Statement of Common Ground

as agreed between

Tandridge District Council and West Sussex County Council
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1. Introduction

The basis for preparing this Statement of Common Ground

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SCG) has been prepared by Tandridge District Council (TDC) together with West Sussex County Council (WSCC). It reflects the agreed position between the parties.

1.2 The purpose of this SCG is to set out the basis on which TDC and WSCC have actively and positively agreed to work together to meet the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate. TDC have prepared their Local Plan for Regulation 19 consultation during the summer of 2018. This statement also describes the established mechanisms for ongoing cooperation on strategic matters.

1.3 Under section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (amended by section 110 of the Localism Act 2011) and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 it is a requirement under the Duty to Cooperate for local planning authorities, county councils and other named bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in the preparation of development plan documents and other local development documents. This is a test that local authorities need to satisfy at the Local Plan examination stage and is an additional requirement to the test of soundness.

1.4 The Duty to Cooperate applies to strategic planning issues of cross boundary significance. Local authorities all have common strategic issues and as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) “local planning authorities should make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters before they submit their Local Plans for examination.” The statutory requirements of the Duty to Cooperate are not a choice but a legal obligation. Whilst the obligation is not a duty to agree, cooperation should produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary matters in accordance with the government policy in the NPPF, and practice guidance in the NPPG.

1.5 The administrative areas set out in Appendix A show that TDC and WSCC share a common boundary and hence are required to work cooperatively in an effective way to address key strategic matters pertaining to these areas.

2. Key Matters

TDC is working with Surrey County Council (SCC) to ensure that County Council infrastructure required to mitigate development is identified and delivered. One County Council infrastructure area of concern has been identified through the preparation of the Local Plan, regarding the potential severe impact on the road networks from future planned development. The approach to assessing and potentially resolving this area of concern has been agreed and set out in this statement of common ground.
Infrastructure - Transport
Concerns have been raised by WSCC regarding the potential severe impact on the road networks in light of the proposed Garden Community. This being as a result of increased traffic on existing junctions and major routes which are congested during periods of peak travel demand.

Copthorne Roundabout
The Strategic Transport Assessment for the draft Local Plan identified that there would be a potential severe impact at the Copthorne roundabout in Mid Sussex District, as set out in NPPF (2018) paragraph 109, from proposed development over the period to 2033. TDC has considered the assessment, discussed with WSCC and Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC), and appointed consultants to undertake a further assessment of the Copthorne roundabout (A264/A2220). This work will assess and identify how any impacts from the development can be appropriately mitigated with a deliverable junction improvement design. The report will be shared for consideration by WSCC, before being finalised and published towards the end of the year 2018. Once mitigation measures are identified, there will be a need to work together to secure sufficient funding and implement the improvements.

Felbridge Junction
WSCC have also identified concerns relating to the Felbridge interchange and TDC are working on further assessment of this junction together with SCC, WSCC and MSDC for the junction to demonstrate mitigation measures that are both deliverable and feasible. The report is to be published in early 2019. Once mitigation measures are identified, there will be a need to work together to secure sufficient funding and implement the improvements.

Action
• TDC in agreement with WSCC, with MSDC and SCC will prepare the Copthorne roundabout and Felbridge junction feasibility assessments, with an aim to publish this before the end of 2018.
• TDC and WSCC, with MSDC and SCC will continue to work together to secure sufficient funding and implement the junction improvements required.
• TDC will update their Infrastructure Delivery Plan to reflect the outcomes of these studies.

3. Actions going forward

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<th>Key Issue</th>
<th>Agreed Action</th>
<th>Other comments</th>
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<td>Copthorne and Felbridge</td>
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publish this before the end of 2018.

TDC and WSCC, with MSDC and SCC will continue to work together on the Copthorne roundabout and Felbridge junction studies to secure sufficient funding and implement the junction improvements required.

Infrastructure

TDC will update their Infrastructure Delivery Plan to reflect the identified improvements, in the first instance, to reflect the outcomes of the feasibility assessments.

4. Signatories/Declaration

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<tr>
<th>Signed on behalf of Tandridge District Council (Councillor)</th>
<th>Signed on behalf of Tandridge District Council (Chief Executive)</th>
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<td>Signed on behalf of West Sussex County Council (Officer: Michael Elkington)</td>
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<td>30/11/18</td>
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<td>Position: Head of Planning Services</td>
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