



GOSPORT
Borough Council

Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (Submission Version)

Duty to Co-operate Statement

November 2014

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
STATUTORY FRAMEWORK	4
Localism Act 2011	4
Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012	4
NPPF Requirements	5
Strategic priorities on which Co-operation is required	5
FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS	6
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire	6
Natural England and the Environment Agency	8
Solent Transport	9
Local Enterprise Partnerships	10
Solent Enterprise Zone	11
Hampshire County Council	11
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association	12
Gosport Strategic Partnership	12
Local Nature Partnerships	12
Private Sector Utility Providers	13
Other Partnerships/Shared Undertakings	13
CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION	14
CONCLUSION	16

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 require Local Authorities to act strategically and demonstrate wider co-operation in plan making is cross-boundary issues and in consultation with key stakeholders. Gosport Borough Council has been co-operating with its partner authorities in south Hampshire and its key stakeholders for a number of years. The purpose of this is to demonstrate that Gosport Borough Council in preparing the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 has fulfilled its legal obligations under the duty to co-operate requirements.
- 1.2 Gosport Borough Council shares boundaries with only two other authorities (Fareham and Portsmouth), but the pattern of settlement, landuses, transport routes and topography in this part of south Hampshire creates strong interactions among a population of 1.1 million people and the wider south Hampshire sub-region. Its strong reliance on its neighbouring authorities of Portsmouth City Council as the nearest sub-regional centre and Fareham Borough Council as the only land-based transport corridor to the rest of the county and the country make co-operation an absolute imperative for Gosport. Over two thirds of the resident workforce of Gosport works outside the borough boundary and conversely, over half the jobs in Gosport borough are filled by people living outside of Gosport.
- 1.3 The Borough Council's on-going integrated planning is undertaken in the context of, and is driven by, the co-operative arrangements discussed below.

Map 1: Location of Gosport



2.0 STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Localism Act 2011

- 2.1 There are a number of legal requirements to fulfil in the duty to co-operate and they are explained in the following paragraphs.

The relevant part of the Localism Act relating to the duty to co-operate is set out in section 110 and how it amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The relevant sections are set out below:

Section 110 – Duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development. Section 110 acts to modify the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 so as to create obligations under that Act for authorities to co-operate with adjoining authorities and relevant agencies in discharging their planning obligations. The requirements of the Localism Act, expressed as the changes it brings to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 are:

(1) In Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (local development) after section 33 insert—

“33A Duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development

(1) Each person who is—

(a) a local planning authority,

(b) a county council in England that is not a local planning authority, or

(c) a body, or other person, that is prescribed or of a prescribed description,

must co-operate with every other person who is within paragraph (a), (b) or (c) or subsection (9) in maximising the effectiveness with which activities within subsection (3) are undertaken.

Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

- 2.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 came into force on 6 April 2012. They add Local Nature Partnerships and Local Enterprise Partnerships as being a ‘prescribed body’, so that the duty to co-operate must have regard to the activities of both types of Partnership.

- 2.3 The duty to co-operate covers a number of public bodies. These bodies are set out in Part 2 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. In relation to Gosport they are:

1. Environment Agency;
2. English Heritage;
3. Natural England;
4. Civil Aviation Authority;
5. Homes and Communities Agency;
6. Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group;
7. Highways Agency;
8. Solent Transport;
9. Highway Authority;
10. Marine Management Organisation;
11. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership;
12. Solent Local Enterprise Partnership; and
13. Neighbouring Local Authorities.

2.4 Gosport Borough Council has sought to develop relationships with these bodies in the preparation of the local plan.

NPPF Requirements

2.5 National Planning Policy Framework (2012) requirements regarding authorities' duty to co-operate are set out at paragraphs 178-181. Paragraph 156 of the NPPF sets out the strategic matters to which the co-operation requirements of paragraphs 178-181 relate. Demonstrating a duty to co-operate is an important part of ensuring the soundness of local plan preparation. In particular, there are two tests of soundness directly related to the duty to co-operate, these are set out below:

- Positively prepared. This means it should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is practical to do so consistently with the presumption in favour of sustainable development; and
- Effective. This means the local plan should be deliverable over its plan period and based on effective joint working on cross boundary strategic priorities.

2.6 Public bodies have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, and make every effort to work together on matters relating to strategic priorities.

2.7 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. Joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas – for instance, because of a lack of physical capacity or because to do so would cause significant harm to the principles and policies of this Framework. As part of this process, they should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans.

