

**Draft Note from Co-operation for Sustainable Development (Officers') Group
Tuesday 15 November 2016**

Attendance

ATLAS	James Farrar
Brentwood BC	Camilla James
East Herts DC	Claire Sime
Epping Forest DC	Derek Macnab, Alison Blom-Cooper, Sarah King
Essex CC	Mary Young, Rich Cooke, David Sprunt
Harlow DC	Graeme Bloomer, Paul MacBride
Herts CC	Paul Donovan
Highways England	Andy Jobling
LB Havering	Lukas van der Steen, Oliver Hart
Uttlesford DC	Gordon Glenday

*** Actions are in bold**

1. Apologies

Broxbourne BC – Martin Paine
Chelmsford City Council – Claire Stuckey
Conservators of Epping Forest - Jeremy Dagley
Epping Forest DC – Glen Chipp
Herts CC - Roger Flowerday
Natural England - Sarah Fraser

2. Draft notes of meeting of 11 October 2016 – including review of action points

All present agreed the draft notes of the last Officers' group without any amendments.

- *Harlow DC to share their Retail Study as soon as possible* – Harlow officers explained that they would share this study as soon as they could
- *David Sprunt to meet with Herts CC officers on 19 October to discuss their concerns re the Highways & Transportation Infrastructure MoU, and to make any necessary minor amendments* – David Sprunt has met with Herts CC officers, and a way forward through minor tweaks of the draft MoU was agreed. **David will make these changes and recirculate the draft**
- *Amanda Thorn to consider comments from Herts CC on the Epping Forest SAC MoU* – Amanda is considering these comments
- *Sarah King to set up meeting re Princess Alexandra Hospital relocation feasibility work – this has not yet been done. Officers decided to wait to meet until the first week of December, i.e. after the Autumn Statement at the end of November*
- *Sarah King to contact Cllr Haysey to suggest cancelling the 24 October Co-op. Member Board due to lack of business – done, 24 October 2016 Member Board was cancelled*

3. Update on Local Plan matters

a. LB Havering

Lukas van der Steen gave an update on LB Havering's Local Plan. The strategic context for the borough is already set in the London Plan (and LB Havering makes use of the London Plan's evidence, which is relevant), which includes a housing target. LB Havering thinks it should be able to meet this target without needing to release Green Belt (although they do have a Green Belt Review completed, if this proves necessary). Other key evidence includes an Employment Land Review, a joint SHMA (with LB Redbridge, LB Barking & Dagenham, LB Newham and LB Waltham Forest, which has a similar housing requirement for LB Havering as in the London Plan), and an SFRA which is being updated. Sustainability Appraisal of reasonable options is still ongoing. LB Havering is also engaging with other authorities on transport matters, particularly Brentwood BC and Basildon BC. TfL has done some transport modelling on the road network, LB Havering is considering this along with a transport paper they will publish with the Local Plan. Publication of the Regulation 19 Plan is expected in early 2017. A Duty to Co-operate workshop for neighbouring authorities etc. is planned for 28 November 2016, a 'Direction of Travel' document will be sent out to attendees in advance of the workshop.

A query was raised regarding the GLA not explaining how they plan to deal with the 'gap' between what the London Plan sets out to meet (42k homes), and the assessment of need (47k homes). Lukas explained that several different London Boroughs were already planning to provide more than their need (as set out in the London Plan).

b. Broxbourne BC

Martin Paine from Broxbourne BC could not attend due to work pressures, but sent an email update as follows. Draft Brookfield Retail and Leisure Impact Study - a meeting to discuss a draft of the study was held on Thursday 3 November 2016, with neighbouring authorities and others with an interest in the study. A number of comments have been received and are being considered, and where necessary follow-up meetings will be held before the study is finalised.

c. East Herts DC

Claire Sime noted that East Herts DC's Regulation 19 Local Plan was published on 3 November 2016, with representations being invited up to 15 December 2016. Responses received so far have highlighted concerns over the Gilston area and the land east of Stevenage. East Herts DC have been in contact with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), have signed a service level agreement with them and have a Programme Officer in place for the Examination.

d. Epping Forest DC

Alison Blom-Cooper noted that Epping Forest DC's Regulation 18 full Draft Local Plan consultation began on 31 October 2016, and will run up to 12 December 2016. It sets out residential allocations (and some reserve sites), the strategic direction, and draft Development Management policies etc. Work on future employment allocations will continue in the New Year, and sites suggested since the consultation will be assessed. The staffed consultation exhibitions are complete, but the static ones (at libraries throughout the District and one in Harlow) will be kept open until the end of the consultation.

