



Statement of Common Ground

as agreed between

Hart District Council

and

National Highways

September 2026

In respect of the emerging New Hart Local Plan

1 Purpose & Background

Hart District Council (HDC) is currently developing a new Local Plan for the District (New Hart Local Plan, the 'Plan'), which will replace the Hart Local Plan Strategy and Sites 2032 adopted in April 2020 and saved policies from the Hart District Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006.

National Highways (NH) is the government company which plans, designs, builds, operates and maintains England's motorways and major A-roads, known as the strategic road network (SRN). NH is a Statutory consultee providing advice to local planning authorities on local development documents in respect of their impact upon the SRN.

HDC and NH are relevant stakeholders for the purposes of the Local Plan as local planning authority and statutory consultee.

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) sets out the position of the organisations to date and has regard to strategic matters in relation to the New Hart Local Plan, including areas of agreement, areas for ongoing discussion, and how strategic matters between HDC and NH are being addressed throughout the plan-making process.

The SoCG has been prepared in accordance with policies PM10 on Maintaining cooperation between plan-making authorities and PM11 on Demonstrating cooperation between plan-making authorities of the National Planning Policy Framework 2026. It also follows SoCG guidance prepared by the Planning Advisory Services (PAS).

2 List of Parties involved

- Hart District Council
- National Highways

3 Signatories

We confirm that the information in this statement and documents referred to therein reflect the joint working undertaken and agreements made to date between HDC and NH in relation to the New Hart Local Plan.

National Highways

Letty Askew

Spatial Planner, Area 3



29 September 2026

Hart District Council

Daniel Hawes

Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager



30th September 2026

4 Strategic Geography

The New Hart Local Plan will apply to the geographical area of Hart District and provides a long-term planning framework supported by evidence covering the period 2026 to 2044. Appendix A provides a map of the plan areas which together constitute the strategic geography covered by this Statement of Common Ground.

5 Strategic Matters

5.1 Areas of Agreement

Strategic Matter	Hart District Council Position	National Highways Position	Record of Agreement (incl. date)
Eversley Bypass	HDC is considering if a proposed new bypass around Eversley on the northern boundary of the District is still needed.	NH thought that given the distance between the potential bypass and the M4 there was unlikely to be a specific impact from the bypass on the SRN.	It was considered that the Eversley bypass is unlikely to directly affect the SRN, though it remains a matter for discussions with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and neighbouring authorities.
Future Engagement	HDC proposed a rolling Statement of Common Ground, with an initial draft to support the October consultation. This would set out engagement arrangements, key evidence stages and future input from NH. HDC will share the draft STA with NH for comment.	NH agreed this was a sensible approach.	The organisations agree to future cooperation and engagement as the HDC Local Plan progresses. Detail on future engagement is set out in appendix 2 of this SoCG.

5.2 Areas of Ongoing Discussion

Strategic Matter	Hart District Council Position	National Highways Position	Implications of positions	Activities towards Agreement
Strategic Road Network	HDC is anticipating undertaking detailed assessment of the impacts of its development proposals through its Strategic Transport Assessment (STA). HDC noted a very large development site option close to Junction 5 of the M3 and the A287 has been put forward for consideration though no decision has been made on whether it is suitable.	The M3 is the only strategic road network asset within Hart. NH identified Junction 5 and, to a lesser extent, Junction 4A as the key areas of interest. (It should be noted that Junction 4A and 4 tend to be interdependent in their operation, due to their proximity, and should be considered together rather than as 2 separate junctions). Junctions are already busy, with potential future issues likely to arise as traffic grows. NH would like the modelling to identify local plan impacts, residual impacts after sustainable transport measures, and any strategic mitigation needed before examination. NH will welcome ongoing engagement with HDC throughout the development of the Local Plan, including outside of the formal consultation process.	HDC will need to undertake detailed modelling work as part of its ongoing STA work in order to ascertain the impacts of its development proposals on the SRN. Proposals may need to change dependent upon the impacts on the SRN.	HDC will consult NH on the STA and work as the plan progresses through the relevant stages. The STA and Plan will be updated to take account of any impacts on the SRN. HDC will consult NH on the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) at the appropriate stages.

Strategic Matter	Hart District Council Position	National Highways Position	Implications of positions	Activities towards Agreement
Joint working with Hampshire County Council	HDC are engaging HCC to undertake transport modelling using the North Hampshire Transport Model as part of the STA. HDC would welcome NH's input on the modelling approach.	NH would welcome early involvement in discussions about the modelling methodology. HDC to arrange this with HCC who are undertaking the modelling.	NH's input on the transport model will help to shape the approach taken in the STA.	HDC will raise the possibility and timing of future three-way discussions with HCC.

6 Governance Arrangements & Review

Decisions on this SoCG will be managed and agreed through cooperation meetings, circulation of draft statements, signature of final statements, and circulation of proposed revisions where necessary, between designated officers of HDC and NH.

HDC take responsibility for the drafting, updating, and circulation of this SoCG in cooperation with NH. The two authorities will publish the SoCG on their website at appropriate points.

