

Cheshire East Council Site Allocations and Development Policies Duty to Co-operate Draft Statement of Common Ground

June 2019

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OFFICIAL

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1. Introduction

1.1 The Local Plan in Cheshire East¹ will be made up of four documents:

- The Local Plan Strategy (“LPS”) sets out the vision and overall planning strategy for the borough over the period to 2030. It includes strategic planning policies and allocates strategic sites for development. The Local Plan Strategy was adopted in July 2017.
- The Site Allocations and Development Plan Document (“SADPD”), which will set detailed non strategic planning policies to guide planning decisions and allocate additional sites for development to assist in meeting the overall development requirements set out in the LPS. This draft statement of common ground supports the consultation on the publication version of the SADPD.
- The Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (“MWDPD”), which will set out planning policies for minerals and waste, including the identification of specific sites for these uses where required. The first draft of the MWDPD is currently being prepared.
- The Crewe Station Hub Area Action Plan (CSHAAP) will set out a planning framework to manage change and support investment and development of Crewe station and the surrounding area associated with the arrival of HS2 in Crewe. The CSHAAP will look beyond the LPS and set out policies and proposals for the area immediately around a new HS2 hub station. It directly responds to the arrival of HS2 at Crewe and will introduce a planning framework that aims to promote and manage land use change and related infrastructure provision in that area.

1.2 This duty to co-operate draft statement of common ground (“DTC SoCG”) relates to the publication version of the Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies document (July 2019) (“SADPD”) which represents the second part of the council’s Local Plan.

1.3 Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, amongst other things, requires that local planning authorities co-operate with each other and with prescribed bodies in maximising the effectiveness of development plan preparation in terms of strategic matters. In respect of the SADPD, that means sustainable development or the use of land that has or would have a significant impact across administrative boundaries.

1.4 National planning policy and guidance re-affirm that local planning authorities are under a duty to co-operate on cross-boundary strategic matters. It

¹ Excluding the part in the Peak District National Park where the park authority is responsible for planning matters.

highlights the need for relevant organisations to collaborate to identify these matters which need to be addressed in plans. Indeed, effective and ongoing joint working on these matters is described as integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy and should be demonstrated through the preparation and maintenance of one or more statements of common ground.

- 1.5 The SADPD has been prepared as a ‘daughter’ document to the adopted LPS. The SADPD is not seeking to amend any strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy. There are no new strategic cross boundary matters arising from the content of the SADPD. The council has agreed this with all of its neighbouring local planning authorities and other relevant bodies. Although guidance on the preparation of a statement of common ground is directed at strategic policy-making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters, the preparation of this statement serves to demonstrate that the council has properly discharged its legal duty and has reached agreement with all relevant parties that the SADPD does not give rise to any new strategic cross boundary issues. The Statement also provides an opportunity for the council to show how it has continued to work effectively and on an ongoing basis with relevant bodies regarding the strategic cross boundary matters identified during the preparation of the LPS.
- 1.6 Planning practice guidance says that a statement of common ground should include
- A description of the administrative area covered by the statement with a justification for this;
 - the key strategic matters being addressed by the statement;
 - the governance arrangements and how the statement will be maintained and kept up to date; and
 - a record where areas of agreement have (or have not) been reached on key strategic matters, including the process for reaching agreements on these.

This statement addresses all of those matters.

2. Geographical & Administrative area covered the statement

- 2.1. As the SADPD does not give rise to any new strategic cross boundary issues this SoCG does not need to cover any other area outside of Cheshire East which, for plan-making purposes, excludes an area in the Peak District National Park that falls within the borough. Through the LPS, it was established that the borough does not form part of a shared functional economic area and that Cheshire East is comprised of a single housing market area.

