identifies Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and Enterprise M3 LEP as key co-operation bodies for transport issues as they can provide funding towards infrastructure improvements.</p></div></div>
<div><div>2. Evidence base</div><div><p>Local Transport Plan 3 http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/parking-road-works-and-transport/transport-and-roads-guidance-and-plans/?assetdet8733745=184915&categoryesct19649051=7749&categoryesct191f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=7749</p><p>Transport Modelling (2020) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/draft-local-plan-consultation/?categoryesct191f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10729</p><p>Transport Modelling (2021)</p><p>WBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2020) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/draft-local-plan-consultation/?assetdet91f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=508988&categoryesct191f252ff-550d-4cfa-a838-92ef2cb5f83c=10727</p><p>WBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2021)</p></div></div>
<div><div>3. Strategic Partners</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council</div></div>

- Bracknell Forest Council
- Buckinghamshire Council
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Ealing Council
- Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership
- Hampshire County Council
- Hart District Council
- Hillingdon Council
- London Enterprise Panel Local Enterprise Partnership
- Mayor of London
- National Highways
- National Rail
- Office of Rail and Road
- Oxford City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Reading Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
- Slough Borough Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Surrey County Council
- Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Transport for London
- Transport for the South East
- West Berkshire District Council
- Wiltshire Borough Council

4. Actions

Action: Local Plan Update Regulation 18 consultation (Issues and Options).

Partners: National Highways

Outcome: Comments received highlighting the importance of considering the cumulative impact of development on the strategic road network and the importance of maximising opportunities to minimise the need to travel. National Highways welcomed opportunities for continued engagement particularly around the issue of cumulative impacts from growth in both Bracknell and Wokingham on M4 Junction 10.

Date: 04/08/2016 – 30/09/2016

Action: Workshop to consider what baseline information exists across Berkshire relating to a range of 'infrastructure'.

Partners: Bracknell Forest, Reading, Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire

Outcome: Agreement to share information on infrastructure provision

Date: 19/01/2017

Action: Production of Sustainable Transport Delivery Excellence Programme report relating to two strategic promoted site clusters.

Partners: Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, Phil Jones Associates Ltd, Sustrans

Outcome: Evidence gathered on how to potentially design and deliver transport solutions associated with Grazeley and Twyford land promotions which could enable increased levels of active and sustainable travel.

Date: 08/02/2017

Action: DtC meeting

Partners: Reading Borough Council

Outcome: Discussions regarding transport infrastructure needs moving forward

Date: 12/09/2017

Action: DtC meeting to allow discussion on RBWM's progress on its Borough Local Plan work to date and through to Submission RBWM seeking removal of WBC holding objection to BLP.

Partners: RBWM, Bracknell

Outcomes: WBC provided update on Twyford masterplanning and explained reasoning for sustaining objection to the plan.

Date: 24/01/2018

Action: Conference call regarding Wokingham's comments to South Oxfordshire District Council's Reg 19 local plan publication particularly surrounding a potential third Thames crossing and WBC's objection to the lack of safeguarded land within the plan for this scheme.

Partners: South Oxfordshire District Council

Outcome: Agreement for SoDC to undertake work to engage stakeholders about incorporating an additional safeguarded route for a new Thames crossing.

Date: 06/02/2018

Action: Transport for South East (TfSE) Economic Connectivity Review Workshop

Partners: Councils and LEPs from across the south east of England

Outcome: Agreement to provide data to inform Economic Connectivity Review and progress towards a transport strategy for the region.

Date: 12/02/2018

Action: Masterplanning stakeholder workshops with technical bodies.

Partners: National Highways, Network Rail Western, Southwest Railways, Great Western railway, Reading Cycling Campaign (for other attendees see housing section)

Outcome: Detailed, open discussion regarding the three masterplanning sites led by the consultants DLA/PBA and stakeholder opinions collected and documented.

Date: 14,15,16/02/2018

Action: Response to South Oxfordshire's further Regulation 19 local plan consultation.

Partners: South Oxfordshire District Council

Outcome: WBC's disappointment expressed that prior DtC discussions had not led to a formally safeguarded route for a new Thames crossing in the latest version of the plan.

Date: 13/02/2019

Action: Highways modelling work and engagement to inform Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid.

