

**Draft Note - Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board
24 April 2017**

Attendance

Organisation	Councillors	Officers
ATLAS		James Farrar
East Herts DC	Cllr Linda Haysey (Chair)	Liz Watts, Claire Sime,
Epping Forest DC	Cllr Richard Bassett	Derek MacNab, Alison Blom-Cooper, David Coleman, Emily Taylor
Essex CC		Rich Cooke, Dominic Collins
Harlow DC	Cllr Danny Purton	Graeme Bloomer, Paul MacBride
Herts CC	Cllr Derrick Ashley	
Uttlesford DC	Cllr Susan Barker	Richard Fox
Broxbourne BC	Cllr Paul Seeby	Kim Harding

1. Apologies

2. Draft notes of meeting of 20 March 2017 – including review of action points

Cllr Purton requested a change to Paragraph 3a of the previous minutes – ‘expressed understanding’ to ‘expressed appreciation and for the support and understanding’.
East Herts DC –Cllr Brunton was in attendance.

Actions:

- The SELEP team has been in contact with Herts CC.
- All agreed Memoranda of Understanding have now been signed and circulated.
- The two briefs for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town work have been published.
- PAH now have a new Chief Executive. **Action: ensure that new Chief Executive is invited to the May Member Board.**
- Essex CC to organise members from the North Essex Garden Town to attend and brief members on their experiences.

3. Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Update

Both the spatial visioning and project management briefs have been published and are up on contracts finder. ABC reported that there had been a high volume of enquiries and clarification questions so far. All bids are due by 5pm on 2 May 2017. The authorities will then decide on a shortlist, with interviews commencing on 12 May 2017. There was discussion around whether the interviews would include members, agreed that they will be conducted by officers only.

ABC reported that on 31 March 2017 EFDC received a letter awarding a further £175,000 Garden Town funding, included in the last financial year. HCA have advised that bids for this year’s funding will be early on in the year (*note – the invitation to bid for garden town capacity funding for 2017/18 was received on 5 May 2017 with a deadline of Friday 26 May*). DCLG have organised a meeting of the authorities involved in the Garden Town programme on 5 June 2017. *Note: as a result of discussions between the three Garden Town districts it was agreed that part of the funding should be used to fund a senior officer post to support the work of the member and officer groups from May 2017 when the current arrangement for EFDC to provide support expires and to coordinate the Garden Town work. A job description was to be prepared.*

Cllr Haysey reported that East Herts DC have had another seminar with the residents of Gilston and Hunsdon, receiving feedback from residents. There is another scheduled for the 6 May 2017. The focus of the seminar will be further work around governance and then they will move on to be held monthly on a topic-by-topic basis.

4. Update on Memoranda of Understanding

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

The possible extension of the MoU to other authorities was discussed at the Co-op Officer Working Group. The issue has come to the Board's attention due to LB Redbridge receiving a letter from their inspector stating that they need to consider the impacts of their development on the Epping Forest SAC. An initial discussion has been held with adjoining authorities including LB Waltham Forest, LB Redbridge, and Broxbourne BC who have all expressed interest in signing up to an MoU. LB Enfield has not indicated whether they would like to be included. Chelmsford CC is currently consulting on their Draft Local Plan and EFDC will raise the SAC in response to the consultation. Brentwood BC has indicated that they do not wish to be involved. EFDC are currently inquiring as to whether the transport work that is being undertaken can be used to assess impacts on the Forest. Agreed that the Member Board will be kept up-to-date of how this progresses.

- b. Preparation of MoU for distribution of employment across the HMA

DC gave an update on the employment work. Hardisty Jones has been commissioned to look at future employment needs across the HMA. At the workshop on 30 March 2017 the scenarios for the work moving forward were agreed. There is a follow up meeting with officers on 26 April 2017, where Hardisty Jones will report back on further work that has been done. The authorities in the FEMA will need to come to agreement as to which future scenario the work should take forward. There is further work being undertaken at district level to support the wider analysis. Hardisty Jones will produce a report providing findings and it has been provisionally arranged for them to present their findings to the board on 22 May.

