

**North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2020 To 2038)
Publication Draft (Regulation 19)**

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF HOW THE DUTY TO CO-OPERATE
HAS BEEN MET IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PLAN**

SEPTEMBER 2021

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) place a duty on local planning authorities and prescribed bodies to cooperate with each other to address strategic issues relevant to their area during plan making. The duty requires continuous and active engagement during the preparation of the plan.

1.2 The purpose of the 'Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate' is to demonstrate how the Council has complied with the duty to cooperate. It sets out:

- A summary of strategic matters/issues included in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Statement of Common Ground;
- How those matters have been resolved/not resolved;
- Who we have worked with and on which strategic matters;
- The nature and timing of the engagement;
- The outcomes of the cooperation including how the Local Plan/North Lincolnshire SoCG was influenced; and,
- The relationship with the Greater Lincolnshire and Humber Local Enterprise Partnerships.

1.3 The North Lincolnshire Local Plan: Statement of Common Ground is a separate document and will be submitted as part of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. It follows the Planning Advisory Service guidance and sets out:

- The duty to cooperate requirements;
- The parties involved in the Statement of Common Ground;
- The signatories who have signed up to the Statement of Common Ground;
- North Lincolnshire's strategic geography;
- The relevant strategic matters; and
- The timetable for review and ongoing cooperation.

2.0 CONSULTATION ON THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN AND NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

2.1 Throughout the preparation of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Statement of Common Ground, neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies were consulted at key times in order to gain an understanding of the relevant strategic issues, and to ask for comments and amendments to a Draft and then Revised Draft Statement of Common Ground. A few engagement methods were used through Local Plan and the Statement of Common Ground preparation including email correspondence and one to one/bespoke meetings.

2.2 Neighbouring Authorities plan-making responsibilities involved in the Duty to Cooperate:

- Bassetlaw District Council;
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council (including minerals);
- Hull City Council (including minerals);
- North East Lincolnshire Council (including minerals);
- Nottinghamshire County Council (minerals); and
- West Lindsey District Council & Central Lincolnshire Local Plans Team.

2.3 The neighbouring authority with plan-making responsibilities that is not currently a signatory to this statement:

- Lincolnshire County Council (including minerals).

2.4 Prescribed Bodies that are signatories to this statement:

- Highways England;
- Civil Aviation Authority (CAA);
- Homes England;
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
- North Lincolnshire Clinical Commission Group (formerly Primary Care Trust);
- North Lincolnshire Local Highways Authority;
- Office of Rail Regulation (ORR);
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership; and
- North Lincolnshire Council Learning, Skills and Culture;
- Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust;
- East Midlands Ambulance Service; and
- Humberside Police.

2.5 Prescribed Bodies that are not currently signatories to the Statement of Common Ground:

- Environment Agency (EA);
- Historic England (formally English Heritage);
- Natural England;
- North Lincolnshire Education Authority(signature expectedly imminently);
- Anglian Water;
- Severn Trent Water;
- East Midlands Aggregates Working party;
- Yorkshire and Humber Aggregates Working Party (YHAWP) (minerals);
- Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP);
- Humber Local Enterprise Partnership (HLEP);
- Humber Local Nature Partnership;

- Humberhead Levels Partnership;
- North Lincolnshire Council Environment Team;
- North Lincolnshire Lead Local Flood Authority;
- North Lincolnshire Council Adult Services Extra Care;
- Humberside Fire & Rescue;
- Humber Coast and Vale Care Partnership; and
- National Grid.

3.0 SUMMARY OF THE RELEVANT STRATEGIC MATTERS

3.1 The North Lincolnshire Local Plan Statement of Common Ground sets out the relevant strategic matters by topic and by agreement. The Agreements are then signed up to by the relevant neighbouring authorities and/or prescribed bodies. This section in the Statement of Compliance summarises those relevant matters and highlights the relevant agreements in the North Lincolnshire Statement of Common Ground.

3.2 The Statement of Common Ground contains 21 agreements which have been drawn up in conjunction with the relevant neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies. These cover the following relevant strategic matters:

- housing;
- gypsies, travellers and travelling show people;
- employment;
- South Humber Bank
- transport infrastructure (road, rail, and public transport);
- retail and town centres;
- flood risk;
- the natural environment and green & blue infrastructure;
- historic environment;
- waste management;
- managing water quality;
- minerals supply;
- healthcare;
- education;
- sustainable tourism, and
- climate change.

