



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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Date: 15/01/2020

To Mayor Ros Jones

### SHEFFIELD CITY REGION STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Ros Jones	All	No

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground provides a record of agreement on cross boundary, strategic matters between the nine local authorities and other key stakeholders in the Sheffield City Region. It fulfils the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and has been developed in accordance with the Government's Planning Policy Guidance.
2. It will help to demonstrate that Doncaster has met its duty to cooperate when its local plan goes to Examination in Public.
3. It focuses on four cross-boundary strategic matters. These are: housing; employment; transport; and digital connectivity. The information included in the document summarises strategic planning matters which are or have been addressed through Local Plans within the Sheffield City Region. It is a live document which will be reviewed on an annual basis.
4. Developed by the SCR Heads of Planning, this document has been considered and supported by the SCR Housing Board, SCR Infrastructure Board and SCR Chief Executives. All information included in the document is factual and publically available elsewhere.
5. The SCR Statement of Common Ground reflects the current SCR geography. However the content will be reviewed and amended when the devolution geography changes in 2022. While this document does not restrict, or influence, SCR investment in Doncaster (for example, Transforming Cities Funding (to be agreed shortly) has resources for North Doncaster) this is a live document that will be reviewed annually.

## **EXEMPT REPORT**

6. This report is not exempt.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. That the Mayor endorses, agrees to be a signatory and signs off the Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

8. The Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground demonstrates that the local authorities in the region are working collaboratively on strategic matters relevant to local plans. This includes ensuring that sufficient homes and jobs are provided to meet the needs of citizens in Doncaster and beyond in the Sheffield City Region.
9. Doncaster's own Statement of Common Ground is currently being prepared to support the Doncaster Local Plan. It will demonstrate how we are working collaboratively on strategic matters with all our neighbouring authorities, not just those included in the Sheffield City Region. Doncaster's Statement of Common Ground will include more detail than the Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground and will address more cross-boundary strategic matters. Doncaster's document will be finalised and submitted with the Local Plan in due course.

## **BACKGROUND**

10. In line with the 2019 National Planning Policy Framework all local planning authorities have a requirement to produce, maintain and keep up to date a Statement of Common Ground. The purpose of a Statement of Common Ground is to highlight agreement on cross-boundary strategic issues with neighbouring authorities and other relevant organisations. Sheffield City Region (SCR) (through the SCR Heads of Planning Group) have produced this Statement of Common Ground which sets out the agreed arrangements for cooperation and liaison for Local Plan work across the region. The document also provides a framework for defining and agreeing strategic matters; and provides a short narrative on each strategic matter.
11. There are four cross-boundary strategic matters which the SCR Statement of Common Ground focusses on. These are housing; employment; transport; and digital connectivity. Other matters are summarised in the document just to illustrate the range of shared interests across the region and these matters are: Green Belt; energy and climate change; flood risk; minerals planning; waste planning; natural environment; Peak District National Park; and health.
12. Planning Services have been involved in the SCR Statement of Common Ground throughout the process starting from the scope of the work to inputting into the document.
13. All information included in the document is factual and is publically available elsewhere. In the main, it states targets and requirements that the SCR local planning authorities, including Doncaster Council, have or will include in their Local Plans. For Doncaster, this means a housing requirement of 920

dwellings per year and an employment land requirement of 481 hectares over the plan period.

14. The SCR Statement of Common Ground reflects the current SCR geography. However the content will be reviewed and amended when the devolution geography changes in 2022.

### **Key information/messages**

15. The following information is included for the four strategic matters:

#### **Housing**

- All SCR authorities are planning to meet their own housing need and are planning for more homes than set out through the Government's standard housing methodology;
- All SCR authorities are working to maximise the delivery of new homes in their area;
- All SCR authorities are working to ensure they have a deliverable housing land supply of at least five years;
- There are a number of different housing markets across the SCR.

#### **Employment**

- The SCR authorities are ensuring that the overall amount of jobs being provided meets the 70,000 jobs target in the SCR Strategic Economic Plan;
- Local Plans will help to deliver jobs in the Key Urban Centres and Major Growth Areas as defined in the SCR Integrated Infrastructure Plan;
- Further consideration will be given to formalising a strategic Functional Economic Market Area across the SCR.

#### **Transport**

- Work will continue on all aspects of the Transport Strategy particularly through local plans by ensuring there is improved transport connectivity and greater capacity; that new development sites are unlocked and more sustainable transport modes are provided; and there is provision for active travel such as walking and cycling;
- Work will continue to bring forward national and pan-northern transport schemes as listed in the SCR Transport Strategy.

#### **Digital Connectivity**

- There will be help to bring forward a range of local and city region interventions to improve digital connectivity;
- Create a supportive planning framework for digital connectivity.

16. Throughout the SCR Statement of Common Ground there is commitment for local evidence to be shared and for collaborative work between the Combined Authority and local planning authorities to continue.
17. The SCR Statement of Common Ground will be updated on an annual basis and will be used as part of the evidence base for the Doncaster Local Plan in conjunction with the Doncaster Local Plan Statement of Common Ground which Planning Services are currently preparing.

