

DARTFORD LOCAL
PLAN

**Duty to
Cooperate
Update and
Addendum**

September 2021

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. Background and Structure

1.1 This document is intended to outline emerging outcomes of duty to cooperate activities. It includes the current position in relation to the council and partners on the new Dartford Local Plan and progress on cross-boundary strategic issues following document drafting/ constructive meetings – particularly those which have taken place since April 2020.

1.2 The previous Duty to Cooperate Statement of Activities (February 2021) showed the high level of engagement which Dartford had undertaken with duty to cooperate partners and provided an illustrative overview of key duty to cooperate activities/ strategic issues channels up to 31 March 2020. It detailed the c.400 activities with partners or meetings relating strategic planning. For instance Figure 3 (page 14) shows the existing and expanding communication and cooperation, such that by 2019 over 250 formal meetings were held with partners on principal strategic development matters, specifically:

- Over 100 discussions have been held on housing/ accommodation growth by end of 2018, with more following.
- Over 50 discussions have been held on Ebbsfleet, and on transport matters, (each) with a particular acceleration in 2018 and 2019 of cross boundary transport dialogue..

The Statement also, at section 5 (page 21), confirms that Dartford convened discussions/ workshops on strategic duty to cooperate issues at key points throughout the Local Plan preparation/ infrastructure Planning. This has all directly informed the current Dartford Local Plan 2021 publication (pre-submission), and is the essential backdrop to this document.

1.3 This document should therefore, as an update and addendum, be read in conjunction with the February 2021 Duty to Cooperate Statement of Activities. Following the completion of the second Publication Local Plan period autumn 2021, and prior to the submission of the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate (Secretary of State), this document will be updated and/ or complemented by further documentation.

1.4 Section 2 of this document sets out the list of duty to cooperate partners, how they responded to the first Publication Local Plan and the current position in relation to Statements of Common Ground. Section 3 lists meetings held with partners, since April 2020, specifically in relation to Local Plan issues. Section 4 includes a summary of the strategic issues/ current position of parties. The Council has also continued to be involved in a number of regular other meetings with partners and key ones of relevance are listed in appendix 1. The document uses a number of abbreviations so Appendix 2 includes a key for these.

2. Duty to Cooperate Partners – Current Position

2.1 The list of bodies with whom the local planning authority (i.e. Dartford Borough Council) must co-operate is set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and in Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This includes in Dartford's case:

- Local planning authorities, e.g. Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, neighbouring authorities (Bexley, Sevenoaks, Gravesham & Thurrock) affected by strategic issues in the development plan
- Kent County Council
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Mayor of London
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England

- Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Health Service Commissioning Board
- Office of Road and Rail
- Transport for London
- Each Integrated Transport Authority – not applicable to Dartford Borough
- Each highway authority – Kent County Council. National Highways (formerly Highways England).
- Marine Management Organisation
- The South East LEP (local enterprise partnership)
- The local nature partnership

2.2 Table 1 indicates which of the duty to cooperate partners responded to the first Dartford Pre-Submission (Publication) Local Plan February 2021, the nature of their responses and the progress being made towards Statements of Common Ground where relevant. Where a response was received that included a completed standard representations form, in addition to written comments, this allows clear indication of whether or not a partner considered the plan 'complies with the duty to cooperate'. This is highlighted in table 1.

2.3 It can be seen that by this stage 4 organisations (Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Kent County Council, Environment Agency, and Medway Council) explicitly stated via the representations form that Dartford had complied with the Duty to Cooperate. Medway noted that this was subject to further discussions. Some organisations raised no comment /issue in relation to the Duty to Cooperate. There was one organisation, Gravesham Borough Council, which explicitly stated Dartford had not complied. A number of national organisations did not respond with any representation following contact.

Table 1: Duty to Cooperate Partners' Local Plan Responses and Progress on Statements of Common Ground

Duty to Cooperate Partner	Local Plan Response to Plan by Partner Brief Nature of Response		SoCG Action
Neighbouring Authorities and EDC	Ticked yes to: <i>Complies with Duty to Cooperate?</i>		
Ebbsfleet Development Corporation Planning	Yes	General support for the approach to Ebbsfleet Garden City.	Draft document has been prepared.
Gravesham Borough Council	No	Object to policy S4 (Borough Development Levels) on the basis that DBC has not considered meeting some of GBC's housing needs and the relationship between employment and housing delivery is unclear. Also object to policy M22 (Bluewater) as there is need for clarity on its status, i.e. whether or not it is treated as a town centre. General support for the approach towards Ebbsfleet Central (policy E4) but clarity needed in relation to a number of Ebbsfleet policies.	Draft document In preparation
London Borough of Bexley	N/A	General support for the strategy, maximising opportunities for strategic transport upgrades and co-ordinated delivery of new infrastructure to serve new development.	Update of previously agreed version in preparation.
Medway Council (N.B. Not an adjoining authority but within north Kent)	Yes “(subject to further discussions)”	General support. Query what consideration has been given to contributing to unmet housing needs in the wider area, seek assurance that proposals at Bluewater will not undermine the role of neighbouring centres, and would like to see the remaining outputs from the transport study.	Draft document In preparation
Mayor of London/ Greater London Authority	N/A	The GLA's demographic modelling provides alternative projections which could be used in respect of housing need. It would be useful to understand the provision of employment land in the context of requirements for the wider area. Need to understand the potential implications of retail and commercial leisure development on London's centres and transport network. Welcome joint work on C2E.	Potential document raised by Dartford.

