



**Forest Heath**  
District Council

**Single Issue Review (SIR)  
of Core Strategy Policy CS7  
Overall Housing Provision and Distribution  
and  
Site Allocations Local Plan**

**Record of Co-operation  
(Duty to Cooperate)**

**March 2017**

## **Duty to Cooperate Statement**

Under the 2011 Localism Act (amending the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF/'the Framework') local authorities have to address strategic planning matters in their local plans. The duty to cooperate is the mechanism for ensuring that this happens.

We need to demonstrate how we have managed strategic planning matters in preparing the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR) of Policy CS7, and the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) in a concise and focused statement.

This Duty to Co-operate Statement sets out:

- our strategic context;
- our strategic planning issues and priorities;
- our strategic partners and working arrangements;
- actions and outcomes of cooperation and how this has influenced the plan; and
- ongoing management/joint working arrangements.

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 The 'duty to cooperate' was created in the Localism Act 2011, and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local authorities to engage constructively and work with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies in preparing their local plan documents in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. The duty:

- relates to sustainable development or use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas or on a planning matter that falls within the remit of a county council;
- requires that councils set out planning policies to address such issues;
- requires councils and public bodies to 'engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' to develop strategic policies; and
- requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making.

1.2 The duty to cooperate also covers a number of public bodies in addition to local authorities. These prescribed bodies are defined in part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Those particularly relevant to Forest Heath are highlighted in bold below:

- **The Environment Agency**
- **The Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England (Historic England)**
- **Natural England**
- The Mayor of London
- **The Civil Aviation Authority**
- **the Homes and Communities Agency**
- **each clinical commissioning group established under section 14D of the National Health Service Act 2006**
- **the National Health Service commissioning Board**
- **The Office of Rail Regulation**
- Transport for London
- each Integrated Transport Authority
- each **Highways Authority** within the meaning of section 1 of the Highways Act 1980
- The Marine Management Organisation

1.3 Relevant planning policy issues to be considered under the duty to cooperate are also explained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraphs 178-181 and 156). Specifically,

“the Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities.” (para 178, NPPF).

1.4 The NPPF states at paragraph 180 that when preparing plans “Local planning authorities should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable development in consultation

with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships.” Planning Policy Guidance adds “Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships are not subject to the requirements of the duty. But local planning authorities and the public bodies that are subject to the duty must cooperate with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships and have regard to their activities when they are preparing their Local Plans, so long as those activities are relevant to local plan making. Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships are prescribed for this purpose in [Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning \(England\) Regulations](#) as [amended by the Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 to include Local Nature Partnerships.](#)” Those bodies of relevance to Forest Heath are as follows:

- New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
- Great Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership
- Wild Anglia Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Partnership

1.5 Paragraph 181 of the NPPF clearly states that co-operation should be a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation *‘resulting in a final position where plans are in place to provide the land and infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development’.*

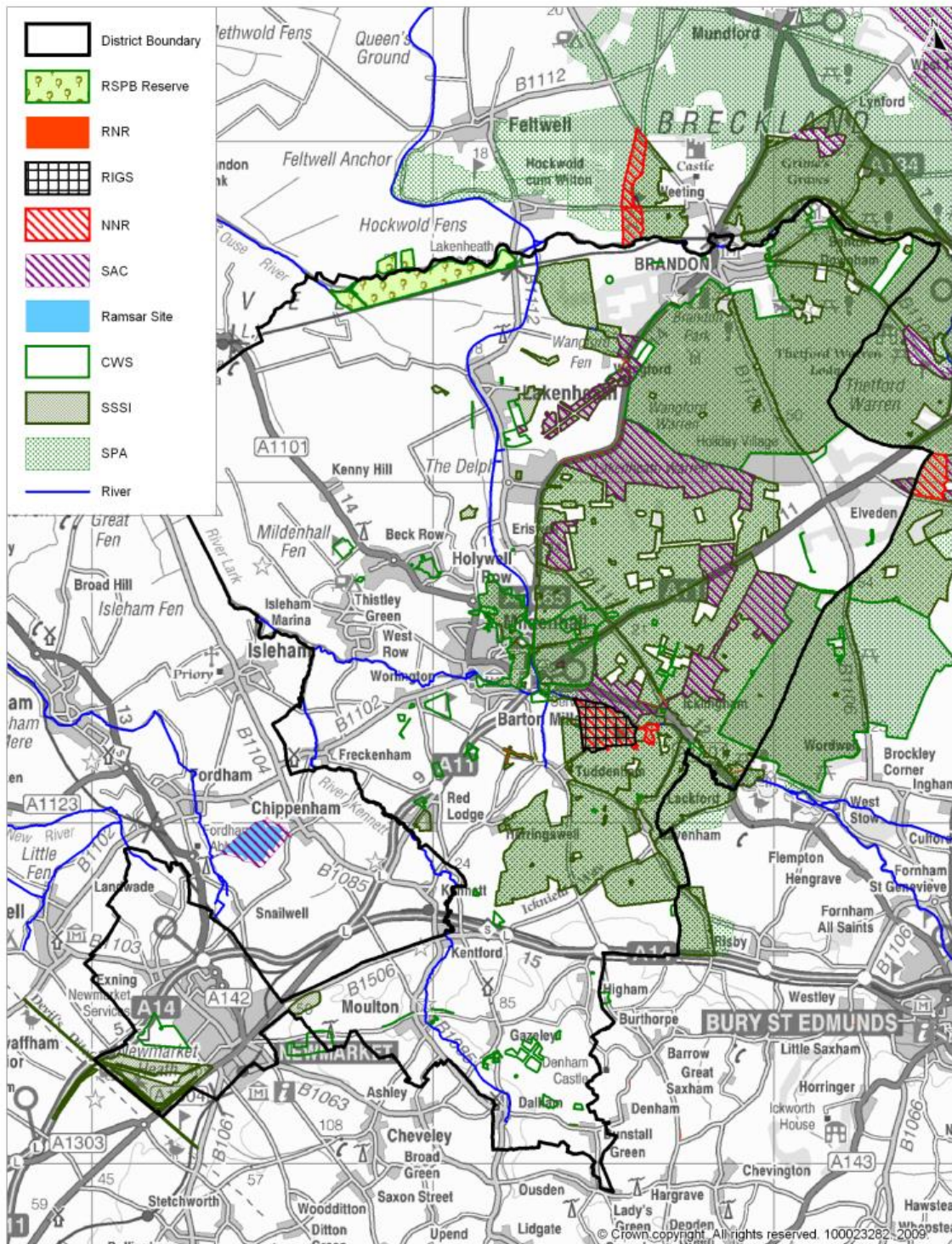
## **2. The Forest Heath strategic context**

- 2.1 Forest Heath is located in western Suffolk. The council area has borders with Norfolk, and Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and Breckland districts to the north, Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire districts to the west and south, and St Edmundsbury to the east. Whilst administratively links are with Suffolk County Council, the district, together with St Edmundsbury Borough Council (working together as West Suffolk) are increasingly playing a stronger role in the sub-region of Cambridge due to common economic and social needs.
- 2.2 Forest Heath has three market towns, Brandon in the north, Mildenhall in the centre and Newmarket in the south. It is a predominantly rural area and the landscape varies from brecklands and managed forest to the landscape associated with the horse racing industry around Newmarket. Newmarket has a unique character because of the historic horse racing industry that dominates the town.
- 2.3 The authority’s area also includes RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall, both of which currently accommodate United States Air Force bases. In January 2016 the United States Visiting Forces (USVF) announced that it will be vacating RAF Mildenhall by 2022, and the Government indicated that it intends to sell the base. RAF Lakenheath is planning to change and grow and is expected to accommodate additional squadrons of fighter

planes. American Airforce personnel and activity contributes to the character, economy and social context of Forest Heath, and will continue to do so through and beyond this local plan period.

