# Spelthorne Local Plan Duty to Cooperate Scoping Statement



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# 1. Introduction & Consultation Arrangements

#### The Duty to Cooperate

- 1.1 The duty to cooperate is a legal requirement on local planning authorities to take into account and plan for matters which extend beyond their local area. These matters are described as strategic cross boundary matters.
- 1.2 The role of considering and planning for strategic cross boundary matters has, until recently, been dealt with at Regional level through Regional Planning Guidance or Regional Strategies. The overall strategy, policies and aims of the Regional Plan had to be reflected within local level planning documents to ensure that strategic matters were taken into account at the local level.
- 1.3 The last regional strategy for the South East 'The South East Plan' dealt with a range of cross boundary strategic matters such as housing, transport, climate change, biodiversity and economic development. As part of its localism agenda the coalition Government signalled their intention to abolish regional strategies and in 2012 the South East Plan was revoked (apart from the saving of policy NRM6 which relates to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area).
- 1.4 In recognising the gap left by revoking regional strategies and to ensure that strategic matters continue to be taken into account at the local level, Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011<sup>2</sup> amended the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to include a new section on the duty to cooperate (Section 33A<sup>3</sup>).
- 1.5 The duty to cooperate is a legal requirement to ensure local planning authorities engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plans with respect to strategic cross boundary matters. Section 33A of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) describes strategic matters as: -
  - '(a) sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have significant impact on at least two planning areas; and
  - (b) sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use (i) is a county matter, or (ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The South East Plan (2009). Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/regionalplanning/815640/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Localism Act 2011. Available at: <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted</a>
<sup>3</sup> Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Available at: <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents</a>

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>4</sup> came into force in 2012 1.6 and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)<sup>5</sup> in 2014. Both of these documents contain guidance on how local authorities can meet their legal obligations under the duty and to ensure that any cooperation between parties leads to effective Local Plan policies which reflect strategic cross boundary issues.
- 1.7 Paragraph 178 of the NPPF states that public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to strategic priorities. Paragraph 179 states that local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly coordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.
- 1.8 Paragraph 156 of the NPPF sets out the issues which are considered to be strategic priorities. The matters listed in the NPPF are: -
  - The homes and jobs needed in the area;
  - Provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
  - Provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
  - Provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities;
  - Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscapes.
- 1.9 As such, local planning authorities must identify matters of cross boundary and strategic significance and proactively engage with each other and other relevant bodies to ensure that such matters are taken into account and delivered through the Local Plan process.
- The PPG note on the duty to cooperate sets out that local planning authorities should make every effort to secure necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters before they submit their Local Plans for examination<sup>6</sup>. The PPG note also explains that activities that fall within the duty include activities that prepare the way for or support the preparation of Local Plans such as evidence base documents and can relate to all stages of the plan preparation process<sup>7</sup>.
- As it is a legal obligation, the Borough Council must be able to demonstrate at 1.11 examination how it has engaged with other parties on the strategic cross boundary issues which affect the area and the outcomes of that engagement. The PPG note on the duty to cooperate states that authorities should submit

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (2012). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

Planning Practice Guidance (2014). Available at <a href="http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/">http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/</a>
 Paragraph 001 & 003 of PPG Note *Duty to Cooperate*

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Paragraph 011 of PPG Note *Duty to Cooperate* 

robust evidence of the efforts they have made to cooperate on strategic cross boundary matters<sup>8</sup>. As such the Borough Council must be able to demonstrate with evidence how it has met the legal and soundness strands of the duty. Some of the other advice coming out of the PPG includes: -

- Local Planning authorities should focus on outcomes and maximise effectiveness;
- The duty is about engagement and consultation is not sufficient to meet requirements;
- The duty cannot be applied retrospectively so if a plan fails the legal test there are no mechanisms to put this right;
- The duty is on-going and engagement is expected to continue after a plan has been adopted i.e. continuing joint work with others or monitoring and implementation of the plan.
- 1.12 The Borough Council is also mindful that other authority Local Plans have failed the duty to cooperate either in terms of legality or effective plan making<sup>9</sup>. Some of the key messages highlighted by Inspectors have been: -
  - Robust frameworks for cooperation need to be established and should be put in place early in the plan making process so that co-operation can be progressed and monitored;
  - Cooperation should include the issues to be addressed, how these will be taken forward, the outcomes anticipated, outcomes delivered and the bodies to be involved;
  - Local authorities should not be selective over which of its neighbours it cooperates with;
  - The duty requires a coordinated process for securing sustainable development and resolving strategic issues;
  - Whilst different authorities may be at different stages of plan making, evidence of collaborative engagement is required such as the establishment of joint committees, joint planning policies or Memoranda of Understanding;
  - In depth analysis of the issues facing local planning authorities in the wider area and how these should be addressed is needed;
- 1.13 It is a local planning authority's duty, as the authority submitting a plan for examination to have sought to address strategic issues and Planning

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Paragraph 011 of the PPG Note *Duty to Cooperate* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Letter from Inspectors to Kirklees Council 26 April 2013, Mid Sussex District Council 2 December 2013 & Letter to Runnymede Borough Council 29 April 2014.

Inspectors will expect the Borough Council to demonstrate that engagement has been constructive, active, on-going, collaborative, diligent and of mutual benefit. Whilst the PPG note on the duty explains in paragraph 003 that it is not a duty to agree, it is clear that engagement must be constructive.

### The Role of this Scoping Statement

- 1.14 The PPG note *Duty to Cooperate* recommends that local authorities 'scope' the strategic cross boundary issues which the Local Plan is likely to reflect. The 'scoping' exercise should also consider the geographic extent of strategic issues and identify which authorities or bodies it will need to engage with. This scoping statement forms part of the background evidence for the Local Plan and also fulfils a number of important roles, notably it: -
  - Ensures the Borough Council has identified all of the strategic issues which effect the Borough and wider area at the earliest stage of plan preparation;
  - Sets out the framework for how Spelthorne Borough Council will approach engagement under the duty by identifying the authorities/bodies with which it will need to engage and the mechanism for that engagement (in broad terms);
  - Allows consultation with those authorities and bodies identified under the Duty (see paragraphs 1.18-1.19 below) who may identify other issues, bodies or mechanisms for engagement that the Borough Council has not identified;
- 1.15 It is envisaged that this scoping statement will evolve into and form part of the Council's evidence to demonstrate that it has met the duty and has engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis.
- 1.16 Later statements will therefore show how it has engaged and the outcomes of that engagement by identifying the actions/events which have taken place, when they have taken place, who was involved, the outcomes of those actions and how they have influenced the options, strategies and policies of the Spelthorne Local Plan. How the Borough Council intends to take matters forward to ensure on-going collaborative working arrangements will also need to be considered.
- 1.17 Details will also be given in these statements of any correspondence or agreements which may have been made between the Borough Council and other parties to ensure delivery of the strategy and policies of the Local Plan.

# Who does the duty to cooperate apply to?

1.18 In terms of who the duty applies to, this includes all local planning authorities, county councils and a list of prescribed bodies. Regulation 4 of the Town &

County Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012<sup>10</sup> lists those bodies which are prescribed bodies for the purposes of the duty. This includes: -

- The Environment Agency;
- English Heritage;
- Natural England;
- Mayor of London;
- Civil Aviation Authority;
- Homes & Communities Agency;
- Clinical Commissioning Groups;
- National Health Service Commissioning Board (now NHS England);
- Office of Rail Regulation;
- Transport for London;
- Integrated Transport Authorities (no ITA covers Spelthorne);
- Highway Authorities
- Highways Agency;
- Marine Management Organisation (not relevant to Spelthorne);
- 1.19 Although not listed as prescribed bodies, paragraph 180 of the NPPF also states that local planning authorities should have regard to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Local Nature Partnerships as well as private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Town & Country Planning (Local Planning)(Enland) Regulations 2012. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/made#f00016

#### **Consultation Arrangements**

- 1.20 To ensure that Spelthorne Borough Council is taking the correct approach to its duty to cooperate obligations during Local Plan preparation, comments on this Scoping Statement are invited.
- 1.21 In responding to this consultation it would be appreciated if the following questions could be addressed:

#### **Consultation Questions**

- 1. Has the Council identified all relevant cross boundary strategic matters and those which could have a significant impact on at least two planning areas?
- 2. Has the Council identified all relevant authorities, prescribed bodies and other consultees that it needs to engage and work with to maximise the effectiveness of planning policies in regards to each strategic matter?
- 3. Has the Council identified all relevant processes and mechanisms to ensure effective engagement to address strategic matters?
- 4. Do you support the Councils intended approach and timetable for engaging with identified authorities, prescribed bodies and other consultees?
- 1.22 If you consider that the Council has not identified a strategic matter, a relevant authority/body or that other processes/mechanisms for engagement would be more suitable, then justification for an alternative approach should be provided e.g. evidence should be provided as to why the Council should engage with another authority/body on a strategic matter.
- 1.23 Responses to this consultation should be received no later than **Monday 30**<sup>th</sup> **March 2015** and e-mailed to <u>planning.policy@spelthorne.gov.uk</u> or alternatively posted to:

Planning Policy & Implementation Spelthorne Borough Council Council Offices Knowle Green Staines-upon-Thames Surrey TW18 1XB

