

Harrow Regulation 19 Duty to Cooperate Statement November 2024

1.0 Legal Duty

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced the Duty to Cooperate by way of amendments to Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which came into effect in November 2011. It states that LPA's are 'to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with neighbouring boroughs and other public bodies in the preparation of development plan documents 'so far as relating to a strategic matter.'
- 1.2 For the purposes of the Duty to Cooperate, a strategic matter is defined as sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas.
- 1.3 Harrow Local Planning Authority also sits within the area of the London Plan, and Section 24 (1)(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires borough plans to be in general conformity with the London Plan.
- 1.4 The purpose of this statement is to outline the framework in which Harrow seeks to fulfil its duty to cooperate, as an interim document to be published alongside the Council's 'Regulation 19' version of the Local Plan, namely the version it proposes to submit for examination. It will be reviewed, updated and expanded upon with additional detail as the Local Plan progresses through the plan process, eventually being published alongside the submission plan as an examination document. This will ensure that it reflects ongoing engagement and cooperation prior to the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State.

2.0 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. The NPPF includes policies on plan-making including the Duty to Cooperate. It is accompanied by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) which provides further information to support the implementation of the national policies.

- 2.2 NPPF paragraphs 24–27 emphasise the need for local planning authorities to maintain effective cooperation during the plan-making process. It provides that this is integral to the production of a sound plan, one that is positively prepared and with a justified strategy for managing growth and meeting identified needs for development, including infrastructure. Cooperation can help to inform considerations as to whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.

3.0 Statement/s of Common Ground

- 3.1 Paragraph 27 of the NPPF requires strategic policymaking authorities to ‘prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these.’ Harrow will prepare these statements subsequent to Regulation 19 to support the submission version of the plan.

4.0 London Plan

- 4.1 The Local Plan must be in general conformity with the London Plan, which is produced by the Mayor of London. The London Plan is the spatial development strategy for Greater London, ensuring a coordinated approach to spatial planning across all boroughs. The new London Plan was published and came into force on 2 March 2021.
- 4.2 Many of the strategic matters to be addressed through the Duty to Cooperate are, in London, a matter for the London Plan or are otherwise addressed through its preparation. This includes the spatial distribution of housing across London, provision for employment land and other commercial areas such as town centres, strategic green infrastructure (including open space).
- 4.3 It also provides the framework for the delivery of strategic infrastructure (including transport, social infrastructure, waste management, utilities, and waterways), whilst recognising further details may be required in boroughs’ Local Plans.
- 4.4 Development of the London Plan itself is a collaborative process, with joint working on several areas of evidence and considerable reliance upon boroughs to verify survey and supply data. These include:
- a. London Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2017)
 - b. London Industrial Land Demand Study (2017)

5.0 Joint West London Evidence

5.1 Harrow is part of the West London Alliance which brings together Harrow along with Ealing, Hillingdon, Brent, Barnet, Hounslow, Hammersmith and Fulham. Quarterly meetings are held at Officer and Chief officer levels to coordinate and discuss planning work and several pieces of Local Plan evidence have been jointly prepared with some or all of these LPAs, including:

- a. West London Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2018)
- b. West London Small Sites Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2018)
- c. West London Employment Evidence (2019)
- d. West London Employment Land Review (2022)
- e. West London Alliance GTAA Report (2018)
- f. West London Local Area Energy Plan Report (2023)
- g. West London Strategic Flood Risk Assessment level 1 (dynamic)

6.0 Neighbouring and other authorities

6.1 As part of the Duty to Cooperate obligations, the LB Harrow has held one to one officer level meetings (throughout 2023 and 2024) with the following authorities:

- a. Barnet
- b. Brent
- c. Ealing
- d. Hillingdon
- e. Hertsmere
- f. Three Rivers

6.1 These meetings provided the opportunity to discuss strategic planning matters and cross-boundary issues affecting the authorities concerned. This included discussions around development proposals and infrastructure provision in the area. It also covered local plan evidence base and the scope to undertake any further joint working on relevant studies. These discussions have been taken into account in preparing the emerging new Local Plan.

