

**Draft Note - Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board
27 February 2017**

Attendance

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

1. Apologies

- Natural England – Sarah Fraser
- Highways England – Nigel Allsop
- Broxbourne BC – Martin Paine
- Broxbourne BC – Cllr Paul Seeby
- Conservators of Epping Forest – Jeremy Dagley
- Epping Forest DC – Cllr Richard Bassett
- Brentwood BC – Phil Drane
- Brentwood BC – Cllr McCheyne
- Brentwood BC – Cllr Rowlands
- Essex CC – Mick Page
- Herts CC – Cllr Derrick Ashley

2. Draft notes of meeting of 19 December – including review of action points

The draft notes were agreed.

Actions from previous meeting:

- *Epping Forest DC/East Herts DC officers to draft letter to Gavin Barwell MP introducing the Co-op. Board* – Cllr Haysey has spoken with Gavin Barwell, the methodology for OAN is expected to be released for consultation soon.
- *Various actions re: PAH relocation feasibility* – A letter to PAH was agreed to be no longer needed. The notes from the visioning workshop that was held are still in draft form but will be circulated as soon as possible. A further meeting is going to be arranged so that officers can consider the transport evidence and undertake the further work to identify a preferred site.
- *Infrastructure* – Due to the Garden Town status for Harlow/Gilston Cllr Haysey advised that a higher priority would be given to the area for the provision of infrastructure that will be required to support the growth.
- *Contact SELEP* – SELEP have been contacted with no reply but it was agreed that they would need to be contacted again for a response – DS agreed to progress this.

3. Transport presentation on additional work for sites to the south and west of Harlow (Essex CC)

- David Sprunt (Essex CC) gave a presentation on how the transport network would look based on current growth, and what it would look like taking into account the potential strategic sites around Harlow (the presentation is attached). It was noted that funding for the B183 improvements and for Junction 7a had been approved – although the exact quantum of funding for Junction 7a was not yet known. There are also further measures identified in the Transport MoU.
- Following the presentation, the boosting of Harlow's sustainable transport corridors was discussed as a key next step. The inclusion of Bus Rapid Transit should be considered between

the strategic sites and the city centre with stops along the way to improve connectivity with existing urban areas.

- A question was raised regarding whether financial viability has been considered, as BRT travel has revenue implications. DS advised that early discussions have indicated that the aim is for the routes to be self-supporting, probably with a level of pump priming in the initial stages of implementation.
- Cllr Danny Purton (Harlow DC) stated that this would be beneficial for connecting housing with employment opportunities such as the Enterprise Zone and Public Health England's site. The Council would like to encourage people to both work and live in Harlow.
- **Action: Cllr John Philip (Epping Forest DC) requested that David Sprunt (Essex CC) send the slides of the presentation to EFDC to be included in the minutes.** (*note – these are attached*)

4. **Distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need MoU across the West Essex/East Herts HMA – consider and agree revised draft as attached**

- Cllr Danny Purton (Harlow DC) gave a quick introduction to the situation that Harlow DC is in that has led to the proposed amendment to the Draft MoU. The amendments made by Harlow DC officers accept the numbers and support the allocation of the most suitable sites once concerns on infrastructure are resolved. Harlow DC is now in a position to move forward on this basis.
- Cllr John Philip (Epping Forest DC) stated that Epping Forest DC are willing to accept the revisions in the spirit of co-operation, however noted that the Council has included a number of the strategic sites around Harlow in the recent Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation.
- Cllr Danny Purton (Harlow DC) thanked Epping Forest DC and noted that Members concerns on infrastructure have been lessened on transport as a result of the work undertaken by Essex County Council, and that Harlow DC is mindful of the timeline of the East Herts Local Plan.
- **The Board agreed that the amended MoU as circulated should be approved for signing.**
- **Action: Uttlesford, East Herts and Harlow DC to send signatures to Epping Forest DC to coordinate the finalisation of the MoU prior to the East Herts submission date of 31 March 2017 so that it could be included in their submission documentation.**
- Cllr Susan Barker (Uttlesford DC) thanked all the other partners contributing to the MoU's

Update on other Memoranda of Understanding

- Work has started on the preparation of a MoU to set out an agreed distribution of employment across the FEMA. An Officer Workshop is to be held on the 30 March 2017 to discuss the outcomes of the work being undertaken by Hardisty Jones to understand the latest projections from the East of England Forecasting model which will be used to inform the MoU.
- A question was raised on whether it is of importance to have a MoU on employment due to the significant levels of out-commuting in the district. Cllr Danny Purton (Harlow DC) stated the importance of seeing where jobs are coming from and attracting businesses to larger employment centres. Cllr John Philip (Epping Forest DC) outlined that the MoU is focused on how to distribute the housing and employment across the Housing Market Area, as the level of employment land is largely already agreed. Epping Forest DC's specific sites for employment are not yet agreed, all potential sites will be further assessed for the work that is being carried out on site selection. **Cllr Susan Barker (Uttlesford DC) asked that the Hardisty Jones 2015 study is circulated as this is the basis for the updated work. See:** <http://eppingforest.consultationonline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2016/08/Chapter-3-joint-economic-report-2015-final.pdf>
- It was noted that the updated employment evidence and proposed distribution of growth is needed for the transport modelling work. The Chair LH (East Herts DC) outlined that FEMA's are needed to work within in line with HMAs.
- Cllr Susan Barker (Uttlesford DC) stated that Uttlesford's employment sites are largely fixed so expressed concern that this work could affect this.

5. **'Harlow & Gilston Garden Town' update (Appointment of Project Director and scope for additional work on spatial visioning and design charter)**

- Interviews for the Project Director post will be held on Thursday 2 March 2017.
- JR (ATLAS) outlined that the spatial visioning workstream is being progressed, the brief is being written up so that work can be commissioned shortly. He was asked whether providers are being invited to comment/aid the spatial visioning and design charter process as it is beneficial to involve them early on in the process. **ATLAS agreed to build the involvement of providers into the spatial visioning and design charter brief.**
- RC (Essex CC) spoke of the need to progress with community engagement, Essex CC are hoping to be able to use their experience with the North Essex garden communities to aid the process. The Chair LH (East Herts) welcomed this idea and noted that East Herts have already got a concept framework for Gilston so community engagement will be key to contributing to key issues such as design and quality.

6. **Any other cross-boundary/strategic matters**

- Harlow DC are hosting a jobs fair focusing on jobs in Stansted Airport to encourage the population of Harlow, especially young people, to take up opportunities there.
- LB Redbridge is close to submitting their Draft Local Plan for examination.
- Uttlesford DC is still considering seven potential sites for new towns. Developers have been invited to give presentations to members so that an informed decision can be made. Uttlesford DC is in talks with South Cambridgeshire, as one of the potential sites - the Great Chesterfield is adjacent to their boundary and could have a significant impact on South Cambridgeshire in terms of transport. The Council's Regulation 18 consultation is due to begin on the 17 July 2017 and will be extended for two weeks beyond the six week requirement as it is over the summer period.
- Epping Forest DC is reporting to Cabinet on 9 March 2017 an overview of the findings of the consultation. The Council is now working towards Regulation 19 publication and is aiming to publish towards the end of this year. Currently the Council are strengthening their evidence base on retail and employment – **EFDC requested Harlow DC to circulate their retail study as soon as possible.**

7. **A.O.B.**

Nothing was raised.

8. **Dates of next meetings (confirmed):**

- Monday 20 March 2017 - (6:30pm Harlow DC)
- Monday 24 April 2017 – (6.30pm, Harlow DC)