

Statement of Common Ground  
between the London Borough of  
Lambeth and London Borough of  
Merton

December 2023

# 1. Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground (SCG) has been prepared to demonstrate that Lambeth's Draft Site Allocations Development Plan Document (SADPD) is based on effective and continuous joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33 A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, and paragraphs 24–27 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

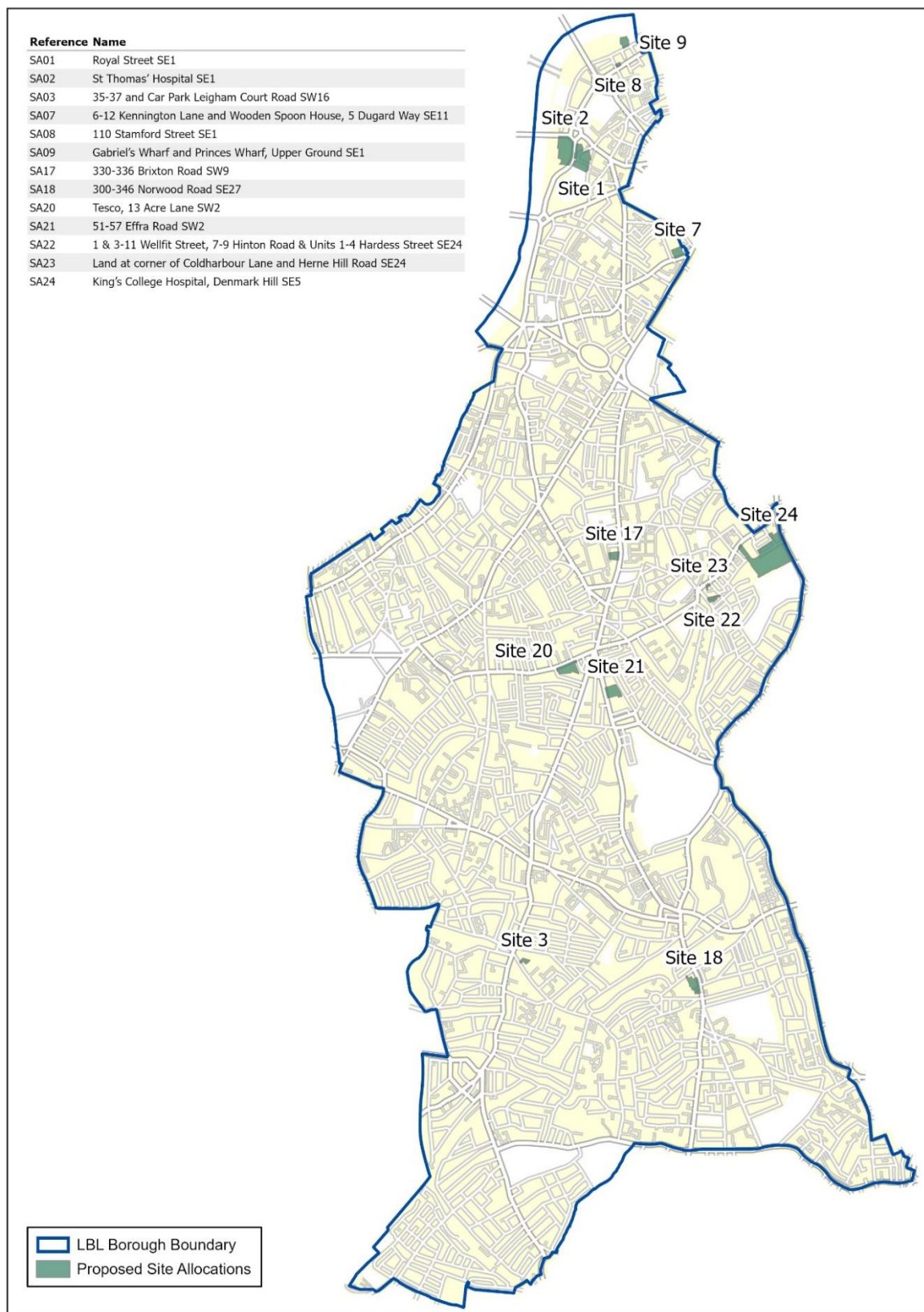
The draft SADPD is not a review of the existing Lambeth Local Plan 2021. Once adopted the SADPD and Lambeth Local Plan 2021 will form part of the development plan for the borough, alongside the South Bank & Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan, and the London Plan 2021.