Partners: National Highways

Outcome: A bid submitted to MHCLG in relation to HIF, underpinned by detailed transport evidence.

Date: Feb – April 2019

Action: Study to understand the function and future role of the A33 corridor

Partners: Reading, West Berkshire, Hampshire Authorities

Outcome: An understanding of strategic opportunities to improve the Berkshire to Hampshire network

Date: Ongoing but relevance to WBC diminished given Grazeley Garden Town no longer being deliverable.

Action: DtC meeting with Oxford 2050 planning team (see minutes at Appendix XX)

Partners: Oxford County Council, South Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Reading, TVB LEP

Outcome: Understanding of the latest position regarding each authority's local plan process. Understanding of the frameworks in place for co-operation across Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Agreement for ongoing cooperation on the issue of Thrid Thames Crossing

Date: 24/09/2019

Action: Meeting to discuss transport impacts of BFC plan with its adjoining authorities

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Rushmoor Council, RBWM, Surrey County Council, Hart District Council

Outcome: Highlighted that further detailed data needs to be shared in relation to transport modelling in order for conclusions to be understood. This requires detailed reviews by highways colleagues and further discussions will be likely required.

Date: 05/03/2021

Action: Meeting with National Highways to discuss implications of updated transport modelling and strategic growth scenario work.

Partners: Wokingham Borough Council (supported by consultants Stantec) and National Highways (supported by consultants Jacobs)

Outcome: Sharing of evidence base outcomes and positive discussion about the implications on the strategic road network and what the future evidential threshold will need to be. Agreement to produce an MoU between WBC and National Highways covering principles discussed.

Date: 29/09/2021

5. Outcomes from strategic working

Strategic working has led to the delivery of a number of new roads within the borough (for example the Eastern Relief Road in Shinfield) as well as strategic junction improvements. These projects have been delivered as part of the strategy set out in the existing local plan.

6. Ongoing cooperation

Further engagement with neighbouring authorities and National Highways will be required as the spatial strategy is finalised for Regulation 19 consultation. This will include agreeing necessary mitigations and co-operation on how these will be funded and delivered.

Biodiversity

1. Biodiversity including Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Parts of the southern section of the Borough are located within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection area with much of the southern region of the borough located within the 5km and 7km buffer zones from the SPA. The Thames Basin Heath SPA is home to three rare species of ground nesting birds the Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark. The 'Thames Basin Heaths' is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the European Commission Birds Directive and placed mitigation zones around the heaths to lessen the impact of human activity on them. A key aspect of mitigating any impact on the SPA is the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) that aims to provide additional recreational land that serves to attract residents away from the SPA. Co-operation with the other authorities presently takes place through officer and member forums (e.g. Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board; Blackwater Valley Network / Countryside Partnership; Loddon Catchment Steering Group) as part of ongoing discussions.

The Local Plan Update will also consider species protected under the range of national and international legislation, Local Wildlife Sites and Wildlife Trust protected reserves alongside considering issues of water quality amongst other relevant issues for biodiversity. We will engage with Natural England and other bodies as appropriate.

2. Evidence base

South East Plan Policy NRM6: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area

Please go to - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/427/pdfs/ukxiem_20130427_en.pdf for further details

3. Strategic Partners

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
- Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
- Bracknell Forest Council
- Buckinghamshire Council
- Elmbridge Borough Council
- Environment Agency
- Guildford Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Hart District Council
- Mole Valley District Council
- Natural England
- Reading Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Runnymede Borough Council
- Rushmoor Borough Council
- Spelthorne Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Waverley Borough Council

- West Berkshire District Council
- Woking Borough Council

4. Actions

Action: Local Plan Update Regulation 18 consultation (Issues and Options).

Partners: Natural England

Outcome: Comments received highlighting the importance of regarding the Habitats Regulations with particular reference to newly introduced brownfield register and permission in principle requirements.

Date: 04/08/2016 – 30/09/2016

Action: Production of an Appropriate Assessment template to be used by development management. Gathering of best practice advice from Bracknell Forest and informal consultation on draft template with Natural England.

Partners: Bracknell Forest, Natural England

Outcome: An agreed template to be used through the development management process to determine whether each individual application has a significant likely impact or not.

