

## North Somerset Site Allocations Plan

### DUTY TO CO-OPERATE STATEMENT

#### (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, section 33A)

1. Planning issues are not constrained to local authority boundaries. The National Planning Policy Framework states that public bodies have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those that relate to strategic priorities. Councils are required to work collaboratively to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual local plans.
2. North Somerset Council has a long history of joint working with other local authorities in the West of England and continues to liaise with the Mendip, Sedgemoor and Somerset authorities to the south. North Somerset is part of the West of England: a functional economic area comprising the four unitary authorities of Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset. Following the abolition of Avon County Council in 1996 the authorities have continued to work together voluntarily on a range of economic, spatial, transport and infrastructure planning issues. These voluntary arrangements were formalised in 2005 when the West of England Partnership (WEP) was established.
3. Throughout the preparation of each of the authorities' Core Strategies, the WEP has acted as the focus for cross-boundary working on spatial planning, transport, housing, waste and economic development. It has now been replaced by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The LEP brings the authorities together with local businesses and education to provide the focus for continued joint working to support sustainable economic growth locally. The LEP office is currently managing the production of the Joint Spatial Plan.
4. The proposals contained within the Site Allocations Plan are locally specific to North Somerset and have not required joint working. The plan allocates sites that contribute to delivering the policies of the North Somerset Core Strategy, particularly the housing requirement and related needs for employment, community facilities and open space. It does not allocate sites whose development will have a significant effect on neighbouring areas. Policies and proposals for transport infrastructure have already been adopted through the Core Strategy and the Sites and Policies Plan Part 1.
5. In relation to flood risk, the downstream catchments most affected are contained within North Somerset or else the river forms its boundary; on leaving North Somerset those rivers flow directly to the sea. The Marine Management Organisation is at an early stage in developing the South West Marine Plan but

the Site Allocations Plan does not involve development in the inter-tidal area, with the potential exception of Birnbeck Pier.

6. Cross-boundary issues relating to European sites are addressed in the Habitat Regulations Assessment. The HRA considered the impact on European sites, some of which are cross-boundary, but concluded that with the mitigation measures identified in the HRA there would not be likely significant effects on European sites.
7. All adjoining authorities were consulted at each consultation stage in the production of the document and no issues were raised.