- 2.4 There are a number of internationally, nationally and locally important nature conservation sites in Forest Heath. The Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) covers a large part of the north east of the district, and there are three Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Forest Heath. Locally designated Special Landscape Areas cover the Brecks and the Lark Valley, and there are numerous county and local wildlife sites across the district. Map 1 below shows the existing nature conservation and geological/geomorphological designations in Forest Heath.

**Map 1. Existing nature conservation and geological/geomorphological designations in Forest Heath**

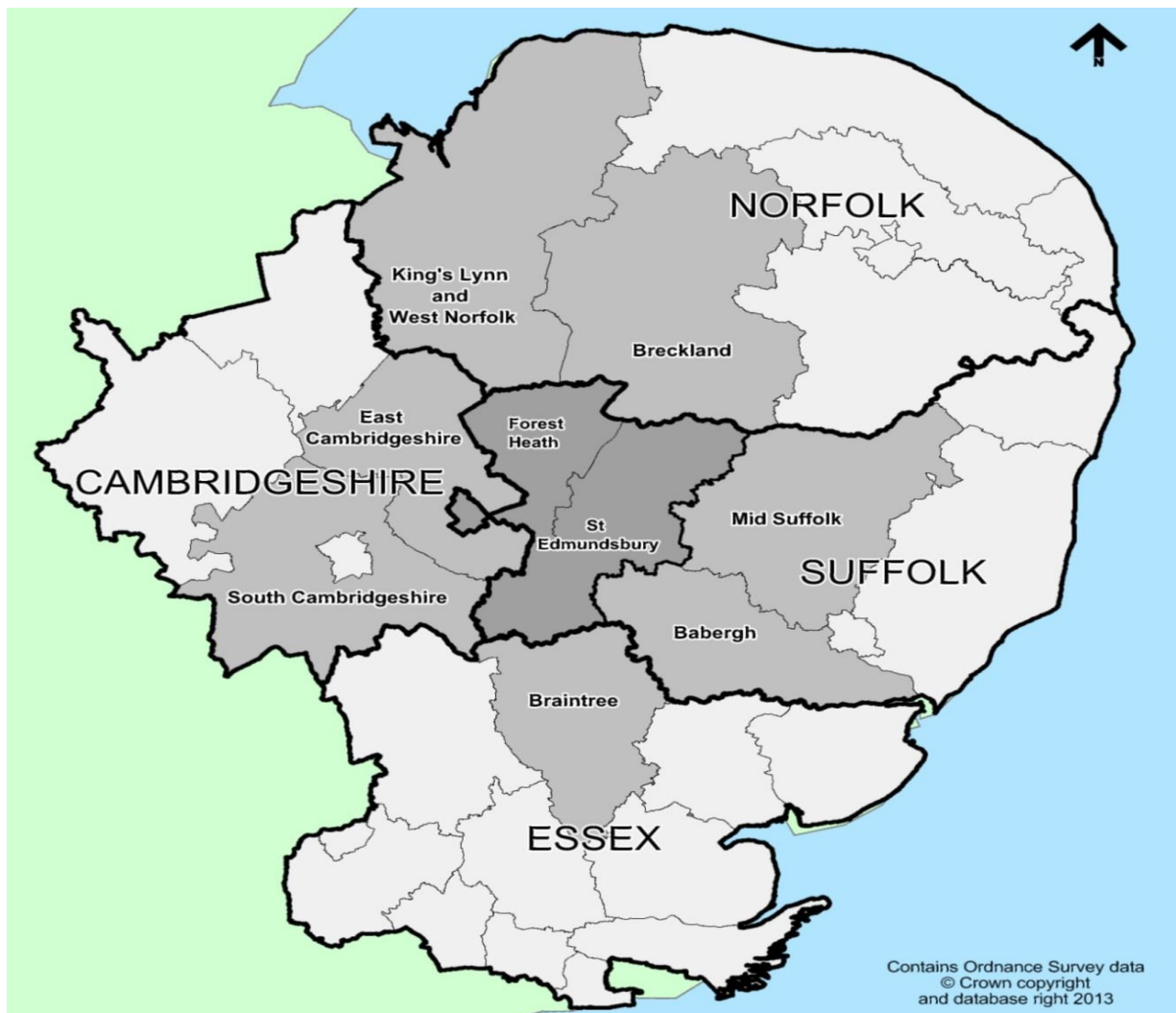


**Map of existing nature conservation and geological/geomorphological designations**



- 2.5 Strategic transport links of European importance (the A14, which connects the west midlands with the east coast ports; and the Felixstowe to Nuneaton rail freight route) cross both Forest Heath and the adjoining St Edmundsbury authority areas. In addition, the A11 linking the A14 to Norwich passes through Forest Heath.
- 2.6 A map showing the location of Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough and their adjoining authorities is illustrated on Map 2 below.

**Map 2: Neighbouring Authorities**



### **3. Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury working together as West Suffolk**

- 3.1 In 2012 work commenced on a programme of shared services across Forest Heath District and neighbouring St Edmundsbury Borough, including the implementation of a shared planning service for the two authorities. The integration of management and service delivery means that there is one management team and one operational delivery system

serving two councils who are working in partnership but who have different political, constitutional and governance systems.

- 3.2 The two authorities currently have their own Core Strategy Local Plans. The Forest Heath Core Strategy was adopted in May 2010, and St Edmundsbury's in December 2010. The two authorities have worked together to produce a Joint Development Management Policies Local Plan (JDMP) which was adopted in February 2015. Work was undertaken with key partners through the development of the evidence base for the JDMP as evidenced by the joint commissioning of evidence based studies (listed in the Duty to Cooperate Statement prepared for the JDMP).
- 3.3 The two authorities are intending to produce a Joint Local Plan, with work on this commencing early in 2018. (See the joint Local Development Scheme (LDS) on the councils' website).

#### **4. Joint working, collaboration, partnership working and Devolution proposals**

- 4.1 For many years Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury have been working with local authorities in Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and other partners, in order to develop and put in place the structures for the implementation of a long term vision for the area.
- 4.2 West Suffolk is in the Cambridge Housing Market Area (HMA) which means active and ongoing collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council and district councils in the housing market area. The 2013 Memorandum of Co-operation between the local authorities in the Cambridge Housing Market Area is included as Appendix 2(i).
- 4.3 The purpose of the memorandum is to formally records and make public the agreement of the local authorities in the Cambridge Sub-region Housing Market Area (comprising all five Cambridgeshire districts and Forest Heath district and St Edmundsbury borough councils) together with Peterborough City Council (whose housing market area overlaps with the Cambridge Housing Market Area) on how the number of dwellings required to be built between 2011 and 2031 should be allocated to the cooperating authorities.
- 4.4 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategic Planning Unit have prepared a paper that is included as Appendix 2(ii) setting out the updated position with the authorities in the HMA. It states "While some authorities have updated their OAN for the reasons set out in the statement, there is no suggestion that they will not be able to accommodate fully their own identified housing need. Moreover, Peterborough City Council maintains its commitment to accommodating 2,500 homes from the Cambridge Sub-Region HMA. Consequently, the

original purpose of the MoC remains intact". Forest Heath's OAN does not seek to displace any of the identified need to other parts of the HMA and nor are any of those authorities looking to the council's area to meet any part of their identified needs (and consequently no need for the latest update report (Appendix 2 ii) to be approved/adopted by the authorities).

