



**London Borough  
of Hounslow**

**Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041**

**Statement of Common Ground**

**Between**

**London Borough of Hounslow**

**And**

**Surrey County Council**

**Version 2  
28/04/25**

## 1. Introduction

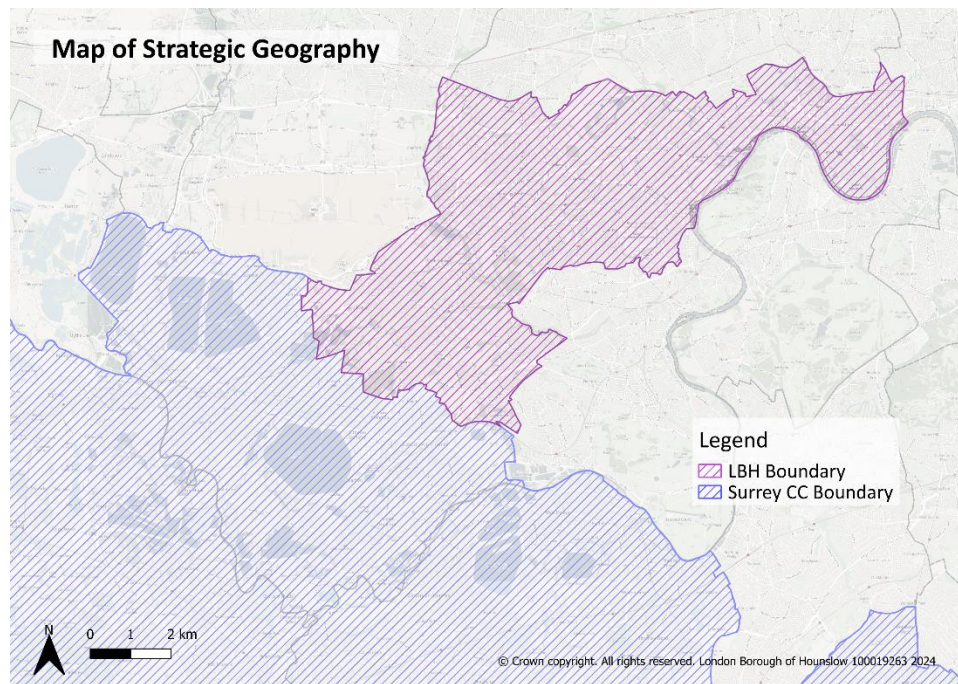
- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between the London Borough of Hounslow (LBH) and Surrey County Council (SCC). It seeks to inform the independent examination of the proposed submission version of the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041 and will be submitted to the Planning Inspector alongside the local plan and other supporting documents.
- 1.2. LBH adopted their Local Plan 2015-2030 Volumes 1 & 2 in 2015. As instructed by their Inspector at that time, LBH went on to undertake a partial review of the local plan focusing on 2 key growth areas: the Great West Corridor and Heathrow (known as the 'West of Borough') opportunity areas. Following extensive consultation, LBH submitted three development plan documents (DPDs, one for each area and an update to the Vol.2 Site Allocations DPD) for examination in December 2020, with examination hearing sessions taking place in November/December 2021. Following the hearing sessions, a number of procedural issues were identified which led LBH to withdraw these DPDs and pause work on a Focused Issues Review of the Local Plan Vol.1.
- 1.3. LBH undertook a Regulation 18 consultation between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 focusing on a proposal to consolidate the emerging DPDs into a single Local Plan document, and to update emerging policies in line with relevant considerations. Following this, LBH prepared updates to key evidence base documents and developed the proposed submission version of the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041, undertaking a Regulation 19 consultation on the draft Local Plan between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024. LBH is now in the process of analysing and collating responses received and preparing any additional work required (including agreeing SoCG with relevant parties) prior to submission to the Secretary of State for examination.
- 1.4. SCC are a neighbouring local authority, and therefore subject to the duty to cooperate. SCC have undertaken extensive engagement with LBH throughout the various stages of plan-production to this point. A full record of engagement to date is provided in section 2 below.
- 1.5. The SoCG sets out both parties' agreed positions in relation to strategic cross boundary matters identified during duty to cooperate meetings and as set out in SCC's Regulation 19 representation/and subsequent correspondence.

## 2. Background

- 2.1. LBH and SCC have engaged with one another to discuss duty to cooperate matters during the preparation of the draft Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041.
- 2.2. Prior to initiating the current draft of the Local Plan, engagement took place on the now-withdrawn Local Plan Review for the Great West Corridor, West of Borough, and Site Allocations DPDs. This process resulted in SCC signing up to the [LBH and Surrey CC SoCG \(May 2021\)](#).
- 2.3. More recently, LBH has engaged with SCC on the production of LBH's single Local Plan, now known as the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041.

