

Joint Statement on the Duty to Co-operate (DTC)


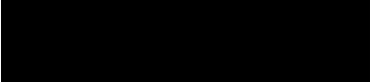
14 November 2019

This statement has been prepared in response to the Duty to Co-operate concerns raised by the Inspector in her letters dated 14 October and 28 October in relation to the Sevenoaks Local Plan examination.

Firstly, the signatories do not consider that there has been a failure in the Duty to Co-operate.

Secondly, the signatories agree with the conclusions reached at the PAS-facilitated DTC workshop on 24 April 2019, in particular paragraph 3.3 of the meeting note (attached), which states that:

3.3 *The message regarding the importance of the DtC and the way it is dealt with at local plan examinations was repeated. All parties present appreciate how important the duty is and how it has the potential to derail examinations. Each of the councils present outlined the position they are in at present regarding their development plans. From the discussion, it is clear that none of the authorities present are in a position to help meet any unmet housing need generated by SDC. In fact, most of the authorities believe that they are unlikely to be able to meet their own needs. The discussion thus confirmed and reinforced the contention made in the Submission version of the SLP that the Council is unable to meet its own needs and cannot rely on the DtC to resolve the problem. The importance of preparing a clear and convincing narrative for the forthcoming SDC local plan examination was again stressed.*

<u>Signed on behalf of</u>	<u>Signed on behalf of</u>
	
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Position: Planning Manager (Policy)	Position: Strategic Planning Manager
Date: 04/12/2019	Date: 14/11/19

In terms of Gravesham - our view is that the Statement of Common Ground between us clearly shows active engagement between the two Council's. This includes discussions on unmet housing need and the fact that SDC would be seeking West Kent authorities to meet any unmet need in the first instance, before turning to neighbours (which includes Gravesham). Given the planning constraints in Gravesham and where we are with our plan, we agreed to keep this matter under review during our plan preparation (currently underway) and 5 year reviews of our respective Local Plans via Duty to Cooperate discussions.