

## **Duty To Co-Operate Technical Paper January 2016**

**7.33** To coincide with the Regulation 18 consultation, Birmingham City Council confirmed that it did not object to the proposed housing and employment growth targets in the Local Plan but suggested that some of the in migration to meet the housing requirement in the Local Plan is likely to come from the Black Country which forms part of the Grated Birmingham Housing Market Area which, in turn, has a shortfall in housing provision. It confirmed that it did not have any other Duty to Cooperate issues in relation to Birmingham and Telford & Wrekin.

**7.34** The four **Black Country** authorities have a long established alliance of working jointly on strategic development plan documents (for example, preparing a Joint Core Strategy (2010)). None of these authorities adjoin the boundary of Telford and Wrekin. Furthermore, Telford & Wrekin does not share a housing market or functional economic area with Telford and Wrekin. Nonetheless, the Council recognises that there are wider strategic matters emanating from the wider West Midlands conurbation that are impacting on how adjoining and other related local authorities, including the Black Country authorities, are likely to progress their own local plans in the immediate future. Consequently, it is acknowledged that due to Telford & Wrekin's historic relationship with the Black Country in terms of housing provision across the region, ongoing discussions should proceed in the spirit of the Duty obligation.

**7.35** The Black Country authorities were consulted on the Local Plan. They did not object to it but, rather, made comments relating to the projected level of housing growth set out in Policy HO1. They stated that the extra housing planned for over and above the Objectively Assessed Need (5,615 homes) be assigned to the Greater Birmingham and Black Country HMA.

**7.36 South Staffordshire Council** (SSC) adjoins the borough by virtue of a narrow strip of land south of Lynn. The Council met formally with officers from South Staffordshire Council in the lead up to the draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan consultation stage. SSC is also part of the Black Country Housing Market Area, which itself forms part of the Greater Birmingham area. It is agreed that both areas

do not share a housing or functional economic area. On this basis, both councils agreed to continue on-going engagement (and agree that there are unlikely to be any directly-related strategic matters arising from the draft Local Plan), and that it is important to do so in the context of housing market issues (including unmet housing need) affecting the Greater Birmingham area within which South Staffordshire is a part.

**7.37** On this matter, SSC have, similar to the Black Country, suggested that the Council assign all the extra housing planned for over and above the Objectively Assessed Need (5,615 homes) be assigned to the Greater Birmingham and Black Country HMA