Duty to Cooperate Partner	Local Plan Response to Plan by Partner Brief Nature of Response		SoCG Action
Sevenoaks District Council	N/A	Sevenoaks note that the proposed housing requirement is supported by a supply of developable land..	Update of previously agreed version in preparation.
Thurrock Council	N/A	No response received	Draft document has been prepared.
Environmental Partners	Ticked yes to: <i>Complies with Duty to Cooperate?</i>		
Environment Agency	Yes	Detailed comments on the way in which the plan addresses flood risk and TE2100 (flood defences and a possible future barrier)	Discussions underway
Historic England	N/A	Support for historic environment policies	Not currently proposed
Kent Local Nature Partnership	N/A	No response received	Not currently proposed
Marine Management Organisation	N/A	The Marine Management Organisation note that there should be reference to the South East Marine Plan	Not currently proposed
Natural England	N/A	Object to policies E1, E4 and E6 (Ebbsfleet Strategy, Ebbsfleet Central Allocation and Land North of Swanscombe Area) on the basis that they do not meet the national and local policy requirement to conserve and enhance the recently notified Swanscombe Peninsula SSSI.	Discussions underway
Infrastructure Partners	Ticked yes to: <i>Complies with Duty to Cooperate?</i>		

Duty to Cooperate Partner	Local Plan Response to Plan by Partner Brief Nature of Response		SoCG Action
National Highways (formerly Highways England)	N/A	The Local Plan will need to consider the impact of development on the highways capacity of the strategic road network, given congestion issues which currently arise at key junctions and the Dartford Crossing and changes which are taking place to the network.	Proposed.
Kent County Council	Yes	General support for the strategy. Provision for additional schools is required. There are concerns regarding waste disposal infrastructure, to support development coming forward through the new Local Plan.	Discussions underway
Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group	N/A	No response received	Not currently proposed
NHS England	N/A	No response received	Not currently proposed
Office of Road and Rail	N/A	No response received	Not currently proposed
Transport for London	N/A	Object to policy D1 (Central Dartford Strategy) on the basis that the plan should include commitments to prioritise improved bus infrastructure and routeing in any redevelopment within the town centre. General support for joint work on C2E and a number of transport related policies. Suggest that some of the Mayor's strategic transport policy objectives could be extended to the Borough.	Not currently proposed
Other Partners	Ticked yes to: <i>Complies with Duty to Cooperate?</i>		
Civil Aviation Authority	N/A	No response received	Not currently proposed

Duty to Cooperate Partner	Local Plan Response to Plan by Partner Brief Nature of Response		SoCG Action
Homes England	N/A	No response received	Not currently proposed
South East Local Enterprise Partnership	N/A	No response received	Not currently proposed

2.5 It is expected that the final Statements of Common Ground will be in place by the time that the Plan is submitted later in 2021. In summary:

- Statements of Common Ground are in preparation/ agreement finalisation with a total of six Local Planning Authorities.
- Preparation to start drafting (or the potential to commence) a Statement of Common Ground is underway or in discussion with a further five partner organisations.

2.6 It can be seen that Dartford's Statements of Common Ground activity and drafting has been extensive. Communication and preparation of agreements will continue. Dartford will also take on board/ discuss responses received on the second Dartford Pre-Submission (Publication) Local Plan September 2021.

3. Local Plan Specific Meetings & Outcomes from April 2020 to September 2021

3.1 Tables 2-4 show the headline outcomes of several meetings that DBC has held with duty to cooperate partners between April 2020 – 2 September 2021, relating specifically to the new Dartford Local Plan.

3.2 They deal with neighbouring authorities/ Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Environmental Partners and Infrastructure Partners respectively; showing discussion of strategic matters and progress towards specific agreements. Meetings featured are not exhaustive. Further meetings may have occurred/ are planned September 2021 onwards.

3.3 Table 2 lists meetings held solely with other Local Authorities or partners. Tables 3 and 4 then group meetings in accordance with the key strategic matter being discussed, it must be noted that these meetings often have multiple stakeholders, including those listed in table 2.

Table 2: Local Plan Specific Meetings with Neighbouring Authorities and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
Ebbsfleet Development Corporation – Local Plan	
26/06/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement for a series of monthly bilateral meetings to inform preparation of the Publication Local Plan • Agreement on supporting meanwhile uses within the Garden City and embedding this in the Dartford Local Plan • Discussion of policy options for enabling amenity provision • Agreement to continue exploring the potential for a Gypsy and Travellers Pitch within the Garden City • Ebbsfleet Central not likely to be suitable to standard viability assessment (based on public sector financing)
01/07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update by the retail consultants and questions/ answers around the Retail and Leisure Study • Agreement that the principal Ebbsfleet retail issue is supporting delivery of viable new centres of vitality, particularly at the Ebbsfleet Central site; and where there are legal restrictions on the land for the amount of retail and types of commercial leisure.
29/07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on approach to researching existing amenity space across the Borough and the Garden City to support development of amenity provision policy • The importance of quality of new development for Local Plan policy and regeneration of existing areas was noted • Discussion on recent consents, validated applications and completions