# 2. The Spelthorne Context

#### **Geographic Context**

- 2.1 The Borough of Spelthorne is in north-west Surrey and adjoins the London boroughs of Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond to the north, the Berkshire authorities of Windsor & Maidenhead and Slough to the west and the Surrey authorities of Runnymede and Elmbridge to the south and east respectively.
- 2.2 Spelthorne covers an area of some 5,118ha, 65% of which is designated as Green Belt. The population of the borough at the time of the 2011 census was recorded as 95,598. The majority of the population are distributed to the larger centres of Ashford, Shepperton, Staines-upon-Thames and Sunbury which are also the locations of the largest retail centres in the Borough.
- 2.3 Because of its proximity to the river Thames and its tributaries, a significant proportion of the Borough is at risk from a 1 in 100 year flood event. The river Thames forms the entire southern and eastern boundary of the Borough with Runnymede and Elmbridge. The area susceptible to a 1 in 100 year flood event covers some 896ha or 17.5% of the borough, 358ha or 7% of which falls within the urban area.
- 2.4 870ha or 17% of the borough is covered by reservoirs with the Wraysbury, Staines and King George VI reservoirs also forming part of the South West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar. The area around the three reservoirs at Staines Moor is also part of the SPA and Ramsar and forms the southernmost area of the Colne Valley Regional Park which stretches up from Surrey into parts of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire as well as the London Borough of Hillingdon.
- 2.5 Spelthorne is accessible to both the M3 and M25 motorways with junctions at Staines-upon-Thames and Sunbury. The Borough also benefits from 5 rail stations with direct links to London Waterloo, Reading, Weybridge and Windsor.
- 2.6 Heathrow airport lies just north of the Borough in the London Borough of Hillingdon and employs over 8% of Spelthorne residents. The Airports Commission is currently considering the future of airport expansion in the South East of England and has shortlisted three options, one at Gatwick and two at Heathrow. The Heathrow options include extension of the northern runway or a new northwest runway.

#### **Spelthorne Local Plan**

2.7 Spelthorne Borough Council adopted both its Core Strategy & Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) and its Site Allocations DPD in February and December 2009 respectively. The Core Strategy & Policies DPD contains both the strategic and detailed planning policies for the Borough up to 2026. This includes a housing target for 3,320 net additional dwellings (166 per annum) as well as 32,000sqm of retail development in Staines-upon-Thames

Town Centre.

- 2.8 However, the Spelthorne Core Strategy & Policies DPD was adopted prior to publication of the NPPF and before the revocation of the South East Plan. The Borough Council therefore considers that parts of the Core Strategy and Policies DPD are not up to date or consistent with national policy in the NPPF.
- 2.9 As such the Borough Council resolved in September 2014 to review the Core Strategy and Policies DPD with the view to publishing a new Local Plan. The timetable for review will be reflected in an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS). Prior to this decision some Duty to Cooperate activities have included the continuous review of evidence as is required by Section 13 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). However, this was not a review of the Local Plan.

# 3. Existing Mechanisms of Engagement & Identification of New Mechanisms

- 3.1 The Borough Council is mindful that paragraph 181 of the NPPF sets out that cooperation should be a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation. The PPG note on the Duty to Cooperate states that local planning authorities and other public bodies must work together constructively from the outset of plan preparation to maximise the effectiveness of strategic policies.
- 3.2 The PPG note also explains that local planning authorities and public bodies need to work together at the plan scoping and evidence gathering stages before options for the planning strategy are identified and that effective cooperation is unlikely to be met by an exchange of correspondence, conversations or consultations between authorities alone. As such, simply consulting on documents at an early or later stage of plan preparation will not be enough to meet the duty.
- 3.3 Therefore, the Borough Council will need to identify existing mechanisms of engagement and whether these are the most suitable and effective under the duty or whether new mechanisms will be required. This should ensure that at this scoping stage mechanisms are identified or in place at the earliest opportunity prior to Local Plan or evidence base development.
- 3.4 Examples of mechanisms to ensure collaborative and effective working are set out in the PPG note. It explains that where two or more local planning authorities work together to prepare Local Plans or policies they could form joint committees, joint plans or align their plans so they are examined and adopted at the same time.
- 3.5 Other ways to demonstrate effective cooperation, especially if plans are not being brought forward at the same time include the use of formal agreements between local planning authorities, signed by members with a clear long-term commitment to a jointly agreed strategy on cross boundary matters.
- 3.6 The PPG note also states that agreements should be as specific as possible and contain sufficient certainty that an effective strategy will be in place for strategic matters.

#### **Existing Mechanisms**

- 3.7 The Borough Council has a history of collaborative working and engaging with other local authorities and bodies both at officer and member level.

  Collaborative working which Spelthorne is currently involved with includes various working groups and partnerships, some of which were set up prior to the duty to cooperate and have been in operation for some time.
- 3.8 The working groups and partnerships that Spelthorne officers or members attend provide a vehicle to discuss strategic matters and duty to cooperate issues, although not all of these will necessarily offer the most suitable or

effective mechanism depending on the strategic issue at hand. The existing mechanisms include the following: -

#### Surrey Leaders

- 3.9 The Surrey Leaders Group is formed from the leaders of the 11 Surrey Boroughs and Districts and the leader of Surrey County Council. The Surrey leaders group is used as a forum to discuss strategic issues and to give Surrey a stronger voice in Local Government.
- 3.10 At a meeting of the Surrey Leaders group on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 the need to consider a shared vision and strategic priorities for Surrey were discussed. Leaders agreed at that meeting to set up a Surrey Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Partnership Board (The Board). The Board is supported by Terms of Reference and a Memorandum of Understanding which acts as the framework for cooperation. The Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference were agreed by Spelthorne Borough Council at its Cabinet meeting of 30 September 2014.
- 3.11 The terms of reference set out The Board's objectives to provide a vehicle for cooperation and joint working between authorities within Surrey and address matters relating to the duty to cooperate through:-
  - Identifying and managing spatial planning issues that impact on more than one local planning authority across Surrey; and
  - Support better integration and alignment of strategic spatial infrastructure and investment priorities across Surrey.
- 3.12 The Terms of Reference also set out that The Board will act together to achieve its aims by:
  - Providing a framework to evidence that Surrey Local Authorities are working 'constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' on strategic planning matters to support compliance with the duty to cooperate and deliver 'sound' plans.
  - Being 'spatially specific' where there is a strategic focus on particular areas within Surrey or overlaps with adjoining areas.
  - Providing a basis for working collaboratively with the GLA/Mayor of London and other authorities on the long term growth of London, particularly in relation to the next full review of the London Plan and the Mayor's Long Term Infrastructure Plan.
  - Integrating strategic spatial, economic and infrastructure priorities for Surrey with a clear set of (agreed) objectives for delivering 'sustainable'

prosperity in Surrey. This should build on the priorities in Surrey Future, the Strategic Economic Plans and local plans and collaboration with the LEPs and Surrey Local Nature Partnership.

- Providing a positive voice for Surrey, setting out its case for investment and why it is important to the national economy.
- Helping to align business/investment priorities of other key bodies, e.g.
   Environment Agency, transport operators and utility companies.
- 3.13 The work endorsed by Surrey Leaders is the first step towards a Local Strategic Statement (LSS) for Surrey. The aim of the LSS is to set out common priorities, objectives and a broad strategic direction across Surrey so that boroughs and districts can reflect these in Local Plans and demonstrate that they have worked constructively, actively and on an on-going basis. This is to build on the work and investment priorities agreed by Surrey Future and Strategic Economic Plans. It is envisaged that a Surrey Local Strategic Statement could be finalised in 2015.

Transport for Surrey (TfS)

- 3.14 The Transport for Surrey Partnership comprises a board which meets quarterly and includes all of Surrey's Boroughs/Districts, Surrey County Council, transport providers and transport agencies. The board is a mechanism to share emerging transport policy and enables collaborative working across Surrey boundaries.
- 3.15 The TfS Partnership aims to provide a cohesive communications and consultation channel and includes the objective of improving coordination and partnership working. The TfS Partnership is supported by Terms of Reference.

Flooding, Flood Risk and the River Thames Scheme (RTS)<sup>11</sup>

- 3.16 The River Thames Scheme (RTS) is a project promoted by the Environment Agency aimed at reducing flood risk across the lower Thames area from Datchet to Teddington. The scheme consists of engineering works to construct three new flood channels within Runnymede, Spelthorne and Windsor & Maidenhead, improving three existing weirs at Molsey, Sunbury and Teddington and installing property level products to 1,200 homes.
- 3.17 In response to flooding, flood risk and the RTS a number of groups have been set up. These comprise Officers from the local authorities of Elmbridge, Kingston, Richmond, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Windsor & Maidenhead as well as Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency. The main groups are the Lower Thames Planning Officers Group, the Programme Board and a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/publ<u>ications/river-thames-flood-risk-management-scheme</u>

Consents & Authorisations Project Board.

3.18 The Programme Board has recently considered the preferred mechanism to gain planning consent for all aspects of the scheme and how local authorities across the Lower Thames can consistently reflect the RTS in their Local Plans. It is considered that the groups already set up within the lower Thames area to deal with flooding, flood risk and the RTS are suitable vehicles for engagement under the duty to co-operate, although Member level agreement may be required at some point.