e. Harlow DC

Graeme Bloomer noted that at Harlow DC's last Cabinet meeting, the Leader announced that there would be a Regulation 19 Local Plan published for representations early in the New Year. He explained that Harlow DC will send two responses to Epping Forest DC's consultation, one from the Portfolio Holder on the sites to the south and west of Harlow, and a more technical response from policy officers on general matters. Work was on-going on how to approach issues with the sites to the south and west of Harlow; further transport and infrastructure assessment and modelling may widen the debate. Essex CC will be able to give early indications on modelling for these sites in early December. He added that transport modelling had indicated a potential issue with the 'east of Harlow' site (within Harlow District).

f. Uttlesford DC

Uttlesford DC was due to publish their Regulation 19 Plan for representations in early November 2016, but their Members felt that the technical evidence needed more consideration before taking that step. Uttlesford DC has paused progress on their Local Plan for the time being. A proposed new timeline is being considered internally this week. Officers have already spoken with PINS about the situation, and Legal advice is being sought from Uttlesford DC's QC. During the advisory visit, PINS staff mentioned that the white paper coming out shortly would cover calculation of OAHN, and that it may be wise to go for the 2014-based SNPP/CLG figures. PINS' feedback was that the AECOM Strategic OAHN Spatial Options study didn't 'show its workings', not that the conclusions were necessarily right or wrong, but that the process wasn't clear.

4. Update on other cross-boundary/strategic matters:

a. Expression of Interest for Government's Locally-Led Garden Towns Prospectus

No news had yet been received on the outcome of the joint bid from East Herts DC, Epping Forest DC and Harlow DC.

b. Princess Alexandra Hospital relocation feasibility work

Sarah King to arrange a meeting between Epping Forest DC, Harlow DC, East Herts DC, Essex CC, Herts CC, PAH and AECOM.

c. **Transport modelling**

David Sprunt explained that Essex CC was focussing on work on the sites to the south and west of Harlow, and that work will be completed before Christmas (e.g. implications of development at Latton Priory etc. on Southern Way/Second Avenue etc.). Essex CC's decision on preferred route status for Junction 7A on the M11 is set to be taken at Cabinet in December 2016. This was originally planned for November but it hasn't affected progress on the planning application, which is still expected in January 2017. Everyone is waiting for news from the Department for Transport about Junction 7A, and funding for Junction 7 in RIS2 (Road Investment Strategy 2, for the period 2020 onwards).

Andy Jobling noted Highways England (HE) was exploring a bid for major improvements to Junction 8 of the M11 for RIS2. They will be running stakeholder events in the New Year. Essex CC has also put a bid into the HE 'Homes Fund' for various locations including Junction 8, and also into round 3 of the Local Growth Fund (LGF). Meanwhile Essex CC continues to work up an interim scheme for Junction 8 to give some headroom until a major improvement/intervention can be completed. Essex CC also has some funding available for this year for longer term Junction 8 feasibility work, but they don't want to duplicate what HE is doing on this. Essex CC has approached the Herts Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for funding in the past, and if its bid to this round of LGF is unsuccessful, then Essex CC might apply to Herts LEP and the South East LEP for some funding. An interim solution for Junction 8, at least, must be funded by the time the Local Plans reach Examination.

5. **Update on Memoranda of Understanding:**

a. **Distribution of Objectively Assessed Housing Need across the West Essex/East Herts HMA**

This MoU is on hold pending the resolution of strategic matters.

b. **Highways and Transportation Infrastructure for the West Essex/East Herts HMA**

David Sprunt has met with Herts CC officers, and a way forward through minor tweaks of the draft MoU was agreed. David will make these changes and recirculate the draft for signing.

c. **Managing the Impacts of Growth across the West Essex/East Herts HMA on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation**

This MoU is in the process of being signed by the relevant parties.

6. **Items for Co-op. Member Board 21 November 2016**

Given the lack of business that will be ready for discussion in time for the 21 November Board, the Chair (Cllr Haysey) had been approached to discuss potential cancellation. Cllr Haysey agreed with the proviso that the Member Board scheduled for 19 December must go ahead. Officers agreed with this. **Sarah King to cancel 21 November Member Board.**

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

• **Update on Planning White Paper (implications for OAHN)**

The Planning White Paper is due out on the 23 November 2016, and should include Government's response to the Local Plan Expert Group (LPEG) findings, setting out a new methodology for OAHN.

8. **Future Co-op. Officer meeting dates:**

- Thursday 15 December 2016 - (2.30pm, Committee Rm 1, Epping Forest DC)
- Thursday 19 January 2017 - (10am, Committee Rm 1, Epping Forest DC)
- Thursday 16 February 2017 - (10am, Committee Rm 1, Epping Forest DC)
- Thursday 16 March 2017 - (10am, Committee Rm 2, Epping Forest DC)