

**Committee: Uttlesford Planning Policy Working Group**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 23 February 2015**

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**Title: Duty to Cooperate**

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Item for noting

## Summary

1. This report updates members on the Duty to Cooperate work.

## Recommendations

2. To note the report.

## Financial Implications

3. None

## Background Papers

4. None

## Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Communication and consultation form the bedrock of cooperating. This paper is published on the website.
Community Safety	The Duty to Cooperate will include all factors.
Equalities	The Duty to Cooperate will include all factors.
Health and Safety	The Duty to Cooperate will include all factors.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The Duty to Cooperate will include all factors. Failure to comply would result in the Local Plan being found unsound.
Sustainability	The Duty to Cooperate will include all factors.
Ward-specific impacts	Affects all wards equally
Workforce/Workplace	This will involve Councillors, officers from the Planning Policy Team and others as necessary.

## Situation

6. This report seeks to update members on the Duty to Cooperate which forms part of Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011. The Duty requires local planning authorities, public bodies and others to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to the planning of sustainable development.

## Current work

7. The **Strategic Housing Market Assessment** (SHMA) is planned to be reported to the Sustainable Development Board in March and reported to the Planning Policy Working Group and published as an evidence base document at its meeting on 30 March 2015.
8. The SHMA work forms part of the wider cooperation between the four authorities and a number of others including, Brentwood, Broxbourne, LB Redbridge, Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils. This group has collectively become known as the **Cooperation for Sustainable Development Board**.
9. The Coop group met on 27 February 2015 and received reports on the Further Alterations to the London Plan, the M11 and junction capacity, rail capacity and connectivity, on-going technical work and a SHMA update.
10. The Assistant Director attended a recent meeting of the **Strategic Spatial Planning Officer Liaison Group** (SSPOLG) on 30 January 2015. This discussed the upcoming summit in March which will address the co-ordination of future housing and infrastructure needs for the wider south east. Both Cllr Barker and the Assistant Director will be attending this event and a report will be presented to a future meeting of the Working Group.
11. The Council continues to participate in meetings with **Stansted Airport** and neighbouring authorities. Regular meetings are held to oversee the transport strategy, the development of the Sustainable Development Plan and ongoing S106 obligation monitoring. Councillors and Officers also attended the recent Stansted Transport Forum which oversees the work of the various sub groups and transport infrastructure serving the airport.
12. Officers attended the recent **Planning Compact** meeting on 22 January. The meeting discussed the Essex Infrastructure Plan, cross border cooperation and the longer term work plan which included discussion regarding the commissioning of joint studies as appropriate.

## Conclusion

13. Work with other Councils and organisations continues as part of the integrated work of the Planning Policy Team. As part of the development of the revised plan there are some important Duty to Cooperate meetings to be held and decision to be made. Councillors will be aware that some of these decisions will be difficult and involve a significant amount of discussion and negotiation before an outcome can be secured.

## Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to comply with and demonstrate the Duty to Cooperate	2 – Some Council's have been found lacking in this Duty by Inspectors. Therefore need to ensure that we capture as many groups, issues and outcomes as possible to present a full picture of our work.	3 – Will result in the Local Plan being found unsound. Significant impact on planning policy and planning applications.	Cooperate closely with current organisations and continue to do this through the plan making process. Identify any gaps in cooperation and work closely with those bodies to rectify situation.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.