Date: September – October 2018

Action: Joint Strategic Partnership Board – Officer Meeting

Partners: Natural England and all LPAs affected by the TBHSPA

Outcome: Clarification regarding recent case law and planning appeals and implications for plan making.

Date: 12/02/2019

Action: Response provided to Surrey Heath Borough Council's SPA Avoidance Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (2018) regulation 13 consultation.

Partners: Surrey Heath BC

Outcome: Clarification received on Surrey Heath approach to SANG capacity and catchment areas.

Date: 18/02/2019

Action: Commissioning of ecological habitat network mapping and biodiversity impact assessment.

Partners: Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)

Outcome: Enhanced evidence base to assist with site assessment work to inform the Local Plan.

Date: March 2019

Action: Joint Strategic Partnership Board – Officer Meeting

Partners: Natural England and all LPAs affected by the TBHSPA

Outcome: Agreement to provide latest information and figures regarding SANG capacity to Natural England.

Date: 18/06/2019

Action: Officer meeting to discuss ongoing work regarding air quality assessments.

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council

Outcome: Agreement to work towards aligning methodologies relating to air quality modelling and assessment.

Date: 13/11/2019

Action: Joint Strategic Partnership Board – Officer Meeting

Partners: Natural England and all LPAs affected by the TBHSPA

Outcome: Update on matters relating to air quality, and discussion regarding the implications of approaches taken during plan making at other LPAs outside the JSPB area.

Date: 17/12/2019

Action: DtC meeting

Partners: Basingstoke and Deane Council and Wokingham Borough Council.

Outcomes: Potential for a future review of WBC's need to work with BD on water quality in the River Loddon if WBC development strategy changes. Agreement that TBHSPA / SANGS mitigation is not currently a cross boundary issue, however, this may need to be reviewed when WBC develop a new housing delivery strategy. WBC welcome joint sub-regional working on a single model for monitoring air quality between surrounding boroughs.

Date: 12/11/2020

5. Outcomes from strategic working

Measures are already in place through the current local plan strategy to mitigate impacts on the Thames Basin Heath SPA. Through informal Duty to Co-operate discussions, an appropriate assessment template has been introduced for use through the development management process to ensure that developments which are likely to have an adverse effect on the SPA are identified and appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures secured.

6. Ongoing cooperation

The Council will continue to monitor individual planning applications and apply the appropriate assessment process as appropriate. A full appropriate assessment will be carried out for the Local Plan Update process and additional SANG mitigation separately identified as appropriate. Full engagement with Natural England will take place as the strategy develops. The Council will also

continue to work positively and proactively with other LPAs and Natural England regarding ongoing air quality modelling and assessment.

Landscape and Green Belt

<p>1. Landscape including Green Belt</p> <p>Approximately 16% of Wokingham Borough's area comprises London's Metropolitan Green Belt. In addition, there are a wide variety of landscapes across the borough that also form part of neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Wokingham and Bracknell Forest Councils jointly commissioned consultants Amec Foster Wheeler to review the Green Belt. The review assesses how green belt land within the Boroughs of Wokingham and Bracknell Forest function in relation to the five purposes of the green belt, as defined in paragraph 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>The council have appointed consultants LUC to update the existing Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (2014) to inform site assessment work as part of the Local Plan, policy writing and assist decision takers in relation to planning applications.</p>
<p>2. Evidence base</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessment Part 1 http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=268784</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessment Part 2 http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=268785</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessment (2020)</p> <p>Bracknell and Wokingham Green Belt Study http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=399704</p>
<p>3. Strategic Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane • Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trsut • Berkshire Local Nature Partnership • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Hart District Council • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • Slough Borough Council • West Berkshire District Council • Woking Borough Council
<p>4. Actions</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Meeting with Bracknell Forest to discuss undertaking a joint Green Belt review.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Bracknell Forest Council</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreement to produce joint brief/methodology</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 20/10/2015</p>

Action: Green Belt Review Inception Meeting

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Amec Foster Wheeler (Consultants)

Outcome: Sharing on knowledge and information sources and agreed timetable and methodology for progressing the study.

Date: 21/01/2016

Action: Public consultation on draft Green Belt study

Partners: Bracknell Forest Council, Amec Foster Wheeler (Consultants), all neighbouring local authorities, individuals on consultation database.

