

**Draft Note - Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board
Monday 19 December 2016 – Civic Centre, Harlow**

Attendance

Organisation	Councillors	Officers
ATLAS		James Farrar
East Herts DC	Cllr Linda Haysey (Chair), Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Liz Watts, Claire Sime, Kevin Steptoe
Epping Forest DC	Cllr Chris Whitbread, Cllr John Philip, Cllr Richard Bassett	Glen Chipp, Alison Blom-Cooper, David Coleman, Sarah King
Essex CC		David Sprunt, Rich Cooke
Harlow DC	Cllr Jon Clempner, Cllr Danny Purton	Graeme Bloomer
Herts CC	Cllr Derrick Ashley	Jan Hayes-Griffin
LB Redbridge	Cllr Helen Coombe	
Uttlesford DC	Cllr Susan Barker	Richard Fox

1. Apologies

Brentwood BC - Cllr Roger McCheyne, Cllr Louise Rowlands, Phil Drane
 Broxbourne BC - Cllr Paul Seeby, Martin Paine
 Chelmsford CC – Claire Stuckey
 East Herts DC - Cllr Gary Jones, Cllr Bob Brunton
 Essex CC – Cllr Mick Page, Sean Perry
 Highways England – Nigel Allsopp
 LB Enfield – Ismail Mulla
 LB Havering – Martyn Thomas
 Natural England - Sarah Fraser

2. Draft notes of meeting of 12 September 2016 including review of action points

The draft notes were agreed as circulated.

Actions from previous meeting -

- *Epping Forest DC/East Herts DC officers to draft letter to Gavin Barwell MP introducing the Co-op. Board for circulation by mid-October – **not yet done***
- *East Herts DC officers to send Minister Gavin Barwell MP's letter about exceptional circumstances re: GB to Sarah King. Sarah to circulate this to the Co-op. Board – **done, circulated to Board***
- *East Herts DC officers to circulate a note from the meeting with CLG – **East Herts DC will send this***
- *Harlow DC to submit final joint response from West Essex/East Herts HMA to Broxbourne BC's Local Plan consultation – **done, submitted on 16th September***
- *AECOM to contact site promoters for the two potential relocation sites for PAH – **done***
- *AECOM to circulate a draft report on potential relocation of PAH to officers by end of September - **done, AECOM has written report on PAH, meeting took place between West Essex/East Herts, Essex CC, Herts CC, PAH and AECOM last week, workshop is planned for the New Year***
- *Sarah King to circulate the final Highways and Transportation Infrastructure MoU and Managing the Impacts of on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation MoU to the relevant authorities for taking through governance processes - **done***
- *All relevant authorities to take the relevant MoUs through their governance processes for signing – **in progress***
- *Herts CC to raise any issues with the Highways and Transportation Infrastructure MoU asap – **done, David Sprunt has amended the MoU and re-circulated for signing***

- *East Herts DC/Epping Forest DC officers to liaise with James Farrar from ATLAS to finalise the bid for timely submission – **done, bid was submitted on 20th September***

3. Update on recent contact between West Essex/East Herts authorities and the Planning Inspectorate

Richard Fox explained that Simon Emerson of PINS had visited Uttlesford in November. The key points were:

- a. With regard to identifying OAHN, the clear message was that the starting point should be the 2014-based projections.
- b. With regard to the AECOM work for the SHMA on strategic spatial distribution options - PINS acknowledged that the 2012-based projections and 2014-based projections were different, but were not clear as to how the 51,100 dwellings figure was derived rather than the figure of 54,600 (based on the 2014-based projections) or the original SHMA figure. Note: It was acknowledged that the reason for this is that the 2014-based figures had been published towards the end of the AECOM work and that a fuller explanation was required.

The Board was advised that officers had met with AECOM to discuss these matters and had agreed to commission a technical addendum to the original report to explain in detail the working and process for arriving at the 51,100 figure taking 54,600 as the starting point.

- c. PINS advised that it would be important for the MOU on the spatial distribution to be signed prior to examination as otherwise the default position would be a requirement for each individual LPA to be required to meet the 2014 based OAHN as a starting point.

Cllr Barker (Uttlesford) commented that the Inspector had also advised with regard to proposals for inclusion of a site on the border with Braintree of the need for Braintree to agree to its inclusion and that it was important for it to be included in the Braintree Local Plan as well in order to ensure delivery.