#### New Mechanisms

- 3.19 Whilst some existing mechanisms are in place to facilitate engagement and collaborative working on strategic issues, these may not be sufficient or suitable to meet duty to cooperate requirements for all strategic issues. As such new mechanisms are likely to be required, especially where functional areas cross into other county areas or London.
- 3.20 There are a number of examples of mechanisms which demonstrate effective engagement and cooperation over wider geographical areas which have been developed in other parts of the country. Whilst not all of these mechanisms may be suitable for Spelthorne they do indicate that there are other mechanisms that could be employed to meet the duty.
  - Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement<sup>12</sup>
- 3.21 The Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (CWS&GB) partnership includes six local authorities, one county council and one national park authority. The authorities have come together to form a Strategic Planning Board made up of lead Members from each authority which works in an advisory capacity and is supported by a memorandum of understanding and terms of reference signed by each of the authorities.
- 3.22 The Strategic Board's remit is to identify and manage spatial planning issues which impact on more than one local planning area and to support the better integration and alignment of strategic spatial and investment priorities across the area.
- 3.23 The CWS&GB group agreed a Local Strategic Statement (LSS) in October 2013 which sets out a series of long term strategic objectives and spatial priorities between 2013 and 2031. The LSS focuses on strategic issues shared across the CWS&GB area or those which impact on long term sustainability and includes a vision, four strategic objectives and five spatial priorities.
- 3.24 Although the LSS is not a statutory document, it is envisaged that the priorities expressed in the LSS will be progressed through relevant plans and strategies, especially within the Local Plans of those authorities within the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement (2013). Available at: http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media,120139,en.pdf.

CWS&GB area. A similar approach has been undertaken in the Gatwick Diamond area which covers authorities in East Surrey & West Sussex and as set out above Surrey Leaders have endorsed work on an LSS for Surrey.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Memorandum of Cooperation<sup>13</sup>

- 3.25 The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation was published in spring 2013 and was signed by six local authorities and one county council. The Memorandum aims to provide additional evidence that the duty to cooperate has been addressed by demonstrating that emerging local authority plans and strategies contribute toward an area wide strategic vision, objectives and spatial strategy.
- 3.26 The Memorandum sets out a vision and objectives for long term development of the area and a broad spatial approach to achieve that vision and the area's growth needs 2011-2031. The Memorandum is supported by an appendix which shows the level of objectively assessed housing need across the area and the amount which has been agreed to be taken by each authority.

Strategic Policy Framework for the West Midlands Metropolitan Area 14

- 3.27 The West Midlands partnership comprises seven metropolitan boroughs which form the West Midlands Joint Committee. Established in 1985, the Committee is responsible for coordination and joint action on issues of mutual interest with the appointment of sub-committees to deal with its functions including a Planning & Transport Sub Committee.
- 3.28 The Strategic Policy Framework sets out that its purpose is to demonstrate commitment to on-going collaboration to meet the duty to cooperate, be a material consideration in plan preparation and continue to provide a coherent strategic spatial context for the third West Midlands Local Transport Plan.
- 3.29 The Policy Framework sets out a set of shared policy priorities and emerging priorities for spatial development. The Policy Framework recognises that the shared priorities cannot be considered in isolation.

West of England Strategic Framework<sup>15</sup> & West of England Duty to Cooperate Schedule<sup>16</sup>

3.30 The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is formed from four local authorities and is the body which is responsible for the Strategic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Memorandum of Cooperation (2013).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Strategic Policy Framework for the West Midlands Metropolitan Area (2012). Available at: <a href="http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/LDF/StrategicPolicyFrameworkWestMidlandsArea.pdf">http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/LDF/StrategicPolicyFrameworkWestMidlandsArea.pdf</a>. West of England Strategic Framework (2012).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> West of England Duty to Co-operate Schedule (June 2014).

- Framework and Duty to Cooperate Schedule.
- 3.31 The Strategic Framework sets out in one document the over-arching growth ambitions for the West of England from the strategic visions of each of the local authority Core Strategies. The Framework is primarily to assist investment making decisions and delivery priorities and contains a spatial vision for 2006-2026 supported by 7 objectives.
- 3.32 The Framework states that the four authorities are committed to working together with relevant stakeholders to ensure strategic issues are addressed.
- 3.33 The purpose of the Schedule is to identify the strategic planning issues affecting more than one authority area, to define the processes for taking these forward and to document the outcomes delivered. The Schedule sets out the joint work which has already been established including the Strategic Framework and an emerging Joint Planning Strategy.
- 3.34 The Schedule contains a list of actions and delivery outcomes and identifies the local authorities and other parties which will be affected.

## **How Spelthorne will Engage with Other Authorities & Bodies**

- 3.35 It is recognised that the Borough Council will need to consider which mechanism of engagement is the most suitable and effective according to each strategic issue. It may be the case that for evidence documents the Borough Council will need to take a wider collaborative approach to begin with and then focus engagement and discussion to those authorities where a more formal approach will be required to deliver effective strategies.
- 3.36 Therefore a mix of mechanisms along with bespoke collaborative stakeholder events/mechanisms will likely be required to ensure that engagement has been active and on-going.

# 4. Identification of Strategic Cross Boundary Matters & Duty to Cooperate Bodies

- 4.1 Paragraph 156 of the NPPF identifies what may constitute strategic cross boundary matters. In order to understand the matters and who they may affect and hence who Spelthorne Borough Council will need to engage with, a matrix approach has been used.
- 4.2 The matrix approach lists all of those matters which are considered to be strategic in the Spelthorne context and then identifies which other authorities and bodies may be affected. The matrix approach includes all of those relevant bodies as given by Section 33A of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 as well as paragraph 180 of the NPPF. Other bodies that are not prescribed by the Act or Regulations have also been included where the Borough Council considers that engagement would assist positive outcomes.
- 4.3 In considering the extent of the issues, regard has been had to paragraph 180 of the NPPF which states that local planning authorities should take account of different geographic areas.
- 4.4 Regard has also been had to advice in the PPG note on the duty to cooperate which states that it is important to adopt a pragmatic approach in deciding the area over which cooperation is needed. The PPG note also states that for some strategic matters the most effective outcomes may be achieved through a small number of local planning authorities while other matters may need cooperation over a larger functional area.
- 4.5 As such, the Borough Council has taken a view of whether engagement with an authority or body is required based on each specific issue under consideration and its likely geographic extent or area of influence. Appendix 1 sets out matrices of all the strategic cross boundary issues identified and with whom the Borough Council will seek to engage. Set out in the rest of this section is the Borough Council's approach to each strategic issue as set out in Paragraph 158 of the NPPF as well as its geographic extent. This also includes which authorities and bodies the Borough Council will engage with and a broad indication of how it will engage.
- 4.6 It should be noted that, just as Spelthorne will seek to engage on the matters set out in this section with other authorities and bodies, the Borough Council will also respond to and engage with other authorities and bodies where they request this. To this end Spelthorne Borough Council will: -
  - Respond positively to requests from other authorities and bodies for engagement on matters which have been identified as likely to affect Spelthorne, its interests or the wider geographic area; and

- Attend and contribute toward duty to cooperate meetings or events at
  Officer and where necessary Member level which are organised by other
  authorities/bodies on matters which have been identified as being of
  relevant cross boundary significance; and
- Consider requests for joint evidence studies and where appropriate agree joint approaches to strategic matters where this will achieve sustainable development; and
- Respond in a timely manner to authority consultations and respond
  positively where joint working between Spelthorne and other authorities
  has facilitated agreement or joint approaches under the duty to cooperate.
- 4.7 Whilst the Borough Council will be constructive in its approach, it retains the right to object or raise concerns to an authority or body's Local Plan or Strategy where a strategic issue affecting Spelthorne has been identified but engagement has not been forthcoming or has been untimely. The right to object will also be retained should discussions under the duty fail to be active, constructive or on-going.

#### Homes & Jobs Needed in the Area

#### General Housing

- 4.8 Housing is likely to be the largest type of development required in a Spelthorne Local Plan. Housing needs and household moves are not restricted to single local authority areas but cross administrative boundaries. As such, an understanding of housing market geographies and future housing needs across a wider area is necessary. This will be explored through a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which will be the evidence that determines objectively assessed housing needs (OAHN) for the housing market area in which Spelthorne sits.
- 4.9 The PPG note on Housing & Economic Needs Assessments sets out that Local Planning Authorities should assess their development needs working with the other local authorities in the relevant housing market area.
- 4.10 Spelthorne and Runnymede Borough Councils have commissioned consultants to undertake a joint SHMA on their behalf which is expected to report early 2015. The SHMA has been split into two elements of work with stage 1 looking at which housing market area or areas Spelthorne and Runnymede fall into and stage 2 the consideration of objectively assessed housing need (OAHN) and housing mix. Although the SHMA is a piece of joint work between the Boroughs it is recognised that housing need is a wider issue and as such the geographic extent of the strategic matter is fairly wide.
- 4.11 Since the agreement to work together Spelthorne and Runnymede notified a number of local authorities and bodies of the intention to begin work on the stage 1 study. Spelthorne and Runnymede along with the SHMA consultants followed this with a Duty to Cooperate stakeholder event on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014 to discuss the draft stage 1 report. The event was attended by a number of the local authorities and bodies who were previously notified of the study. Attendees and non-attendees alike were asked to give comment on the draft stage 1 report conclusions. The comments received were taken into account in the final stage 1 report as appropriate.
- 4.12 The authorities and selected bodies invited to the stakeholder event are shown in Sections 1 and 2 of Table 4-1. The authorities/bodies chosen reflect the wide geographic extent of the issue and included all authority areas with a common boundary to Spelthorne/Runnymede and authorities which sit within neighbouring housing market areas (HMA's).
- 4.13 A pragmatic view was taken with respect to which London Borough's to engage with given that the London HMA as defined in the London SHMA<sup>17</sup> includes all London boroughs.