2.8 Local planning authorities should take account of different geographic areas, including travel-to-work areas. In two tier areas, county and district authorities should co-operate with each other on relevant issues. Local planning authorities should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable development in consultation with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships. Local planning authorities should also work collaboratively with private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers.

2.9 Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively co-operated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their local plans are submitted for examination. This could be by way of plans or policies prepared as part of a joint committee, a memorandum of understanding or a jointly prepared strategy which is presented as evidence of an agreed position. Co-operation should be a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation, resulting in a final position where plans are in place to provide the land and infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development.

Strategic Priorities on which Co-operation is required

2.10 Paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires that: 'local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the 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);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.’

2.11 These are all matters covered in the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029, and therefore the Borough Council is required to demonstrate co-operation with neighbouring authorities and others with an interest in any of these.

3.0 FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS

Partnership for Urban South Hampshire

Membership and Structure

- 3.1 The Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 has been prepared with full regard to the NPPF including the duty to co-operate. A fundamental aspect of fulfilling the duty to co-operate has been achieved through the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH). The PUSH has published the South Hampshire Authorities – Fulfilling the Duty to Co-operate Statement in 2013 http://www.push.gov.uk/report_on_south_hampshire_s_duty_to_co-operate.pdf. This statement explains the joint working on spatial planning which has been carried out in south Hampshire through PUSH. The document shows that the PUSH authorities have fulfilled the statutory duty to co-operate with each other on spatial planning matters.
- 3.2 Gosport has been founding member of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) which is a consortium of south Hampshire local authorities who work together on a number of cross boundary issues. PUSH authorities recognise the benefits of working together to support the sustainable economic growth of the sub region and to facilitate the strategic planning functions necessary to support that growth. PUSH has no statutory powers or functions but works collaboratively with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver its distinct but complementary roles and objectives. PUSH makes decisions through a Joint Committee. The Joint Committee was established when PUSH formalised the partnership arrangements between each of the partner Local Authorities through a Joint Agreement under Local Government Acts. Meetings of the Joint Committee are open to members of the public and its agenda, papers and reports are published on the PUSH website seven days in advance of scheduled meetings.
- 3.3 Accordingly there has been a well-established process of strong collaborative work to plan for the south Hampshire sub-region including the location and quantum of residential development in the area to meet its housing requirements.
- 3.4 The current membership of PUSH consists of:
- Hampshire County Council;
 - Isle of Wight Council;
 - Portsmouth City Council;
 - Southampton City Council;
 - East Hampshire District Council;
 - Eastleigh Borough Council;

- Fareham Borough Council;
- Gosport Borough Council;
- Havant Borough Council;
- New Forest District Council;
- Test Valley District Council; and
- Winchester City Council.

3.5 The PUSH Joint Committee is the decision making body for PUSH. It consists of the leaders of the member councils, their Chief Executives and the managing director of PUSH.

3.6 PUSH also has an overview and scrutiny committee consisting of a councillor from each member authority, to consider referred matters on behalf of the joint committee and to make recommendations to it, and has five delivery panels, each chaired by a councillor and with a lead Chief Executive of a member authority. The delivery panels are as follows:

- Economic Development;
- Housing and Planning;
- Sustainability and Community Infrastructure;
- Quality Places; and
- External Funding and Resources.

3.7 In addition to the committees are officer groups which develop policy and provide advice to the committees.

Purpose

3.8 The priorities for PUSH are:

- to promote economic success by seeking to create a diverse economy where business, enterprise and individuals can flourish, underpinned by modern skills;
- to provide the homes we need in sustainable communities;
- to build more cohesive communities and reduce inequalities, closing the gap between deprived areas and the economic performance of the PUSH sub-region;
- to invest in infrastructure and sustainable solutions, and
- to promote a better quality of life by safeguarding our environment and investing in our urban areas.

PUSH Outputs

3.9 As a result of the revocation of the regional planning spatial strategy the production of a sub-regional planning document is of particular importance. PUSH in October 2012 published the South Hampshire Strategy which while loosely based on the revoked South East Plan was updated to take account of the current economic situation and the need to review the housing numbers. As a result of the South Hampshire Strategy the housing requirement for Gosport increased from 125 dwellings per annum to 170 dwellings per annum.

3.10 PUSH has produced (or commissioned) studies for the PUSH sub-region dealing with:

- climate change;
- strategic flood risk assessment;
- green infrastructure;
- strategic housing market assessment;
- employment floorspace;

- hotel provision; and
- culture.

