

# APPENDIX 2

## Duty to Co-operate, Strategic Priorities and Evidence Base Studies

Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 establishes the legal duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development and stipulates that LPAs are required to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in any process related to the preparation of development plan documents. The engagement should include considering whether to consult on and prepare, and enter into and publish, agreements on joint approaches to the undertaking of a number of activities, including the preparation of development plan documents. The legislation refers to strategic matters which are, in summary, sustainable development or the use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas.

Further guidance is included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraph 156—Strategic Priorities) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (paragraph 002—Strategic Priorities and paragraph 001—Strategic Matters) .

The NPPF (Paragraph 178) confirms that LPAs have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those that relate to strategic priorities, such as the delivery of homes and jobs needed in the area and the provision of infrastructure.

In order for a development plan to be found sound (as opposed to legally compliant) it must be positively prepared and effective. It must be based on **effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities** and where appropriate and sustainable, on a strategy which seeks to meet unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities.

Evidence of co-operation must be robust and co-operation should produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross-boundary priorities.

The Evidence Base Studies required for the Local Plan relate to strategic priorities and will therefore be undertaken, where appropriate, with neighbouring LPAs.

### Evidence Base Studies: Outline Process

