

**North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2020 To 2038)  
Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State  
(Regulation 22)**

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN  
STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

**NOVEMBER 2022**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground is published by North Lincolnshire Council to support the Submission (regulation 22) of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. It has been prepared to meet the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 24- 27 ('Maintaining effective cooperation') which requires Local planning authorities to co-operate with each other and with other prescribed bodies on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Strategic policy-making authorities such as North Lincolnshire Council should produce, maintain, and update one or more statements of common ground throughout the plan-making process.

1.2 A Statement of Common Ground is a written record of the progress made during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It documents where effective co-operation is and is not happening throughout the plan-making process and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period and are based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries. For the Council as local planning authority, it also forms part of the evidence required to demonstrate that we have complied with the duty to cooperate. The approach taken in preparing this statement is in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

1.3 It is important to note that this is a working document, reflecting the fact that co-operation is ongoing in relation to the issues identified and that this will evolve as plan-making progresses across all the local planning authorities identified below. Further iterations of the Statement of Common Ground will be, and have been, published at key stages of the plan-making process.

## 2 PARTIES INVOLVED

2.1 Neighbouring authorities with local plan-making responsibilities that are asked to sign up to this statement:

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

2.2 Other Prescribed Bodies that are asked to sign up to this statement:

- National Highways (formerly Highways England);
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
- NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (from 1/7/22, formerly Lincolnshire Clinical Commission Group North);
- North Lincolnshire Local Highways Authority;
- Environment Agency;
- Historic England;
- Natural England;

- Derbyshire County Council;
- Peak District National Park;
- North Yorkshire County Council;
- City of Sunderland Council;
- Durham County Council;
- Cambridgeshire County Council;
- Yorkshire Dales National Park;
- Leicestershire County Council;
- Kirklees Council;
- Shropshire Council; and
- Powys County Council.

2.3 Other Prescribed Bodies that are not expected to sign up to this statement:

- Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) - During consultation on the Draft Statement of Common Ground the Civil Aviation Authority confirmed they have no comments to make.
- Homes England - whilst this body has been consulted throughout the preparation of the Local Plan including the Statement of Common Ground. No responses have been received. However, Homes England are fully engaged with the Local Plan as and when required. This is also the case with regard to the Council's Strategic Housing team.
- Mayor of London, Transport for London and each Integrated Transport Authority - Given the strategic issues which have been identified, the Council consider it would be unnecessary and not effective to actively seek cooperation with these bodies because the Authority area is not covered by such a body.

2.4 Non-Prescribed Bodies that are asked to sign this statement:

- North Lincolnshire Lead Local Flood Authority;
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership;
- North Lincolnshire Council Learning, Skills and Culture;
- Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust;
- Anglian Water;
- Severn Trent Water;
- Yorkshire Water;
- Humber Local Nature Partnership;
- National Grid;
- North Lincolnshire Local Education Authority; and
- Yorkshire and Humber Aggregates Working Party (YHAWP) and East Midlands Aggregates Working Party – neither are expected to sign up as the YHAWP have advised there is difficulty with Statements of Common Ground and Aggregate Working Parties as the membership represent differing interests. At the National Chairs Group in July 2022, the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities suggested setting out common and uncommon ground within the statements and making it clear where there was agreement and disagreement. It was also pointed out that the requirement for Statements of Common Ground is likely to disappear soon. There are no outstanding strategic minerals issues where there is disagreement.

### 3 SIGNATORIES

#### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

3.1 In order to demonstrate effective and ongoing joint working, strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground to document the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these matters. Table 1 below shows the relevant parties and which agreements (issues) are relevant to them individually. It also highlights where agreements are still to be made or resolved. The strategic matters/issues and agreements refer to those outlined in Section 5: Strategic Matters, and Appendix 1: Draft Strategic Matters Table of this Statement of Common Ground.

**Table 1: Relevant Neighbouring Local Authorities**

Organisation	Relevant Agreement	Signatory
Local Authority		
<b>Bassetlaw District Council</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 16	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 03/11/2022 Name: Cllr Jo White Position: Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Deputy Leader of the Council</p>
<b>Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Date: Name: Position:</p>
<b>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</b>	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 21	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 02/11/2022 Name: Alan Menzies Position: Executive Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration</p>
<b>Hull City Council</b>	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 21	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 09/11/2022 Name: John Craig Position: Head of Planning</p>

<b>Lincolnshire County Council</b>	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 19, 21	Signed: <i>P. Hughes</i> Date: 01/11/2022 Name: Philip Hughes Position: Strategic Planning Manager
<b>Nottinghamshire County Council</b>	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 21	Signed:  Date: 09/11/2022 Name: Matthew Neal Position: Service Director (Investment and Growth)
<b>North East Lincolnshire Council</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 21	Signed:  Date: 31/10/2022 Name: Ian King Position: Spatial Planning Manager
<b>West Lindsey District Council / Central Lincolnshire Local Plans Team</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21	Signed: <i>P. Hylton</i> Date: 09/11/2022 Name: Phil Hylton Position: Local Plans Manager

### Local Authorities that previously had not signed the Statement of Common Ground

#### Lincolnshire County Council

3.2 Initially, Lincolnshire County Council either agreed, have no comments, or noted the details of Agreements 15 and elements of agreement 17. However, they could sign up to certain elements of agreements 17. An update justifying North Lincolnshire's minerals needs was sent to the County Council in August 2021. In their response to the Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation the County Council state that, in their opinion, lack of consistent supporting information and the development of a clear strategy for the delivery of aggregate provision for the whole of the plan period means the plan does not give due regard to implications on potential demand from other MPAs. Because they had not been approached with any projections as to any likely level of increased demand that may be needed from Lincolnshire to meet this shortfall, they commented that the overall approach taken by North Lincolnshire was not considered to reflect a sound approach toward minerals provision. A meeting was held in February 2022 between officers from both Councils to discuss the current outstanding issues.

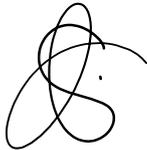
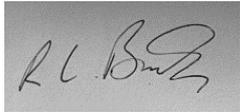
3.3 Further to previous consultation response, the County Council has taken account of the findings of the updated Minerals Apportionment Background Paper (March 2022) in conjunction with the amendments to the minerals-related policies in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Publication Draft

Addendum Plan (May 2022). The updated evidence and policies provided set out an appropriate and sound approach to the provision of Minerals for the duration of the plan period. Consequently, the issues identified in previous consultation responses have been satisfied.

**PRESCRIBED BODIES/ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES**

3.4 Table 2 below shows the relevant parties and which agreements (issues) are relevant to them individually. It also highlights where agreements are still to be made or resolved. The strategic matters/issues and agreements refer to those outlined in Section 5: Strategic Matters, and accompanying Appendix 1: Final Draft Duty to Co-operate Strategic Matters Table.

**Table 2: Relevant Prescribed Bodies/Additional Signatories**

Organisation	Relevant Agreement	Signatory
Prescribed bodies/additional signatories		
National Highways	2, 5, 6, 7	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 02/11/2022                      Name: Simon D Jones                      Position: Regional Spatial Planning Manager</p>
Marine Management Organisation	5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 20, 21	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 11/11/2022                      Name: Dr Rachel Brown                      Position: Marine Planning Manager</p>
NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (formerly North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)	2, 18	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 02/11/2022                      Name: Alex Seale                      Position: NL NHS Place Director</p>
North Lincolnshire Local Highways Authority	2, 5, 6, 8	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 21/10/2022                      Name: Mike Simpson                      Position: Group Manager - Highways</p>
Environment Agency	2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 02/11/2022</p>

		<b>Name: Nicola Farr</b> <b>Position: Planning Advisor</b>
<b>Historic England</b>	2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b> <i>Emilie Carr</i>  <b>Date: 09/11/2022</b> <b>Name: Emilie Carr</b> <b>Position: Historic Environment Planning Advisor</b>
<b>Natural England</b>	2, 6, 11, 12, 13, 17.1, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b> <i>Kate Wheeler</i>  <b>Date: 11/11/2022</b> <b>Name: Kate Wheeler</b> <b>Position: Senior Adviser, Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team</b>
<b>Homes England</b> <i>see paras 2.3 and 3.36</i>  <i>(Not expected to sign up to this statement)</i>	1, 2	<b>Signed:</b>   <b>Date:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Position:</b>
<b>Civil Aviation Authority</b> <i>see paras 2.3 and 3.39</i>  <i>(Not expected to sign up to this statement)</i>	-	<b>Signed:</b>   <b>Date:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Position:</b>
<b>North Lincolnshire Lead Local Flood Authority</b>	2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16	<b>Signed:</b> <i>M J</i>  <b>Date: 07/11/2022</b> <b>Name: Mick Johnson</b> <b>Position: Operations Manager</b>
<b>Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership</b>	6, 11, 12, 13, 17.1, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b> <i>Luke Bamforth</i>  <b>Date: 19/10/2022</b> <b>Name: Luke Bamforth</b> <b>Position: Policy Officer</b>

<p>North Lincolnshire Council Learning, Skills, and Culture</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 11/11/2022  Name: Sandra Simmons  Position: Assistant Director Community Enablement</p>
<p>Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust</p>	<p>2, 18</p>	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 31/10/2022  Name: Jug Johal  Position: Director of Estates and Facilities</p>
<p>Anglian Water</p>	<p>2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 16, 21</p>	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 10/11/2022  Name: Darl Sweetland  Position: Spatial Planning Manager</p>
<p>Severn Trent Water</p>	<p>2, 5, 10, 12, 13, 16, 21</p>	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Date:  Name:  Position:</p>
<p>Yorkshire Water</p>	<p>2, 5, 16, 21</p>	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Date:  Name:  Position:</p>
<p>Humber Local Nature Partnership</p>	<p>6, 11, 12, 13</p>	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Date:  Name:  Position:</p>

<b>North Lincolnshire Local Education Authority</b>	2, 19	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Date:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Position:</b>
<b>National Grid</b>	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 21	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Date:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Position:</b>
<b>The Office of Rail and Road (ORR)</b>	-	The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) published guidance in February 2013 that unless a strategic matter requires consideration of transport matters there is no need to include them in the consultation process. For transparency, the ORR was consulted throughout the Local Plan process including the early Statement of Common Ground consultations. No responses were received. Therefore, the ORR is not a signatory to the Statement of Common Ground.
<b>Mayor of London, Transport for London and each Integrated Transport Authority.</b> <i>see para 2.3 above</i>  <i>(Not expected to sign up to this statement)</i>	-	The Duty to Co-operate applies to the prescribed bodies of the Mayor of London, Transport for London and each Integrated Transport Authority. However, given the strategic issues which have been identified, North Lincolnshire Council consider it would be unnecessary and not effective to actively seek cooperation with these bodies because the area is not covered by such a body.
<b>Derbyshire County Council</b>	17.1, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Date:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Position:</b>
<b>Peak District National Park</b>	17.1, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b>

		<p>Date:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>
North Yorkshire County Council	17.1, 17.3	<p>Signed: <i>V.A. Perkin</i></p> <p>Date: 24/10/2022</p> <p>Name: Vicky Perkin</p> <p>Position: Chief Planner</p>
City of Sunderland Council	17.1, 17.3	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>
Durham County Council	17.1, 17.3	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 31/10/2022</p> <p>Name: Amy Harhoff</p> <p>Position: Corporate Director, Regeneration, Economy and Growth</p>
Cambridgeshire County Council	17.1, 17.3	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>
Yorkshire Dales National Park	17.1, 17.3	<p>Signed: <i>P.R. Stockton</i></p> <p>Date: 3/11/2022</p> <p>Name: Peter Stockton</p> <p>Position: Head of Sustainable Development</p>
Leicestershire County Council	17.1, 17.3	<p>Signed: <i>Oliver Meek</i></p> <p>Date: 4/11/2022</p>

		<b>Name: Oliver Meek</b> <b>Position: Team Manager - Planning</b>
<b>Kirklees Council</b>	15, 17.1, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Date: 04/11/2022</b> <b>Name: Mathias Franklin</b> <b>Position: Head of Planning &amp; Development</b>
<b>Shropshire Council</b>	17.1, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Date:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Position:</b>
<b>Powys County Council</b>	17.1, 17.3	<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Date:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Position:</b>

### **Prescribed Bodies/Additional signatories that had not signed or had not commented on the Statement of Common Ground**

#### Environment Agency

3.5 During the SFRA preparation, the Council has shared the evidence base and data with neighbouring authorities, utility companies and other relevant bodies. Any comments and issues were incorporated into the work at the earliest stage and the Council have had several meetings with the Environment Agency and sent them updated versions of the SFRA to ensure all their comments and suggestions have been considered.