4.0 OUTCOMES OF THE DUTY TO COOPERATE

4.1 During preparation of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and North Lincolnshire SoCG, a number of changes/amendments were suggested by neighbouring authorities/prescribed bodies. These resulted in some changes being made to the Local Plan and to the North Lincolnshire SoCG, including to the Agreements. The Regulation 22 Statement of Consultation will set out the comments received during the local plan preparation process (Regulation 19 Stage) and how they have influenced the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. Below is a summary of the current position and outstanding issues for each of the strategic matters:

Housing (Agreement 1 & 2)

4.2 North Lincolnshire Council will continue to share evidence and information including updates to and the content of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided to meet the scale and location of housing need. The Historic Environment Evidence Base has now been seen and approved by Historic England. The only outstanding issue relates to the Historic England objections in terms of site allocation H1P-22 (Yealand Flats, Epworth). Feedback is awaited from a number of bodies relating to Agreement 2.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (Agreement 3)

4.3 No neighbouring authorities raised any strategic issues as each will fully meet the objectively assessed needs to 2038 and is not proposing to accommodate any neighbouring authorities' needs. North Lincolnshire Council will maintain close working arrangements with adjoining local authorities to meet any recognised need. Therefore, there are no outstanding issues.

Employment (Agreement 4 & 5)

4.4 Feedback is awaited from three bodies relating to Agreement 4 and from a number of bodies relating to Agreement 5. The EA can only sign agreement 5 when details of the IDP have been fully shared with them. The area's job needs/land requirement to 2038 will be kept under review through AMRs, employment land availability and updates to Employment Land Reviews/Employment Land Need Assessments. NLC will continue to share evidence and information including updates to and content of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided to meet the scale and location of employment need.

South Humber Bank Strategic Site Allocation (Agreement 6)

4.5 Collaborative working and discussions are ongoing with Natural England, Highways England, Environment Agency, Historic England and MMO to agree an evidence base to identify infrastructure improvements, mitigation and compensation that align with other organisations' plans.

4.6 Whilst Natural England is satisfied with the progress made under this agreement, and they particularly welcome the recent consultation on a draft North Lincolnshire SHB Mitigation Plan, they made a number of comments on the consultation about the Mitigation Plan in addition to those made previously on the plan itself and these are not fully resolved at this stage. Although Natural

England is confident that these outstanding issues will be resolved in time, they do not feel that there are no outstanding or unresolved issues at this stage.

4.7 An invitation was made to Natural England in early August 2021 to meet North Lincolnshire Council to discuss the above issues and if/how they could be resolved prior to the Local Plan Examination. Awaiting response.

4.8 Most signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to the South Humber Bank Strategic Site Allocation. However, feedback is awaited from a number of bodies relating to this Agreement.

Transport Infrastructure Strategic Road Network (Agreement 7)

4.9 During the Local Plan process, North Lincolnshire Council and Highways England have developed a collaborative approach to improvement works on and around the Strategic Road Network. North Lincolnshire Council will maintain a close working relationship and provide evidence to Highways England to assist in identifying and quantifying specific strategic highways network capacity, shortfalls and future requirements linked to scale and phasing of development. Discussions have informed the site selection process and shaped proposed transport schemes. There are no outstanding issues.

Local Road Network (Agreement 8)

4.10 The local planning authority will continue to maintain a close working relationship with the local highway authority and, where necessary, neighbouring local authorities to overcome any identified pressures on the local highway network due to proposed new allocations/development. There are no outstanding issues.

Retail and town centres (Agreement 9)

4.11 Through meetings with neighbouring authorities, no issues were raised regarding retail and town centres. However, feedback is awaited from four bodies relating to this Agreement.

Flood risk (Agreement 10)

4.12 No issues were highlighted by neighbouring authorities. However, there were a number of issues highlighted throughout the DtC process by the Environment Agency. These mainly related to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Sequential Test working and the local plan policies relating to flood risk and SuDS. The council amended the local plan to meet with the EA's request as much as possible. This included incorporating the wording suggested by EA. Amended wording to the SoCG was also agreed with MMO and incorporated.

4.13 There remain unresolved issues between NLC and the EA who cannot sign up to this agreement until the sequential/exception tests paper for new allocations are finalised. However, discussions and collaboration between NLC and the EA are ongoing, and the EA intend to provide final comments on the Local Plan via the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Consultation.

4.14 A meeting was held between Severn Trent Water and North Lincolnshire Council in September 2021 discuss the above issues and if/how they could be resolved prior to the Local Plan Examination. Discussions are ongoing. Feedback is awaited from five other bodies relating to this Agreement.

Green infrastructure and the natural environment (including Thorne and Hatfield Moors) (Agreement 11, 12 & 13)

4.15 The Environment Agency, Natural England and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership requested additional wording for mandatory net gain for biodiversity and Nature Recovery Networks. This wording was endorsed by the council and added to the key policies. Feedback is awaited from six bodies relating to Agreement 11.

