

DAC Planning

Mansfield District Council

Effective Cooperation Report

September 2026

DAC Planning

Version Control

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This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.
It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1.1 DAC Planning has been commissioned by Mansfield District Council (MDC) to assist in demonstrating the Council's compliance with the former duty to cooperate (DtC). In doing so, this report aims to support the preparation of the emerging Mansfield Local Plan Review (the Plan) to ensure it is capable of being found sound at examination.
- 1.1.2 Effective Cooperation is critical when designing local plans to ensure that infrastructure providers, developers and other stakeholders can accommodate the forecast growth, development sites and policies of the emerging local plan.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out how MDC has engaged with a range of stakeholders on strategic matters over the past several months to August 2026.

2.0 Legal and Policy Background

- 2.1.1 The legal and policy background surrounding effective cooperation was recently changed. Previously, local authorities needed to demonstrate that they had fulfilled requirements under a system known as "Duty to Cooperate".
- 2.1.2 The original Duty to Cooperate legislation was introduced by the Localism Act 2011, and was a legal duty for local planning authorities, county councils and relevant bodies to 'engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in any process' including the preparation of development plan documents 'so far as relating to a strategic matter'¹.
- 2.1.3 This legislation has now changed as statutory provisions relating to the Duty to Cooperate were in effect abolished for the purposes of plan making from the 25th March 2026².
- 2.1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) still includes a requirement for local plans to be 'sound'³, and in particular the requirement for local plans to be based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters.

1 S33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

2 Schedule 1 of The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Commencement No. 11 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026

3 Section 20(5)(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 & Paragraph 36 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)

- 2.1.5 The remainder of this report sets out the engagement that MDC has undertaken, the results of the discussions that have taken place and the key next steps for the council to ensure further engagement and effective cooperation take place.

3.0 Effective Cooperation

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This section details the engagement methodology that has been undertaken by MDC and the strategic cooperation that has taken place. The following actions are set out chronologically.
- 3.1.2 It should be noted that strategic matters such as these between different organisations are commonly processed through Statements of Common Ground “SoCGs”. These are non-legally binding documents which outline information, positions and approaches to dealing with strategic matters of this type.

3.2 Early Engagement

- 3.2.1 To ensure a robust and consistent approach, MDC has sought to follow the former Duty to Cooperate principles as closely as reasonably possible and has therefore engaged with the following key bodies:
- County (and Combined Authority) and neighbouring local authorities
 - Ashfield District Council
 - Bassetlaw District Council
 - Bolsover District Council
 - Derbyshire County Council
 - Newark and Sherwood District Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - East Midlands Combined County Authority
 - The Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Natural England
 - The Civil Aviation Authority
 - The Coal Authority
 - Homes England
 - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
 - Office of Rail and Road
 - Network Rail
 - National Highways
 - National Gas
 - National Grid Electricity Transmission
 - Severn Trent Water
 - Sport England
- 3.2.2 To support the production of the Plan and ensure a comprehensive approach to cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters, the Council has also engaged with a range of other organisations that may have an interest in the production of the Local Plan.
- 3.2.3 Through the desk-based review of the engagement activities that the Council have undertaken throughout the plan-making process, strategic cross boundary matters relevant to the production of the Plan have been identified. The following key matters were identified as the most strategic, requiring further collaboration between organisations.
- Housing Need
 - Gypsy and Traveller Need
 - Employment Need
 - Strategic Transport Mitigation
- 3.2.4 Additional matters were also identified as requiring further cooperation, but these were more minor in strategic significance. These more minor strategic matters included:
- Cross Boundary Site Access
 - Sherwood Forest Environmental Designations Sphere of Influence
 - Sports and Recreation
 - Water Supply
 - Wastewater
 - Flood Risk
- 3.2.5 Information on the above strategic matters was gathered by MDC prior to an effective cooperation workshop. Key organisations across each of the strategic matters were invited to attend to discuss the cross-boundary strategic matters and any other issues relating to the development of the Local Plan.

