

Examination Library Document Reference EX028

From: [Sam Hubbard](#)
To: [Sarah Tudhope](#)
Cc: [Iain Withington](#)
Subject: RE: Statement of Common Ground North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth
Date: 12 July 2023 09:13:27
Attachments: [~WRD2088.jpg](#)
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Dear Sarah,

I confirm that the email of below provides matters of fact in relation to the engagement between Great Yarmouth Borough Council and North Norfolk District Council with respect to the Duty-to-Cooperate. I can confirm that the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) provides a vehicle to demonstrate compliance with the Duty-to-Cooperate on strategic cross boundary matters between the two authorities and there are no outstanding strategic planning issues to address because of the existing agreements that have previously been signed at Member level in respect of the NSPF and the Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Authorities Statement of Common Ground for Coastal Zone Planning .

Kind regards

Sam Hubbard

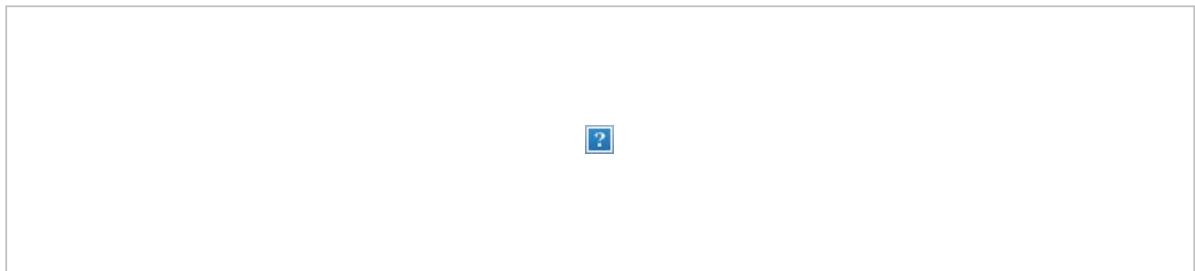
Sam Hubbard MRTPI

Strategic Planning Manager
Strategic Planning
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From: Sarah Tudhope <Sarah.Tudhope@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 July 2023 08:46
To: Sam Hubbard <sam.hubbard@great-yarmouth.gov.uk>
Cc: Iain Withington <Iain.Withington@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Statement of Common Ground North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth

Hi Sam

We would be happy to progress with your suggested officer level response at this stage, whilst reserving potential to request the more formal SoCG later, if deemed necessary as the examination unfolds.

I am therefore emailing in relation to the following matters of fact . We would be grateful if you could confirm these matters of fact in regard to ongoing collaboration and that you are satisfied that the NSPF provides a vehicle to demonstrate compliance with the duty to cooperate by replying to this email. Further, that you do not consider there to be any outstanding strategic planning issues to address because of the existing agreements that have previously been signed at Member level.

The main context for cooperation between Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC) and North Norfolk District Council (the Council) is through the Norfolk Strategic Officers Group (NSPG) whose key roles are to identify and manage the spatial planning issues that impact on more than one local planning authority area and to support better integration and alignment of strategic spatial and investment priorities. The NSPG is responsible for several jointly funded and prepared evidence base and policy documents as well as the joint preparation and agreement of a Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) which details 31 cross boundary agreements (May 2021).

The Norfolk authorities, along with Natural England, Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Marine Management Organisation, Active Norfolk, Water Resources East, and the new Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, work collaboratively to address strategic issues across the area. The meetings also include liaison with Suffolk Councils and relevant updates on their planning policy and Local Plan work. A Member forum (MF) oversees the work of the NSPG and comprises an elected Member from each of the authorities. The NSPG consists of key planning policy officers from each Planning Authority in Norfolk as well as other key statutory agencies, responsible for overseeing policy development for strategic planning purposes. Both the MF and NSPG are governed by formal terms of reference.