- 4.5 The two West Suffolk authorities are in two Local Enterprise Partnership areas, and Forest Heath works to achieve economic growth potential with both the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP and the New Anglia LEP.
- 4.6 During 2015 and 2016 a government proposal for devolved powers to the regions resulted in local authorities working together initially on an East Anglian devolution proposal, and subsequently a Norfolk and Suffolk devolution proposal. Forest Heath District Council on 29 June, and St Edmundsbury Borough on 28 June 2016, resolved to endorse the signing of the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement. Whilst the withdrawal of support from Norfolk authorities has delayed this process Forest Heath will continue to work together with district and borough councils in Suffolk, and the New Anglia LEP, toward delivering a new Combined Authority with a directly elected Mayor, and consequential changes to developing and delivering housing and economic growth. (Note: although the Norfolk and Suffolk devolution proposal is no longer proceeding the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement, June 2016, is attached as Appendix 3 as an example of cooperative working.)
- 4.7 Many of the cross-boundary and strategic groups in Table 1 have been established for many years, and cross-boundary working cooperatively at sub-regional and county level, particularly at officer level, has been an important 'everyday' practice. The main sub-regional, cross-boundary and county-based groups and the planning context or project-based areas of work covered are set out in Appendix 4.
- 4.8 The following table sets out the groups and organisations that Forest Heath (both in its own right and as part of West Suffolk) takes an active part in.

**Table 1: Forest Heath/West Suffolk: Cross Boundary Groups and Organisations 2016**

<b>Body</b>	<b>Member (M)/ Officer (O)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Suffolk - Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Framework (SPIF)	M O	Develop a framework of strategic infrastructure required to promote growth in Suffolk (including, in particular, for the Norfolk & Suffolk Devolution Agreement).

Wider South East (WSE)	O	A grouping of the 156 authorities and 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships within London, the South East and East of England working together to coordinate strategic policy and infrastructure investment more effectively to underpin economic prosperity across the Wider South East.
Suffolk Growth Group (SGG)	M O	Steering Group for Suffolk Growth Strategy
Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (GCGPEP) Board	M	Governing body of GCGP LEP. The Leader of FHDC is on the board.
GCGPEP Local Growth Strategy Group	O	Officer reference group for GCGP
Cambridge Compass Enterprise Zone Steering Group	M O	To set the strategic direction of the Cambridge Compass Enterprise Zones (5 sites within GCGP including Haverhill Research Park in St Edmundsbury, and 2 sites in East Cambridgeshire DC)
A11 Technology Corridor Stakeholder Group (Forest Heath DC, East Cambs DC, Breckland DC, South Norfolk DC, Norfolk CC, Suffolk CC, GCGP, NALEP)	O	Collaborate to jointly deliver Growth (of at least 9,000 jobs and 20,000 homes) across the A11 Technology Corridor area by 2031.
East of England Strategic Spatial Planning Officers' Liaison Group (SSPLOG)	O	
Cambridge Housing market Area – Strategic housing market assessment project group and Cambridge (Sub region) Strategic Housing Group	O	To discuss housing market assessment and strategic housing issues
Gypsy and traveller sites provision - i) Suffolk Accommodation Group and ii) Gypsy and Travellers Practitioners Group	O	i) Including collaborative work on the identification of Suffolk Gypsy and Travellers Short Stay Stopping sites ii) Collaboration with Cambridgeshire (excluding Fenland), King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk authorities who commissioned the joint GTAA 2016 and ongoing practitioners group.

A1307 Strategy Board	M O	Collaboration with South Cambridge DC and Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver improvements to the A1307 corridor from Haverhill to Cambridge.
West Suffolk/East Cambs Transport Infrastructure Group	O	Cross-boundary group including the district and county councils, Highways England, and the LEPs. Meet regularly considering transport and highway issues: A14, A11, local road network, links to rail stations.
Suffolk Air Quality Management Group	O	Twice yearly meetings to coordinate air quality issues across Suffolk and liaise with County Highways & Highways England
Suffolk Biodiversity and Planning Group	O	Specialist and planning officers from Suffolk authorities NE, SWT, RSPB, SCC
Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP)	O	County wide group to reduce Carbon footprint and coordinate grants and projects
Suffolk Landscape Officers Group	O	
West Suffolk and Natural England	O	Informal monthly meeting at officer level to discuss planning applications and strategic biodiversity issues that affect planning policy issues.
Suffolk Environmental Protection Group – Contaminated Land (SEPG-CL)	O	Ad hoc meetings to ensure policy consistency on environmental regulation across Suffolk.
Suffolk Conservation Officers Forum (SCOF)	O	Meets every three months, with each local authority taking turns to host. The group shares information about good conservation practice, discusses new issues, new legislation and guidance and significant appeal decisions. Some meetings include presentations by specialists.
Suffolk Development Planners Officers Group (DPOG)	O	
East Cambridgeshire District Council and Forest Heath with CCC, SCC and Highways England: Transport	O	Meetings established to identify strategic issues in common, produce sub-regional data and/or studies, and determine any necessary action.
East Cambridgeshire District Council and Forest Heath with	O	Meetings established to identify cross-boundary pupil numbers,

CCC and SCC: School Place Planning		school expansion/new school proposals, and school place planning to accompany the growth plans/site allocations of East Cambs and Forest Heath districts.
Association of Local Energy Officers	O	Not-for-profit organisation supporting local government officers and housing professionals with a remit for reducing all aspects of the UK's domestic-sector carbon footprint and tackling fuel poverty.

## 5. Cross boundary/sub regional strategic planning issues in the SIR and SALP

- 5.1 NPPF paragraph 156 advises local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. The Forest Heath Core Strategy, adopted in 2010 includes strategic policies to deliver residential and economic growth, provide retail, leisure and other commercial development, and infrastructure and other local facilities. The Joint Development Management Document, adopted February 2015, sets out policies to ensure development meets high standards of design, including designing for climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including the protected landscape of the district.
- 5.2 The Core Strategy SIR reviews and updates the council's strategic policy on the amount and distribution of housing and employment growth in the district, and the SALP allocates sites for growth in the next twenty years. Both these local plan documents raise cross boundary and strategic issues, particularly around transport corridors, and other infrastructure issues such as water supply, education, economic growth and development, and environmental designations. It has been an essential part of preparing these documents that the council work co-operatively with neighbouring authorities, infrastructure and service providers, statutory bodies and organisations such as the LEPs.
- 5.3 The principal cross-boundary concerns arising from preparation of the SIR and the allocation of sites set out in the SALP are:
- Housing - amount and distribution of growth
  - Environmental – international and national designations, principally the Brecks SPA, and SSSIs.
  - Transport – A14, A11, Ipswich to Cambridge, Ipswich to Peterborough rail routes, bus services between towns and villages in Forest Heath and Bury St Edmunds, Thetford, Soham, Ely, and Cambridge.
  - Education – school place planning Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

- Water supply and waste water – water catchment areas; and water recycling centres

5.4 Not all of these cross-boundary concerns are strategic issues. The policy issues that have been addressed and managed at a strategic level are set out in Table 2 below. The key strategic issues are housing, transport, education and economic development:

**Housing** – as the council can meet its OAN within the district there has been no need to explore locating housing development in cross-boundary locations or requesting neighbouring authorities to accommodate a proportion of Forest Heath’s housing growth. The council is one of the eight signatories of the Memorandum of Cooperation (see Appendices 2(i) and 2(ii)). In addition, meetings have been held at officer level with the adjoining authorities of East Cambridgeshire, St Edmundsbury, and Breckland during preparation of the plans.