3.3 Effective Cooperation Workshop

- 3.3.1 The effective cooperation workshop was held on the 14th July 2026 and the strategic matters outlined above were discussed by the relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- 3.3.2 Table 3.1 below details the information related to each strategic matter, the key organisations involved and the main results of the discussions that took place.

Table 3.1: Summary of the Effective Cooperation Workshop

Strategic Matter	Relevant Organisations	Current Position	Agreed Next Steps
Housing need	Outer HMA Authorities: - Ashfield District Council - Newark and Sherwood District Council	Mansfield District falls within the Outer Nottingham Housing Market Area (HMA) which includes Ashfield District and Newark and Sherwood District alongside Mansfield District. The standard method for identifying housing need has resulted in a local housing need figure of 495 homes per year, which equates to 9,900 homes over the plan period (2023-2043). The Regulation 19 Local Plan identified as new sites to accommodate 3,110 homes, which combined with commitments since 2023 (7,072 homes) and a windfall allowance (720 homes) exceeds local housing need by 1,002 homes over the plan period, thus providing a 10% contingency above local housing need. So, the overall provision at the time of writing is 10,902. The Outer Nottingham HMA authorities have engaged throughout the plan making process on the basis that each authority will seek to meet its own local housing need. No requests to accommodate unmet need have been made to the Council.	Enter into a SoCG with Outer Nottingham HMA authorities to confirm the informally agreed position that each authority has capacity to meet their respective local housing needs within their respective geographical areas, and that there is no unmet need arising from any of the Outer Nottingham HMA authorities.
Gypsy and traveller need	- Ashfield District Council - Newark and Sherwood District Council - Bassetlaw District Council - Bolsover District Council	The gypsy and traveller accommodation need in Mansfield District, evidenced through the Mansfield District Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) (March 2026) was identified. It may be challenging to accommodate all of the identified need within Mansfield District. Other neighbouring local authorities are facing similar issues regarding their own gypsy and traveller need. Engagement with neighbouring authorities took place to agree an appropriate approach to the matter. MDC also wrote to other public bodies such as the Integrated Care Board in June 2026 about the issue.	Mansfield to enter into a SoCG with neighbouring authorities to confirm that there is no capacity to meet unmet needs within Mansfield's neighbouring authorities; and that there is agreement that MDC's proposed criteria-based policy provides an appropriate approach to facilitate windfall supply to

Strategic Matter	Relevant Organisations	Current Position	Agreed Next Steps
		MDC has developed a criteria-based policy, through which the identified need will be accommodated via a windfall supply. The appropriate windfall supply will be evidenced through a Topic Paper, which will form part of the submission Local Plan evidence base. The Council has not received formal requests from neighbouring authorities to meet their gypsy and traveller and travelling show people needs.	meet the identified needs over the plan period.
Employment need	• Ashfield District Council • Bassetlaw District Council • Bolsover District Council • Newark and Sherwood District Council • Authorities within the Core FEMA, where relevant.	The Nottingham Core HMA and Nottingham Outer HMA Employment Land Needs Study (May 2021) concludes that the Core HMA forms a self-contained Functional Economic Market area (FEMA). It is argued that the Outer HMA is also a self-contained FEMA (Ashfield, Hucknall, Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood). One anomaly to this is Hucknall which is considered to be highly connected to the Core HMA and could be viewed as connected to the Core FEMA. The key demand supply messages for Mansfield were that the total requirement is around 36 ha. However, the study suggests the Council may wish to factor in a higher level of loss replacement; or release some more employment sites; or import some of the need from adjoining districts. The Nottinghamshire Core & Outer HMA Logistics Study (October 2022) identified a need for strategic distribution land between 137 ha and 155 ha within the Greater Nottingham FEMA (Core and Outer). However, subsequent reviews conducted in accordance with the Logistics Study methodology led to a refined estimation, increasing the identified need to between 140 – 156 ha as of 31 March 2024. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Publication Draft identifies 97 hectares	Enter into a SoCG with relevant authorities to formalise the authority's commitment to ongoing collaboration and communication to ensure the effective implementation of identified strategic distribution requirements within the Study area. Note that there is already in existence, a draft SoCG from Gedling Borough Council and the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan-making Authorities preparing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (GNSP).