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some delays on Ebbsfleet Central site work, briefings at future meetings • Current wording of development management policies reviewed
28/09/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC updated on Ebbsfleet Central work/phasing, and potential Local Plan policy coverage discussed. EDC expect to publish draft masterplan by the end of the year. London Resort would have an adverse impact, e.g. access Road through the site – plans for with and without. • Agreed Ebbsfleet Central would maintain a strategic high quality commercial/ business focus to its overall development, levels of retail have legal restriction but are not planned at that level anyway • Discussion on housing numbers in Eastern Quarry and Ebbsfleet Central and agreement on what can be classified as deliverable and included in DBC's 5 year housing land supply, e.g. key parts of Eastern Quarry • Discussion on Ebbsfleet Central and agreed in outline what the diagram for this area in the Plan could show
30/10/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on housing numbers in Eastern Quarry and Ebbsfleet Central and agreement on what can be classified as deliverable and included in DBC's 5 year housing land supply, and the level of delivery in GBC for the Ebbsfleet Central site • Discussion on policy approach to accessible housing – M4(2) and M4(3) • Agreement that the overall split between houses and flats within the Garden City for the purposes of DBC's transport study can be set at 40/60 accordingly • Discussion on amenity provision policy draft, EDC prefer a minimum space to be set within the policy, especially for balconies for flats • EDC to revert with information on sustainable construction standards for Ebbsfleet Central
26/11/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC Board to consider GBC's plan consultation on 16/12/2020 • Discussion on Ebbsfleet chapter within the draft Plan. Agreement on some aspects of what should be shown in the diagrams but further work to be done and shared • Agreement that proposed new local centres at the Garden City will be shown on the key diagram • Possible Ebbsfleet Central planning application boundary discussed. Noted that it is expected to achieve 30% open space as required
15/04/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC provided feedback on the responses received on its Regulation 19 Local Plan and possible implications for timing • Agreed on major potential impact of SSSI notification. • EDC to revise Ebbsfleet Central masterplanning work and DBC is still considering options for taking the Plan forward. • Parties will aim towards a SOCG.

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
04/06/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting primarily to discuss Local Plan changes as a result of the notification of the Swanscombe Peninsula SSSI • DBC and EDC agree important elements of the Ebbsfleet chapter within the Local Plan that should be changed • DBC inform EDC that the current diagrams will be removed and a red line boundary of the Ebbsfleet Central allocation, excluding the SSSI, will be inserted. DBC inform the EDC that a new strategic diagram showing the Garden City as a whole will be developed and that the SSSI will be shown on this • DBC and EDC agree that the Ebbsfleet Central policy should retain importance/encouragement for commercial floorspace • DBC and EDC agree that the policy covering Eastern Quarry could support housing for the elderly • DBC and EDC agree that work on a SOCG should be progressed and signed ahead of submission in September • EDC agrees to continue to support DBC in collating evidence on housing supply
08/06/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting primarily to discuss the practical options for amending the climate change policies relating to Ebbsfleet in the Local Plan • Agreement to increase water related requirements for non-residential development • DBC agree to do further work around what frameworks to encourage – RIBA, Building with Nature etc • DBC agree to include policy content on passive design • Needs careful review so that policies are justified, useable and consistent.
22/07/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSSI notification responses discussed • DBC/ EDC have suggested that London Resort preliminary meeting is not until after SSSI confirmation. • Benefits of a new Local Plan noted – first Local Plan to reflect EDC strategy, all efforts are ongoing by both parties to ensure all relevant parties are engaged, although it is recognised some cooperate more actively than others • Meetings held with NE discussed. Noted that landowners e.g. EDC may prefer no change to Ebbsfleet Central allocations boundary following SSSI notification, however proper planning regard is required of SSSI proposal, although its specific full implications are not yet clear and require further NE dialogue (meeting scheduled). • DBC seek SoCG with EDC as planning authority, but prepared to have separate discussions with EDC as landowner • Further ideas for SoCG content agreed

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC Housing land supply updated • Further separate discussions to be held between EDC and DBC on Ebbsfleet Central infrastructure funding provisions.
Ebbsfleet Development Corporation – Ebbsfleet Central Masterplanning	
10/02/2021 (joint meeting with KCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebbsfleet Central masterplanning by EDC is progressing – commencing wide range of joint discussions, all parties agreed this would lead to public engagement. • Same discussion had with GBC – their area principally residential and open space, links to Northfleet Station. • Discussion on development quantities and locations. Northfleet Landfill site west of the station not considered likely to be included in the application (not in EDC ownership) but still planned as a major park. Ebbsfleet Central proposals within the application boundary will comply with open space requirements. • Proposals shown with and without London Resort (Access road implications), cannot wait for Resort to be resolved before proceeding.
10/03/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further update on Central Masterplanning. • Engagement timescale towards application in autumn 2021 noted. • Phasing/ housing delivery sequence discussed. • Greenspace, leisure and health provision outlined. • Aiming to achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain.
18/05/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC provided DBC with an update on masterplanning work post SSSI and confirm general housing numbers are still set to be achievable • Links of great importance, including still taking advantage of an existing bridge that has the potential to connect two phases of the masterplan (east and west)
London Borough of Bexley	
02/09/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC reviewing changing national policy and considering its programme to produce Reg19 publication Local Plan, may publish mid 2021.