Addendum Note: Officers have also discussed the need to undertake a similar exercise to consider the distribution of employment growth across the Housing /Functional Economic Market Area and ensure that this was taken into account in the overall growth planned as it could have transport infrastructure implications.

4. Update on current/recent consultations on Local Plans –

a. East Herts DC

The six week period for representations on the Pre-Submission Plan (Regulation 19) had closed at 5pm on Thursday 15 December 2016. The Council had received several thousand comments. Many of these had been received through the consultation portal but there were also many hard copies and emails. There was considerable opposition to the proposed allocation of sites to the North of Harlow (Gilston). A fuller analysis will be possible for the next meeting.

b. Epping Forest DC

The Regulation 18 consultation on the Draft Local Plan closed on 12 December 2016. About 3,000 to 3,500 responses had been received (duplicates are still being checked) with about 50% received electronically and the rest by email, hard copy questionnaire or letter. Main concerns were about loss of managed open space, green belt and infrastructure. EFDC will be able to provide more detail at the next meeting.

Councillor Philip expressed disappointment that Harlow's formal response to the EFDC consultation had raised the issue of affordable housing provision across the SHMA area – a

matter that had not been raised previously by Harlow informally or discussed by the Board. The Board was the appropriate forum for such matters in order that agreement could be reached where possible.

Cllr Purton replied that within the 2015 SHMA a high level of affordable housing for Harlow had been identified and that due to the nature of Harlow constraints, there was insufficient sites to provide their required level of affordable housing. He acknowledged that the growth areas around Harlow would help to meet this affordable housing need but felt that he needed to make the point that there would need to be some provision for affordable housing to be provided outside Harlow and in the wider SHMA area.

Cllr Haysey noted that the concern was that these comments had not been raised earlier but had been raised in public for the first time. Cllr Philip said that these comments would no doubt get scrutiny by an Inspector. EFDC is moving forward quickly with a tight timetable, and is aiming for publication of the Regulation 19 Pre Submission Plan in autumn 2017. Issues such as this needed to be dealt with in a timely fashion and the reason for the Coop Board was to be able to talk about them in a constructive way. The Draft Local Plan makes provision for a greater quantum of affordable housing within EFDC than that identified in the 2015 SHMA.

Cllr Barker asked about the Housing White Paper and whether this had any implications for the SHMA. Alison Blom-Cooper (EFDC) advised that the Housing White Paper was due to be published in January 2017. It was understood that it will take forward the recommendations made by the Local Plan Expert Group and prescribe a methodology for undertaking the calculation of the objectively assessed housing need.

Cllr Purton will take on board that they may not previously been explicit about affordable housing, but it is in technical papers. Can only apologise if not done that well.

Cllr Haysey noted the importance of being seen as a model area for co-operation and an example of best practice. In future when such matters arise these should be handled in the first instance through email or telephone calls.

5. Update on the three draft final Memoranda of Understanding for the Housing Market Area (HMA)

a. Distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need across the West Essex/East Herts HMA

Still on hold pending resolution of matters.

Graeme Bloomer noted the feedback that Uttlesford had provided on the importance of signing this MoU. The current MoU does acknowledge that the issue of affordable housing will be dealt with but does not say how. Harlow would be happy to work with colleagues to prepare a paper to come back to the next meeting of the Board.

Action: Harlow (Graeme Bloomer) to draft a paper for circulation and discussion at the next officer meeting on 19 January 2017.

b. Highways and Transportation Infrastructure for the West Essex/East Herts HMA

David Sprunt (Essex CC) noted that this had now been amended and circulated for signature with relevant authorities.

c. Managing the Impacts of Growth across the West Essex/East Herts HMA on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation

Circulated for signing by relevant authorities.

Noted Sarah King (EFDC) is the coordinating the finalisation of the two MoUs (b and c above).

6. Update on Junction 7A of the M11 (and other Highways matters)

A report went to Essex CC Cabinet on 13 December 2016 following evaluation of the consultation. Cabinet had resolved to take forward the scheme with preferred route status, and also are proposing to submit a planning application in January 2017 with a decision in about June 2017. Since the last meeting of the Board, ECC had met with the Director of Highways England who was due to meet the Minister last week. A decision was expected in January 2017.

Action: David Sprunt (ECC) to circulate approved route status report

Essex CC were undertaking further work to look at the sites to the West and South of Harlow and the transport impacts of the allocation of these sites on Harlow and the surrounding area. A report on this would be available shortly and would provide the basis for a further discussion by Harlow Council scheduled for 23 February 2017. Transport modelling – the VISSUM model is signed off and available and has been used to run the current Harlow tests.

