

## Statement of Common Ground between Maidstone Borough Council and Medway Council

15.07.22

Maidstone Borough Council is in a position to provide an update in respect of its Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with Medway Council.

Following drafting of the SoCG prior to the submission of Maidstone Local Plan Review (31<sup>st</sup> March 2022), Officers from both authorities sought approval to the document from their respective decision-making bodies. From Maidstone Borough Council's point of view, the SoCG was taken to and approved by the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. From Medway Council's point of view, it was taken to its 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Cabinet meeting with a request to approve the SoCG. The Cabinet declined to approve the SoCG and sought additional changes. The officer agreed version of the SoCG is provided as **Appendix 1** (it having been published by Medway Council as part of the Cabinet report and approved by Maidstone Borough Council).

Accordingly, Medway Council Officers made further changes to the SoCG and provided these to Maidstone Borough Council Officers, who accordingly made further changes in response to those changes made by Medway. Maidstone Officers sought and obtained approval to the updated SoCG on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 meeting of their Cabinet. However, in a report to their Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Medway Officers purely sought approval for a version of the SoCG that did not include the further changes from Maidstone Borough Council. The version of the SoCG which includes changes by Medway and Maidstone is provided as **Appendix 2** (it having been published by Medway Council as part of the Cabinet report and approved by Maidstone Borough Council).

Officer-level negotiations are ongoing.