

## **9. SOUTH YORKSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (BJT)**

### **1. Purpose of the report**

To seek Authority approval to become a joint signatory to the Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground prepared for the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

#### **Key Issues**

- **Under the new Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, Local Planning Authorities are legally obliged to work with cross boundary authorities to seek to align policies. A ‘Statement of Common Ground’ can be an effective tool in achieving this.**
- **A Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground (‘the Statement’) has been prepared for the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. The local authorities that are either directly engaged in the Statement or identified as key stakeholders are requested to approve the statement and become signatories.**

### **2. Recommendation**

- 1. That the Authority approves the Statement (Appendix 1) and that the Chair of the Authority signs it.**

#### **How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?**

3. The requirements for a Statement of Common Ground are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Policy Guidance.
4. The new Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 requires cross boundary local planning authorities to work closely to achieve aligned policies. The new Act brings greater flexibility to allow alignment to be achieved, e.g. through the examination process.

#### **Background Information**

5. The Statement updates and replaces the previous Statement which covered the former Sheffield City Region (SCR) geography. An area of the Peak District National Park falls within the western area of the Region.
6. The local authorities directly engaged in the Statement are:
  - Bassetlaw DC
  - Barnsley MBC
  - Bolsover DC
  - Chesterfield BC
  - Derbyshire Dales DC
  - City of Doncaster Council
  - North East Derbyshire DC

- Rotherham MBC
  - Sheffield City Council
7. Other key stakeholders and signatories to the Statement are:
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
  - Nottinghamshire County Council
  - Derbyshire County Council
  - **Peak District National Park Authority**
8. The Statement acknowledges the Peak District National Park Authority Management Plan (para 1.7) and that the National Park plays a key role in the Region with regard to special qualities that reflect the importance of its landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage (para 3.3).
9. The key strategic matters identified in the Statement are:
- Energy and Climate Change.
  - Housing.
  - Employment.
  - Transport.
  - Natural Environment.
  - Waste
  - Digital Connectivity.
10. One key area of policy divergence has been identified with respect to Transport objectives. At para 4.4.16 the Statement seeks to:
11. ***Help to bring forward the national and pan-northern interventions agreed through the SCR Transport Strategy where remaining relevant or consistent with policy.***
12. Owing to long standing objections to major road building along the A628 corridor, officers have expressed concerns on this point to the Joint Officer Group. However, in an attempt to find a positive way of allowing the National Park Authority to sign up to the Statement the following caveat has been offered:
13. ***(with the exception that the Peak District National Park have long-standing objections to major road building improvements along the A628 corridor and do not support the Mottram Moor link road and Hollingworth to Tintwistle bypass).***
14. Officers consider that this helps to clarify the different position the Authority needs to hold in order to drive objectives for landscape, nature and carbon reduction.

### **Proposals**

15. Subject to the agreement of members to the suggested amendment above that the Authority can give its overall approval to the Statement of Common Ground and to become a signatory to the document alongside the local authorities and key stakeholders listed in this report.

### **Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?**

#### **Financial:**

16. None

**Risk Management:**  
17. Signing up to the Statement of Common Ground provides a strong basis for agreement on cross boundary planning issues which provides evidence of joint working for future examination of Authority policies.

**Sustainability:**  
18. The Statement recognises and aligns well with the revised National Park Management Plan for the National Park.

**Equality:**  
19. Issues associated with equality, diversity and inclusion are fully considered in the local plan-making process.

**Climate Change**  
20. The Statement of Common Ground recognises the objectives of the National Park Management Plan in this area and well aligned to support its aims.

**21. Background papers (not previously published)**

None

**22. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - South Yorkshire Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground

**Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

Brian Taylor, Head of Planning, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023