

Memorandum of Understanding on Highways & Transportation Infrastructure for the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area

between

Essex County Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Highways England

East Hertfordshire District Council
Epping Forest District Council
Harlow District Council
Uttlesford District Council

February 2017



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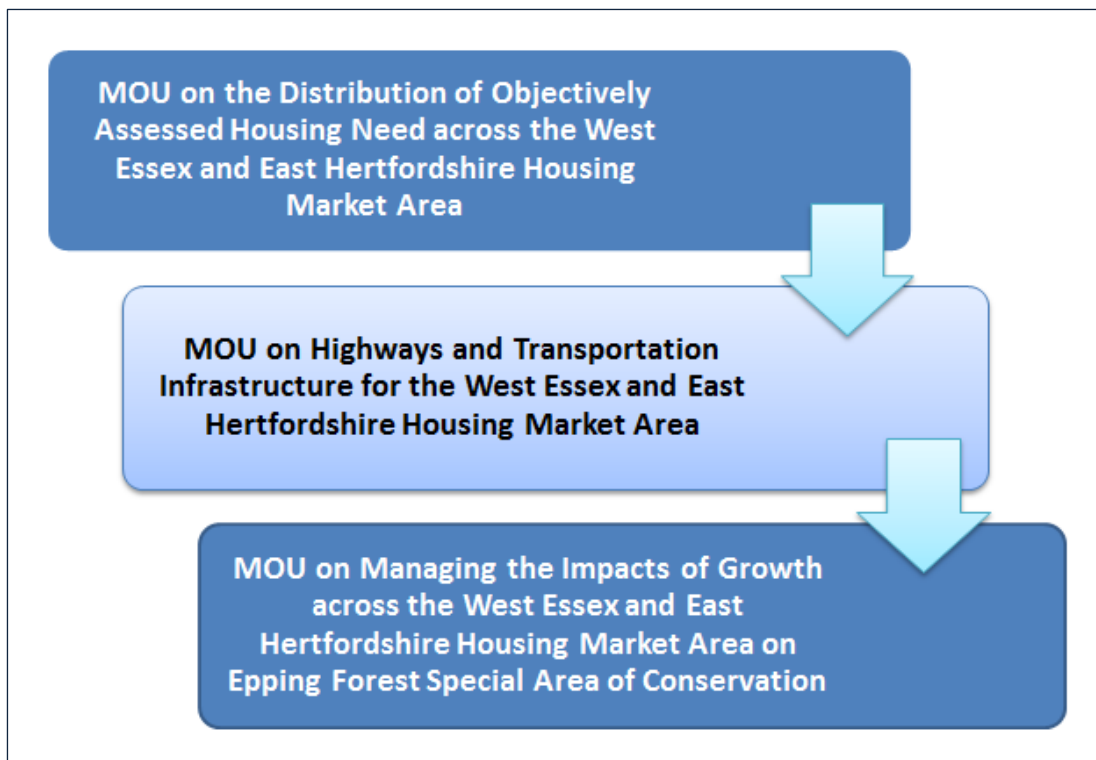
1 Background

- 1.1 Local Plans set out policies to guide development in a locality, including policies and proposals for specific sites to meet the housing, employment, environmental and social needs of the area. The suitability of sites for any of these uses depends on several factors, including transport matters such as local traffic flow, road and transport connections, and options for sustainable travel.
- 1.2 The preparation of Local Plans provides an opportunity to support a pattern of development that minimises the need for travel, minimises journey lengths, encourages sustainable travel, and promotes accessibility for all. This can contribute to the achievement of environmental objectives and reduce the cost to the economy arising from the environmental, business and social impacts associated with traffic generation and congestion.
- 1.3 East Hertfordshire DC, Epping Forest DC, Harlow DC and Uttlesford DC (also referred to as the 'West Essex/East Hertfordshire authorities' in this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)) have a substantial history of co-ordinated working on strategic planning issues such as assessing housing need and planning for future growth. Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council have also been involved in cross-border working with the authorities for many years on many different topics including transport matters related to Local Plans.

