

**Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board
Meeting Notes
Harlow Civic Centre – Council Chamber**

6.30pm - Monday 10 June 2019

Organisation	Councillors	Officers
East Herts DC	Cllr. Linda Haysey (Cllr. Haysey)	Richard Cassidy (RC) Kevin Steptoe (KS)
Epping Forest DC	Cllr. John Philip (Cllr. Philip) - Chair Cllr. Chris Whitbread (Cllr. Whitbread) Cllr. Nigel Bedford (Cllr. Bedford)	Georgina Blakemore (GB) Alison Blom-Cooper (ABC)
Essex CC	Cllr. Lesley Wagland (Cllr. Wagland) Cllr. Michael Hardware (Cllr. Hardware)	David Sprunt (DS)
Harlow DC	Cllr. Danny Purton (Cllr. Purton)	Brian Keane (BK) Andrew Bramidge (AB)
Herts CC	Cllr. Derrick Ashley (Cllr. Ashley)	
Uttlesford DC	Cllr. Alan Storah (Cllr. Storah) Cllr. John Evans (Cllr. Evans)	Gordon Glenday (GG)
Garden Town	n/a	Guy Nicholson (GN) Claire Hamilton (CH) Sarah Pullin (SP) Trudie Baker (TB)

1. Apologies

Cllr. Fairhurst – Uttlesford DC
Cllr. Bentley – Essex CC
Sarah Fraser – Natural England
Jeremy Dagley – City of London (Conservators)
London Borough of Redbridge

2. Notes of last meeting (10 September 2018), including review of action points / matters arising (note these were agreed virtually but attached)

The notes from the meeting of 10th September 2018 were agreed and the group then introduced themselves.

3. Update on the Epping Forest SAC mitigation

ABC gave a background on the MoU signed by Uttlesford District Council, Epping Forest District Council, Harlow District Council and East Herts District Council in February 2017. The MoU was also signed with the Conservators of Epping Forest and Natural England to produce a joint Mitigation Strategy to address the impacts proposed by the growth in the wider area on Epping Forest.

ABC stated there are two aspects to the Strategy, the first is recreational impact and the second is the impact on air quality.

Work has been commissioned through the Garden Town and the four Authorities on both of those aspects.

A visitor survey was carried out by the Conservators in October 2017 and an Interim Recreational Strategy was agreed by EFDC Cabinet on 18 October 2018. The Strategy sets out projects within the Epping Forest to which developers will need to contribute – see Appendix to the report to Cabinet. The Council has agreed an apportionment with a fixed sum payment for all residential development schemes within 0-3kms of the boundary of the Epping Forest SAC where there is a net increase in the number of residential units of £352 per dwelling. One of the projects in the interim strategy identified is to undertake a further visitor survey to cover the summer period. The Conservators have agreed to commission this on behalf of the relevant local authorities and this has been scheduled for the first two weeks in July. This may change the Zone of Influence which will be used to inform the final interim strategy. This work will be undertaken in conjunction with the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

EFDC are also committed to produce a Sustainable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANG) Strategy.

The methodology for measuring Air Quality monitoring was agreed with Natural England, this was completed last year and submitted to them as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment 2019. Natural England have submitted representations to the EFDC Local Plan hearing sessions objecting to the Habitat Regulations assessment and the Air Quality modelling and stating that they do not consider that the evidence base excludes reasonable scientific doubt about an adverse impact from the planned development on the integrity of the protected site. They particularly raised concerns about the effect of ammonia, which is not just an EFDC problem, but a national problem largely arising from the use of fertilisers and cattle grazing

Natural England would like both the Air Quality and Recreational Strategies to be agreed before EFDC's Local Plan can be adopted. This is all under consideration by the Inspector and it is likely that more work will be required – we expect to get initial advice from the Inspector on 12 July.

ABC reported EFDC have been unable to approve any planning applications that might lead to a net increase in traffic since June 2018.