**Transport** – this has been identified as a strategic issue for Forest Heath and East Cambridgeshire District Councils, and a group has been established that includes representatives of the two district councils, Suffolk County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Highways England.

**Education** – this has also been identified as a strategic issue for Forest Heath and East Cambridgeshire, and a group has been established that includes representatives of the two district councils and both Cambridgeshire and Suffolk county councils.

**Economic Development** - Forest Heath started working with Breckland and South Norfolk in early 2016 on a Cambridge to Norwich ‘Tech’ Corridor Project. This work has now expanded to involve three County Councils, two LEPS, and six other district/city and Borough Councils. The aim of this project is to promote employment sites and job opportunities within the ‘Tech’ Corridor.

5.5 In addition to the partnerships and groups looking at the strategic and the cross boundary issues set out in Table 2 below, the council engaged infrastructure and service providers of services across the county and sub-region in the early preparation of an Infrastructure Development Plan to accompany both documents. Appendix 1 lists the organisations represented at a meeting held in April 2015 and subsequently engaged through meetings and email dialogue in the plan process.

5.6 Section five includes reference to the long-standing joint working and partnerships that Forest Heath has been involved with for a number of years, and the key relationships, partnerships and bodies are outlined in Table 1 below.

5.7 Cross boundary working also includes working in partnership to develop and deliver the Strategic Economic Plans of the LEPs, which includes officer representation at the Local Growth Strategy Group (GCGP) and the Suffolk Programme Board (NALEP). In addition to these groups there is

also the Suffolk Planning and Infrastructure Framework (SPIF) client group (officers), SPIF member working group (elected members), Suffolk planning and economic development portfolio holder meetings (elected members) and the Suffolk Chief Officers Leadership team (chief executives).



**Table 2: Summary of Duty to Co-operate issues, outcomes and ongoing arrangements**

Strategic issue	Management and working arrangements	Evidence base	Outcome	Ongoing co-operation
<b>Housing</b>				
Housing provision:	<p>Cambridge Housing Market Area – Memorandum of Cooperation + discussions on housing market assessment in the CSMA</p> <p>Suffolk Growth Group</p> <p>Suffolk Planning Officers Group: provides a forum for officer based discussion of strategic planning issues, has facilitated officer level co-operation on this issue.</p> <p>Meetings were held with East Cambridgeshire District Council as the principal adjoining authority on 10<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to discuss specific cross-boundary issues, and to set up groups to continue co-operation.</p> <p>Meeting held with Breckland District Council 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 with agreement to meet again.</p>	<p>Strategic Housing Market Area Assessment 2016 – covers the Cambridge Housing Market Area which comprises Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils in Suffolk, and East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Cambridge City, and South Cambridgeshire Councils in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Forest Heath Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAN) January and August 2016</p> <p>Market Signals and Objectively Assessed Housing Need Peter Brett Associates February 2016</p>	<p>SIR Policy CS7 meets the full OAN</p> <p>Transport infrastructure and school place planning groups set up.</p>	<p>Cambridge Housing Market Area group of local authorities</p> <p>FHDC and St Edmundsbury Borough Council</p> <p>Suffolk Growth Group</p> <p>FHDC &amp; East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)</p> <p>FHDC, ECDC, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC)</p> <p>FHDC and Breckland District Council</p> <p>Norfolk Members Forum</p>
Gypsy and Traveller accommodation:	The Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	Gypsy and traveller accommodation needs	No additional provision is required in Forest Heath to	Short stay provision is to be identified through the

Identification of permanent and short stay sites across Suffolk.	Needs Subgroup Suffolk district and borough councils and Suffolk County Council, including the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer. Current work around identifying 3 short stay sites across Suffolk is being undertaken through the Public Sector Leaders Boards and Suffolk Chief Officers Leadership Team, with a Higher Level Steering Group set up to oversee the process and the Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Sub-Group assessing the sites.	assessment (GTANA) covering Cambridgeshire (excluding Fenland), King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury 2016	2036 to provide for Gypsies and Travellers falling within the new definition (2015).	current Suffolk-wide work with the aim of 3 sites being operational by the end of 2016.
<b>Transport</b>				
Transport issues: A14 A11  Rail network, service and linkage improvements	Infrastructure Group set up: FHDC, ECDC, SCC, CCC, Highways England, GCGP, NALEP Meetings held 7 <sup>th</sup> September, 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2016, 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2017.  Ely Improvements Task Force, East West Rail Consortium	East Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy, Forest Heath AECOM Cumulative Impact Study	Cross-boundary study area identified, project brief being developed to identify transport capacity constraints to growth (e.g. A11 Fiveways junction, A14 junctions 37 & 38, use of the local network).	Work on a cross-boundary transport model  Support for Ely area rail junction improvements including representation at Ely Area Task Force. Twice hourly Ipswich to Cambridge services Identification of rail route/network improvements
<b>Employment</b>				

Employment needs: delivering economic growth in line with the New Anglia LEP, and GCGP	Membership of the GCGP Board, and active cooperation on producing Strategic Economic Plans for both GCGP and New Anglia LEPS	GCGP Strategic Economic Plan 2014 NALEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014	Cross-referring A11 corridor areas with economic development potential to transport infrastructure joint working groups.	Ongoing representation at Member level on both LEPS, and regular officer level meetings, research and project development.
<b>Education</b>				
Education: schools place-planning	Group established - meetings with East Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Suffolk County Council (meetings held 17 November 2016, 30 January 2017).	Suffolk and Cambridgeshire educational infrastructure plans	Plotting cross boundary pupil data Definition of the cross border planning area	Ongoing work on cross boundary pupil data and catchments.
<b>Built and Natural Environment</b>				
Environment and biodiversity	Regular scheduled meetings with Natural England  Meeting with Breckland DC	Sustainability Appraisals, HRAs	Mitigation requirements in SALP policies	Ongoing regular meetings with Natural England  Scheduled meeting with BDC
Protection of Heritage Assets, given the significance of historic assets in	Meeting/consultation? with Historic England		Increased prominence given to protection and enhancement of heritage assets in the Plan, including details of historic assets in supporting text accompanying each site allocation policy and within policy wording where appropriate.  Concept statements/site briefs??	Ongoing discussion with Heritage England

## **6. Addressing strategic issues – actions and outcomes of cooperation and how it has influenced the Forest Heath Single Issue Review and Site Allocations Local Plan**

- 6.1 Whilst meeting the objectively assessed need in Forest Heath has not proved to be a strategic issue, and the principle of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed by the eight local authorities in the Cambridge Housing Market Area has remained in place through the plan preparation period (see Appendix 2(ii)), issues such as transport, education, water (both supply and waste water) and economic development have emerged through the iterative nature of the process as areas that have warranted further exploration in cross boundary groupings.
- 6.2 Between the Preferred Options (Regulation 18) consultation stage and the Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) consultation stages of plan preparation two infrastructure groups have been set up with neighbouring authority East Cambridgeshire District Council: the Strategic Transport Group (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire County Councils, ECDC, Highways England, and latterly GCGP and NALEP), and the School place-planning group (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire County Councils, ECDC and FHDC).
- 6.3 Table 3 (below) summarises the outcome of regular meetings (such as those with Natural England), study-specific cooperation issues (such as water supply and waste water issues) and the more recent strategic/cross-boundary topic groups have influenced the final distribution of housing growth (Core Strategy SIR) and site allocation policies (e.g. specific policy content designed to relieve recreational pressure on the SPA).