3.6 All the Environment Agency's proposed changes to Agreements and supplementary text in this Statement of Common Ground have been taken on board and incorporated into refreshed versions of the document.

3.7 Overall, the EA support the contents of the Sustainability Appraisal, though they recommend that another key challenge should be added relating to 'water environment' and 'land'. The EA welcome the addition of points highlighting the requirement for early engagement with the utility and service providers. They also welcome the inclusion of the section on Water Environment in the Development management chapter.

3.8 Ongoing work will continue between the Council, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, and Anglian Water in order to ensure Agreement 16 Managing Water Quality and Resources can be signed up to. A meeting was held between NLC, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water, and the

Environment Agency in July 2022 to discuss outstanding issues relating to the Local Plan and Statement of Common Ground. This SoCG has been amended following the meeting to reflect agreements that have been made, and discussions are ongoing, principally between the Council and Environment Agency. The EA have now signed the SoCG.

#### Historic England

3.9 Historic England (HE) does not usually sign a SoCG until a final position has been reached but have been happy to comment on this evolving document. HE provided comments on the Local Plan via the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Consultation and subsequent Addendum Consultation. Indeed, Historic England would always prefer to work on early informal consultations, especially when considering unresolved issues.

3.10 A meeting was held between NLC and HE in June 2022 to discuss outstanding issues. Discussions and collaboration are ongoing between the Council and Historic England.

3.11 Some changes to policy criteria regarding areas of soundness have already been agreed. Work is ongoing on a separate Statement of Common Ground with Historic England. Subsequently, HE have now signed the SoCG.

#### Natural England

3.12 Natural England welcomes the proactive approach taken by North Lincolnshire Council to the Local Plan development process and has no concerns regarding the Duty to Co-operate. However, they do not consider that it would be appropriate to sign this statement at this stage in the process.

3.13 Whilst NE is satisfied with the progress made under Agreement 6, 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.

3.14 Natural England broadly welcomes the Publication Draft of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. However, they consider that there are outstanding issues to be resolved and as such do not consider that the plan is sound or legally compliant at this stage. They welcome the ongoing engagement the council has had with Natural England in the run-up to the consultation which has provided significant improvements to areas of concern. However, they do not consider that sufficient progress has been made in certain areas, particularly with regards to the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

3.15 NE note the conclusions of the HRA relating to the loss of functionally linked land for Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar birds and of Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. However, they are unclear from the information presented how allocations and policies have been screened in relation to the loss of functionally linked land and what evidence has been utilised in the assessment.

3.16 NE have reiterated that there is insufficient detail regarding the assessment of the impact of the plan on Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA birds, and note that the plan proposes housing development in proximity to Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. They also consider that insufficient detail has been presented regarding the assessment of recreational disturbance on Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA, Thorne Moor SAC and Hatfield Moor SAC. However, Natural England is broadly content with the Sustainability Appraisal.

3.17 NE is particularly concerned regarding allocations H1P-12 and H1P-13 in Barton Upon Humber which lie in close proximity to Waters Edge Country Park and Far Ings National Nature Reserve which are significant sites for visitors on the Humber.

3.18 In their response to the Local Plan Addendum Consultation Natural England broadly welcomes the updates to the Publication Draft Plan. However, they still feel that insufficient detail and evidence is presented in the Habitats Regulations Assessment. They are broadly content with the Sustainability Appraisal but advise that concerns regarding the Habitats Regulations Assessment should be taken into account in the SA.

3.19 Regarding agreements 2, 7 and 8, Natural England welcome the commitment to ongoing engagement regarding infrastructure delivery including traffic impacts and mitigation. However, they advise that further evidence potentially and mitigation measures will need to be provided in order to rule out unacceptable impacts on designated sites.

3.20 Natural England welcomes the progress made with the Plan. Whilst they do not feel that there are no outstanding or unresolved issues, they are confident that outstanding issues relating to Agreements 11, 12, 13 and 17 will be resolved. An invitation was made to Natural England in early August 2021 to meet North Lincolnshire Council to discuss ongoing issues and if/how they could be resolved prior to the Local Plan Examination. NE have a number of legal compliance and soundness concerns which they advise are addressed prior to the examination. A meeting was held in late July 2022 between NLC and NE in order to consider these and other outstanding issues, and discussions and collaboration are ongoing.

3.21 Following this meeting, Natural England feel that there are still areas of the HRA that require further progress. As such, they have concern over the soundness of the Plan relating to: the approach to functionally linked land/urbanisation; recreational disturbance; and emissions/air quality. NE confirmed that they could not support the current air quality assessment and would require a different approach to this area of work.

3.22 NE has subsequently requested that NLC provide the following:

- Functionally linked land - a report is needed detailing how specific allocations have been determined; The updated assessment regarding the potential for a loss of functionally linked land for Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA birds in para 6.2 of the updated HRA is welcome. However it is considered that there is insufficient evidence for how this approach has been utilised in the screening and Appropriate Assessment stages of the assessment. Additional existing evidence was provided, but Natural England still consider that further consideration of records from the local ecological data centre and local bird groups or other organisations that may hold relevant information are needed. In addition bird surveys of certain sites and further consideration of surveys on other sites is needed.
- Recreational disturbance near the Humber Estuary – surveys of recreational pressure on the Humber Estuary in North Lincolnshire are needed to underpin the Local Plan. These would update similar surveys completed several years ago; and
- Traffic Modelling - a screening assessment is required to determine whether the Local Plan would cause an increase in the number of vehicles passing close to the Estuary internationally designated sites, breaching recognised thresholds (additional 1,000 vehicles per day over the Plan Period). Should these thresholds be breached then an assessment of likely additional pollutants from these vehicles would be needed, what would reach designated sites and what impact these are likely to have. Additional mitigation might then be necessary.

3.23 NE have a number of outstanding issues which have been highlighted in this document. Subsequently, they have now signed the SoCG.

#### Anglian Water

3.24 Anglian Water are pledged to deliver net zero by 2030. Going forward, providing more infrastructure for new facilities will not be a priority. They are looking to use existing facilities headroom and in the most sustainable locations where infrastructure is already provided and so not have to build new infrastructure with its attendant carbon impacts. Anglian Water's new draft plans set this approach out and the preference for nature-based solutions within catchments. The focus is on reducing both operational and capital (embedded) carbon to achieve zero carbon by 2030 alongside reducing water consumption in households to reduce the energy needed to treat and move water and recycle and reuse water with the environment.

3.25 Reducing water requirements and the need for SUDS and moving towards water nutrient neutrality is encouraged in urban extensions. This would apply to the Lincolnshire Lakes area where some new, well-planned infrastructure would be needed.

3.26 Waste water services are provided by Anglian Water east of the river Trent, except Scunthorpe and the future Lincolnshire Lakes development area (which will be serviced by Severn Trent). AW also provide tap water east of the River Trent. Yorkshire Water provide tap water west of the River Trent.

3.27 A meeting was held between the Council, Anglian water, Severn Trent Water, and the Environment Agency in July 2022 to discuss outstanding issues relating to the Local Plan and Statement of Common Ground. Discussions are ongoing between the Council and Anglian Water.

#### Severn Trent Water

3.28 Severn Trent Water (STW) provide water treatment and waste water services in North Lincolnshire to the west of the River Trent, they do not supply water. As a water company, it is important for STW to work collaboratively with Local Planning Authorities to provide relevant assessments of the impacts of future developments. STW also provide waste water services to the west of the River Trent for Scunthorpe and the future Lincolnshire Lakes development..

3.29 Whilst STW will continue to liaise with all parties involved with providing capacity for growth, including Lincolnshire Lakes, until such time as their wastewater capacity improvements have been carried out they cannot agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to Agreement 10. Severn Trent are supportive of the approach to develop a Supplementary Planning Document for Lincolnshire Lakes that will set out a site wide master plan and design code. However, a new trunk sewer to Yaddlethorpe WWTW is needed and is included in their investment plan, but spending on this will not commence until there is more certainty over development taking place. In the past, some allocated development has not come forward, and STW is conscious of not providing infrastructure until there is certainty that it is needed.

3.30 STW are happy to work with the Council to try and address and support the delivery of the Local Plan in accordance with their aim to deliver statutory duties as outlined by the Water Industry Act 1991.

3.31 STW anticipate that climate change will have an impact on the performance of some of their assets, and that schemes will need to be carried out to mitigate these impacts. However, the impacts of climate change are not a fixed increase in flow solely associated with development proposals set

out in the Local Plan. As such, further assessment and investigation will need to be carried out by STW to better understand how wider climate change will impact sewer performance. Whilst the publication of STW's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) looks to address some of this, the Plan is still in the early stages.

3.32 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. A meeting was also held in March 2022 to discuss outstanding issues. A follow-up meeting was held between the Council, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water, and the Environment Agency in July 2022 to discuss outstanding issues relating to the Local Plan and Statement of Common Ground. Discussions are ongoing between the Council and STW. Whilst STW are supportive of the Local Plan they cannot commit to projects that they might not be able to deliver in the future and, therefore, cannot sign up to this SoCG.

#### Yorkshire Water

3.33 Yorkshire Water is responsible for the supply of tap water serving the Isle of Axholme area of North Lincolnshire. It has been contacted to establish whether there are likely to be any issues with it continuing to supply the area in light of future development and has not highlighted any issues.

#### National Grid

3.34 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) owns and maintains the electricity transmission system in England and Wales. The energy is then distributed to the electricity distribution network operators, so it can reach homes and businesses. National Grid Gas plc (NGG) owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. In the UK, gas leaves the transmission system and enters the UK's four gas distribution networks where pressure is reduced for public use.

3.35 National Grid Ventures (NGV) is separate from National Grid's core regulated businesses. NGV develop, operate, and invest in energy projects, technologies, and partnerships to help accelerate the development of a clean energy future for consumers across the UK, Europe, and the United States.

3.36 National Grid appointed Avison Young to review and respond to local planning authority Development Plan Document consultations on its behalf. National Grid's response to the Local Plan Publication Draft consultation identified that some of the proposed employment sites were in close proximity to national Grid assets and, therefore, recommended some modifications to the policy wording to address this issue. A plan showing details of the site locations and details of National Grid's assets were also attached to the response. The following Local Plan policies were subsequently amended to incorporate the suggested changes: Policy SS3: Development Principles; Policy SS9: Land at North Killingholme Airfield; and Policy SS10: Strategic Site Allocation - South Humber Bank.

3.37 Homes England have been consulted throughout the preparation of the Local Plan including the Statement of Common Ground. No responses have been received. However, Homes England are fully engaged with the Local Plan as and when required. This is also the case with regard to the Council's Strategic Housing team. Therefore, Homes England are not a signatory to the Statement of Common Ground.

3.38 The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) published guidance in February 2013 that unless a strategic matter requires consideration of transport matters there is no need to include them in the consultation process. For transparency, the ORR was consulted throughout the Local Plan process including the early Statement of Common Ground consultations. No responses were received. Therefore, the ORR is not a signatory to the Statement of Common Ground.

3.39 During consultation on the Draft Statement of Common Ground the Civil Aviation Authority confirmed they have no comments to make.

3.40 Government guidance on plan-making states that “Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships are not subject to the requirements of the duty (*to cooperate*), but local planning authorities and county councils in England, and prescribed public bodies **must** cooperate with them.” <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>.

3.41 Therefore, for the purposes of preparing the Local Plan, the following bodies have also been treated as duty to cooperate bodies:

- Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP);
- Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Partnership; and
- Humber Local Nature Partnership.