Strategic Matter	Relevant Organisations	Current Position	Agreed Next Steps
		of Strategic Logistics and Warehousing, to be delivered through two sites. On 23 July 2025 a Statement of Common Ground between Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottingham City Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council (the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan-making authorities) and Mansfield District Council noted that “Within Mansfield, there are limited opportunities to deliver strategic distribution given its tight administrative boundaries, absence of strategic sized sites and its location and separation from the M1 corridor. These constraints are recognised by the Strategic Plan making authorities as is Mansfield’s contribution towards meeting non-strategic need. The Statement of Common Ground was signed by Mansfield Council’s Chief Executive Officer on 23 July 2025. The Council’s Employment Land Needs Update (October 2025) assessed a range of possible economic scenarios. The scenario used in the Local Plan Review is the ‘regeneration’ scenario. This requires 41.06ha of employment land in total. The emerging Local Plan identifies a supply of 47.04 ha.	Ashfield District Council noted that it’s employment evidence demonstrates that the authority can contribute towards meeting the wider strategic regional employment need, which may be relevant when considering the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) position. Newark and Sherwood requested further discussion regarding employment outside the workshop. Further actions may be required to formalise the approach that Mansfield will not contribute towards strategic employment provision, in relation to logistics. The principle is already outlined within the Council’s SoCG with the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan-making authorities and Gedling Borough Council. Meetings may be required with Newark and Sherwood and the Core FEMA authorities.

Strategic Matter	Relevant Organisations	Current Position	Agreed Next Steps
Strategic transport mitigation	- National Highways - Nottinghamshire County Council - Derbyshire County Council	MDC commissioned Systra to prepare transport evidence, including modelling, using the East Midlands Gateway model. The transport study identifies that the majority of junctions on the A60 are at or over capacity, and capacity pressures are evidenced at junctions 28 and 29 on the M1. National Highways have also requested modelling is undertaken at Junction 27 for further detailed completeness. Detailed junction modelling is due to commence to identify a package of mitigation measures arising from planned growth, which will feed into the Infrastructure Delivery Plan with delivery anticipated to align with proposed site allocations. Derbyshire County Council highlighted the need for joint working in relation to cross boundary cumulative transport impacts arising from growth in Mansfield and Bolsover. Transport evidence is yet to be finalised. Provisional issues include: - A60 & M1 junction 28 & 29, A617 (Mansfield/Ashfield regeneration route) (MDC, Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood, National Highways, NCC Highways) - A614 (Newark and Sherwood)	Enter into a SoCG with the respective highway authorities (National Highways, Nottinghamshire County Council, and where appropriate Derbyshire County Council) noting that planned growth can be mitigated by appropriate measures at specific junctions and by other measures that seek to promote active travel and modal shift.
Cross boundary site access	- Ashfield District Council - Newark and Sherwood District Council - Nottinghamshire County Council	A number of sites border or are close to adjacent local authority boundaries. Bolsover District Council highlighted the importance of continuing cooperation on cross-boundary sites, particularly in the Pleasley Vale area. Specifically, there was call for the retention of the complementary policy approach to this historic mill area, within the Local Plan Review.	Continue to work with ADC; NCC and NSDC as part of site allocation policy development and through planning application process.