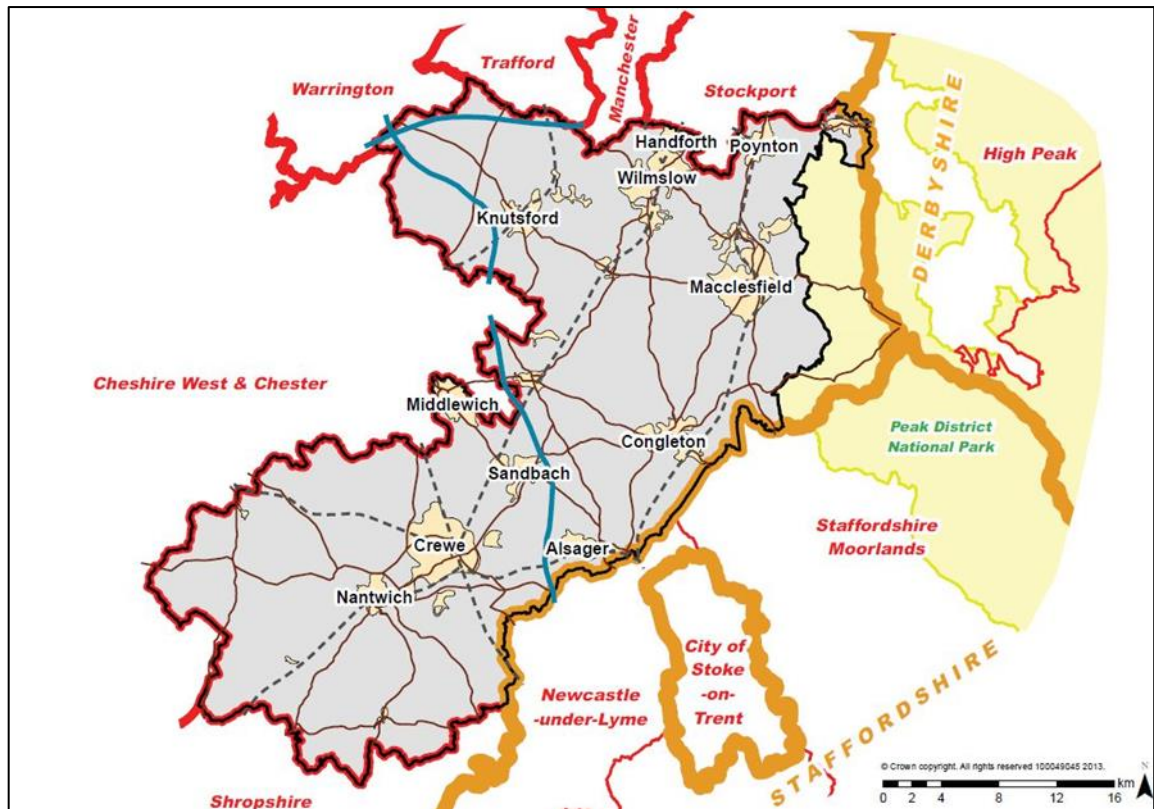


Figure 1: Cheshire East in Context

- 2.2. Cheshire East shares a border with nine local authority areas: Cheshire West & Chester, Warrington, Trafford, Manchester, Stockport, High Peak, Staffordshire Moorlands, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Shropshire, as shown in Figure 1 above. The city of Stoke-on-Trent is also relatively close. Trafford, Manchester and Stockport are part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The borough includes part of the Peak District National Park, as do High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands and other local authorities not adjoining Cheshire East.

3. Strategic and Development Plan Context

- 3.1. In the development of the LPS and through work with other authorities and organisations, a number of strategic, cross-boundary matters arose and were addressed through the duty to co-operate. The examining Inspector was satisfied that the legal duty and national policy requirements had been met. There is no need to deal with these matters again in this statement insofar as the SADPD is concerned. However, an up to date commentary on the workstreams emanating from the strategic cross boundary matters identified through the LPS process is provided later in this report. Although it is not considered strictly necessary to cover this in this statement of common ground, it has nevertheless been included to inform parties of how this work, related to the content of the LPS, has been progressed.

