

Appendix 4

Essex Planning Officers Association Planning Compact subgroup meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 25 September 2014 2- 4.30, at Essex Records Office, Chelmsford

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| <p>Present:</p> <p>Daniel Baker (ECC)</p> <p>Catherine Bicknell (Tendring)</p> <p>Laura Chase (Colchester)</p> <p>Dominic Collins (ECC), <i>Joint Chair</i></p> <p>Andrew Cook (ECC), <i>Joint Chair</i></p> <p>Diane Cooper (Harlow)</p> | <p>Emma Goodings (Braintree)</p> <p>Richard Hatter (Thurrock)</p> <p>David Lewis (Basildon)</p> <p>John Mitchell, (Uttlesford)</p> <p>Claire Stuckey (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Andrew Taylor (Uttlesford)</p> |
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| Welcome, Housekeeping information and Introductions | | Actions |
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| 1. | <p>Apologies</p> <p>Andy Millard (Thurrock), David Green (Chelmsford), Steve Rodgers (Castle Point),</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Feedback from meetings and discussion points from last meeting/concept report</p> <p>The concept paper was discussed and agreed at EPOA on 4th September</p> <p>JM provided an update to ECEA on 18th September, pleased with work done, positive feelings about join-working across Essex at present - Building Control, Waste assets. Essex Leaders Meeting- this plus other joint working items will be mentioned at next meeting.</p> <p>AC/DC- Recognition that work is ongoing at sub regional level and compact needs to work at whole Essex and/or sub county levels as appropriate</p> <p>RH- Noted that concept paper and other docs are county-centric, do not recognise the particular situation in the unitaries.</p> <p>Action Update concept paper to include unitary specific references</p> | RH/DB |
| 3. | <p>General Planning Framework for Essex</p> <p>Roundtable discussion on principles and broad headings of planning framework as discussed at last subgroup meeting.</p> | |

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| | <p>Recognition from all present of the ambition of such an approach and that whilst the benefits were understood, that there would be many questions to answer (incl. contents, scale: county/sub-county, governance, legal status etc.) and a requirement for a strong partnership approach.</p> <p>Agreed that framework and/or Cambridge type model long-term aspiration requiring a staged approach. Pause discussion until leaders provide a view. Possibility of issue being raised at future Essex Leaders Association meeting.</p> | |
| <p>4.</p> | <p>Draft Infrastructure Plan</p> <p>Roundtable discussion focussing on the contents, status and purpose of a proposed Infrastructure Plan</p> <p><u>Contents</u> Recognition that infrastructure covers a broad range of areas operating at different scales- (Stansted- school places) and that will include a mixture of infrastructure that is within (e.g. schools for ECC, unitaries) outside (e.g. utilities) direct control. Poses challenge to include all within one document.</p> <p>Attendees provided feedback on the skeleton plan with ideas for disaggregation of some headings, additional material to be included and amendments.</p> <p>Action: to amend skeleton Infrastructure Plan in line with comments</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Idea proposed and supported that it could act primarily as a strategic planning document that can be used as evidence for funding bids e.g. from LEP Growth Fund etc.</p> <p>Would need to be backed up by technical documents- those already existing (e.g. waste management) and newly commissioned. In theory similar to GTAA, and population projections- 'as it comes evidence'- will not initially fit with all LPA Local Plan preparation timetables.</p> <p>Could act as a central evidence base for all authorities- same methodology, lower cost to procure- economies of scale. Idea discussed of whether there could be a pooled fund.</p> <p>Noted potentially could help to engage with health and other commissioners.</p> <p><u>Who do we need to talk to?</u> LEP, noted that there is a housing conference in December ECEA, EPOA, ELA Neighbouring authorities London-Cambridge- Stansted corridor- (are doing some work on</p> | <p>DB</p> |

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| | <p>this)</p> <p>Conscious that this is being developed at risk- could fall apart at Essex Leaders Association</p> <p>Action- DC offered ECC resource to develop the idea of an infrastructure plan further in line with attendees contributions</p> | DC |
| 5. | <p>Capacity to Plan</p> <p><u>Recruitment and Retention/Sharing resources</u></p> <p>Attendees discussed current shared challenges around recruiting and retaining quality staff. Ideas on collaborative approach to improving recruitment/retention prospects discussed.</p> <p>General consensus that more joint working on recruitment and retention would be a positive move, although no specific ideas were agreed for further consideration. In addition, a number of practical barriers were raised that would need to be overcome before progressing idea further.</p> <p><u>Commissioning joint resource</u></p> <p>Idea discussed of jointly funding a resource to provide capacity for infrastructure plan and commission joint evidence (item 4 above). Idea was welcomed by group for further investigation</p> <p>Action: AC requested that attendees provide details of their annual spend on evidence base preparation so that scope for pooled fund can be assessed.</p> | All |
| 6. | <p>The Case for housing Development</p> <p>DB provided commentary on paper followed by roundtable discussion</p> <p>Paper generally welcomed. Questions raised around who is intended audience, general feeling that would be good for Chief Execs and with amendments members and residents</p> <p>Comments received from attendees, incl:</p> <p>Amend table 1 to reflect gap between previous and current housing requirement</p> <p>Change sections into sustainability categories</p> <p>More emphasis on infrastructure</p> <p>Include more social benefits, appeal to heart</p> <p>Should be an EPOA document or one produced by all LPAs rather than just ECC (applies to all Compact documents)</p> <p>Consider discussing paper at future EHOG meeting</p> <p>Action: Update paper in line with comments received and share with group for further review</p> | DB |