Cllr Barker advised that Stansted Airport has now got a live application to raise passenger numbers to 43 million. In this context would the Board be interested in inviting them to come and speak about their plans for expansion? The airport has a meeting with Uttlesford DC on 11 May 2017. The possibility of responding to the consultation as a group was discussed. Cllr Haysey stated that East Herts DC would like to jointly respond. Cllr Ashley stated that as the airport expansion will affect the whole area, the authorities should seek a contribution to the rail and road network. Cllr Bassett suggested that a response is discussed at the next Member Board on 22 May 2017 as it would tie in with the update on the employment work. RF agreed to suggest this with Stansted Airport at meeting on 11 May.

5. Broxbourne BC: Update on Draft Local Plan and Retail Impact Study

KH gave a presentation on Broxbourne BC's retail impact study. Slides are attached to these minutes. She noted that Appendix B showed how the comments of adjoining local authorities had been taken on board. Cllr Bassett inquired as to whether the impacts on Loughton and Epping were looked at given they are in close proximity to the A121 that leads to Brookfield. KH stated that the study had had to have a cut-off point somewhere and looked at areas within a ten-fifteen minute drive time and along the major transport corridors. Loughton and Epping fell outside of this.

Cllr Purton stated that previously Brookfield has diverted customers from Harlow due to being a more attractive offering in term of store quality and parking. It should be appreciated that underneath the statistics there are unpredictable human factors. Cllr Ashley raised free parking as an issue that draws car users and does not encourage modal shift. There was general support for no free parking at Brookfield. Councillor Seeby reported that the Council was looking into charging for parking at the retail development.

The Member Board thanked KH for the presentation and report.

6. Capacity of water infrastructure in the Greater Harlow area up to 2033

Cllr Purton outlined the letter that has been received by Harlow Council from the Environment Agency (EA) in relation to the capacity of waste water infrastructure in the area. He explained that the letter may have wider implications for other neighbouring local planning authorities. Harlow DC, had understood that there was sufficient capacity as Thames Water previously indicated that this would be the case. However, in their letter, the EA have stated that more detail is needed through the production of a Water Cycle Study to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the treatment networks to serve planned development, and to fully consider flood risk and biodiversity when looking at the whole water cycle. This is now a key issue for Harlow DC's progression with their Local Plan. Thames Water has indicated that they do not have the capacity to work with Harlow at this time to produce the further study required. The risk is that this becomes an outstanding issue that would also affect other authorities, particularly during Local Plan Examinations. Cllr Purton asked for agreement that the Board write to EA, relevant water companies, the Secretary of State and DEFRA to highlight concern in relation to the lack of information and clarity being received to support the production of Local Plans, and to seek further support accordingly. It was suggested that the relevant water companies and EA should be invited to attend the next Member Board to provide further clarification on the current position, and to ensure that a consistent and coordinated approach is being taken to the issue.

CS stated that the EA have raised concerns but has not objected to the East Herts Draft Local Plan. However the letter to Harlow DC is more recent than their last consultation with the EA. CS inquired whether Harlow DC had made any progress on the action to arrange a meeting with the EA and water companies. GB reported that no agreement has been received and that in general there is a need for water companies to participate more with authorities.

Cllr Barker stated that the water companies in Uttlesford District are Thames Water and Affinity Water and that there have been complaints about water pressure. Uttlesford DC would like to see some pressure applied so that the problems are addressed. Cllr Bassett agreed stating that previously, serious fires in Epping have happened and the fire service has not had the water pressure to deal with it.

CS proposed that through the Garden Town forum may be able to discuss with DCLG.

DC expressed support for way forward presented by Harlow DC as obtaining up to date comprehensive information from water companies is often problematic in the production of Local Plans, and therefore the Board should seek to press for clarification on the position as soon as possible in order to avoid disruption and delay to Local Plans and strategic development. EFDC have a meeting scheduled with Affinity and Thames Water on 27 April 2017 which Harlow DC are also invited to. EFDC support joined-up engagement.