The 2013 London Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014) Mayor of London.

- 4.14 The Mayor of London published the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) in January 2014 which proposed increasing London's housing target to 42,000 dwellings per annum. However, the evidence supporting the FALP in the London SHMA pointed to a housing need of between 49,000-62,000 dwellings per annum, a minimum of some 7,000 dwellings per annum more than the proposed target.
- 4.15 Spelthorne Borough Council along with a number of other authorities outside of London raised objections through the FALP consultation and Examination in Public (EiP) about how this shortfall would be addressed. Concerns were raised that if London could not meet all of its own housing needs then areas outside of London including Spelthorne would be expected to pick up some of the shortfall. As such, the housing shortfall in the FALP adds uncertainty to housing needs within the Spelthorne and wider area outside of London. The Inspector has since found the FALP to be sound, albeit that an early review of the London Plan will be needed in 2015 and the Mayor is currently in the process of adopting the FALP. Spelthorne will continue to engage with neighbouring London authorities and the Mayor through the GLA on this strategic issue through the early review of the London Plan.
- 4.16 The Borough Council will also need to understand the latest position on housing land supply through a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The PPG note on Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment states that the assessment should be undertaken working with other local planning authorities. This area of work has not yet been commenced but engagement is likely to be with a similar set of authorities and bodies as invited to the SHMA stakeholder event.
- 4.17 Therefore the joint Spelthorne/Runnymede SHMA work, SHLAA and the FALP raise some key issues in terms of housing needs that will have to be considered through the duty to cooperate. These include: -
  - How additional housing requirements within Spelthorne can be met;
  - The part that Spelthorne plays in meeting needs across the local or sub housing market area;
  - Whether Spelthorne requires assistance from or can give assistance to other authorities in meeting needs across the local or sub housing market area;
  - The dynamics for the type of housing needed within the local or sub housing market area;
  - Whether additional governance arrangements are required to ensure effective collaboration with other authorities within the local or sub housing market area.

**Table 4-1: Proposed Engagement for General Housing** 

# 1. Identified Authorities

Bracknell Forest Richmond-upon-Thames

Elmbridge Runnymede Epsom & Ewell Rushmoor Guildford Slough Hart South Bucks Hillingdon Surrey CC Hounslow Surrey Heath Mole Valley Tandridge Mayor of London/GLA Waverley

Kingston-upon-Thames Windsor & Maidenhead

Reigate & Banstead Woking

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Enterprise M3 LEP Homes & Communities Agency

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

SHMA Stage 1 Report: Duty to Cooperate stakeholder event held August 2014 with all authorities and selected bodies.

SHMA Stage 2 Report: Stakeholder event(s) with all authorities and selected bodies TBA for 2015.

SHLAA – Consultation on SHLAA methodology with all authorities and selected bodies with stakeholder events if necessary – 2015

Local Plan housing options – Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities and bodies prior to options consultation – 2015/16

Consultation on Local Plan options – 2016.

Housing target – Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to entering into agreements prior to Pre-Publication consultation – 2017

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

#### Traveller Accommodation

- 4.18 Whilst Traveller accommodation is unlikely to be a major source of development in the future, the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites states in paragraph 8 that in setting pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plots for travelling showpeople they should work collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. As such, Traveller accommodation is a strategic matter.
- 4.19 To date Spelthorne Borough Council has collaborated with other Surrey authorities to agree a joint methodology for Traveller Accommodation Assessments (TAA). The joint methodology was published in April 2012 and ensures consistency in the approach to accommodation assessments across Surrey. Various Gypsy & Traveller groups and forums were consulted on the methodology and the wording of an associated questionnaire before the methodology was agreed. A Traveller Accommodation Assessment (TAA) for Spelthorne and Traveller SHLAA have not yet been commenced.
- 4.20 As with housing, a pragmatic approach to the geographic extent of engagement has been taken. All authorities identified to be engaged on housing matters are again identified to be engaged for Traveller accommodation along with selected bodies.
- 4.21 Although a TAA and Traveller SHLAA have not yet commenced, key issues are likely to be: -
  - Future pitch/plot numbers for Spelthorne;
  - Whether Spelthorne requires assistance from or can give assistance to other authorities in meeting pitch/plot requirements;
  - Whether sufficient sites can be identified through the Traveller SHLAA and how requirements might be accommodated.

Table 4-2: Proposed Engagement for Traveller Accommodation

## 1. Identified Authorities

Bracknell Forest Richmond-upon-Thames

Elmbridge Runnymede Rushmoor Epsom & Ewell Hart Slough South Bucks Guildford Surrey CC Hillingdon Hounslow Surrey Heath Mole Valley Tandridge Mayor of London/GLA Waverley

Kingston-upon-Thames Windsor & Maidenhead

Reigate & Banstead Woking

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Ashford & St Peters NHS Trust Homes & Communities Agency

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

Draft TAA Report: consult with all authorities and selected bodies - 2015

Traveller SHLAA – Consultation on methodology with all authorities and selected bodies with stakeholder events if necessary – 2015/16.

Traveller housing options – Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities and bodies prior to options consultation – 2015/16

Consultation on Local Plan options – 2016.

Traveller pitch/plot target – Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to entering into agreements prior to Pre-Publication consultation – 2017

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

#### **Employment Land**

- 4.22 Spelthorne has 11 designated Employment Areas in various locations around the Borough including several which adjoin or are close to the boundary with neighbouring authority areas. Heathrow Airport also lies to the north of the Borough boundary within the London Borough of Hillingdon.
- 4.23 The Enterprise M3 (EM3) LEP Commercial Property Market Study (2013) defines Spelthorne as being within an upper M3 market area along with Elmbridge & Runnymede with around 142,700 employees in 2011. The EM3 LEP Strategic Economic Plan also describes Staines-upon-Thames as a 'step up' town which is the focus for economic development and LEP growth package funding. The LEP Strategic Economic Plan identifies the creation of 52,000 new jobs by 2020 across the EM3 area.

- 4.24 A percentage of residents both live and work in Spelthorne, but a percentage of those working in Spelthorne will come from other areas and vice versa. The 2011 Census shows that 32% of Spelthorne residents work in Spelthorne and therefore the majority of residents commute out of the Borough to work. Heathrow airport employs around 8% of Spelthorne residents and large commuter flows are evident into Central and Outer London.
- 4.25 Paragraph 160 of the NPPF sets out that in understanding business needs, local planning authorities should work together with county and neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to prepare and maintain a robust evidence base. The PPG note on Housing & Economic Needs Assessments states that economic needs should be assessed in relation to the functional economic area and that Local Planning Authorities should assess their development needs working with the other local authorities in the functional economic market area.
- 4.26 The Borough Council has yet to establish a Functional Economic Area (FEA) and therefore in the meantime it is considered appropriate to engage with all neighbouring authority areas until such time as an FEA can be established. If authorities over a wider geographic extent wish to be engaged, then they can indicate this through this scoping consultation. Engagement will also include the Mayor of London/GLA, Surrey County Council and the EM3 LEP.
- 4.27 The Borough Council's latest Local Economic Assessment<sup>18</sup> shows the total level of business floorspace<sup>19</sup> in the Borough at March 2012 stood at 631,000sqm (excluding retail). Vacancy levels of office and industrial/warehousing stood at 47,799sqm in March 2012 which represents 10.2% of total floorspace. The level of vacant office and industrial/warehousing floorspace has risen to 62,748sqm as at April 2013.
- 4.28 Of the 4,555 businesses in Spelthorne, the greatest number are in the 'professional, scientific and technical' category, followed by 'construction', 'information & communication' and 'transport & storage'. These categories make up 46% of all businesses in Spelthorne. In terms of Gross Value Added (GVA)<sup>20</sup> per head of population, Spelthorne was ranked 85<sup>th</sup> in the UK in 2007. When compared to neighbouring and other Surrey authorities only Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell and Richmond show higher rankings.
- 4.29 Heathrow airport which lies just north of the Borough boundary in the London Borough of Hillingdon employs 114,000 people in the local area and contributes £16 billion of economic output. In September 2012 the Government appointed Sir Howard Davies to chair the Independent Airports Commission which was charged with considering airport expansion in the South East of England. The Commission considered a number of options

<sup>19</sup> Business floorspace for the purposes of the Local Economic Assessment includes offices, industry/warehousing, retail and other business uses.

Spelthorne Borough Council - Duty to Cooperate Scoping Statement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Local Economic Assessment (2013) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at: <a href="http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/econstrat">http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/econstrat</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> GVA is a measure of productivity and is the difference between the value of goods and services and the cost of producing them

which have now been reduced to three including expansion at Heathrow. The Commission will set out their final report in summer 2015.

- 4.30 Given the issues outlined there are a number of key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty to Cooperate. Key issues are considered to be:
  - Defining the Functional Economic Market Area (FEA);
  - The future floorspace and land requirements arising from any additional economic or population demand or whether any existing floorspace and land could be lost to other uses both within Spelthorne and within the FEA.
  - The balance between jobs and homes.
  - The implications of airport expansion at Heathrow with respect to the balance between jobs and homes and whether additional employment land will be required for new business associated or attracted due to the airport.

