CHAPTER 2: Duty to Cooperate

Chapter 2: Duty-to-Cooperate

2.1. The Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2021[1] place a 'Duty to Co-operate' on local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to address strategic planning issues relevant to their areas in the preparation of their local plans and other planning documents and to work together on such issues. Horsham District Council is obliged to determine what work needs to be done at a strategic level and in doing so decide how to work with neighbouring authorities to bring forward the required levels of growth. It is a legal requirement that where local authorities have worked together under the Duty to Co-operate mechanism, that the Monitoring Report provides details of the actions that have taken place during the monitoring period.

Duty-to-Cooperate Mechanisms

2.2. The Duty to Co-operate requires cross-boundary discussions with a range of local authorities, both adjoining and beyond the boundary of Horsham District. There are a number of different groups with whom Horsham District has a relationship. These are set out in Table 1 below. These groups meet on a regular basis to discuss the requirements of local authorities, and how these may be met across the sub-region.

Table 1: Groups used to discuss the Duty to Cooperate

Group	Members
North West Sussex Authorities	Horsham DC, Crawley BC and Mid-Sussex DC
Gatwick Diamond Group of Local Authorities	Horsham DC, Crawley BC, Tandridge DC, Reigate BC, Mole Valley DC, Mid Sussex DC, West Sussex and Surrey County Councils
West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board	Horsham DC, Mid Sussex DC, Lewes DC, Brighton and Hove CC, West Sussex County Council, Worthing BC, Adur DC, Arun DC, Chichester DC, South Downs National Park Authority, East Sussex CC, Crawley BC
Coast to Capital LEP	Stretches from Croydon to Brighton, and along the Sussex coast.

[1] See Paragraphs 24 to 27 of the NPPF 2021.

	The partnership areas are Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership; Coastal West Sussex; Croydon Development and Cultural Partnership; Gatwick Diamond Initiative; and Rural West Sussex.
"District Deal Partnership"	Horsham DC and West Sussex County Council
Arun Valley Line Review Group	WSP Transport Consultants, Horsham DC, Crawley BC, West Sussex CC, Coast to Capital LEP, Network Rail, Govia Thameslink, Department for Transport
North West Sussex Water Supply Zone – Water Neutrality	Horsham DC, Crawley BC, Chichester DC, West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex DC, Natural England, Environment Agency, Southern Water

Duty-to-Cooperate Actions: General: April 2021 - December 2022

2.3. Horsham District Council has been involved in a wide range of Duty to Co-operate Activities and discussions including the following:

Authority/Group	Document	Details
Gatwick Airport	Northern Runway Project (NRP)	• Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project (NRP) Statutory Consultation
West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board	"Local Strategic Statement 3" (Draft)	• To clarify the role and function of the Board in the delivery of strategic planning for the board area (which covers West Sussex and Greater Brighton (including Lewes))
Southern Water	Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan (DWMP)	• Responded to Consultation September 2022
Water Resources and Water Neutrality	National Water Resources Framework & Water Resources South East Regional Plan (WRSE)	• Responded to Consultation March 2022 • Consultation November 2022 ongoing • Publication of Water Neutrality Mitigation Strategy ('Part C')
Waverley Borough Council	Climate Change SPD	• Responded to Consultation July 2022
Mid Sussex District Council	Reg 18 Consultation	• Responded to Consultation Dec 2022

2.4 The Duty to Co-operate is an ongoing process and regular discussions and meetings are held with a wide range of organisations in order to support the preparation of the Local Plan. The most significant cross boundary issue facing Horsham District during 2021 and 2022 has been the requirement to ensure that the new local plan is Water Neutral. Following significant joint working with a wide range of local authorities and other partners, such as Natural England and Southern Water, a Mitigation Strategy was published in December 2022.

Duty-to-Cooperate Actions: Local Plan: April 2021 – December 2022

2.4. During 2021 and 2022, the following Statements of Common Ground have been published as part of the work carried out under Local Plan Review. Work continues with other Local Authorities and organisations to prepare and complete Statements of Common Ground to support the preparation of the Council's Local Plan.

Statutory Consultee	Document	Status	Date
Arun DC	Statement of Common Ground	Agreed	November 2021
Brighton and Hove CC	Statement of Common Ground	Agreed	November 2021
Mole Valley DC	Statement of Common Ground	Agreed	August 2021
Northern West Sussex	Statement of Common Ground	Agreed	May 2020
South Downs National Park Authority	Statement of Common Ground	Agreed	November 2021
Waverley	Statement of Common Ground	Agreed	January 2022
Worthing BC	Statement of Common Ground	Agreed	June 2021