3.42 The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership is happy to support the Plan. However, they have some concerns about being signatories to the SoCG. As LEPs are not subject to requirements of the duty they asked if there is an alternative way they can support the Local Plan, or whether there are assurances in relation to the Plan being assessed. To this end, the Greater Lincolnshire LEP was consulted as part of the Reg 19 Publication consultation.

3.43 The council engaged closely with the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership (and its constituent authorities) until 31 March 2021 when it was replaced by a new Hull & East Yorkshire LEP. Whilst the new LEP will cover the authorities on the North Bank of the Humber, it will continue to work with organisations on the South Bank towards the shared prosperity of the region going forward and will ensure the local plan is a delivery mechanism to assist the ambition to develop the sub-region into a net zero carbon industry economy by 2040.

3.44 Yorkshire and Humber Aggregates Working Party and East Midlands Aggregates Working Party– The Working Parties are not expected to sign up as the Yorkshire and Humber Aggregates Working Party have advised there is difficulty with Statements of Common Ground and Aggregate Working Parties as the membership represent differing interests. At the National Chairs Group in July 2022, the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities suggested setting out common and uncommon ground within the statements and making it clear where there was agreement and disagreement. It was also pointed out that the requirement for Statements of Common Ground is likely to disappear soon. There are no outstanding strategic minerals issues where there is disagreement.

3.45 The Humber Local Nature Partnership have been consulted and invited to comment/sign up to the SoCG but we are still awaiting a response.

3.46 The Humberhead Levels Partnership have been consulted and invited to comment/sign up to the SoCG but we are still awaiting a response.

3.47 Humber Coast and Vale Care Partnership, now the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, were previously consulted and invited to comment/sign up to the SoCG but no

response was received. The current NHS Bodies that have signed this document are: NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (formerly North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group), and Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust.

3.48 In addition to the neighbouring authorities, significant amounts of aggregate are consumed within the Humber area from elsewhere. As a result, City of Sunderland Council, Durham County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, Kirklees Council, Peak District National Park, Shropshire Council, and Powys County Council were all added as signatories to this SoCG in terms of Minerals.

3.49 Of these additional authorities, City of Sunderland Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Derbyshire County Council, Peak District National Park, Shropshire Council and Powys County Council are yet to sign this SoCG. This isn't necessarily because they disagree with the minerals agreements. It is most likely due to our request for a signature not being given high priority as North Lincolnshire is not an immediate neighbour, nor in the same country in the case of Powys.

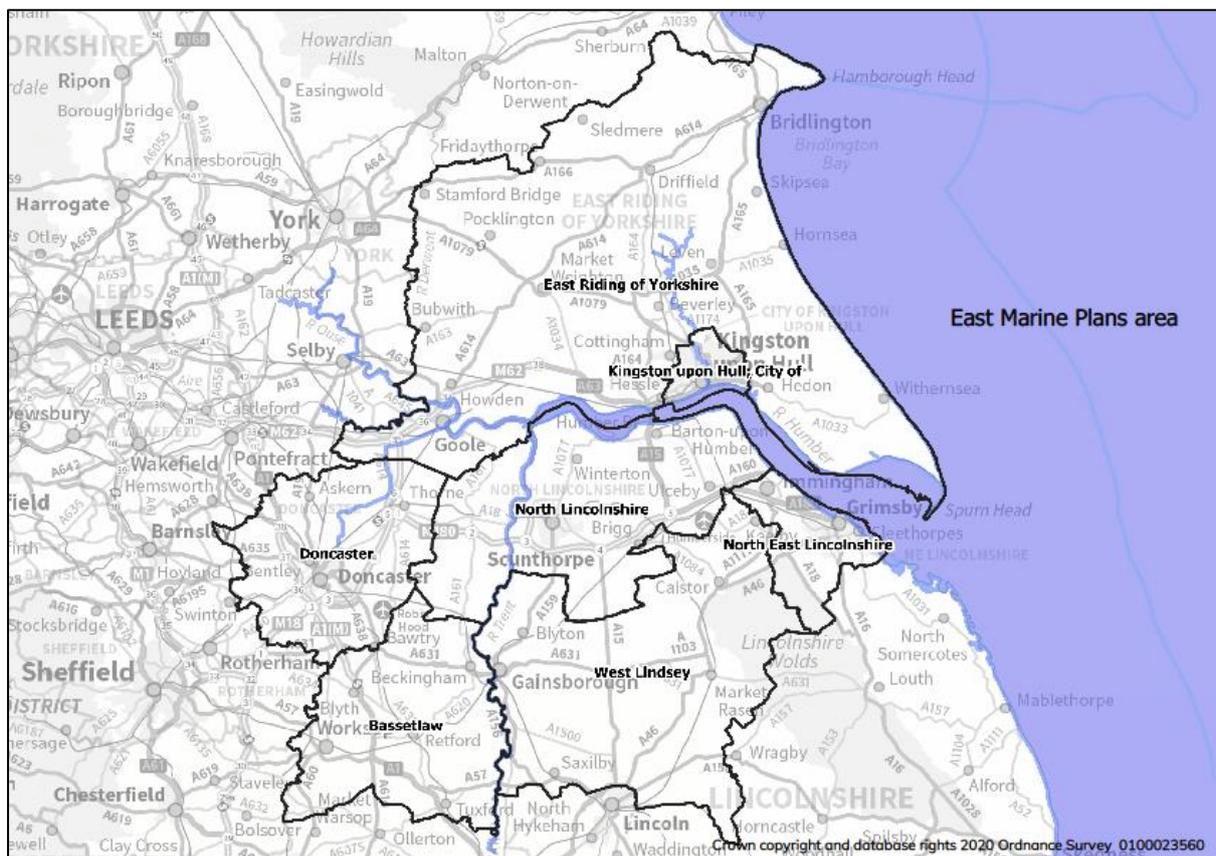
#### 4 STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHY

4.1 This section provides an explanation of the geographical area for the issues covered by the Statement of Common Ground. The local planning authorities that have boundaries with North Lincolnshire Council are:

- Bassetlaw District Council;
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council;
- Hull City Council;
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- Nottinghamshire County Council;
- North East Lincolnshire Council; and
- Central Lincolnshire- the Local Plan Area covering West Lindsey District Council.

4.2 Map 1 below identifies the location and extent of the general area covered by this statement.

**Map 1: Extent of the general area covered by the Statement of Common Ground**



4.3 This general area extends over the administrative area of the entire plan-making authorities that have a common boundary with North Lincolnshire. Different geographies tend to apply for the specialist planning issues of minerals and waste management.

4.4 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) places a duty to co-operate on the Marine Management Organisation and other public bodies in the preparation of marine plans and local development plans. The council will therefore ensure a close working relationship in terms of the Local Plan and East Marine Plans. It is noted that specific

policies, cited as relevant throughout the Statement of Common Ground and Appendix 1, must be read in the context of all other provisions within the East Marine Plans as appropriate.

4.5 North Lincolnshire has a relatively self-contained housing market area as indicated in the North Lincolnshire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) 2020), predominantly covered by the Scunthorpe Travel to Work Area which broadly reflects the Local Authority boundary. This suggests a relatively strong degree of self-containment of the workforce in 2011. There are key linkages with the surrounding authority areas as represented by travel to work areas centred on North East Lincolnshire, Doncaster, Hull, and West Lindsey (Lincolnshire), with strong commuting flows to and from these areas and Housing Market Area relationships with East Riding, West Lindsey, Doncaster, and North East Lincolnshire.

4.6 North Lincolnshire is a predominately rural area made up of a number of historic market towns: Barton upon Humber; Brigg; Crowle; Epworth; Kirton in Lindsey; and Winterton. These are surrounded by many desirable larger and smaller villages and hamlets as well as an attractive countryside. At the centre of the area lies Scunthorpe, the key focus for education, jobs, retail, services, and industry.

4.7 Our neighbours are East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull, Lincolnshire (West Lindsey), Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw), North East Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire (Doncaster). We are members of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and, until 31 March 2021, the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership. Their economic strategies are set out in the Humber Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and the Greater Lincolnshire SEP, and both LEPs are developing Local Industrial Strategies. Their visions, ambitions and priorities are reflected in the Local Plan (up to 31 March 2021 for the Humber LEP). The new Humber Estuary Plan (agreed by the Humber Leadership Board in draft in Autumn 2020, was due for adoption in January 2021). It would have succeeded the Humber SEP and is relevant in terms of promoting low carbon ambitions.

4.8 North Lincolnshire also falls within the area covered by the Midlands Engine initiative and also works closely with the Northern Powerhouse initiative to rebalance the economy and drive growth across northern and central England. North Lincolnshire Council is an active member of both Transport for the North (TfN) (the country's first Sub-National Transport Body), Rail North and Midlands Connect. TfN's Strategic Transport Plan for the North sets out the case for strategic transport infrastructure investment through to 2050, and aims to rebalance decades of underinvestment and transform the lives of people in the North. It centres on transformational inter-city and pan-Northern connectivity improvements, ensuring that these are each drivers of economic growth in the North and the UK as a whole. This will also include improving pan-Northern access to the North's major ports and international airports.

4.9 One of North Lincolnshire's major strengths and opportunities is its high-quality transport network and international connections. We have easy access to the UK's motorway and trunk road network. The M180, M181, A180 and A160 link the South Humber Gateway Ports and Scunthorpe as well as the rest of the area to the main north/south routes (the A1/M1) and trans-Pennine routes (the M62 via the M18). Many of the North's key centres like Doncaster, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, York, and Liverpool are accessible within two hours, whilst the rest of the country is within around a 4 hours' drive.

4.10 Regarding the economy, the HENA 2020 demonstrates that the area is currently a single functional economic market area. The economy is relatively self-contained with 76% of residents

working in the area; and 79% of resident's expenditure on comparison retail goods is spent within North Lincolnshire.

4.11 More and more people are commuting in and out of the area, and North Lincolnshire is developing stronger mutual labour market ties with Doncaster, East Riding, West Lindsey, and North East Lincolnshire. Since the decline of its traditional industries, North Lincolnshire has experienced considerable economic growth, but the local economy is still underperforming compared with the regional and national averages in terms of business stock, availability of jobs and employment rates. Deprivation is also higher than average and around a quarter of children live below the poverty line.

4.12 Based on North Lincolnshire's strategic geography, this Statement of Common Ground considers the area as the most appropriate boundary for matters other than minerals and waste. North Lincolnshire is a single, functional economic market area and has a relatively self-contained housing market area.

### **Strategic Geography for Minerals**

4.13 North Lincolnshire's geology ensures the presence of several different mineral resources in the area. These include sand and gravel, limestone, chalk, silica sand, clay, ironstone, and peat as well as hydrocarbon (oil and gas) deposits. Minerals planning covers a wider strategic area and includes authorities further afield and not adjacent to North Lincolnshire due to the regional and sub-regional flow of aggregate minerals between different areas.

4.14 North Lincolnshire contributes to the Humber sub region's share of aggregate minerals and contributes towards meeting the local, regional, and national demand for resources to support infrastructure and construction projects. The Council area also produces some industrial and energy minerals, but these are not monitored nationally to the same degree as aggregate minerals. National planning policy highlights the importance of minerals to the local economy and supports the need for sustainable mineral extraction, and the Council is required to provide for an adequate and steady supply of construction aggregate for industry by maintaining landbank of mineral planning permissions. The importance of the provision of adequate mineral resources is a clear strategic priority.

4.15 North Lincolnshire Council is a fully collaborating member of the Yorkshire and Humber Aggregate Working Party which is one of nine technical advisory groups of mineral planning authorities and other relevant organisations covering specific geographical areas who work together. They produce fit-for-purpose and comprehensive data on aggregate demand and supply in their area. They provide advice to individual mineral planning authorities and to the National Aggregate Co-ordinating Group. The Council also annually produces a Local Aggregates Assessment jointly with the neighbouring Humber authorities (East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull City, and North East Lincolnshire Councils).