Any proposals or recommendations of the MF are not binding on the constituent member authorities. However, where there are matters pertaining to key strategic planning, for example, the preparation of a joint Plan or implications at a County wide level of future development, then any agreement at the MF is subject to ratification at individual authority level.

In addition to the agreements arising from the NSPF, the Council has consulted GYBC at each stage of the preparation of the North Norfolk Local Plan. GYBC did not raise any areas of concern at the Council's Regulation 19 stage. The Council and GYBC also work collaboratively in several partnerships, including the Norfolk Coast Partnership, producing the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024 (Revised 2022), and Coastal Partnership East (the shared coastal management team of the Council, GYBC and East Suffolk Council) that has, and continues to implement, an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach, as evidenced by the Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Authorities Statement of Common Ground for Coastal Zone Planning and the emerging Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document. More recently the Norfolk Councils have worked collaboratively across the county, with Natural England and Anglian Water, in the ongoing development of strategic mitigation to address the issues of nutrient neutrality. Further details of this engagement is set out in the Council's Duty to Co-Operate Compliance Statement which is available on the Council's website 'Examination Library' page, document reference A8.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance with this matter. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact myself or Iain.

Kind regards

Sarah

Sarah Tudhope

Senior Planning Officer

[+441263 516032](tel:+441263516032)





From: Sam Hubbard <sam.hubbard@great-yarmouth.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 July 2023 09:23
To: Sarah Tudhope <Sarah.Tudhope@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Cc: Iain Withington <Iain.Withington@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Statement of Common Ground North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth

Hi Sarah,

It depends on what you think is needed. I can provide an officer level technical response/submission to state matters of fact and in state that in my professional opinion it is not considered there are any outstanding strategic planning issues to be addressed as result of the existing agreements signed at member level. However, if you want a statement and signature on behalf of GYBC that the Local Plan has met the duty to cooperate this will need to go to Cabinet as there is no express delegation to officers at any level to sign such a thing or make anything more than technical representations on consultations.

Regards

Sam

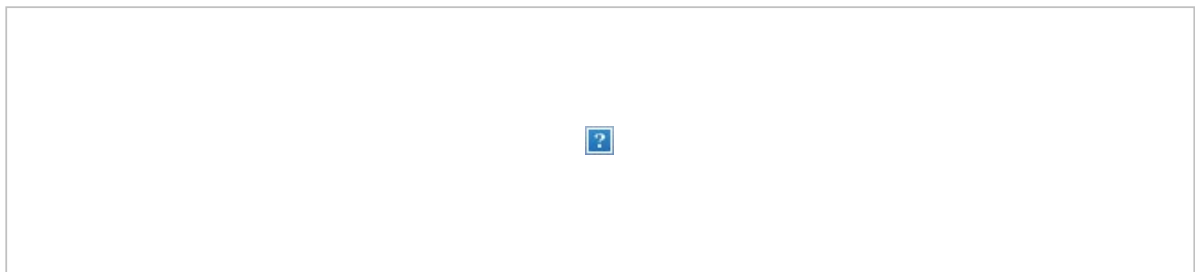
Sam Hubbard MRTPI

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From: Sarah Tudhope <Sarah.Tudhope@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 July 2023 11:52
To: Sam Hubbard <sam.hubbard@great-yarmouth.gov.uk>
Cc: Iain Withington <Iain.Withington@north-norfolk.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Statement of Common Ground North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth

Hi Sam

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. Also, thank you for sharing your Council's approach at examination to this matter which is helpful to know.

We agree that the NSPF is a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG.) Essentially what I am seeking your Council's agreement to only reiterates that as Council's we have worked together, as demonstrated by the agreements of the NSPF, and on some other projects that are more specific to your Council. In other words, I am just asking all the local Councils for individual confirmation that the duty to cooperate has been met.

I appreciate that your Council's scheme of delegation does not extend directly to you but wonder if perhaps, because this is seeking confirmation of matters that already exist, that you may be able to ask a Chief Officer, or your portfolio holder (or the Chief Executive) given the length of time until the next Cabinet meeting?