Table 4-3: Proposed Engagement for Employment

#### 1. Identified Authorities

Elmbridge Slough
Hillingdon Surrey CC
Hounslow Surrey Heath

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond Woking

Runnymede

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Enterprise M3 LEP

### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

Establish FEA: Requests for joint study with other authorities – 2015

FEA Stage 1 Report: Consult with identified authorities/bodies on methodology for defining FEA – 2015

FEA Stage 2 Report: Consult with identified authorities/bodies on draft Stage 2 report which includes employment floorspace demand/supply across FEA and analysis of existing employment sites – 2015/16

Identification of employment sites through SHLAA process – 2015/16

Employment Land Options: Discussion/Meetings with authorities/bodies within FEMA prior to options consultation - 2016

Consultation on Local Plan Options - 2016

Economic Policies and Employment Land/Floorspace targets – Meetings/Discussions with FEA authorities/bodies at officer and member level with a view to entering agreements or statements of common ground 2017

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

#### **Provision of Retail, Leisure and Other Commercial Development**

Retail

- 4.31 Retail catchment areas for main town centres typically extend beyond local authority boundaries. In the Spelthorne Retail Assessment 2004 the main retail centres were identified as Ashford, Shepperton, Staines-upon-Thames and Sunbury. Only Staines-upon-Thames serves more than a local need.
- 4.32 The primary catchment for the main centres in Spelthorne extend out to areas such as Egham in (Runnymede) and Englefield Green and Old Windsor & Wraysbury (Windsor & Maidenhead). The secondary catchment area extends out over a wider area to also include Feltham (London Borough of Hounslow) and Chertsey, Addlestone and Virginia Water (Runnymede).
- 4.33 The adopted Core Strategy & Policies DPD identifies additional retail floorspace for Staines Town Centre up to 32,000sqm to 2026 with the Site Allocations Document identifying the Elmsleigh Centre in Staines Town Centre for expansion in 2 phases. The first phase (phase 3) was to deliver 2,500sqm of additional retail development in the period 2009-2014 and the second (phase 4) 18,000sqm of additional retail in the period 2019-2024. To date neither of these phases of development have secured planning permission.
- 4.34 The Borough Council begun work on an updated Retail and Town Centre Uses study in July 2014 which will consider the need for additional retail floorspace in the Borough up to 2034. As part of this the Borough Council contacted all neighbouring authorities requesting comment on the study brief. One response was received from Runnymede Borough Council indicating no comment. Given the geographic extent of Spelthorne's retail catchment, future drafts of the Retail study will be sent out to all neighbouring authorities as well as Surrey County Council, the Mayor of London/GLA and Enterprise M3 LEP for comment.
- 4.35 The key issues for retailing are considered to be: -
  - How much additional retail floorspace is required across the Borough;
  - The role of existing centres in meeting retail needs.

#### Table 4-4: Proposed Engagement for Retail

#### 1. Identified Authorities

Elmbridge Runnymede
Hillingdon Slough
Hounslow Surrey CC

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Enterprise M3 LEP

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

Retail & Town Centres Uses Study brief: Request comments on study brief from neighbouring authorities – March 2014

Draft Report: Consult with identified authorities/bodies on draft report – 2015

Retail Options & Sites: Discussion/Meetings with neighbouring authorities/bodies prior to options consultation – 2015/16

Consultation on Local Plan Options - 2016

Retail Floorspace Targets and Sites – Meetings/Discussions with neighbouring authorities/bodies at officer and member level if necessary – 2017.

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

#### Leisure & Other Commercial Uses

- 4.36 Commercial leisure uses are typically linked to retail elements of town centres and will be covered by the retail catchment. The Retail and Town Centre Uses study commissioned by the Borough Council will consider whether the existing commercial leisure facilities within the Borough are sufficient to meet demands across the catchment.
- 4.37 As such the Borough Council will engage the same authorities and bodies on this issue at the same time as retail issues. Although not a prescribed body the Borough Council will also engage with Sport England.
- 4.38 There are two leisure centres in Spelthorne at Staines-upon-Thames and at Sunbury as well as numerous sports pitches and outdoor facilities around the Borough which serve the local population. Given the local nature of facilities it is not considered that leisure centre or sports pitch provision is likely to be a strategic issue.
- 4.39 Surrey County Council are currently undertaking a study of Hotel accommodation across the county including the need for additional capacity, some of which may be required within Spelthorne. However there is no

evidence to suggest that providing hotel accommodation is a strategic issue within the local or wider area, although need could be generated by the possible expansion of Heathrow. There is also no indication that any other type of commercial development would be a strategic issue.

- 4.40 Given the limited scope for leisure and other commercial uses to raise strategic issues the only key issue to consider is:-
  - Whether Spelthorne could assist in accommodating commercial leisure development or vice versa.

**Table 4-5: Proposed Engagement for Leisure & Other Commercial** 

identified Authorities			
Elmbridge	Runnymede		
Hillingdon	Slough		
Hounslow	Surrey CC		

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Enterprise M3 LEP Sport England

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

Retail & Town Centres Uses Study brief: Request comments on study brief from neighbouring authorities – March 2014

Draft Report: Consult with identified authorities/bodies on draft report – 2015

Commercial Leisure Options & Sites: Discussion/Meetings with neighbouring authorities/bodies prior to options consultation – 2015/16

Consultation on Local Plan Options - 2016

Commercial Leisure Targets/Sites – Meetings/Discussions with neighbouring authorities/bodies at officer and member level if necessary – 2017.

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

Infrastructure for Transport, Telecommunications, Waste Management, Water Supply, Wastewater, Flood Risk and the Provision of Minerals and Energy (including heat)

**Transport** 

- 4.41 The Strategic Road Network (SRN) in Spelthorne includes the M3 and M25 motorways with junction 1 of the M3 located at Sunbury Cross and junction 13 of the M25 at Staines-upon-Thames. Local roads include the A30 which runs from Hampshire up into London and the A308 which runs from Egham, through Spelthorne and onto Hampton Court. Within Spelthorne the Highways Agency is responsible for the strategic road network and Surrey County Council as the Highways Authority is responsible for the local road network.
- 4.42 Development in one area can affect traffic flow and volume on both the strategic and local road networks within other areas and vice versa. To understand traffic flow and how this will change over time with or without development, the Borough Council will need to undertake transport assessments and studies which take account of traffic data and conditions over a wider area. The studies may reveal a need for mitigation or highway infrastructure improvements which cross authority boundaries. Cycling and walking strategies which aim to join routes across Surrey and London are also strategic in nature.
- 4.43 It is likely that Surrey County Council as the Highways Authority will undertake transport assessments/studies on behalf of the Borough Council. The PPG note *Transport Evidence Bases in Plan Making* states that the transport assessment should be produced at Local Plan level in partnership with all relevant transport and planning authorities, transport providers and key stakeholders. The PPG note also states that assessments may have to cover an area wider than the Local Plan.
- 4.44 Therefore, where highway assessments or studies are undertaken, the Borough Council and Surrey County Council will need to engage with the Highways Agency and neighbouring authorities including the Mayor of London/Transport for London (TFL). As the body responsible for local highways infrastructure funding, engagement with the EM3 LEP will need to take place.
- 4.45 Where the outcome of transport assessments identifies a need for mitigation or highways infrastructure improvements, these will need to be reflected in an Infrastructure Needs Assessment and/or an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). The Borough Council has published an IDP as part of its evidence for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will need updating regularly.
- 4.46 Where highway matters have a wider geographic scope i.e. assessment of capacity across a stretch of motorway covering several authority areas, the Borough Council may seek to enter into wider discussions, although it is not possible to identify who this will be with at this moment in time.

- 4.47 In terms of public transport the Borough is served by a number of rail stations which lie either on the Windsor-Waterloo, Reading-Waterloo and Shepperton-Waterloo lines. The sole operator of rail services in Spelthorne is South West Trains who also own all of the stations. The track infrastructure is owned and managed by Network Rail. Several bus operators run services within the Spelthorne area including Abellio (London & Surrey), London United, First, Bear Buses, Dicksons Travel and Carlone Buses.
- 4.48 The influence of Heathrow on the wider area in terms of traffic generation is clearly a cross boundary strategic issue as is the prospect of improved surface access with the potential to extend the Cross Rail 2 project to Staines-upon-Thames and provide a southern rail access to Heathrow.
- 4.49 Therefore, for highway capacity issues the Borough Council will engage with neighbouring authorities, Surrey County Council, the Highways Agency and Mayor of London/TFL. In terms of public transport, engagement will be through the Transport for Surrey Partnership and Mayor of London/TFL and other neighbouring unitary authorities. The Borough Council will also engage with Heathrow Airport Holdings.
- 4.50 As such, the key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - Whether local highway capacity is sufficient to meet development requirements in the wider area;
  - Whether any mitigation measures will be required on the local highway along with its funding;
  - Whether capacity at strategic highway junctions is sufficient to meet development requirements in the wider area and whether any mitigation measures are required;
  - How strategic level projects will be identified and planned;
  - Whether there is scope to link cycle networks across boundaries;
  - Whether there is scope to improve surface access to Heathrow through extending the Cross Rail 2 project to Staines-upon-Thames.