3.11 In addition, PUSH has prepared sub-regional theme-based policy frameworks intended to inform the detailed policies in Local Development Documents. They cover:

- affordable housing;
- employment floorspace;
- developer contributions to workforce training;
- sustainability; and
- settlement gaps.

3.12 PUSH also makes formal comment on member authorities' development plan documents in accordance with a protocol whereby comments are drafted by the PUSH planning officers' group, endorsed by the Housing and Planning Delivery Panel then signed-off by the joint committee chairman.

3.13 PUSH has made a commitment to review its spatial strategy. It has engaged consultants to prepare a new strategy. The consultants will be managed by a steering group made up of local authority officers including Gosport. The recommendation will then be considered by the PUSH membership and in due course following consultation and review be adopted. A series of evidence studies will be commissioned to support the new strategy. The first of these is a Strategic Housing Market Assessment. This SHMA will form the basis of future discussion on the distribution of housing supply to meet the objectively assessed need of the sub region.

Memoranda of Understanding

3.14 PUSH has signed memoranda of understanding with a number of central government agencies in respect of areas of shared concern and responsibility. A number of these agencies are listed in the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 (see paragraph 2.3).

3.15 Consultation has taken place on the Hampshire Strategic Infrastructure Statement identifying the needs for each district and includes current funding arrangements and potential future funding. This, combined with evidence in the District Transport Statements, shows the need for significant new infrastructure. The Hampshire Strategic Infrastructure Statement will be updated annually.

Natural England, Environment Agency

3.16 There is a memorandum of understanding between PUSH, Natural England and the Environment Agency relating to work closely together to improve the services jointly provided through the Single Voice programme. The MoU with PUSH summarises key priorities and how these will be delivered. The Borough Council has been in close liaison with both agencies throughout the preparation of the local plan particularly regarding European designated sites with Natural England and on matters regarding areas at risk of flooding with the Environment Agency. Gosport Borough Council and the Environment Agency have co-operated on producing a protocol on new development in flood risk areas. In addition to this, the Borough Council, the Environment Agency and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership have collaborated on preparing further detailed assessments and management options for flood risk for the Local Plan's strategic allocations.

Solent Transport

- 3.17 Solent Transport is a partnership between Hampshire County Council (on behalf of those Hampshire councils which are in the South Hampshire sub-region) and Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, which aims to improve transport for the area of south Hampshire. It was originally established in 2007 under the name of Transport for South Hampshire.

For the purposes of Solent Transport's remit, the south Hampshire sub-region consists of:

- East Hampshire District Council;
- Eastleigh Borough Council;
- Fareham Borough Council;
- Gosport Borough Council;
- Havant Borough Council;
- New Forest District Council (eastern part);
- Portsmouth City Council;
- Southampton City Council;
- Test Valley District Council; and
- Winchester City Council.

- 3.18 To achieve the transport strategy of improving transport provision in south Hampshire, Solent Transport works in conjunction with the following stakeholders:

- AA;
- Arriva Cross Country;
- Associated British Ports;
- Bluestar;
- Department for Transport;
- First Great Western;
- First Hampshire and Dorset Freight Transport Association;
- Gosport Ferry Limited;
- Highways Agency;
- Hovertravel;
- Network Rail;
- Portsmouth Commercial Port;
- Red Funnel;
- Solent LEP;
- South West Trains;
- Southampton International Airport;
- Stagecoach South;
- Uni-link; and
- Wightlink Limited.

- 3.19 Solent Transport itself is comprised of officers from Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council. Decisions are made by a joint committee which meets quarterly and is made up of council Members, officers from the three councils and other partners. It is also supported by a partnership of government bodies and businesses.

