

## **2.0 Duty to Co-operate**

1. Since the enactment of the Localism Bill, both Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council have been subject to the Duty to Co-operate.
2. The Duty extends to matters of a strategic significance having an impact on more than one planning area. With regard to the Focused Review, issues of housing and employment provision clearly have implications for adjoining districts to some extent; as such they should be matters for co-operation between these two authorities, having particular regard to, for example, SCC's role as Local Education Authority and Local Highway Authority.
3. SCC has been closely involved with MSDC in the production and implementation of its development plan documents generally, and most recently through the Stowmarket Area Action Plan and the Core Strategy Focussed Review.
4. SCC would consider that MSDC, with respect to its relationship with SCC, has discharged its legal responsibilities under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
5. MSDC have provided the Inspector details of the exact forums within which this engagement has occurred, though it should be noted that much of this joint working is also on an ongoing and informal basis.