

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
NEWCASTLE -UNDER-LYME
AND STOKE -ON-TRENT COUNCILS
AND
CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

PRELIMINARIES

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding primarily relates to the preparation of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy. The overall aim is to appropriately plan for the cross boundary strategic planning issues that exist and/or likely to arise in the foreseeable future between 'north Staffordshire' (the area within the local planning authority areas of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands and the City of Stoke-on-Trent) and Cheshire East.

Purposes

The main purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding are to:

- establish what the authorities agree on;
- pinpoint the relevant areas of disagreement;
- set out what future work the three authorities are committed to with a view to resolving outstanding issues.

Scope

The scope of this Memorandum of Understanding is to cover:

- The scale of development requirements, particularly housing and employment needs in Cheshire East as meeting these will involve the allocation and delivery of a large extent of land;

*denotes a point relating to a County or Unitary Authority matter and in the context of this Memorandum of Understanding is relevant to Stoke-on-Trent City Council only.

Current Development Plan Preparation Position

The current position is as follows:

- The Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy remains in force, a new Joint Local Plan is currently being prepared by Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent to replace this document.
- The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan was adopted on 15 March 2013 by the County Council and 4 April 2013 by the City Council;
- Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy had been subject to Publication stage consultation and was submitted for examination on 19 May 2014.

MAIN PROVISIONS

Meeting Development Requirements

Agreed

- The amounts of overall housing and employment development proposed in each authority's area are as set out in the respective strategic Local Plans. These are not dependent on any contribution from development sites located outside that area.
- The outstanding need to allocate sites to meet overall development requirements in north Staffordshire will be pursued through the preparation of future Local Plans.
- The amounts of overall housing and employment development in Cheshire East will be established in the Local Plan Strategy. The housing requirement has been appropriately derived from the full, objectively assessed need for housing arising in the Borough, takes account of the economic growth aspiration set out in the Plan and a 500 dwelling contribution to the housing required in High Peak Borough. The amounts of land needed will be met entirely from sites located within Cheshire East Borough.
- The proposed stepped approach to housing delivery in Cheshire East should assist in mitigating any adverse impact of this growth on regeneration of the north Staffordshire conurbation.
- The housing market areas in Cheshire East are substantially contained within the Borough although there are some significant migration and travel to work movements with south Manchester and north Staffordshire.

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- The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy correctly identifies that there are transport connectivity issues with north Staffordshire and provides appropriate commitments to consider, mitigate and improve these in liaison with the neighbouring transport authorities. E.g. the redoubling of the rail line between Crewe and Alsager. *

Other matters

Agreed

- The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy appropriately clarifies that waste management planning for the Borough will be covered in detail in the forthcoming Local Plan – Waste. This latter Plan will be produced expeditiously and in a manner that will be consistent with the Waste Management Plan for England and national waste planning policy (when finalised), underpinned with an updated waste needs assessment and in collaboration with other potentially affected waste planning authorities. The Local Plan – Waste will contain proposals to ensure that there will be sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in Cheshire East.*
- In respect of the proposed High Speed 2 (HS2) railway the Local Plan Strategy at paragraph 15.21 acknowledges that future proposals for HS2 might necessitate significant change in Crewe and in this event Cheshire East Council would either prepare an Area Action Plan focussed on that part of the town directly affected, or carry out a wider review of the Local Plan. The councils recognise that HS2 is a major national infrastructure project and decisions on its outcome are outside of the control of local planning authorities. However key decisions are likely to be made by Government within the foreseeable future on HS2 which will have a local and regional impact and could therefore have a bearing on the preparation and content of the Cheshire East Local Plan taken as a whole. The details of HS2 are appropriately not currently set out within the submitted Local Plan Strategy as these have not yet been finalised by Government.

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For Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council:



Cllr John Williams
Cabinet Member for Planning
and Assets

Dated: 9/9/14



Neale Clifton
Executive Director for Regeneration
and Development

Dated: 8/9/14

For City of Stoke-on-Trent Council:



Cllr Ruth Rosenau
Cabinet Member for Regeneration,
Planning and Transportation

Dated: 10/9/2014



John Betty
Executive Director of Place

Dated: 10/9/2014

For Cheshire East Borough Council:



Cllr David Brown
Strategic Communities Portfolio Holder
Deputy Leader of the Council

Dated: 26/8/14



Caroline Simpson
Director of Economic Growth
and Prosperity

Dated: 26/8/14

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