

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 20 October 2016

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Enterprise, Community & Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Physical Environment

**SUBJECT:** Liverpool City Region: Statement of Cooperation on Local Planning

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To adopt the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Statement of Co-operation (SoC) on town planning matters (see Appendix 1 for the SoC document).
- 1.2 The SoC is a process document that underpins the planning and housing elements of the LCR Devolution Agreement, specifically the requirement to produce an LCR Single Spatial Framework.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Liverpool City Region Statement of Co-operation provided at Appendix 1 be adopted.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Duty to Cooperate is a legal duty placed upon Local Planning Authorities (LPA) under the Localism Act 2011. Compliance with the duty requires an LPA to engage constructively, actively, and on an on-going basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation regarding strategic cross-boundary land-use planning matters with all relevant stakeholders.
- 3.2 The Statement of Co-operation (SoC) (Appendix One) provides the evidence that this statutory co-operation has been undertaken. The SoC has been drafted by all six City Region Districts plus West Lancashire. It has been approved by the Combined Authority's Housing and Spatial Planning Board. The Combined Authority (CA) recommended that each City Region District adopts the SoC to ensure that all Districts are aligned and there is uniformity in the approach to strategic planning across the LCR. West Lancashire DC has already adopted the SoC, and all Districts are now in the process of adoption.
- 3.3 The Statement of Co-operation (SoC) identifies key land use planning policy issues and evidence base development work requiring inter-district cooperation between each District and other stakeholders. It is required to progress the Liverpool City Region Single Spatial Framework, and is also required for each District in preparing its own Local Plan. The Statement will be reviewed and updated on at least an annual basis to ensure it remains relevant.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The LCR Devolution Agreement requires the production of a Single Spatial Framework for the City Region relating to strategic land use planning for town planning purposes. A key step to the delivery of that Framework is the production and agreement of a Statement of Co-operation on planning matters between the LCR authorities. The SoC will help to shape the key matters and topics that will be addressed in the LCR Single Spatial Framework.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The costs of producing the SoC have been met from within existing resources.
- 5.2 The SoC will help identify areas where joint/shared planning studies can be commissioned, which can help reduce costs through economies of scale

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

No direct implications

### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

No direct implications

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

No direct implications

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

No direct implications

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The SoC underpins the town planning framework that sets out how a Borough will grow and develop over a 15-20 year timeframe. The SoC is a key regulatory requirement for the adoption of both a local plan and the proposed LCR-wide Single Spatial Framework. Therefore, in isolation, the SoC has no immediate direct implications for the Council's priorities, however indirectly it is an essential process requirement of having an up-to-date Local Plan, and the Local Plan impacts upon all the Council's priorities, particularly urban renewal.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 Failure to adopt the SoC could jeopardise the full implementation of the Devolution Agreement, and the failure to update and act on the SoC could put the soundness of a future Single Spatial Framework and Halton's Delivery and

Allocations Local Plan (DALP) at risk due to failure to adhere to statutory requirements.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 Equalities – A Community Impact Assessment incorporating an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken by St Helen’s Council as part of the LCR drafting process. There are no negative impacts for staff or service users in terms of Race (Ethnicity), Disability and Carers, Gender, Gender Reassignment, Age, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity or Religion.
- 8.2 Health – A Community Impact Assessment that considers Health impacts has been undertaken by St Helen’s Council as part of the LCR drafting process. There are no negative impacts for Health.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

| <b>Document</b>                          | <b>Place of Inspection</b> | <b>Contact Officer</b> |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|
| CA Devolution Agreement                  | Municipal Building         | Tim Gibbs              |
| Planning Acts and Local Plan Regulations | Municipal Building         | Tim Gibbs              |