The three inter-related Memoranda of Understanding

- 1.4 This MoU is one of a group of three related memoranda of understanding. The other two deal with the distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) across the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area (HMA), and managing the impacts of growth across the HMA on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation, as shown in Figure 1.

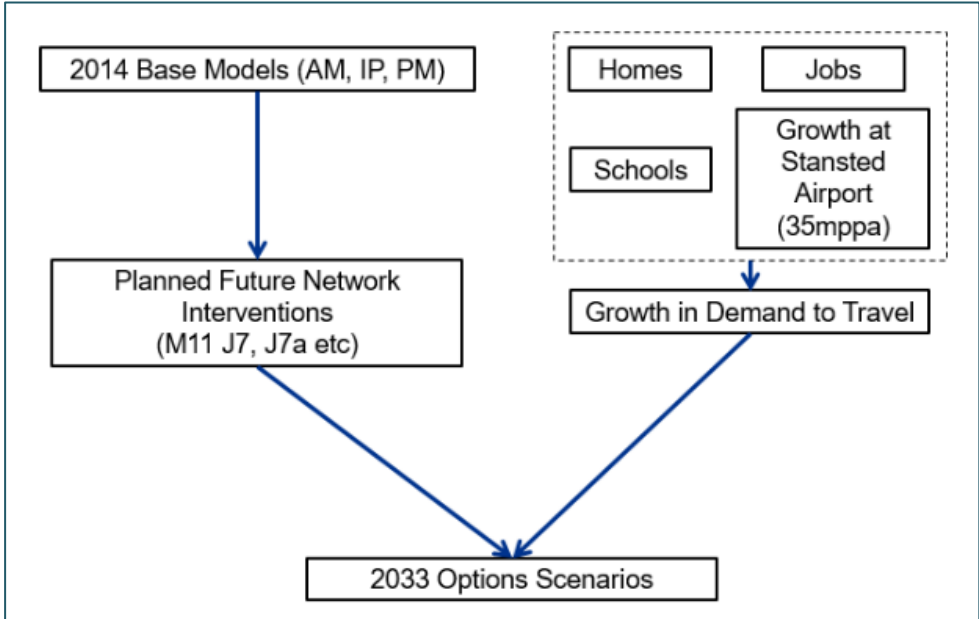
Figure 1 – Inter-related Memoranda of Understanding



Transport modelling relating to Strategic OAHN Spatial Options study

- 1.5 In conjunction with the West Essex/East Hertfordshire authorities, Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Highways England been involved in the Strategic OAHN Spatial Options study, which sets out the options for how the housing need identified in the West Essex/East Hertfordshire SHMA (2015 – and also emerging data indicating how the OAHN might change) could be distributed across the housing market area, based on an analysis of the existing/emerging policy context and evidence base.
- 1.6 One of the key ways in which the range of potential OAHN spatial distribution options were analysed was through strategic transport modelling carried out by Essex County Council, which was designed to assess the varying impacts to traffic and transportation. (This transport modelling is high-level in nature, and will be supplemented by district-wide modelling for the four West Essex/East Hertfordshire Local Plans when considering local-level issues).
- 1.7 This strategic highway modelling was carried out using Essex County Council’s Visum model, which was agreed by Highways England in 2016.
- 1.8 The assumptions within the strategic highway modelling, as the baseline, are that the following will take place -
 - planned improvements to M11 junction 7;
 - planned short-term improvements at M11 junction 8;
 - implementation of a new J7A on the M11;
 - A120 Little Hadham Bypass;
 - Public Health England moves to Harlow town (as announced by government);
 - London Stansted Airport growth reaches 35 million passengers per annum; and
 - TEMPRO¹ growth outside the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area.
- 1.9 The overall process for the highway modelling is shown in figure 2.