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC strategy to focus on Dartford town centre and Ebbsfleet. Retail needs decreasing but Bluewater planning permissions remain. More work needed on gypsies and travellers. • LBB planning Reg19 Local Plan publication in November 2020, no major proposals for eastern parts near DBC, have responded to DBC comments from last time. • LBB meeting latest London Plan housing requirements, providing 10 year supply with significant small site allowance. • LBB due to discuss A282/M25 junction 1A in Dartford with Highways England; healthcare is also a sensitive issue in Dartford which is a possible strategic concern. • Both plans may need to address Crossrail work as appropriate • Housing is a strategic matter for further consideration • Agreed the current SOCG can be expanded
31/03/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation that DBC will not be seeking help from LBB to meet housing land supply • Confirmation that LBB's housing requirement is set from the London Plan which has now been finalised and under this period may not require assistance to meet target • LBB and DBC consider they are meeting their own economic development needs • Further work continuing on meeting gypsy and traveller needs. • Agreement that the existing SOCG between LBB and DBC will need to be fully reviewed, likely once both Regulation 19 Local Plan consultations have closed
24/06/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement to commence work on expanded and revised Statement of Common Ground, same level sign off – officer or member. • Agreement to look into whether it is appropriate for DBC's housing delivery to potentially support LBB's long-term needs in the future as required • LBB due to meet Mayor of London and will highlight DBC discussions • New London Plan work underway (Industrial Land study) • No spare Gypsy and Traveller capacity in LBB or DBC
Gravesham Borough Council	
30/06/2020 (joint meeting with SDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and updates on communal issues such as Lower Thames Crossing, London Resort, Kent Waste and London Plan • Agreement that a joint approach for consistency regarding Biodiversity Net gain is beneficial

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A SOCG at GBC will need Senior Director and Member sign off; and GBC consider it should be discussed with Medway in due course • Information shared by DBC regarding KCC waste proposals/ infrastructure asks
09/02/2021 (joint meeting with Medway Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC confirmed EDC masterplan details awaited, school provision remains an issue, plan is not predicated on a set housing: employment ratio (reflecting national policy), • GBC have not identified further sites to meet housing need, not done full urban capacity work, not updating retail study, issues with level of flats. • Agreement that further work will be needed on SOCGs. Medway indicated they would welcome a SOCG with DBC with particular regard to transport and employment, DBC supportive of the idea. Officer/ Chief Planner level appropriate.
10/08/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed a document with potential points of key agreement and disagreement for incorporating into a SOCG • Agreed that GBC would provide an additional point in relation to housing and employment supply/ air quality • Agreed that DBC would draft a SOCG for discussion, including drawing from some of the previous unpublished 2020 draft background text, at the next meeting on 31/08/2021
31/08/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBC had provided responses on the potential points of agreement and disagreement but these had been superseded by the draft SOCG produced by DBC • GBC to provide feedback on the draft SOCG in advance of the next meeting
Sevenoaks District Council	
30/06/2020 (joint meeting with GBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See under Gravesham Borough Council above
04/03/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that SDC situation is uncertain pending legal action • Noted that DBC can discuss meeting needs from elsewhere • Agreed that the existing SOCG needs updating
02/09/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDC is carrying out an update to its evidence base as part of work on a new Local Plan • Prior to the meeting DBC had sent SDC suggested changes to the existing SOCG

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDC will consider the amended SOCG and respond in advance of the next meeting, including consideration of how to deal with the issue of the SDC's previous request for DBC to accommodate some of its housing needs
Greater London Authority	
02/07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working update on strategic matters including Crossrail and wider transport including importance of Junction 1A of the A282/M25 in DBC (design solution needed), GLA encourage ambitious modal shifts and the approach of London's Healthy Streets. DBC agrees that encouraging greater modal shifts is priority • Noted that there are viability issues for development in Dartford town centre, Crossrail assumed likely to help but no current evidence that significant housing uplift would necessarily result • DBC is looking to move ahead to update the Local Plan for growth but is grappling with great uncertainty of Ebbsfleet Central progression, and London Resort may be finally accelerating towards a Development Consent Order submission. • GLA have assisted with Compulsory Purchase Orders to assist delivery • London Plan Inspector's Report makes no major change to inter-regional collaboration approach • It is hoped Thames Estuary Growth Board will engage further on housing aspects of strategic development • KCC leading on preparing a potential county 'growth deal' with government • Debate around how to formalise arrangements and continue discussions. The GLA generally do not wish to commit to SOCGs with individual LPAs but it may be different if there are issues arising of a very specific strategic nature which require close cooperation.
08/07/2020 (joint with a number of other authorities in the wider east and south east of England)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting to provide an update on the progress of the London Plan • GLA are focussed on plan wording changes, Secretary of State received GLA proposed amendments to his Directions in May, no news since • Secretary of State has not responded to queries by local authorities about the proposed strategy for the GLA to work with regional partners for housing delivery • Regional level discussions planned for Autumn 2020.
Thurrock Council	

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
05/02/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on cross boundary issues including Lower Thames Crossing, London Plan and Crossrail, agreed that they have strategic significance but Local Plan impacts variable/ less certain • London Resort: shared the view that issues include waste and transport impacts • Confirmation that Thurrock are aiming to meet their objectively assessed housing need and an additional 20%, DBC will also surpass objectively assessed housing need. • Information shared on TE2100 (Thames Estuary 2100), and care needed about how this is dealt with in current plans • DBC is updating its approach to Bluewater informed by a retail study but overall regional role not anticipated to change substantially • South Essex Growth Deal declined by government, Kent one making very slow progress • Identified likely scope for Agreement on a SOCG that focusses on infrastructure etc, potential to keep it as a live document; officer agreement likely to be appropriate for both authorities
Medway Council	
09/02/2021 (joint meeting with GBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See under Gravesham Borough Council above