The principal objective of the SADPD is to unlock investment through the mechanism of site-specific planning policy. It will support the implementation of wider Council strategies including the Borough Plan, Economic Resilience Strategy, Transport Strategy and Climate Action Plan. It will add site-specific policies to existing development plan policy. The Draft SADPD includes policies for thirteen sites, distributed across the borough, as shown on Map 1 below.

The purpose of the SCG is to document the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these. This SCG supplements the existing SCG agreed between the boroughs in December 2019 (included in Annexe 2). This SCG confirms that continued engagement has taken place between the two parties, and that there is agreement that Lambeth's Draft SADPD is unlikely to create any additional strategic cross-border impacts within LB Merton. The two SCG are intended to be read together, with the arrangements made in the 2019 SCG continuing to have effect, alongside any future arrangements that may be agreed between the two parties.

Lambeth's Authority Monitoring Reports provide further details of how the Draft SADPD has been informed by ongoing engagement with key partners, including those that are not party to this SCG.

Map 1 – Draft site allocations\*



\*Please note, *Site 19 Knollys Yard* in West Norwood was removed from the SADPD following Reg 18 consultation.

## 2. Parties Involved

- London Borough of Lambeth
- London Borough of Merton

## 3. Strategic Geography

This section sets out the factual position regarding cross-boundary strategic matters. The location and administrative boundaries of each borough are shown on Maps 2 and 3 below.

### **The London Plan**

The London Plan 2021 is the spatial development strategy for London, produced by the Greater London Authority on behalf of the Mayor of London. Every London borough local plan must be in general conformity with the London Plan. 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 neighbourhood development plans once made.

It is worth noting that in a London context, collaboration on many strategic issues that go beyond borough boundaries (e.g. distribution of housing targets, identification of major areas of growth etc.) are largely addressed through the London Plan.

The current version of the London Plan was published March 2021.

### **LB Lambeth**

Lambeth is an inner London borough with a northern boundary on the River Thames and situated mainly between the boroughs of Wandsworth and Southwark. It covers an area of approximately ten and a half square miles. It is surrounded by seven other London Boroughs - LB Southwark; LB Bromley; LB Croydon; LB Merton; LB Wandsworth; City of Westminster and City of London.

