



Statement of Common Ground between London Borough of Islington and the Mayor of London - cross boundary issues relevant to Local Plan preparation and implementation

1. This document is the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the London Borough of Islington and the Mayor of London.
2. The SoCG applies to the review of Islington's Local Plan. It sets out details of the cooperation between the Mayor's officers and Islington throughout the plan preparation period and will inform further engagement to ensure effective implementation of Local Plan policies.
3. Islington are due to undertake consultation on a proposed submission draft of the Islington Local Plan (Regulation 19) in autumn 2019, with submission to Planning Inspectorate expected by the end of 2019.
4. The Mayor has prepared a draft new London Plan. Examination hearings were held between January and May 2019. The new London Plan is likely to be adopted in early 2020. The Consolidated Suggested Changes draft London Plan was published in July 2019.

Geography covered by Statement of Common Ground

5. The SoCG covers the Local Planning Authority area of Islington. The Mayor's strategic planning remit covers the entirety of Greater London. The boundaries of these areas are shown on Map 1.

Map 1: area covered by Statement of Common Ground



Key strategic matters

6. Islington and the Mayor's officers have had ongoing dialogue on planning issues for many years. These discussions have informed development of adopted plans and other related documents. Officers from both authorities have an ongoing and close relationship and regularly discuss strategic matters affecting Islington and the wider Greater London area, including the interaction of Islington policies with wider strategic policies. This has included specific meetings to discuss Islington's emerging Local Plan in September 2017, January 2019 and April 2019.
7. Many of the strategic matters and key issues to be addressed through compliance with the duty to co-operate are, in London, a matter for the London Plan or are otherwise addressed through the preparation of the London Plan. The London Plan is part of the development plan for planning authorities in London and borough Local Plans are required to be in general conformity with the London Plan.

Housing

8. London is considered as a single housing market area, with a series of complex and interlinked sub-markets. The GLA have established a London-wide housing need figure of 65,900 homes per annum through the 2017 London Strategic Housing Market Assessment; this is not disaggregated to a borough level.
9. Through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), the GLA have assessed housing capacity strategically across all London boroughs to meet London-wide housing need, and have identified capacity for around 65,000 additional homes a year, which would meet the vast majority of identified housing need across London. Islington have worked collaboratively with the GLA through the SHLAA and the draft London Plan process to determine revised housing targets based on the available housing capacity. Islington's target in the draft London Plan is 775 units per annum.
10. For the purposes of Islington's current Local Plan review, the Mayor and Islington agree that it is appropriate for the Mayor, as the strategic policy-making authority for Greater London, to distribute the total housing requirement for London. This is consistent with Planning Practice Guidance, Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 2a-013-20190220.

Relationship with other Statements of Common Ground

11. As part of the ongoing plan preparation, Islington has prepared/is preparing statements of common ground with other adjacent boroughs, as follows:

Table 1: Islington – other statements of common ground

Borough/organisation	Key strategic matters identified
London Borough of Camden	Housing; Tall buildings; Waste
London Borough of Hackney	Housing; Retail, culture and Night-time economy; Tall buildings; Waste
London Borough of Haringey	Housing; Retail, culture and Night-time economy; Tall buildings; Waste
City of London Corporation	Housing; Retail, culture and Night-time economy; Tall buildings

Governance arrangements

12. This SoCG will be kept up-to-date and will form a key part of implementation of Local Plan policies and any future Local Plan review.
13. Specific officer-level meetings to discuss key issues will be held on a regular basis (proposed bi-annually, particularly where there are significant cross-boundary issues to discuss). Depending on status of issues discussed and other factors including ongoing Local Plan reviews, these discussions may inform a revised SoCG.
14. Officers in each authority will feedback to senior officers any relevant issues raised in discussions. Likewise, any senior level discussions on relevant cross-boundary issues will inform discussions.

Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation

15. The following table details the proposed timetable for key stages in the Local Plan/London Plan review, which will inform timings of future discussions. At these key stage the SoCG will be considered and updated as necessary.

Table 2 – Local Plan Review proposed timescales

Borough	Current Local Plan adoption date	Local Plan Review – Reg 18	Local Plan Review – Reg 19	Local Plan Review – Adoption
London Borough of Islington	Core Strategy - Feb 2011; Detailed DPDs – June 2013	Scope of review – Nov 2016; Detailed Reg 18 – Nov 2018	Sept 2019	Summer 2020
GLA	Minor Alterations to the London Plan adopted 2016	Draft new London Plan published December 2017. Examination hearings January to May 2019.		Early 2020

Signatures

We confirm that the information in this Statement of Common Ground reflects the joint working to address identified strategic matters that has been undertaken between the London Borough of Islington and Greater London Authority. The Boroughs will continue to work together to address cross-boundary issues.

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

Name: Karen Sullivan

Position: Service Director – Planning and Development

Signature: 

Date: 23rd September 2019

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Name: Juliemma McLoughlin

Position: Chief Planner, Development, Enterprise and Environment

Signature:



Date: 5th September 2019