4.16 Severn Trent water does not have any specific issues in relation to these agreements. Although Natural England is confident that outstanding issues will be resolved in time, they do not feel that there are no outstanding or unresolved issues at this stage.

4.17 An invitation was made to Natural England in early August 2021 to meet North Lincolnshire Council to discuss the above issues and if/how they could be resolved prior to the Local Plan Examination. Awaiting response.

4.18 In total, feedback is awaited from eight bodies relating to Agreements 12 and 13.

Built and historic environment (Agreement 14)

4.19 Historic England raised concerns regarding certain proposed housing allocations, that there is no supporting evidence base, and they requested clarity on the 'renewable energy opportunity area' evidence base. NLC has demonstrated to HE that the evidence is complete and have included it in the Historic Environment Evidence Paper. Comments made re. the site allocations have been taken on board and changes made accordingly. Renewable energy opportunity areas were removed from the Policies Map and from policy DQE8.

4.20 HE does not usually sign a SoCG until a final position has been reached but are happy to comment on this evolving document, and discussions and collaboration between NLC and HE are ongoing; HE intends to provide final comments on the Local Plan via the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Consultation. However, ongoing discussions continue between NLC and Historic England relating to objections in terms of site allocation H1P-22 (Yealand Flats, Epworth) and relating to issues with Minerals and Waste sites(s).

4.21 Feedback is awaited from one other body relating to this Agreement.

Waste management (Agreement 15)

4.22 The Council will continue to respond to requests for information from authorities adjoining its boundaries and beyond as part of its ongoing commitment to meet the needs of the duty to co-operate. No issues were highlighted through the DtC process and, therefore, there are no outstanding issues. HE has been removed from involvement in this Agreement, as recommended.

Managing water quality (Agreement 16)

4.23 The Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water cannot fully sign up to this Agreement.

4.24 A meeting was held between Severn Trent Water and North Lincolnshire Council in September 2021 discuss the above issues and if/how they could be resolved prior to the Local Plan Examination. Discussions are ongoing. Collaborative working is ongoing with the Environment Agency. HE has been removed from involvement in this Agreement, as recommended.

4.25 Feedback is awaited from six bodies relating to this Agreement.

Minerals Supply (Agreement 17)

4.26 Agreement has been amended to confirm that NLC will meet our own need for sand and gravel and crushed rock, and to confirm that where producing areas have agreements in place regarding the supply of aggregate to specific local authorities and not the whole of the region those agreements will remain. Lincolnshire County Council is not in a position to sign the agreements set out in the Draft SoCG until their comments have been taken into consideration. They are not in agreement with the second part of the statement relating to Agreement 17.1 in facilitating the supply of minerals to meet any as yet un-quantified shortfall. An update justifying North Lincolnshire's minerals needs was sent to the County Council in August 2021, awaiting a response.

4.27 Although Natural England is confident that outstanding issues will be resolved in time, they do not feel that there are no outstanding or unresolved issues at this stage. An invitation was made to Natural England in early August 2021 to meet North Lincolnshire Council to discuss the above issues and if/how they could be resolved prior to the Local Plan Examination. Awaiting response.

4.28 Feedback is awaited from four bodies relating to this Agreement.

Primary and Secondary Health Care (Agreement 18)

4.29 Continued sharing of evidence and information will take place including updates to and the contents of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure that adequate health infrastructure is provided to meet the scale and location of housing needs.

4.30 The council will liaise with Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Humber Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership, Humberside Fire & Rescue, and Humberside Police in relation to development of an Integrated Health, Innovation and Emergency Services hub for Scunthorpe.

4.31 Feedback is awaited from two bodies relating to this Agreement.

Education (Agreement 19)

4.32 The continued sharing of evidence and information will take place to ensure that adequate educational infrastructure is provided to meet the housing needs established in the Local Plan.

4.33 Feedback is awaited from one body relating to this Agreement.

Sustainable Tourism and/or Recreation (Agreement 20)

4.34 Joint sustainable tourism schemes at the coast will be addressed through joint working with Marine Management Organisation. There are no outstanding issues.

Climate Change (Agreement 21)

4.35 Most signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to Climate Change whilst feedback is awaited from three bodies.

4.36 The Environment Agency request for greater recognition of assisting with the Humber LEP's ambition to develop the area into a net-zero carbon industrial economy by 2040 was agreed to be an omission. The Policy and text were amended accordingly. Feedback is awaited from three bodies relating to this Agreement.

4.37 Whilst Severn Trent Water are unable to sign up to this agreement at this time, a meeting was held between STW and North Lincolnshire Council in September 2021 discuss the above issues and if/how they could be resolved prior to the Local Plan Examination. Discussions are ongoing.