High Speed 2 (HS2) and the Constellation Partnership

- 3.2. The HS2 high speed rail link will connect London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. As part of Phase 2a, HS2 is expected to connect to the West Coast Main Line just south of Crewe in 2027. HS2 Limited is currently working on the preferred route for the line (Phase 2b) from Crewe to Manchester: this runs northwards through the borough and parts of Cheshire West and Chester, before turning northeast into Greater Manchester and on to Manchester Piccadilly (via Manchester Airport).² Phase 2b is expected to be open by 2033.
- 3.3. Whilst the LPS recognises that HS2 may arrive at the borough within the current plan period, it does not address the land-use consequences of the proposed development of HS2. The land use consequences of HS2 would be a matter for a review of the LPS to deal with. In line with the LPS, the SADPD is also, therefore, a 'pre-HS2 Plan'.
- 3.4. The council continues to develop proposals for a Crewe Hub Station anticipating the arrival of HS2 to the town. A new, high quality interchange would be created, reinforcing the role of Crewe as a strategic transport gateway to the north west of England. Related to this, the council is preparing an Area Action Plan (AAP) focused on the area around the future Crewe Hub Station. The AAP is separate to the SADPD and will be supported by its own evidence base and statement of common ground. It will clearly address the land use consequences of HS2, albeit limited to within the geographical area described.
- 3.5. The council is working in partnership to ensure that the wider sub-region benefits from the opportunities that HS2 will bring to the area in terms of sustainable development. The Constellation Partnership³ comprises of two Local Enterprise Partnerships and seven local authorities, including Cheshire

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-to-manchester-route-section-map>

³ <http://constellationpartnership.co.uk/>

East⁴. The Partnership continues to have a dialogue with the Government about longer term sustainable development and infrastructure investment, however, consideration of this falls outside the scope of the SADPD. As noted earlier, other than the work ongoing through the development of the AAP, the implications of HS2 would be considered through a subsequent review of strategic planning policies.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and the evolving plans of other adjacent local authorities

- 3.6. The local authorities within Greater Manchester are working together to prepare a Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. It is a strategic document that sets out how Greater Manchester should develop over the next two decades to 2037. A second (pre-publication) draft of the GMSF was consulted upon in early 2019⁵ with the intention of publishing a final draft Plan and consulting on it mid-2019 prior to submission for examination. Warrington Borough Council has produced and consulted on a publication version of its Local Plan review in the first half of 2019⁶. Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme are currently developing a Joint Local Plan⁷. A Preferred Options consultation took place in early 2018 and a pre-publication draft Plan is expected to be consulted upon towards the end of 2019. Shropshire is undertaking a partial review of its Plan⁸ and commenced a Strategic Sites Consultation in July 2019. Part 2 (Land Allocations and Detailed Policies) of the Cheshire West & Chester Plan is at an advanced stage of preparation. It was concluded by the Inspector in her June 2019 Examination Report that the Plan is sound subject to a number of main modifications being made to it.⁹ It is evident that the scope of plans and plan-making timetables vary significantly amongst Cheshire East's neighbouring authorities. Each of these plans is, or will be, accompanied by its own statement of common ground relevant to what it is proposing.

Development Plan Context

- 3.7. The council's development plan and progress on emerging plans is set out in Table 1 below:

⁴ Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Enterprise Partnership, CE, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Stafford BC, Staffordshire Moorlands DC, Newcastle under Lyme BC, City of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire CC.

