

Central Lincolnshire Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate

March 2022



Contents

1. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.....	3
2. Introduction to the Duty to Cooperate	3
2.1. Duty to Cooperate	3
2.2. Duty to Cooperate Legal Requirement	4
2.3. Central Lincolnshire – A Shared Approach	4
2.4. Parties Involved for Central Lincolnshire	5
3. Strategic Context.....	7
3.1. Strategic Geography	7
3.2. Central Lincolnshire Joint Working	10
3.3. Wider Engagement	10
4. Strategic Matters	11
4.1. Strategic Priorities of the Local Plan	11
4.2. Meeting housing need	12
4.3. Scale and location of new housing	13
4.4. Meeting gypsy and traveller need.....	13
4.5. Meeting employment needs with the necessary scale and location of employment land	14
4.6. Maintaining the vitality of the City and Town Centres in Central Lincs/ relationship with retail strategies of adjacent authorities	15
4.7. Meeting the needs of strategic leisure/ tourism provision.....	15
4.8. Meeting transport infrastructure needs	16
4.9. Meeting minerals and waste management needs.....	16
4.10. Managing water quality and flood risk.....	17
4.11. Managing water supply and wastewater needs.....	18
4.12. Meeting energy needs and renewable energy generation.....	19
4.13. Meeting primary and community health care needs	20
4.14. Meeting education needs	20
4.15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	20
4.16. Conserving and enhancing the built and historic environment.....	21
5. Conclusion.....	21

1. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

- 1.1. The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) is reviewing the joint Local Plan for the Central Lincolnshire area. The Local Plan sets out the framework for how development proposals will be considered across the districts of City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey to 2040 and, when adopted, will replace the current Central Lincolnshire Local Plan adopted in 2017.
- 1.2. This statement seeks to demonstrate how the CLJSPC has complied with the 'Duty to Cooperate' in preparing the Local Plan.

2. Introduction to the Duty to Cooperate

2.1. Duty to Cooperate

- 2.1.1. The Localism Act 2011 places a statutory duty on local planning authorities and other specified bodies to cooperate with each other (the 'duty to cooperate') to address strategic cross boundary issues relevant to their area during the preparation of a development plan. Section 33A, part 4 of the Act defines these 'strategic matters' as:
 - a) *sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and*
 - b) *sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use—*
 - (i) *is a county matter, or*
 - (ii) *has or would have a significant impact on a county matter*
- 2.1.2. The duty to cooperate is not a duty to agree, but local planning authorities should make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters before submitting their Local Plans for examination. At examination, local planning authorities must demonstrate how they have complied with the duty.
- 2.1.3. A Statement of Common Ground is a written record of the progress made during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It documents where effective co-operation is and is not happening throughout the plan-making process and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries. For the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, as a local planning authority, it also forms

part of the evidence required to demonstrate that we have complied with the duty to cooperate.

- 2.1.4. The approach taken in preparing this statement is in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and it demonstrates how the obligations have been met in relation to the duty. It identifies the key strategic and cross-boundary issues and the joint working that has been pursued throughout the preparation of the Local Plan to address these issues.
- 2.1.5. Whilst dialogue and co-operation remain ongoing, this statement sets out the activities that have taken place in the plan process and the situation at the point of publishing the plan for its proposed submission consultation in relation to strategic and cross-boundary matters.

2.2. Duty to Cooperate Legal Requirement

- 2.2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021) sets out the requirements for “maintaining effective cooperation”. Paragraphs 24 to 27 state that “local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries” and that “strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans.”
- 2.2.2. Paragraphs 20 to 23 of the NPPF, whilst not exhaustive, set out the strategic matters that policies should make provision for and for which cooperation is required for cross-boundary matters. These are:
 - a) Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - b) Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - c) Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
 - d) Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2.3. Central Lincolnshire – A Shared Approach

- 2.3.1. Planning Policy Guidance states that two or more local planning authorities agreeing to prepare a joint local plan can be an effective way of addressing cross-boundary issues and is enabled by section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 2.3.2. The City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council have had a long history of partnership working along with Lincolnshire County Council, particularly on planning-related matters. The relationship between the four authorities evolved in response to the particular issues caused by the City of Lincoln's tight administrative boundary and the close interrelationship between the City and its wider built up area and surrounding villages and has strengthened over time.
- 2.3.3. This joint working on planning-related matters was formalised in 2009/ 2010 when the three District Councils came together with Lincolnshire County Council to prepare a joint Central Lincolnshire Local Plan for the area. Preparation of the Local Plan is the responsibility of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee which was established by Parliamentary Order in 2009 and consists of elected representatives from each of the four partner Councils and has full decision-making powers on planning policy matters. The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is supported by officers in the Local Plan Team which was established in May 2010.
- 2.3.4. The partner authorities are committed to effective working across all functions as they relate to land use planning and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, co-operating on a number of strategic and non-strategic matters.