4.16 The latest evidence on aggregate movements between Mineral Planning Authorities is provided by the Collation of the results of the 2019 Aggregate Minerals Survey for England and Wales (2021). Unfortunately, the tonnage and destination of sand and gravel aggregate sales from North Lincolnshire is not recorded due to a lack of operator survey responses. In terms of North Lincolnshire crushed rock aggregate sales (limestone and chalk), 81,000 tonnes was recorded with 69% sold within the Humber area and 31% elsewhere.

4.17 North Lincolnshire is recorded as neither a source nor consumer of marine sand and gravel aggregate.

4.18 In order to get a better sense of where sales of aggregate from North Lincolnshire have been consumed, data from the earlier collation of the results of the 2014 Aggregate Minerals survey for England and Wales have been examined too. Again, data for sand and gravel aggregate sales from North Lincolnshire is limited, but the small amount of detail available shows that; under 6,250 tonnes was sold to Derbyshire and Peak District National Park, between 9,890 and 98,900 was sold to Lincolnshire and under 6,250 tonnes to unknown destinations. In terms of crushed rock the survey shows that of the sales from North Lincolnshire; between 8,190 and 81,900 was sold to Lincolnshire and between 12,640 and 126,400 was sold to Nottinghamshire.

4.19 The available data therefore shows that significant amounts of aggregate are exported from North Lincolnshire to Derbyshire and Peak District National Park, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. On the basis of this information Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park will be added as signatories to this statement in terms of Minerals.

4.20 Consumption figures are only reported on a sub-regional basis. North Lincolnshire sits within the Humber Sub-Region where 408,000 tonnes of land won aggregate sand and gravel was consumed in 2019.

- 80 – 90% (326,400 to 367,200 tonnes) from East Riding of Yorkshire Council,
- between 1 – 10% (4,080 to 40,800 tonnes) from North Yorkshire County Council,
- between 1 – 10% (4,080 to 40,800 tonnes) from Lincolnshire County Council,
- between 1 – 10% (4,080 to 40,800 tonnes) from Nottinghamshire County Council,
- less than 1% (<4,080 tonnes) from Doncaster Council,
- less than 1% (<4,080 tonnes) from City of Sunderland Council, and
- less than 1% (<4,080 tonnes) from Durham County Council
- less than 1% (<4,080 tonnes) of this was from Cambridgeshire County Council's area

4.21 979,000 tonnes of land won crushed rock aggregate was consumed in the Humber Sub-Region in 2019.

- between 40 – 50% (391,600 to 489,500 tonnes) from Yorkshire Dales National Park,
- between 10 – 20% (97,900 to 195,800 tonnes) from North Yorkshire County Council,
- between 10 – 20% (97,900 to 195,800 tonnes) from Derbyshire County Council's area,
- between 10 – 20% (97,900 to 195,800 tonnes) from Leicestershire County Council,
- between 1 – 10% (9,790 to 97,900 tonnes) from Doncaster Council,
- between 1 – 10% (9,790 to 97,900 tonnes) from East Riding of Yorkshire Council,
- between 1 – 10% (9,790 to 97,900 tonnes) from North Lincolnshire Council,
- less than 1% (<9,790 tonnes) from Kirklees Council,
- less than 1% (<9,790 tonnes) of this was from Peak District National Park,
- less than 1% (<9,790 tonnes) of this was from Shropshire Council,
- less than 1% (<9,790 tonnes) from Durham County Council, and
- less than 1% (<9,790 tonnes) from Powys County Council

4.22 The available data, therefore, shows that significant amounts of aggregate are consumed within the Humber area from East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Doncaster Council, City of Sunderland Council, Durham County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, Kirklees Council, Peak District National Park, Shropshire Council, and Powys County Council.

4.23 On the basis of this information the following will be added as signatories to this statement in terms of Minerals: North Yorkshire County Council, City of Sunderland Council, Durham County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Leicestershire County Council, Kirklees Council, Shropshire Council, Powys County Council. It is acknowledged that as Powys is part of Wales, it is not obliged to cooperate on signing this statement.

4.24 The Yorkshire and Humber Aggregates Working Party have advised there is difficulty with Statements of Common Ground and Aggregate Working Parties as the membership represent differing interests. At the National Chairs Group in July 2022, the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities suggested setting out common and uncommon ground within the statements and making it clear where there was agreement and disagreement. It was also pointed out that the requirement for Statements of Common Ground is likely to disappear soon.

### **Strategic Geography for Waste**

4.25 Like all local authorities, North Lincolnshire Council as a Waste Planning Authority (WPA) is not self-sufficient in dealing with waste generated in its area, and relies on waste management facilities and infrastructure in other WPA areas. Similarly, North Lincolnshire also receives waste from other parts of the Country for management, treatment and disposal. Waste planning is a strategic issue that can effectively be addressed by co-operation between WPAs.

4.26 As part of the Duty to Co-operate, in 2018 the Council contacted those councils that received waste from North Lincolnshire, and vice versa to identify strategic waste movements. For the purposes of this exercise, strategic waste movements between authorities were considered to be 1,000 tonnes for non-hazardous waste and 100 tonnes for hazardous waste. The Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator and Hazardous Waste Data Interrogator (2017 data) were used as source data. The Council gained information by asking the following:

- 1) Could you please confirm to the best of your knowledge, the waste movements set out in the tables are taking place and are of a similar scale, and if any other movements of strategic nature are taking place?
- 2) In relation to exports from your waste planning authority to North Lincolnshire, if these movements are likely to continue to occur together with any indication of the scale and period? Are you aware of any future movements to North Lincolnshire that may take place?
- 3) In relation to imports to your waste planning authority from North Lincolnshire, are there any strategic and/or planning matters and constraints that may affect the future viability of the sites and associated capacity, which would prevent these movements continuing over the lifetime of Local Plan period up to 2036? If facilities are likely to close, please provide an end date (where known).
- 4) Do you consider the movements of waste identified to be of strategic importance? If so, are there any strategic planning issues that need to be resolved through further discussions between our respective Authorities?
- 5) Do you have any general comments or further additional information on the movement of waste from North Lincolnshire to your waste planning area or vice versa?

4.27 This engagement was useful in drawing out those strategic waste movements triggering a need for additional signatories to this SoCG. Other than adjoining WPAs this only included Kirklees Council, which considers the movement of hazardous waste to be of a strategic nature and given the lack of provision after 2028.

4.28 Due to the data used being from 2017 for this exercise, the latest 2021 Waste Data Interrogator data has been compared with this to see whether waste movements have substantially changed. This showed that largely the same waste movements were taking place between the same locations, which lends reassurance to this 2018 work remaining largely valid.

## **5 NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE'S STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS**

5.1 This part of the SoCG considers the strategic and cross-boundary planning matters that are particularly relevant for the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. It addresses each matter in turn. Appendix 1: Draft Duty to Co-operate Strategic Planning Matters Table includes further detail. The agreements of relevance are also listed and are numbered to match the relevant strategic planning matter. There are specific non-strategic cross-boundary issues covered in this section when these have been requested by prescribed bodies. These are covered in the spirit of helpfulness.

### **AGREEMENT 1 Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAN) - Scale and location of housing land; and AGREEMENT 2: Scale and location of new housing distribution - infrastructure**

5.2 North Lincolnshire is considered to form its own housing market area, as set out in the North Lincolnshire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) and, as a result of that, there are no strategic issues with the relevant neighbouring authorities. The full housing requirement for the Local Plan will be allocated within North Lincolnshire (within the plan period of 2020 to 2038). During Duty to Co-operate meetings with neighbouring authorities, it was agreed that North Lincolnshire will meet its own housing need and that others did not think it appropriate to either meet North Lincolnshire's need or for North Lincolnshire to meet some of their needs.

5.3 The Council is aware that the strategic infrastructure (including transport, education, health, and green space) required to deliver its housing allocations has had an impact in past delivery rates. The Council is committed to quarterly meetings with Homes England and bids will be put forward through the LEP for funding such as the Housing Infrastructure Fund, and inclusion in the Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan (SIDP).

5.4 Ongoing work will continue with adjoining authorities, National Highways, and the Local Highways Authority on issues such as traffic impacts and mitigation, Environment Agency on flood risk management, water companies and the Environment Agency on water supply and wastewater treatment, and Natural England and Historic England in terms of site allocations and impacts on the natural and historic environment. Historic England still has an outstanding objection in terms of site allocation H1P-25 (Land at Yealand Flats, Epworth), but they welcome removal of site H1P-35 in Wrawby which has been removed to take on board their concerns. There has been dialogue about alternative sites for Epworth between NLC and HE. In September 2020 HE stated that, of the alternative housing sites proposed in Epworth, all the sites are within the core historic landscape character type of the Ancient Open Strip Fields (AOSF), and that they could possibly support housing on the site of the car park to the south of the Garden Centre, subject to this being assessed appropriately.

5.5 HE has now seen and approved the Historic Environment Evidence Base document as agreed in bespoke meetings. Site H1P-30p in New Holland has been removed following objections by the Environment Agency. Any future cross-boundary infrastructure provision requiring the involvement or endorsement of neighbouring authorities will be subject to separate discussions and agreement.

5.6 The Environment Agency can agree to sign this agreement now that they have considered details of the latest Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Severn Trent Water can support Agreement 2. National Grid do not have any objections to Agreement 1 or Agreement 2.

5.7 Natural England welcomes the commitment to ongoing engagement regarding infrastructure delivery including traffic impacts and mitigation. However, they advise that further evidence potentially and mitigation measures will need to be provided in order to rule out unacceptable impacts on designated sites.

5.8 Anglian Water is working towards being net zero carbon by 2030. In engaging in planning the spatial distribution of growth, Anglian Water will seek primarily to support North Lincolnshire Council to most effectively identify and use existing infrastructure capacity and the embedded (capital) carbon in that infrastructure and so identify the most sustainable locations for growth.

5.9 National Highways have already agreed the infrastructure required at Lincolnshire Lakes in the Plan period, so they suggest that the reduction in dwellings at the location should create less of an impact at the M181 terminating junction, as well as on the local road network within its vicinity.

5.10 NH consider that the proposed infrastructure at the M181 terminating junction does not necessarily accommodate the quantum of development within the Plan throughout the plan period, and that the de-trunking of the M181 places the onus of infrastructure provision onto the council. As such, they suggest that this location may require a more detailed analysis through the Plan period to ascertain if any further mitigation needs to be provided. In addition, it is understood that further housing development is planned at Lincolnshire Lakes post-plan period as set out in the AAP. Clarification is therefore required on the status of the AAP, the full anticipated quantum of housing delivery on the site (both within the Plan period and post-plan), how the impacts of any further post plan development will be assessed, and how the policies needed to support the development will be delivered in accordance with NPPF.

5.11 NH have identified that the M180 Junction 5 and the A160/Habrough Road junction is projected to be approaching capacity in 2038. Therefore, they require that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan makes reference to the need for these junctions to be monitored over the plan period, and they look forward to continuous regular liaison on this matter.

5.12 NH request to be provided with updated housing information clarifying the different numbers contained within Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 and providing a full updated schedule, if necessary. They also request to have sight of the items related to transport which have been added to the monitoring data framework (namely T1, T2, T3, T4 and T7) when these become available.

**Agreement 1: Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAN) - Scale and location of housing land**

The North Lincolnshire Local Plan will fully meet the objectively assessed needs to 2038 and is not proposing to accommodate any neighbouring authorities' needs. North Lincolnshire functions largely as a self-contained housing market area. This will be kept under review through Local Housing Needs Assessment reviews, AMR's, and Five-Year Land Supply Statements.

**Agreement 2: Scale and location of new housing distribution - infrastructure**

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. Ongoing work will continue with adjoining authorities, National Highways, and Local Highways Authority on issues such as traffic impacts and mitigation and the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water, Natural

England, and Historic England in terms of site allocations in relation to flood risk management and climate resilience, water quality/resources, the natural environment and historic environment, respectively.

### **AGREEMENT 3: North Lincolnshire's Travelling Communities**

5.13 North Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2020 provides an objective assessment of future pitch requirement for Gypsy and Travellers including Travelling Showpeople, in accordance with national policy. The assessment identifies existing provision of pitches and future need in North Lincolnshire. North Lincolnshire currently has two locations (Brigg and Kirton in Lindsey) providing permitted permanent Gypsy and Travellers facilities. A need for a further 13 pitches in North Lincolnshire over the Local Plan period to 2038 for Gypsy and Traveller households has been identified. To ensure delivery the council have proposed a criteria-based policy to support appropriate proposals and work with the market to bring forward sites meeting identified needs.