Table 4-6: Proposed Engagement for Transport Infrastructure

# 1. Identified Authorities

Elmbridge Runnymede
Hillingdon Slough
Hounslow Surrey CC

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Civil Aviation Authority Network Rail

Enterprise M3 LEP Office of Rail Regulation Heathrow Airport Holdings Transport for London

Highways Agency

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

No options for development have been considered and at this moment in time it is not possible to identify where cross boundary transport impacts may lie. However the Borough Council will ensure engagement through Transport Assessments to discuss transport issues under the Duty as well as through Infrastructure Needs Assessment/Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDP).

#### Utilities Infrastructure

- 4.51 Utilities infrastructure includes water supply, wastewater treatment, energy supply and telecommunications. These services and their associated infrastructure are provided by the private sector utility companies which operate within and around the Spelthorne area.
- 4.52 An understanding of utilities capacity is necessary to understand whether developments proposed in Local Plans can be realised without the need for significant additions or whether any further capacity is required including strategic level projects. As with Transport, to understand capacity, the Borough Council will need to undertake an Infrastructure Needs Assessment and translate any projects into an Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The PPG note Water Supply, Wastewater and Water Quality outlines that liaison between local planning authorities, Environment Agency and water and sewerage companies should be from the outset of plan preparation.
- 4.53 As part of the work on an Infrastructure Needs Assessment the Borough Council will need to engage and work with utility providers to understand infrastructure capacity requirements and through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan project delivery. Engagement with utility providers could be facilitated through the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as this could be the vehicle through which strategic projects (if any) can be identified. This will need to be confirmed.

- 4.54 There could also be issues which require joint evidence or a joint approach between utility providers and authorities/prescribed bodies i.e. Water Cycle Studies. If such evidence or a joint approach is required, the Borough Council will engage with the relevant authority areas, the appropriate prescribed bodies and Surrey County Council/Mayor of London. At this stage it is not possible to identify all parties which will be subject to engagement as this will depend on the specific issue at hand.
- 4.55 The key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - Whether existing capacity is sufficient to meet demand in the local/wider area or whether upgrades/reinforcement is required;
  - Whether any strategic projects to deliver utility upgrades/improvements are required and how/when these will be delivered;

**Table 4-7: Proposed Engagement for Utilities Infrastructure** 

#### 1. Identified Authorities

Depends on the Issue

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Affinity Water

Enterprise M3 LEP

Environment Agency

Southern Gas Networks

Telecoms Operators

Thames Water

Southern Electric Power

# 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

No options for development have been considered and at this moment in time it is not possible to identify where cross boundary utility infrastructure impacts may lie. However the Borough Council will ensure engagement through an Infrastructure Needs Assessment/Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and if possible through the Local Enterprise Partnership.

#### Minerals & Waste

- 4.56 Surrey County Council is the minerals and waste authority for the whole of Surrey and is responsible for the Surrey Minerals and Waste Plans.

  Spelthorne Borough Council is required to take account of the Surrey Minerals and Waste plans within its Local Plan by safeguarding areas identified for mineral workings or waste management.
- 4.57 There are several sites in Spelthorne identified in the Minerals Core Strategy & Primary Aggregates DPD for mineral workings or safeguarding, some of which lie on the boundary with neighbouring authorities. The current Waste Plan also includes two sites in Spelthorne for waste proposals.
- 4.58 The PPG note *Waste* states that integrated working between county and district planning authorities is critical to the preparation of Local Plans. As such, Spelthorne and the County Council will need to engage with one another. In forming its Minerals and Waste Plans Surrey County Council are also required to engage with other minerals and waste authorities to understand capacity and consider the potential import/export of waste to other

areas. As part of these discussions, Spelthorne Borough Council may be required to engage with neighbouring minerals and waste authorities along with Surrey County Council.

#### Flooding & Flood Risk

- 4.59 Large areas of Spelthorne lie within the floodplains of the river Thames, Colne and Ash with only limited flood defence. Over 2,800 properties lie within flood zone 3 which also covers large commercial areas and parts of Staines Town Centre. 17% of the Borough lies within the 1:100 year flood risk zone (7% of which is urban) and 33% within the 1:1000 year zone. Therefore, flooding and flood risk is a serious issue in Spelthorne as recently demonstrated during the flood events of Winter 2014 inundating and causing damage to property in areas of Staines, Shepperton and Sunbury.
- 4.60 The Environment Agency has a River Thames Strategy (RTS) in place for Datchet to Teddington which was highlighted in Section 3. The strategy recommends a mix of flood plain management and the creation of flood channels and is estimated for completion by 2027. The cost of the project is £300m.
- 4.61 Partners in the River Thames Strategy include the Environment Agency, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Surrey County Council and the local authorities of Spelthorne, Windsor & Maidenhead, Runnymede, Elmbridge, Kingston and Richmond. Engagement for the RTS will continue through the groups which have already been set up to deal with this issue.
- 4.62 To understand flood risk in general and account for the RTS as well as updated modelling by the Environment Agency the Borough Council will require an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) as part of its evidence for a new Local Plan.
- 4.63 Given the geographic scope of flood risk to Spelthorne and the wider area, any update to the SFRA and how this translates into Local Plan policies will involve engagement with all those partners involved in the RTS, through existing mechanisms.
- 4.64 The key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - Exploring opportunities to align Local Plan policies, text or approaches to take account of the RTS;

**Table 4-8: Proposed Engagement for Flooding & Flood Risk** 

#### 1. Identified Authorities

Elmbridge Runnymede Mayor of London/GLA Surrey CC

Kingston Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond

#### 2. Identified Bodies

**Environment Agency** 

### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Study brief: Request comments on study brief from authorities within RTS area and Environment Agency – 2015

Draft Report: Consult with identified authorities/bodies on draft report – 2015

Options & Sites: Discussion/Meetings with neighbouring authorities/bodies prior to options consultation - 2016

Consultation on Local Plan Options - 2016

Policy & Sites – Meetings/Discussions with neighbouring authorities/bodies at officer and member level if necessary - 2017

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

# Provision of Health, Security, Community and Cultural Infrastructure and other Local Facilities

Health

- 4.65 Major health facilities within Spelthorne include Ashford Hospital which forms part of the Ashford & St Peters Hospitals NHS Trust and the Surrey & Borders Partnership which provides mental health services within Surrey and parts of Hampshire.
- 4.66 With St Peters Hospital located in Chertsey, the Ashford and St Peters NHS
  Trust operates over a wider area than Spelthorne alone. Ashford Hospital
  serves Spelthorne and areas within Windsor & Maidenhead, the London
  Borough of Hounslow and the London Borough of Richmond whilst St Peters
  serves areas within Spelthorne, Elmbridge, Runnymede and Woking. Surrey
  & Borders Partnership services are partly delivered at St Peters Hospital.
- 4.67 The commissioning of health services in Spelthorne is delivered by the North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The North West Surrey CCG covers the area of Spelthorne, Runnymede and Woking as well as small areas within Elmbridge and Surrey Heath. As such, both the delivery and commissioning of services are cross boundary.
- 4.68 The PPG note *Health & Well Being* states that the first point of contact for health and well-being issues should be the Director of Public Health. This will initially be through the Surrey Public Health Team at Surrey County Council. The PPG note also identifies key groups that local planning authorities should engage with. This includes the Health & Well Being Board, local commissioning groups and NHS England.
- 4.69 Therefore, the Borough Council will engage with the prescribed bodies responsible for health delivery and commissioning within Spelthorne to understand whether additional health facilities are required to meet population growth. The Borough Council will also need to engage with the prescribed bodies and other local authorities that form part of NHS Trust catchments or commissioning areas outside of Spelthorne if a need for joint evidence or a joint approach is identified. This may need to be translated through the Infrastructure Needs Assessment and/or an Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 4.70 As such, the key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - The requirement for primary health facilities in Spelthorne from additional demand as a result of population growth;
  - The requirement for expanded secondary health facilities due to wider population growth;
  - How and where additional facilities may be delivered whether within or outside of Spelthorne.

**Table 4-9: Proposed Engagement for Health** 

Table 4-3. Froposed Engagement for fleatin				
1. Identified Authorities				
Elmbridge	Surrey CC			
Hounslow	Surrey Heath			
Richmond	Windsor & Maidenhead			
Runnymede	Woking			
2. Identified Bodies				
Ashford & St Peters NHS Trust	North West Surrey CCG			
NHS England	Surrey & Borders Partnership			
3. Mechanisms for Engagement				
No options for development have been considered and at this moment in				
time it is not possible to identify where cross boundary health impacts may				
lie. However the Borough Council will ensure engagement with health				
providers and other authorities as appropriate and reflect needs through an				

#### Security

4.71 Spelthorne is not aware of any security issues or requirement for land in this respect. Therefore, no strategic issues have been identified. However the Borough Council will engage with the Civil Aviation Authority with respect to safety at Heathrow and the impact of Local Plan growth aspirations.