2.4. Parties Involved for Central Lincolnshire

- 2.4.1. In preparing the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the Local Plan Team have worked closely with other departments and services within the three districts that are partner authorities for the Central Lincolnshire area and with Lincolnshire County Council. Although the Local Plan covers the three administrative areas, each district retains its own development management function as well as other district functions and have therefore been included in the list.
- 2.4.2. Lincolnshire County Council is a partner authority with members who also sit on the CLJSPC but it covers a much larger area than Central Lincolnshire and the authority is responsible for numerous other services and functions and have therefore been included in the list.
- 2.4.3. All neighbouring districts, county councils, unitary authorities and prescribed bodies have been included in the list as well as other relevant bodies within the Central Lincolnshire area, listed in Table 1.

Table 1: List of Duty to Cooperate Partners for Central Lincolnshire

Category	Organisation
Central Lincolnshire Authorities (partner authorities)	City of Lincoln Council North Kesteven District Council West Lindsey District Council
County Council (Partner authority)	Lincolnshire County Council
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Bassetlaw District Council Boston Borough Council East Lindsey District Council Newark & Sherwood District Council North East Lincolnshire Council (unitary) North Lincolnshire Council (unitary) South Holland District Council South Kesteven District Council Nottinghamshire County Council
Other Prescribed Bodies	Civil Aviation Authority Environment Agency Historic England Homes England Lincolnshire CCG (or subsequent organisation) on behalf of the Lincolnshire NHS system Marine Management Organisation National Highways Natural England Office of Rail and Road

2.4.4. It is important to note that there are other bodies, not prescribed by national policy or legislation, that have been closely engaged throughout the Local Plan process and have been involved in the development of the Statement of Common Ground to maximise the effectiveness of preparing the Local Plan. These bodies are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: List of additional bodies included in the Statement of Common Ground

Anglian Water Canal and River Trust Coal Authority Department for Education East Midlands Council Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) Heritage Lincolnshire Internal Drainage Boards (Black Sluice, Upper Witham, Witham 1 st , Witham 3 rd & Shire Group) Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Partnership Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Trust Lincolnshire Rivers Trust Lincolnshire PCC/ Lincolnshire Police

Lincolnshire Showground Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service Market Rasen Racecourse (The Jockey Club) MoD/ RAF National Grid/ Energy Companies National Trust Network Rail Nottinghamshire PCC Severn Trent Water Sport England Sustrans
--