Table 3: Local Plan Specific Meetings with Environmental Partners

Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
Natural England	
26/05/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC agreed to revise the Ebbsfleet Chapter of the Local Plan in light of the SSSI that was notified at Swanscombe Peninsula and Ebbsfleet Central during the Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation period • NE agreed to review a draft Local Plan and provide timely feedback • NE and DBC agreed to continue working together, and with the EDC, particularly on the Ebbsfleet Central site allocation • NE stated that their preferred approach is for the entirety of the SSSI to be left intact and that avoidance is therefore key. NE agreed in principle that there may be opportunity for green infrastructure delivery,

	<p>connection delivery and perhaps play space delivery. Where development does happen, NE has stressed that mitigation will be necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE state that the intention is for Ebbsfleet Central to be an exemplar and innovative place with the SSSI forming a key asset and starting point for masterplanning • DBC and NE agree that a SOCG will be useful
Environment Agency	
28/04/2020 (joint meeting with EA, KCC Lead Local Flood Authority)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception meeting with the consultants carrying out the new Dartford SFRA
06/11/2020 (joint meeting with KCC Lead Local Flood Authority)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with SFRA consultants to discuss outputs • Information on flood risk data modelling, briefing on all applicable town centres sites • Bespoke town centre modelling work/ solutions discussed • SUDS and local Borough rainwater infiltration approach agreed • Greywater recycling opportunities limited unless built in from outset of large developments.
10/03/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC gave an update on relevant policies and the infrastructure diagram in the Dartford Local Plan which had been published for comment • EA made a number of detailed comments including in relation to flood defences, riverside strategy, a potential Thames Barrier and biodiversity net gain. The EA would need to consider how to respond on these issues • It was agreed that the EA has been closely involved with and provided input into the SFRA

Table 4: Local Plan Specific Meetings with Infrastructure Partners

Subject/ Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
Sub-regional Transport Planning	
01/10/2020 (Medway Council, Maidstone BC, GBC, KCC, HE, EDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the North Kent Strategic Transport Group • Benefits of a forum agreed for collaboration on transport matters in the sub-region • Medway hope to complete their transport modelling by end of the year. Considering modal shift option of the order of 25%. Phased housing levels approx. 10,600 to 2037

Subject/ Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maidstone's network has been impacted by high housing delivery, little new local employment sites • A further meeting of the group was held on 15/01/2021
23/03/2021 (KCC, GBC, EDC, Medway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session on strategic transport and planning issues in north west Kent, convened by DBC. • DBC outlined its Local Plan publication proposals, and Strategic Transport study reports, and other published evidence including the Background Paper explaining the extensive available strategic transport data already available and applicable. The focus of the Local Plan is on sustainable travel, some of which is based on and cross-boundary improvements. Partners will be able to input to an overarching sustainable transport strategy document to be produced by Dartford in support of Local Plan delivery. • Discussion informed the consideration of collaborative project opportunities within the Dartford Local Plan, e.g. Fastrack, Mobility As A Service; complementing the other strategic transport discussion on highways and Crossrail • Agreed that proposals are advanced in the Ebbsfleet area but transport improvements need to further link/ spread out deeper to its surrounding Boroughs (GBC and DBC), all are working to this end • Strategic transport discussions and general updates on Local Plan and Transport Strategy work from GBC and Medway • Agreed that there are several transport coordination channels in play in north Kent, including the group started last November with Medway, KCC, GBC, DBC and others, and these provide good strategic working, allied with ad hoc collaboration
06/05/2021 (KCC, GBC, EDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of North west Kent Sustainable Transport Working Group • Shared debate over details of implementation of sustainable travel projects in/around the Ebbsfleet area • Agreed the group should consider approaching Bluewater –range of possible schemes
Dartford Transport Modelling/ Study	
20/05/2020 (KCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Study agreement on the methodology approach • DBC agreed to apply a 15% mode shift to the base model in favour of sustainable travel modes for one scenario. KCC accepted development transport assessments with a 10% mode shift applied. • Agreed to look into general approaches across Kent and England
22/07/2020 (KCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the transport model and LTAM
14/10/2020 (KCC, HE, EDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on DBC's Local Plan and on the work underway for transport strategic modelling • Potential 15% and 30% mode shifts agreed

Subject/ Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
07/01/2021 (HE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dartford Transport Study/Model technical discussion • HE state they do not require a fully WebTag compliant study but providing information contained within Table 5 of WebTag would give HE a clearer picture • HE and DBC agreed that the Local Plan transport modelling would cover scenarios with and without the Lower Thames Crossing • LTAM input (from uncertainty log) assumed maximum theoretical build out of the old Ebbsfleet Central permission, but confirmed the overall restriction in the permission means it is not allowed to build that maximum per use level
11/02/2021 (KCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that strategic modelling is able to move ahead, latest note on it helpful to KCC • Changes to reflect local network have been taken on board • DBC's potential for sustainable travel is as high as anywhere • Insufficient information has been submitted in relation to the London Resort proposals so it is not possible to directly incorporate this in the DBC strategic modelling • As a result of the above, it was agreed that there are several transport cooperation channels in north Kent ongoing.
15/03/2021 (HE, KCC, EDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing by DBC on Regulation 19 Local Plan, provisions for review of Local Plan noted • Progress update noted around the Transport Assessment for the Local Plan • HE noted the DBC Transport Background Paper as evidence to support the Plan; DBC to work up a sustainable transport strategy and share with HE
02/07/2021 (HE, KCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC confirmed another Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation would be held in autumn 2021 due to SSSI etc • Outputs of DBC Local Plan strategic transport modelling discussed
Education	
22/04/2021 (KCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan proposals and education implications noted • Agreed progress on new school provision • Future need likely to identify provision in central Dartford • Both Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 can support delivery, depending on circumstances