**Table 3 SIR and SALP outcomes from strategic working**

Policy	Neighbouring Authority/Prescribed Body	Group, Forum and other means of joint working
<b>Single Issue Review of Core Strategy Policy CS7 Overall Housing Provision and Distribution</b>		
Policy CS7 Overall housing provision and distribution	Neighbouring authorities: Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire district Councils, Peterborough City Council, Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils	Cambridge Sub-region Housing Market Area.  Housing market assessment project group  Joint Memorandum of Cooperation (July 2012), and update position February 2017
	* <sup>1</sup> The Environment Agency	Infrastructure and Service Providers Workshop April 2015  Joint Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Natural England meeting facilitated by consultants preparing the Water Cycle Study January 2016
	* <sup>2</sup> Highways England Suffolk County Council Cambridgeshire County Council  Highways England East Cambridgeshire District Council Highways Authorities: Cambridgeshire County Council and Suffolk County Council Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough	Infrastructure and Service Providers Workshop April 2015   Cross-boundary strategic transport group set up 2016 (A14, A11, A142, use of the local road network, rail routes and

	Partnership (GCGP) New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP)	frequency)
<b>Forest Heath Site Allocations Local Plan</b>		
SA2: Housing allocations in Brandon  SA4: Focus of growth – land west of Mildenhall  SA8: Focus of growth - North Lakenheath  SA9: Housing allocations in Red Lodge  SA10: Focus of growth – North Red Lodge	Natural England	Regular officer liaison meetings (Breckland SPA)
* <sup>1</sup> All housing and mixed use allocations	The Environment Agency	Infrastructure and Service Providers Workshop April 2015  Joint Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Natural England meeting facilitated by consultants preparing the Water Cycle Study January 2016
Housing and mixed use allocations and SA19: Town Centre Masterplans.	Historic England	Infrastructure and Service Providers Workshop April 2015  Meeting with HE officers at Issues & Options stage 2015.

<p>*<sup>2</sup> All housing and mixed use allocations</p>	<p>Highways England Suffolk County Council Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>Highways England East Cambridgeshire District Council Highways Authorities: Cambridgeshire County Council and Suffolk County Council Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Partnership (GCGP) New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP)</p>	<p>Infrastructure and Service Providers Workshop April 2015</p> <p>Cross-boundary strategic transport group set up 2016 (A14, A11, A142, use of the local road network, rail routes and frequency)</p>
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## 7. Ongoing management and joint working arrangements

- 7.1 In addition to the regular Suffolk-wide different local authority groupings and Member representation on sub-regional bodies such as the LEPs (set out in Appendix 4) the council remains committed to the principles set out in the Cambridge Housing Market Area Memorandum of Cooperation, maintaining regular contact with neighbouring authorities in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and continuing the two strategic infrastructure groups referred to in paragraph 6.2 on a topic/project-level basis for the next year or so.
- 7.2 Table 4 below summarises Forest Heath’s relevant cross-boundary authorities and bodies and the common strategic issue to each.

**Table 4 Forest Heath cross-boundary authorities and bodies, and shared strategic issues**

<b>Authorities and bodies</b>	<b>Strategic issue</b>
ECDC	Housing
ECDC, Highways England, CCC and SCC	Transport, Education
Breckland DC	Housing, Environment, Economic Development, Transport, Cross-boundary planning application
Norfolk Member Forum	Suffolk Members have a standing invitation
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	Housing Environment
St Edmundsbury BC, Highways England, Network Rail	Transport



**Infrastructure and Service Providers Engagement April 2015**

The following bodies and organisations were involved in workshops and correspondence to update the IECA for this iteration of the IDP in the spring of 2015:

Suffolk County Council

Suffolk Constabulary

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Highways England

Abellio Greater Anglia Network Rail

Sustrans

West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group

West Suffolk Hospital

NHS Property Services Ltd

Environment Agency

Anglian Water

Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards

UK Power Networks

National Grid Distribution Team

Natural England

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

Forestry Commission England

Heritage England

Ministry of Defence

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership

Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership

Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council

Breckland District Council

East Cambs District Council

Norfolk County Council

Cambridgeshire County Council

## ***Objectively Assessed Need for Additional Housing – Memorandum of Co-operation between the local authorities in the Cambridge Housing Market Area, May 2013***

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to have a clear understanding of housing needs in their area. To achieve this, they should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The SHMA should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period<sup>1</sup>. This is a key part of the evidence base to address the NPPF requirement of ensuring that Local Plans meet the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the Framework<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 places a Duty to Co-operate on local planning authorities<sup>3</sup>. This requires them to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in the preparation of development plan documents where this involves strategic matters. National policy in the NPPF adds to this statutory duty as it expects local planning authorities to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts.

### **2.0 The Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Market Area**

- 2.1 The Cambridge Sub Region Housing Market Area comprises all five Cambridgeshire districts (Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire), plus the west Suffolk districts of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. Due to its historic and functional ties with Cambridgeshire, plus its own housing market area overlapping with the Cambridge Housing Market Area, Peterborough City Council has also collaborated with these local authorities.

### **3.0 Demonstrating the Duty to Co-operate**

- 3.1 The seven districts within the housing market area, together with Peterborough City Council, have collaborated in recent months to meet the requirements of the NPPF set out in section 1.0. The outputs from this collaboration are a new chapter of the SHMA, which identifies the scale and mix of housing needed across the area by 2031 (and extending to 2036 for Huntingdonshire to meet its proposed local plan end date). Integral to this is a separate Technical Report, which provides an overview of the national, sub-national and local data drawn upon to inform the levels of housing need set out in the SHMA.

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 159.

<sup>2</sup> NPPF, paragraph 47.

<sup>3</sup> Localism Act 2011, section 110.

- 3.2 The outcome of this work is that an additional 93,000 homes are forecast to be needed across the housing market area between 2011 and 2031. The table below sets out the breakdown of this total figure in more detail.

**All dwelling change 2011 to 2031**

District	All dwelling change 2011 to 2031
Cambridge	14,000
East Cambridgeshire	13,000
Fenland	12,000
Huntingdonshire	17,000 (21,000 to 2036)
South Cambridgeshire	19,000
<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	<b>75,000</b>
Forest Heath	7,000
St Edmundsbury	11,000
<b>Housing sub-region</b>	<b>93,000</b>

*Source: Strategic Housing Market Assessment*

- 3.3 In determining housing targets in their local plans, local authorities should take account of the requirements of national policy and local circumstances.
- 3.4 In this regard, it should be noted that the Peterborough housing market area overlaps into Cambridgeshire. Peterborough is the largest urban centre within the travel to work area for the Cambridgeshire sub-region and is a major employment location with good transport links and infrastructure. On the basis of currently available figures, it has a net daily in-commute from Cambridgeshire of around 7,000 people. Peterborough has an up to date Local Plan (Core Strategy adopted in 2011 and a Site Allocations DPD adopted in 2012) with a substantial housing growth target of 25,450 between 2009-26.
- 3.5 Based on this background and engagement between all the local authorities listed in section 2.0, under the Duty to Co-operate, it is acknowledged by the authorities that Peterborough, in its up to date Local Plan, has already accommodated a proportion of the housing need arising in the Cambridge Housing Market Area, and it has been agreed that this proportion could reasonably be assumed to amount to approximately 2,500 homes (i.e. around 10% of its overall housing target).
- 3.6 Separately, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire District Councils have made considerable progress to date with their local plan reviews and, therefore, have established a good understanding of their areas' development opportunities and constraints. They have also taken account of the July 2012 joint statement by Peterborough and the Cambridgeshire authorities which confirmed that the 'strategy is to secure sustainable development by locating new homes in and close to

Cambridge and Peterborough and to other main centres of employment, while avoiding dispersed development<sup>4</sup>.

