Waltham Forest Local Plan
Supporting Document

Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan

Duty to Co-operate Statement

January 2014
INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE

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1. Introduction

The Localism Act 2011 introduced new legislation that requires co-operation on strategic matters between local authorities, county councils and a range of other bodies, as an integral part of the preparation of planning policy. It relates to both the preparation of development plan documents, and also activities that support the preparation of development plan documents.

The Localism Act defines strategic matters as:
"Sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas”

The explanatory notes to the Localism Act state that during “...independent examination of development plan documents local authorities will have to provide evidence that they have complied with the duty (to co-operate) if their plans are not to be rejected by the examiner”.

The National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 178 states, “Public bodies have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the strategic priorities....The Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities.”

‘Strategic priorities’ are defined in paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework as:

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

As a development plan document, the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan is required to comply with the duty to co-operate. This statement sets out how the relevant ‘duty to co-operate’ bodies have been involved in the preparation of the Area Action Plan and therefore demonstrates how we have met our ‘duty to co-operate’.
2. The Waltham Forest Context

Neighbouring boroughs and prescribed bodies

The Localism Act 2011 states that a Local Planning Authority must co-operate with other Local Planning Authorities to maximise the effectiveness of plan making. Waltham Forest’s neighbouring Local Planning Authorities are the London Boroughs of Enfield, Haringey, Hackney, Newham and Redbridge, and Epping Forest District Council. Strategic planning matters are dealt with by the Mayor of London.

Part 2, section 4, of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 identifies additional ‘prescribed bodies’, that are subject to the duty to co-operate within a particular planning area. In relation to Waltham Forest these are:

- The Environment Agency;
- English Heritage;
- Natural England;
- Mayor of London;
- The Civil Aviation Authority;
- The Homes and Communities Agency (now GLA);
- Primary Care Trusts operating within the area (or similar bodies);
- Maritime Management Organisation;
- The Office of Rail Regulation;
- Transport for London;
- The Highways Authority (NB Waltham Forest’s trunk road are managed by Transport for London); and
- London Enterprise Partnerships.

Local Plan

In considering the requirements of the duty to co-operate, it is important to note that the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan forms part of a wider suite of documents that together form the Waltham Forest Local Plan.

As summarised in section 1, the duty to co-operate relates to strategic matters. In Waltham Forest, strategic matters have largely been established through the adopted Core Strategy. The Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy (adopted March 2012), sets out our overarching policy framework for growth and regeneration of the borough. Given its nature, it is in this document that we set out our ‘strategic priorities’ and where ‘cross border’ issues are largely dealt with. For example, Blackhorse Lane is identified in the Core Strategy as one of the
borough’s 4 key growth areas, and indicative figures provided for growth in housing numbers, and new retail and employment floorspace (table 10). The role of Blackhorse Lane in our hierarchy of centres (i.e. as a neighbourhood centre), is also established, and employment land allocations designated. Key headlines in terms of infrastructure required to support the levels of growth proposed in the borough are also set out in appendix 2 – the infrastructure delivery plan.

The Core Strategy was not required to demonstrate meeting the duty to co-operate, as it was prepared and adopted prior to the National Planning Policy Framework. However, many of the requirements within the duty to co-operate have already effectively been met through the Core Strategy; due to the rigorous consultation and amount of cross boundary working on strategic issues carried out on that document.

Throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy, full regard was given to the London Plan; which in a London context largely covers the duty to co-operate; due to the Mayor’s strategic planning powers, and the consideration given to important inter-relationships between Waltham Forest and other parts of London including:

- the housing market;
- employment land supply;
- London’s town centres and local shopping areas;
- infrastructure provision (taking account of existing and potential cross boundary flows) – including public transport, healthcare facilities, schools, cultural facilities and Decentralised Energy networks;
- open space, biodiversity, urban heating and flooding cross-boundary impacts; and
- designated heritage assets, landmarks and views

Beyond the London Plan and Waltham Forest Core Strategy, there are additional means through which we have met our duty to co-operate on the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan. These are set out below.

