

## Meeting Note – Co-op for Sustainable Development Member Board

Harlow Council Chamber, 6.30pm 18 June 2018

### Attendance

Organisation	Councillors	Officers
East Herts DC	Cllr Linda Haysey (Cllr Haysey) Cllr Bob Brunton (Cllr Brunton)	Liz Watts (LW) Claire Sime (CS) Adam Halford (AH)
Epping Forest DC	Cllr Chris Whitbread (Cllr Whitbread) Cllr Nigel Bedford (Cllr Bedford) Cllr John Philip (Cllr Philip)	Derek Macnab (DM) Alison Blom-Cooper (ABC)
Essex CC	Cllr Lesley Wagland (Cllr Wagland) Cllr Gagan Mohindra (Cllr Mohindra)	David Sprunt (DS)
Harlow DC	Cllr Danny Purton (Cllr Purton) - Chair	Jane Greer (JG)
Herts CC	Cllr Derrick Ashley (Cllr Ashley)	Roger Flowerday (RF)
Uttlesford DC	Cllr Susan Barker (Cllr Barker)	Philip Bylo (PB) Stephanie Baxter (SB)
Garden Town	N/A	Sarah Pullin (SP) Claire Hamilton (CH)
Community-led Housing consultants	N/A	Dinah Roake (DR)

### 1. Apologies

Cllr Helen Coomb, Redbridge (no longer the relevant portfolio holder)

Rich Cooke, ECC

David Coleman, EFDC

Brian Keane, Harlow

### 2. Draft notes of meeting of 22 January 2018 – including review of action points

Before the minutes were discussed, Cllr Haysey highlighted to the Board that a change of chair was due. Cllr Haysey proposed Cllr Barker of Uttlesford District Council as the new chair; this was seconded by Cllr Philip. Cllr Barker took over as chair of the Board with immediate effect.

Cllr Haysey thanked Cllr Purton on behalf of the Board for his contribution and efforts over the last year as Chair of the Board.

Notes of January's meeting were agreed.

### 3. **Community-led housing presentation from Dinah Roake – introduced by Stephanie Baxter**

Stephanie Baxter introduced the community-led housing work that Uttlesford, East Herts, EFDC and Harlow have been jointly working on. Uttlesford, East Herts and EFDC were awarded Community Housing Fund money in 2016 and the three authorities have worked jointly with Harlow on the project. Dinah Roake and Martin Field were appointed as consultants to carry out some work to look at how the authorities could bring forward community-led housing and make recommendations for taking this forward. DR gave a presentation to the Board.

A paper copy of executive summary from the work produced was circulated at the meeting and an electronic copy was circulated in advance of the meeting.

The work sets out recommendations to the LPAs to help bring forward community-led housing.

DR advised that it has been anticipated since January this year that further grant funding will be made available for communities to bid for to help facilitate community-led housing, but there has still been no announcement on this.

**ACTION:** SP to circulate Community-led housing presentation electronically

Following the presentation, there was an opportunity for the Board to ask questions.

Cllr Barker asked how to mobilise people within the community to come together as a group who wish to develop community-led housing.

DR explained that there are different ways to do this and that there are examples abroad that can be looked to for inspiration. Marketing of parcels of land for the purpose of community-led housing is one way of doing this.

Cllr Mohindra asked what the political appetite would be for delivering community-led housing in this area and expressed the view that the local authorities can deliver housing themselves without the need to involve the community.

In response to Cllr Mohindra's point, Cllr Haysey highlighted the fact that community-led housing provides another option for people and is therefore something that should remain on the table.

### 4. **Update on HIF bid**

RF provided an update on the HIF bid. HCC has received confirmation of main contact in Homes England - Tig Armstrong. The bid made was for £151 million.

A meeting has been set up between HCC and Tig Armstrong at Homes England to discuss the HIF bid. Homes England have asked HCC a series of questions, asking for more detail on the bid, which will frame the initial discussions. There is a lot of work to be done to respond to the questions initially.

HCC have been advised that there are three windows for submission - September 2018, December 2018 & March 2019 and that it is up to us when we choose to submit. HCC has been assured that there will be money available at all three stages of submission.

