



Statement of Common Ground Between

**London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and  
London Borough of Wandsworth**

*Planning*

7 March 2024

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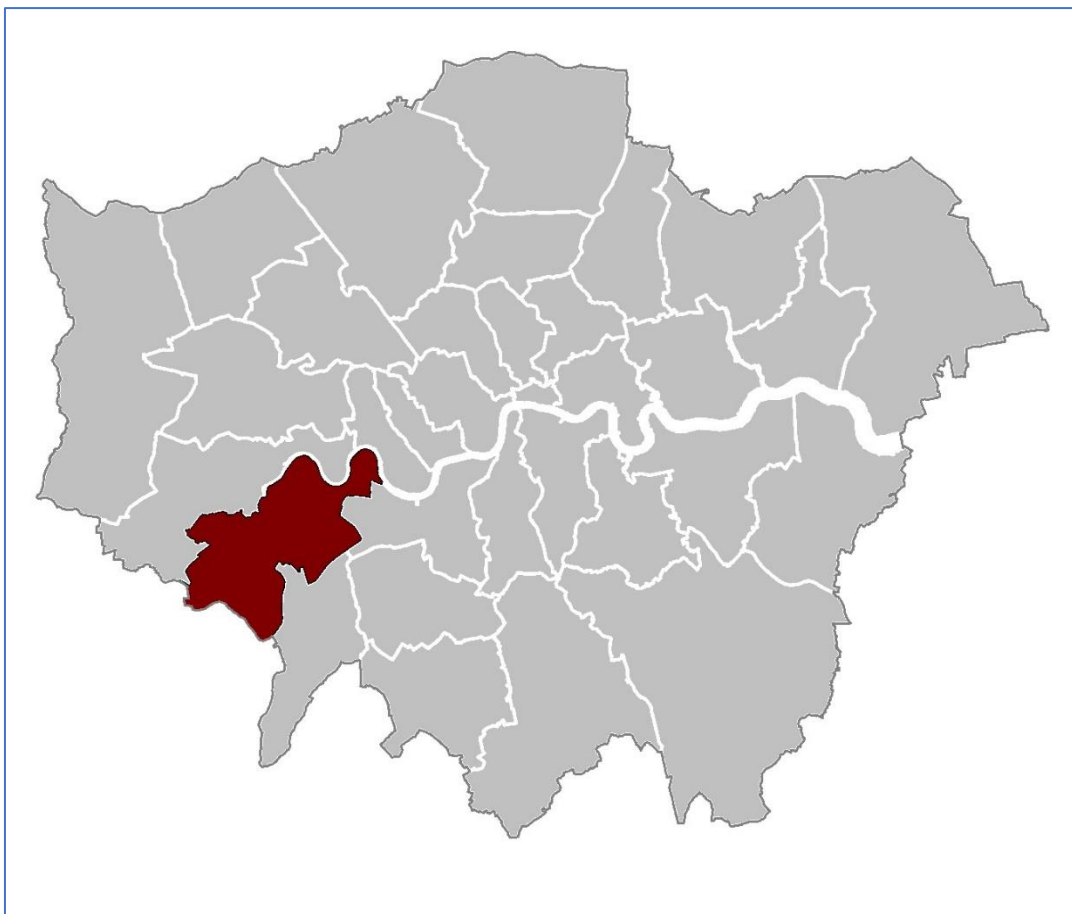
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## 1. Introduction