Outcome: Stakeholder views were considered and the final methodology/document was updated where appropriate and finalised study published.

Date: 01/02/2016 – 15/02/2016; 22/03/2016 – 12/04/2016

Action: Invitation to stakeholder workshop on emerging Landscape Character Assessment.

Partners: Environment Agency, Friends of Keephatch Local Nature Reserve and Secretary of WDVTA, Berkshire Archaeology, Berkshire Garden Trust, TVERC, all adjoining LPAs, all ward members, all town / parish councils.

Outcome: Workshop was postponed due to lack of availability of non-statutory and statutory consultees. Views invited via email which fed into the document drafting process.

Date: 20/08/2018 (email invitation) 13/09/2018 (scheduled workshop date)

Action: Technical consultation on Landscape Character Assessment.

Partners: Environment Agency, Friends of Keephatch Local Nature Reserve, and Secretary of WDVTA, Berkshire Archaeology, Berkshire Garden Trust, TVERC, all adjoining LPAs, all ward members, all town / parish councils.

Outcome: Stakeholder views were considered and the final document was updated where appropriate

Date: 22/03/2019 – 23/04/2019

5. Outcomes from strategic working

A updated joint evidence base which assesses the contribution of all areas of Wokingham borough's Green Belt to the five purposes of Green Belt within the NPPF. The study establishes a consistent approach to assessment across both Bracknell Forest and Wokingham.

Strategic working has also helped to inform the production of an updated Landscape Character Assessment which will inform local plan policies and site allocations. The technical consultation encouraged comments from Parish and Town Councils, statutory consultees and other interest groups. This has also helped to inform other parts of the evidence base for the Local Plan Update, including proposed valued landscapes.

6. Ongoing cooperation

Ongoing co-operation will be needed with neighbouring authorities and statutory consultees to better understand the landscape implications of future site allocations and how these might be appropriately mitigated.

Further co-operation may be needed to consider and discuss the council's approach to valued landscapes, notably as a number of the proposed valued landscapes transcend local authority boundaries.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

1. Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Consultation Zones
<p>The consultation zones of extendibility of the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Burghfield cover parts of the south western area of Wokingham. Though the facility itself, as well as AWE Aldermaston, are located within West Berkshire, the zones also cover parts of Reading and Basingstoke and Deane Council areas. The council actively considers the implications of these zones as part of preparing a preferred spatial strategy for future development. This requires engagement with the authorities and the Office of Nuclear Regulation.</p>
2. Evidence base
<p>Wokingham MDD policy TB04 http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=269993</p>
3. Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) • Reading Borough Council • West Berkshire District Council
4. Actions
<p><u>Action:</u> DtC meeting with ONR</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> ONR</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Clarification provided on the uses which may be suitable within the detailed emergency planning zone (DEPZ) around AWE Aldermaston, the area of which is about to be revised. The implications for masterplanning the area were understood.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> January 2018</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Masterplanning stakeholder workshops with technical bodies.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> ONR</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Detailed, open discussion regarding the three masterplanning sites led by the consultants DLA/PBA and stakeholder opinions collected and documented.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 14,15,16/02/2018</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Local Plan Update Regulation 18 consultation (Homes for the Future).</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Office for Nuclear Regulation</p>

<p><u>Outcome:</u> Comments received on all promoted sites within or near to the AWE Burghfield's detailed emergency planning zone and zones of extendibility. These comments will feed into the site assessment process.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 12/11/2018 – 22/02/2019</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Local Plan Update Regulation 18 consultation (Homes for the Future).</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> AWE (obo Ministry of Defence)</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Comments received in relation to the role of AWE Burghfield and possible future implications.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 12/11/2018 – 22/02/2019</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> Meeting with AWE to discuss their consultation responses to the Local Plan, and to West Berkshire's Local Plan consultation</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> AWE</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Agreement to continue to engage as part of the site assessment work that will inform Local Plans.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 17/01/2019</p>
<p><u>Action:</u> DtC meeting</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Basingstoke and Deane Council and Wokingham Borough Council.</p> <p><u>Outcomes:</u> B&D to share with WBC the West Berks Emergency Planning response to the B&D I&Os consultation given similar implications for the two authorities.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 12/11/2020</p>
<p>5. Outcomes from strategic working</p>
<p>Greater understanding between the parties of acceptable land uses within the DEPZ. Ultimately this informed the decision to investigate an alternative growth strategy.</p>
<p>6. Ongoing cooperation</p>
<p>Ongoing co-operation needed to understand the land use planning implications of allocating development within and near to the AWE consultation zones.</p>