Figure 2 – Overview of Forecasting Process for the Highway Modelling:



¹ TEMPRO (Trip End Model Presentation Program) is the industry standard transport planning software tool for estimating traffic growth, which is required when assessing the traffic impact of a development on the local highway network.

- 1.10 The strategic highway modelling assessed five OAHN spatial distribution options A to E, for the Housing Market Area, which were as detailed in Appendix 1. Please also refer to the overarching 'Distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need across the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area' MoU for more details of the five options A to E. Option A1 was a variation to Option A, having a different spatial distribution around Harlow.
- 1.11 Following discussions with managers at Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow), and between the West Essex/East Hertfordshire officers, population data was explored to consider the effects on catchment area of a new hospital site either at Gilston (in East Hertfordshire District) or near a new junction 7A on the M11 (in Epping Forest District), as Princess Alexandra Hospital wishes to relocate.
- 1.12 The strategic highway modelling identified percentage traffic flow changes resulting from the Options A to E, and A1. Whilst all of the Options A to C including A1 are predicted to cause broadly similar increases in congestion and commensurate reductions in average vehicle speeds, with the higher growth (in and around Harlow) options D & E these approach 20% greater reductions in average vehicle speeds. In addition the higher growth options D & E both showed significant stress in specific areas of the network and are not recommended to be taken forward in transport terms, unless further major interventions were to be delivered during the Plan period (2011-2033). However more detailed assessment work is ongoing.
- 1.13 It should be noted that these model results are early indications based on initial forecast modelling, and there will of course be further modelling and sensitivity testing as work progresses on the four West Essex/East Hertfordshire Local Plans.
- 1.14 Since undertaking this analysis two additional spatial options have been identified. The first of these, 'Option F', aims to meet the maximum growth across the HMA. The second is the 'Spatial Option' which reflects the latest figures for completions, permissions and windfalls, and is based on spring 2016 household and population projections. It takes into account feedback from the initial highway modelling processes. It is the view of the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Officer Group that this is the most appropriate spatial option.
- 1.15 The strategic highway modelling thus played a key role in the recommendation and selection of the 'Spatial Option' to deliver the OAHN, which is as follows.

Figure 3 – The 'Spatial Option' of OAHN 2011-2033

| Local authority | Net new dwellings 2011-2033 |
|---|-----------------------------|
| East Hertfordshire District Council | ~ 18,000 |
| Epping Forest District Council | ~ 11,400 |
| Harlow District Council | ~ 9,200 |
| Uttlesford District Council | ~ 12,500 |
| Total across the HMA | ~ 51,100 |
| ...of which the area in and around Harlow* will provide | ~ 16,100 |

**'in and around Harlow' refers to Harlow town as well as around Harlow in adjoining districts*

2 Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding

2.1 This Highways and Transportation Infrastructure MoU confirms the collaborative working arrangements that exist between the three highway authorities of Highways England, Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council.

2.2 The purpose of this MoU is to ensure that Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Highways England (supported by the West Essex/East Hertfordshire authorities), together fulfil the following requirements:

1. to contribute to the delivery of the vision set out in section 3 of this MoU;
2. to seek/support/work towards addressing the strategic highway issues identified through modelling, and some of the emerging transport issues are outlined in section 4 of this MoU;
3. to work collaboratively to identify, develop and secure/deliver enabling highway infrastructure schemes supporting the 'Spatial Option' of the Objectively Assessed Housing Need within the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area, as set out above and within the overarching 'Distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need across the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area' MoU;
4. to continue to engage with the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Councils (primarily through the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Officer Group and the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board) at an early stage, in detail, and on a continuing basis, with the intention of avoiding possible objections being made at consultation stages and/or at Independent Examination of the individual Local Plans;
5. to continue to co-operate during the implementation and monitoring of the individual West Essex/East Hertfordshire Councils Local Plans;
6. to liaise with each other on any future joint evidence work which may be required to address the strategic highway issues;
7. to help demonstrate compliance with the Duty to Co-operate during the Independent Examination of the West Essex/East Hertfordshire authorities' Local Plans
8. to inform and support the 'Managing the Impacts of Growth across the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation' MoU (see Figure 1).

