

Statement of Common Ground Between

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Planning

14 March 2024

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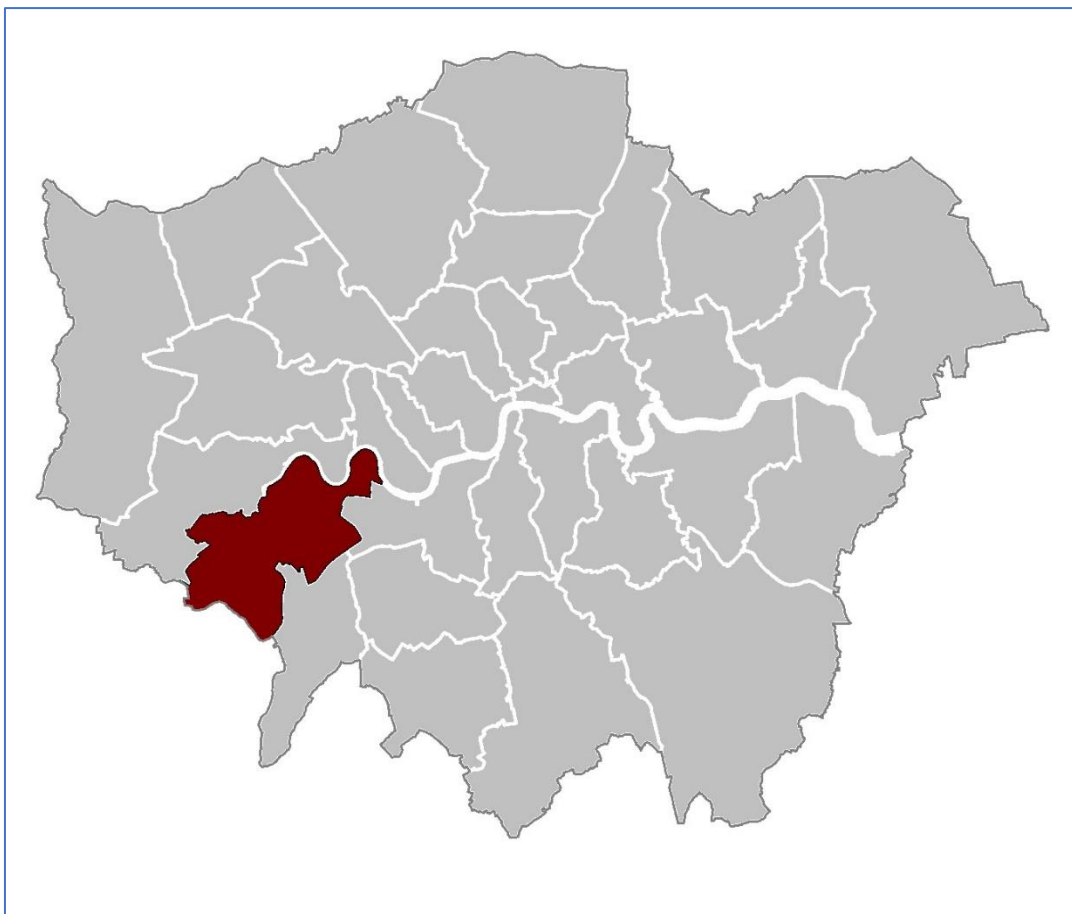
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1. Introduction