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

- 3.20 Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) are not covered by the duty to co-operate because they are not defined by statute. However, they are identified in the Regulations as bodies that those covered by the duty to co-operate should have regard to when preparing local plans and other related activities. In addition paragraph 160 of the NPPF highlights the benefits of councils and other bodies working with LEPs.
- 3.21 LEPs will also be involved in helping to prioritise infrastructure investment, for example the Growing Places Fund.
- 3.22 The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (Solent LEP) covers the Gosport Borough area. The vision of the Solent LEP is to create an environment which will better facilitate growth and private sector investment in the Solent area, allow business to grow, become more profitable, greener and enable new businesses to form and prosper. Its strategic priorities are:
- supporting enterprise, the emergence of new businesses and ensuring the survival and growth of small to medium enterprises;
 - a strong focus on infrastructure priorities, including land assets, transport and housing, reducing flood risk and improving access to high speed broadband;
 - establishing a single inward investment model to encourage companies to open new sites in the region and to support them with effective marketing;
 - investing in skills to establish a sustainable pattern of growth, ensuring local residents are equipped to take up the new jobs that are created;
 - develop strategic sectors and clusters (interconnected groups; and businesses) of marine, aero and defence, advanced manufacturing, engineering, transport and logistics businesses.
- 3.23 Its membership consists of:
- the business community;
 - four university partners;
 - the further education sector;
 - Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council;
 - East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Havant Borough Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley District Council and Winchester City Council; and
 - the voluntary and community sectors.
- 3.24 The Solent LEP wants PUSH to continue to take the lead on developing and updating the partial planning strategy for the area. The Borough Council's main involvement with the Solent LEP therefore is through PUSH, which has strong links with the Solent LEP, through the PUSH Chairman and the Leaders of the Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils (members of PUSH) being on the Solent LEP Board. The Local Plan has been prepared having regard to the Solent LEP's Solent Strategic Economic Plan 2014.

Solent Enterprise Zone

- 3.25 The Borough Council has worked closely with the Solent LEP, the Homes and Communities Agency, Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to secure the designation of the former HMS Daedalus defence establishment as a local enterprise zone. The Borough Council and the partners are working together to implement the planning framework for the conversion of 200 ha to a new enterprise zone to attract employment uses (envisaged as 3,700 jobs by 2026 whilst retaining the airfield and slipway), and to provide a limited number of additional dwellings (c.200).
- 3.26 The administrative boundary between Gosport and Fareham boroughs cuts across the site, and the two councils have worked co-operatively as planning authorities for the successful future of the site. Both councils recognise the importance of the former aerodrome as an economic development hub. Fareham Borough Council's Core Strategy (adopted 2011) includes Daedalus Airfield as a Strategic Development Allocation (policy CS12). Gosport Borough Council prepared a Daedalus Supplementary Planning Document (September 2011). The SPD was developed in close liaison with Fareham Borough Council and was prepared in accordance with the Joint Planning Statement for Daedalus (April 2006) which was adopted by both Fareham and Gosport Councils.

Hampshire County Council

Service Agreements

- 3.27 The County Council provides many services to the Borough. Many of these have implications for the Local Plan. The key areas where the Borough has continuing dialogue are transport, education and social services. In addition, the County Council provides a number of important services to the Borough Council secured through a number of Service Level Agreements. These include for example, services provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and ecology services.

Collection of Developer Contributions

- 3.28 The Borough Council is currently responsible for collecting any money payable due to planning obligations under S.106 of the Planning Act 1990. However a proportion of this money is for infrastructure provided by Hampshire County Council: this is the case for schools and strategic road transport. The Borough Council collects this money on behalf of the County Council. The amounts collected, are calculated on the basis of formulae agreed between the two local authorities and relate to past experience of the cost of providing this infrastructure. Once paid, the Borough Council transfers the relevant amounts of money to Hampshire County Council.
- 3.29 A 'Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)' between Hampshire County Council and the borough/district councils (excluding the city councils) has been set up to assist partners in determining priorities for planning, funding and delivering future infrastructure. It provides a framework to enable partners to align priorities and maximise potential funding streams. The MoU recognises the fact that there will be less funding available in the future and identifies ways of addressing this. It is not legally binding but a statement of joint intent. The MoU has been subject of consultation with all partners. It refers to the Hampshire County Council Infrastructure Statement being produced alongside the MoU.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association - Officer Groups

- 3.30 It is generally considered, that the co-operation between local planning authorities in Hampshire are very good. Under the working arrangements of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association, there are established arrangements for close working and co-operation between councils. This is carried out through the work of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Chief Planning Officers Group known as HIPOG. The work of this group is supported by a number of sub groups including Development Plans Group, Development Control Practitioners Group and Planning and Research Liaison Group. The Borough Council is a member of all these groups and its officers are active participants. In terms of plan making, the Development Plans Group meets every two months and has a standing item on every local authority's progress in plan making with updates on issues arising best practice and cross boundary working.

Gosport Strategic Partnership

- 3.31 The Gosport Partnership prepared the Gosport Sustainable Community Strategy, which set out 'Gosport's 2026 Vision'. It was developed in parallel to the local development framework, which makes reference to it as part of the delivery mechanism for the LDF. The data on which the strategy is based are held in a database known as the Gosport Sustainability Profile.
- 3.32 The drafting of the strategy involved a large-scale community consultation, 'Make your Mark', which allowed residents, businesses and visitors to comment and prioritise the key issues. Over 1200 people participated in this, and their input was used to inform the Vision.
- 3.33 In addition to this, key service providers were consulted, and other consultation findings and local and regional plans and strategies were assessed. Drawing on the information obtained from the research and consultations Gosport's 2026 Vision was produced.