2.3 This MoU specifically covers the area directly affected/impacted by the growth in and around Harlow and is NOT intended to cover the whole of the HMA, with specific district level interventions being identified by each district individually.

2.4 The schemes identified within this MoU are those major strategic schemes which would be required to meet the level of growth being proposed within and around the Harlow area. It does not include specific site level interventions, many of which may still be significant in themselves.

3 Vision

- 3.1 The three highway authorities are committed to co-operating with the planning authorities for the West Essex/East Hertfordshire HMA to enable sustainable communities by providing a better understanding of key highways infrastructure, including public transport and sustainable modes, that will be required to support those developments.
- 3.2 We recognise that we have a responsibility to support and develop a more coordinated approach to planning on the strategic and local highway networks to provide sustainable communities.
- 3.3 All parties are fully committed to jointly working together to resolve key highway and transportation issues, primarily those outlined in section 4 of this MoU, but also any further issues which come to light in future.

4 Emerging key highway issues

- 4.1 While the following primarily focus on highways related infrastructure, the overall impact of the infrastructure also seeks to address rail and aviation issues indirectly through provision of improved access

Highways England Network Improvements (M11)

M11 Junction 7/7A

- 4.2 M11 Junction 7 serves as the main point of access to the strategic road network for the town of Harlow and the surrounding areas. The interchange is nearing capacity, which is constraining access to and from the M11. This in turn is constraining Harlow's growth opportunities. Highways England and Essex County Council are investigating solutions and are working together to develop improvements to Junction 7 and proposals for a new Junction 7A. For further details of the particular issues regarding Junction 7 and 7A, please see Appendix 2.
- 4.3 The following actions relating to these junctions are already complete:

Figure 4 – Completed actions relating to M11 Junction 7/7A

| Completed Actions |
|---|
| Funding for improvements to Junction 7 has been obtained under Road Investment Strategy 1 (RIS1) |
| Essex County Council has completed four years of work on investigating options to improve Harlow's road network. A strategic options appraisal showed that the new junction 7A on the M11 is optimum solution to overcome the problems. |
| Essex County Council ran public consultation on the location and design of the new Junction 7A (together with widening of Gilden Way) in summer 2016 |

- 4.4 The signatories to this MoU recognise that the following actions will be necessary with regard to Junction 7/7A:

Figure 5 – Future actions relating to M11 Junction 7/7A

| Action | Responsible authority |
|--|---|
| Essex County Council will announce the preferred route for J7A, by Autumn 2016 | Essex County Council |
| Essex County Council will aim to submit a planning application for Junction 7A by Winter 2016/17 | Essex County Council |
| West Essex/East Hertfordshire District Councils will provide support for J7A within their Local Plans, as appropriate to their area and support will be written into Local Plans which will go out to consultation in Autumn/Winter 2016 | West Essex/East Hertfordshire District Councils |
| Highways England will continue to develop the RIS1 proposals for improvements to Junction 7 | Highways England |

| Action | Responsible authority |
|--|--|
| RIS1 to support delivery of M11 7A before M11 J7 but will revert back to 7 if 7A isn't confirmed | Essex County Council/Highways England |
| Highways England will continue to provide on-going support and advice through the Co-op. Officer Group and Member Board on how best to achieve funding for J7A | Highways England / Essex County Council |
| Funding towards the delivery of M11 J7 and/or J7A will be sought from developers | Harlow/Epping Forest/Uttlesford and East Hertfordshire District Councils |