Strategic Matter	Relevant Organisations	Current Position	Agreed Next Steps
		Ashfield District Council also confirmed Ashfield's willingness to continue coordinating with MDC on cross-boundary sites and related planning matters.	
Sherwood Forest environmental designations sphere of influence	Natural England	MDC falls within the sphere of influence of the Sherwood Forest SSSI and potential prospective Special Protection Area (ppSPA). Bassetlaw District Council highlighted that their Local Plan includes policy requirements relating to recreational impacts on Sherwood Forest SSSI and associated mitigation measures within the identified impact zone and requested that neighbouring authorities are kept informed as the evidence progresses. Natural England confirmed that they are happy to work with the Council on the HRA and enter into a SoCG where required.	Awaiting the outcomes of the Council's Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.
Sports and recreation	- Newark and Sherwood District Council - Sport England	Sports provision could move from Mansfield to Newark and Sherwood where Local Plan commitments include the Lido site which would include 130 dwellings and would see sports provision move to the former Clipstone Colliery site in Newark and Sherwood District. There is a 'live' application on the site (2024/0007/OUT). The Council confirmed that its Open Space Study is nearing completion and that the Playing Pitch Strategy is currently being updated following consultation with Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies. A Built Facilities Strategy is also being prepared and is approaching the end of the reporting process. In relation to the proposed relocation of sports facilities from the Lido site to the former Clipstone Colliery site, it was confirmed that officers are aware of the cross-boundary implications and that this is being reflected within the evidence base.	Statement of Common Ground with Newark and Sherwood District Council to agree that sports provision relocated from Mansfield to Newark and Sherwood can form part of Mansfield's supply.

Strategic Matter	Relevant Organisations	Current Position	Agreed Next Steps
Water supply	- Severn Trent Water - Environment Agency	Mansfield District Council confirmed that the Water Cycle Study has been finalised and signed off by the Environment Agency (EA) and Severn Trent Water (STW).	An SoCG will be prepared to formally record this agreed position ahead of the Local Plan examination.
Wastewater	- Severn Trent Water - Environment Agency	Mansfield District Council confirmed that the Water Cycle Study has been finalised and signed off by the Environment Agency (EA) and Severn Trent Water (STW).	An SoCG will be prepared to formally record this agreed position ahead of the Local Plan examination.
Flood risk	- Environment Agency - Nottinghamshire County Council (LLFA)	Flood risk associated with the River Trent (Severn River Trent). Level 1 SFRA is now complete, though Level 2 analysis is still required on a small number of sites. The work is to be progressed on this shortly. Severn Trent Water, EA and LLFA have all been involved and have signed off the Level 1 SFRA. MDC confirmed that work commenced during the week of the workshop to finalise the remaining flood risk evidence, including the required Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for a small number of sites.	Awaiting outcomes of final flood risk evidence base including sequential test and Level 2 SFRA. This work will complete the outstanding flood risk matters prior to submission of the Local Plan.

3.4 Further Engagement

- 3.4.1 Following the effective cooperation workshop, a number of the positions outlined above were discussed further through meetings and written communication.
- 3.4.2 The workshop outputs and additional collaboration have helped to inform the key findings and next steps summarised in the sections below.

4.0 Key Findings

4.1 Overview

This section outlines the key findings from each of the strategic matters following the engagement that has taken place over the last several months.

4.2 Housing Need

- 4.2.1 As noted above, the Council's neighbouring authorities are in agreement that a SoCG would be best to confirm that each district council is responsible for meeting their own respective housing need and that there is no unmet housing need arising from any of the Outer Nottingham HMA authorities.
- 4.2.2 The principal organisations involved are:
- Ashfield District Council
 - Newark and Sherwood District Council

4.3 Employment Need

- 4.3.1 As noted above, Ashfield District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council did not raise any concerns during the effective cooperation workshop with the proposed collaborative approach to ensure that a suitable amount of employment land is brought forward in Mansfield District.
- 4.3.2 However, in relation to strategic logistics employment provision, Newark and Sherwood District Council did suggest that the preparation of Statements of Common Ground and confirmation of the provision of strategic employment land across the FEMA authorities would be more appropriately progressed through officer discussions outside the workshop.
- 4.3.3 The principal organisations involved are:
- Mansfield District Council

- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- Ashfield District Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Greater Nottinghamshire Strategic Plan-making Authorities (GNSP)

4.4 Gypsy and Traveller Need

- 4.4.1 As noted above, Mansfield's neighbouring authorities all confirmed that they are unable to help meet any of Mansfield's arising gypsy and traveller need during the effective cooperation workshop.
- 4.4.2 Prior to the workshop MDC also wrote to all neighbouring authorities, the Police, ICB and other relevant authorities on the matter.
- 4.4.3 The principal organisations involved are:
- Mansfield District Council
 - Newark and Sherwood District Council
 - Ashfield District Council
 - Bolsover District Council
 - Bassetlaw District Council

4.5 Strategic Transport Mitigation

- 4.5.1 The transport evidence is yet to be finalised. It should be noted that during the effective cooperation workshop, various organisations (including EMCCA, National Highways and Bolsover and Ashfield District Councils) confirmed broad recognition that transport mitigation should comprise a balanced and integrated package of highway improvements, public transport enhancements and active travel measures, consistent with emerging national transport policy and Local Transport Plan objectives.
- 4.5.2 At this stage, it has been confirmed that multiple SoCGs are likely to be required and that further discussions will be undertaken to determine the structure and detail of SoCGs.
- 4.5.3 The principal organisations involved are:
- Mansfield District Council
 - National Highways (NH)
 - Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

- Derbyshire County Council (DCC)
- East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- Ashfield District Council
- Bolsover District Council

4.6 Cross-Boundary Sites

- 4.6.1 During the effective cooperation workshop, the Council identified several cross-boundary sites requiring continued liaison with neighbouring authorities, including the Pleasley Vale area, land east of Beck Lane, land at Crown Farm Way, Skegby Lane and the Lido site. Mansfield District Council noted that these sites raise issues relating to site access, biodiversity net gain (BNG), viability and in some cases, small areas of land crossing administrative boundaries.
- 4.6.2 Mansfield District Council have confirmed that these site-specific matters would continue to be addressed through ongoing discussions with neighbouring authorities.
- 4.6.3 Bolsover and Ashfield District Councils reiterated the importance of continuing dialogue on cross-boundary matters.

4.7 Protected Habitats

- 4.7.1 At this stage the Council have confirmed that it has provided its preferred allocation sites to consultants undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Appropriate assessment work is currently underway and will inform whether any strategic mitigation measures or further cross-boundary discussions are required.
- 4.7.2 Bassetlaw District Council have requested that neighbouring authorities are kept informed as the evidence progresses.
- 4.7.3 Natural England have confirmed that they are willing and able to work with Mansfield Council and enter into a SoCG where required.

4.8 Sports and Recreation

- 4.8.1 During the effective cooperation workshop, the Council confirmed that the Open Space Study is nearing completion and that the Playing Pitch Strategy is currently being updated following consultation with Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies. A Built Facilities Strategy is also being prepared and is approaching the end of the reporting process. In relation to the proposed relocation

of sports facilities from the Lido site to the former Clipstone Colliery site, MDC have confirmed that officers are aware of the cross-boundary implications and that this is being reflected within the evidence base.

- 4.8.2 It was also confirmed that MDC and Newark and Sherwood District Council have been liaising on this matter and noted that the proposed replacement facilities remain part of the evidence base and highlighted that the development site itself extends across the Mansfield / Newark and Sherwood administrative boundary, which should be recognised in ongoing discussions.

4.9 Water Supply and Wastewater

- 4.9.1 Mansfield District Council have confirmed that the Water Cycle Study has now been finalised and agreed by both the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. As both organisations were satisfied with the evidence, neither considered it necessary to attend the effective cooperation workshop.

- 4.9.2 Mansfield District Council have confirmed that a SoCG will be prepared to formally record this agreed position ahead of the Local Plan examination.