- 2.4. On 12/05/2023, an email was sent to SCC regarding the Regulation 18 stage of the Local Plan. SCC subsequently confirmed that no meeting was required at that time, indicating that further engagement would take place closer to the Regulation 19 stage.
- 2.5. A meeting was held on 17/10/24 as part of the Regulation 19 consultation process. The key matters discussed were as follows:
  - Transport Policy Update;
  - Transport Modelling;
  - Highways Impact Assessment;
  - Cross-boundary mitigation approach; and
  - Walking & cycling links between LBH and SCC.
- 2.6. SCC submitted a representation for the Regulation 19 stage, which was supportive of the proposed Policy EC1 relating the consideration of transport mitigation measures beyond the borough boundary where appropriate. SCC also agreed to produce an updated SoCG in advance of the examination of the draft Hounslow Local Plan.
- 2.7. This SoCG has been undertaken in order to demonstrate the cooperation between both parties, and to set out the agreements reached on the relevant strategic matters relating to the production of the proposed submission version of the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041.

### 3. Strategic Geography



**Figure 1:** Map of strategic geography

- 3.1. The map above (figure 1) describes the strategic geography considered for cooperation on strategic matters as part of this Statement of Common Ground. The area contains the administrative areas of LB Hounslow and that part of Surrey County Council which directly adjoins the borough.

#### **4. Strategic Matters and Record of Agreement**

4.1. Through ongoing duty to cooperate engagement between LBH and SCC, the following key strategic matters have been identified:

- **Approach to cross boundary transport mitigation**
- **Continued cooperation on sustainable transport and active travel**

4.2. These matters are set out in more detail below, with a description of the relevant background to the matter in question and a record of agreement provided (with any agreed modifications set out in the table at Appendix A below). In cases where there are matters which cannot be agreed at this time, these are set out as outstanding matters under each matter below (with further details provided in the table at Appendix B).

#### **4.3. Approach to cross boundary transport mitigation**

##### ***Background***

4.3.1. As part of the Local Plan Review of the now withdrawn Vol.3 West of Borough DPD, SCC raised concerns at Regulation 19 stage relating to the proposed approach to secure funding for mitigation measures also include potential measures beyond the LBH borough boundary. Both parties entered into a SoCG in May 2021 to agree further modifications to the supporting text of former Policy WoB6 which were to be presented to the Inspectors for their consideration as part of that plan examination.

4.3.2. As the Vol.3 West of Borough DPD was withdrawn from examination in July 2023 these modifications were not taken forward for consideration. However, in the process of consolidating and updating policies to produce the proposed submission version of the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041, LBH undertook to incorporate SCC's requested amendments and to further strengthen these by including additional requirements in emerging Policy EC1 at clause P, in addition to related guidance within supporting text at paragraph 10.2.

4.3.3. In their representation to the Regulation 19 consultation, SCC confirmed that they welcome the policy wording in Policy EC1 which supports the consideration of transport mitigation measures beyond the borough boundary, where appropriate. SCC also noted that the inclusion of this policy wording responds to comments they had previously made about consideration of cross boundary highway issues as part of the withdrawn Vol.3 West of Borough DPD.

##### ***Record of agreement***

4.3.4. Both parties agree that the emerging policy EC1 Strategic Transport Connections and supporting text at paragraph 10.2 supports the consideration of transport mitigation measures beyond the borough boundary.

##### ***Outstanding Matters?***

4.3.5. There are no outstanding issues relating to this matter at this time.

#### 4.4. Continued cooperation on sustainable transport and active travel

##### ***Background***

4.4.1. During extensive engagement on local plan matters through the duty to cooperate, both parties have discussed the importance of coordinating on active travel and sustainable transport links. This includes commitments to liaise with each other to ensure that LBH's proposed active travel routes and improvements can be aligned with SCC's programme of active travel improvements in the district of Spelthorne which immediately adjoins Hounslow.

4.4.2. LBH has recently adopted its Hounslow Transport Strategy (2025) which sets out a vision for the transport network to be safer, more inclusive, efficient, healthy, green and clean. The draft Local Plan sets out clear policy commitments to deliver strategic transport infrastructure to support growth, and to develop a sustainable transport network that maximises opportunities for walking & wheeling, cycling and public transport to achieve a range of environmental and social aims. LBH will continue to update the projects set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which supports the draft Local Plan.

##### ***Record of agreement***

4.4.3. Both parties agree that continued cooperation is required to increase connectivity at the borough boundary in order to ensure that more active and sustainable transport movements can take place, and to address cross-boundary highways issues.

4.4.4. LBH will continue to engage with SCC on strategic matters relating to the safe and efficient functioning of the wider highways network, particularly with regards to the potential impact of planned growth

##### ***Outstanding Matters?***

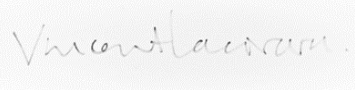
4.4.5. There are no outstanding issues relating to this matter at this time.


## 5. Governance Arrangements

- 5.1. It is agreed that informal discussions will occur between both parties on the strategic matters referred to in this Statement of Common Ground in the form of officer level meetings at least once every twelve months, with reporting of matters to Member level if necessary.
- 5.2. It is agreed that this Statement of Common Ground will be reviewed by both parties at a joint duty to cooperate meeting which will be held on an annual basis.

## 6. Signed confirmation

- 6.1. The contents of this Statement of Common Ground are agreed for the purposes of the examination of the proposed submission version of the LB Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041.

Signed on behalf of LB Hounslow		
Name and position	Signature	Date
Vincent Lacovara Director of Planning and Buildings		28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

Signed on behalf of Surrey County Council		
Name and position	Signature	Date
Caroline Smith Planning Group Manager		24 <sup>th</sup> April 2025