3. Strategic Context

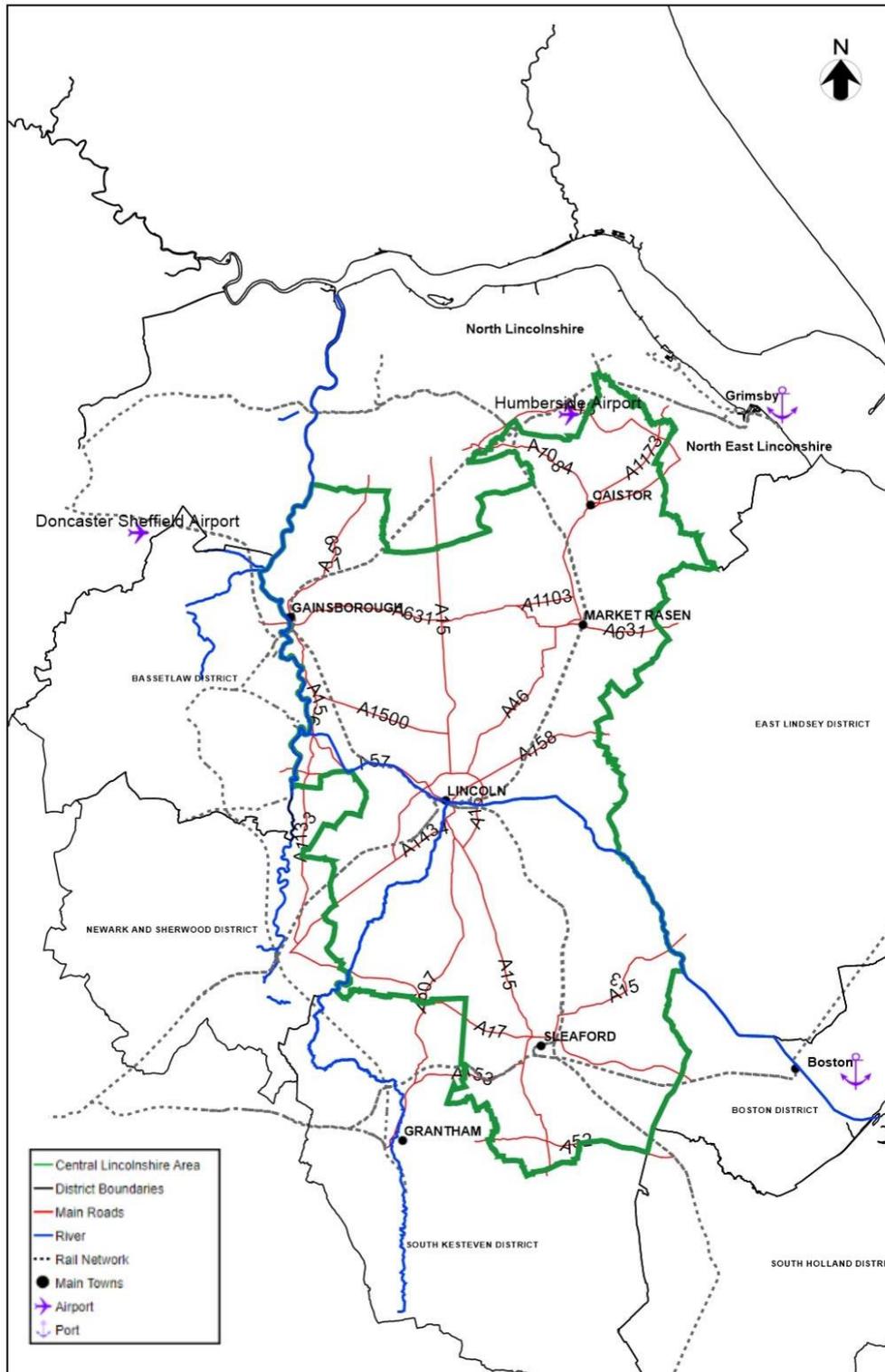
3.1. Strategic Geography

- 3.1.1. Central Lincolnshire is situated within the East Midlands region and consists of the administrative areas of City of Lincoln Council, with North Kesteven District Council to the south and West Lindsey District Council to the north. The local planning authorities that share boundaries with Central Lincolnshire are East Lindsey and Boston Borough to the east and South Kesteven and South Holland to the south, all of which are in the Lincolnshire County Council administrative area. The unitary authorities of North Lincolnshire are to the north and North East Lincolnshire to the north east. The Nottinghamshire districts of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood are to the west.
- 3.1.2. Lincoln along with the adjoining settlement of North Hykeham forms the largest built up area in Central Lincolnshire and has experienced high levels of housing development and regeneration in recent years, particularly focussed around the fairly new and still expanding Lincoln University, new transport hub and the Cornhill area of the City. The greater Lincoln area acts as a service centre for a much wider area with several large villages such as Welton, Saxilby, Skellingthorpe and Washingborough looking to Lincoln for most of their service and employment needs.
- 3.1.3. Beyond Lincoln, the main towns in the area are Gainsborough to the north on the eastern bank of the River Trent and Sleaford to the south. The rest of Central Lincolnshire is predominantly rural and is characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern of villages plus the small market towns of Market Rasen and Caistor in the north east of West Lindsey District. Collectively, the rural area accounts for over half of Central Lincolnshire's total population and the rural villages often operate as clusters that share key services, with the larger villages acting as local service centres that communities rely on for basic facilities and as social hubs. Although there is some overlap with adjacent areas, there is a strong relationship between the

three Central Lincolnshire districts who operate as a single housing market area

- 3.1.4. Central Lincolnshire has strong economic and service linkages with the surrounding areas, including Scunthorpe and Grimsby in the Humber area to the north, Doncaster to the north-west, Nottingham to the west, and the smaller nearby service centres including Grantham, Newark and Louth.
- 3.1.5. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) continues to have a strong presence in the area with a number of currently active as well as former bases and is home to the Red Arrows and International Bomber Command Centre.
- 3.1.6. Central Lincolnshire has a varied natural environment and includes part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with its rolling hills and nestled villages and an escarpment of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone, a distinctive topographical feature, running north-south along its full length, known locally as the Lincoln Edge.

Fig 1: Central Lincolnshire



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 10 January 2022. OS Licence No. 100017926. You are granted a non-exclusive, royalty free, revocable licence solely to view the Licensed Data for non-commercial purposes for the period during which North Kesteven District Council makes it available. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute, sell or otherwise make available the Licensed Data to third parties in any form. Third party rights to enforce the terms of this licence shall be reserved to OS.