Historic Environment

<p>1. Historic Environment</p> <p>It is essential that co-operation with Historic England on matters concerning the historic environment is undertaken throughout the local plan process. The NPPF defines the historic environment as “<i>all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora</i>”. Statutory consultation with Historic England already takes place as part of the development management process and through other consultations. It may also be necessary to engage with adjoining authorities where heritage assets may be located along or close to Borough boundaries, for example Reading where Whiteknights Campus contains a number of designated heritage assets.</p>
<p>2. Evidence base</p> <p><i>What is the evidence used to develop the LP’s strategic policies?</i></p> <p>Conservation area appraisals http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning/planning-permission/listed-buildings-heritage-and-conservation-areas/</p> <p>Village Design Statements http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/supplementary-planning-guidance-and-documents/</p>
<p>3. Strategic Partners</p> <p><i>List of bodies engaged with (details of each, make up and constitution etc, to be listed in appendix 3)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Berkshire Archaeology • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Hart District Council • Historic England • Oxfordshire County Council • Reading Borough Council • South Oxfordshire District Council • West Berkshire District Council
<p>4. Actions</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Officer meeting with Berkshire Archaeology to discuss existing development plan policies on archaeology and whether any updates are required.</p> <p><u>Partners:</u> Berkshire Archaeology</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Informal feedback received on what works well with existing policy and how it can be improved by suggested tweaks.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 16/03/2016</p>

Action: Local Plan Update Regulation 18 consultation (Homes for the Future).

Partners: Historic England

Outcome: Comments received on the heritage conservation considerations needed when deciding upon housing allocation sites as well as signposting to good practice guidance.

Date: 12/11/2018 – 22/02/2019

Action: Local Plan Update Historic Environment policies

Partners: Historic England, Berkshire Archaeology

Outcome: Informal feedback on draft Local Plan policies.

Date: April 2019

Action: Local Plan Update Draft Plan Regulation 18 consultation

Partners: Historic England

Outcome: Comments received on wording of heritage policies and outlining requirements for a topic paper detailing the historic evidence underpinning the production of the plan. Comments incorporated into updated policies and topic paper produced

Date: 03/02/2020 – 03/04/2020

Action: Publication of Historic Environment Topic Paper

Partners: Historic England

Outcome: Topic paper produced detailing the historic evidence underpinning the production of the plan to address feedback from Historic England.

Date: November 2021

5. Outcomes from strategic working

An open dialogue has been opened between WBC and Historic England and Berkshire Archaeology which has allowed for the creation of draft policy which was formally consulted upon in 2020 as well as a topic paper in support of the Revised Growth Strategy consultation.

6. Ongoing cooperation

Further engagement with Historic England as a statutory consultee, will be required as site spatial strategy and policy wording is finalised in the lead up to Regulation 19 consultation. There is a need to draft and agree an MoU / SoCG with Historic England as the plan making process progresses.

Open Spaces

1. Open Space
<p>Planning for open space needs associated with development for the existing and future population may require cross-boundary co-operation. This may be the case, for example, if the provision of open space is required to serve new development on the other side of an authority boundary.</p>
2. Evidence base
<p>Open Space Audit Volume 1: Strategic Open Space Assessment http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=369617</p> <p>Open Space Audit Volume 2: Sports Assessment http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=369619</p> <p>Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=266769</p> <p>Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Revised Standards Paper http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=367281</p>
3. Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Hart District Council • Natural England • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • Sport England • West Berkshire District Council
4. Actions
<p>Action: Town/Parish Councils and amenity groups were invited to nominate areas of green space for consideration.</p> <p>Partners: All town and parish councils and local community groups within the borough</p> <p>Outcome: A large number of areas across the borough were nominated for consideration.</p> <p>Date: 21/05/2020 – 18/06/2020</p>
<p>Action: Technical stakeholder workshop on community and social infrastructure in relation to Hall Farm / Loddon Valley and South Wokingham SDL extension.</p> <p>Partners: WBC (supported by DLA and Stantec), Natural England, NHS England, Reading Borough Council, University of Reading</p> <p>Outcome: Knowledge and ideas gathered about the sites in relation the nature of community and social infrastructure required to achieve sustainable development in and around the sites.</p>

Date: 27/04/2021

Action: Revised Growth Strategy published with supporting Local Green Space topic paper alongside.

