



# **RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN (2025 – 2042)**

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN RUGBY  
BOROUGH COUNCIL AND WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
COUNCIL**

**MARCH 2026**

# 1. Organisations

- Rugby Borough Council (RBC)
- West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)

## 2. Introduction

2.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) identifies areas of agreement and disagreement between RBC and WNC in relation to the Rugby Borough Local Plan (2025-2042) and supporting evidence base. This statement has been prepared to assist the examination of RBC's local plan and covers the administrative area of RBC.

2.2. Rugby borough is located to the east of Coventry on the eastern edge of Warwickshire and borders West Northamptonshire to the south and the county of Leicestershire to the east. Appendix 1 shows the geographical relationship of the local authorities.

2.3 RBC has fully engaged with WNC on the development of the councils' respective local plans from the outset. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, WNC has been formally consulted at every stage of consultation on the RBC's Local Plan together with its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitat Regulations Assessment. WNC made representations to the Regulation 18 stages of consultation on RBC's local plan.

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.

2.5 In its response to the Regulation 19 consultation WNC raised observations about a proposed housing allocation south of Crick Road (reference 338) and asked that the benefits of Rugby Parkway station beyond Rugby Borough be recognised.

## 3 Strategic Matters

### Areas of agreement

- **That RBC has worked collaboratively 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 Housing
- Strategic Employment and the A5 corridor
- Gypsy and traveller accommodation
- The Rainsbrook Valley

#### Strategic Housing

3.2 It is agreed that RBC and WNC are in separate housing market areas. It is agreed that there is no unmet need arising in either local authority area which the other is being asked to accommodate.

#### Strategic employment and the A5 corridor

3.3 It is agreed that RBC and WNC are in different functional economic areas.

3.4 It is agreed that neither authority has unmet employment land needs which it is asking the other to accommodate.

3.5 RBC's strategy for employment land focusses on delivery on the edges of Coventry and Rugby. It is agreed that this approach minimises cumulative impact on the A5 corridor.

#### Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

3.6 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 West Northamptonshire requesting assistance with accommodating the remaining shortfall in April 2025.

3.7 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.

3.8 West Northamptonshire's Regulation 18 (Preferred Option) plan includes a criteria-based policy for assessing proposals for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and it is noted that an additional specific call for sites has recently closed (26 January 2026), with the objective of identifying specific sites in the future Regulation 19 version of the plan. It is agreed that this matter will continue to be discussed under the Duty to Cooperate.

#### The Rainsbrook Valley

3.9 The Rainsbrook Valley straddles the administrative boundary between Rugby and West Northamptonshire. In WNC's representation to Rugby's Preferred Option Local Plan (Regulation 18), the rural nature of West Northamptonshire

in this area was noted, and it was suggested that inclusion and recognition of the qualities and sensitivities of the Rainsbrook Valley would be welcomed within the emerging plan.

3.10 A Rainsbrook Valley Landscape Sensitivity Study was subsequently produced in 2025, which forms the basis for policy EN3 – Rainsbrook Valley landscape of elevated sensitivity of RBC’s Proposed Submission Local Plan. It is agreed that this approach addresses WNC’s suggestion and WNC supports this policy and considers it to be justified, and that there will be ongoing discussions under the Duty to Cooperate regarding the Rainsbrook Valley as a whole.

### Areas of disagreement

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

## 4 Further Joint Working

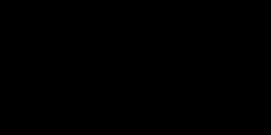
4.3 This Statement of Common Ground will be kept up to date through continuous engagement and cooperation between RBC and WNC.

## 5 Monitoring

5.1 This Statement will be maintained by RBC and updated as necessary with WNC.



5.2 RBC will continue to work with WNC beyond the adoption of RBC’s local plan for the monitoring and implementation of the plan.

## 6 Signatories

	Signature: 
Richard Wood Head of Planning Policy and Specialist Services	Nicola Smith, Chief Officer – Growth and Investment, Rugby Borough Council
Date: 26/03/2026	Date: 26/03/2026

# Appendix 1 – map of Rugby borough and neighbouring authorities



<b>Rugby Borough &amp; Neighbouring Authorities</b>		Date: 15/01/2026	Scale: 1:430,000 (when printed @A4)	
 1:430,000		Drawn By: Jonathan Dellier	Rugby Borough Council Town Hall, Evesham Way CV21 2RR	