

**Ipswich Local Plan – Examination of the Core Strategy and Policies
Development Plan Document Review and the Site Allocations and Policies
(incorporating IPOne Area Action Plan) Development Plan Document**

STATEMENT OF SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL in respect of Matters 1.3 and 1.4

1.3 Has the Council engaged constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with all relevant organisations on strategic matters of relevance to the plan's preparation, as required by the Duty to Cooperate?

All five local authorities in the Ipswich area (Ipswich Borough Council; Suffolk Coastal, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils; and Suffolk County Council) have been parties to the Ipswich Policy Area Board for some years. This was established to deal with the wider planning issues of the area, recognising that the nature of Ipswich and the tight boundaries of the Borough mean that the planning of the town has to be considered in a wider context.

The County Council is not a local planning authority but is responsible for key elements of the infrastructure necessary for the success of any growth in the Ipswich Policy Area. It also has responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate. Therefore it has been a partner in the Ipswich Policy Area Board from its inception.

Considerable work has been undertaken jointly by officers of the respective authorities and reviewed by councillors as members of the Board (see <https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/ipswich-policy-area>). This has been as a prelude to being able to consider the strategic issues for the Ipswich housing and employment market areas and to reach agreement on how growth would be dealt with across the local authorities.

In the future, the work of the Ipswich Policy Area Board may be subsumed into the wider work for a strategic plan heralded both in the Suffolk Devolution Bid and the Norfolk/Suffolk Devolution Bid. However this should not result in any delay in the Ipswich Area work being completed.

It is the view of the County Council, that, with the structure and implementation of the Ipswich Policy Area work set out above, the Borough Council has met the Duty to Cooperate.

1.4 Does the plan provide effective outcomes in terms of crossboundary issues? In particular, is the approach of policies CS2 and CS7 that 3,378 dwellings will be provided for by working with neighbouring local authorities later in the plan period (in line with policy CS6) soundly based and in accordance with national policy? Is there sufficient certainty that these housing needs will be provided for? If you consider that the plan is not sound in this respect could it be modified to make it so?

Ipswich Borough Council has needed to progress its plan in order to meet its part in bringing forward housing as is being sought by the Government. It has had to do this in advance of clear proposals as to where unmet need that cannot be

accommodated within the bounds of the Borough will be located. This will be done through more strategic mechanisms, as described under 1.3 above. As far as the County Council is aware, the Borough Council has sought to bring forward all suitable land for housing within its area and it is not clear how it could be modified in a way that would result in any more needs being accommodated. Thus Suffolk County Council considers that the Local Plan is sound in this respect and supports its progression through the Examination process.