



RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN (2025 – 2042)

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN RUGBY
BOROUGH COUNCIL AND HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

FEBRUARY 2026

1. Organisations

- Rugby Borough Council (RBC)
- Harborough District Council (HDC)

2. Introduction

- 2.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) identifies areas of agreement and disagreement between RBC and HDC in relation to the Rugby Borough Local Plan (2025-2042) and supporting evidence base. This statement has been prepared to assist the examination of the plan and covers the administrative area of RBC.
- 2.2. The borough of Rugby is located to the east of Coventry City on the eastern edge of Warwickshire and borders the counties of Leicestershire (in which Harborough District is located) and Northamptonshire. Appendix 1 shows the geographical relationship to local authorities.
- 2.3. RBC has fully engaged with HDC on the development of the two councils' respective local plans from the outset. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, HDC has been formally consulted at every stage of consultation on the RBC Local Plan together with its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitat Regulations Assessment. HDC made representations to the Regulation 18 stages of consultation.
- 2.4. RBC's Duty to Cooperate Compliance Statement outlines in detail the engagement activities and outcomes, together with the joint evidence base studies undertaken during the plan's preparation.

3. Strategic Matters

Areas of Agreement

- **That RBC has worked collaboratively with HDC to ensure that all cross boundary strategic issues have been properly considered and where appropriate reflected in the proposed Submission Local Plan. Effective and ongoing joint working will continue to be undertaken.**

3.1. The key strategic matters being addressed by this SoCG are:

- Strategic employment and A5 corridor
- Strategic housing
- Gypsy and Traveller accommodation

Strategic employment and A5 corridor

3.2. It is agreed that RBC and HDC are in different functional economic market areas. It is agreed that neither authority has unmet need for employment land

that it is asking the other to accommodate.

- 3.3. Magna Park is an existing strategic employment development in HDC located on the administrative boundary of RBC. Within HDC's emerging local plan, which has at the time of writing completed Regulation 19 consultation, there is a proposed allocation to expand Magna Park by a further 340,000sqm of floorspace.
- 3.4. HDC continues to work with National Highways, RBC and the local highway authorities (Leicestershire CC and Warwickshire CC).
- 3.5. RBC's strategy for employment land focusses on delivery on the edges of Coventry and Rugby. Large new employment land allocations proposed are predominantly located on the western side of the borough away from the administrative boundary with HDC.
- 3.6. It is agreed that RBC's strategy minimises cumulative impact at Gibbet Hill and M6 Junction 1 and Rugby's emerging local plan would have no material impact on those junctions.

Strategic housing

- 3.7. It is agreed that RBC and HDC are in separate housing market areas. It is agreed that neither authority has unmet needs for housing that it is asking the other to accommodate.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

- 3.8. It is agreed that in March 2025 RBC published a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment which identifies a need for 94 pitches in the period 2024 to 2042. RBC has identified supply sufficient to accommodate 64 pitches. RBC wrote to all its neighbouring local authorities in Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire requesting assistance with accommodating the remaining shortfall in April 2025.
- 3.9. It is agreed that by the time the shortfall was quantified to be 47 pitches (subsequently revised to 30 pitches), HDC's emerging local plan was already at a very advanced stage, with a consultation undertaken in respect of Regulation 19 between March and May 2025. HDC has not identified surplus sites for pitches that would enable it to accommodate RBC's unmet need.
- 3.10. RBC has identified supply sufficient to provide pitches through the period to 2036 and therefore can identify supply for years 1-5 and 6-10 consistent with Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) paragraph 10. There is only a need to identify sites for years 11-15 onwards, "where possible", under PPTS paragraph 10b.
- 3.11. It is agreed that the majority of existing occupied G&T sites in Rugby borough, and the supply identified within the proposed Submission Local Plan are not located in proximity to the HDC administrative boundary, offering little evidence of a cross-boundary relationship.

4. Areas of disagreement

- **No areas of disagreement are identified.**



5. Further Joint Working

- 5.1. This Statement of Common Ground will be kept up to date through continuous engagement and cooperation between RBC and HDC.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1. This Statement will be maintained by RBC and updated as necessary with HDC.
- 6.2. RBC will continue to work with HDC beyond the adoption of its new local plan for the monitoring and implementation of the plan.

7. Signatories

Signature: 	Signature: 
David Atkinson – Director of Planning, Harborough District Council	Nicola Smith, Chief Officer – Growth and Investment, Rugby Borough Council
Date: 1.04.2026	Date: 26.02.2026

Appendix 1 – Map of Rugby and neighbouring authorities



Rugby Borough & Neighbouring Authorities				Date: 15/01/2028	Scale: 1:430,000 <small>(when printed @A4)</small>
0		9,000	18,000	27,000	36,000 m
1:430,000					
Drawn By: Jonathan Deller	Rugby Borough Council Town Hall, Evesux Way CV21 2RR		© Crown copyright & database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 100019417		