5.14 No adjoining local authorities have raised any strategic issues with Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople despite being asked to comment on it. The evidence will be updated periodically throughout the plan period.

### **Agreement 3: Gypsy and Traveller provision**

The North Lincolnshire Local Plan sets out a criteria-based policy to support appropriate proposals and will work with the market to bring forward sites to meet the identified needs within the plan period. It is not proposing to accommodate any neighbouring authorities' needs. Signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to Gypsy and Travellers. The North Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment will be kept up to date and reviewed when required. North Lincolnshire Council will maintain close working arrangements with adjoining local authorities to meet any recognised need.

### **AGREEMENTS 4 & 5: Employment Land – including scale, location, and infrastructure**

5.15 The North Lincolnshire Employment Land Review within the Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment identifies the area as functional economic market area. Discussions and consultations undertaken so far on the Local Plan have not raised any objections relating to the overall level of employment land provision, draft allocations, and their associated infrastructure.

5.16 Ongoing work will continue with adjoining authorities, National Highways (formerly Highways England), and the local highway authority on issues such as traffic impacts and mitigation, the Environment Agency on flood risk management, water companies and the Environment Agency on water supply and wastewater treatment, and Natural England and Historic England in terms of site allocations and impacts on the natural and historic environment. Any future cross boundary infrastructure provision requiring the involvement or endorsement of neighbouring local authorities or prescribed bodies would be subject to separate discussions and agreement.

5.17 The council is working in partnership with the EA and other LA's on the new Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (Humber 2100+) to ensure the Local Plan policies are consistent with its proposals. Humber 2100+ is a sub-regional strategic priority which is acknowledged, and the council will continue to share evidence and information to assist its development and implementation. Agreement 5 is a commitment to ongoing work. The EA could sign this agreement when details of the IDP have been fully shared with them. The IDP is a live document which is constantly being updated, and now includes reference to the Humber Sea terminal requiring flood defence enhancement scheme. National Grid are fine with Agreement 5.

5.18 The following has been added to Policy EC5: Wharves in line with Natural England’s recommendation: *“any SAC, SPA or Ramsar Sites, or proposals will only be permitted where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, there is no alternative and compensatory measures are provided for the loss of designated habitat in line with the Habitats Regulations.”*.

5.19 Severn Trent Water can support Agreement 5. National Grid do not have any objections to Agreement 5. Natural England welcomes the updates to Policies SS10 in the Local Plan Addendum which, for the most part, address their previous comments. NE also welcome the updates to Policy EC4 and Policy EC5 in the Addendum.

**Agreement 4: Scale and location of employment land - meeting the job need and employment land requirement**

The North Lincolnshire Local Plan will meet the area’s job needs and land requirement to 2038. North Lincolnshire is a separate functional economic market area. This will be kept under review through AMRs, employment land availability and updates to Employment Land Reviews/Employment Land Need Assessments.

**Agreement 5: Scale and location of meeting job need and new employment land – infrastructure**

As part of the Local Plan Regulation 19 Publication Draft Evidence Base North Lincolnshire Council published the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided to meet the scale and location of employment need. Ongoing work will continue with adjoining authorities, National Highways, and Local Highways Authority on issues such as traffic impacts and mitigation, and with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water, Natural England, and Historic England in relation to flood risk management and climate resilience, water quality/resources, the natural environment, and historic environment, respectively.

**AGREEMENT 6: South Humber Bank Strategic Site Allocation**

5.20 The South Humber Bank (SHB) site is an expansive area of flat land located on the southern bank of the Humber Estuary. The site, although largely greenfield and isolated from a main built-up urban area, is located within an existing industrial port landscape. The two existing large ports at Immingham and Grimsby (collectively one port) and the Humber Sea Terminal are the busiest ports in the UK by tonnage. The Local Plan policy identifies a need for 900 hectares (gross area) of E (Offices/Light Industrial), B2 (General Industry) and B8 (Storage and Distribution) port related activities to take special advantage of its location within an existing port environment, flat topography and being adjacent to a deep-water channel of the Humber Estuary.

5.21 Land in the SHB is used by significant numbers of waterbirds related to the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. To mitigate against this adverse effect a Strategic Mitigation Plan for North Lincolnshire has been prepared. The Mitigation Strategy for North Lincolnshire covers the SHB employment area. Equivalent documents have been produced by North East Lincolnshire Council. Taken together, the two independent Strategy documents form the Strategic Mitigation Strategy for the whole of the SHB.

5.22 The original SHB Mitigation Strategy was prepared during the same period as two major project proposals for port related development on Halton Marsh and Killingholme Marsh. Both projects have been through ‘appropriate assessment’. Natural England have agreed that waterbird mitigation for these proposals are acceptable as part of the Strategic Mitigation Plan. These mitigation areas within the SHB employment allocation (in relation to the Able UK Marine Energy Park (AMEP) at Killingholme Marshes and Able Logistics Park (ALP) at Halton Marshes) are in compliance with the Mitigation Strategy Plan for North Lincolnshire.

5.23 Able UK have since brought forward an agreed alternative mitigation proposal on one site at Halton Marshes of at least equivalent area to that agreed under the ALP and AMEP projects. This approach has been agreed by the conservation groups and is endorsed by this plan.

5.24 In effect, the Mitigation Strategy for North Lincolnshire is a 'living document' that will provide continual updated robust evidence towards delivering and maintaining mitigation sites. There are options for waterbird mitigation/compensation to be provided beyond the boundaries of the SHB employment allocation as long as this does not affect the ability of the designated site to meet its conservation objectives. Other proposals, which may come forward on the remainder of the SHB employment allocation (other than the proposed AMEP and ALP projects), will have to pass the tests of the Habitats Regulations. The Mitigation Strategy is currently being updated alongside the new local plan policy to continue this robust evidence base for delivering and maintaining mitigation sites. Natural England and the LNP's will be engaged in this process accordingly.

5.25 The main transport documents that are relevant to the site are: North Lincolnshire's Local Transport Plan 3 (2011–2026); and the South Humber Bank Transport Study (2010). A Transport Assessment will be required for each development in the area and it is recommended that developers contact the Transport Planning Team to discuss the scope prior to starting work. Applications should be supported by robust Travel Plans, where appropriate, which should demonstrate how the use of sustainable transport modes will be promoted and encouraged.

5.26 NLC will continue to engage with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in terms of the relationship between the East Marine Plans (policies EC1, EC2, and EC3) and the Environment Agency in relation to flood risk and development/Humber 2100+ and the South Humber Bank Strategic Site Allocation and the associated planning applications and Development Consent Orders that may affect the marine environment.

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

5.28 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. Natural England welcomes the updates to Policies SS10 in the Local Plan Addendum which, for the most part, address their previous comments. However, NE remain of the opinion that insufficient detail is included in Policy SS7 to justify the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment with regard to the provision of mitigation for the loss of functionally linked land or potential for hydrological impacts. A meeting was held in late July 2022 between NLC and NE in order to consider these and other outstanding issues, and discussions and collaboration are ongoing. See signatories section 3 for more details.

5.29 Paragraph 4.91 relating to Policy SS10 has been amended in line with Natural England's suggestion to read: *"and provide additional mitigation to that identified within the Mitigation Strategy, if required."* Similarly, the following sentence has been added to policy EC4 based on EA advice: *"Any landscaping provided should be appropriate to the location and sensitivities of nearby habitats and species."* Natural England broadly welcomes the South Humber Gateway Mitigation Strategy which addresses comments they had made previously.

5.30 The Environment Agency are able to sign agreement 6. Natural England particularly welcome the progress made regarding the South Humber Bank Strategic Mitigation. However, they also question whether a similar agreement to Agreement 11 regarding strategic natural environmental issues concerning Thorne and Hatfield Moors should be added regarding the Humber Estuary designated sites. Anglian Water are not able to agree that there are no unresolved issues in relation to this Agreement.

5.31 The Able Marine NSIP application is the subject of further applications and until those matters are resolved AW is unable to advise that there are no water supply or water recycling matters for the allocation.

5.32 Avison Young on behalf of National Grid submitted a response to the Pre-submission Local Plan consultation identifying the proposed site allocation and conflict with National Grid assets. As a result, Policy SS10: Strategic Site Allocation - South Humber Bank was amended to incorporate the suggested changes (in addition to Policy SS3: Development Principles, and Policy SS9: Land at North Killingholme Airfield).

#### **Agreement 6: South Humber Bank Strategic Site Allocation**

Most signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to the South Humber Bank Strategic Site Allocation. However, 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. North Lincolnshire Council will continue to ensure a joined-up approach to the allocation of land and associated habitat mitigation/compensation, flood defence and transport infrastructure through sharing evidence and information and contents of Infrastructure Delivery Plans.

#### **AGREEMENT 7: Impact on the Strategic Road Network**

5.33 North Lincolnshire has good motorway access (M180 & M181) and therefore it is important that there is regular liaison with National Highways (NH). North Lincolnshire Council has worked closely with NH in improvement works on and around the Strategic Road Network (SRN), which includes the M180, A180, A160 and M181 within North Lincolnshire. Historically cooperative working between both parties has been undertaken to consider issues on the SRN and find funding streams to deliver the schemes.

5.34 In order to continue this relationship throughout Local Plan preparation the Council and NH have developed an evidence base that is robust as possible given the Covid-19 pandemic, which assesses the impact of the Local Plan on the SRN and identifies the appropriate infrastructure to mitigate any impact as a consequence. This has enabled a view to be taken in relation to the ability of appropriate and deliverable policies and schemes to support the scale and location of development that the Plan seeks to deliver. In order to achieve this NLC adopted a collaborative working approach with NH to agree the necessary mitigations on the SRN, secure developer contributions where appropriate and investigate other potential funding mechanisms and triggers in Local Plan policies and the associated Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

5.35 It should be noted that due to the Coronavirus pandemic it was not possible to collect data to fully model the impacts of the traffic generated by the Local Plan. Instead, best use was made of existing pre-pandemic data where this was available. Given that the A160 Upgrade Scheme was open to traffic in March 2017, no post-opening traffic flows are available. Instead, the traffic forecasts estimated during scheme design were the basis of the Local Plan assessment. The unavoidable uncertainty surrounding both the existing and future traffic flows due to the pandemic

make it important that the situation is revisited by the Council and NH at 5-year assessment intervals. In addition, the impact of each individual planning application on the SRN will be fully assessed as and when they come forward.

5.36 NH consider that the proposed infrastructure at the M181 terminating junction does not necessarily accommodate the quantum of development within the Plan throughout the plan period, and that the de-trunking of the M181 places the onus of infrastructure provision onto the council. As such, they suggest that this location may require a more detailed analysis through the Plan period to ascertain if any further mitigation needs to be provided. In addition, it is understood that further housing development is planned at Lincolnshire Lakes post-plan period as set out in the AAP. Clarification is therefore required on the status of the AAP, the full anticipated quantum of housing delivery on the site (both within the Plan period and post-plan), how the impacts of any further post plan development will be assessed, and how the policies needed to support the development will be delivered in accordance with NPPF.

5.37 NH have identified that the M180 Junction 5 and the A160/Habrough Road junction is approaching capacity in 2038. Therefore, they require that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan makes reference to the need for these junctions to be monitored over the plan period, and they look forward to continuous regular liaison on this matter. In addition, NH requested to be provided with updated housing information clarifying the different numbers contained within Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 and providing a full updated schedule, if necessary.

**Agreement 7: Impact on the Strategic Road Network**

North Lincolnshire Council will maintain a close working relationship and provide evidence to National Highways to assist in identifying and quantifying specific strategic highways network capacity, shortfalls and future requirements linked to scale and phasing of development. NLC and National Highways will develop evidence base documents to best assess the impact of site allocations on SRN within the limitations of restricted data availability because of the Coronavirus pandemic. There are no outstanding issues.