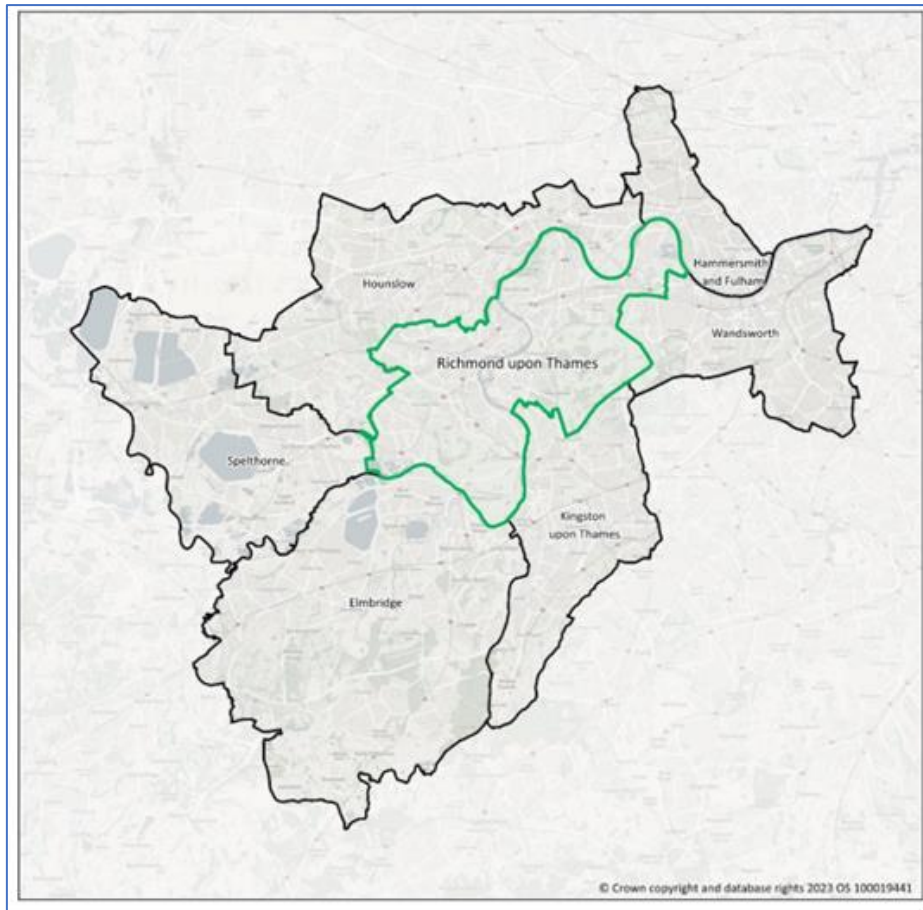
- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) sets out the areas of agreement between the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and the London Borough of Wandsworth on key strategic matters.

## 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 Wandsworth is an inner London borough, with a shared boundary close to Barnes, Richmond Park and Roehampton. Since 1 October 2016, Richmond and Wandsworth have had a shared staffing arrangement in place. As a result, planning officers within Richmond and Wandsworth work closely, sharing the same Spatial Planning and Design Team Manager, although both Councils retain their sovereignty and separate governance arrangements.
- 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.

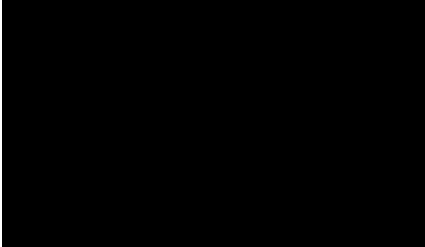
### **3. Parties Involved**

- 3.1 This SoCG has been prepared by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in agreement with the London Borough of Wandsworth. 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:



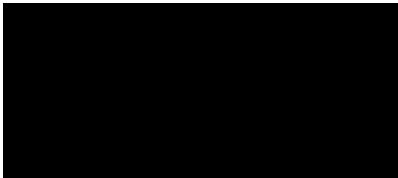
Name: Adam Hutchings

Position: Spatial Planning and Design Team Manager

Date: 07/03/2024

London Borough of Wandsworth agree to matters referred to in this document which directly impact them.

Signed:



Name: Christine Cook

Position: Head of Spatial Planning

Date: 07/03/2024

## 5. Strategic Matters

### Duty to Cooperate

- 5.1 Duty to Cooperate activities between the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames London Borough of Wandsworth 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 Both parties are signatories to a wider agreed [Statement of Common Ground \(September 2022\)](#) between the London Borough of Wandsworth and London Boroughs of Richmond, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Merton, Westminster City Council and the Royal Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Kingston Upon Thames, produced for the Examination of the Wandsworth Local Plan. That is considered to be an accurate reflection of the common ground between each authority; this document is intended to be consistent with the content of that agreement.
- 5.3 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

- 5.4 Through correspondence and discussions between LBRuT and LBW, cross-boundary issues identified in the past related to transportation and the provision of local services, alongside the relationship between neighbourhoods and the surrounding commons and open land.
- 5.5 LBW did not identify any issues to raise formally in a Regulation 19 response.
- 5.6 Following on from the Regulation 19 comments raised, including through Duty to Cooperate, there was progress on the Council's preparation of a series of draft background topic papers to draw together information particularly in areas where comments have been raised. The papers were shared with the relevant Duty to Cooperate bodies, to request any feedback particularly if there was missing or insufficient detail. The Council shared a draft of the Transport and Housing Delivery Background Topic Papers with LBW on 28 November 2023. Finalised papers have accompanied the submission of the Local Plan.
- 5.7 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.