Partners: All town and parish councils and local community groups within the borough

Outcome: A large number of LGSs have been proposed for allocation based on a robust assessment process.

Date: 22/11/2021

5. Outcomes from strategic working

Opportunities for new open space have been discussed with key stakeholders as part of the strategic growth report engagement process.

6. Ongoing cooperation

The commissioning of an updated playing pitch strategy is currently underway. This will involve co-operation with key stakeholders, including Sport England and adjoining authorities as necessary.

Climate Change

1. Climate Change
<p>Climate change is a matter that is specified as a required duty to co-operate topic. However, by its very nature, climate change is a global issue and therefore a number of bodies (see Error! Reference source not found.) have been identified against this topic in order to cover any eventualities. We will seek to minimise impacts on air quality as well as contribute to the reduction of air pollution which is set out, among many other issues, in the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment</p>
2. Evidence base
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (2019) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (2018) http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=468090</p> <p>WBC Climate Emergency Action Plan (2020) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=519504</p> <p>WBC Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress Report (2021) https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=600263</p>
3. Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust • Berkshire Local Nature Partnership • Bracknell Forest Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Ealing Council • Elmbridge Borough Council • Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership • Environment Agency • Guildford Borough Council • Hampshire County Council • Hart District Council • Hillingdon Council • London Enterprise Panel Local Enterprise Partnership • National Highways • Natural England • Oxfordshire City Council • Oxfordshire County Council • Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership • Reading Borough Council • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead • Runnymede Borough Council

- Rushmoor Borough Council
- Slough Borough Council
- Scotia Gas Networks
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- Waverley Borough Council
- West Berkshire District Council
- Wiltshire Borough Council
- Woking Borough Council

4. Actions

Action: Meeting between stakeholders to discuss climate change national guidance and how this should be reflected in the SFRA work

Partners: WSP (SFRA consultants) and EA

Outcome: Agreement for EA to formally provide comments on project brief to undertake climate change analysis work

Date: 13/02/2017

Action: Commissioning of climate change evidence base to support the LPU. This involved stakeholder engagement led by consultants Arup with a range of interested parties to seek views on the scope of a definition of net zero and plan coverage.

Partners: University of Reading, BEIS

Outcome: Collection of feedback from key stakeholders to inform an ambitious net zero definition within emerging Climate Change evidence work

Date: May 2021

Action: Comments provided by WBC officers on the Net Zero Berkshire report and recommendations prepared by the LEP.

Partners: Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

Outcome: Dialogue opened and agreed areas where the LEP and WBC (and other Berkshire authorities) can work together to share best practice, advance joint evidence, collaborate on other matters so that climate change is robustly and consistently addressed across Berkshire.

Date: 28/09/2021

5. Outcomes from strategic working

WBC, along with many other adjoining authorities have prepared Climate Emergency Action plans setting out a series of objectives and actions to reach net zero carbon by 2030. The WBC Action Plan contains goals related to spatial planning which will rely on updated policy and SPD(s) being introduced; there is a commitment to bring these forward in a practicable timescale through and following the emerging LPU.

6. Ongoing cooperation
<p>Further co-operation will be needed in order to ensure any cross-boundary impacts of Climate Change are addressed and the spatial planning scope of this strategic matter is better understood in a beyond Wokingham Borough context.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Climate Change evidence base study will be finalised and published post the Revised Growth Strategy consultation. There will be an opportunity either through the Regulation 19 consultation or before for views on the content of the evidence and policy approach to be gathered.</p>

6. Summary and Conclusion

This report supports the Local Plan Update: Revised Growth Strategy Consultation from 22 November 2021 to 24 January 2022 . The Revised Growth Strategy is a key step in producing the final Wokingham Local Plan Update. This report sets out a summary of the engagement that has been undertaken so far on strategic matters with those organisations relevant to the Duty to Cooperate.