A SoCG is a live document. This SoCG will be drafted and reviewed by officers at appropriate points. These may include:

- Whenever agreement is reached on any outstanding matters, or
- Relevant new evidence becomes available, or
- At key milestones in progress towards addressing strategic matters, or
- At relevant key stages of the plan making process.

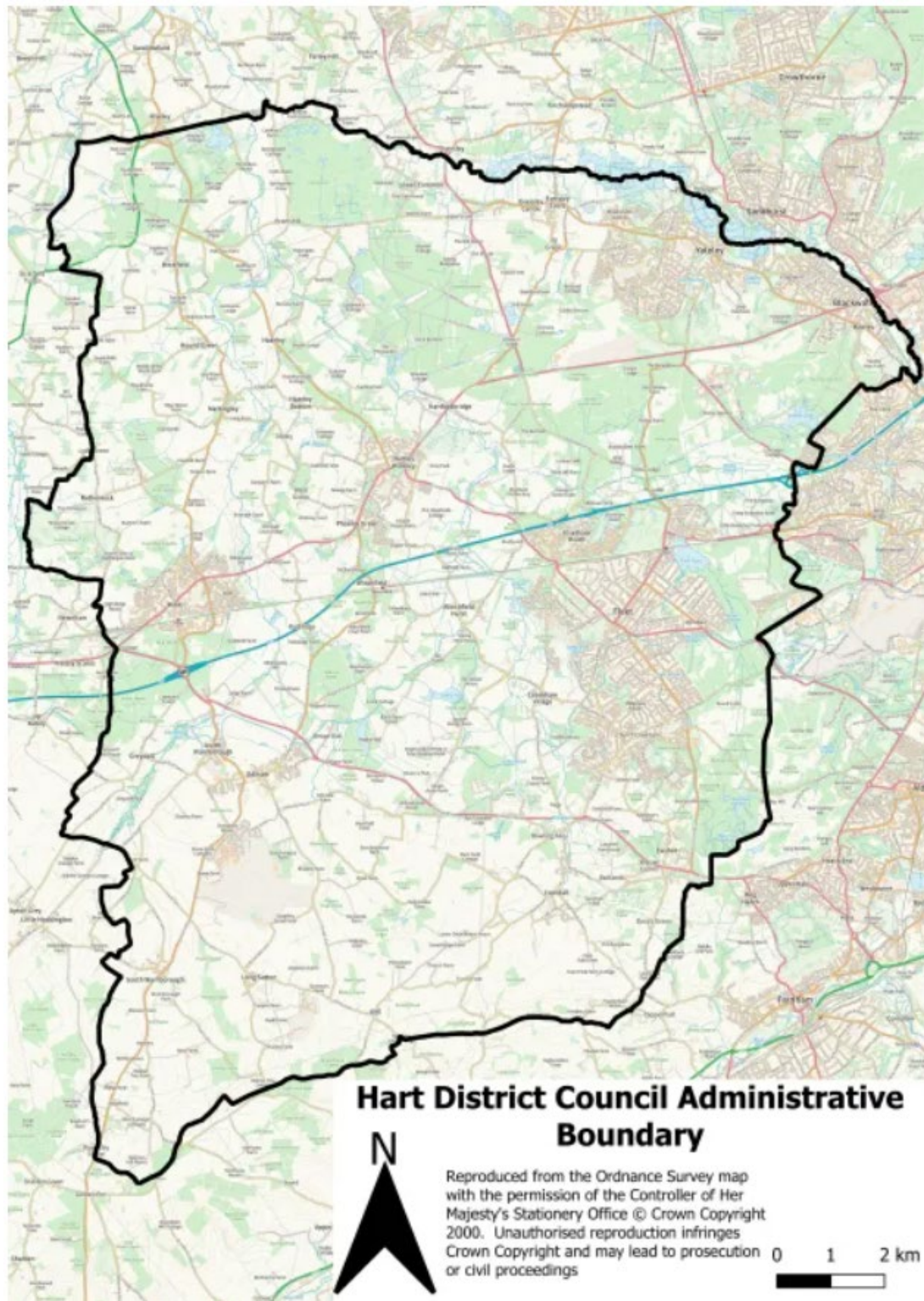
6. Record of / Timetable for Cooperation¹

Date	Stage	Form of Correspondence / Meeting	Matters for discussion
10.07.2026	Scoping	Online meeting	Joint working with HCC on transport modelling, SRN issues, future engagement through the Local Plan process.
09.09.2026	Scoping	Preparation and agreement of a SoCG	Same as above

¹ Anticipated future cooperation is set out in Appendix 2

Appendix A - Strategic Geography

Geographical area to which the New Hart Local Plan will relate:



Appendix 2: Suggested detailed future engagement.

Work Area	Key Stage / form of engagement	Date
Parking Standard	Appropriate standards for parking in the district.	October 2026
Local Plan (whole)	Consultation on the Plan's draft vision, proposed spatial strategy and a summary of evidence gathered to date.	October 2026
STA	Consultation on Baseline model results and potential implications on the SRN.	Winter 2026/27
STA	Consultation on draft STA results including do minimum and do something and potential implications on the SRN.	Summer 2027
Local Plan (whole)	Consultation on the full draft plan and policies map.	September 2027