

EB1340

Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board

Monday 24 February 2020

18:30-21:00 – EFDC Civic Offices – Committee Room 1

Attendees

Alison Blom-Cooper (ABC)	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr John Philip (JP)	Epping Forest District Council
Rhian Morgan (RM)	Epping Forest District Council
Nicky Linihan (NL)	Consultant to Epping Forest District Council
Cllr John Evans (JE)	Uttlesford District Council
Claire Sime (CS)	East Herts District Council
Richard Cassidy (RC)	East Herts District Council
David Sprunt (DS)	Essex County Council
Andrew Bramidge (AB)	Harlow District Council
Cllr Danny Purton (DP)	Harlow District Council
Cllr Nigel Bedford (NB)	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Chris Whitbread (CW)	Epping Forest District Council

Meeting Notes

		Actions
1.0	Apologies	
	Jeremy Dagley – City of London Cllr Alan Storah – Uttlesford District Council Jan Goodeve – East Herts District Council Linda Haysey – East Herts District Council Cllr Lesley Wagland – Essex County Council Georgina Blakemore – Epping Forest District Council	
2.0	Draft notes of meeting on 19 October 2019 – including review of action points/matters arising	
	None. Cllr Philip raised the issue of the meetings having been separated from the GT meetings.	Agreed that Cllr Philip would raise the issue to see if meetings could go back to being on the same night as the GT Board
3.0	Epping Forest District – Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy	
	The purpose, vision and objectives of the strategy were explained by ABC who also gave a presentation on the proposed approach for GI in the District.	

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	Report to EFDC Cabinet on 26 March 2020 with draft Strategy to agree to go out to 6 week consultation after the May local elections.	
	NB asked what the baseline is for trying to reduce emissions. ABC advised that this particular strategy focuses on mitigating recreational pressure on the forest, air quality will be discussed later in the meeting.	
	How does this strategy fit in with the Essex Draft Green Strategy? ABC advised that the Essex Draft Green Strategy has been reviewed and has helped to inform EFDC's draft. EFDC are fully aware of not just Essex, but other neighbouring authorities who have done Green Infrastructure Strategies, however this is a piece of work bespoke to the District considering its assets and needs.	
	AB suggested green spaces such as the wedge between Harlow and the Latton Priory site are integrated in this strategy as part of the Masterplan process. JP agreed it is important as we need to ensure these spaces are made useful and are not isolated i.e. create ways for people to get from one space to another.	
4.0	Verbal update on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation Mitigation Strategy (air quality and recreational pressure)	
	<p><u>Air quality</u></p> <p>With regards air quality, the baseline is the traffic surveys conducted at the beginning of 2017 which were built into a local traffic model. The data from this survey not only includes numbers and types of vehicles, but also ANPR data which reveal whether vehicles are petrol/diesel/electric/hybrid and their age. This data will therefore influence the Air Quality Mitigation Strategy by providing important data in understanding which vehicles need to be diverted or influenced in terms of their use of the forest. The data collated is now being fed into the model. This is in order to accomplish a better understanding of what is happening in the Forest and the effect this has on the Forest.</p> <p>Therefore, in terms of air quality, a lot of the Mitigation Strategy will be informed by the results of this next stage of modelling. A first working draft of the Air Quality Mitigation Strategy is in place, with initial comments received from Natural England.</p> <p><u>Recreational pressure</u></p> <p>NL advised that the further Visitor Survey was carried out in September 2018 (the first one took place in October/November 2017) and correlates well with the previous results. The survey looked at what the major activities in the Forest are, with the biggest being dog walking, followed by walking. Part of the GI Strategy will therefore include advice on what the SANGS should offer, including making it attractive for dog walkers and walkers in order to divert them from the Forest. All data collected will be used to inform how the SANGS are designed.</p> <p>NL also advised that an adopted interim strategy is already in place for on-site mitigation (SAMMS) with the Conservators looking at all measures and carrying out more detailed work around the hotspots. These results will then be presented to the Oversight Group and scrutinised in terms of costs and priorities.</p>	

