

## Annex 2: Compliance with the Duty to Co-operate with authorities adjoining the WoE

### 1. West of England

Date	Activity	WoE *	Responses (where received) *
August 2012	Letters to neighbouring authorities preparing the housing market areas	WoE 1. (Letter)	No responses on record
January 2015	Letters to neighbouring authorities to explore opportunities through the Duty to Co-operate to work with neighbouring authorities on cross boundary issues including exploring ability to meet some of the wider Bristol housing need should the evidence show that we are unable to meet it in full	WoE 2. (Letter)	Resp 1a. Glos County Council Feb 2015 No further responses on record
Nov 2015	I& O consultation Consultee letter on publishing Regulation 18 and seeking duly made representations	WoE 3. (Letter)	Resp 2b Sedgemoor Resp 2c Stroud DC Resp 2d Wiltshire Council Resp 2e - Gloucestershire CC Resp 2f- Mendip DC
Jan 2016	PHCB letter to stakeholders setting out joint approach to the SHMAs and pre-commencement document of the JSP	WoE 4. (Letter)	n/a
17 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Meeting with adjoining authorities on cross boundary issues- Purpose of the meeting: WoE to provide an update to neighbouring authorities on the Joint Spatial Plan and to seek views on any cross boundary issues at this stage of the process.	WoE 5a. (Agenda)  WoE 5b. (Key issues table)	n/a
May 2016	Letters to neighbouring authorities to understand the opportunities through the Duty to Co-operate to work with neighbouring authorities in order to meet some of the wider WoE housing need should the evidence show that we are unable to meet it in full	WoE 6. (Letter)	Resp 6a - Taunton Deane & West Somerset Resp 6b Forest of Dean
Nov 2016	Letters to neighbouring authorities re the JSP launch of the of the Towards an Emerging Spatial Strategy event in Nov	WoE 7a. (Letter) WoE 7b. Invitation to launch event	Resp 7a Somerset County Council Resp 7b Wiltshire Council Resp 7c – Stroud Resp 7d - Gloucestershire CC Resp 7e – Mendip DC

July 2017	Letter to Neighbouring authorities and stakeholders on how are we doing so far with engaging?	WoE 8. (Letter)	n/a
November 2017	Consultee letter on publishing Regulation 19 Publication Plan and seeking duly made representations	WoE 9. (Letter)	Resp 9a - Wiltshire Council Resp 9b – Stroud DC Resp 9c – Sedgemoor District Council Resp 9d - Forest of Dean Resp 9e - Somerset CC Resp 9fMendip DC Resp 9g Gloucestershire County Council
January 2018	Letters to neighbouring authorities confirming the WoE is unable to meet the identified need within the plan area, outside of the Green Belt. Therefore at publication stage the Plan has identified locations within the Green Belt based on our previous communications with neighbouring authorities and responses through the previous rounds of consultation.	WoE 10 Letter	Resp 10a - Newport City Council Resp 10b - Taunton Deane & West Somerset Resp 10c - Somerset County Council

***\*letters/items appended***

We will prepare Statement of Common Grounds with each of our neighbouring Authorities to document our updated relative positions by 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, ahead of the Examination hearings.

## **2. UA engagement**

In addition, the UAs have undertaken specific discussions with adjoining LPAs as appropriate and the following is highlighted;

### **South Gloucestershire**

South Gloucestershire Council and Stroud District Council have worked together to review cross boundary infrastructure and growth issues, as illustrated by the Stroud Issues and Options document published October 2017.

[https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/356516/local-plan-review\\_issues-paper\\_iso-compliant\\_medium-quality.pdf](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/356516/local-plan-review_issues-paper_iso-compliant_medium-quality.pdf) (see pages 29 - 30). This reflects the close working to date and commitment to ensure both councils' development plans present the strategic growth agenda. In their representations to the JSP, Stroud DC have supported the JSP and its planned strategy to accommodate the needs of the West of England for homes and economic growth.

It also welcomes the strategic transport packages and approach to ensuring the sustainable development of the Strategic Development Locations at Thornbury, Buckover and Charfield. To ensure this continues, both councils have maintained an ongoing technical dialogue during the preparation of the JSP, along with Highways England and Gloucestershire County

Council on cross boundary transport matters as part of developing JSP Strategic Development Locations growth proposals and supporting infrastructure packages. Stroud DC have also participated in the strategic development location consultation events held in Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018 as part of the ongoing SDL master planning consultation process. Ongoing technical liaison between neighbouring planning and highway authorities is continuing to ensure the planning for the SDLs at Thornbury, Buckover and Charfield, including the strategic transport packages, is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

### **North Somerset**

North Somerset attends the Somerset Strategic Planning Conference which is a quarterly meeting of the five Somerset authorities, Somerset County Council and North Somerset Council. This is a forum which discusses strategic planning and transport issues across the area and includes regular updates on plan-making progress, including the Joint Spatial Plan.

North Somerset has engaged with Sedgemoor DC in respect of exploring potential strategic housing growth at Burnham-on-Sea to meet some of the need identified from the JSP related to the Weston-super-Mare area. Document SD5 sets out the Statement of Common Ground agreed in December 2017 as part of the Sedgemoor Local Plan examination. The issue was debated at the examination hearings held in December 2017. The Inspector's Report is awaited. The inclusion of the site was not appropriate at the time of JSP preparation given the need to progress the principle of development in this location through the Sedgemoor Local Plan and pending further site investigation including infrastructure requirements and delivery. Separately, Infrastructure requirements are being considered by the Bristol South West Economic Link Transport Study (BSWEL) which is a jointly commissioned study by, Somerset County Council, North Somerset and Bristol Airport, and Sedgemoor are on the Board. This is examining transport improvements along the A38 corridor from Bristol to Somerset.

### **B&NES**

B&NES has undertaken a number of officer meetings with Wiltshire and Mendip Councils (details available) between January 2015 and January 2018 in order to ensure a coherent approach to cross boundary issues between the LAs. This has been relevant to both JSP and Local Plan matters, including SHMA, the JSP spatial strategy and housing needs.

A key point of these officer discussions with Wiltshire Council was the issue of whether it was appropriate for Wilts to accommodate any of the B&NES housing need, in light of the fact that Green Belt land in the WoE was being considered. Wiltshire maintained a position that in light of the housing pressures in Wiltshire and Swindon, it did not have the capacity to assist with meeting any unmet need.

Although Wiltshire Council expresses supports for the JSP and acknowledges the extensive engagement with the WoE UAs in its preparation of the JSP, it has submitted a representation on the JSP. However, this is not an objection in principle to the JSP but is a

request for clarification that the JSP spatial strategy, particularly in relation the Bath, will not place housing pressure on those parts of Wiltshire adjacent to B&NES.

In Mendip, the discussions have focused on the relationship of sites in Mendip adjoining the Somer Valley towns in B&NES but as the Somer Valley is not a location for strategic housing growth in the JSP, these discussions are being undertaken in the context of the Local Plan.