**AGREEMENT 8: Impact on Local Road Network & Public Transport**

5.38 The Local Planning Authority will continue to engage in discussions with the Local Highways Authority and neighbouring local planning authorities concerning their Local Plans and the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. Current meetings have highlighted no significant cross boundary/strategic planning issues regarding impacts on local highway networks.

5.39 New land allocations, particularly employment and housing land can, if not planned appropriately, have a significant detrimental impact on the local highway network. This could result in the creation of pinchpoints on main roads and at strategic junctions in busy locations.

5.40 Unlike many other rural areas North Lincolnshire is generally well served by rail infrastructure. What is lacking is the provision of appropriate services running along the infrastructure, providing the connections that support the wider spatial strategy, and enabling the sustainable movement of people to access work, training, education, health, and leisure facilities. Buses are currently the most viable alternative to the car, particularly for commuter, shopping and leisure trips and are used by far more passengers than the rail services.

5.41 The majority of North Lincolnshire's bus services are provided by two main bus operators with the existing bus network split into urban and rural or inter-urban services. Much of the network is subsidised with only a handful of services operating on a fully commercial basis. This is not untypical of an area with such a large rural hinterland with some very low-density areas of population. In an

attempt to address weaknesses in bus provision the Council, as part of the Department for Transport (DfT) sponsored Total Transport Initiative, developed a pilot project to test the viability and feasibility of DRT bus services in the more rural parts of the authority's area. Although this funding has ceased the council continues to support the Just Go Demand Responsive Transport service, supporting our rural areas.

5.42 Walking and cycling should be the travel mode of choice for all short trips and an increase in these 'active travel' modes will improve people's physical and mental health and wellbeing and support the decarbonisation agenda. It is also important that pedestrian and cycle access is prioritised to and within new developments. In order to achieve greater sustainability and assist in the efficient movement of people, developments must be served adequately by new cycling and walking infrastructure.

5.43 The shift to a more polycentric spatial strategy that starts to direct more development away from Scunthorpe towards the other Principal Towns and other large service centres requires a recasting of public transport provision with a need to maintain focus on supporting Scunthorpe but also to start to better connect the surrounding key settlements not just with Scunthorpe but also with each other.

5.44 Natural England welcome the commitment to ongoing engagement regarding infrastructure delivery including traffic impacts and mitigation. However, they advise that further evidence potentially and mitigation measures will need to be provided in order to rule out unacceptable impacts on designated sites.

**Agreement 8: Impact on Local Road Network & Public Transport**

The Local Planning Authority will continue to maintain a close working relationship with the Local Highways Authority and, where necessary, neighbouring local authorities to overcome any identified pressures on the local highway network due to proposed new allocations/development. Evidence and information will continue to be shared and continued collaboration will take place with neighbouring authorities and transport operators on the contents of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to deliver adequate transport infrastructure to meet the scale and location of growth. There are no outstanding issues.

**AGREEMENT 9: Retail Development**

5.45 In terms of retail there are no strategic issues of importance. North Lincolnshire's retail catchment is relatively self-contained with 79% of residents' expenditure on comparison retail goods being spent in the area. Through meetings with neighbouring authorities, no issues were raised regarding retail and town centres.

**Agreement 9: Retail and Town Centres**

Local planning authority signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to retail development. There are no outstanding issues.

**AGREEMENT 10: Flood Risk**

5.46 North Lincolnshire has locations at considerable flood risk as the area is within Flood Zone 1, 2 and 3. Approximately 50% of the land is within area of high flood risk (Flood Zone 3), the area with a high probability area of flooding. Due to this, there has been regular ongoing consultation and engagement with the Environment Agency in the preparation of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Review and throughout the evolution of the Local Plan as their comments and suggestions have been considered and incorporated into policies. The EA advised the council during the Local

Plan preparation process that a comprehensive review of the current SFRA would be premature given the extensive flood modelling being undertaken following recent storm events.

5.47 At Preferred Options the EA suggested specific changes to Policy DQE5 Managing Flood Risk, all of which have been included. The Environment Agency also suggested through the Publication Draft Local Plan consultation some minor modifications to Policy CSC17 Camping and Caravan sites and Policy DM3 Environmental Protection which have been included as suggested modifications when the plan is submitted. The Environment Agency also suggested inclusion of Land to the North of the Humber Sea Terminal will require a flood defence scheme and this needs to be reflected in the Infrastructure Development Plan which the Council will update and include. The SFRA has been considered by the EA on several occasions to ensure all their comments and suggestions have been included. With the agreement of the EA, the SFRA and supporting maps were published as part of the Local Plan Publication Draft Evidence Base. However, as these were still to be updated with the Lincolnshire Lakes Hazard Mapping, the EA had not carried out a final review at the point of providing their response to the Regulation 19 consultation.

5.48 The Environment Agency have signed up to this Agreement as it was agreed that they and the council would continue to work together to ensure the SFRA Level 2 Assessment for the Lincolnshire Lakes site has been satisfactorily completed. The modelling work on this has been completed and all the data is now mapped for Lincolnshire Lakes and, therefore, the Level 2 Assessment is complete. The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for Lincolnshire lakes is currently being updated by Mott MacDonald. When the updated Lincolnshire Lakes FRA is complete, relevant sections of the SFRA will be updated to reflect this. The EA are aware from earlier correspondence that many of their suggested amendments have been made to the Local Plan. This joint working is to ensure that the Plan complies with national guidance relating to flooding, has guided where development can take place, and also has regard to the regeneration needs of the area.

5.49 The council worked in partnership with the EA on the Lincolnshire Lakes regeneration project to the west of Scunthorpe through both the Core Strategy and Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan. This culminated in development of flood risk mitigation outcomes in the policies and a collaboration agreement. These outcomes will be reflected in the site allocations policy.

5.50 The council is also contributing to the development of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (Humber 2100+) in partnership with 11 other local authorities. Its aim is wider than managing tidal flood risk and includes supporting sustainable development and a prosperous Humber. This new strategy is important for North Lincolnshire and the wider Humber sub region and will have strategic implications for the local plan. The Council will continue to engage with the Environment Agency at the Humber 2100+ Officers Group concerning the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. Current meetings have highlighted no significant cross boundary/strategic planning issues.

5.51 During the SFRA preparation, the Council has shared the evidence base and data with neighbouring authorities, utility companies and other relevant bodies. Any comments and issues were incorporated into the work at the earliest stage and the Council has had several meetings and versions of the SFRA sent to the EA to ensure all their comments and suggestions have been considered. The Council was advised by the EA to produce a sequential/exception test paper for the new site allocations; this was published with the pre-submission plan and the EA have accepted it.

5.52 The MMO East Inshore Marine Plan has also been considered in both the SFRA and plan-making process in relation to the impact on the marine environment. The council will actively consult with the MMO to ensure conformity with the East Marine Plans and the North Lincolnshire Local Plan.

5.53 The Environment Agency provided a number of representations to the Preferred Options Local Plan (Regulation 18) either objecting or commenting regarding the inclusion of policy criteria, mitigation, or additional text. Though these issues are not cross-boundary strategic matters they have been requested for inclusion by the EA and hence covered by the SoCG. All of these were taken on board and included in the Publication Draft Local Plan. The EA also provided a number of comments to the Publication Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19). These suggested amendments have been included as part of modifications to the submission Local Plan. The EA also provided comments to the Regulation 19 Addendum.

5.54 The EA have signed Agreement 10, and the Council and EA are working together to finalise the Lincolnshire Lakes Hazard Mapping which in turn will finalise the SFRA.

5.55 Severn Trent Water are happy to continue to liaise with all parties involved with providing capacity for growth, and ongoing dialogue continues between STW and NLC in order to provide appropriate solutions, including relating to sewerage capacity for Lincolnshire Lakes.

**Agreement 10: Flood risk in main river corridors, Humber Estuary, and surface run-off**

North Lincolnshire Council will continue liaison with the Environment Agency, MMO, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water, and neighbouring authorities (primarily East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council and North East Lincolnshire Council) where necessary to continue the positive working relationship and demonstrable track record of collaborative joint working with effective outcomes. Through various forms of engagement NLC and EA will continue to work co-operatively on matters of strategic importance. The SFRA and flood risk evidence base will be finalised and kept under review and updates will be undertaken, when necessary.

The council is awaiting formal notification that the modifications set out in this Statement of Common Ground satisfactorily address the concerns raised by the EA in ensuring the policies contained in the Plan are effective.

Most signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to flood risk. The Environment Agency have signed up to this Agreement as it is agreed the EA and council will continue to work together to ensure the SFRA Level 2 Assessment for the Lincolnshire Lakes site has been satisfactorily completed. The work on this is complete and the data has been mapped as part of the SFRA.

**AGREEMENTS 11, 12, and 13: Thorne and Hatfield Moors, Green and Blue Infrastructure, and the Natural Environment**

5.56 There is continuing dialogue with relevant local authorities, Local Nature Partnerships, and local records centres to ensure that biodiversity interest is addressed and communicated in development matters. There has also been ongoing engagement with Natural England and the Environment Agency through the Local Plan process, and their comments and suggestions have been considered in writing and finalising the specific Local Plan policies. At the Preferred Options stage there were a number of representations in relation to Policy DQE3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and the supporting text. In order to address these and others a full re-draft of the policy has been undertaken. In addition, Policy DQE5p and supporting text have been deleted as not providing any additional protection.

5.57 North Lincolnshire is covered by two Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs): Greater Lincolnshire LNP; and Humber LNP. NLC is represented on the Humber Board and the Greater Lincolnshire Steering Group and, so far, work has included mapping the area's natural assets, priority habitats and ecosystem services, a biodiversity opportunity mapping approach (incorporating offsetting and net gain) and a green infrastructure study evidence base identifying opportunity areas for GI corridors within the area but into adjoining authority areas.

5.58 Both Green and Blue Infrastructure and Ecological networks/biodiversity opportunity mapping (BOM) have been developed in a way that links with central Lincolnshire enabling requirements for cross boundary working to be met. Linkages into North East Lincolnshire are also being developed. LNP's are consulted throughout the local plan process and their comments and suggestions have been considered in writing the appropriate local plan policies. In time, the BOM will be used to establish Nature Recovery Networks as part of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Biodiversity Net gain requirements will incentivise enhancement of networks identified in the BOM and subsequently the Nature Recovery Networks. 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 Plan policies.

5.59 Natural England welcome the inclusion of the natural environment as a key challenge for the local plan and the specific reference to mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG). The Plan has been amended in light of NE's recommendation to reference 'measurable' BNG consistently throughout the document.

5.60 Thorne and Hatfield Moors is located on the boundary between North Lincolnshire, Doncaster Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Habitats Regulations Assessment was developed with key bodies including the Humberhead Levels Partnership. The Local Plan considers the need for a sensitive choice of allocations and zones for growth to result in a reduction of potential impact on the Moors. The Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment again has considered this accordingly.

5.61 The council worked in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency on the Lincolnshire Lakes regeneration project to the west of Scunthorpe through both the Core Strategy and Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan. This culminated in development of a green infrastructure strategy and linkage outcomes in the policies. These outcomes are incorporated in the site allocations policy. The Environment Agency could sign agreements 12 and 13.

5.62 Natural England also note that there is insufficient detail regarding the assessment of the impact of the plan on Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA birds, and note that the plan proposes housing development in proximity to Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. However, Natural England is broadly content with the Sustainability Appraisal.

5.63 Natural England does not consider that measures set out in policies DQE10, DQE11 and CSC3 are sufficiently specific in order to mitigate for the impacts predicted. They recommend that policy DQE10 should be clear that open space which is important for reducing recreational disturbance on the Humber Estuary designated sites should be protected or compensated for in order to avoid adverse effects on Habitats Sites. Furthermore, DQE11 and CSC3 should specify that development in proximity to the Humber Estuary designated sites will need to provide alternative facilities specifically for the purpose. They also note that the assessment refers to requirements in DQE3 in relation to mitigating for recreational disturbance and recommend that the policy should explicitly state that development should avoid and mitigate for recreational disturbance, where appropriate.