⁵ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/gmsf>

⁶ <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/localplan>

⁷ <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/planning/planning-policy/joint-local-plan>

⁸ <https://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-partial-review-2016-2036/>

⁹

http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/policies_plans_and_strategies/planning_policy/local_plan

Table 1: Development plan documents in Cheshire East

Document (see footnotes for web links to these documents)	Stage	Date
Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy 2010 to 2030 ¹⁰	Adopted	July 2017
Saved policies: ¹¹		
Retained Policies from Congleton Borough Local Plan First Review	Adopted	January 2005
Retained Policies from Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Replacement Local Plan	Adopted	February 2005
Retained Policies from Macclesfield Borough Local Plan	Adopted	January 2004
Retained Policies from Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan	Adopted	June 1999
Retained Policies from Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan	Adopted	July 2007
Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) 2010 to 2030 ¹²	Publication Version consultation mid 2019.	N/A
Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document 2010 to 2030 ¹³	Pre-publication draft expected to be consulted on late 2019	N/A
Crewe Station Hub Area Action Plan ¹⁴	Pre-publication draft expected to be consulted on mid 2019.	N/A
Neighbourhood Plans ¹⁵	22 Plans made, as of April 2019	Various

3.8. Cheshire East's up to date strategic planning policies are set out in the Local Plan Strategy ("LPS"). The LPS sets out the overall levels and location of new development across the borough from 2010 to 2030. The Plan was adopted in July 2017 and includes the following strategic priorities:-

- Promoting economic prosperity by creating conditions for business growth.
- Creating sustainable communities, where all members are able to contribute and where the Infrastructure required to support the community is provided.

¹⁰ https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/local-plan-strategy/local_plan_strategy.aspx

¹¹ https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/saved_and_other_policies/saved_and_other_policies.aspx

¹² https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site_allocations_and_policies.aspx

¹³ https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/minerals-and-waste-development-plan-documents.aspx

¹⁴ https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/area-action-plan-for-crewe/area-action-plan-for-crewe.aspx

¹⁵ <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plans/neighbourhood-planning.aspx>

- Protecting and enhancing environmental quality of the built and natural environment.
 - Reducing the need to travel, managing car use and promoting more sustainable modes of transport and improving the road network.
- 3.9. The LPS sets out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development. It is supported by an infrastructure delivery plan and provides the strategic context for the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment in the borough.
- 3.10. Following on from the Local Plan Strategy, the Council is now preparing its Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) and a Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document. These will form the second and third parts of the Local Plan and, once adopted, these will replace all the retained policies in the older, but still extant, local plans (1999 – 2007) listed in Table 1. These older plans were prepared and adopted by the councils that existed prior to local government re-organisation in 2009 and the creation of Cheshire East.
- 3.11. The Crewe Station Hub Area Action Plan (CSHAAP) will set out a planning framework to manage change and support investment and development of Crewe station and the surrounding area associated with the arrival of HS2 rail in Crewe. This CSHAAP will look beyond the LPS and set out policies and proposals for the area immediately around a new HS2 hub station.

Strategic, cross-boundary matters related to the LPS

- 3.12. The LPS was supported by memoranda of understanding and detailed reports setting out areas of agreement on strategic matters and the further collaborative work necessary to address these. This included work related to the planning of transport and infrastructure around the boundary with Greater Manchester, amplified by the work currently in progress on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. It also included further consideration of transport and education (schools provision) planning across the Cheshire East-Newcastle-under-Lyme boundary (mainly with regard to Alsager). This has involved engagement with Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Staffordshire County Council. Appendix 1 provides a short summary of the position of neighbouring local authorities and / or prescribed bodies, in respect of the SADPD and matters requiring further joint work following the adoption of the LPS.

Community Infrastructure Levy (“CIL”)

- 3.13. The council has recently adopted a CIL Charging Schedule. It came into effect on 1st March 2019. The process of preparing a CIL charge for Cheshire East has not identified any cross boundary strategic matters in respect of the provision of infrastructure.

Summary of SADPD Position

- 3.14. The SADPD is a 'daughter' document to the LPS and designed to fulfil two functions. The first is to allocate additional sites to address the remaining development figures set out by the LPS. Importantly, this includes the apportionment of development figures to individual Local Service Centres and the allocation of sites to address these figures. The second is to set out more detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough.

- 3.15. As documented by the responses received in Appendix 1, there are no strategic cross boundary issues that flow from the policies and proposals set out in the SADPD. There is also ongoing engagement with other local authorities related to existing memoranda of understanding put in place to support the Local Plan Strategy.