3.2. Central Lincolnshire Joint Working

- 3.2.1. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team has a strong relationship with and engages regularly with officers and Members from the City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council, West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The Heads of Planning from each of the four authorities and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team generally meet at least monthly, while the Central Lincolnshire Strategic Group consisting of Chief Executives or other Chief Officers meets every one or two months and the Joint Strategic Planning Committee meets approximately every three months. All meetings occur less often or more often with ad hoc meetings with any officers and Members occurring as required to discuss specific issues as they arise.
- 3.2.2. To support the production of the joint Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the Joint Committee and officers have undertaken and commissioned several Central Lincolnshire wide studies including, but not limited to:
- Central Lincolnshire Housing Needs Assessment (HNA);
 - Economic Needs Assessment update (ENA);
 - Central Lincolnshire Energy Study and climate change evidence base;
 - City and Town Centre Study;
 - Water Cycle Study;
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
 - Green Infrastructure Study;
 - Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping;
 - Open Space Audit and Provision Standard Assessment;
 - Quantitative Playing Pitch Needs Assessment;
 - Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Study;
 - Transport Modelling; and
 - Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.
- 3.2.3. Further studies and joint work continue to be commissioned and are undertaken across the Central Lincolnshire area as and when required.

3.3. Wider Engagement

- 3.3.1. All neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies as well as other relevant bodies have been contacted throughout the Local Plan review process. Each were contacted during the Issues and Options consultation from 6th June till 18th July 2019. Their comments were taken into consideration when drafting the Draft Local Plan and comments made and issues raised formed the basis for targeted Duty to Cooperate engagement.
- 3.3.2. Targeted Duty to Cooperate Engagement took place between April and June 2021 where a table was circulate outlining potential strategic matters,

organisations that may be directly involved in the matter, what evidence would be used to inform decisions and discussions on the matter, the suggested approach to overcome or manage the matter and how the matter could be monitored. Comments and suggestions were noted, incorporated into the table and prompted further discussions as necessary.

- 3.3.3. Each of the neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies and other relevant bodies were contacted again during the Draft Local Plan consultation from 30th June till 24th August 2021. Their comments were taken into consideration when drafting the Proposed Submission Local Plan and any comments made and issues raised formed the basis for further targeted Duty to Cooperate engagement.
- 3.3.4. A list of the strategic matters was taken from paragraphs 20 to 23 of the NPPF as listed above. These strategic, cross boundary matters were then discussed and agreed with the relevant organisations engaged, the list of evidence referred to agreed with them, as was the approach to be taken, actions and means of monitoring the matter and outcomes.

4. Strategic Matters

4.1. Strategic Priorities of the Local Plan

- 4.1.1. Section 1.3 of the Local Plan defines the Strategic Priorities for development and use of land in Central Lincolnshire as follows:

NPPF Strategic Priorities	Local Planning Authority Strategic Priorities
Housing and Jobs	<p>To facilitate the delivery in full of the homes and jobs identified as being needed in Central Lincolnshire.</p> <p>To deliver a balanced mix of tenures, types and sizes of new homes, including affordable homes of a type and tenure which meet identified needs.</p> <p>To continue to drive economic growth across Central Lincolnshire.</p>
Retail	<p>Lincoln City Centre to continue to provide the primary destination for shopping and leisure for the area.</p> <p>Gainsborough, Sleaford and the Market Towns will continue to provide a local destination for the surrounding local areas.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>Ensure necessary infrastructure is in place to support planned growth, secured through the most appropriate methods and update the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).</p>
Health and Community	<p>To provide safe and healthy environments, reduce health inequalities and help everyone live healthy lifestyles.</p>

The Historic, Built and Natural Environment	To conserve and where possible enhance the natural, built and historic environment through high quality design that is responsive to its surroundings creating distinctive communities that people are proud to be part of.
Climate Change	To help facilitate a carbon net zero Central Lincolnshire. To reduce and manage flood risk, improve community resilience and ensure that Central Lincolnshire adapts to climate change. To minimise the impact of growth of Central Lincolnshire, ensuring that development is sustainable, designed to allow for active travel connectivity and high levels of energy efficiency.
Green Infrastructure	To increase the green infrastructure network to improve sustainable access and achieve biodiversity net gain as part of an enhanced natural environment.