Subject/ Duty to Cooperate Partner/ Meeting Date	Headline Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing needs for special educational needs and early years provision also, KCC to provide further info for DBC to consider for inclusion in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan • Options explored to better deploy currently under-used land <p>N.B. This meeting was specifically to discuss the Regulation 19 Local Plan as part of regular meetings with KCC Education, full dates for which are provided in table 6 below.</p>
Waste	
23/07/2020 (KCC, GBC, EDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on waste site proposals in North Kent • Existing site on DBC/ GBC boundary and wider needs discussed, including from growth at Ebbsfleet Garden City • Funding situation discussed. The LPAs raised several queries. DBC offered Community Infrastructure Levy specific further dialogue to help • Agreed that KCC would research site further and involve the LPAs
12/10/2020 (KCC, GBC, EDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LPAs query why sites now under discussion not considered via the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan • KCC to look further into landowners/ availability confirmation, and highways, including engagement with Highways England

4. Strategic Issues Progress

4.1 It is helpful to outline here progress and ongoing arrangements on cooperation on the Dartford Local Plan and the key strategic matters. Table 5 indicates where, from public documentation or recent direct discussions, DBC considers prime areas of agreement exist regarding Dartford Local Plan's strategic matter proposals.

4.2 This signposts duty to cooperate/ SoCG potential outcomes dealing with issues arising from the Dartford Local Plan; but is necessarily a high level summary, unable to cover all potential strategic issues/ viewpoints.

Table 5: Strategic Issues Progress/ Ongoing Arrangements

Strategic Matter (NPPF ref.)	Selected key issues/ parties - DBC commentary	Examples of how areas of agreement can be maintained and updated
Para. 20a) - Commercial/ employment development.	DBC considers it is fully providing for its own development requirements without requiring assistance of others. Information from partners does not suggest strategic disagreement with this. One authority (GBC) made technical queries in its representations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider South East Officer Working Group (GLA, DBC, GBC, KCC/Medway, Thurrock and others) • Thames Estuary Growth Board (TEGB)
Para. 20a) – Ebbsfleet Garden City	DBC is engaging in ongoing and effective strategic planning with the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation to support the delivery of a successful vibrant and green Garden City in Dartford (and outside). Information from partners suggests no strategic disagreement with this. This is featured in Statements of Common Ground in preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebbsfleet Planning Liaison Group (EDC, DBC, GBC, KCC) • EDC DBC meetings
Para. 20a) - Residential	DBC considers it is fully providing for its own development requirements without requiring assistance of others. DBC has confirmed that it expects over time to meet slightly more than its current standard method housing level. The Local Plan (reasoned justification for policy S4) states the proposed housing requirement “is consistent with potentially supporting delivery of some unmet residential needs in the wider area”. Information from partners does not suggest strategic disagreement with this. Activities are ongoing with neighbouring authorities on how this issue should be addressed through Statements of Common Ground; some of the authorities have previously indicated to Dartford/ or still consider they will not meet their own housing needs (GBC and SDC). Discussions are aiming to document Dartford's contribution towards wider housing needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider South East Officer Working Group GLA, DBC, GBC, KCC/Medway, Thurrock and others, • Thames Estuary Growth Board (TEGB), • KPOG/ PPF (all Kent/ Medway authorities)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests were received from GBC and SDC in 2015 and 2019 respectively to assist with meeting their housing need. • The London Plan 2021 was adopted with a shortfall in its housing provision. LBB's plan understood to aim to comply with Local Plan housing supply requirements. <p>DBC is undertaking work to try to meet its own Gypsies and Travellers needs which is ongoing. DBC have made requests to EDC to consider land within its area and KCC to consider land that it owns within DBC for this purpose. The EDC has not identified any land and the response from KCC is awaited.</p>	
Para. 20a) – Retail/ leisure	<p>DBC considers it is fully providing for its own development requirements without requiring assistance of others. There is uncertainty in the sector but Dartford's evidence shows retail needs may be met through existing permissions. Partners are interested in the future scale of retail and leisure in the Borough, namely at Bluewater and via London Resort proposals. The Local Plan proposes (policies M22 and E6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to introduce sequential testing for indoor leisure proposals at Bluewater: • not to offer support for the London Resort which is being dealt with via the NSIP process (and a Local Plan Review, were it to be successful) and by setting out other policy for the Swanscombe Peninsula. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPOG/ PPF (all Kent/ Medway authorities) • Thames Estuary Strategic Retail Group (DBC, GBC and other Kent, Essex & London invitees)
Para. 20b) – Physical infrastructure	<p>DBC is aiming to meet its own infrastructure requirements arising from development, and any associated cross-boundary issues. The advanced nature and scale of proposals e.g. planning permissions on which the Local Plan is based means detailed arrangements for transport, utilities and other necessary networks have already been considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Plan is supported by a transport assessment, for which the following stages have been completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 – Base Year Model Stage 2 – Forecast Year Model Stage 3 – Local Plan Preferred Option Testing • The final Stage 4 (Mitigations) will be released shortly. However, information on the key mitigation of achieving modal shift through growth in active travel and public transport has been published through a Sustainable Transport Strategy document. • This approach is set out in the Transport Background Paper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North West Kent Sustainable Transport Working Group (EDC, DBC, KCC and others) • North Kent Strategic Transport Group (Medway, GBC, EDC, DBC, KCC and others) • STIP Working and Steering Groups (with GBC, KCC and EDC), • Fastrack Working Group and Advisory Board (KCC, GBC, EDC) • The Junction 1A (of the A282/M25 Tunnel Approach