- 4.9.3 The organisations involved in this matter are:

- Mansfield District Council
- Severn Trent Water
- Environment Agency

4.10 Flood Risk

- 4.10.1 Mansfield District Council have confirmed that work commenced in mid-July 2026 (the week of the effective cooperation workshop) to finalise the remaining flood risk evidence, including the required Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for a small number of sites. This work will complete the outstanding flood risk matters prior to submission of the Local Plan.

- 4.10.2 The organisations involved in this matter are:

- Mansfield District Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority)
- Environment Agency

5.0 Recommended Next Steps

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 This section outlines the recommended next steps for MDC on each of the strategic matters.
- 5.1.2 Information regarding the substance and timing of the preparation of each recommended Statement of Common Ground (SoCGs) has also been forecast.

5.2 Housing Need

- 5.2.1 It is recommended that the Council prepare a SoCG with neighbouring authorities on this matter, for completeness. This would include Bassetlaw and Bolsover District Councils.
- 5.2.2 As this agreement has been reached and no further evidence is required at this stage, the SoCG process could be progressed immediately.

5.3 Employment Need

- 5.3.1 It is recommended that Mansfield District Council arrange a focused meeting with Newark and Sherwood to better understand the Council's position regarding strategic logistics employment land.
- 5.3.2 Following this and subject to reaching an agreed position, it is recommended that the Council enter into a SoCG with relevant authorities to formalise the authority's commitment to ongoing collaboration and communication to ensure the effective implementation of identified strategic distribution requirements within the employment study area. It is also recommended that the Council enter into a SoCG with the Outer FEMA authorities to agree the supply position as set out in the Plan, in the context of the requirements of the Outer FEMA.
- 5.3.3 For clarity, there are two SoCGs proposed – one involving the Employment Land Assessment (catering for local employment needs within the Outer FEMA) and the other being the strategic distribution / logistics need, which spans the outer and core FEMA.
- 5.3.4 SoCGs can be produced once discussions between councils have been finalised over the coming weeks/months.

5.4 Gypsy and Traveller Need

- 5.4.1 It is recommended that Mansfield enter into a SoCG with the relevant authorities to seek agreement that MDC will be responsible for meeting its own need and that it will include a criteria-based policy that will likely provide a sufficient windfall supply to meet the identified needs over the plan period.
- 5.4.2 A SoCG between the district councils can show that each district council is responsible for meeting their own respective need and that engagement has taken place to seek alternatives.
- 5.4.3 It is suggested that each district council publish their formal written responses regarding gypsy and traveller need and that the scope of the topic paper is established before the SoCG is prepared. The process for entering into a SoCG could therefore be initiated in the coming weeks/months.

5.5 Strategic Transport Mitigation

- 5.5.1 It is recommended that SoCGs are entered into only once the evidence has been produced to provide greater detail enabling all parties to review the adequacy of proposed mitigation measures.
- 5.5.2 At a broad level, it is recommended that Mansfield enter into a SoCG with the respective highway authorities once the transport evidence is available (National Highways, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derbyshire County Council) and neighbouring district councils to agree an approach that enables planned growth to be mitigated by appropriate measures at specific junctions and by other measures that seek to promote active travel and modal shift.
- 5.5.3 Currently, there are a number of potential options for SoCGs. These are set out below. It is currently unknown at this stage which option would be most suitable.
- Option 1 – Prepare SoCGs separately with NCC, DBC, EMCCA and NH
 - Option 2 – Prepare one SoCG with all bodies (NCC, DBC, EMCCA, NH)
 - Option 3 – Incorporate transport into each SoCG with neighbouring authorities and bodies.

