

Statement of Common Ground Between

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Planning

2 May 2024

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1. Introduction

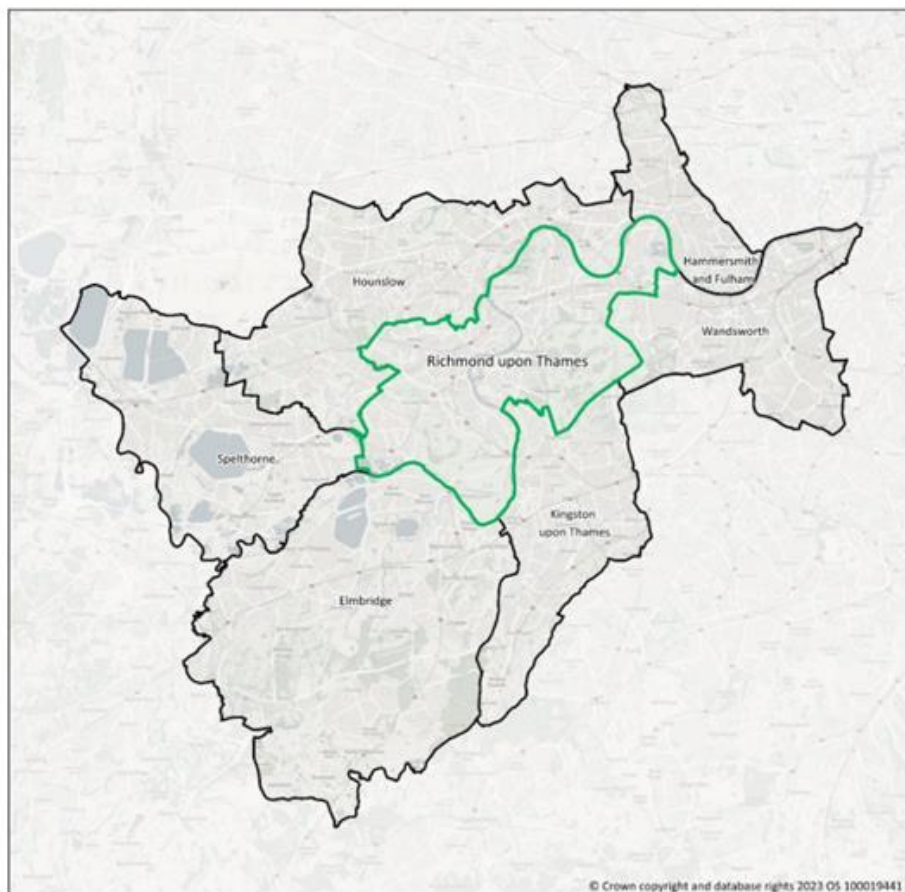
- 1.1 The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames formally responded to the Publication Local Plan consultation on 21 July 2023. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) sets out the areas of agreement between the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBR) and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK).

2. Strategic Context

- 2.1 Statements of Common Ground should be read in conjunction with the [Duty to Cooperate Statement \(January 2024\)](#) for the Richmond Local Plan which includes information on strategic matters and context, plan preparation to date and how the Council has cooperated with neighbouring boroughs and other bodies during the preparation of the Local Plan through engagement activities.
- 2.2 In terms of geographical context, Richmond upon Thames is an outer London borough sitting to the southwest of Greater London, one of 32 boroughs plus the Corporation of London (City).



- 2.3 Richmond upon Thames is the only London borough on both sides of the River Thames and is bordered by the **London Boroughs of Hounslow, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham** and the **Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames**. In addition, Richmond shares its boundaries with **Elmbridge** and **Spelthorne Borough Councils** which are within **Surrey County Council**.



- 2.4 Kingston is an outer London borough that extends towards Surrey. The shared boundary is along the River Thames and the Royal Parks, and close to Ham. Kingston town centre is a metropolitan and commercially competitive town centre which widely attracts visitors for economic and retail activity.
- 2.5 The London Plan is the spatial development strategy for London, produced by the GLA on behalf of the Mayor of London. It was formally published on the 2 March 2021, and now forms part of London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' Development Plan and contains the most up-to-date policies. Every London borough local plan must be in general conformity with the published London Plan, and the GLA determines whether this has been achieved, or not. Together, the policies in the London Plan and in each borough's Local Plan constitute the statutory local development plan for that borough, along with any other development plans and neighbourhood development plans.

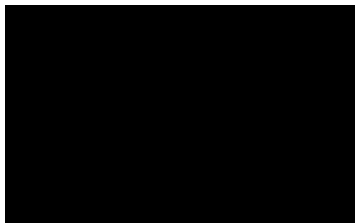
3. Parties Involved

- 3.1 This SoCG has been prepared by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in agreement with the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. It addresses strategic spatial policies to be addressed directly by collaboration with Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The Council is engaged with them on strategic matters on an on-going basis.
- 3.2 Both Councils are committed to ongoing liaison to fulfil the duty to cooperate, utilising the appropriate governance arrangements - informally at officer level and escalation to Member level where necessary.

4. Signatories

- 4.1 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames agrees to matters referred to in this document which directly impact them.

Signed:



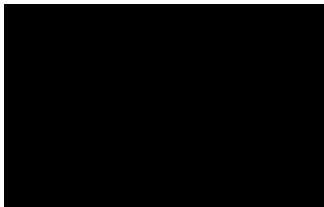
Name: Adam Hutchings

Position: Spatial Planning and Design Team Manager

Date: 02/05/2024

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames agree to matters referred to in this document which directly impact them.

Signed:



Name: Roger Hayes

Position: Portfolio Holder Planning Policy and Regulatory Services

Date: 02/05/2024

5. Strategic Matters

Duty to Cooperate

- 5.1 Duty to Cooperate activities between the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames are recorded in the Council's Duty to Cooperate Statements – the [Duty to Cooperate Statement \(June 2023\)](#) was produced to accompany the Regulation 19 consultation and an [updated Duty to Cooperate Statement \(January 2024\)](#) records all the activities undertaken as part of the Publication (Regulation 19) stage and prior to submission of the Local Plan
- 5.2 Matters not specifically addressed within this Statement of Common Ground are discussed within the above documents and both authorities agree that the above documents are an accurate record of their engagement activities and that there are no other unresolved issues.

Key Strategic Matters

- 5.3 Through correspondence and discussions between LBRuT and RBK, strategic and cross-boundary matters discussed previously are housing, town centres and retail, transport, and the historic environment.
- 5.4 RBK approached all its neighbouring boroughs in December 2022 to request whether any were able to assist with meeting its unmet housing need and unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. Richmond has not advised that it can assist with any unmet need at present.
- 5.5 Town centres and retail has previously been identified as a cross-boundary issue given the draw of Kingston town centre and the potential to impact Richmond borough's town centres, particularly Richmond itself. It has been noted that the Richmond and Kingston town centres have to some extent different offers, and that local geography influences shopping destinations (e.g. residents living in or around Ham and Hampton are likely to visit Kingston for a lot of their shopping needs).
- 5.6 The historic environment has been previously recognised as a strategic, cross-boundary issue with Kingston in relation to tall buildings in Kingston town centre and along the riverside and the potential impact on views and settings of heritage assets within Richmond borough. The policy frameworks in the relevant Local Plans enable consideration of these issues when proposals are brought forward.
- 5.7 The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames responded to the Regulation 19 consultation which did not comment on the soundness of the Plan, welcoming the ongoing cooperation on cross-boundary and strategic matters.
- 5.8 While both parties are committed to ongoing liaison, there are no outstanding comments to consider in terms of strategic, cross-boundary issues between the boroughs.