Essex CC – Rich Cooke stated that Essex CC will look into what stakeholder engagement was undertaken as part of the Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework to see if it offers any insight. The Surface Water Management Plan for Harlow has been completed and can be supplied by Essex CC Flood Risk Team. The current evidence base for the area is considered to be insufficient and this is a key issue that needs to be addressed.

Cllr Purton emphasized that the authorities should convey that the Environment Agency are being thorough. **Action: Harlow DC to draft joint letter that can be sent by authorities, to be circulated for comment before sending.**

Cllr Haysey stated that the East of England group have undertaken work on water supply which was raised at wider London meeting and that she would follow up with these groups to check if any similarities. **Action: Cllr Haysey to look at work undertaken on water supply by East of England group.**

Cllr Bassett also raised the issue of Rye Meads and impact of growth on the capacity there.

7. Any other cross-boundary/strategic matters

East Herts Draft Local Plan

East Herts DC submitted their Local Plan to PINS at the end of March. The Planning Inspector is Christine Thornby. The Inspector has indicated she would like to hold hearing sessions in September, when these dates are confirmed they will be circulated.

PAH Update

LW gave an update on PAH. There was a meeting about the strategic outline case attended by hospital staff, NHS England, NHS improvement and the CCG. PAH have hired PwC to complete the strategic outline case. The CCG and NHS expressed that there is limited capital available. The agenda item on alternative sources of funding for the hospital survey work to support the strategic outline case was deferred - discussion of the authorities contributing to the cost will be undertaken at the May meeting when PAH are due to attend. DS to circulate the brief and details of the costs for this work.

Cllr Haysey added that the authorities had offered help to produce a business case for the hospital. The last indication was that the paper would be ready to go to the board on the 27 April so PAH's attendance on 22 May will hopefully discuss this. Cllr Purton reported that Lance McCarthy is new Chief Executive of PAH. LW stated that she raised the issue of funding at the meeting and asked for case studies, however as there is such a lot of uncertainty around the future delivery of care and new technologies etc., there are no case studies as it hasn't been done before.

PM inquired how the topic is linked to the sustainability and transformation plan that is looking at different models of health care. LW stated that there is a demonstrated need for maternity and A&E care in this area and taking these things away would mean not providing suitable care. The Plan is looking at viability of different options such as providing different services in smaller hospitals.

Cllr Barker stated that health provision is a sticking point at consultation, and whether the authorities could question the CCG as to what is being done to improve primary healthcare provision. It was agreed that Tom Cahill would be a good contact due to his involvement with the CCG. It would be helpful to encourage joined up working with PAH. It was resolved to have PAH attend in May and invite Tom Cahill to a subsequent meeting.

Strategic Transport

There was a meeting to discuss emerging rail plans and strategic highway issues in Herts. Cllr Haysey also attended to feedback on the London Plan. The A414 special interest group invited Herts CC to go come to them with imaginative ideas on funding, as there is a substantial amount of additional pressure in next plan period on this key road. Herts CC officers have been asked to come forward with some ideas to the Minister on imaginative funding. The other discussion point was rail and in particular TfL. The capital programme of the Mayor is focused within the GLA boundary and it is suggested that there may be issues with projects requiring capital outside of these - west of Hertfordshire there are issues with the metropolitan line extension to Watford. Representation for authorities outside of London is limited to two officers – the TfL board needs representation from authorities outside of London.

Cllr Haysey added that they also discussed Crossrail 2 and its importance for growth in this area – they stated support for extending it to Harlow. **Action: Cllr Ashley will follow up with letter about A414 corridor and that will come to next A414 group.**

DC stated that EFDC had a meeting with representatives from Crossrail 2 last week and Essex CC. Crossrail 2 are aiming to start a programme of engagement with EFDC and reported on progress so far. The strategic outline case was completed in March – there is a £20-30 billion cost and they are currently looking at a range of funding options. There will be a consultation next year on the proposed route. Discussed them coming to Member Board when appropriate.

8. AOB

None

9. Dates of next meetings (confirmed):

- Monday 22 May 2017 - (6.30pm, Harlow DC)
- June date TBC

DRAFT