4. Governance and Management

Governance

- 4.1. The draft Statement of Common Ground has been prepared by officers from the council's Strategic Planning Team and agreed by Cheshire East's Cabinet alongside the approval to consult on the Publication Draft of the SADPD, its Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 4.2. The Strategic Planning Team will take lead responsibility for reviewing and updating the Statement, and for collaborating with other teams and partner organisations. For the avoidance of doubt, this SOCG relates to the SADPD and other DTC SOCGs will be prepared alongside subsequent Development Plan Documents, as required.
- 4.3. This DTC SOCG is being published as a draft document for consideration by, in particular, relevant DTC organisations who will be then invited to sign it, prior to it being submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration by the appointed Inspector at examination.

Review

- 4.4. The SoCG will be formally reviewed and updated, as required, as circumstances change and new development plan documents are prepared.

Working with Partners

- 4.5. Cheshire East Council will continue to work with all relevant organisations to support successful plan-making. These include not just Cheshire East's neighbouring local authorities, but also other organisations with an important role in addressing strategic matters.
- 4.6. In addition to neighbouring councils, the council has engaged with the following "prescribed bodies" in the preparation of the SADPD

- Environment Agency;
- Historic England;
- Natural England;
- Homes England;
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Group(s);
- Highways England;
- Civil Aviation Authority;
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

4.7. The council has also engaged with the following additional ‘specific consultation bodies’

- Utility providers in respect of: Gas; Electric; Sewage; Water; and Telecommunications
- The Coal Authority

4.8. Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships are not subject to the requirements of the duty but in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance the council has engaged them in the preparation of the Plan and has had regard to their activities relevant to local plan-making.

5. Signatories

To be completed during consultation on the Publication Draft SADPD.

6. Appendix 1: Summary of position with adjacent Local Authority or Prescribed bodies.

- 6.1. Adjacent local authorities, prescribed and other bodies (where relevant to do so) have been consulted with at all stages of the development of the Plan (the SADPD) and where appropriate there has been specific engagement and collaboration in the preparation of joint studies and evidence based documents.
- 6.2. Where comments have not been received during formal consultation stages then additional engagement has taken place to confirm the position of neighbouring authorities and relevant prescribed bodies. This included a set of letter(s) sent through March – May 2019 which sought to confirm whether stakeholders felt that the First Draft SADPD gave rise to any new strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. The outcomes of this engagement is briefly summarised In table 2 below:-

Table 2: - Summary of responses to First Draft SADPD	
Local Authority / prescribed bodies	Outcome of DTC engagement
Cheshire West and Chester	<p>Response received to the First Draft SADPD consultation (September / October 2018) confirming that the key strategic matters between the two authorities have been fully addressed through the preparation and adoption of the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies in Cheshire West and the Local Plan Strategy (LPS) in Cheshire East.</p> <p>Additional comments of a technical and non strategic nature received relating to the approach of the First Draft SADPD to Middlewich and policies including GEN 5, ENV 1 and INF 8.</p> <p>In the Report on the Examination of the Cheshire West and Chester Council Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies (June 2019)¹⁶, the Inspector notes that “There is convincing evidence of constructive and ongoing joint working between the two councils on the strategy for development around Middlewich, including housing and employment land, during the preparation of this Plan; a matter that is confirmed by both</p>

¹⁶ Available at http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc_ldf/cw_lp_part_two/sub/