	A range of views on this exist, with the local and strategic highway authorities agreeing (to date) with the approach taken. LBB supports the approach of maximising opportunities to achieve strategic transport upgrades. From ongoing discussions, HE, KCC, GBC and Medway Council seek further discussion on outputs from Stages 3 & 4 of the transport assessment work. This is featured in Statements of Common Ground in preparation.	Road) Steering Group (with National Highways/ HE, KCC and LBB).
Para. 20c) – Community Facilities	DBC is aiming to work with providers to fully meet its own community facility requirements arising from development, and any associated cross-boundary issues. Information from partners does not suggest strategic disagreement with this. KCC representation raised waste infrastructure and this has now been further addressed in the Local Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC- KCC meetings, • DBC- Kent and Medway CCG/ NHS England meetings
Para. 20d) - Environmental	DBC is aiming to fully address strategic environmental issues arising from development, and any associated cross-boundary matters. The TE2100 project is a long-term cross boundary matter of importance to the Borough and recognised in the Plan / subject to comment by various partners. However it is also noted that there are uncertainties and TE2100 information is gradually emerging (its delivery is projected for beyond the Plan period). This has led to some plan amendments, and it will feature within the Statement of Common Ground under discussion with the Environment Agency. The Swanscombe Peninsula SSSI was notified when consultation was taking place on the first Publication Local Plan in March 2021. NE and GBC considered that some of the Ebbsfleet Garden City policies and the Ebbsfleet Central allocation would need to be amended to take this into account. The second Publication Local Plan has been amended accordingly after discussion with NE and EDC. This will feature within the Statement of Common Ground under discussion with NE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TE2100 governance arrangements (various parties under the EA) • North Kent Environmental planning Group (NE, EDC, GBC) • NE-DBC-EDC meetings

4.3 Some of the issues will be overcome by revisions made in the second Publication Local Plan and by the publication of additional evidence to support this. Any outstanding issues will be addressed in new and revised Statements of Common Ground.

4.4 Further information on meetings and duty to cooperate groups can be found in the February 2021 Duty to Cooperate Statement of Activities, and section 3 above.

Appendix 1: Other Meetings with Partners

Table 6 lists other meetings held since April 2020 which DBC has attended with duty to cooperate partners, this follows on from the appendices found within the February 2021 Duty to Cooperate Statement of Activities. It includes information on the purpose and membership of the meeting groups and dates that meetings were held. This is intended to show key ongoing meeting groups and does not include workshops, briefings and other events which DBC officers have attended with partners in that time.

Table 6: Other Meetings with Partners

Meeting	Purpose and Membership	Meeting Dates
Crossrail Technical Group	This group regularly meets with consultants working on the C2E project. Relating to the potential for a transport enhancement scheme linking Crossrail into DBC. It comprises officers from DBC, LBB, GBC, KCC, EDC, TFL, GLA, TGKP, DFT, DCLG and Network Rail. There have also been a number of workshops and other C2E related meetings which are not included in the dates for this group.	10/09/2020, 03/11/2020, 23/11/2020, 25/01/2021, 27/05/2021, 25/06/2021, 02/09/2021
Ebbsfleet Planning Liaison Group	A Working Group that focusses on planning issues in Ebbsfleet Garden City and meets every two months. Senior Officers from DBC, Gravesham Borough and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. There is a Service Level Agreement on cooperation.	20/04/2020, 08/06/2020, 10/08/2020, 12/10/2020, 01/02/2021, 19/04/2021, 14/06/2021
Ebbsfleet Sustainable Travel Working Group	Meetings particularly about transport modelling in and around the EDC area with KCC, EDC and GBC. The group coordinates cooperation between stakeholders on sustainable travel projects and initiatives within the Ebbsfleet Area.	21/04/2020, 11/06/2020, 10/09/2020, 20/11/2020, 03/12/2020, 15/01/2021, 04/02/2021, 01/04/2021, 30/4/2021, 06/05/2021, 05/08/2021
Fastrack Advisory Group	Meetings with KCC, GBC, EDC and other stakeholders to discuss the implementation, progress and planning of the Fastrack bus service that operates within Dartford. Meetings are on an ad hoc basis.	08/06/2021