4.1.2. The key matters, cross-boundary and strategic issues and resolutions from these strategic priorities are summarised below:

4.2. Meeting housing need

4.2.1. Central Lincolnshire operates as a largely self-contained housing market area. The Central Lincolnshire Housing Needs Assessment sets out the housing requirement for the area as a range of 1,060 – 1,325 dwellings per year for the Local Plan period (2018 to 2040). Central Lincolnshire intends to meet the full housing requirement at the top end of this range through allocations within its own area and does not need neighbouring authorities to assist in meeting this need. The identification and assessment of these sites has been undertaken in regular ongoing communication with the Central Lincolnshire districts and Lincolnshire County Council. Through e-mail correspondence or meetings with neighbouring authorities it has been stated that Central Lincolnshire will meet its own housing needs and adjacent authorities have either stated that they intend to meet their own needs or have not indicated that they require Central Lincolnshire to meet any of their needs. All neighbouring authorities have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so.

4.2.2. There are no strategic cross boundary issues with neighbouring authorities outside of Central Lincolnshire in relation to meeting housing need at this time, but this will be regularly monitored.

4.3. Scale and location of new housing

- 4.3.1. Central Lincolnshire intends to largely retain the existing settlement hierarchy and approach to growth in the adopted 2017 Local Plan in allocating land to meet its housing need. It is intended to focus most proposed development around Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford with appropriate, proportionate levels of growth elsewhere subject to the character and capacity of the settlement. Substantial development outside of existing distribution patterns is not proposed and non-strategic infrastructure needs generated by proposed housing growth is expected to be met within Central Lincolnshire. However, some impact on strategic infrastructure such as transport, education, health, water supply and wastewater, telecommunications and green infrastructure, may cross administrative boundaries. This approach has been developed and agreed through ongoing regular communication with the Central Lincolnshire Districts and Lincolnshire County Council.
- 4.3.2. It is intended to continue to liaise and share information with neighbouring authorities and appropriate organisations such as National Highways, the EA, Lincs CCG (or subsequent organisation) on behalf of the Lincs NHS System, Natural England, Historic England, and any other organisations, as appropriate, as any issues or matters are brought to light and to take into account the plans and/ or strategies that they have produced.
- 4.3.3. The close working relationship with Lincolnshire County Council, particularly in relation to their functions as education authority, highways authority, lead local flood authority and minerals and waste authority, will also ensure that cross boundary issues are raised and addressed through their functions and links to adjacent authorities, Department for Education, National Highways working groups and partnerships. Through this connection no strategic cross boundary issues have been identified at this time. This will be kept under review, particularly if a strategic, cross boundary issue is identified that requires further discussion.
- 4.3.4. Work on specific infrastructure requirements are covered under separate matter headings.
- 4.3.5. No issues have been raised by Duty to Cooperate bodies on the scale and location of housing proposed in the Local Plan.

4.4. Meeting gypsy and traveller need

- 4.4.1. A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was undertaken in 2020 to review the needs of the gypsy and traveller community across Central Lincolnshire in accordance with the National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015). It concluded that there was no evidence of need for travelling showpeople accommodation in the plan period but there was a need for transit provision with negotiated stopping places with provision of services

such as waste disposal and toilets. It also identified the need for additional permanent pitches from 2019 to 2040, broken down into five-year periods. The assessment concluded that need to 2024 had been met with four surplus pitches, an additional 10 pitches would be required for 2024 to 2029, 11 for 2029 to 2034 and 15 from 2034 to 2040. Central Lincolnshire intends to meet this need within its own boundaries and does not require neighbouring authorities to assist at this time. Central Lincolnshire has contacted all neighbouring authorities who have not informed us that they require our assistance to meet any of their identified need. No strategic cross boundary issues have been identified with neighbouring authorities in relation to meeting gypsy and traveller need.

- 4.4.2. All neighbouring authorities have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so.

4.5. Meeting employment needs with the necessary scale and location of employment land

- 4.5.1. An Economic Needs Assessment (ENA) update was completed in March 2020 identifying a need for 6.5ha of land for office space, 4.3ha for warehouse space and 0.9ha of industrial land in order to meet employment needs over the plan period.
- 4.5.2. The 2017 Local Plan allocated over 111ha of employment land across seven Strategic Employment Sites (SEs) with an additional 51ha expected to come forward as part of the proposed Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) around Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford. This far exceeded predicted need and whilst development has taken place on some of the sites, more than 90ha of previously allocated land remains undeveloped. Central Lincolnshire's strategy and distribution of growth remains broadly the same as in the adopted Local Plan, focussing on the main urban and most populated areas whilst allowing for a proportionate and appropriate scale of growth elsewhere. The scale and location of the existing identified sites offer sufficient land with choice and flexibility for the plan period without the need to allocate any new employment sites which would not be effective or justified.
- 4.5.3. Central Lincolnshire, its partner authorities and other bodies that work closely with us on cross boundary matters liaise regularly with the GLLEP in partnership groups and meetings. The Local Plan has also been informed by evidence and strategies developed by the GLLEP and so there is expected to be synergy between the plan and the GLLEP work. This helps to ensure that the Local Plan policies are aligned to those in neighbouring areas and other strategies for the area.
- 4.5.4. Central Lincolnshire will continue to liaise with appropriate neighbouring authorities and infrastructure providers to ensure that as permissions come

forward on allocated sites, any matters arising such as the delivery of infrastructure to meet needs are addressed appropriately as they occur.