Cllr Mohindra asked when HCC is likely to submit the business case. RF advised that due to the complexity of this project, it's likely that it will be the last window – March 2019.

Cllr Haysey asked if the submission date could be brought forward if at all possible due to the expectation that the Gilston planning application will be submitted this August/September.

Cllr Mohindra asked what would be the blocker for submitting sooner. RF advised that there is a need to look at how best use can be made of the grant money to fund the infrastructure that can be delivered within the four year window that HIF gives - Homes England have advised that they will be strict with this, so it is essential, therefore, to focus on what infrastructure can be delivered in that four year window.

## **5. Garden Town update**

CH provided an update on the Garden Town, with progress on the project continuing at pace.

CH advised that IDP and viability advisors will be appointed in the coming weeks and that work on the Spatial Vision, Transport Strategy and Sustainable Transport Corridor Studies are progressing well, meaning some key Garden Town documents will be in place very soon.

## **6. Update on Unemployment MoU**

Harlow's Cabinet agreed that the Council could sign the Employment MoU, meaning this can be completed and the MoU will be ready for submission with the Harlow and EFDC Local Plans for examination.

## **7. Update on the preparation of a mitigation strategy to support the MoU on Managing the Impacts of Growth across the West Essex / East Herts HMA for the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation**

The MoU was signed last year and since then the signatories to the MoU together with adjoining authorities have been working with Natural England and the Conservators to bring forward a Mitigation Strategy. There are two strands to this – recreational impact and air quality impact. For recreational impact, a visitor survey has been undertaken and a report produced. For air quality – air

quality monitoring is underway, the cost of this has been covered by the Garden Town funding. The monitoring work will be completed by end of month, so that won't hold up progress.

The authorities are awaiting a list of projects from the Conservators that can form the basis of an Interim Mitigation Strategy – the authorities have been waiting for this since February, but still have received nothing. This is of great concern.

Today (18 June 2018) EFDC has received a letter from Natural England advising/instructing that no planning applications for residential development can be approved within a 6.2 km radius of the Forest until a Mitigation Strategy to take account of the impact on recreational pressure is in place.

In terms of air quality, Natural England have said that EFDC cannot approve any employment or housing proposals within in the district until a Mitigation Strategy is in place.

Cllr Baker asked if the MP has been involved to try and intervene. Cllr Philip advised that a number of actions have been taken, which has included a meeting between the Conservators, Cllr Philip and DM – they were told that the information would be provided imminently, but some time has passed since then and so there is a need to chase this again.

Cllr Wagland suggested speaking to the City Surveyor to see if they can help progress to be made.

## **8. Other cross-border strategic matters:**

### **a) Princess Alexandra Hospital**

CH – the hospital is still undergoing its options appraisal process for identification of preferred sites, which is due to be completed in the summer.

LW advised that lead finance offices from the LPAs met with the Hospital's finance director and project manager for the building to see if there was a possibility of the local authorities using their lending powers to help fund the new hospital.

### **b) Highways and transportation**

J7a – Works likely to commence in autumn 2019 and predicted to finish in early 2022, which is later than previously anticipated.

J8 – utilities work will start this October and is due to be completed in Spring 2019. It is not clear when construction works will commence – that will be dependent on the contractors undertaking the work.

## **9. Update on Update on Local Plans:**

**a) East Herts** – Officers were hoping to receive Inspector's report last week, however this has been delayed and is now expected at the end of June.

- b) Harlow** – half way through Regulation 19 publication period. 130 enquiries (not representations) have been received so far.
- c) EFDC** – still awaiting decision on judicial review. ABC advised that if decision goes against the Council it will have significant implications for plan making more widely.
- d) Uttlesford** – Regulation 19 Plan was taken to Cabinet last week and is due to go to Full Council tomorrow night (19<sup>th</sup> June).

The decision on the Stansted planning application was deferred due to insufficient information.

## 10. A.O.B.

None

## 11. Date of next meetings

- a) 18.30, 23 July 2018 – Harlow Rugby Club, Howard Way, Harlow CM20 3FD (subsequently cancelled)
- b) 18:30, 10 September – The Learning Centre, Pets Corner, Town Park, Edinburgh Way, Harlow CM20 2QG