5.64 Natural England does not agree with Agreement 11. They are of the opinion that there are outstanding unresolved strategic issues concerning air quality, recreational disturbance, and loss of functionally linked land for SPA birds in relation to Natural Environment, Green and Blue Infrastructure, and Thorne and Hatfield Moors. They also advise that similar issues exist for the Humber Estuary designated sites. In terms of atmospheric pollution, they advise that a screening exercise must be carried out to determine whether development and growth proposed in the plan

will lead to significant increases in traffic in proximity to designated sites. Indeed, Natural England advise that the following would have to be met for them to be in a position to confirm that they have no outstanding unresolved strategic issues concerning Agreement 11:

- there should be specific wording in the plan regarding the mitigation and monitoring for recreational disturbance. They suggest that this could include continuation of existing access management and monitoring measures carried out by the council, along with a corresponding update to the Habitats Regulations Assessment noting this in relation to recreational disturbance effects on the designations;
- a policy approach for off-site SPA nightjar foraging habitat consistent with Doncaster's Local Plan Policy 30 Criterion E; and
- an update to the functionally linked land assessment in line with their previous advice.

5.65 Natural England welcomes the inclusion of the natural environment as a key challenge for the local plan and the specific reference to mandatory biodiversity net gain. Whilst they have concerns regarding the Habitats Regulations Assessment and feel that extra work is needed in terms of recreational pressures, urbanisation (functionally linked land for SPA/Ramsar birds), and atmospheric pollution, they are broadly content with the Sustainability Appraisal. See section 3 Signatories for further detail.

5.66 Natural England welcomes the reference to biodiversity net gain within the Plan, but feel that wording in the Spatial Vision should be strengthened to acknowledge the mandatory requirement for all development to achieve BNG. They also suggest that all other allocations make specific reference to BNG.

5.67 The marine environment is also important, and the council will continue to liaise with the MMO to ensure there is strategic overlap in plan-making. The East Marine Plans Policies BIO1 and BIO2 are particularly of relevance. The MMO attends meetings with the Local Nature Partnerships as well as marine and coastal partnerships and forums to facilitate conformity with the natural environment. This engagement will ensure there is no conflict between the natural and marine environment.

5.68 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.

**Agreement 11: Adequacy of protection of Thorne and Hatfield Moors and recognising the landscape value of the Moors**

Signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to the Natural Environment, Green and Blue Infrastructure, and Thorne and Hatfield Moors. Local Plan site allocations have had regard to a potential reduction in the impact on the Moors. Management and monitoring of access to the Moors will continue to take place. Additional HRA tasks will be shared with adjacent authorities and key bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England, etc.). Discussions continue between the Council and Natural England with regard to unresolved issues relating to Thorne and Hatfield Moors designated sites as well as ongoing work on issues with the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

**Agreement 12: Green and Blue Infrastructure; and Agreement 13: Impact of development on the natural environment**

To ensure established and new green and blue infrastructure networks and ecological networks are created, maintained, and enhanced effective liaison will take place with the appropriate

parties/bodies. Opportunities highlighted by the North Lincolnshire biodiversity opportunity mapping will be prioritised for creation and enhancement of the ecological networks.

#### **AGREEMENT 14: The Historic Environment**

5.69 Work is ongoing on a separate Statement of Common Ground with Historic England.

5.70 The East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans (East Marine Plans) prepared by MMO seek to ensure that existing marine and coastal heritage assets are protected from proposals that may have a detrimental impact upon them. Policy SOC2 ensures that all heritage assets (whether formally designated or not), are considered in the decision-making process. The council will continue to liaise with the MMO to ensure the impact on heritage is minimised.

#### **Agreement 14: Impact of allocations on the built environment**

Consultation with Historic England and NLC conservation officers and Historic Environment Record and MMO will continue throughout the Local Plan process to ensure there are no adverse impacts on the existing historic environment from new land allocations such as housing, employment, and minerals. This will be evidenced in the Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment and Historic Environment Evidence Base.

The Local Plan has been amended to remove the Renewable Energy Opportunity Areas from the Policies map and the wording from Policy DQE8.

Ongoing discussions continue between NLC and Historic England relating to objections in terms of site allocation H1P-25 (Land at Yealand Flats, Epworth) and relating to issues with Minerals and Waste sites(s). A separate SoCG is being prepared between Historic England and North Lincolnshire Council. Historic England provided final comments on the Local Plan via the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Consultation, and via the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Addendum Consultation.

#### **AGREEMENT 15: Waste Management**

5.71 The Council contributed to co-operation regarding waste through the Yorkshire and Humber Waste Technical Advisory Body, although the last meeting of this body was in 2015. It has produced a Local Waste Needs Assessment that utilises Waste Data Interrogator and other data to determine current and future capacity requirements over the plan period. The Council continues to respond to requests for waste information from authorities adjoining its boundaries and beyond as part of its ongoing commitment to the Duty to Co-operate.

#### **Agreement 15: Waste Management**

Signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to Waste Management. North Lincolnshire Council will continue to engage / liaise with adjacent and other relevant authorities as and when required.

#### **AGREEMENT 16: Managing Water Quality and Resources**

5.72 Through duty to cooperate engagement and meetings it has become clear there are no strategic issues with water quality. The impact of development on wastewater infrastructure was looked at in more detail and the Council has worked with the water authorities to identify future needs based on future growth and development. Water resources however have been a limiting factor for growth and without investment this will continue (even without climate change). The Environment Agency and Anglian Water requested that the tighter water standards (building regulations) of 110l/person/day are built into the local plan policy. This change has been made accordingly. Availability of non-potable water for abstraction for industry is extremely limited as set out in the Environment Agency Abstraction Licensing Strategies. Continued liaison will take place

with neighbouring authorities as well as the Environment Agency, MMO (in terms of Objective 6 in the East Marine Plans) and utility companies, as appropriate.

5.73 Severn Trent Water work with the Environment Agency to develop a programme of works that meet their fair share of water quality improvements, looking to limit the impact of their assets on the environment. However, the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) has only been developed for the next AMP period (5 years); as the Local plan is intended to cover a longer time frame, Severn Trent cannot commit to a statement that details all issues are resolved. 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. A meeting was held in March 2022 to discuss outstanding issues. It led to agreement that all policies for proposed housing sites and for proposed employment sites should include reference to early engagement being required with the utility and service providers in order to establish available supply capacity and, depending on the type of proposal, what reinforcement will be required.

5.74 Severn Trent Water are happy to work with North Lincolnshire to try and address and support the delivery of the Local Plan in accordance with their aim to deliver statutory duties as outlined by the Water Industry Act 1991. However, STW are not able to sign up to Agreement 16.

5.75 Whilst Severn Trent Water are happy to continue to liaise with all parties involved with providing capacity for growth, including Lincolnshire Lakes, until such time as their wastewater capacity improvements have been carried out they cannot agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues. They do have a project in place to resolve the issues relating to sewerage capacity for Lincolnshire Lakes, but as this has not been completed there are still issues that need to be resolved. 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. A meeting was also held in March 2022 to further discuss outstanding issues, and a follow-up meeting was held between NLC, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water, and the Environment Agency in July 2022 to discuss outstanding issues relating to the Local Plan and Statement of Common Ground. Discussions are ongoing between the Council and Severn Trent Water.

5.76 North Lincolnshire Council works closely with the Environment Agency and local farmers to ensure that the quality of water supplies is not impacted by ours or others operations. The Environment Agency's Source Protection Zone (SPZ) and Safe Guarding Zone policy should provide guidance on development. Any proposals should take into account the principles of the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River basin unit as prepared by the Environment Agency.

5.77 Through the Publication Draft Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation Severn Trent provided detailed comments on the potential impact of proposed developments on sewerage infrastructure assets. This highlights where network improvements and assumed connectivity might be needed.

5.78 North Lincolnshire Council will be looking to support the Water Resources and Drainage and Waste Water Plans of Anglian Water as they are progressed over the next 18 months insofar as they plan to reduce demand for water from existing and new developments to improve resource efficiency and limit the need for new infrastructure to support growth. Through the exchange of information now and during the next series of Plans, Anglian Water, North Lincolnshire Council and the EA will consider the role that planning conditions can have alongside education, sustainable

design and more efficient white goods and fittings to reduce water demand and the amount of waste water requiring off-site treatment.

5.79 Discussions have taken place around wastewater treatment capacity at sewage treatment works. The EA note that the council received comments from Anglian Water on this issue in relation to two proposed housing sites in Barton upon Humber (H1P-12 and H1P-13), stating that improvements will be required to the water recycling centre. The EA also raised capacity issues at Brigg Water Recycling Centre (WRC) (also serving Wrawby), Hibaldstow WRC (also serving Scawby) and North Ferry WRC (serving Goxhill and Barrow). However, the Local Plan lists committed sites in some of these areas in which the planning process has already occurred. Therefore, any issues should have been addressed at this stage on this matter, and it is not for the Local Plan to address issues for committed sites, only proposed sites. The EA were concerned that the IDP did not include location-specific details of improvements required or liaison with Anglian Water to ensure this could be provided.

5.80 A meeting was held in July 2022 between North Lincolnshire Council, Anglian water, Severn Trent Water, and the Environment Agency in order to discuss outstanding Local Plan and SoCG issues. This SoCG has been amended following the meeting to reflect agreements that have been made, and discussions are ongoing between all bodies.

5.81 The EA cannot agree there are no outstanding unresolved issues, and would ideally like confirmation from AW that they will provide the necessary capacity. Indeed, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water are progressing work on permit reviews for the WRCs at Hibaldstow, Brigg and North Ferry to ensure that growth can be accommodated after 2035. Severn Trent cannot commit to a statement that details all issues are resolved.

**Agreement 16: Managing Water Quality and Resources**

Policies in the Local Plan will protect and enhance the water quality and resources of North Lincolnshire. Most signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to the management of water quality and resources. However, the Environment Agency cannot fully sign up to this Agreement. Also, Severn Trent Water are not able to sign up to this agreement. The Environment Agency, MMO, Anglian Water, and Severn Trent Water will all be contacted regularly to ensure effective liaison.

Whilst Severn Trent Water are happy to continue to liaise with all parties involved with providing capacity for growth, until such time as their wastewater capacity improvements have been carried out they cannot agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues. However, ongoing dialogue continues between STW and NLC in order to provide appropriate solutions, including relating to sewerage capacity for Lincolnshire Lakes.

**AGREEMENT 17: Minerals Supply**

5.82 The requirement for economic growth and increased housing need will continue to impact on minerals demand. The requirement for adequate aggregate mineral resources is a national, regional, and local priority. North Lincolnshire produces, uses, and exports aggregate limestone, silica sand, aggregate sand and gravel, aggregate chalk, clay, ironstone, as well as hydrocarbon (oil and gas) deposits. This material is essential for construction and industrial processes, for example sharp sand and gravel is essential for making concrete. Aggregate resources are not distributed evenly across Mineral Planning Authorities within the Yorkshire & Humber Region. There are currently no supply issues in relation to crushed rock (chalk and limestone) aggregate in North Lincolnshire. However, sharp sand and gravel resources have been declining steadily over the last 15 years, and the availability of sharp sand and gravel is becoming an issue locally and regionally. The Yorkshire and

Humber Aggregates Working Party is also concerned about the depletion of sand and gravel resources and the long-term provision of material.

5.83 Generally, national aggregate monitoring takes place on a four-year basis, with the last monitoring in 2019. The Aggregate minerals survey for England and Wales, 2019 (AM2019) provides information on aggregate flows around the country and is essential for identifying export and import information nationally, regionally, and sub-regionally.

5.84 The Council has produced a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA), which identifies the demand for aggregates, and is updated each year based on annual survey of mineral operators. The Council works with its neighbours in the Humber area to prepare this as a joint piece of work and has consequently adopted the same matters of agreement as these authorities in this SoCG. Future supply and demand are based on a rolling average of 10-year sales data and other local information. It looks at all supply options including the availability of secondary or recycled aggregates as well as imports and exports. Work has been undertaken to apportion these sales to the north and south banks of the Humber – i.e., East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire as the only primary aggregate producing areas – as part of evidence based being prepared to support minerals planning in both areas.