During the production of the report, the council has actively engaged with key stakeholders and partners on all strategic matters. It reflects the culmination of a number of processes, activities and levels of engagement and cooperation, as set out within this document.

Representations made to the Revised Growth Strategy will inform further engagement. The council will consider all representations when progressing the next steps in the local plan process.

Appendix 1 – Audit trail of key decisions and processes

Date	Event	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant docs
18/12/2015	Member Steering Group	To establish terms of reference and membership of the Member Steering Group to act as an advisory group for progressing the plan.	Agreed timetable of meetings moving forward (roughly monthly)	Minutes available on request.
04/08/2016 – 30/09/2016	Regulation 18 consultation	To seek views on Issues and Options that the LPU should consider and SA/SEA.	Approx. 100 responses received which informed the refined questions posed through subsequent Reg.18 consultation	Consultation document and summary of responses available at: http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update/
Nov 2016 – Jan 2017	Targeted consultation with Towns and Parish Councils on promoted sites	To seek views from local representatives on the sites within their areas.	Detailed feedback on promoted sites.	Captured in statement of consultation.
Nov 2017	Initial site assessment meetings with Ward Members and Town and Parish Cllrs	To explain how draft site assessments have been carried out so far and obtain views on which sites could be supported locally.	Detailed feedback provided on draft assessments and draft list of potentially developable sites established.	Final HELAA document.
25/10/2018	Executive Meeting	To agree revised Local Development Scheme and to agree Homes for the Future Consultation	Updated LDS published to provide greater clarity to the public	Documents available at: https://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=2840
12/11/2018 – 22/02/2019	Homes for the Future Consultation	To seek resident and stakeholder views on submitted sites and spatial options for meeting development needs as well as seek views on SA/SEA.	Approx. 1500 responses received which will inform the spatial strategy decision making.	Consultation document and Statement of Consultation (to be published) available at: http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update/
15/01/2020	Extraordinary Executive Meeting	To agree Draft Plan consultation	Authority received to finalise and carry out consultation	Documents available to view at: https://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=3603
03/02/2020 – 03/04/2020	Draft Plan consultation	To seek resident and stakeholder views on the full Draft Plan, including spatial strategy and development management policies. Views also sought on	Approx. 700 responses received which will inform the preparation of a Reg 19 Plan.	Documents available to view at: https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update/

		SA/SEA and other supporting evidence.		
29/07/2021	Executive Meeting	To agree an updated Local Development Scheme.	Updated LDS published.	Document available at: https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=599969
12/11/2021	Extraordinary Executive Meeting	To agree Revised Growth Strategy consultation	Authority received to finalise and carry out consultation	Documents available to view at: https://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=4158

Appendix 2 – List of Statements of Common Ground and Memoranda of Understanding

Title	Date	Purpose	Signees
MoU on strategic planning and the duty to co-operate	03/12/2014	The starting point to guide the approach to co-operation across Berkshire.	Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council, West Berkshire District Council
MoU re Reading Borough's unmet housing need.	06 – 16/10/2017	To agree that the West Berkshire HMA authorities will work together to accommodate Reading's unmet housing need within the HMA area.	Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire, Wokingham Borough Council
MoU Re SHMA Methodology	26/07/2018	To agree that the best fit housing markets identified Berkshire (including South Bucks) SHMA (2016) represent the appropriate geography over which to consider housing provision in the Berkshire and South Bucks area. To agree that the authorities will work together to ensure need is met in full within the best fit market areas, so far as is consistent with the NPPF.	Wokingham BC, Reading BC, Bracknell Forest Council, West Berkshire Council, Slough BC, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
MoU Re Reading Unmet Housing Need	August 2021	To agree that the West Berkshire HMA authorities will work together to accommodate Reading's unmet housing need within the HMA area.	Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire, Wokingham Borough Council
SoCG for Local Plan Making	24/08/2021	An agreed position on the cross boundary strategic matters affecting the signatory authorities and how these have been and continue to be addressed (joint evidence studies, governance arrangements, etc).	Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire, Wokingham Borough Council

Appendix 3 Map of Strategic Planning Area

Shaded authorities represent identified duty to co-operate partners; those hatched represent authorities not specifically identified but which are within an area covered by a strategic planning body that is identified.

