

Memorandum of Understanding - Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment

This **Memorandum of Understanding** is made the day of.....2015.

BETWEEN:

- (1) HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL;
- (2) KNOWSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL;
- (3) LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL;
- (4) SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL;
- (5) ST.HELENS METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL;
- (6) WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL; AND
- (7) WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND:

- (A) National Planning Policy and legislation sets the requirement for local authorities to cooperate on strategic and cross boundary matters, under the "Duty to Cooperate". The Liverpool City Region authorities have produced a Statement of Cooperation to identify the matters on which cooperation is required, and how this cooperation will be undertaken.
- (B) National Planning Policy and Guidance sets the requirement for comprehensive housing and employment land needs assessments to be undertaken to support the preparation of Local Plans. These needs assessments should account for full housing market area and functional economic market area geographies.
- (C) It is acknowledged that authorities within the Liverpool City Region, alongside West Lancashire, contain shared housing market areas and functional economic areas which overlap local authority boundaries. The preparation of robust and effective evidence of housing and employment land needs, which meets the requirements of National Policy and legislation, must acknowledge this geography.
- (D) In order to support the preparation of future statutory Local Plans and/or any future joint statutory Local Plan, it is proposed that a Strategic Housing and

Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) is jointly commissioned by the above-mentioned local authorities.

IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. Definitions and Interpretations

“Liverpool City Region” for the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding means the area covered by Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St.Helens, Wirral and West Lancashire Councils.

“Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA)” means the joint evidence with the scope outlined in (2).

“CLG Household Projections” means the latest sub-national household projections issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

“Superport” means the integrated cluster of logistics assets and expertise that will be associated with the continuing operation of City Region port facilities, including an enlarged post-Panamax container port at the Port of Liverpool.

“District Planning Officers” means the Heads of Planning of each of the Liverpool City Region Authorities.

“Planning Policy Managers” means the Local Planning managers of each of the Liverpool City Region Authorities.

“Housing and Spatial Planning Board” means the formal board which is a constituent part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

2. Scope of works

The proposed Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) will cover:

- The nature and geography of the housing market areas and functional economic market areas affecting the Liverpool City Region;
- A projection for job creation in the City Region as a result of the anticipated economic growth, especially in light of the Superport proposals and changing technologies in logistics and other key sectors, using a range of appropriate evidence;
- A projection for employment land need across the functional economic market areas to address the need to provide sufficient land to facilitate the anticipated economic growth and Superport proposals (where appropriate)
- A projection for housing need across the City Region (or by housing market area) based upon the latest CLG Household Projections, factoring in local

demographic / migration circumstances, affordable housing needs, historic unmet housing need (where/provided this can be demonstrated to exist), market signals and the potential impact of any economic growth; and

- Options as to how the employment land and housing need across the City Region should be divided between the seven authorities to form the basis of discussion between the LCR authorities regarding a strategic spatial planning framework.

3. Commencement and Termination

The proposed Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) will be commissioned by the end of 2015. The works will be completed by March 2017.

4. Funding

Funding details and cost to be added when available

5. Management Arrangements

The LCR District Planning Officers will be responsible for the commissioning of the SHELMA and the management of its production. The LCR Planning Policy Managers Group will support the District Planning Officers in this task.

The final SHELMA will be presented for approval at the LCR Housing & Spatial Planning Board, the LCR Combined Authority and the West Lancashire Borough Council Cabinet.

St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council will be the Lead Authority for commissioning the SHELMA.

SIGNATORIES

<to be added>