M11 Junction 8

- 4.5 M11 Junction 8 serves as the main point of access to the strategic road network for the town of Bishop's Stortford and its surrounding area, as well as London Stansted Airport. It also provides access to the A120 and the B1256, which provides an alternative access to the strategic road network for Uttlesford District.
- 4.6 Short to medium term proposals to increase capacity through the interchange have been identified and are expected to commence in 2018. Longer term significant improvements will be needed at Junction 8 to support local growth and the expansion of London Stansted Airport. For further details of the particular issues regarding Junction 8 please see Appendix 3.
- 4.7 The following actions relating to Junction 8 are already complete:

Figure 6 – Completed actions relating to M11 Junction 8

| Completed Actions |
|--|
| Essex County Council has identified short to medium term improvements at Junction 8. £1,000,000 has been secured from the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership to help fund the short to medium term improvements at Junction 8. |
| Essex County Council has submitted feedback to Highways England's Route Strategies, which will be the foundation of Highways England's first 'Strategic Road Network Initial Report' to be submitted to Government in 2017 and will inform the need for a strategic intervention at Junction 8 to Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2). |
| Essex County Council has submitted a bid to Highways England's Growth and Housing Fund (GHF) for the short to medium term improvements at Junction 8 (this bid is successfully through the first assessment stage) |
| Essex County Council has submitted a bid for Local Growth Fund round 3 funding to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) for the short to medium term scheme (this bid is successfully through the first assessment stage) |

- 4.8 The signatories to this MoU recognise that the following actions will be necessary with regard to Junction 8:

Figure 7 – Future actions relating to M11 Junction 8

| Action | Responsible authority |
|---|-----------------------|
| Essex County Council to continue to work with all relevant funding bodies to secure the funding of the short to medium term improvements at Junction 8 during 2016/17 | Essex County Council |

| Action | Responsible authority |
|--|--|
| The delivery of identified short to medium term improvements at Junction 8 will be constructed in approximately 2018/19 subject to funding and programme | Highways England / Essex County Council |
| Funding for a strategic intervention for Junction 8 with enhanced junction design will be pursued via RIS2, and through contributions from developers | Highways England / Essex County Council/Hertfordshire County Council/East Hertfordshire and Uttlesford District Councils |
| Strategic intervention to Junction 8 will be delivered within the Local Plan period | Highways England / Essex County Council |

County Highway and Transportation Network Improvements

4.9 As well as the strategic improvements outlined above, the modelling work identified some key routes on which improvements would be required across all tested scenarios. These include the following:

- A414 corridor through Harlow (sections not currently either being upgraded or programmed for upgrading);
- A414 The provision of a second River Stort crossing to relieve the Harlow network and also help provide capacity for the provision of a north/south Sustainable Transport Corridor;
- A414 west of Harlow - Amwell Junction with the A10;
- Harlow A1025 Second Avenue Corridor (A414 to Velizy Avenue);
- Relocation of Princess Alexandra Hospital (site to be confirmed);
- A120 around Bishop's Stortford – With any long term intervention at M11 junction 8 consideration will need to be given to the impact on the A120 around Bishop's Stortford as to whether intervention(s) over and above that already agreed to facilitate development are required; and
- There will be a need to assess the impact that strategic interventions on the M11 junctions 7, and 8, and the implementation of the new junction 7A, will have on the Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth local highway network.

4.10 The A414 through Harlow to the A10 should be considered moving forward as part of an overall approach to the A414 corridor between the M11 and A1 with the Highway Authorities of Essex and Hertfordshire working together to provide the optimum outcome for both authorities.

Figure 8 – Future actions relating to County Highway & Transportation Network

| Key Issue | Likelihood of identifying solution | Deliverability Issues | Phasing (years)* | Responsibility |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| A414 Corridor | High | Funded by developers | 6 -10 | East Hertfordshire DC Essex CC Harlow DC Hertfordshire CC |
| A1025 Second Avenue, Harlow | High | Funded by developers | 6 -10 | Essex CC Epping Forest DC Harlow DC |