3. Working with prescribed bodies and neighbouring boroughs in the development of Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan

Evidence base

The evidence base that underpins the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan is outlined in appendix 1 of the Area Action Plan. This largely utilises the established evidence base of the wider Local Plan; which has in many instances involved cross boundary working. Our Development Management Policies DPD Duty to Co-operate Statement (December 2012) therefore sets out in detail how we have co-operated with
neighbouring organisations and the Mayor on the production of evidence base that has raised strategic and cross borough issues.

It is acknowledged that there is some additional evidence base that underpins the Area Action Plan that was not utilised for the Core Strategy or Development Management Policies DPD. Most notably, this has involved collaboration with the GLA Regeneration Team (formally Design for London) on the Blackhorse Lane Employment Land Study, and the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area stakeholders (discussed below) on the Urban Design Framework.

Plan making

During the production of the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan, as a minimum, the bodies identified under the duty to co-operate have been consulted on draft versions of the plan (in addition to higher level documents such as the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD). All neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies were also written to at the proposed submission stage, specifically inviting their input on strategic or cross boundary issues (see appendix A).

Consultation Statements for the Area Action Plan set out, in general terms, how we have consulted and actively engaged with all relevant bodies during the act of plan-making. This includes schedules of all comments received on draft versions of the document and how these were considered in later iterations of the Area Action Plan.

Consultation with prescribed bodies and neighbouring authorities has been more extensive than simply inviting comments on draft versions of the plan. It has also involved less formal matters such as face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations, and participation in wider stakeholder groups. For example, given flood risk in the Blackhorse Lane area, the chapter on flood risk in the Area Action Plan, and references to the exceptions test on the Station Hub and Waterfront Site, has been subject to ongoing informal dialogue with the Environment Agency.

Through the London Plan, the Mayor has identified the Upper Lee Valley as a Strategic Growth Area. Subsequently, we have been a key stakeholder in the development of the Mayor’s Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework. This document pulls together regeneration activities in the Upper Lee Valley, is consistent with, and supports, the broad principles of the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan. It has helped ensure the regeneration of Blackhorse Lane has not been treated in isolation, and interrelationships with similar activities, particularly in Tottenham Hale, have been duly considered. Led by the Greater London Authority, other partners on the development of the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework have included
Transport for London, North London Strategic Alliance, Lee Valley Regional Park, and the London Boroughs of Hackney, Haringey and Enfield. It is also anticipated that stakeholders will continue to work together in future on infrastructure provision in the area.

In terms of the Mayor’s office, we regularly meet with the Regeneration Team (formally Design for London), and Transport for London. Throughout the preparation of the Area Action Plan, several meetings have been held with officers from the Regeneration Team on matters such as design, employment provision, and interrelationships with regeneration projects using the Outer London Fund. Meanwhile we are also a regular attendee of both the North and East London Transport Groups.

A key strategic element of the proposals in the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan (which is also a cross-boundary theme brought out in the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework), is the aspiration to improve public access to the Lee Valley Regional Park and Walthamstow Wetlands. Given the strategic nature of this project and the range of interests involved (landowners, environmental issues etc), we have led a stakeholder group to move the project forward. Key delivery partners include: Environment Agency, Thames Water, Natural England, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the GLA and the London Boroughs of Hackney and Haringey.

We regularly meet with other planning authorities in London to discuss development plan matters. Whilst we have met the London Borough of Enfield specifically on the duty to co-operate, we are also a regular attendee of the Association of London Borough Planning Officers. These meetings of lead planning officers are used to discuss strategic issues which affect all London Boroughs and the Mayor of London, such as transport, waste, the environment, housing and employment land.

In terms of housing delivery, we are a member of the East London Housing Partnership, alongside the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Havering, Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney. This group looks at issues affecting the east London housing sub-market, including matters such as the preparation of a joint strategic housing market assessment. Meanwhile, we have also work jointly with the GLA on the development of housing policies through the Housing Association Liaison Group.

It is recognised in the Area Action Plan that opportunities exist for developments in Blackhorse Lane to connect to a Decentralised Energy Network for the Upper Lee Valley. Due to the cross-boundary nature of such a project, we have been working with the GLA, North London Strategic Alliance, and the London Boroughs of Haringey and Enfield on developing a case for such a network.
The Waltham Forest Strategic Partnership, which was involved in the production of our Sustainable Community Strategy and Core Strategy, was established in early 2001, building on an already existing partnership. The partnership was formed of a number of organisations including the Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, and the Waltham Forest Chamber of Commerce.