I have received confirmation from the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk; the SoCG was signed by its Executive Director, following a couple of additions to the content by the planning officer.

Alternatively, would it be better for you and perhaps speed the process, if I were to translate my original request into email style where we could accept your confirmation/agreement in an email similar to the GNDP approach?

Let me know your thoughts.

Kind regards

Sarah

Sarah Tudhope

Senior Planning Officer

[+441263 516032](tel:+441263516032)



From: Sam Hubbard <sam.hubbard@great-yarmouth.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 July 2023 15:28

To: Sarah Tudhope <Sarah.Tudhope@north-norfolk.gov.uk>

Cc: Iain Withington <Iain.Withington@north-norfolk.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Statement of Common Ground North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth

Hi Sarah,

I do not have delegated authority to sign a statement of common ground. It will likely have to be referred to Cabinet with the next available date being in September.

I do wonder if such an agreement is necessary as the NSPF, which we are a signatory to, is in effect a Statement of Common Ground. The NSPF makes clear we do not share a housing market area or functional economic area and we will meet our own needs and addresses all other strategic cross-boundary matters. We didn't seek any SoCG with neighbouring Norfolk authorities for our Local Plan Part 2 (which contained strategic policies inc. review to housing requirement) and the Inspector was satisfied that the NSPF addresses the duty to cooperate.

Let me know your thoughts

Regards

Sam

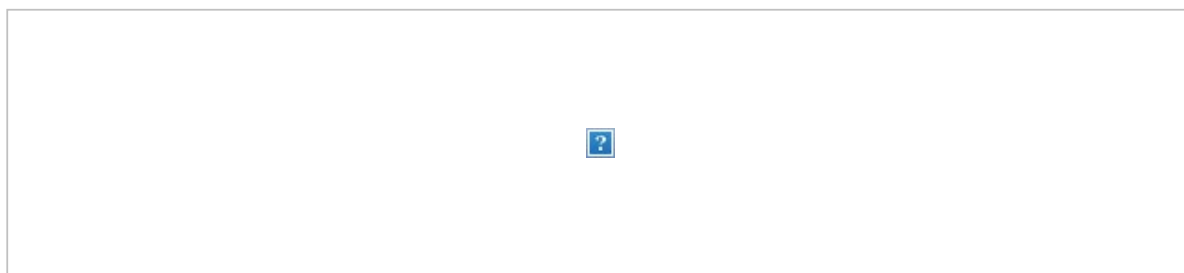
Sam Hubbard MRTPI

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From: Sarah Tudhope <Sarah.Tudhope@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 July 2023 10:20
To: Sam Hubbard <sam.hubbard@great-yarmouth.gov.uk>
Cc: Iain Withington <Iain.Withington@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Statement of Common Ground North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth

Dear Sam

North Norfolk District Council submitted its new Local Plan for Examination on 11 May 2023. Under the current duty to co-operate requirements, North Norfolk District Council is seeking agreement that that the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF), including the Norfolk - Suffolk authorities member and officer meetings organised through the NSPF, along with other officer and member collaborative / partnership working, have covered strategic cross boundary planning issues as far as they relate to your authority and North Norfolk District Council and that the requirements of the duty to co-operate have been met for the North Norfolk Local Plan through constructive and ongoing engagement .

The attached Statement of Common Ground has been drafted to demonstrate that the preparation of the Plan is 'based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters', in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

I hope that you will be able to agree, by signing and returning the document to me at your earliest convenience and, in any case, by the end of the month.

Should you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I will be on leave from 13 July – 28 July, please do not wait for my return but contact Iain Withington in

my absence, either via email Iain.Withington@north-norfolk.gov.uk or phone 01263 516034.

Thank you in advance for completion of this matter.

Kind regards

Sarah

Sarah Tudhope

Senior Planning Officer

[+441263 516032](tel:+441263516032)



North Norfolk District Council

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