| Key Issue | Likelihood of identifying solution | Deliverability Issues | Phasing (years)* | Responsibility |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| Second River Stort Crossing | High | Funded by developers | 6 -10 | Hertfordshire CC East Hertfordshire DC Essex CC Harlow DC |
| Multi-modal sustainable corridor, north-south through Harlow town | High | Funded by developers | 6 -10 | East Hertfordshire DC Epping Forest DC Essex CC Harlow DC Hertfordshire CC |
| Multi-modal sustainable corridor, east-west through Harlow town | High | Funded by developers | 6 -10 | Epping Forest DC Essex CC Harlow DC |
| Abercrombie Way/Third Avenue | High | Funded by developers | 6 -10 | Epping Forest DC Essex CC Harlow DC |
| A414 Amwell Junction with the A10 | High | Funded by developers | 6 -10 | East Hertfordshire DC Hertfordshire CC |
| A120 Bishop's Stortford – B1383 Stansted Road Roundabout | High | Funding already in place | 0 - 5 | Hertfordshire CC Essex CC |

**indicative timescale dependent on how developments come forward during the plan period*

Future Co-operation and Planning

- 4.11 Whilst the above schemes and projects have emerged as the conceptual solutions to the growth, before they can be progressed they will all require further transport modelling, business cases to be developed and assessment against policies and strategies of the respective highway authorities.
- 4.12 It will be necessary to monitor the impacts of both the Highways England and County Network Schemes as these are delivered. This is crucial for planning for future interventions beyond the plan period. Due to the long timescales associated with major scheme delivery it is important that this work continues throughout the plan period to 2033, so that future growth in the next plan period can be coordinated and accommodated without delays while the planning and delivery of infrastructure is secured.

5 Securing funding

- 5.1 There are a number of different funding sources available to deliver the various key pieces of infrastructure identified within the MoU, which include Section 106 agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL - but with S106 being the key contributor to major schemes), Section 278 agreements, government funding streams administered through South East LEP, Hertfordshire LEP, RIS2 and subsequent funding periods, together with other funding opportunities as these arise.
- 5.2 There is a clear distinction between the national infrastructure requirements and the local and county infrastructure requirements which have been identified. Significant funding would be expected through national funding streams for the major pieces of infrastructure, such as the long term solution at M11 J8. However, this would not, and should not, preclude contributions, sometimes major contributions, from developers through S106 towards these schemes. Delivery of the county schemes identified as being required to deliver the levels of growth in the OAHN would be expected to be primarily, or totally, funded by developers through Section 106 or similar contributions, although other funding sources as identified above could provide for the delivery of these schemes in part or in total as necessary.
- 5.3 Further work will be required to firm up costings of the proposed mitigations to establish affordability. The intention is to put in place a single infrastructure delivery plan (IDP) covering all of the interventions, setting out when they are required and what developments will be expected to contribute towards the scheme. The individual IDP's supporting each of the Local Plans will need to reflect these arrangements.
- 5.4 Subject to para 4.11, collective agreement will need to be reached with respect to phasing of the interventions and pooling of contributions to fund delivery in the agreed order. Decisions to proceed with an identified mitigation should be taken by the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board

6 Timing

- 6.1 This Memorandum of Understanding has immediate effect and will remain in place until adoption of the last of the West Essex/East Hertfordshire authorities' Local Plans and all identified schemes have been delivered as required, unless this MOU is reviewed and replaced before this. This document will be kept under review. It is based on the most up to date evidence available at the time of writing.