5.85 East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council have prepared a minerals apportionment paper to support their Joint Minerals Plan and to be read alongside the LAA. This work suggests that East Riding and Hull should plan for 0.81 million tonnes per annum of sand and gravel and 0.13 million tonnes per annum of crushed rock. These figures were subsequently adopted as part of the Joint Minerals Local Plan in November 2019. The Council has produced a Minerals Apportionment Background Paper (updated March 2022) informing the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. This suggests the Local Plan should plan for 0.13 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum and 0.65 million tonnes of crushed rock per annum. This gives an overall indicative requirement in North Lincolnshire up to 2038 of 2.34 million tonnes and 11.7 million tonnes, for sand and gravel and crushed rock, respectively.

5.86 Following consultation with neighbouring LPAs, Agreement 17 has been amended 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. Agreement 17 also now states that NLC will meet our own need for sand and gravel and crushed rock, also meeting the Government's minimum land bank requirements, and we expect that we will be able to meet these needs through the new Local Plan. However, Lincolnshire County Council is not in a position to sign the agreements relating to Minerals Supply until their comments have been taken into consideration. Lincolnshire County Council 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 unquantified shortfall. An update justifying North Lincolnshire's minerals needs was sent to the County Council in August 2021, awaiting a response.

5.87 In their response to the Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation Lincs County Council state that, in their opinion, lack of consistent supporting information and the development of a clear strategy for the delivery of aggregate provision for the whole of the plan period means the plan does not give due regard to implications on potential demand from other MPAs. Lincolnshire has not been approached with any projections as to any likely level of increased demand that may be needed from Lincolnshire to meet this shortfall and as a consequence the overall approach taken by North Lincolnshire is not considered to reflect a sound approach toward minerals provision. A meeting was held in February 2022 between NLC and LCC officers to discuss the current outstanding issues.

5.88 In terms of marine aggregates there will be continued liaison with the MMO to ensure the local plan policies are in general conformity with policies AGG1, AGG2 and AGG3 of the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans.

5.89 Further to previous consultation response, Lincolnshire County Council has taken account of the findings of the updated Minerals Background Paper (March 2022) in conjunction with the amendments to the minerals-related policies in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Publication Draft Addendum Plan (May 2022). The updated evidence and policies provided set out an appropriate and sound approach to the provision of Minerals for the duration of the plan period. Consequently, the issues identified in previous consultation response(s) have been satisfied.

5.90 Historic England remain concerned that the Old Winteringham Roman settlement scheduled monument may continue into New Site MIN6-17, and that the setting and related remains and impacts of the proposed site need to be assessed. They also object to site Area of Search site MIN6-18 due to its position in relation to the Roman settlement scheduled monument without detailed further assessment, which may illustrate that the proposals are unsuitable due to the level of harm to the significance of heritage assets proportionate to their importance or because harm cannot be successfully mitigated. In their comments relating to Policy MIN8 Historic England recommend that proposals for restoration should make a positive contribution to heritage assets and their settings where relevant.

5.91 Natural England has no outstanding concerns regarding minerals supply.

**Agreement 17.1:** North Lincolnshire will seek to provide for the sustainable use of aggregate minerals to ensure sufficient supplies of material for planned growth in infrastructure and development. Each producing area identified against this agreement will continue to supply aggregate (should conditions allow) to support developments in the Humber area where relevant aggregate movement has been identified above in 'Strategic Geography for Minerals'. Where producing areas have agreements in place regarding the supply of aggregate to specific local authorities and not the whole of the sub-region those agreements will remain. North Lincolnshire Council will meet its own aggregate requirement of 0.13 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum and 0.65 million tonnes of crushed rock per annum as set out in the Local Plan and Minerals Apportionment Background Paper. It will also seek to maintain the Government's minimum land bank requirements, which should ensure continuity of aggregate supply from North Lincolnshire to those areas identified above in 'Strategic Geography for Minerals'.

**Agreement 17.2:** National, regional, and sub-regional concerns regarding the supply of concreting aggregates, namely sharp sand and gravel are a major concern. Many of North Lincolnshire's neighbouring authorities have declining supplies of sharp sand and gravel and resources from other areas may be required (in the long term) to provide additional imports to meet Local Plan requirements. This raises concerns of accelerated resource depletion. Where possible, these shortages will be identified in updates to the Humber Local Aggregates Assessment.

**Agreement 17.3:** All Mineral Planning Authorities will continue to share advice and information (including aggregate monitoring information and trends in imports / exports) to complement the preparation Local Plans and Aggregate Assessments (including landbanks, locations of permitted reserves) by participating in the work programme of their respective Aggregates Working Party.

**AGREEMENT 18: Primary and Secondary Health Care**

5.92 Engagement has taken place with the North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) throughout the preparation of the Local Plan due to the number of concerns raised through the previous periods of consultation on the Local Plan on health care provision. Many responses were worried about the impact of proposed housing allocations on doctor's surgeries and health care provision. There is ongoing dialogue between the Council and the CCG, and relevant information such as proposed housing allocations, is being shared so that agreement can be reached on the best way to address the issues being raised. A primary health care analysis of the future housing growth has been prepared to address this and consider future developer contributions. Similarly, secondary health care requirements have also been considered as part of the emerging local plan. Whilst the Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies that secondary health care facilities can meet the additional growth; the aspiration is to integrate all key healthcare services together by creating a state-of-the-art facility.

**Agreement 18: Primary and Secondary Health Care**

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. North Lincolnshire Council will continue to liaise with adjoining authorities and the NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (formerly North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group) and provide support to the Integrated Care Board in terms of Section 106 requests for health infrastructure in impacted areas.

**AGREEMENT 19: Education**

5.93 Local Plan officers maintain regular close liaison with colleagues in the Local Education Authority (LEA) in relation to strategic planning for new housing schemes and delivering sufficient school places in both the primary and secondary school catchments. Officers from Education team assessed new allocations to ascertain the requirements for school places. This could be through new buildings on new sites developments or planning contributions to existing schools with capacity. The LEA regularly meets with the Department of Education to understand school place funding and feeds this into the Local Plan.

**Agreement 19: Education**

The continued sharing of evidence and information will take place with neighbouring authorities and the North Lincolnshire LEA, including amendments to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan ensuring that adequate educational infrastructure is provided to meet the housing needs established in the Local Plan.

**AGREEMENT 20: Sustainable Tourism and/or Recreation**

5.94 There are no strategic issues in terms of sustainable tourism and/or recreation currently. Due to North Lincolnshire's location on the Humber Estuary, there may be opportunities for tourism and recreation schemes to come forward in line with national and local planning policy. The Council will liaise with MMO in terms of the adjoining the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (policies TR1, TR2 and TR3) to ensure alignment and positive benefits for both plans.

**Agreement 20: Sustainable Tourism and/or Recreation**

There are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to Sustainable Tourism and/or Recreation. Policies in the Local Plan will promote sustainable tourism and/or recreation in North Lincolnshire. NLC will continue to liaise with the MMO to ensure the alignment of plans.

**AGREEMENT 21: Climate Change**

5.95 North Lincolnshire has set a 25% CO2 reduction target in the council's Carbon Management Strategy covering the period 2017-22. Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will also help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emission to slow down climate change and stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses. To contribute to meeting the climate change challenge and achieve our national and local carbon reduction targets, North Lincolnshire is seeking to cut carbon emissions locally. Policy DQE7 sets out how development proposals should contribute to tackling climate change through mitigation and resilience measures, in addition to other policies contained within this plan. This policy aims to reduce the size of North Lincolnshire's carbon footprint and mitigate the effects of climate change.

5.96 The council was engaged closely with the Humber LEP (and its constituent authorities) until 31 March 2021 when it was replaced by a new Hull & East Yorkshire LEP. Whilst the new LEP will cover the North Bank it will continue to work with organisations on the South Bank towards the shared prosperity of the region going forward and will ensure the local plan is a delivery mechanism to assist the ambition to develop the sub-region into a net zero carbon industry economy by 2040. Discussions so far have determined there are no unresolved strategic issues relating to climate change. There is continuing dialogue with relevant local authorities and there has also been ongoing engagement with Natural England and Environment Agency through the Local Plan process and their comments and suggestions have been considered in writing the specific local plan policies. The Environment Agency could sign this agreement.

5.97 The Humber Cluster Plan is a comprehensive plan for decarbonisation in our region. It will show how the Humber area can achieve net zero carbon emissions with businesses on both sides of the Humber working to find effective and lasting solutions for the region, potentially making it the first in the world to do so.

5.98 Severn Trent Water anticipate that climate change will have an impact on the performance of some of their assets, and that schemes will need to be carried out to mitigate these impacts. However, the impacts of climate change are not a fixed increase in flow solely associated with development proposals set out in the Local Plan. As such, further assessments and investigations will need to be carried out to better understand how wider climate change will impact on sewer performance. The publication of their Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) looks to address some of this. However, this plan is still in the early stages. As Agreement 21 requires organisations to confirm that there are no outstanding issues STW are unable to sign up to the SoCG at this time.

5.99 Anglian Water discussed in their meeting with the EA the preference for future plans to apply the sustainability hierarchy and so utilise existing infrastructure to reduce emissions from building new infrastructure to support growth. Anglian Water would want to support the Council in its plans to tackle climate change in particular via work on planning, land use, and infrastructure to take action on reducing emissions. Therefore, Anglian Water agrees to sign up to Agreement 21 on the basis that the next Plan will work with infrastructure providers to reduce emissions through new policy, carbon evidence-based allocations, and consequently development management decisions.

**Agreement 21: Climate Change**

Most signatories agree that there are no outstanding unresolved strategic issues relating to Climate Change whilst feedback is awaited from three bodies. The continued sharing of evidence and information will take place with neighbouring authorities and the Humber LEP/Hull & East Yorkshire LEP to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate and encourage the use of renewable and low carbon energy resources. Policies in the Local Plan will ensure alignment with other plans to achieve this. However, Severn Trent Water are unable to sign up to this Agreement at this time.

**6 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

6.1 North Lincolnshire Council has published this SoCG on the Council's website when required during the Local Plan process. To prepare this SoCG, joint meetings and individual meetings have taken place and email correspondence and consultation responses have been analysed.

6.2 The SoCG signatories have signed based on the matters and agreements included. This has not affected their ability to make detailed representations (in support or objection) to the content of the Local Plan.

**7 TIMETABLE FOR REVIEW AND ONGOING CO-OPERATION**

7.1 The creation and adaptation of the Statement of Common Ground will be undertaken on an ongoing basis, and continued engagement with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies will take place through both the delivery of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and its evidence base as well as neighbouring local plans and their evidence base. The documents of relevance include Infrastructure Delivery Plans, Local Housing Need Assessments, and Strategic Housing & Employment Land Assessments.

7.2 Throughout the Local Plan preparation process (Publication, Submission and Adoption) this Statement will be and has been maintained and kept up-to-date and published on the website as and when required. The Council will ensure that this SoCG sets out the latest position in terms of cross-boundary working.

7.3 After the Local Plan is adopted the economic, social, and environmental issues will be monitored on a continual, ongoing basis and the evidence reviewed. This will assist with the statutory requirement to assess the need to review the Plan (in whole or part) at least every five years.

7.4 There are certain strategic issues and opportunities that could inform a Local Plan review. These could include:

- Changes in circumstance of how we live and work and how businesses trade. North Lincolnshire can seize opportunities such as supporting growth in industries that can provide higher-skilled, more productive, and better paid jobs.
- There could be a new portfolio of regeneration schemes that require inclusion in the Plan. The council currently has regeneration plans for Scunthorpe Town Centre, a University Campus, and new and improved transport links.

- More neighbourhood plans could be adopted, and this will require the gradual replacement of some of the non-strategic policies of the local plan.
- National policy could be altered from a climate change perspective and the growing, changing needs of the population and economy, including housing need.

7.5 A review of the Local Plan will have the consequent requirement for this Statement of Common Ground to be reviewed. A review will also be required if agreements on issues included in this Statement are reached at a later stage. When neighbouring authorities' review and adopt Local Plans this also may trigger the need to review this SoCG.