- 4.5.5. As part of the ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities, the proposed strategic Apleyhead logistics employment site is being discussed with Bassetlaw District Council. The Bassetlaw A1 Corridor Logistics Assessment (2021) identified the need for a sub-regional and regional logistics site in the plan period to serve the M1/ A1 corridor and the Bassetlaw Local Plan proposes to allocate 118.7ha of land at Apleyhead on the junction of the A1 and A57, to the east of Worksop. Cross boundary impacts and opportunities and any infrastructure implications form part of these ongoing discussions and emerging Statement of Common Ground being prepared by Bassetlaw District Council.
- 4.5.6. No issues have been raised by Duty to Cooperate partners on the approach to employment in the Local Plan.

4.6. [Maintaining the vitality of the City and Town Centres in Central Lincs/ relationship with retail strategies of adjacent authorities](#)

- 4.6.1. Despite recent challenges faced by the retail sector, Lincoln continues to perform well and the remaining centres, whilst experiencing some leakage continue to perform relatively well, serving the local community and providing a focus for commercial, business and service uses. This is supported in the Economic Needs Assessment (2020) which highlighted that whilst jobs in the retail sector are anticipated to reduce overall in Central Lincolnshire, job growth in the accommodation and food services sector and the arts, entertainment, recreation and other services sector would increase substantially.
- 4.6.2. Outside of Lincoln there are a number of town centres that have more localised roles, particularly those in Gainsborough, Sleaford, Market Rasen and Caistor. These centres play an important role for their rural hinterland but do experience leakage to other larger centres such as Grantham, Louth, Scunthorpe, Lincoln and more.
- 4.6.3. It is intended to largely retain and strengthen the existing retail hierarchy within Central Lincolnshire with no significant additional retail facilities proposed and no retail issues have been raised by adjacent authorities. All neighbouring authorities have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so and have not indicated there are any issues with the policies in the Local Plan.

4.7. [Meeting the needs of strategic leisure/ tourism provision](#)

- 4.7.1. At the heart of Central Lincolnshire is the historic City of Lincoln with its cathedral and castle with a number of other significant visitor attractions and

events such as the Lincoln Christmas Market. Across Central Lincolnshire there is also the Lincolnshire Showground, Market Rasen Racecourse, aviation attractions including International Bomber Command, Gainsborough Old Hall, the National Centre for Craft and Design (the Hub), attractive market towns, villages and open countryside. This includes the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which is covered separately.

- 4.7.2. It is intended to maintain and strengthen existing strategic leisure and tourism provision across Central Lincolnshire with no significant new cross boundary impact anticipated. All neighbouring authorities have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so and have not indicated any concerns with the tourism policies in the Local Plan.

4.8. Meeting transport infrastructure needs

- 4.8.1. Central Lincolnshire works closely with its partner, Lincolnshire County Council as highway authority and with National Highways.
- 4.8.2. Further discussions have taken place with National Highways on transport evidence and modelling and cross boundary infrastructure improvements and issues. These discussions have highlighted that further detailed discussions may be needed as development takes place along the route of the A46, but have confirmed that National Highways are content with the evidence underpinning the plan and its allocations and for this to be kept under review as proposals come forward on a site basis.
- 4.8.3. Central Lincolnshire's close working relationship with Lincolnshire County Council as highways authority and ongoing liaison with National Highways provides access to transport working groups and partnerships and discussions with adjacent authorities. Therefore, opportunities are provided through various means for any strategic cross boundary issues to be highlighted and further discussions held with additional organisations as necessary. For example, the A46 is being reviewed as part of the Midlands Connect project.
- 4.8.4. All neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so and have not raised any objections to the approach in the Local Plan.

4.9. Meeting minerals and waste management needs

- 4.9.1. Central Lincolnshire forms part of the Lincolnshire County Council minerals and waste authority area. Lincolnshire County Council is an active partner in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and through its liaison with and

participation in minerals and waste groups, provides a link to cross boundary matters with other Lincolnshire district authorities and adjacent minerals and waste authorities. Lincolnshire County Council liaise with Central Lincolnshire on their Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Mineral Local Plan.