Infrastructure Needs Assessment/Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

#### Community & Cultural Facilities

- 4.72 Community and cultural facilities include a range of services for example libraries, community centres, museums, theatres, art galleries etc. Spelthorne Borough Council provides some community services as does Surrey County Council whilst other community and cultural facilities are run by volunteers or the private sector.
- 4.73 The catchment for some cultural facilities may extend across Spelthorne's boundaries into other areas and some community services and voluntary sectors such as adult services may be provided to Spelthorne residents outside of Spelthorne or vice versa. However the level of cross over is likely to be limited.
- 4.74 As such, the geographic scope for engagement will be narrow. The Borough Council will engage with Surrey County Council in terms of the services and facilities that it provides. Neighbouring authority areas may be engaged depending on the issues identified.
- 4.75 As such, the key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - The degree to which facilities within Spelthorne are being used by persons from outside Spelthorne and vice versa;
  - The requirement for additional community or cultural facilities in Spelthorne as a result of population growth;

- Whether population growth in Spelthorne necessitates additional services or facilities outside of the borough or vice versa;
- How and where additional facilities may be delivered whether within or outside of Spelthorne.

Table 4-10: Proposed Engagement for Community & Cultural Facilities

	or community or contained actions
1. Identified Authorities	
Depends on the Issue	Surrey CC
2. Identified Bodies	
None	
3. Mechanisms for Engagement	
No options for development have bee	n considered and at this moment in
time it is not possible to identify where	e cross boundary impacts may lie.
However the Borough Council will ens	sure engagement through an
Infrastructure Needs Assessment/Infr	astructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

#### Education

- 4.76 Education services in Spelthorne are provided by Surrey County Council. Pupils generated from Spelthorne may not necessarily all attend schools in Spelthorne as there may be some crossing of borders including into the London area or vice versa. As such, the provision of education and school places is a cross boundary strategic matter in Spelthorne and will need to be factored into an Infrastructure Needs Assessment and/or Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 4.77 As the education provider Surrey County Council will be engaged by Spelthorne to determine pupil flows, demand and how these translate into projected pupil numbers and what this means for school places. However, given the close proximity of settlements outside of Spelthorne, the Borough Council with Surrey County Council will also need to engage with neighbouring authority areas and the Mayor of London to understand cross boundary flows and the impact these may have on school places in the future.
- 4.78 The Borough Council is only aware of cross boundary flows between Spelthorne and the London Borough of Hounslow.
- 4.79 As such, the key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - The requirement for additional education facilities in Spelthorne as a result of population growth;
  - Whether population growth in Spelthorne necessitates additional education facilities outside of the borough or vice versa;
  - How and where additional facilities may be delivered whether within or outside of Spelthorne.

**Table 4-11: Proposed Engagement for Education Infrastructure** 

# 1. Identified Authorities/Bodies to be Engaged

LB Hounslow Surrey CC

# 2. Identified Bodies

None

## 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

No options for development have been considered and at this moment in time it is not possible to identify where cross boundary education impacts may lie. However the Borough Council will ensure engagement with and through Surrey County Council as the Education Authority and through an Infrastructure Needs Assessment/Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

### Open Space & Recreation

- 4.80 Areas of open space and recreation are designated as Protected Areas of Open Space under Policy EN4 of the Spelthorne Core Strategy & Policies DPD. The Borough Council will need to undertake a review of these spaces and recreation/sports in general for the Local Plan.
- 4.81 Four of the open space areas lie adjacent to the borough boundary with Runnymede. The site at the Memorial Gardens in Staines-upon-Thames is a Council owned park and the three other areas are urban green spaces at Riverside Flats, Laleham Road in Staines-upon-Thames and at Penton Hall Drive and Penton Hook Road, Staines-upon-Thames. However, the four areas are all separated from the neighbouring borough of Runnymede by the river Thames which is a recreational facility in its own right.
- 4.82 There are three playing fields adjoining the borough boundary. Two are private sports grounds in the Green Belt adjacent to the boundary with the London Borough of Hounslow in Ashford/Lower Feltham and the other is Lammas Recreation Ground on the Wraysbury Road adjacent the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. These playing fields are not covered by any policy designation/protection other than Green Belt. Bedfont Lakes in the London Borough of Hounslow is also an important area of open space for Ashford residents.
- 4.83 The majority of open space, sports & recreation facilities in Spelthorne will therefore only serve a local need and any change in designation or size of facility/space as a result of a review is unlikely to have any cross boundary impacts. However, the Spelthorne Playing Pitch Strategy 2013-2018<sup>21</sup> identifies that a number of sports clubs outside of the Borough use facilities within Spelthorne and sports clubs within Spelthorne have members from outside of Spelthorne and vice versa.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne 2013-2018 (2013) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at: <a href="https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2415/Playing-Pitch-Strategy">https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2415/Playing-Pitch-Strategy</a>

- 4.84 The PPG note *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities, Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space* states that in assessing need for open space local planning authorities should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area. As such, open space, sport and recreation is considered to be a strategic matter but with a narrow geographic scope. The Borough Council will therefore engage with neighbouring authorities, Surrey County Council and Sport England during Local Plan preparation in this respect.
- 4.85 As such, the key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - The requirement for additional open space, recreation or playing pitch facilities in Spelthorne as a result of population growth;
  - Whether population growth in Spelthorne necessitates additional facilities outside of the borough or vice versa;
  - How and where additional facilities may be delivered whether within or outside of Spelthorne.

Table 4-12: Proposed Engagement for Open Space & Recreation

Elmbridge Runnymede
Hillingdon Slough
Hounslow Surrey CC

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond

# 2. Identified Bodies

Sport England

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

No options for development have been considered and at this moment in time it is not possible to identify where cross boundary open space, sport & recreation impacts may lie. The Borough Council will ensure engagement through future Open Space, Sports and Recreation studies (or similar) and/or Infrastructure Needs Assessment/Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

# Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural and Historic Environment, including Landscapes

Climate Change

- 4.86 It is generally accepted that emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere are contributing to climatic impacts and is an issue which affects the whole of the UK.
- 4.87 However, targets for carbon dioxide emission reductions from built development are set through national standards and incorporated into the Building Regulations and emissions of carbon dioxide from aviation traffic are also a national and global issue. Therefore these are not issues to which it is considered the Duty applies given their national coverage.
- 4.88 Emissions reductions from traffic on the local road network is a cross boundary issue which the Borough Council can consider although this is only likely to be in relation to supporting strategies and projects which promote a modal shift away from the private car to public transport and walking/cycling.
- 4.89 In this respect Spelthorne will engage with Surrey County Council as the Highways Authority, Transport for London, Mayor of London and neighbouring authority areas. A Staines-upon-Thames/Feltham cycle link is listed in the London Borough of Hounslow's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), although at this moment no work has been undertaken and no funding has been secured.
- 4.90 Other ways of reducing carbon dioxide emissions would be through the use of renewable and low carbon technologies and opportunities for decentralised energy and heating. Spelthorne will engage with neighbouring authorities, Surrey County Council and Mayor of London/GLA to identify whether opportunities for joint studies or policy approaches exist.
- 4.91 Other climate change impacts such as flooding and flood risk have already been considered earlier in this Scoping Statement.
- 4.92 As such, the key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - How carbon dioxide emissions reductions in Spelthorne can help to meet national targets;
  - Promoting modal shift away from the private car to other forms of transport;
  - Whether there is a requirement for new cycling/walking routes in Spelthorne and how existing or new routes can integrate with routes in neighbouring authority areas;
  - Whether there are opportunities to deliver decentralised energy and heat.

**Table 4-13: Proposed Engagement for Climate Change** 

# 1. Identified Authorities/Bodies to be Engaged

Elmbridge Runnymede
Hillingdon Slough
Hounslow Surrey CC

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Transport for London

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

No options for development have been considered and at this moment in time it is not possible to identify strategies for modal shift, further opportunities for integrating cycling/walking routes or opportunities for decentralised energy & heat.

## Green Belt & Landscape

- 4.93 All land outside of settlement areas in Spelthorne is designated as Green Belt which accounts for 65% of the Borough or 3,320ha. The Green Belt continues over the borough boundary into all neighbouring local authority areas including the London Boroughs.
- 4.94 The Green Belt in Spelthorne was designated in June 1956 and has been assessed on four consecutive occasions during the preparation of previous Local Plans. Each assessment has concluded that all land outside settlement areas in Spelthorne meets the purposes of the Green Belt and its designation, should remain unaltered. This has been confirmed at Local Plan examinations.
- 4.95 Since the Council last undertook an assessment of the Green Belt in Spelthorne, the NPPF replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: *Green Belts*. The five purposes that the Green Belt serves remain the same in the NPPF as were set out in PPG2 and as such national Green Belt policy has not changed in this respect.
- 4.96 As with previous Local Plans the Council will need to assess and confirm the extent of the Green Belt in Spelthorne.
- 4.97 The geographic scope for engagement on any assessment will be reasonably wide. Engagement will include all neighbouring authority areas, Surrey County Council and the Mayor of London.
- 4.98 There are no designated landscapes within Spelthorne. Surrey County Council is due to publish a County wide landscape study which will reveal areas of common landscape typologies across Surrey. If issues arise which require a strategic approach the Borough Council will engage with the relevant neighbouring authorities and Surrey County Council.