Jan Hayes-Griffin (Herts CC) asked about the relationship between the Co-op. Board and the West Essex Transport Group. Although the West Essex Transport Group had not met for a while she enquired whether some of this modelling work and the transport study should be discussed at that meeting as well? David Sprunt advised that the West Essex Transport Group meets roughly quarterly – the last meeting had been in late October/early November. The Primary purpose of that Group is to look through schemes being taken forward and seek agreement as to way in which they are taken forward. The two meetings should dovetail. The Transport Group is due to meet again in February 2017.

Cllr Barker enquired about the impact on the A1060? David Sprunt advised that all modelling to date showing drop in traffic through Sheering, so would then commensurately drop on A1060, small drop but is good.

7. Update on the expression of interest for capacity funding to DCLG re: the Locally Led Garden Villages, Towns & Cities Prospectus, for 'Harlow & Gilston Garden Town'

James Farrar (ATLAS) explained that ATLAS has been supporting officers on the joint bid. Not much they can say until a final announcement is made which is expected in January 2017. He had met with officers from the three authorities recently and was supporting them in preparing for a positive outcome to the bid. The HCA is currently reviewing its future enabling offer, taking into account available resources.

Cllr Haysey said that the first task would be to ask officers to work together to come up with proposed governance arrangements. Officers from the three authorities were asked to continue the work already initiated with ATLAS support. James advised that DCLG were realistic about potential for spend this financial year. Cllr Barker advised that Braintree, Colchester and Tendring Districts had recently established a special purpose delivery vehicle and had done a lot of work in this area and lessons should be learnt from their experience. Note: ATLAS is setting up a meeting with this group for officers to meet so that experiences can be shared.

Action: James Farrar agreed to prepare a paper with input from the three authorities for discussion at Next Board.

8. Update on work regarding potential relocation of Princess Alexandra Hospital

Officers met with Phil Morley (Chief Executive) and Marc Davis (Director of Pathways and Partnerships) from PAH on 15 December 2016. The Price Waterhouse Coopers report on the future for PAH had considered four options for the hospital. These were:

1. Do the minimum required to keep the hospital going for 4-5 years (£27m)
2. Full refurbishment of the existing site (£150m)

3. Replacement and rebuild on the existing site (£450m)
4. New site – seen as preferred option and best value for public purse

However their Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) managers had advised that could only fund up to £150m of capital which meant that site replacement and rebuild, or a new site, were not feasible. As a result PAH, with Rt. Hon. Robert Halfon MP (for Harlow), had met with Ministers last week to discuss the future of the hospital. Their proposal was to undertake a phased build over two funding cycles, involving building premises for elective procedures etc. first, which would help to raise funding. It was agreed that there was scope for a bid, subject to the preparation of a Strategic Outline Case, for relocation and a new hospital.

At the meeting It was agreed that:

1. PAH would supply Essex CC with the current information they have on trips to and from the hospital (staff, visitors, patients) and ECC will identify what data might be required.
2. PAH, the two Counties and ATLAS should meet to agree what was required in order to undertake the necessary transport assessment on the sites.
3. Representatives of the Co-op. Officer group would meet with PAH to develop the brief for the preparation of the Strategic Outline Case the w/c 9 January 2017, in order that this could feed into a report to the new Health Partnership group for West Essex/East Herts due to meet at the end of January.

Members asked whether it would be sensible to reschedule the meeting with the Health Minister, which had been previously cancelled. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to this following the meeting of the new Health Partnership meeting scheduled for the end of January.

9. A.O.B.

Cllr Haysey reported on the recent wider London summit with GLA. East Herts and others had provided comments on behalf of the members of the Coop Board on the current stance by the Mayor on 'no loss of green belt' within the GLA and that this was unreasonable when authorities outside London were being required to review and release Green Belt.

Cllr Haysey and other wider London authorities have a meeting scheduled with Gavin Barwell in January 2017.

Jan Hayes-Griffin (Herts CC) advised that the LSCC had organised a workshop about review of the Green Belt on 31 January 2017.

Cllr Helen Coombe (LB Redbridge) advised that the authority were continuing with submission of their Local Plan for Examination despite the fact that the Council had received a letter from the Mayor of non-compliance with the London Plan due to the proposed alterations to the Green Belt to provide for Housing.

10. Date of next meeting:

To be confirmed (dates being canvassed)