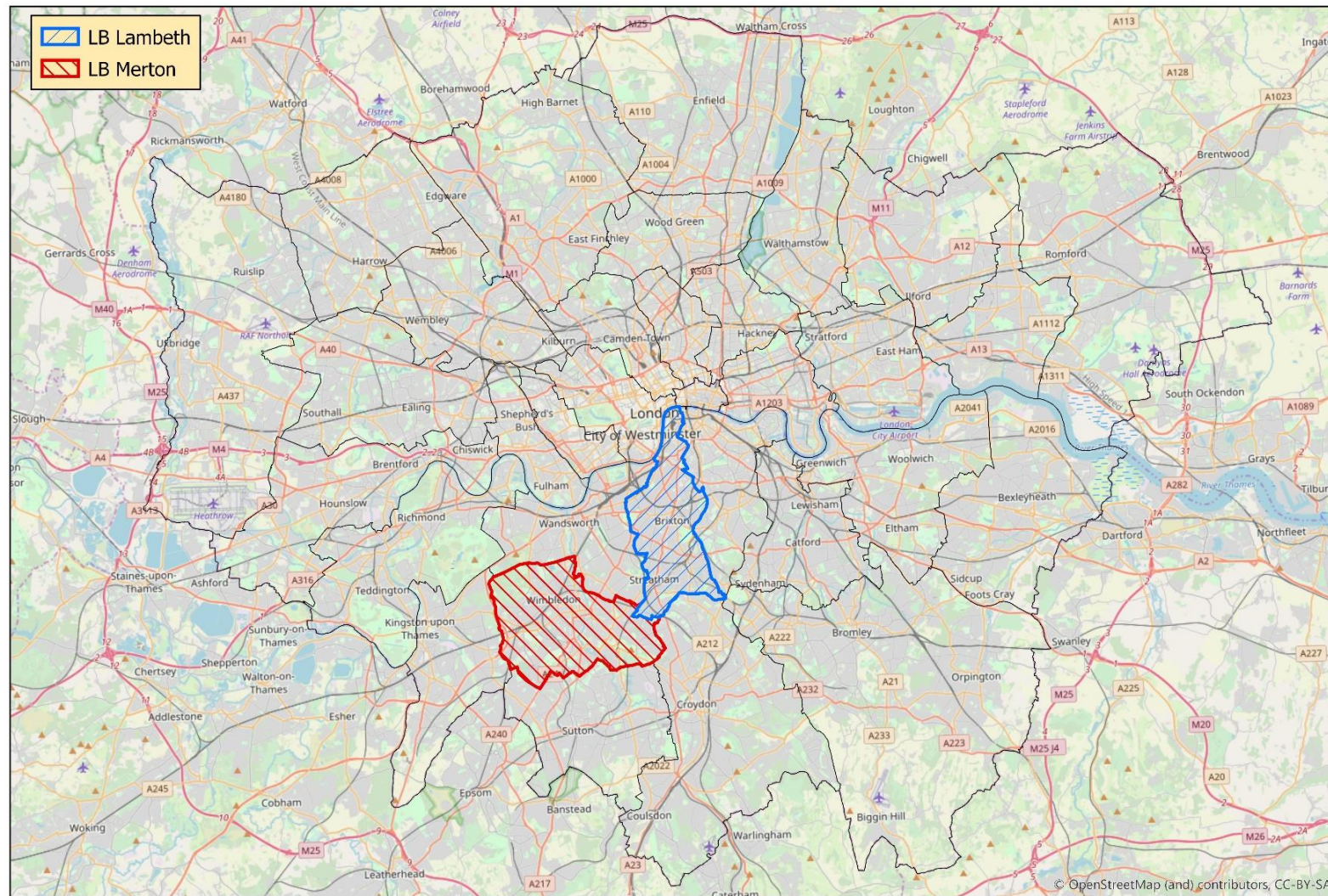
### **LB Merton**

Merton is an outer London borough, situated in southwest London, in the Wandle Valley. It covers an area of approximately 14.7 square miles and is surrounded by five other London Boroughs – Wandsworth, Lambeth, Croydon, Sutton and Kingston upon Thames. Merton shares a small border with Lambeth, to the southwest of Lambeth.

This Statement includes the whole of the LB of Lambeth and the whole of the LB of Merton.



