

The Duty to Cooperate (DtC)

The DtC is a legal test that requires cooperation between local planning authorities and other public bodies to maximise the effectiveness of policies for strategic matters in Local Plans.

The DtC was created in the Localism Act 2011 and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. The DtC is not a duty to agree. Cooperation should produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary matters. If another authority will not cooperate this should not prevent the authority bringing forward a Local Plan and submitting it for examination. However, the authority will need to submit comprehensive and robust evidence of the efforts it has made to cooperate, and any outcomes achieved, and this will be thoroughly tested at the examination.

Given Coventry's geographical location between the county of Warwickshire and the West Midlands Metropolitan area, the city has a DtC with the following local authorities:

- Birmingham City Council,
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council,
- North Warwickshire Borough Council,
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council,
- Rugby Borough Council,
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council,
- Stratford on Avon District Council,
- Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,
- Warwick District Council,
- Warwickshire County Council and
- Wolverhampton City Council,

In addition to Local Planning Authorities, other public bodies and organisations are subject to the DtC. These bodies are:

- each clinical commissioning group established under section 14D of the National Health Service Act 2006
- each Integrated Transport Authority
- Highways England
- Natural England
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- The Environment Agency
- The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England)
- The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
- The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Local Nature Partnership (LNP)
- The Office of Rail Regulation
- The National Health Service Commissioning Board

These organisations are required to cooperate with local authorities and the other prescribed bodies. These bodies play a key role in delivering local aspirations, and cooperation between them and local planning authorities is vital to make Local Plans as effective as possible on strategic cross boundary matters.

Policy DS2: The Duty to Cooperate

1. Coventry City Council will work with neighbouring authorities within its Housing Market Area to support the delivery of the development needs identified in Policy DS1 that originate from the city.
2. In order to ensure the affordable housing needs of the city are met, the Council will work with its neighbouring authorities to secure opportunities for Coventry citizens to access affordable homes within Warwickshire where they are delivered as part of the city's wider housing needs being met.
3. The Council will support the preparation of joint strategic evidence which will enable the successful delivery of regeneration and economic growth across the sub-region. The Council will continue to be proactive in this regard and will seek to cooperate with all partners on an on-going basis across all topic areas including housing, infrastructure, economy and jobs, transport, health and the environment.
4. Should the need arise and should it be considered appropriate the Council is committed to working with partners on preparing joint development plan documents, supplementary planning documents and design guides to help deliver new sustainable development that may straddle or adjoin the city's administrative boundary.
5. Where sites cross or are adjacent to administrative boundaries and are not subject to joint development plan documents, the Council will continue to work proactively and on an on-going basis with all relevant partners to enable the delivery of new development on these sites.
6. Of particular relevance to parts 4 and 5 of this policy are the continued growth and expansion of:
 - a. Jaguar Land Rover at Whitley;
 - b. The University of Warwick;
 - c. The wider Coventry Gateway proposals;
 - d. Ansty Park;
 - e. Pro-Logis Park at Keresley; and
 - f. Proposed residential developments to the south of the city's administrative boundary.

7. The Council is committed to supporting the economic growth objectives of the sub-region and, in partnership with the CWLEP will continue to work pro-actively will all partners to deliver economic growth and prosperity across Coventry and Warwickshire.