

Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2016 Examination

Statement of Common Ground

As agreed between

Maidstone Borough Council

and

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

August 2016

P.R. Correspondence?	
REF:	
22 AUG 2016	Init'l
CHQ. DET. E	
DRAWER	

INTRODUCTION

1. This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly by Maidstone Borough Council ('MBC') and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ('TWBC').
2. This Statement sets out confirmed points of agreement between MBC and TWBC on the key cross boundary issues with regard to the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2016 ('the Local Plan') and its supporting evidence base, with the aim of assisting the Inspector during the Examination of the Local Plan. It should be read in conjunction with the Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (SUB 008) which was submitted with the Local Plan.

AGREED MATTERS

3. The following matters are agreed:

Objectively assessed need for housing

4. The Local Plan provides for Maidstone borough's full objectively assessed need for housing at the base date of 1st April 2016 within Maidstone borough's boundaries. It is agreed that MBC does not require TWBC to accommodate a proportion of its objectively assessed need for housing.
5. TWBC is in the early stages of preparing a new Local Plan which will cover the period to 2033. TWBC's approved Local Development Scheme (April 2016) sets out the timetable for the preparation of the new TWBC Local Plan as follows: Regulation 18 informal public consultation in April 2017 (issues and options) and January 2018 (preferred options), Regulation 19 public consultation in October 2018, submission of the TWBC Local Plan in March 2019 and adoption in January 2020.

6. As the preparation of the new TWBC Local Plan is at such an early stage, TWBC is not yet in a position to confirm if its objectively assessed need for housing will be met within Tunbridge Wells borough boundaries. TWBC has not requested that MBC accommodate a proportion of its objectively assessed need for housing.
7. It is agreed that Maidstone borough and Tunbridge Wells borough lie within separate housing market areas.

Duty to Co-operate

8. The Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (SUB 008) submitted with the Local Plan chronicles the extent and nature of positive engagement with TWBC during the preparation of the Local Plan.
9. It is agreed that MBC has fully complied with the Duty to Co-operate with TWBC during the preparation of the Local Plan with respect to matters of strategic importance between the two boroughs.
10. It is agreed that the two councils will continue to co-operate and work together on strategic cross-boundary issues.

MATTERS NOT AGREED

11. [none]

AGREEMENT

Signed On behalf of Maidstone Borough Council		
Name & position	Signature	Date
Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development	R.L.L. Jarman	22/8/16

Signed On behalf of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council		
Name & position	Signature	Date
Kelvin Hinton, Acting Head of Planning Planning Policy Manager	K P Hinton	19.08.16