Map 2 – Boroughs involved in this Statement

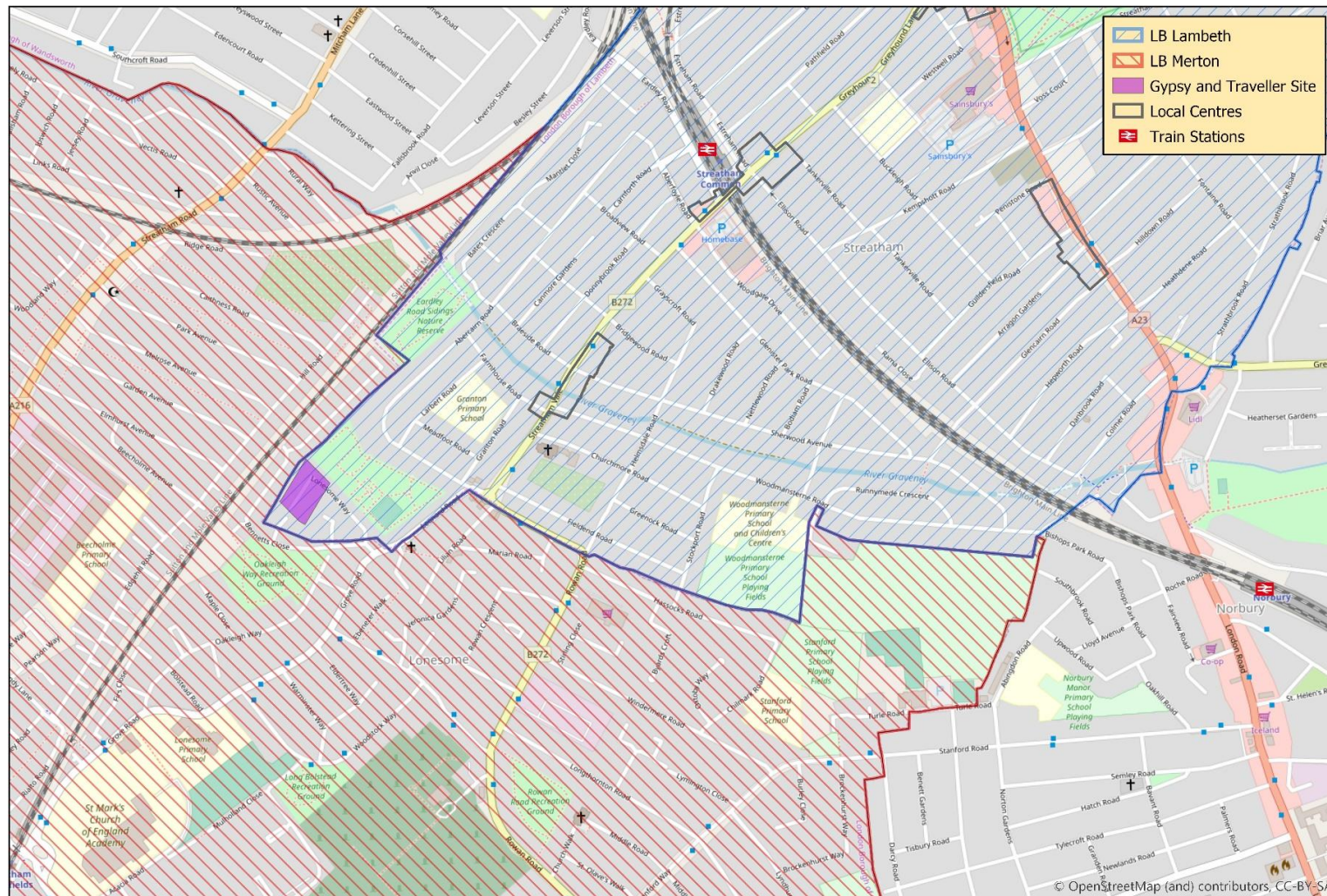


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Map 3 – Length of border between Lambeth and Merton and key policy designations



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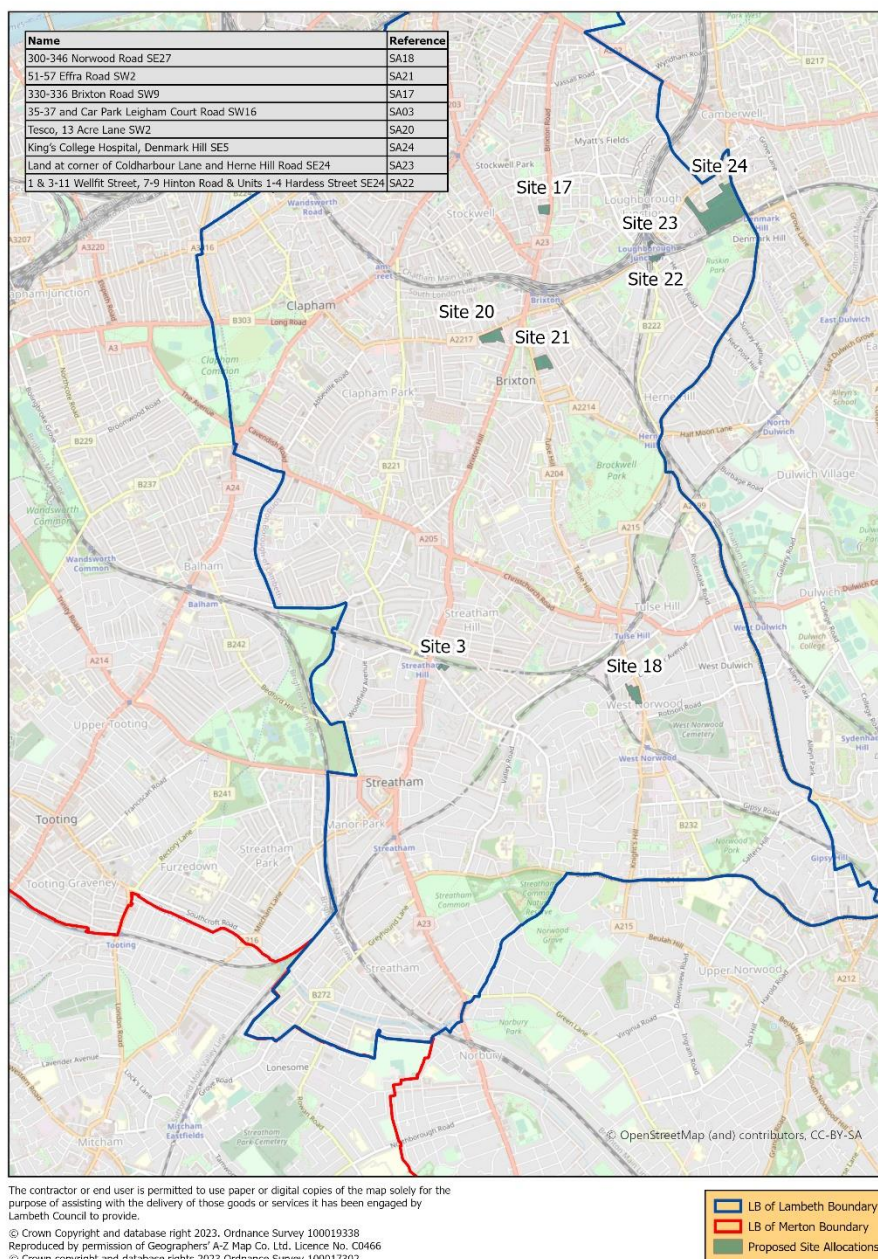