Beyond the prescribed bodies, we recognise that there are additional organisations it is important to co-operate with on strategic and cross boundary issues, in the interests of best practice. This is reflected in the membership of some of the groups discussed above e.g. Walthamstow Wetlands partnership, Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area stakeholders. Full details of all consultation carried out during the production of the Area Action Plan is set out in the Consultations Statements.

Summary of means of co-operation with neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies, and additional organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Means of co-operation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring authorities</td>
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| London Borough of Haringey | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
• Co-operated and worked with on development of the evidence base and supporting strategies  
• Face-to-face meetings to discuss strategic priorities across borough boundaries, including through stakeholder groups for the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area and Upper Lee Valley Decentralised Energy Network, the Walthamstow Wetlands project, North London Transport Group, and the Association of London Borough Planning Officers |
| London Borough of Enfield | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
• Co-operated and worked with on development of the evidence base and supporting strategies  
• Face-to-face meetings to discuss strategic priorities across borough boundaries, including through stakeholder groups for the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area and Upper Lee Valley Decentralised Energy Network, the Walthamstow Wetlands project, North London Transport Group, and the Association of London Borough Planning Officers |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Means of co-operation</th>
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</table>
| London Borough of Hackney                        | Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
Co-operated and worked with on development of the evidence base and supporting strategies  
Face-to-face meetings to discuss strategic priorities across borough boundaries, including through Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area stakeholder group, the Walthamstow Wetlands project, North London Transport Group, and the Association of London Borough Planning Officers |
| London Borough of Newham                         | Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation.  
Co-operated and worked with on development of the evidence base and supporting strategies.  
Face-to-face meetings to discuss strategic priorities across borough boundaries, including through the Association of London Borough Planning Officers |
| London Borough of Redbridge                      | Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
Co-operated and worked with on development of the evidence base and supporting strategies  
Face-to-face meetings to discuss strategic priorities across borough boundaries, including through stakeholder groups for the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area and Upper Lee Valley Decentralised Energy Network, North London Transport Group, and the Association of London Borough Planning Officers |
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>priorities across borough boundaries, including through the Association of London Borough Planning Officers and North London Transport Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epping Forest District Council</td>
<td>• Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor of London</td>
<td>• Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Significant input into the development of the Council’s Core Strategy and Development Management DPD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Face-to-face meetings to discuss strategic priorities across borough boundaries, including through stakeholder groups for the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area and Upper Lee Valley Decentralised Energy Network, and the Walthamstow Wetlands project</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Collaboration with the GLA and other boroughs on the development of the London Plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Regular meetings with Regeneration Team</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Face-to-face meetings on conformity with the London Plan</td>
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### Prescribed bodies

<p>| The Environment Agency       | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                             | • Collaboration on flooding matters through the GLA’s Drain London project                                                                                                                                              |
|                             | • Telephone conversations and face-to-face meetings                                                                                                                                                                     |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Means of co-operation</th>
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<tr>
<td>English Heritage</td>
<td>• Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The Council has regularly met English Heritage as part of the preparation of many of our planning documents including the Core Strategy and Development Management DPD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural England</td>
<td>• Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Collaboration on Walthamstow Wetlands Project</td>
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<td>Homes and Communities Agency (Now the GLA)</td>
<td>• Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Liaison and discussions on Area Action Plan policies via the Council’s Housing Association Liaison Group quarterly meetings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Collaborative work on the delivery of affordable housing through the affordable rent programme and affordable homes framework</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Joint monitoring the delivery of homes and affordable homes</td>
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<td>Primary Care Trusts</td>
<td>• Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Involved in the production of the Waltham Forest Infrastructure Delivery Plan that supports the Core Strategy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Collaborative work on the Joint Strategic...                                                                --------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Means of co-operation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport for London</td>
<td>Needs Assessment (JSNA), particularly in relation to planning. The proposals of the document have fed into the broad principles development of the Area Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Face-to-face meetings to discuss strategic priorities across borough boundaries, including through stakeholder groups for the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area and the North London Transport Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Civil Aviation Authority</td>
<td>- Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Highways Authority</td>
<td>- Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation (although in Waltham Forest, trunk road are managed by Transport for London)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Rail Regulation</td>
<td>- Formally consulted on proposed submission of the plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Management Organisation</td>
<td>- Formally consulted on proposed submission of the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London Enterprise Partnership</td>
<td>- Formally consulted on proposed submission of the plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-prescribed bodies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Valley Regional Park Authority</td>
<td>- Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Details</td>
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| North London Strategic Alliance        | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
                                           • Collaboration on strategic cross boundary issues through the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area and Decentralised Energy Network, Walthamstow Wetlands project, and through the North London Transport Group |
| Thames Water                           | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
                                           • Collaboration on Walthamstow Wetlands project  
                                           • Included as part of the development of the Local Plan evidence base particularly the Infrastructure Delivery Plan |
| Metropolitan Police                    | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation                                              |
| Network Rail                           | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
                                           • Included as part of the development of the Local Plan evidence base particularly the Infrastructure Delivery Plan |
| British Gas                            | • Formally consulted at each stage of plan preparation  
                                           • Included as part of the development of the Local Plan evidence base particularly the Infrastructure Delivery Plan |
Dear Resident, Business or Stakeholder,