- 4.9.2. The Central Lincolnshire Committee does not believe there to be any significant cross boundary issues, but it is noted that Lincolnshire County Council does not agree to the inclusion of Policy S19: Fossil Fuel Exploration, Extraction, Production or Energy Generation in the Regulation 19 draft of the Local Plan. The policy was adjusted following the Regulation 18 consultation and Lincolnshire County Council comments in an effort to ensure that the policy set out the stance of the Committee without co-opting individual councils into a position, but Lincolnshire County Council has maintained its standing objection to any such policy. However, the Committee has confirmed that this is a key element of achieving climate change goals for the plan, so agreement has not been possible in this matter.

4.10. Managing water quality and flood risk

- 4.10.1. Parts of Central Lincolnshire including parts of Lincoln City and our main towns and villages are within flood zones 2 and 3. Central Lincolnshire has worked closely with the EA, IDBs, Lincolnshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority and Anglian Water on the development of Local Plan policies, SFRA and site specific mitigation as appropriate. Central Lincolnshire continues to be involved in the preparation and implementation of a number of other water quality and flood risk documents such as the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy, Greater Lincolnshire Water Management Plan and the emerging Humber 2100+ Strategy. Central Lincolnshire also engage regularly with a number of multi organisational groups when producing the Central Lincolnshire Water Cycle Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and participate in the Flood Risk and Drainage Management Groups hosted by Lincolnshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 4.10.2. It is intended to continue to liaise closely with the EA, IDB's, Lincolnshire County Council as LLFA, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water, and neighbouring authorities and to liaise with other relevant organisations and bodies such as the Marine Management Organisation and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. Many of these bodies cover areas wider than Central Lincolnshire with a catchment and river basin approach which ensures that cross boundary matters are approached and addressed appropriately.
- 4.10.3. Further discussions with the Environment Agency on details of the SFRA and supporting evidence, the approach to flood risk for windfall sites and

suggested mitigation for proposed allocations have taken place. The essential requirements for additional information and amendments were agreed and further advice given. The relevant documents have been revised and support the Regulation 19 consultation. Amendments to relevant policies in the draft Local Plan have been made in accordance with the Environment Agency's comments at the Regulation 18 stage.

- 4.10.4. Further discussions have taken place with Newark and Sherwood District Council about growth options to the south west of Lincoln, particularly how drainage and flood risk around the village of Girton may be affected and it is agreed that this will be kept under review through ongoing engagement.
- 4.10.5. All neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies and other relevant bodies have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so.

4.11. Managing water supply and wastewater needs

- 4.11.1. Central Lincolnshire lies within the East Midlands area of serious water stress where drought is a cause for concern. This is a major challenge in the context of Central Lincolnshire's planned growth and will require careful conservation and management of water resources to ensure that demand for water can be achieved in a sustainable manner. It also provides the justification to require, via this Local Plan, the higher water efficiency standard of 110 litres per day and for water re-use measures to be encouraged wherever feasible in order to reduce consumption and demand on the mains water supply further.
- 4.11.2. The Central Lincolnshire authorities work closely with water companies, the EA and other relevant bodies to ensure that infrastructure improvements to manage increased wastewater and sewage effluent produced by new development are delivered in a timely manner, and to ensure that, as required by the Water Framework Directive, there is no deterioration to water quality and the environment.
- 4.11.3. It is intended to continue to work with these organisations and bodies to ensure that strategic, cross boundary water supply and wastewater needs are met and to continue to contribute as required to plans and strategies that they produce.
- 4.11.4. All neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies and other relevant bodies have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so.

4.12. Meeting energy needs and renewable energy generation

- 4.12.1. As a response to climate change and the 'climate emergency' the country is seeking to transition towards a low carbon future. Central Lincolnshire has therefore commissioned work to look at how the Local Plan can put forward land use policies to contribute towards achieving this. Many of the policies are suggesting local, development specific changes aimed at reducing energy consumption, however, others such as those aimed at protecting carbon sinks and those to support appropriate large-scale renewable energy may have strategic, cross boundary implications.
- 4.12.2. Information and evidence has been shared with neighbouring authorities and other relevant organisations as Central Lincolnshire responds to evolving government guidance and develops policies in this area.
- 4.12.3. In terms of renewable energy generation, particularly as it relates to large scale wind turbines, the approach being taken by Central Lincolnshire is to identify areas suitable in principle for such development. In order to identify suitable areas strategic level constraints have been identified and mapped, some of which extend beyond Central Lincolnshire's administrative boundaries such as 5km from airfields and airports, and a 2km buffer around named settlements within Central Lincolnshire and similar settlements in the districts immediately adjacent. The overall methodology employed and identified areas has been discussed with neighbouring authorities with no substantive concerns being raised.
- 4.12.4. Lincolnshire County Council adopted a Wind Energy Position Statement in 2012 and reaffirmed this position in 2021. The approach in the Local Plan has used a lot of the criteria in this Wind Energy Position Statement to identify the locations suitable in principle for large scale wind turbines, with other elements of the statement to be considered at application stage. Lincolnshire County Council object to this position and continue to oppose all but small-scale wind turbines, however, the position in the Local Plan policy is supported by the three Central Lincolnshire Districts as an important element of ensuring that Central Lincolnshire can achieve carbon net zero status.
- 4.12.5. The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee continues to be committed to delivering a Local Plan that is aligned to delivering a net zero carbon Central Lincolnshire and this policy is an important part of this wider goal. It is also considered that this policy is aligned to the County Council's own position statement, albeit some considerations are expected to be considered at application stage rather than during the mapping exercise. It is therefore clear that agreement cannot be reached with Lincolnshire County Council on this matter. Neighbouring authorities were consulted specifically on this methodology and no issues or concerns were raised.