## 4. Strategic Matters

This section sets out where agreement has or has not been reached on cross-border strategic matters.

The parties met on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to discuss the potential impact of the proposed site allocations set out in the draft SADPD. Given the scale and location of the proposed site allocations (the closest site allocations to Merton are shown on Map 4 below), the parties agree that the proposed site allocations are unlikely to give rise to any further cross-boundary issues of a strategic nature.

*Map 4 – Proximity of draft site allocations to the border of Merton*



This SCG demonstrates that discussions have taken place to consider any strategic cross-boundary issues that the draft SADPD may give rise to, and that both parties agree that no additional strategic issues are likely to arise as a result of this document (details contained in Annexe 1).

Previously the parties have also engaged on duty to co-operate matters for Merton's emerging Local Plan (2019-2021) and prior to this for Lambeth's Local Plan 2021. This SCG is intended to supplement the existing agreement signed by the parties in January 2020 (see Annexe 2 for a copy of this document). The existing agreement considers a wide range of strategic matters and sets out how the parties intend to deal with these issues. These include:

- Housing, including gypsies and travellers;
- Health;
- Education;
- Telecommunications;
- Security;
- Transport;
- Air quality;
- Waste management;
- Water supply and wastewater;
- Flood risk;
- Energy;
- Green infrastructure;
- Climate change;
- Strategic and local views, and heritage, design and conservation; and
- Cultural infrastructure.

These existing arrangements are considered appropriate and proportionate for dealing with any potential strategic and cross-border issues that may arise and will continue to remain in place unless otherwise agreed.

## 5. Governance Arrangements

This SCG has been informed by on-going engagement between the parties – as evidenced within Section 3 of this document which explains the joint working arrangements, alongside the schedule of engagement between the parties in Appendix 1.

These are live documents that are kept under review, informed by continued communication between the parties through meetings, statutory consultation at key plan making stages and electronic communication.

Key stages of each borough's plan making process (set out in Table 1 and Table 2) will be triggers for the SCG to be reviewed, however strategic matters will be dealt with on an on-going basis in between formal reviews of the SCG.

### Timetable for agreement, review and update

LB Lambeth adopted its Local Plan in September 2021. As explained above, once adopted the SADPD and Lambeth Local Plan 2021 will form part of the development plan for the borough, alongside the South Bank & Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan, and the London Plan 2021. The key dates for this review are set out in Table 1 below.



LB Merton's current Local Plan consists of its Core Planning Strategy 2011, Site and Policies Plan and Policies Map 2014, Estates Local Plan 2018, and South London Waste Plan 2022. Work has nearly concluded on Merton's new Local Plan with the key dates set out in Table 2 below. Once adopted it will supersede the Core Planning Strategy, Site and Policies Plan, and Policies Map.