	<p>councils.” (Paragraph 22). Significantly, the Inspector goes on to note that “In any event, the amount of housing and employment land in dispute, in this regard, (roughly 169 homes and 12 hectares (has) of employment land) in the context of the amount of development proposed to be accommodated in Middlewich by Cheshire East in its Local Plan Strategy (Policy PG7 requires in the order of 1950 homes and 75 has of employment land), would not constitute a strategic cross border matter requiring compliance with the DtC.”</p> <p>Following on from the adoption of the Local Plan Strategy, Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East have worked collaboratively regarding the delivery of the proposed Middlewich Eastern Bypass, a key piece of infrastructure to facilitate planned development at Middlewich. An element of the scheme falls within Cheshire West and Chester and the collaborative working has now culminated in the granting of planning permission for this scheme by both councils.</p>
Derbyshire County Council	Response received 14.03.2019 confirming that the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD does not give rise to any new strategic matters that cross the Cheshire East/Derbyshire boundary.
Halton Borough Council	Response received 10.04.2019 confirming that the draft SADPD does not raise any strategic issues likely to affect Halton.
High Peak Borough Council	Response received 18.03.2019 confirming that the SADPD (August 2018) does not give rise to any new strategic matters under the Duty to Co-operate
Manchester City Council	Response received 01.04.2019 confirming that the SADPD does not give rise to any additional issues of a strategic cross boundary nature. Additional comment of a technical nature made regarding policy ENV 9 (Wind Energy).
Trafford Council	Response received 21.03.2019 confirming that the SADPD does not give rise to any new strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Response received 26.04.2019 confirming that that GMCA does not consider that the Cheshire East SADPD gives rise to any new strategic cross-boundary issues from a Greater Manchester perspective
Peak District National Park Authority	Response received 01.04.2019 stating that the authority has no specific concerns with the proposals in the SADPD, however it would ask that robust protection is given to the setting of the National Park and that there is a duty on all public bodies when making

	decisions likely to affect the National Park, and the setting of a National Park, to have regard to the purposes for which national parks were designated, namely the conservation of wildlife, cultural heritage, and natural beauty.
Shropshire Council	Response received 01.04.2019 noting that the Local Plan Strategy which was adopted in 2017 contains the strategic planning policies and strategic site allocations and it is the purpose of the Draft SADPD to provide detailed policies and further, smaller, non-strategic allocations. Having considered the Draft SADPD, Shropshire Council does not consider that the proposals within it will create any significant cross border strategic issues with Shropshire Council.
Staffordshire County Council	<p>Response received 28.03.2019 confirming that the SADPD does not give rise to any new strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the LPS there were a series of cross boundary issues identified and mechanisms to address these were set out in both the Plan and a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the authorities. The Joint Local Plan for Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme is now progressing and Staffordshire County Council will therefore need to further enact the MoU, particularly around education and transport infrastructure. Ongoing engagement on these matters is and will need to continue.</p>
Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council	Response received 18.03.2019 confirming that the SADPD (August 2018) does not give rise to any new strategic matters under the Duty to Co-operate
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	<p>Response received 09.05.2019 confirming that that having checked the proposed allocations and associated policies, Stockport Council does not intend to make specific comment on any of those matters at this stage. The proposed allocations which are in broad proximity to Stockport's boundary, or which might affect Stockport, are sites of which the Council was already aware as a result of the LPS. The comments that were made by the Council at that time in relation to those sites were addressed through the examination of the LPS.</p> <p>Stockport Council is conscious of the ongoing cross-boundary issues which exist in relation to proposed developments in both the 'Site Allocations' and 'Local Plan Strategy' documents, particularly in relation to transport matters. It is the intention to continue</p>