Consultation of Waltham Forest Local Plan
Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan Proposed Submission
Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan Proposed Submission

One of Waltham Forest Council’s priorities is to regenerate the Borough and make it a better place for us all to live, work and enjoy life. To do this effectively, we need to have sound planning policies in place to help determine future planning applications. The Council has prepared the ‘Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan Proposed Submission’ and the ‘Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan Proposed Submission’ as part of the Local Plan for Waltham Forest. This contains our proposed planning policies that, once adopted, will be used to regenerate, attract investment and determine planning applications in these areas.

Central government regulations require all Local Plan Documents to be subject to formal public consultation over a period of six weeks before adoption. Consequently, between 18th March and 29th April 2013, local residents and others are invited to comment on the above plans. The proposed submission document is being published to allow comments to be made prior to submission to the Secretary of State for examination. Representations received during this period will be considered alongside the submitted Area Action Plans by an independent Planning Inspector. The purpose of the examination is to consider whether the Area Action Plans complies with legal requirements and is ‘sound’ against the government’s tests of soundness. To be ‘sound’ the Area Action Plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Duty to Co-operate

The Council is keen to ensure that anyone with an interest on the Borough has the opportunity to comment on emerging plans and proposals. In accordance with the
Localism Act (2011) and the National Planning Policy Framework (para 178), the Council has a Duty to Co-operate. This means the Council now has a duty to co-operate with bodies prescribed under regulation four of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those that relate to strategic matters. As one such body, the Council would welcome any comments you may have regarding issues of a strategic cross-boundary nature.

How to View the Documents and Make a Comment

Those who would like to make comments on this document should consider whether the document is ‘sound’ and ‘legally compliant’. Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specific address about the submission of the Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan and Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan for examination. Please indicate this by ticking the appropriate box on the ‘Representation’ form. A copy of Statement of Representations Procedure is attached herewith.

The consultation document may be viewed:

- at all Waltham Forest Libraries,
- at Sycamore House (Reception), Waltham Forest Town Hall Complex, London E17 4JF (9am - 5pm)
- by downloading from the Council's website: www.walthamforest.gov.uk/ldf
- by viewing and sending online comments at: http://walthamforest-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal
- other alternative formats of the document are available on request at planning.policy@walthamforest.gov.uk or 020 8496 3000.

All comments must be made on a ‘Representation’ form. This is available at the above venues and on the Council’s website www.walthamforest.gov.uk/ldf. Comments must be received by **5pm on Monday 29th April 2013.**

- **PREFERRED METHOD** - Online response: http://walthamforest-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal
- Email: planning.policy@walthamforest.gov.uk
- By Post: Planning Policy, Sycamore House, Waltham Forest Town Hall Complex, London E17 4JF

I hope that you will take this opportunity to comment on this important plan for Waltham Forest, and look forward to hearing from you. For further information or assistance, please contact the Planning Policy Section on 020 8496 3000.

Yours Sincerely

Gordon Glenday
Head of Planning Policy and Regeneration