*Table 1: Current Development Plan Documents being produced by LB Lambeth*

<b>Dev Plan Document</b>	<b>Date of review</b>	<b>Reg 18 date</b>	<b>Anticipated Reg 19 date</b>	<b>Anticipated submission date</b>
Site Allocations DPD	2021	Jan 2022	Spring 2024	Spring / Summer 2024

*Table 2: Current Development Plan Documents being produced by LB Merton*

<b>Dev Plan Document</b>	<b>Date of review</b>	<b>Reg 18 date</b>	<b>Reg 19 date</b>	<b>Submission and examination dates</b>
Local Plan Review	2017	Oct 2018 and Nov 2019	July 2021	Submitted December 2021. Examination Hearing sessions held in June and October 2022. Post Hearing letters received on the 6th April 2023 and Clarification 28th April 2023.

## 6. Signatures

Both parties agree that this SCG is an accurate representation of matters discussed and issues agreed upon.

It is agreed that these discussions will inform both the Lambeth SADPD and Merton's future plan-making activities and both parties will continue to work collaboratively in order to meet the duty to cooperate.

<p>Signed: </p> <p>Name: Rob Bristow</p> <p>Position: Director for Climate Change, Planning and Transport</p> <p><b>London Borough of Lambeth</b></p> <p>Date: 25 Jan 2024</p>	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Name: Tara Butler</p> <p>Position: Deputy Head of FutureMerton</p> <p><b>London Borough of Merton</b></p> <p>Date: 11 Jan 2024</p>
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## Annexe 1. Schedule of engagement between the parties since last SCG

In November 2020, the LB Merton was notified and invited to make representations on Lambeth's Draft Local Views Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Having reviewed the document LB Merton did not make comments to LB Lambeth.

In February 2020, the LB Merton was notified and invited to comment on Lambeth's Draft Lambeth Design Code SPD. Having reviewed the document LB Merton did not make comments to LB Lambeth.

In January 2021, the LB Merton was notified that Kennington Oval and Vauxhall (KOV) Neighbourhood Forum had applied to be re-designated and invited them to make representations. LB Merton did not provide a written response as the proposed re-designation is several miles away from Merton's boundaries and no co-operation issues had arisen under the previous Forum designation.

In January 2022, the LB Merton was notified and invited to make comments on Lambeth's Draft SA DPD. Having reviewed the document and determined that the nearest site proposals to Merton (considering both new allocations and existing allocations carried forward) are approximately 3 miles away as a straight line distance as illustrated on Map 4 of this document. These sites are proposed for 80 homes at SA18 or the much smaller mixed use site at SA03. Therefore LB Merton chose not to make comments on Lambeth's draft Site Allocations DPD.

In July 2022, the LB Merton was notified and invited to make representations on Lambeth's Revised Draft Lambeth Design Guide SPD. Having reviewed the document LB Merton did not make comments to LB Lambeth.

On 15 March 2023, Lambeth and Merton officers met to consider in detail whether there were any cross boundary issues arising from Lambeth's Site Allocations DPD. Lambeth officers provided a presentation to Merton officers outlining the proposals including the nearest sites. Discussions included national policy (the consultation NPPF) and London-wide matters. Neither borough officers identified cross boundary co-operation issues.

Throughout 2023 – Lambeth and Merton officers have had ongoing email liaison.

In addition, All London Borough Planning Officer meetings (Association of London Planning Officers) took place on the following dates:

- 30 April 2020 (Policy Officers Sub Group)
- 15 September 2020 (Development Plans meeting)
- 25 November 2020
- 15 February 2021
- 10 June 2021 (Sub-Committee)
- 29 June 2021 (Dev Plan meeting)
- 16 September 2021 (Dev Plan meeting)
- 12 October 2021 (Dev Plan meeting)
- 16 December 2021
- 8 March 2022 (Dev Plan meeting)
- 30 June 2022
- 18 October 2022
- 8 November 2022 (Dev Plan meeting)
- 23 January 2023

## Annexe 2. December 2019 Statement of Common Ground

[Please visit this link to the Local Plan 2021 evidence base for the Statement of Common Ground between London Borough of Lambeth and the London Borough of Merton December 2019](#)