

Appendix 23: Duty to Co-operate Meeting between Broxbourne Borough Council and Hertsmere Borough Council 03_12_2025



Attendees: Hertsmere Borough Council

Broxbourne Borough Council

Agenda:

Introductions:

Hertsmere:

Broxbourne:

1. Purpose of the meeting

- Start of cycle of meetings – sharing technical evidence that has cross-boundary impacts.
- Process to continue throughout plan-making process. Ultimately this could result in the preparation and signing of SoCG with partners. These could identify where agreement can be reached on cross boundary strategic matters.

Hertsmere Emerging Local Plan

Identification and discussion of strategic issues

2. Updates on respective Local Plans

Hertsmere evidence base building and town centre regeneration schemes.

- Publication of Reg 18 Consultation Draft during Spring 2026. That will include a spatial strategy, planning policies and site allocations.

Update on Broxbourne's position.

- Call for sites now
- Issues and options in May 2026
- Broxbourne are in a similar position to Hertsmere in terms of needing to meet their housing need through potential strategic greenbelt release.
- Broxbourne are unsure of the possible extent of the strategic greenbelt release, necessary to meet housing, at the time of the meeting.

3. Identified Issues:

- Housing numbers and pressure on the greenbelt
- Position to neighbouring London Boroughs
 - Outstanding objection to Crews Hill in Enfield relating to highway impacts.
 - A10 bid in at present. Crews Hill could impact on this bid.

- Hertsmere view on Enfield employment proposal south of Potters Bar? The Council has yet to confirm its position on that site.
- **Data Centres**
 - Broxbourne: Almost complete Google datacentre due to switch on in March. Other sites are likely to come forward for datacentres. Sought to secure a legal agreement (via S106) on sustainable energy, provision of heat to nearby development/school swimming pool etc. but didn't really go anywhere. Uncertain whether it is possible to deal with the issues of water scarcity and energy usage given the NPPF focus on their significance in modern economy. Google handed land to the council which is used as a council-owned enterprise centre.
 - It was noted that the data centres don't generate any employment or traffic for the local area.
 - The emerging local plan doesn't have any policies that specifically relate to data centres. Any further proposals are likely to only come through applications.
 - The local plan will deal with allocations for large scale employment, however there is further uncertainty around where these allocations will be, there is some speculation that it might be around the M25.
 - Hertsmere: a few in the pipeline, with Potters Bar/South Mimms being the first.
 - Can these be nationally significant strategic assets. Data centres are likely to be considered this in the near future.
- **Water Scarcity**
 - Can attempt to link a policy into natural environment policies and the newly-adopted LNRS, with support from water companies.

4. **Position for Statements of Common Ground**

As part of the Duty to Co-operate is there a need for a statement of common ground for any of the identified issues?

- Not likely to be a need to engage on cross-boundary issues that would affect immediate neighbours.
- Would likely want SoCG under current system, but depends on what happens.

5. **Future Duty to Co-operate/AOB**

- To keep informed and to send each other letters re: housing need.