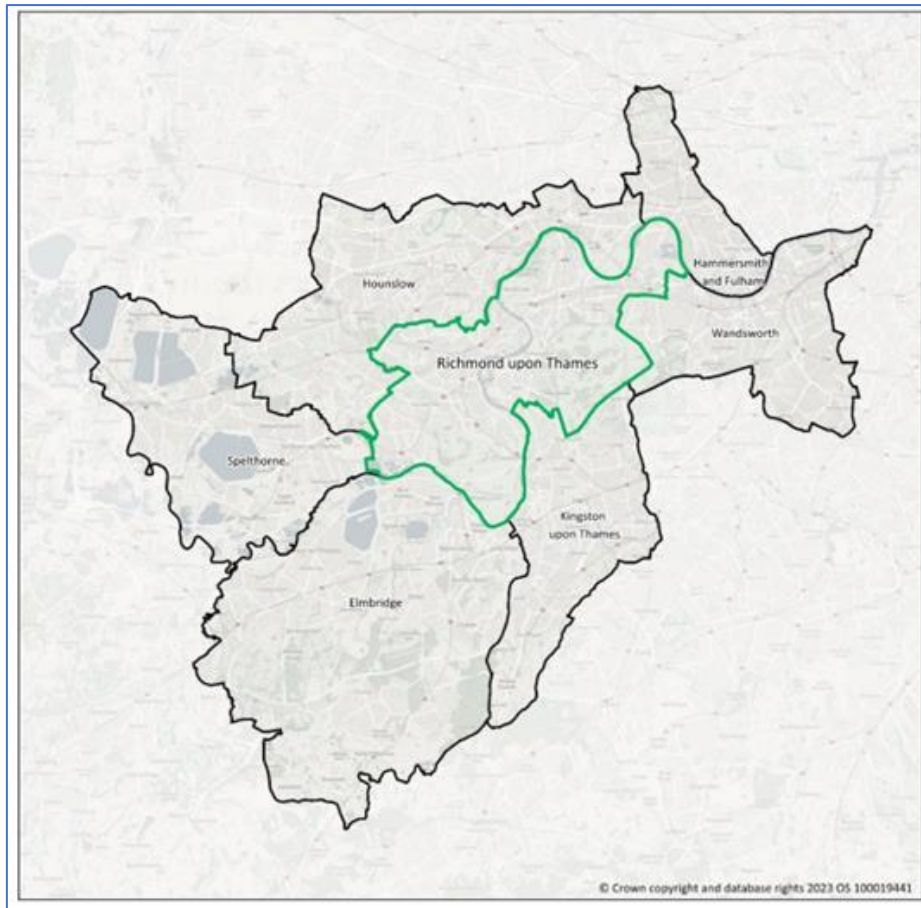
- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) sets out the areas of agreement between the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham on key strategic matters.

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 Hammersmith & Fulham is an inner London borough, and the shared boundary runs along the River Thames.

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

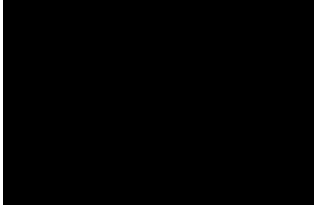
3.1 This SoCG has been prepared by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in agreement with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. The Council is engaged with them on strategic matters on an on-going basis.

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:



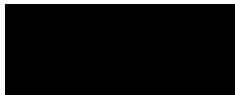
Name: Adam Hutchings

Position: Spatial Planning and Design Team Manager

Date: 14/03/2024

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham agree to matters referred to in this document which directly impact them.

Signed:



Name: David Gawthorpe

Position: Team Leader, Policy and Spatial Planning

Date: 14/03/2024

5. Strategic Matters

Duty to Cooperate

- 5.1 Duty to Cooperate activities between the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham 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 past correspondence and discussions between LBRuT and LBHF, housing and the historic environment has been identified as strategic, cross-boundary issues between our boroughs, and we have discussed transport proposals/plans that have cross-boundary implications.
- 5.4 The Grade II* listed Hammersmith Bridge is the key road connection between the boroughs. It was fully closed in 2020 due to public safety grounds, reopening to pedestrians, cyclists and river traffic in 2021. The bridge is owned and maintained by LBHF, and there is an ongoing work programme to stabilise the bridge. A business case for the strengthening and restoration programme to reopen for vehicles is currently awaiting approval by Government.
- 5.5 LBHF did not identify any issues to raise formally in responses during the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 5.6 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.