6.2 Hertfordshire County Council and the South West Hertfordshire Joint Spatial Plan (accountable body) have also been notified.

6.3 These meetings will continue as the Harrow Local Plan progresses through to the next stages and, where appropriate on relevant matters, statements of common ground will also be prepared.

6.4 The local enterprise partnership for London and Harrow is the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP). The council is a member of LEAP through which the Mayor of London and Transport for London engage with London boroughs, business stakeholders to identify strategic issues and plan for economic development in London.

- 6.5 Harrow is a member of London Councils, a non-partisan organisation that works on behalf London's 32 borough councils and the City of London Corporation. London Councils acts as a focal point for representing borough interests, informed by the political and professional networks that it runs with the Government, the London Mayor, the wider GLA and London's public service.
- 6.6 Harrow also participates in the Association of London Borough Planning Officers (ALBPO). Harrow council planning officers regularly attend meetings of the ALBPO Development Plans Committee, where cross-boundary strategic matters are discussed. The GLA and London Council's also attend these meetings to provide strategic and partnership input into these meetings respectively.
- 6.7 Harrow also participates in the London Waste Planning Forum (LWPF). The LWPF is a forum for local authorities and organisations focussed on planning for waste in London. For the local authorities, this is waste planning under their statutory responsibilities as planning authorities. This is distinct from their separate responsibilities for household waste collection and disposal. Waste planning authorities in London, the Environment Agency, and GLA, London Waste and Recycling Board, London Councils and other London organisations dealing with waste are members. The Forum provides a framework to support and coordinate waste planning in London. The Forum enables authorities to engage and cooperate on strategic waste matters that cross administrative boundaries. The LWPF makes collective responses to policy documents and the members of the Forum agree a consistent approach to waste planning, including the definition of strategic levels of waste movements for statements of common ground.

7.0 Infrastructure providers

- 7.1 Harrow has also engaged with a range of infrastructure providers in the area in the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). These include those covering:
- a. Transport
 - b. Energy and Utilities
 - c. Digital Connectivity
 - d. Waste
 - e. Education
 - f. Sports and Leisure facilities
 - g. Emergency Services
 - h. Health and Social Care
 - i. Community and Cultural Services
 - j. Green and Blue Infrastructure

8.0 Summary of formal consultation to date

- 8.1 The Council has taken a proportionate approach with relevant bodies on identifying and addressing strategic matters through the Duty to Cooperate, focussing on areas where the Local Plan will have significant influence in helping to deliver the London Plan.

Body	Regulation 18		Regulation 19 (proposed)	
	Notified	Comment	Notified	Comment
GLA	✓	✓	✓	
LB Barnet	✓	✓	✓	
LB Brent	✓	✓	✓	
LB Ealing	✓	✓	✓	
LB Hillingdon	✓	✓	✓	
Hertsmere BC	✓	✓	✓	
Three Rivers DC	✓	✓	✓	
Hertfordshire County Council	✓			
SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan	✓			
Historic England	✓	✓	✓	
Environment Agency	✓	✓	✓	
Natural England	✓	✓	✓	
Civil Aviation Authority	✓	✓	✓	
Canal and River Trust	✓	✓	✓	
Network Rail	✓	✓	✓	
West London NHS	✓	✓	✓	
Transport for London	✓	✓	✓	
MoD (RAF Northolt)	✓	✓	✓	
Highways England	✓	✓	✓	
Metropolitan Police Service	✓	✓	✓	
Thames Water	✓	✓	✓	

9.0 Next stages

- 9.1 This statement outlines the framework in which Harrow seeks to fulfil its duty to cooperate. It will be reviewed, updated and expanded upon with additional detail as the Local Plan progresses through the plan process, eventually being published alongside the submission plan as an examination document. This will ensure that it reflects ongoing engagement and cooperation prior to the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State.
- 9.2 This may include coverage of new issues or agreements on strategic matters as well as further discussions with prescribed bodies. There is an intention to demonstrate continued engagement during and beyond the Regulation 19 consultation, noting that any further changes to the plan would be presented through proposed modifications ahead of examination.