

Draft note of Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board

3rd June 2015 – at Harlow District Council

Attendance

Members

Broxbourne BC	Cllr Jim Metcalfe
East Herts DC	Cllr Linda Haysey
Epping Forest DC	Cllr Richard Bassett (Chair for latter part of meeting), Cllr John Philip
Essex CC	Cllr Kay Twitchen
Harlow DC	Cllr Jon Clempner, Cllr Anthony Durcan
Herts CC	Cllr Terry Douris
Uttlesford DC	Cllr Susan Barker (Chair for start of meeting)

Officers/others

Brentwood BC	Phil Drane
Broxbourne BC	Vicky Forgione
East Herts DC	Kevin Steptoe, Claire Sime
Epping Forest DC	Derek Macnab, Alison Blom-Cooper, Sarah King
Essex CC	Hamish Barrell, David Sprunt
Harlow DC	Graeme Bloomer, Dianne Cooper, Paul MacBride
Herts CC	Paul Donovan
Uttlesford DC	Andrew Taylor
Hardisty Jones Associates	Gareth Jones, Stuart Hardisty
Opinion Research Services	Nigel Moore

1. Apologies

Brentwood BC - Cllr Roger McCheyne & Cllr Will Trump
Epping Forest DC – Cllr Chris Whitbread

2. Introductions

3. Minutes of Board on 16th March 2015

Minutes were agreed as circulated.

4. Future of Co-op. Board

Andrew Taylor introduced his paper (as previously circulated), which considers the future of the Co-op. Board.

It recommends the continuation of the Board if Members agree, and suggests that costs for administration including refreshments, room hire, officer time etc. be shared. Andrew explained that since the paper was drafted, officers have discussed the administration costs and would now recommend that these are met only by the four West Essex/East Herts SHMA authorities on the Board, i.e. East Herts DC, Epping Forest DC, Harlow DC and Uttlesford DC.

It was agreed that the Board was very useful and should continue. The principle of the four 'core' authorities sharing the costs of administration was agreed, and a more detailed proposal will be brought back to the Board on another occasion. Officers from the four SHMA authorities will report back to their individual Councils.

5. Election of Chair for the municipal year

Attendees thanked Cllr Susan Barker for her good work in chairing the Board meetings for the last municipal year.

Cllr Richard Bassett was nominated to be the Chair for this municipal year. All agreed, and Cllr Bassett chaired the remainder of the meeting.

6. Terms of Reference

It was suggested that the words 'at least' under para. 2.4 were deleted, as this implied that the Chair of the Board should be rotated more than annually. This was agreed, the terms will be amended.

7. West Essex/East Herts SHMA & economic work update

a. Economic work for SHMA area – update

Hardisty Jones Associates gave a presentation as to initial findings on the economic study of the West Essex/East Herts SHMA area. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes. There was a general discussion on how commuting impacted jobs growth, and on the impact of Stansted growing in passenger size and in jobs numbers.

b. West Essex/East Herts SHMA – update re: jobs

Opinion Research Services gave a presentation on the likely impact of the above economic work on the West Essex/East Herts SHMA. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes. There was a general discussion as to changes in commuting, unemployment and 'double-jobbing' and how these affected the need for housing in the SHMA area.

It was noted that both these pieces of work were not yet complete so these were only initial findings. Members are asked to review both the presentations referred to above and send any questions back through their officers. Draft reports for both will be sent out as soon as they are complete, and in due course will be brought to the Co-op. Board.

8. M11 J7A verbal update from David Sprunt

David Sprunt updated the Board on progress with transport modelling for a future junction 7A on the M11. He explained that there would be a public information exercise starting in July, which will update stakeholders and members of the public as to progress with the Junction 7A modelling work, and how the new junction might affect traffic flow. He noted that work on the design of the junction was continuing, and that there would be a formal public consultation starting in January 2016.

Essex CC officers are happy to meet with individual districts/boroughs to brief officers and/or Members on the content of the public information exercise but this would need to be soon, i.e. at the end of June/beginning of July. **Please could any authorities who would like such briefings contact David asap (david.sprunt@essex.gov.uk) with some available dates.**

Essex CC expects building work on junction 7A would start in 2019/20, lasting for about 18 months.

9. ATLAS support work verbal update

Alison Blom-Cooper explained that officers from the four West Essex/East Herts SHMA authorities were due to meet with the Homes and Communities Agency's ATLAS team (the Advisory Team for Large Applications) next week. ATLAS has been supporting the SHMA authorities' Members and officers in assessing large potential development sites around Harlow. Officers have discussed a possible joint study assessing such sites around Harlow, how these should be evaluated by the four authorities, with the potential for creating a role to help co-ordinate this work across the SHMA area.

10. A.O.B.

Essex CC Waste Plan – Hamish Barrell explained that Essex CC would be running a 'Revised Preferred Approach' consultation starting in July. This will build on previous work as well as changes to government policy, and although many sites will have been consulted on before, some are new. There is a District/Borough Council engagement event on 18th June, to which all Board Councils should have received an invitation.

Concerns were raised by representatives of Epping Forest DC and Harlow DC that Essex CC Waste & Minerals officers had not shared what sites were within their areas, or given details of the proposals. Hamish stated that details of the sites will be published within the consultation. It was noted that a briefing for all Essex County Cllrs had already been held, but that District Councillors would not be aware of sites within their areas until the public consultation began. Some attendees

felt that this was not demonstrating compliance with the Duty to Co-operate, and it was not in line with the aims of this Board. Essex County Cllr Kay Twitchen explained that Essex CC was working to a very tight timetable to meet EU regulations, and said that she would relay attendees' concerns to the relevant Essex CC Cabinet Member. Cllr Twitchen also noted that Essex CC officers had previously held some meetings with Local Authority officers on the 'Revised Preferred Approach' consultation before now.

11. Next meeting

The next Board will be arranged for mid-July – date and location to be confirmed.

DRAFT