1. The Duty to Cooperate, as introduced in the Localism Act and explained by the National Planning Policy Framework and related guidance, requires local planning authorities, county councils and other statutory consultees to engage constructively, actively and on a going basis in the preparation of Local Plans.

2. The Duty to Cooperate is tested at Local Plan examinations, with those preparing a Local Plan being required to show cross-boundary issues of strategic issues have been considered when producing a Local Plan. As such, it is essential that when making a plan, local planning authorities can demonstrate effective cross-boundary working with neighbouring authorities.

3. Meeting the Duty to Cooperate is often a challenge. In order to help assist all of the local planning authorities in Surrey meeting this duty, the leaders of all local planning authorities and county council have agreed to meet as the Surrey Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Board to encourage cooperation and dialogue between authorities.

4. The authorities have all signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding in order to “provide a vehicle for cooperation and joint working between local authorities within Surrey.” Furthermore, the Surrey Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Board have agreed that a Local Strategic Statement (LSS) should be prepared.

5. This LSS will identify common priorities on strategic matters of relevance to spatial planning in Surrey, thereby assisting each authority in the preparation of their Local Plans. The Surrey Planning Officer Association (SPOA), a body consisting of the Heads of Planning from all authorities, is currently working on the preparation of the LSS.

6. Whilst the LSS is not completed, it shows that Tandridge District Council and the other Surrey authorities are committed to working together on spatial planning matters and is an ongoing piece of work between the authorities.