

## **Harborough District Council update to Leicester City Council**

### **In respect of the Governance process concerning the Leicester & Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground**

**13 July 2023**

1. The longstanding partnership of Leicester and Leicestershire Councils have prepared a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) that sets out a framework for the distribution and apportionment of unmet housing and employment need from the City of Leicester.
2. This SoCG is proceeding through each partner Council's individually tailored governance processes. Some partner Councils have already approved the SoCG and have signed it. Other partners are yet to conclude their governance processes and have not yet signed it.
3. In the case of Harborough District Council, following the local election in May 2023 and the establishment of the new administration, a briefing of all members of the Council took place in June 2023. This will be followed by the following steps:
  - Consideration of the SoCG by the Cabinet,
  - Consideration of the SoCG by Council.
4. It is anticipated that the Council meeting where members will make their final decision on the SoCG will be held on 18 September 2023.
5. It is also anticipated that the officer recommendation to members will be to approve and sign the SoCG.
6. Clearly, it will be a matter for members to consider the SoCG, and take a decision on the signing of it, and it is not possible to give a commitment either way on this. The democratic process must run its course and cannot be pre-empted or predetermined.
7. It is important to stress that an integral part of the governance process set out at paragraph 3 above will be to make clear to Councillors the role and importance of the SoCG to Local Plan making.
8. So, in summary Harborough District Council has a clearly laid out a governance process for the SoCG. Councillors will be guided through that process in the weeks and months ahead. The SoCG governance process will be robust and will be aimed at culminating in a recommendation from officers for Councillors to approve the document, and if they do, for it then to be signed by the authority.