Local Nature Partnerships

- 3.34 The National Planning Practice Guidance states that local planning authorities must co-operate with Local Nature Partnerships and have regard to their activities when they are preparing their local plans. This has been enshrined in the amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2613/regulation/2/made>
- 3.35 The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership were established in 2012. The partnership will provide a vision, strategic leadership and a strong championing voice for the natural environment in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The high level priorities of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight LNP are to:
- Protect and improve the natural environment on land and at sea – creating bigger, better and more joined up places for nature;
 - Promote a sustainable green economy;
 - Reconnect people and nature; and
 - Promote the need to invest in nature for the many benefits and ecosystem services it provides and to put its value at the heart of decision making across the two counties.
- 3.36 Further information about the role of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership can be found at: http://www.push.gov.uk/local_nature_partnership_ppt.pdf
- 3.37 The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is the lead authority and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership is still establishing itself but the Borough Council have consulted the Wildlife Trust throughout the preparation of the draft Local Plan.

Private Sector Utility Providers

- 3.38 The duty to co-operate does not extend to private sector utility providers. However it is sensible practice to engage in a regular dialogue with these infrastructure providers. Consequently continuous consultation has taken place between the Borough Council and utility providers as part of the preparation of the Local Plan. Details of this can be found in the Borough Council's Statement of Consultation (2014) and in the Borough Council's Infrastructure Assessment Report and Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2014).

Other Partnerships/Shared Undertakings

- 3.39 There are other examples of partnership work going on in Hampshire where the Borough Council is involved in this process. These examples are summarised below.

Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership

- 3.40 The Solent is internationally important for its wildlife interest; much of the Solent coastline is protected by environmental designations including three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Habitat Regulations. These are designated predominantly for the protection of the large numbers of waders and wildfowl which spend the winter on the Solent.
- 3.41 The planned additional housing development along the Solent is likely to increase the number of people visiting the coast and has the potential to have a significant impact on coastal birds which are protected under the Habitat Regulations.

3.40 The Local Authorities along or near to the Solent coastline (including Gosport Borough Council), Natural England and other conservation organisations are working together to set up a strategic mitigation scheme. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) are preparing a package of mitigation measures. In order to secure these measures, it has been decided that for each new dwelling within 5.7km of the SPAs, developers should contribute £172.

- 3.42 The SRMP which includes Gosport Borough Council has been formed to implement a package of mitigation measures. It has been recognised by the SRMP, that an important part of the mitigation measures will be the creation of the Alver Valley Country Park which is regarded as a suitable alternative natural green space (SANG) in order to reduce pressures from sensitive parts of the coast. Work on this project is on-going but key elements could include, coastal rangers, education initiatives particularly focussed at dog walkers (Solent Dog Project), as well as various potential access management projects.

Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.43 Following the publication of the NPPF Planning Policy for traveller sites in March 2012 work has been taken forward in Hampshire to identify the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople communities in Hampshire. This has been undertaken through a partnership approach comprising of a consortium of eleven local authorities of:

- East Hampshire District Council;
- Eastleigh Borough Council;
- Fareham Borough Council;
- Gosport Borough Council;
- Havant Borough Council;

- New Forest Borough Council;
- Test Valley Borough Council;
- Winchester District Council;
- New Forest National Park Authority;
- South Downs National Park Authority; and
- Hampshire County Council.

- 3.44 The study was carried out by Forest Bus Limited on behalf of the consortium. The recommendations of the Report have formed the basis for further work being undertaken by the local authorities through the Joint Authorities' Gypsy and Traveller Panel with regard to identifying suitable transit site provision in the county.
- 3.45 The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association established the Joint Authorities' Gypsy and Traveller Panel to develop and maintain a collaborative approach to meeting the needs of the respective traveller communities. Work is currently underway to identify a number of potential areas to accommodate Transit sites in the county.

The Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership

- 3.46 The Eastern Solent Coastal (ESCP) are a team of specialist coastal officers and engineers who manage coastal flood and erosion risk across 162km of coastline on behalf of Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council, Gosport Borough Council and Fareham Borough Council. The ESCP undertake a broad range of coastal management activities including preparing and implementing the adopted Shoreline Management Plan and Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategies. The ESCP works with officers from the Environment Agency and acts as a lead body on a number of key studies for them. This model of working has been cited as an example of best practice by both the Environment Agency and Defra.
- 3.47 The ESCP have prepared the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy which covers both the Gosport and Fareham Borough coastlines. The Strategy is out for public consultation. The consultation period runs from 1st September until 1st December 2014. The Strategy will be finalised during the winter of 2014/2015 and then put forward for adoption by Fareham and Gosport Borough Council and approval by the Environment Agency.

4.0 CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION

- 4.1 Consultation and ongoing dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders is a key element of the local plan preparation process and the Borough Council has undertaken extensive public consultation with a wide range of stakeholders on the local plan over a number of years. Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Borough Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (2012). Detailed information can be found in the Borough Council's Statement of Consultation which accompanies the Local Plan. A copy of the Statement of Consultation can be found on the Council's website at: www.gosport.gov.uk/localplan2029 and can be read in conjunction with this Duty to Co-operate Statement.
- 4.2 The Statement of Consultation provides further evidence of how the Borough Council has not only undertaken public consultation throughout the plan preparation stages but also clearly shows the Borough Council's commitment to on-going engagement with its partners. The Statement of Consultation shows how the Local Plan has addressed key issues that emerged as the plan has evolved including managing the transition from Core Strategy and proposed Site Allocations DPD to a single borough wide local plan and how the Borough Council's planning strategy contributes towards the effective delivery of key cross boundary strategic objectives through particular local plan policies.

4.3 The Borough Council in line with its adopted SCI kept its stakeholders informed on the progression of the Local Plan. The Council also held regular meetings and dialogue with its stakeholders prior the decision being made to merge the Core Strategy and site allocations into a Draft Local Plan. It is important to note that meetings and dialogue which took place prior to work being undertaken on the Draft Local Plan have been very important in helping to shape its overall content.

4.4 The following statutory and key stakeholders, local business groups and organisations were involved in face to face meetings or dialogue with officers during the plan preparation stage.

- Agents Liaison Group;
- Anglesey Conservation Group;
- Barratt Homes;
- Beaulieu Properties;
- Defence Estates;
- Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership;
- English Heritage;
- Environment Agency;
- Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust;
- Fareham Borough Council;
- GOSE¹;
- Gosport Business Forum;
- Gosport Ferry Ltd;
- Gosport Partnership;
- Gosport Regeneration Action Forum (GRAF);
- Gosport Society;
- Hampshire County Council – including the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), the Education, Minerals and Waste, Transport teams and the Developer Contributions Manager for Community Infrastructure Levy;
- Hampshire Economic Partnership;
- Hampshire Wildlife Trust;
- Haslar Stakeholders Group;
- HEP Investment, Land & property Task Group;
- Highways Agency;
- Homes and Communities Agency;
- Learning and Skills Council South East;
- Lee Residents Association;
- Millngate Properties;
- Ministry of Defence;
- Natural England;
- Network Rail;
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH);
- Premier Marinas;
- Portsmouth City Council;
- Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce;
- Portsmouth Water;
- PUSH Planning Officers;
- Rowner Renewal Partnership;
- RSPB;
- South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA);
- Southern Water;

¹ GOSE was abolished by the Coalition Government in June 2011.

- Social Responsibility Group of the Gosport and Fareham Methodist Circuit;
- Solent Business Chamber; and
- White Young Green.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The details provided above demonstrate the Gosport has extensive co-operative relationships with adjoining local authorities, with county and unitary councils, and a wide range of private sector partners. This demonstrates that co-ordinated planning in the areas of landuse, infrastructure provision and environmental issues is intrinsic to the planning process and the planning outcomes achieved in Gosport.
- 5.2 The commitment of Gosport Borough Council in being an active member of PUSH demonstrates the Council's recognition of the complex spatial planning issues that exist in south Hampshire, and the consequent need to plan in a co-ordinated, complementary cross-border fashion.
- 5.3 The co-operation relationships which Gosport has are permanent and on-going, and will continue to inform all facets of Gosport's strategic planning, resulting in a planning system giving rise to more sustainable patterns of development and landuse activity.
- 5.4 Gosport along with the other South Hampshire authorities have had a long a history of cooperating long before there was a legal duty to cooperate. All the local authorities value the input and recognise the powers and obligations of each other, and this provides a sound footing for ongoing co-operation between authorities in south Hampshire, to the longterm benefit of the south Hampshire community.