- 4.99 As such, the key issues which will need to be considered under the Duty are: -
  - Whether a Green Belt assessment is required for Spelthorne and the outcomes of such a study;
  - Whether a joint approach or strategy is required for landscape typologies which cross administrative boundaries;

Table 4-14: Proposed Engagement for Green Belt/Landscape

# 1. Identified Authorities/Bodies to be Engaged

Elmbridge Runnymede
Hillingdon Slough
Hounslow Surrey CC

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

Richmond

## 2. Identified Bodies

None

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

If a Green Belt assessment is required Spelthorne Borough Council will request comments on a study brief from neighbouring authorities 2015/16

Draft GB assessment: Consult with identified authorities on a draft assessment 2015/16

Discussion/Meetings with neighbouring authorities/bodies prior to options consultation 2016

Consultation on Local Plan Options - 2016

Meetings/Discussions with neighbouring authorities/bodies at officer and member level if necessary - 2017

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

#### Historic Environment

- 4.100 Spelthorne has 195 statutory listed buildings & structures, 159 locally listed buildings & structures, 8 conservation areas, 4 scheduled ancient monuments, 2 other sites and monuments of county archaeological importance as well as numerous areas of high archaeological potential.
- 4.101 The vast majority of the historic environment in Spelthorne does not cross the authority boundary or lie adjacent to it. However, five of the conservation areas lie on the Spelthorne boundary with either Runnymede or Elmbridge but separated by the river Thames. Chertsey Bridge which is a scheduled ancient

monument also lies on the Spelthorne/Runnymede boundary.

4.102 Other than Chertsey Bridge the Borough Council has not identified any specific cross boundary issues and it is not envisaged that there will be any strategic cross boundary matters relating to the historic environment. However Spelthorne will continue to engage with English Heritage and Surrey County Council over heritage matters.

# **Biodiversity**

- 4.103 There are several sites in Spelthorne which are designated for their importance to wildlife and biodiversity at international, national and local level, some of which partly fall within other local authority areas.
- 4.104 International sites in Spelthorne include parts of the South West London Water Bodies Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar. This site is protected under the European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and Ramsar Convention for its importance to support rare or vulnerable bird species and wetland habitats.
- 4.105 In Spelthorne the SPA & Ramsar includes the King George VI, Staines, Wraysbury and Kempton Park reservoirs along with the Staines Moor Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The adjoining authority areas of Windsor & Maidenhead, Runnymede, Elmbridge and the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames hold the rest of the SPA & Ramsar. All four of the nationally designated SSSI's in Spelthorne form part of the South West London Waterbodies SPA & Ramsar.
- 4.106 Spelthorne also has 26 locally designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI), some of which lie adjacent to the borough boundary with neighbouring authorities including the stretch of the river Thames from Staines-upon-Thames to Sunbury.
- 4.107 Paragraph 114 of the NPPF states that in their Local Plans, local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity. Paragraph 117 sets out that planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale across local authority boundaries. As such, given the surrounding network of designated sites, biodiversity is a strategic cross boundary matter.
- 4.108 In considering biodiversity issues, including whether a review of SNCI boundaries is required and given the geographic extent of designated sites at international, national and local level, the Borough Council will engage with all neighbouring authorities. Engagement will also include the Surrey Local Nature Partnership (LNP) which includes a number of other stakeholders such as Surrey County Council, Natural England and Surrey Wildlife Trust. Neighbouring Nature Partnerships may also be engaged.

- 4.109 The Colne Valley Regional Park lies to the west of London and stretches north from Surrey through areas of Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough, the London Borough of Hillingdon, authority areas in Buckinghamshire and up into Hertfordshire. The area of Spelthorne within the Colne Valley Park includes Staines Moor. The Colne Valley Park is a joint initiative aimed at promoting informal recreation. The environmental enhancement of the area is an important part of the park strategy. The Park is managed by a Community Interest Company (CIC) which includes Surrey County Council.
- 4.110 Given the geographic area covered by the Park, it is a strategic cross boundary matter. However, many of the issues relating to the Park are already included within the previous matters stated in this section. Therefore for matters, such as open space/recreation which are specific to the Park, the Borough Council will seek to engage through the existing Colne Valley Park partnership which comprises a number of authorities and prescribed bodies.

**Table 4-15: Proposed Engagement for Biodiversity** 

1. Identified Authorities/Bodies to be Engaged												
Elmbridge	Richmond											
Hillingdon	Runnymede											
Hounslow	Slough											

Mayor of London/GLA Windsor & Maidenhead

#### 2. Identified Bodies

Surrey LNP Colne Valley Park Partnership

#### 3. Mechanisms for Engagement

If SNCI reviews are required Spelthorne Borough Council will request comments from neighbouring authorities and the LNP on the methodology and outcomes of the review - 2015/16.

Discussion/Meetings with neighbouring authorities/bodies prior to options consultation on approach to biodiversity – 2015/16.

Consultation on Local Plan Options - 2016

Meetings/Discussions with neighbouring authorities/bodies at officer and member level if necessary – 2017.

Consultation on Pre-Publication Local Plan – 2017 & Publication Local Plan 2018.

Table A1 - Cross Boundary Strategic Matters Identified - Local Authorities

Table AT Gross Bouries							Humeu – Local Authorities															$\overline{}$					
	Hoi	mes & J	lobs	Re	tail & Le	eisure	Infrastructure														<b>Built &amp; Natural Environmen</b>						
Local Authorities	Housing	Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation	Employment Land	Retail Provision	Commercial Leisure Capacity	Open Space & Recreation	Transport (Road)	Transport (Rail)	Transport (Walking/Cycling)	Transport (Aviation)	Education	Water Supply	Wastewater Capacity	Waste Management	Energy Supply	Telecommunications	Minerals	Health	Community &	Cultural Facilities	Flood Risk	Green Belt &	Landscape	Historic Fnyironment	Climate Change	Biodiversity	
Bracknell Forest	<b>✓</b>	✓																									
Elmbridge	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓		✓									✓			✓	<b>&gt;</b>	<b>'</b>		✓	✓	
Epsom & Ewell	>	✓																									
Guildford	>	✓																									
Hart	<b>✓</b>	✓																									
London Borough of Hillingdon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓												✓	<b>′</b>		✓	✓	
London Borough of Hounslow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓							<b>✓</b>				✓	_		✓	✓	
London Borough of Richmond- upon-Thames	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									<b>✓</b>			✓	<b>√</b>	′		<b>✓</b>	✓	
Mole Valley	✓	✓																									
Reigate & Banstead	✓	✓																									
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon- Thames	✓	✓																			✓						
Runnymede	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									✓			✓	✓	<b>^</b>		✓	✓	
Rushmoor	✓	✓																									
Slough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓													✓	<b>^</b>		✓	✓	
South Bucks	✓	✓																									
Surrey Heath	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓																								
Tandridge	>	✓																									
Waverley	<b>✓</b>	✓																									
Windsor & Maidenhead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									✓			✓	<b>✓</b>			✓	✓	
Woking	>	✓	✓															<b>✓</b>									

Table A2: Cross Boundary Strategic Matters Identified – Higher Tier Authorities & Prescribed Bodies

TUDIO ALI OTOSS DOUTINO	ble A2. Closs Boundary Strategic Matters Identified – Higher Tier Admonties & Frescribed Bodies													<u>,</u>													
	Ho	mes &	Jobs	Retail & Leisure			Infrastructure														Built & Natural Environment						
Higher Tier Authorities & Prescribed Bodies	Housing	Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation	Employment Land	Retail Provision	Commercial Leisure Capacity	Open Space & Formal Recreation	Transport (Road)	Transport (Rail)	Transport (Walking/Cycling)	Transport (Aviation)	Education	Water Supply	Wastewater Capacity	Waste Management	Energy Supply	Telecommunications	Minerals	Health	Community &	Cultural Facilities	Flood Risk	Green Belt & Landscape	Historic Environment	Climate Change	Biodiversity		
Mayor of London (GLA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												✓	✓		<b>✓</b>			
Surrey County Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓	<b>✓</b>		✓	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓		
Environment Agency	✓											<b>✓</b>	✓								✓						
English Heritage																							>				
Natural England																									✓		
Civil Aviation Authority	✓									<b>✓</b>																	
Homes & Communities Agency	✓	✓																									
North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group	✓	✓																✓									
NHS England	✓	✓																✓									
Office of Rail Regulation	✓							✓																			
Transport for London	✓						✓	<b>√</b>																✓			
Highways Agency	✓						✓																				

Table A3: Cross Boundary Strategic Matters Identified – Other Consultees

Table 710: Of Coo Bearing	. Closs Boundary Strategic Matters Identified – Other Consultees																									
	Но	mes & .	Jobs	Retail & Leisure			Infrastructure														<b>Built &amp; Natural Environment</b>					
Other Bodies	Housing	Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation	Employment Land	Retail Provision	Commercial Leisure Capacity	Open Space & Formal Recreation	Transport (Road)	Transport (Rail)	Transport (Walking/Cycling)	Transport (Aviation)	Education	Water Supply	Wastewater Capacity	Waste Management	Energy Supply	Telecommunications	Minerals	Health	Community & Cultural Facilities	Flood Risk	Green Belt &	- Laildscape	Historic Environment	Climate Change	Biodiversity	
Affinity Water												✓														
Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	✓	✓																✓								
Colne Valley Park Partnership																									✓	
EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓										
Heathrow Airport Holdings										✓																
Network Rail								<b>✓</b>																		
Southern Electric Power Distribution															✓											
Southern Gas Networks															✓											
Sport England					✓	✓																				
Surrey & Borders Partnership	✓																	✓								
Surrey LNP																									✓	
Telecommunications Operators																✓										
Thames Water												✓	✓		Ī											