7 Key contact details

7.1 The primary contacts for this Memorandum of Understanding are as follows.

Figure 9 – Key officer contacts

| Organisation | Contact name and email address |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Essex County Council: | David Sprunt david.sprunt@essex.gov.uk |
| Hertfordshire County Council: | Roger Flowerday roger.flowerday@hertfordshire.gov.uk |
| Highways England: | Andy Jobling andy.jobling@highwaysengland.co.uk |
| East Hertfordshire District Council | Claire Sime Claire.sime@eastherts.gov.uk |
| Epping Forest District Council | Amanda Thorn AThorn@eppingforestdc.gov.uk |
| Harlow District Council | Paul MacBride Paul.Macbride@harlow.gov.uk |
| Uttlesford District Council | Richard Fox RFox@uttlesford.gov.uk |

8 Signatures and seals

8.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is signed by and duly authorised for and on behalf of:

Essex County Council

Name (printed): Councillor Kevin Bentley

Signature:



Designation: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Partnerships

Date: 22nd March 2017

Hertfordshire County Council

Name (printed): Councillor Derrick Ashley

Signature:



Designation: Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

Date: 22nd March 2017

Highways England

Name (printed): Simon Amor

Signature:



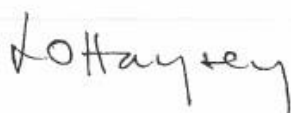
Designation: Asset Development Manager

Date: 22nd March 2017

East Hertfordshire District Council

Name (printed): Councillor Linda Haysey

Signature:



Designation: Leader of the Council

Date: 22nd March 2017

Epping Forest District Council

Name (printed): Councillor John Philip

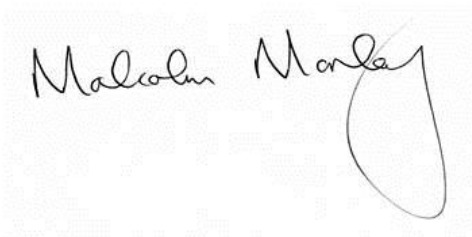
Signature: 

Designation: Planning Policy Portfolio Holder

Date: 22nd March 2017

Harlow District Council

Name (printed): Malcolm Morley OBE



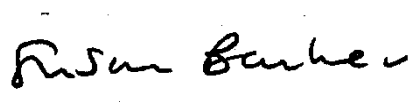
Signature:

Designation: Chief Executive of Harlow District Council

Date: 22nd March 2017

Uttlesford District Council

Name (printed): Councillor Susan Barker

Signature: 

Designation: Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Date: 22nd March 2017

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Options tested within the Strategic Highway Modelling

A1.1 The strategic highway modelling assessed the six OAHN spatial distribution options for the Housing Market Area, which were as follows.

Figure 10 – ‘Reasonable Alternatives’ in the Strategic OAHN Spatial Options study

| Option | Details of this option | Rough total dwelling number for option (source of number) | Total dwellings to be delivered across the HMA 2011-2033 |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| A | Each authority meets its OAHN within its own boundaries | 46,100 (2015 SHMA) | 48,298 of which 14,150 in wider Harlow area |
| B | Less development at Harlow and accelerated development on the A120 | 46,100 (2015 SHMA) | 48,148 of which 10,500 in wider Harlow area |
| C | Less development at Harlow and two new settlements in East Hertfordshire | 46,100 (2015 SHMA) | 47,648 of which 10,500 in wider Harlow area |
| D | Maximum growth at Harlow, with reduced allocations in constrained areas of the HMA | 46,100 (2015 SHMA) | 46,743 of which 17,650 in wider Harlow area |
| E | Higher growth across the HMA, with allocations in constrained areas | 49,638 (2012-based household projections) | 51,798 of which 17,650 in wider Harlow area |
| A1 | Variation to option A removing Katherines, reducing Harlow East and adding more to Harlow South | 46,100 (2015 SHMA) | 48,298 of which 14,150 in and around Harlow |

Figure 11 – Additional Spatial Options, not yet fully tested

| Option | Details of this option | Rough total dwelling number for option (source of number) | Total dwellings to be delivered across the HMA 2011-2033 |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| F | Maximum growth across the HMA | roughly 54,600[^] (emerging OAHN according to 2012-based household projections and 2014-based Sub-National Population Projections (SNPP)) | 57,141 of which 20,895 in wider Harlow area |
| The 'Spatial Option' ** | Reflects latest figure for completions, permissions and windfall assumptions and is considered to be the most appropriate spatial option; | n/a | roughly 51,100 of which roughly 16,100 in and around Harlow |

* See the 'Distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need across the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area MoU' for more details of 'the 'Spatial Option'.