- 3.7 Based on all of the above, and agreement between all the local authorities working within the Duty to Co-operate, it has been agreed that, in their Local Plans, provision should be made for 11,000 dwellings in Fenland and 11,500 dwellings in East Cambridgeshire, rather than the full identified need set out in the table above.
- 3.8 Overall, and taking account of the 2,500 dwelling element of the Cambridge HMA's need already met in Peterborough's Local Plan, this leaves 90,500 dwellings to be provided in the Cambridge HMA to ensure that the full objectively assessed need for housing in the Cambridge HMA will be met in forthcoming Local Plan reviews. The level of provision to be made by district is set out in the table below.

**All dwelling provision 2011 to 2031**

District	All dwelling provision 2011 to 2031
Cambridge	14,000
East Cambridgeshire	11,500
Fenland	11,000
Huntingdonshire	17,000 (21,000 to 2036)
South Cambridgeshire	19,000
Cambridgeshire	72,500
Forest Heath	7,000
St Edmundsbury	11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,500</b>

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The purpose of this memorandum is formally to record and make public the local authorities' agreement under the Duty to Cooperate to the position as set out in this Memorandum, subject to ratification by their full Council as part of their individual Local Plan preparation.
- 4.2 The eight authorities that form signatories to this memorandum agree, therefore, that the figures in the table above (and taking account of provision already met within Peterborough) represent the agreed level of provision by district in order to meet the overall identified need for additional housing within the Cambridge Sub Region Housing Market Area.

<sup>4</sup> Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the local authorities, July 2012.

### Update on Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) in the Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Market Area – February 2017

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Market Area (HMA) comprises the administrative areas of seven city and district councils<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.2 On publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012, five of these authorities were undertaking full local plan reviews to broadly similar timescales. Consequently, the local authorities recognised the need to produce a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in accordance with guidance in paragraph 159 of the NPPF.
- 1.3 The *Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the Cambridge Housing Sub-Region* (2013) established an OAN figure for the HMA as a whole and for each district within it.
- 1.4 The local authorities also agreed in 2013 to produce a document that would convey their agreement to the OAN figures and, where relevant, the distribution of these. The *Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation, Supporting the Spatial Approach 2011-2031* (the MoC) was published alongside the SHMA in May 2013. This was developed in large part to demonstrate a coherent approach to development in the wider area and, in particular, as evidence of the authorities proactively undertaking the Duty to Co-operate. It was produced in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 181 of the NPPF.
- 1.5 The authorities in the HMA reached agreement with Peterborough City Council that it would accommodate 2,500 dwellings from the Cambridge Sub-Region HMA. Agreement to this approach is reflected in the MoC (Appendix 1, paragraphs 3.4 – 3.8).
- 1.6 The first local plan reviews to rely on the OAN figures from the SHMA for their housing targets were those for Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, examined in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Both plans were subsequently found sound and adopted on the basis of the agreed housing targets in the MoC.
- 1.7 The Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans were submitted for examination in spring 2014. The hearings started later that year and are on-going (they are expected to finish in autumn 2017). Housing targets in the two plans were initially based on figures from the SHMA and included in the MoC. However, shortly following the plans' submission the *Planning Practice Guidance* (PPG) was issued, including guidance on Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments. The Inspectors

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<sup>5</sup> Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Forest Heath District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

examining the plans required the OAN assessment from the SHMA to be updated to take account of this latest national guidance (particularly concerning market signals and affordability) and more recent household projections.

- 1.8 The results of this updating are that the housing target for Cambridge remained unchanged at 14,000 dwellings, while South Cambridgeshire's target increased by 500 dwellings to 19,500 in total.
  
- 2.0 The current position
- 2.1 Of the remaining authorities in the HMA, Huntingdonshire District Council expects to submit its local plan review during late 2017 or early 2018. Forest Heath District Council is undertaking a single issue review, with submission due shortly. St Edmundsbury Borough Council is preparing for a plan review. East Cambridgeshire District Council decided to undertake an early review of its plan, which is underway.
- 2.2 For these four authorities, it is not possible to rely on the OAN figures in the SHMA and reflected in the MoC to inform their housing targets, for two principal reasons. Firstly, more recent national population and household projections have been issued; the PPG confirms that these should be the starting point for establishing OAN. Second, the PPG itself has been issued since the SHMA and MoC. As this now provides national guidance on undertaking housing needs assessments, the approach needs to be followed in any current approach to assessing OAN.
- 2.3 Given the very different stages of local plan reviews across the HMA, the authorities recognise that it is not possible at present to undertake a full SHMA review. Therefore, as a pragmatic response to the current situation each of the four authorities is undertaking an OAN assessment for its area. These circumstances are recognised in the PPG, which states: *"Where Local Plans are at different stages of production, local planning authorities can build upon the existing evidence base of partner local authorities in their housing market area but should co-ordinate future housing reviews so they take place at the same time"* (Paragraph:007 Reference ID: 2a-007-20150320).
- 2.4 Building on the existing evidence base of partner local authorities in the Cambridge Sub-Region HMA, the work undertaken to update OAN figures for the four authorities is consistent and follows closely the guidance in the PPG and technical advice in the *Objectively Assessed Need and Housing Targets* note prepared for the Planning Advisory Service by Peter Brett Associates.
- 2.5 While some authorities have updated their OAN for the reasons set out above, there is no suggestion that they will not be able to accommodate fully their own identified housing need. Moreover, Peterborough City Council maintains its commitment to accommodating 2,500 homes from the Cambridge Sub-Region HMA. Consequently, the original purpose of the MoC remains intact.

2.6 The current position on OAN for each authority in the HMA is set out below.

Local Authority area	OAN from 2013 SHMA (2011 – 2031)	Updated OAN
Cambridge	14,000	14,000
East Cambridgeshire	13,000	12,900 (2014-2036)
Fenland	12,000	No plan review
Forest Heath	7,000	6,800
Huntingdonshire	17,000	Not yet available
South Cambridgeshire	19,000	19,500
St Edmundsbury	11,000	Not yet available

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategic Planning Unit

February 2017



**Extract from the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement, June 2016**

**Note:** the full 98 page document can be found here:

<http://www.newanglia.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Devolution-Agreement-Governance-Review-and-Scheme-of-Governance-June-2016.pdf>

# The Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement June 2016

Implementation of this agreement is subject to the completion of the statutory processes and approval of all local authorities which are party to the deal.

***Logos of the following councils:***

Broadland District Council

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Norfolk County Council

Norwich City Council

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

North Norfolk District Council

Waveney District Council

Forest Heath District Council

Ipswich Borough Council

Babergh District Council

South Norfolk District Council

Suffolk County Council

Breckland District Council

Mid Suffolk District Council

Suffolk Coastal District Council

and

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership

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## **The Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement**

This document sets out the terms of an enabling document for a proposed agreement between: Government, the 16 local authorities covering Norfolk and Suffolk and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to devolve a range of funding, powers and responsibilities.