5.6 Cross-Boundary Sites

- 5.6.1 After considering the sites that were discussed at the effective cooperation workshop, it is recommended that SoCGs are prepared for the following sites with the following organisations:

- **Pleasley Vale Area** – SoCG between Mansfield District Council and Bolsover District Council aligning regeneration policies on the historic mills area that straddles both districts.
- **Land East of Beck Lane** – SoCG between Mansfield District Council and Ashfield District Council to ensure that the consented site in Ashfield and the prospective allocation in Mansfield District relate well to one another and take account of any key consultee comments applicable to both elements. It should be noted that the area in Ashfield District Council currently has outline planning permission.
- **Skegby Lane** – SoCG between Mansfield District Council, Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council Estates to ensure that the development can be brought forward. Key issues relate to Biodiversity Net Gain as the area is an example of high-quality grassland which has implications for viability.
- **Lido Site** – SoCG between Mansfield District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on cross-boundary elements of sports and recreation provision.
- **Land Off Cauldwell Road** – SoCG between Mansfield District Council and Ashfield District Council as Mansfield intend to draw the urban boundary around the site to enable development of the Ashfield allocation H1Sb.

5.6.2 It is recommended that SoCGs are prepared once the full suite of evidence required regarding each matter is available.

5.7 Protected Habitats

5.7.1 It is recommended that Mansfield District Council await the publication of evidence before proceeding with any SoCG as they may not be needed and keep other district councils informed as the evidence progresses. Further cooperation may be needed at a later date.

5.7.2 Possible principal organisations involved are (but not limited to, subject to evidence received from the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment):

- Mansfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Natural England

5.8 Sports and Recreation

- 5.8.1 It is recommended that this matter is included in a SoCG between Mansfield District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council once the evidence base has been fully prepared.

5.9 Water Supply and Wastewater

- 5.9.1 It is recommended that Mansfield District Council progress the SoCGs as soon as possible as no further evidence is currently required.

5.10 Flood Risk

- 5.10.1 It is recommended that the council await the completion of the evidence before entering into a SoCG with the Environment Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority).

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1.1 This report demonstrates that Mansfield District Council has undertaken extensive and constructive engagement with neighbouring authorities, infrastructure providers, statutory bodies and other relevant organisations in relation to the strategic and cross-boundary matters arising from the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 6.1.2 The approach has sought to maintain the principles of effective and ongoing joint working, notwithstanding the recent changes to the statutory Duty to Cooperate framework. This engagement has included early discussions, targeted correspondence, an Effective Cooperation Workshop and subsequent follow-up discussions with relevant organisations.
- 6.1.3 The engagement undertaken has provided a clear understanding of the position of relevant organisations on the principal strategic matters affecting the Plan. In particular, the evidence indicates that there is broad agreement that Mansfield can meet its identified housing requirement within the district and that there is no identified unmet housing need arising from the Outer Nottingham Housing Market Area.
- 6.1.4 There is also a shared understanding of the approach to gypsy and traveller need, while discussions concerning employment land, strategic logistics and transport

mitigation will continue to ensure that cross-boundary implications are appropriately addressed.

- 6.1.5 A number of other matters have also been progressed through effective cooperation, including cross-boundary site considerations, protected habitats, sports and recreation provision, water supply and wastewater infrastructure, and flood risk.
- 6.1.6 In several cases, the necessary evidence is either complete or nearing completion, providing a sound basis for formalising the agreed position through Statements of Common Ground where appropriate. In other areas, further evidence is required before a final position can be established.
- 6.1.7 The recommended next steps set out in this report provide a clear programme for continuing this cooperation through to the submission of the Local Plan. These include preparing Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) on matters where positions are sufficiently established, undertaking further focused discussions where necessary, and allowing the emerging evidence base to inform the timing and scope of any further agreements. This approach will ensure that cooperation remains proportionate to the strategic significance of each matter and is supported by the appropriate evidence.
- 6.1.8 Overall, the engagement undertaken to date demonstrates a positive and proactive approach to working with neighbouring authorities and relevant bodies on strategic cross-boundary matters.
- 6.1.9 The Council should therefore continue to progress the identified actions and formalise agreed positions through SoCGs where appropriate, ensuring that the Local Plan is supported by a robust evidence base which demonstrates that strategic cross-boundary matters have been addressed through effective joint working.