Cllr Purton stated this affects Harlow District Council too due to two small sites which fall within the Zone of Influence and their Local Plan is also on hold.

In response to a question from Cllr. Haysey, Cllr. Philip replied there was no need for the group to take any action at present.

4. Update on Local Plans

HDC – Cllr. Purton reported the Examination hearing sessions concluded in 5 days but there were still a few technical issues outstanding regarding HDC policies.

EHDC – Cllr. Haysey advised there were no issues.

UDC - Cllr. Storah reported UDC had submitted their Local Plan on 18th January 2019 and two inspectors have been appointed to carry out the Examination. The Council

received some questions in February covering a number of issues including Infrastructure and Air Quality. The initial hearing sessions have been scheduled for the first and third weeks of July.

EFDC – Cllr. Philip reported that ABC had covered most of the issues in the previous agenda item. The last hearing date is 11 June 2019 but the Council anticipates that there will be further work to be carried out.

Cllr. Philip added that Planning Applications are being taken through the decision making process but the Council are unable to issue any grant of permissions currently.

Cllr. Whitbread added that developers, particularly some of the smaller ones, are struggling financially.

5. Other cross-border strategic matters:

a) Princess Alexandra Hospital

DS reported PAH have named the site to the east of Harlow to be the preferred site, although developing the existing site is still an option. Their business case is being explored.

BK reported he had attended a meeting with the Chief Executive recently. The main issue is funding and that will not be announced until the Autumn Statement.

b) Highways and transportation

DS advised advanced works at Gilden Way on utilities are being carried out ready for the start of Junction 7a of the M11. A Public Inquiry begins on 11th June 2019 in respect of the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs). ECC are still anticipating completion by end 2022.

M11 Junction 8 – site clearance and utility works are being carried out in readiness for the works to begin in January 2020, it is anticipated this will take 18 months to 2 years to complete.

Edinburgh Way – works are ongoing, but have been delayed due to utilities works. It is expected for the work to take another nine months to complete.

A major Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study is being carried out which covers from Stansted to west of Braintree which joins up with the BRT that runs from Braintree to Colchester.

Sustainable Transport Corridors (STC) work which is aiming to increase the Modal Shift to 60% for the new developments which in turn will raise Harlow's to 50% overall. The key routes will be one from east to west promoting walking, cycling and buses and a similar one north to south.

A bid has been submitted to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and questions have been received. The outcome is expected in the autumn.

Cllr. Purton enquired with regard to the second Stort crossing what impact will the extension of the A414 dual carriage way have on the rail bridge?

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In answer DS stated that this is due to be widened to bring it up to A road standards, this is with ECC structural officers and they are looking to provide a separate walking and cycling structure adjacent to it. All of the structures are currently under review.

Cllr. Ashley added an A414 Strategy meeting had taken place which involved the 6 Planning Authorities and 2 County Councils the focus was on a Rapid Transit Corridor (RTC) which will run from Harlow to Hemel. A substantial sum of money will be needed to start to develop ideas and get some plans on the table. They are more focussed on developing the RTC which brings into question the Hertford by-pass.

Cllr. Haysey advised she also attended this meeting and it emphasised the change of approach and they also covered safeguarding land.

Cllr. Purton stated the benefit of providing the designs in advance is that the new developments can be designed with the knowledge that Public Transport will be available.

Cllr. Ashley added that HCC have also looked at the long distance footpaths and bridleways to enable them to be more widely used by upgrading them and providing better linkages and connectivity to existing cycleways. There is a revenue fund to develop these projects.

Cllr. Haysey advised considerable work is being carried out between EHDC and UDC in respect of the long distance cycle and bridleways.

Cllr. Bedford enquired if there had been any consideration in respect to Fuel Cell Technology including hydrogen cell vehicles which is a more sustainable form of fuel as opposed to electric vehicles and taking into account disposal of old batteries.

6. A.O.B.

None

7. Date of next meeting:

- o 18.30 - 30 September 2019 – Harlow Council Chamber