4.13. Meeting primary and community health care needs

- 4.13.1. There is ongoing discussion with health care providers and others to ensure the consideration of health and well-being. As well as discussion with Lincolnshire CCG (or subsequent organisation) on behalf of the Lincolnshire NHS system.
- 4.13.2. It is intended to continue to share information and liaise with relevant bodies and neighbouring authorities as appropriate.
- 4.13.3. All neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so and have not raised any concerns with the approach in the Local Plan.

4.14. Meeting education needs

- 4.14.1. Central Lincolnshire is part of the Lincolnshire County Council education authority area. Lincolnshire County Council is an active partner in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and there is regular ongoing liaison with their education team. Through Lincolnshire County Council's liaison with neighbouring education authorities, they provide a link for cross boundary matters with other Lincolnshire district authorities and adjacent education authorities. There are not known to be any significant, cross boundary issues.

4.15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

- 4.15.1. Central Lincolnshire applied consideration of blue/ green infrastructure and biodiversity opportunity mapping in the site allocations and planning application process and the intention is for net gains to be maximised and delivered efficiently. There has been ongoing engagement with Natural England, Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, EA, Anglian Water, the Canal and Rivers Trust and others throughout the development of the Local Plan direction and policies and their comments and suggestions taken into account.
- 4.15.2. It is intended to continue to share information and liaise with relevant bodies, particularly the GLNP and adjacent authorities as appropriate.
- 4.15.3. All neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies and other relevant bodies have either signed the Statement of Common Ground to this effect or have indicated that they are happy to do so and have not raised any concerns on the Local Plan with regards to this matter.

4.16. Conserving and enhancing the built and historic environment

- 4.16.1. Historic England and conservation officers have been consulted in the Local Plan preparation and their comments and suggestions have been incorporated in the drafting of the policies and through the Sustainability Appraisal where impacts on the historic environment have been considered.
- 4.16.2. It is intended to continue to liaise with Historic England and other relevant organisations as policies and site allocations evolve. Further discussions on policy wording and supporting text have taken place between the Central Lincolnshire authorities and Historic England and agreement reached.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1.1. In preparing the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, considerable efforts to cooperate with the various Duty to Cooperate bodies and organisations has taken place. Some of these bodies and organisations have raised detailed matters on, for example, policy wording and/ or have contributed to various elements of the evidence base and we have worked closely with each to address these concerns, as far as possible.
- 5.1.2. Most of the Duty to Cooperate bodies and organisations have stated that they are satisfied with the strategic, cross boundary matters, issues and actions as stated in section 4 above. These have been added to and modified throughout the duty to cooperate process to reflect the ongoing discussions that have taken place with the various relevant organisations.
- 5.1.3. Throughout the process some comments have been received, either during the Regulation 18 Consultation or in informal discussions, in relation to detailed wording in the plan. The plan has been updated in discussion with officers from the Central Lincolnshire Districts and Lincolnshire County Council. This process resulted in the majority of concerns being resolved, but some issues, relating to wind turbines, the application of value zones in policies S7 and S8 and the policy relating to fossil fuel extraction (S19) were not possible to resolve for all partners with Lincolnshire County Council still being opposed to the position taken.
- 5.1.4. Overall, aside from the matters listed above, the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is not aware of any Duty to Cooperate issues, and is not expecting any Duty to Cooperate issue to be raised at the forthcoming Proposed Submission consultation stage. If this position changes as a result of representations received at the consultation stage, either this Statement will be revised accordingly, or a supplementary note prepared
- 5.1.5. The Statement of Common Ground (ref. STA007.1) contains Appendix 2 which provides a record of the ongoing engagement and cooperation with

Duty to Cooperate partners throughout the process of developing this Local Plan