

Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)
between
Pendle Borough Council
and
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
in respect of the
Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition 2021-2040

1. Purpose of the SoCG

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to identify the strategic cross-boundary issues which may exist between the two named local authorities and set out how these issues can be taken forward and managed through plan-making.
- 1.2 This SoCG has been prepared by Pendle Borough Council (PBC) and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (CMBC). It demonstrates how the two authorities have worked together to agree and, as far as possible, resolve any strategic cross-boundary issues that have been identified. It also demonstrates how PBC has satisfied the Duty to Cooperate in preparing the Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition (LP4).
- 1.3 Appendix 1 of the SoCG shows the physical relationship between the two authorities.
- 1.4 LP4 has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published by the Government on 19 December 2023.

2. Strategic cross-boundary issues and areas of joint working

- 2.1 The following strategic cross-boundary issues have been identified in discussions between PBC and CMBC:
 - South Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Flood risk
- 2.2 The shared administrative boundary between PBC and CMBC is high on the desolate South Pennine Moors and there are no direct highway linkages between Pendle and Calderdale. This limits the scope and significance of many cross boundary issues. Both authorities agree that significant cross boundary issues relate only to environmental matters.

South Pennine Moors SSSI

- 2.3 The South Pennine Moors SSSI is the most significant strategic cross-boundary issue for PBC and CMBC, in respect of plan making. The peatland, bogs and wetlands of the SSSI form an internationally important breeding ground for many upland birds species. In Pendle, the boundary of the SSSI is co-existent with that for the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (Habitat) and the South Pennine Moors Special Protection

Area (Birds). The primary concern for the SSSI is the additional visitor pressure arising from housebuilding within easy travelling distance of the SSSI. The Impact Risk Zones drawn up by Natural England identify the need for visitor management measures to be put in place, particularly at key hot spots within the SSSI.

- 2.4 Both authorities are long-term participants in the South Pennine Moors Working Group, which meets quarterly to discuss matters related to the stewardship of the South Pennines Moors. A draft Statement of Common Ground setting out the purpose and governance of the group is in the process of being prepared and signed off by the participating local authorities. The parties recognise the important role of the group in facilitating cross boundary engagement and collaboration in support of the conservation of the South Pennine Moors SSSI, SAC and SPA.
- 2.5 The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) prepared in support of LP4 has determined that the delivery of homes on the sites allocated in Policy AL01 will not have a significant adverse impact on the SSSI when considered cumulatively alongside the proposals set out in other adopted plans and programmes. The development strategy and development management policies in LP4 seek to protect the South Pennines Moors from further degradation as a result of new development and support new initiatives to improve the quality of the units currently considered to be in an unfavourable condition.

Flood risk

- 2.6 Pendle sits astride the Pennine watershed. Whilst the majority of watercourses in the borough eventually flow west into the Irish Sea, the upper catchment for Hebden Water, which flows south east into the River Calder (Yorkshire), is situated within Pendle. Hebden Water is formed by the union of two streams: Graining Water, which flows generally south-eastward, and Alcomden Water, which flows generally southward, both rising on the southern slopes of Boulsworth Hill close to the boundary with Calderdale. There are no development proposals in that part of the Hebden Water catchment falling within Pendle.
- 2.7 The Level 2 Pendle Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (JBA Consultants 2023) and the more detailed site specific Level 2 Pendle SFRA (JBA Consultants 2024) have not highlighted any concerns that the level of development proposed in LP4 will increase flood risk downstream within the Calder catchment.

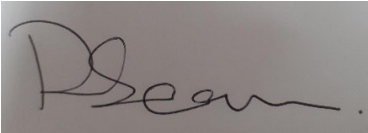

3. Agreement

- 3.1 This SoCG is endorsed by both Pendle Borough Council and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council and demonstrates an ongoing commitment to cooperate in the preparation of their respective Local Plans.
- 3.2 The most relevant document for plan making in Pendle is the Calderdale Local Plan 2018/19 to 2032/33, which was adopted on 22 March 2023.
- 3.3 It is agreed by both parties that the content of this SoCG is correct at the date of endorsement.

- 3.4 Subsequent revisions may be made to this SoCG in response to any changes to the issues that have been identified and any others that may emerge as each authority progresses their respective Local Plans in the future.

We, the undersigned, confirm that there is common ground on the draft planning policies in the draft Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition 2021-2024 and that there are no unresolved strategic issues set out in this statement.

Signed:	
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Organisation:	Pendle Borough Council
Corporate Logo:	

Signed:	
Name:	Richard Seaman
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Appendix 1:

Maps showing the relationship between the areas administered by Pendle Borough Council and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