	working with Cheshire East on these matters through the development of all planning documents relating to both Cheshire East and Stockport.
Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council	<p>Response received 03.04.2019 confirming that whilst the SADPD does not give rise to any new strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries there is recognition that there are existing cross boundary issues which remain from the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy and will require further collaboration. This has been flagged up through Duty to Co-operate meetings.</p> <p>There were a series of cross boundary issues identified in the LPS and mechanisms to address these were set out in both the Plan and a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between authorities and Staffordshire County Council, particularly concerning highways and transport issues.</p> <p>The Joint Local Plan for Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme is progressing and is at a point where transport modelling is being undertaken. It is important to ensure that the transport modelling correctly recognises the cross boundary issues already flagged up through the MOU for the Cheshire East Local Plan and that these are addressed jointly. Ongoing engagement on these matters is and will need to continue.</p>
Warrington Borough Council	Response received 28.03.2019 confirming that the Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document does not give rise to any new strategic matters that cross our administrative boundaries.
Environment Agency	Response received 29.04.2019 confirming that having reviewed the first draft of the SADPD and they have not identified any new strategic matters resulting from the first draft of the SADPD.
Historic England	Response received 08.05.2019 confirming that they do not consider that there are any strategic matters as set out in S110 of the Localism Act 2011 which affect the historic environment. However, bearing in mind that the Duty to cooperate is an ongoing process, hope that, should any strategic matters arise which would affect the historic environment of the area; Historic England will be able to continue to work closely with the Council.
Natural England	Response received 18.06.2019 stating that Natural England confirmed that they do not consider that the Cheshire East Site Allocations Development Policies Draft Plan gives rise to any new strategic matters.
Civil Aviation Authority	Response received 30.04.2019 - No comment to make

Homes England	Response received 14.06.2019 stating that Homes England submitted a response to the draft SADPD on 19.10.18. This addressed technical, site specific points where Homes England have an active land interest rather than any strategic, plan-wide matters which are for the local authority to determine, based on appropriate and available evidence
South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group	Response received 07.05.2019 stating that NHS South Cheshire CCG has reviewed the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document. The CCG is supportive of the changes made within the document, but with the points raised that additional housing will create pressure on both Primary Care and Acute services within the CCG area. The pressure on Primary Care is significant both from physical 'premise capacity' to the pressures on clinical staffing. The CCG would welcome advance notice of new housing developments in the area and continued interoperability with the local authority in the process of obtaining additional funds that will assist with the pressures mentioned above.
Highways England	<p>Response received 10.06.2019 stating that based on the additional information provided for the Recipharm site (Site HCH1), it is concluded that the site expansion in isolation is not of a significant scale that it would result in an impact to the operation and safety of the Strategic Road Network ("SRN") (namely M6 Junction 18). Notwithstanding, it would be expected that Highways England is consulted at the pre-application scoping stage should the site be progressed in the future, with appropriate assessment determined at this time. Highways England therefore maintains that, based on the available evidence, there are no individual sites that should not be progressed to the next stage of consultation on the SADPD based on their anticipated impacts on the capacity and safety of the SRN.</p> <p>Through the correspondence with CEC to date, Highways England is aware that a strategic model of the borough does not currently exist and therefore it is not possible to assess the traffic impacts on a borough-wide scale at this stage. Nevertheless, we recommend that during the life of the Local Plan a Transport Study is undertaken in order to monitor the performance of the individual SRN junctions as the development sites come forward.</p> <p>Updated transport evidence undertaken at suitable mid-point(s) of the Local Plan would enable the performance of these junctions to be monitored and for the effects of these schemes, combined with development sites coming forward, to be better understood by both parties.</p>

Cheshire Region Local Nature Partnership	<p>Response received 18.06.2019. The Local Nature Partnership (LNP) recognises that the SADPD policies add detail to the strategic policies of the LPS including those that relate to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. The LNP do not consider that there are any new or additional strategic cross boundary matters arising through the policies and proposals of the SADPD.</p> <p>Suggest that consideration is given to highlighting the role of the ecological framework in both targeting net gain and safeguarding existing ecological assets in future policy. Referencing Northern Forest will also help to highlight opportunities that this initiative may provide for the borough.</p> <p>Welcome the inclusion of net gain and natural flood management as key considerations and these are certainly cross boundary issues that will need future coordination.</p>
Cheshire Local Enterprise Partnership	<p>Response received 28.06.2019. The Local Enterprise Partnership confirms that from a LEP perspective, the Local Plan is consistent with the ambitions of the LEP's Economic Plan and that the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document does not give appear to give rise to any new strategic matters.</p>