

SUBJECT:	The Duty to Co-operate and Planning for Strategic Cross Boundary Matters
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team - Director of Services Prepared by - Head of Sustainable Development

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report records the activity that has taken place in relation to the statutory duty to co-operate.

2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 2.1 Effective outcomes as a result of the duty to co-operate are linked to each set of priority action areas set out in the South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy:

- A sustainable environment
- A thriving economy
- Safe communities
- Health and well-being for all
- Cohesive and strong communities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The duty to co-operate was created in the Localism Act 2011, and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils and specified public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation relating to strategic cross-boundary matters. The duty to co-operate came into effect in November 2011. A local planning authority must demonstrate how it has complied with the duty at the independent examination of its local plan. If a local authority cannot demonstrate that it has complied with the duty, the local plan will not be able to proceed further through the Examination and the Inspector will recommend that the plan is not adopted. The duty to co-operate is separate from, but related to, the local plan tests of soundness.
- 3.2 The duty to co-operate applies to all local planning authorities who are in the process of preparing and reviewing a local plan. Even if a local planning authority has an adopted local plan (such as South Bucks District), it is still required to co-operate with another local planning authority that is bringing forward a plan.
- 3.3 A report on the duty to co-operate was presented to the meeting of the Sustainable Development PAG held on 13 March 2014. Cabinet subsequently resolved that authority be delegated to the Head of Sustainable Development to respond, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development, to requests from other local planning authorities for input to their local plans/evidence base, and to provide comments to the Mayor of London on the London Plan.
- 3.4 Sustainable Development PAG agreed to receive regular updates on duty to co-operate activities. This report is the latest update.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 The attached spreadsheet sets out the Council's most recent duty to co-operate activities in terms of both the Council's own plan-making, and the ways in which we have responded to requests from other Councils.

5. Resources, Risk and Other Implications

- 5.1 This report has no direct cost implications. Ensuring the Council meets its duty to co-operate is vital in the plan-making process in order to reduce the chance of plans being found to be unsound at

Examination. Councillors have an important role to play in ensuring effective planning for strategic matters through the duty to co-operate.

6. Summary

6.1 This report is for the information of Members.

Officer Contact:	Alison Bailey, Principal Planner - Policy, 01895 837247 alison.bailey@southbucks.gov.uk
Background Papers:	None