18. The Draft SCR Statement of Common Ground has now been considered and supported by the SCR Housing Board, SCR Infrastructure Board and the SCR Chief Executives Group. It is currently with the Local Authorities for them to endorse and sign off the document.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

19. It is considered that there are two options for Doncaster Council's approach to the SCR Statement of Common Ground and these are:
- Option 1 Endorse and Sign (recommended) – Agree to be a signatory and sign off the Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground;
  - Option 2 Do not endorse and Sign (not recommended) – This option could make it considerably harder to get the Local Plan through the Examination in Public.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

20. Option 1 is recommended to ensure that the SCR Statement of Common Ground is endorsed and signed off. There is nothing controversial included in the document, it contains factual information which is publically available elsewhere. The Statement of Common Ground compiles the relevant information together from all the relevant local authorities in to a document which highlights the key strategic issues across the region.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

21. The Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground is considered to impact on the Council's key outcomes by:

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<p>Demonstrating that the Doncaster Local Plan (as well as the other SCR local authorities' local plans) are meeting the regional job requirements set out in the SCR Strategic Economic Plan and that we are working collaboratively to improve transport and digital connectivity.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> </ul>	<p>Demonstrating that the Doncaster Local Plan (as well as the other SCR local authorities' local plans) are meeting their own housing need and providing a five year deliverable housing land supply.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	None
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	None
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	Demonstrating that Doncaster Council is working collaboratively with the other SCR local authorities on strategic matters relevant to the Doncaster Local Plan.

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

22. The main risk identified as a result of this report/SCR Statement of Common Ground is in respect to the Doncaster Local Plan. Option 1 will help to ensure that the Council can demonstrate at Examination that the necessary requirements (such as the Duty to Cooperate) have been complied with which includes the need to demonstrate on-going strategic cross boundary and effective joint working on strategic policy making.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [HL 04/10/2019]**

23. The Duty to Cooperate was created in the Localism Act 2011. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.
24. The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) requires planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Common Ground, to evidence the approach to joint planning and liaison across local authority boundaries, in association with preparing Local Plans, which demonstrates how they have fulfilled the statutory “Duty to Co-operate”. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:

“In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic plan-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these. These should be produced using the approach set out in national planning guidance, and be made publicly available throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency” (paragraph 27).
25. Paragraphs 20 - 23 of the NPPF sets out the matters that the strategic policies should make provision for, this is not an exhaustive list and authorities will need to adapt this to meet their specific needs. For local planning authorities this is linked to matters set out in sections 19(1B to 1E) and 33A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which places a legal duty on local planning authorities, to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.
26. Local planning authorities must demonstrate how they have complied with the duty at the independent examination of their Local Plan. If a local planning authority cannot demonstrate that it has complied with the duty then the Local Plan will not be able to proceed further in examination. As such, demonstrating compliance with the duty is a very important aspect of plan making.
27. Local planning authorities will need to satisfy themselves about whether they have complied with the duty. As part of their consideration, local planning authorities will need to bear in mind that the cooperation should produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary matters.
28. This Statement of Common Ground sets out the agreed arrangements for cooperation and liaison for cross boundary matters across the region. The

document also provides a framework for defining and agreeing strategic matters and provides a short narrative on each strategic matter, therefore meeting the requirements of the NPPF, the Localism Act 2011 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [BC 02/10/2019]**

29. There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.
30. The SCR Statement of Common Ground demonstrates some of the requirements of the Local Plan and therefore should help to minimise potential challenges at Examination in Public and avoid costs that would be incurred as a result of responding to those challenges.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [CR 30/09/2019]**

31. There are no HR implications specific to the recommendations in the report, however, any emerging matters that impact on the workforce will require HR engagement at the appropriate time.

### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [JG 04/10/19]**

32. The Assistant Director of Customers, Digital & ICT is Doncaster Council's Digital Infrastructure Champion and a member of the Superfast South Yorkshire Management Board who have overseen the delivery of the now complete phase 1 rollout of superfast broadband to 95,000 properties and are now managing the phase 2 rollout to increase to 99% coverage. The same Board have worked together to draft a Future Digital Connectivity Strategy for South Yorkshire and continue to take advantage of government and other external funding where successfully obtained. Locally, extensive work and engagement with commercial connectivity providers is also being progressed at every opportunity with the aim of attracting full fibre investment to the borough of Doncaster wherever possible achieving the best possible digital infrastructure possible. This has resulted in Doncaster being allocated Gigabit City status by one supplier and part of another's Fibre First rollout. The government target is currently 2033 for full UK fibre coverage but an earlier date of 2025 is being explored. Current UK coverage is only 6%.

### **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [CT 01/10/2019]**

33. Public Health has been involved in the preparation of the draft Doncaster Local Plan and has carried out an impact assessment on health and wellbeing and amendments have been made to some policies to reflect the impact on our communities. With regard to the Statement of Common Ground Public Health supports Option 1. It is important that the wider region is working collaboratively to ensure our residents have the best opportunities to access employment across boundaries as well as within the Doncaster Local Authority area. Transport plans and policies should ensure good quality sustainable travel modes are accessible to all to reduce the reliance on car journeys across the region. Going forward as plans are developed Public Health recommends a holistic approach is adopted which ensures housing, transport links, employment, digital connectivity, etc. are planned and executed simultaneously to ensure

maximum benefits are realised.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [NW 26/09/2019]**

34. There are no direct equality implications arising from this report/SCR Statement of Common Ground.

## **CONSULTATION**

35. The SCR Statement of Common Ground has been prepared by the SCR Heads of Planning Group and circulated for comments around the relevant local planning authorities. As the document demonstrates agreement of strategic matters which are being addressed through local plans, there has been no requirement for further consultation. Further to this, it worth noting that significant consultation has been undertaken to date in the preparation of the Doncaster Local Plan already.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

36. The following document forms an appendix to this report:
- Appendix 1 – Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground (Final Draft 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019)

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

- SCR - Sheffield City Region

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