

# Statement of Common Ground between the London Borough of Waltham Forest and Natural England

## 1. LIST OF SIGNATORIES AND ROLES

### London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF)

Name: Ian Rae

Role: Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning & Delivery

### Natural England (NE)

Name: Louise Crothall

Role: Sustainable Development Manager – Thames Solent Area Team

## 2. KEY STRATEGIC MATTERS

- Compliance with Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, specifically Likely Significant Effects on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

## 3. DESCRIPTION AND MAPS

3.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) covers the Local Planning Authority area of the LBWF, the entirety of which falls within the 6.2km Zone of Influence (Zoi) for the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation. Both are shown in the maps in figures 3.1 and 3.2.

## 4. AGREED MATTERS

4.1 NE are now in receipt of LPE35 Air Quality Study 2 and LPE33 Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) Strategy. As well as the suggesting wording change to Policy 97, Monitoring Growth Targets, which sets out the process by which a Plan review would be triggered if monitoring shows that greater action is required.

4.2 With regard LPE33 and wording changes to Policy 97, NE accept that the approach taken with regard Recreational Pressure is more logical than it was in March 2022. Accordingly, **NE remove their challenge of soundness** on this matter for Local Plan 1. NE look forward to continuing working with LBWF and all other Epping Forest partners on this matter and analysing the results of the comprehensive monitoring package.

4.3 With regard LPE35, Natural England are content with the technical approach taken in this document. We are also in agreement with the conclusions draw from the new set of results.

**NE are therefore in a position to remove the challenge of soundness** on that matter for Local Plan Part 1. Air Quality will not result in Likely Significant Effects upon the integrity of Epping Forest SAC.

## **5. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

5.1 This SoCG will be kept up-to-date and will form a key part of the implementation of Local Plan policies and any future Local Plan reviews. Meetings to discuss the implementation and monitoring of the SANG Strategy, as well as other cross-boundary issues will be held between LBWF and NE regularly and discussions and other factors may inform a revised SoCG.

## **6. TIMETABLE FOR REVIEWS AND UPDATES**

6.1 Meetings to manage strategic issues will be held on an ongoing basis.

## **7. SIGNATURES**

7.1 The London Borough of Waltham Forest and Natural England confirm that this Statement of Common Ground reflects the joint working by both organisations to address identified strategic matters.

Signed on behalf of London Borough of Waltham Forest by:



Name: Ian Rae

Position: Corporate Director – Regeneration Planning & Delivery

Date: 21/11/2022

Signed on behalf of Natural England by:



Name: Louise Crothall

Position: Sustainable Development Manager – Thames Solent Area Team

Date: 17/11/2022

Figure 3.1 Statement of Common Ground coverage



Figure 3.2 Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation Zone of Influence