Meeting	Purpose and Membership	Meeting Dates
Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople Cross Borough Liaison Group	This group discusses planning policy issues relating to gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople across Kent. It is attended by a number of LPAs.	29/07/2020, 23/10/2020
Kent and Medway CCG	Regular meetings to discuss primary care facilities and the need for improvements in relation to planned development within DBC.	02/09/2020, 15/10/20, 26/01/2021, 11/03/2021, 11/05/2021, 01/07/2021, 21/07/2021
KCC Education	Regular meetings to discuss education provision in DBC in relation to planned development and progress of plans for new and expanded schools.	15/10/2020, 02/11/2020, 22/04/2021, 08/06/2021, 01/07/2021, 21/07/2021
Kent Planning Officers' Group (KPOG)	A group for Heads of Planning in Kent that meets monthly. All Kent districts and Medway Council are represented along with Kent County Council (KCC) and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC). The group discusses joint working opportunities, considers cross-boundary matters and all other sustainable development matters of pan-Kent interest.	03/04/2020, 15/05/2020, 03/07/2020, 02/10/2020, 04/12/2020, 15/01/2021, 12/02/2021, 26/03/2021, 07/05/2021, 18/06/2021, 16/07/2021
Kent Planning Policy Forum (PF)	A group for Planning Policy Managers in Kent, chaired by the County Council that meets every two months. Other relevant organisations such as the Environment Agency also commonly attend. This is a sub-group of KPOG that discusses and resolves cross-boundary policy issues, shares relevant information and experiences and prepares joint responses to consultations of pan-Kent interest.	24/04/2020, 19/06/2020, 11/09/2020, 20/11/2021, 29/01/2021, 30/04/2021, 25/05/2021, 09/07/2021
London Resort Meetings	Meetings, usually including EDC & KCC, to review information on the London Resort proposal.	26/05/2020, 18/06/2020, 24/06/2020, 03/07/2020, 04/08/2020, 26/08/2020, 14/10/2020, 07/01/2021, 11/01/2021, 18/02/2021, 17/06/2021
Lower Thames Crossing Meetings	Meetings to discuss the progress of and issues relating to the Lower Thames Crossing. Meetings include GBC, KCC and the HE Lower Thames	15/09/2020, 06/10/2020, 14/10/2020, 23/11/2020, 25/11/2020, 08/12/2020, 17/02/2021, 12/04/2021, 19/04/2021, 29/04/2021, 10/05/2021, 26/05/2021, 10/06/2021

Meeting	Purpose and Membership	Meeting Dates
	Crossing Team. Medway Council are also often involved.	
Network Rail	DBC meets with Network Rail as part of wider partnerships on an ad hoc basis in relation to two studies of relevance to DBC: North and East Kent Connectivity (whole of Kent) and London Adjacent (metro services)	24/07/2020, 09/10/2020, 13/10/20, 19/01/2021
North Kent Environmental Planning Group and Birdwise Steering Group	A group that considers green infrastructure issues and takes forward mitigation strategies for habitats of international importance in the north Kent marshes. It includes representatives from a number of local authorities across north Kent, EDC, KCC, NE, KWT and RSPB. Meetings are held every 6 months.	07/07/2020, 12/01/2021, 14/07/2021
North Kent Strategic Development and Planning Group	Meetings with Gravesham, Medway, Swale and Maidstone Borough Councils, KCC, EDC, HE and NE to discuss cross-boundary issues and develop ways to collaborate. The priority areas for joint work are transport, health and spatial arrangement of development.	29/04/2020, 24/06/2020, 23/09/2020, 29/01/2021, 07/04/2021
Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan (STIP) Working and Steering Groups	Meetings of officers and members of KCC, DBC, GBC and EDC to deliver a package of transport improvements at key locations across DBC and GBC to enable the planned level of development to be realised. It complements the Kent Local Transport Plan.	16/04/2020, 18/05/2020, 16/07/2020, 08/10/2020, 21/01/2021, 08/04/2021, 30/04/2021, 22/07/2021 Note: The STIP Steering Group has been subsumed into the Fastrack Advisory Board.
Thames Estuary Growth Board	A high level group developed to spread growth, opportunity and prosperity across the area. This stretches from East London to where the Estuary meets the sea, and includes North Kent, Canterbury and Thanet districts and South Essex. The board includes many local authorities as well as private individuals.	05/06/2020,

Meeting	Purpose and Membership	Meeting Dates
Thames Gateway Kent Partnership	An informal public-private partnership whose purpose is to promote sustainable economic-led growth and regeneration in North Kent. The partnership includes GBC, Medway Unitary Council, Swale Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council, KCC and EDC. The TGKP Board meets quarterly with officer-level groups meeting more frequently. Matters on which the Council and the TGKP work together include infrastructure and influencing national government policy.	02/04/2020, 12/05/2020, 08/06/2020, 27/07/2020, 11/08/2020
Transport for the South East	Ad hoc events with planning authorities from the South East region to discuss a regional Transport Strategy for the South East region. Workshops on a series of Area Studies to determine the aims, objectives and priorities for a Strategic Investment Plan.	03/02/2021
Wider South East Officer Working Group	A working group established by the GLA that previously met regularly but has more recently met on an ad hoc basis. The group explores strategic planning issues and examines the mechanisms for ongoing co-ordination and co-operation in light of London's future growth requirements and the review of the London Plan. The group is attended by Officers from various LPAs in London and the wider South East. DBC was the original representative from Kent but is sometimes substituted by GBC.	08/07/2020

Appendix 2: Abbreviations

Table 7: Abbreviations

C2E	Crossrail to Ebbsfleet
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
DBC	Dartford Borough Council
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DFT	Department for Transport
EDC	Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
GBC	Gravesham Borough Council
GLA	Greater London Authority
HE	Highways England (now known as National Highways)
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LBB	London Borough of Bexley
LPA	Local planning authority
LTAM	Lower Thames Area Model
NE	Natural England
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SDC	Sevenoaks District Council
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SOCG	Statement of Common Ground
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STIP	Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan
TFL	Transport for London
TGKP	Thames Gateway Kent Partnership