It should be considered as part of the Government's devolution to East Anglia.

This Devolution Agreement builds on, but is separate to the Greater Ipswich City Deal, Greater Norwich City Deal agreed in 2013 and the New Anglia Growth Deals agreed in 2014 and 2015. It marks an important next step in the transfer of resources, powers and accountability from central Government to local partners.

The agreement below sets out the current devolution proposal for Norfolk and Suffolk which it is agreed that leaders will take to each council for full debate and consultation with relevant local stakeholders. This process is to be completed by no later than the end of June. The consenting councils may include additional councils to those which are party to this agreement if such councils decide no later than the end of June (allowing the statutory process to be launched in early July) that they wish to become a party to the deal. In return for this level of devolution and local control Norfolk and Suffolk will establish a Combined Authority, with a directly Elected Mayor in place by 2017 with interim arrangements in place in 2016/17.

### **The Opportunity**

Norfolk and Suffolk share a unique geography and a mix of urban, rural and coastal communities – close to but very distinct from London with a firm focus beyond our borders both within the UK and internationally, with our Europe facing world class energy coastline and the UK's largest container port.

The two counties represent a £34billion economy and one of the fastest growing areas of the UK. We also have the potential to grow our economy faster, with strengths in key sectors such as: agri-tech, food and health, energy and the digital economy. Our strengths are diverse and powerful including:

- National hubs for key business sectors that need to be nurtured to become magnets for global inward investment such as:
  - An all-energy coast at the centre of the world's largest market for offshore wind that is worth about £994 million per annum,
  - Globally-leading research in life sciences worth £1.3 billion across Norfolk and Suffolk
  - agri-tech – a fast growing sector with huge commercial potential worth £2.2 billion GVA per annum almost 10% of Norfolk-Suffolk GVA
  - Pioneering technical innovations in ICT research and

development worth £1.3 billion with 1, 400 companies employing around 10 300 people

- Felixstowe - the UK's busiest container port
  - A fast-growing creative digital sector, recently recognised by Tech CityUK
  - Market-leading food and drink producers
  - A first-class cultural heritage means tourism is worth £4.6bn annually across Norfolk and Suffolk
  - the A11 corridor from Norwich to Cambridge – a world class destination for advanced manufacturing with already more than 100 automotive engineering and related advanced manufacturing companies in growing clusters
  - the quality of place to attract significant inward investment
- City Deals for Norwich and Ipswich that are pioneering successful approaches to increase productivity reduce welfare dependency and deliver the Government's 'Youth Pledge' to support young people into employment such as Norwich for Jobs and MyGo in Ipswich
  - An innovative, collaborative and mature public sector that is willing to be bold in transforming public services
  - A wealth of local assets including our communities themselves and partners beyond the public sector such as, business and the VCS

Devolution offers a generational opportunity to accelerate growth in the local and national economy whilst improving the life chances and quality of life for every resident in Norfolk and Suffolk. It is a diverse and dynamic area including cities, rural and coastal communities with a globally significant economic offer.

Working with neighbouring partners, the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority has a phenomenal opportunity to create a better connected region, spreading and retaining the wealth, building the rural economy and improving the digital and broadband offer in supporting SMEs. With dramatically improved connectivity and the scale and opportunity to exploit local global leadership, there is the opportunity to address the grand challenges facing long-term human, environmental and economic sustainability to make a step change in the local economy.

### **Delivering on this opportunity**

There is much more to be done and this deal can only be the start. The deal represents an invitation to local councils and business to come together and set out a compelling Business Plan of connected growth for how this programme can be implemented and identify further reforms and mechanisms for unlocking new avenues of investment.

Norfolk and Suffolk will work with local Councils, New Anglia LEP, Government Departments and Agencies on their joint comprehensive business plan for Norfolk and Suffolk to be drawn up over the next six months. To avoid divergence this will build on the diversity of assets across the Norfolk and Suffolk economic area such as it's: ports, all energy coastline, world class universities and research; its leading role in advanced manufacturing and ICT and will identify ways to grow its economy. It will also build on areas of mutual benefit particularly with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to boost productivity for example, infrastructure

and transport. Central to this model of connected growth Norfolk and Suffolk will set out a number of core initiatives:

- A step change in infrastructure delivery with an integrated approach to planning of road, rail and digital connectivity alongside land for new housing and business
- The principle of Double Devolution of powers to local areas working with the Mayor to take responsibility and accountability for housing and infrastructure delivery in their own areas
- Becoming the UK's truly connected region in respect of communications and transport connections. Linking research-based growth in the cities with even the most rural villages. Improvements to road & rail infrastructure and using smart ticketing will make it easier for residents to participate fully in the economy and travel across transport modes
- Devising new models of private/public infrastructure & housing funding to fund strategic capital infrastructure
- A new partnership between the universities and FE providers in the region to drive a programme of co-ordinated skills and educational improvement to deliver the knowledge based economy
- Areas of joint collaboration with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – to include features such as transport, infrastructure and skills where solutions are required pan region
- Arrangements with other areas that represent the recognised economic growth opportunities. This will include: Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, and Rutland

This Business Plan will form the basis of a single and co-ordinated second devolution proposal from Norfolk and Suffolk to Government in the Autumn with the ambition of empowering the directly elected Mayors for the two Combined Authorities with the powers, tools and resources to unleash the potential of the area with the main objective to build a successful and dynamic economy in the short term and make a substantial contribution to keeping the United Kingdom in the first economic rank of nations for generations to come. Exploiting these powers at a local level will make a substantial contribution to this.

This document provides for the transfer of significant resources and powers from central government to the region including for infrastructure, housing, economic development, and employment and skills, which will positively impact on the lives of residents by helping create more jobs, improving the skills and employment prospects of residents and boosting the productivity of Norfolk and Suffolk.