	<p>JP asked what the Conservators are doing to make the Forest less attractive and discourage visitors.</p> <p>NL advised that the matter of car parking charging within the Forest has been raised with the Conservators and they are keen to have further discussions.</p>	
5.0	Other cross-border strategic matters:	
a)	<p>Princess Alexandra Hospital</p> <p>DS advised they are still working on it from a transport perspective with on-off discussions ongoing, however no recent updates.</p> <p>AB added that there are ongoing discussions between the Trust Board and Department of Health around the amount of money available for the new hospital and whether it covers a new site or not. From our discussions with the Hospital their preferred option is still for a new hospital on a new site.</p>	
b)	<p>Highways and transportation</p> <p>DS advised that the contract for Junction 7a of the M11 was awarded to Graham Construction in January 2020 with works due to start in June 2020. This is a three phase contract; starting in Gilden Way, at the access off the M11 to create the junction, then completing works at the link between the new junction and Gilden Way. Completion is expected no later than September 2022. Cllr Bentley is keen on publicity therefore expect press releases and Essex CC's website to be very active with regular updates on this scheme.</p> <p>JP added that the junction sits within Epping Forest District and would therefore expect mention of EFDC in these press releases.</p> <p>DS also updated that the junction 8 M11 works are due to start in Autumn 2020, and that Edinburgh Way in Harlow will be completed by June 2020. The Hadham bypass scheme started in July 2019 on an 18month contract with Graham Construction, completion likely winter 2021.</p> <p>Still waiting to hear back about the Housing Infrastructure Fund bid – there is a meeting scheduled later this week. The HIF if successful would provide funding to expand the existing crossing at the River Stort, create a new crossing at the Stort and provide additional bus/walking/cycling measures between Harlow Railway Station and Town Centre.</p> <p>HGGT's Transport Strategy is currently out for consultation and has been since January with several exhibitions taking place.</p>	
6.0	Update on Local Plans	
	<p><u>Harlow DC</u></p> <p>DP advised that Harlow DC are in the final stage of the process and go to Cabinet on 27 February 2020 to get approval to consult on the main modifications. Some of the sites have been removed, however Harlow DC were always high on numbers. Harlow DC are hoping to adopt the plan in July 2020. AB added that this date is based on consultation starting the second week of March through to end of April, and the Inspector coming back with his final report by June.</p>	
	<p><u>Uttlesford District Council</u></p> <p>JE advised that Uttlesford DC's Local Plan was examined last July which resulted in a letter on 10 January 2020 critical of the Plan. The list of</p>	

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	<p>objections and criticisms in the letter are currently being reviewed by Uttlesford DC who are also taking external advice. Following this advice, they expect to be in a position to determine what happens next.</p> <p>Uttlesford DC have not yet decided whether the Plan will be withdrawn or not, an alternative option may be to come up with modifications (on the condition the Inspector would accept these – taking advice on this from QC). Uttlesford DC expect to know which direction the Plan will go by the end of March/start of April.</p>	
	<p><u>East Herts DC</u></p> <p>CS advised that East Herts DC’s Local Plan has now been adopted for approx. 16 months. The plan identifies around 20 sites, 9 of those sites have now received planning permission or resolution to grant planning permission for around 5,000 homes. They have a further 6 applications in for around 10,800 homes which are going through the process currently. They expect at least another 2 applications in the next coming weeks-months.</p> <p>DP asked whether East Herts have been successful in getting contributions, given the expensive price on land.</p> <p>CS advised that it has been a challenge for East Herts DC, particularly around the contributions that the CC are requesting on education. The conversations have slowed down progress on a number of applications and Section 106’s which resulted in robust negotiations. The CC’s requests have impacted on the ability to deliver 40% affordable housing on the strategic sites.</p>	
	<p><u>EFDC</u></p> <p>JP advised that EFDC are still hoping to go out to main modification consultation this summer and to be in a position to adopt by the end of the year.</p>	
7.0	A.O.B	
	None	
8.0	Date of next meeting	
	JP and ABC will liaise with the Garden Town Team regarding bringing both Member Boards back together due to low attendance.	