

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Requesting Decision

Group Leader Plans Policy and Place Making

### Officer Making the Decision

Head of Planning and Growth

### Recommendation

1. That the Statement of Common Ground in relation to the Anstey Lane/ Gynsill Lane strategic allocation be signed (Appendix A).
2. That the Statement of Common Ground relating to supporting the Progression of Local Plans in Leicester and Leicestershire (Appendix B) be signed.

### Reason

#### *Anstey Lane/ Gynsill Lane Strategic Allocation*

To provide the Inspectors examining the Leicester City Council Local Plan, with greater information on the deliverability of the site with reference to the definition set out in Appendix 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework of a deliverable and developable site. It aims to clearly provide the expected level of evidence to demonstrate the deliverability or developability of a housing site as set out in the Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraphs: 007 Reference ID:68-007-20190722 and 020 Reference ID: 68-020-20190722). Charnwood Borough Council is required to be a signatory as the strategic site includes land within the Charnwood Borough, which has been allocated under HA12 in the emerging local plan.

#### *Supporting the Progression of Local Plans in Leicester and Leicestershire*

To set out the council's commitment to joint working under the Duty to Cooperate required by the Localism Act to support the Leicester City Council Local Plan examination. The Statement seeks to acknowledge and support the shorter-term plan period for the Leicester City Councils Local Plan examination.

### Authority for Decision

Under the provisions of Section 8.1 of the Council's Constitution, Heads of Service have delegated authority to take such action as may in their opinion be necessary or appropriate in connection with the implementation of decisions properly authorised by the Council.

## Decision and Date



20 September 2024

## Background

### Anstey Lane/Gynsill Lane SoCG

The Statement of Common Ground in relation to land at Anstey Lane/ Gynsill Lane strategic allocation has been prepared to support the Leicester City Council Local Plan examination. To provide greater certainty in response to the Inspectors' specific requests for further information as regards deliverability of the site and confidence that there are no insurmountable issues that obstruct or preclude the development coming forward over the plan period.

The statement only covers the development parcels that sit wholly within Leicester City, however this site forms part of a wider strategic development site, which includes site allocation HA12 in the emerging Charnwood Borough Council Local Plan. It has been prepared by the Pegasus Group on behalf of the signatories Leicester City Council, David Wilson Homes, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, William Davis, Charnwood Borough Council and Blaby District Council. Blaby District Council have signed the SOCG, subject to clarification that the District Council is in the early stages of preparing a new Local Plan and that the District Council has made no decisions about the locational strategy or site options to be included in its Local Plan. It is recognised that if development is to take place on the land within Blaby District, then a comprehensive approach will be required to address the cross boundary impacts of residential development.

To avoid a piecemeal approach to the wider, strategic development, Charnwood Borough Council, Blaby District Council and Leicester City Council have worked collaboratively through their respective local plan processes to ensure that the sites within each authority area are comprehensively planned, where they have been identified as a preferred option. The CBC emerging Local Plan at HA12 therefore safeguards land for a primary school to meet the education needs of the strategic site.

### Leicester City Local Plan SoCG

The Statement of Common Ground in relation to supporting progression of the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Plans has been prepared to support the Leicester City Local Plan examination. It has been prepared on behalf of Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

The purpose of this statement is to acknowledge that the Leicester City Local Plan on adoption will not cover a 15-year period for strategic policies normally required by the NPPF.

All local authority partners in Leicestershire acknowledge the importance of getting Local Plans adopted to facilitate sustainable growth as soon as possible, as well as to meet the Government's current June 2025 deadline for the submission of Local Plans. In particular, clarity on the City's position in relation to unmet housing needs, is needed to allow Leicestershire authorities to progress their own local plans and to proceed under the emerging transitional arrangements in respect of changes to the NPPF. Charnwood Borough Council therefore considers it is necessary that the City Local Plan progresses with a shorter plan period and supports the intention for the City Local Plan once adopted to be subject to an immediate review.

### **Comments from HR**

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this decision.

### **Risk Management**

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers:

Statement of Common Ground to support Progression of Local Plans in Leicester and Leicestershire

Statement of Common Ground Anstey Lane/ Gynsill Lane