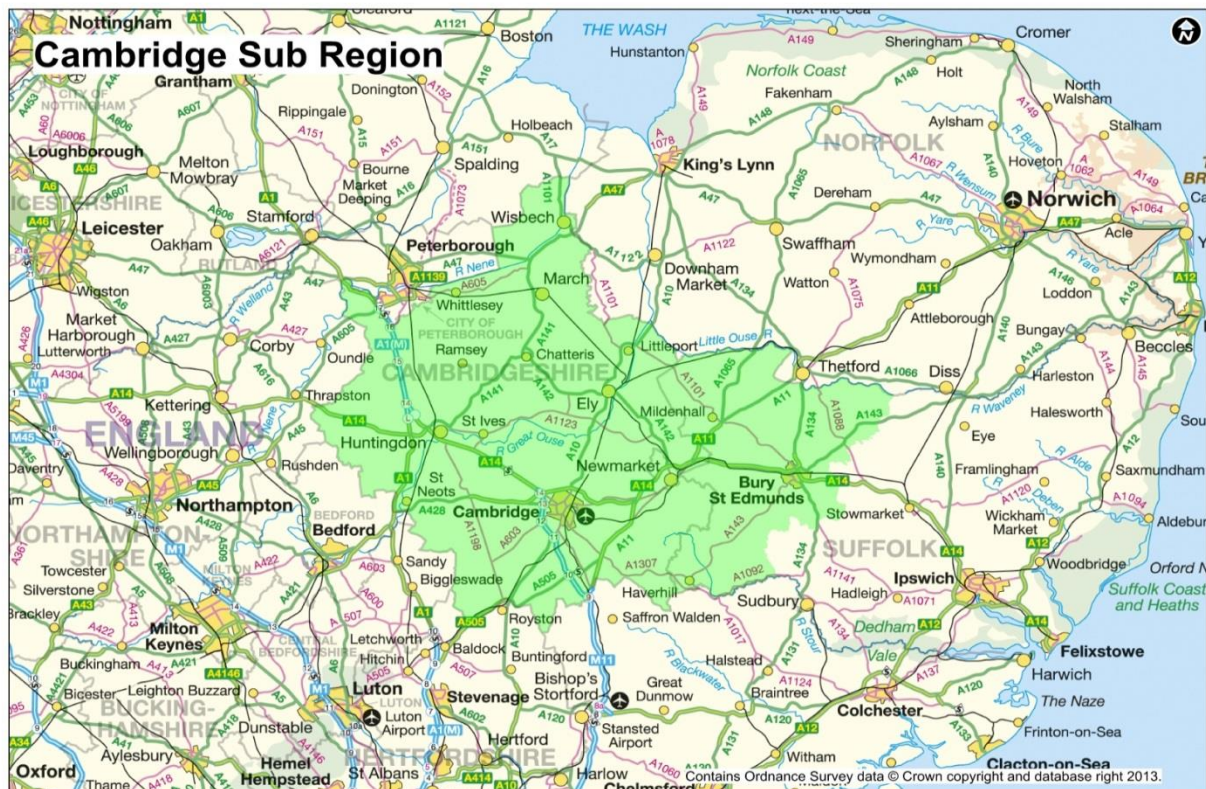
**The main sub-regional, cross-boundary and county-based groups and the planning context or project-based areas of work.**

**1 The Cambridge Sub-Region**

1.1.1 The Cambridge sub region comprises a group of local authorities working together to address housing issues and bid for resources. The Cambridge sub region is one of nine housing sub-regions in the East of England, and is made up of seven district councils set out and illustrated on the map below:

- Cambridge City
- East Cambridgeshire
- Fenland
- **Forest Heath**
- Huntingdonshire
- St Edmundsbury
- South Cambridgeshire.

**Map of the Cambridge Sub Region**



**1.2 The Cambridge Strategic Housing Market Area**

The Cambridge Housing Market Area includes the five Cambridgeshire districts, Peterborough City Council plus St Edmundsbury and Forest

Heath Districts in Suffolk. All of these authorities worked together, through Cambridgeshire Horizons, to prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to assess cross boundary housing needs. The authorities undertook a review of the scale and mix of housing needed across the area to 2031, in order to meet the requirements of the NPPF. The results of this work were adopted by all authorities involved, and in May 2013 a memorandum of cooperation (demonstrating collaborative working assessing future housing needs and agreeing the distribution of future housing) was agreed to help demonstrate that the duty to cooperate had been met (see Appendix 2 above).

## **2. East Cambridgeshire and Forest Heath District Councils**

Officers from the two authorities have met during preparation of the SIR and SALP to identify and discuss strategic and cross-boundary issues that impact on development of both authorities local plans. These discussions have focused on the amount and location of new housing, strategic transport issues, and economic development for both Districts. Two cross-boundary strategic issues have been identified that are being explored further: transport (involving Cambridgeshire and Suffolk County Councils, the two district councils, and Highways England; and Education (both county councils, and the two district councils).

## **3. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)**

Forest Heath falls within two LEP areas. The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) was set up in December 2010 and comprises businesses and local authorities across Suffolk and Norfolk who work together to drive local the economy and create jobs and remove barriers to growth. With 60,000 enterprises in Suffolk and Norfolk and a population of 1.5 million, New Anglia represents a significant economic area. Tourism and Energy are just two examples of major sectors which employ significant numbers of people, bring wealth to the local economy and have the potential to grow. The New Anglia LEP is part of the Suffolk Growth Group and meets regularly with Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury through this group.

The Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership covers a broad area ranging from Oakham and Peterbrough to the north and Stansted Airport to the south. Forest Heath is a member of the GCGP LEP.

## **4. Suffolk-wide groups/forums**

### **4.1 Suffolk Development Planners Officers Group (DPOG)**

This group comprises representatives from the planning policy departments of all Suffolk authorities. DPOG meets regularly throughout



the year to discuss planning issues of national, regional, county and local importance, including the consideration of cross boundary issues and working. Forest Heath (with St Edmundsbury as West Suffolk) is part of this group.

#### **4.2 Suffolk Conservation Officers Forum (SCOF)**

This group comprises Conservation Officers from all the Suffolk authorities (including Suffolk County Council), representatives from Historic England, and a representative from the amenity group, Suffolk Preservation Society. SCOF meets regularly to discuss issues of local importance and to share best-practice on a county-wide basis.

#### **4.3 Suffolk Environmental Protection Group –Contaminated Land (SEPG-CL)**

The contaminated land sub group of the Suffolk Environmental Protection Group (SEPG-CL) comprises representatives from the Suffolk Local Authorities and the Environment Agency. The SEPG-CL meets regularly throughout the year to discuss land contamination issues of a national, regional and local importance. The group aims to improve and maintain liaison between the authorities and to establish consistent enforcement and procedures of contaminated land legislation within Suffolk. The group also reviews relevant consultation documents and make appropriate recommendations or responses.

#### **4.4 Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP)**

The SCCP consists of Suffolk's local authorities and the Environment Agency, working together locally with a number of other organisations including Groundwork East of England, Sustainability East and University Campus Suffolk. The Partnership supports Suffolk's communities, businesses and residents to reduce carbon emissions, realise the economic benefits of reducing energy consumption, and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. The SCCP Vision, is set out in 'Transforming Suffolk', the Community Strategy 2008-2025: "Suffolk wants to be an exemplar in tackling climate change and protecting and enhancing its natural...environment...to be the county with the greatest reduction in carbon emissions"

#### **4.5 Suffolk Growth Group**

The Suffolk Growth Group brings together directors and heads of service responsible for planning and economic development from all Suffolk authorities. One of the key priorities identified by Suffolk authorities is economic growth in the county. The Growth group has worked together to produce a Growth Strategy which informed the New Anglia LEP's approach to infrastructure investment in the county.

#### **4.6 Suffolk Biodiversity and Planning Group**

This group was established to provide biodiversity advice on planning issues including policy matters as they arise. The members of the group include Suffolk County Council, Natural England, RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Biodiversity Group and Forest Heath District Council. Specialist and planning officers from other Suffolk authorities attend the group as required.

#### **4.7 Suffolk Air Quality Management Group**

This group has produced Air Quality Management and New Development – Supplementary Guidance December 2011 which is aimed at developers, their consultants and Suffolk Local Authority staff. It has been produced jointly to ensure consistency in the approach to planning and dealing with air quality within Suffolk (including some limited guidance on dust from construction activities and climate change) and that this topic is addressed at the earliest opportunity.

#### **4.8 Gypsy and Traveller Working Groups**

Suffolk Accommodation Group meets regularly to discuss issues affecting the Gypsy and Traveller community and the provision of short stay stopping sites.. The group is attended by the Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy Liaison Officer to ensure that cross boundary issues are taken into account. West Suffolk (Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury) is a member of this group.

Gypsy and Traveller Practitioners Group comprising Cambridgeshire (excluding Fenland), King’s Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury commissioned ORS to undertake a GTAA. This work was completed in 2016 and the group continue to meet to share good practice.