Appendix 2 - M11 Junction 7 improvements and the new junction 7A

- A2.1 M11 Junction 7 serves as the main point of access to the strategic road network for the town of Harlow and the surrounding areas. It also provides access to the A414 (a county principal road), which connects Chelmsford (to the east) and Hertford (to the west); and the B1393 which forms a local link between the settlements of Epping and Harlow and provides access to the strategic road network for much of Epping Forest District.
- A2.2 The M11 Junction 7 interchange is nearing capacity, which is constraining access to and from the M11. This in turn is constraining Harlow town's growth opportunities. Highways England and Essex County Council are investigating solutions and are working together to develop improvements to Junction 7, and a proposal for a new Junction 7A. These solutions will deliver the best benefits within project constraints for Harlow district, and the surrounding districts, by enhancing access to the M11 and acting as an enabler for the housing and economic growth as set out in the 'Distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need across the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area MoU', and in the emerging Local Plans of Harlow DC, Epping Forest DC, East Hertfordshire DC, and Uttlesford DC.
- A2.3 Highways England is developing the Road Investment Strategy Period 1 scheme: 'M11 Junction 7 junction upgrade – extra capacity on junction 7 near Harlow', which aims to reduce the current congestion around the junction. Highways England is at the very early stages of developing these proposals and once they have been refined, the scheme will go out to public consultation. Works are expected to start by 2020.
- A2.4 Essex County Council are leading on proposals to create a new junction on the M11 (7A) to the east of Harlow that will enable housing and commercial development within and around Harlow and relieve some of the pressure on the existing Junction 7 to the south. Proposals went out to public consultation in 2016. Funding is yet to be identified and all authorities have committed to promoting this scheme for funding by the future Road Investment Strategy programme.
- A2.5 Essex County Council and Highways England have formed the Essex Strategic Highway Programme Group that meets monthly and will provide guidance in helping the project teams to work collaboratively.

Appendix 3 - M11 Junction 8 Improvements

- A3.1 M11 Junction 8 serves as the main point of access to the strategic road network for the town of Bishop's Stortford and its surrounding area, as well as London Stansted Airport. It also provides access to the A120, an east-west route connecting Standon at the most westerly point with Harwich on the east coast; and the B1256, which provides an alternative access to the strategic road network for Uttlesford District.
- A3.2 Growth is planned both in and around Bishop's Stortford (within East Hertfordshire District) and within Uttlesford District, in addition to potential expansion of London Stansted Airport, both of which are likely to increase traffic demands at Junction 8.
- A3.3 Short to medium term proposals to increase capacity through the interchange have been identified. The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership has secured £1,000,000 to undertake these improvements. Proposals include widening on the A120 link from Bishop's Stortford, a dedicated free flow left turn from the M11 southbound exit slip to the A120 eastbound, and widening on the M11 northbound exit slip. These proposals are estimated to cost upwards of £5,000,000; therefore, there will also need to be developer contributions. Timescales for the delivery of these proposals are still to be confirmed but are expected in 2018.
- A3.4 Longer term significant improvements will be needed at Junction 8 to support expansion of London Stansted Airport and growth identified by the West Essex/East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area. Highways England is developing the next round of Route Strategies, which will be a key building block in the Government's next Road Investment Strategy. Route Strategies bring together information from motorists, local communities, construction partners, environmental groups and across the business sector to help better understand the performance of the strategic road network, to shape investment priorities, to improve the service for road users and to support a growing economy. The evidence collected and the indicative solutions identified - along with the outcomes of the strategic studies - will be the foundation of Highways England's first 'Strategic Road Network Initial Report' to be submitted to Government in 2017.
- A3.5 Through the Route Strategies we are committed to highlighting the need for investment in Junction 8.