

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
Wednesday 13 September 2017

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr. M Perkins	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr. D Ashley	Hertfordshire County Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr. P Seeby	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr. S Bedford	Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr. L. Haysey	East Herts District Council
Cllr M. Maynard	St Albans City & District Council
Cllr. J. Gardner	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr L Needham	North Herts District Council
Cllr. I. Sharpe	Watford Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

N. Fenwick	Watford Borough Council (Chair, HPG)
J. Doe	Dacorum Borough Council
T. Harvey	St Albans City & District Council
C. Haigh	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
J. Tiley	Hertfordshire County Council
J Hayes Griffin	Hertfordshire County Council
I.Fullstone	North Herts District Council
A .Wood	Hertfordshire LEP

Guests

Rob Smith	HYAS
Abigail Bromfield	Arup

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were noted from Cllr H. Cohen (Hertsmere), Christine Lyons (Hertsmere) , Cllr Sutton (Dacorum), Rupert Thacker (HCC), Kevin Steptoe (East Herts), Claire May(Three Rivers)

2. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The existing Terms of Reference were tabled for the annual review. It was agreed that no changes were currently required.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Terms of Reference set out that the Chair and Vice Chair of HIPP be elected at the first meeting of the Municipal year. This being the first meeting

nominations were invited and the following Councillors were duly nominated and elected unopposed :-

Chair - Cllr M Perkins – nominated by Cllr Seeby, seconded by Cllr Ashley
Vice Chair – Cllr D Ashley – nominated by Cllr Perkins, seconded by Cllr Gardener

4. FUTURE OF PLANNING IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Jon Tiley introduced the item, referring back to the decision of HIPP in March to undertake work to examine the options for a more co-ordinated approach to spatial planning in the county, in response to the request from the Hertfordshire Leaders Group.

To assist in this work Arup had been appointed, assisted by HYAS, to research the topic, interview relevant parties including every District, and come forward with options and outline recommendations to be taken forward by HIPP. At this stage, the consultants would be reporting back on the research conducted so far, with a view to a final draft report being completed towards the end of September.

There then followed a presentation by Abigail Broomfield and Rob Smith (which was circulated to all members of HIPP following the meeting)

A summary of the major questions raised and views expressed was as follows:-

Cllr Perkins – what this work raises is that a new balance has to be struck between individual authorities taking decisions about planning and the appetite for change.

Cllr Gardener – If the response is that a single joint plan is not the answer, then we will remain with individual authorities taking the planning decisions.

Cllr Haysey – Agree that there appears to be no appetite for a joint county plan., but there is still a need to find common ground where we can.

Jan Hayes Griffin – at the very least there is a need for a Growth and Infrastructure type document to be able to bid for infrastructure funding. But we still have the challenge of how to scope the really big strategic investments, which require a view of the world beyond the current plan periods.

The final comments made were as follows:-

St Albans – whatever is proposed it needs to be something that can be explained to the public and makes sense

Stevenage – Agree with that. Aim should also be to start off with something do-able, which enables us all to better respond to the growth pressures. An infrastructure document of some sort looks like a good starting point.

Watford – Agree with that proposal, but we do need to set out how we might get to a more effective approach to joint planning in the longer term

Three Rivers – agree that we need to break down the island approach. Also need to be able to communicate clearly how and what we are doing and why.
LEP – agree that the LEP needs to be involved in the development and implementation of this approach and may be able to help with access to skills and resources.

HCC – as a strategic infrastructure provider we really do need a longer term and more strategic view on planning than is delivered through the local plan. But agree that starting with current infrastructure requirements might be the place to start.

Welwyn Hatfield – agreed that we do need to address long term spatial planning issues as well as infrastructure planning

Dacorum – We could do with being better joined up on infrastructure now. Perhaps we could move to planning later.

Broxbourne – yes we cannot forget the longer term planning. Need both areas to be developed together.

East Herts - we need to get some quick wins and deliver. But ultimately we may be moving to a two tier planning system, with an overarching long terms strategic plan, with more specific documents sitting underneath that.

North Herts – agree that we do need to be better at joining up, if only to attract infrastructure funding. Cannot forget that current infrastructure deficits are also a problem.

In conclusion the consultants were thanked for their work so far, which had stimulated a good debate. There was a need now to move on the final part of their study – a more refined set of potential ways forward and for HIPP to agree on a programme.

It was agreed that depending upon the timing of the autumn Leaders Group, we were unlikely to be ready to present agreed options for that meeting.

Instead it was agreed that the next HIPP meeting at the end of November should receive the final report and recommendations of officers, to be able to take to Leaders in the New Year. In the meantime opportunities to discuss these issues with the CEO groups and other relevant parties should be taken.

5. London Plan Update and the Mayors Transport Strategy

It was noted that there had been further delay to the publication of the consultation draft of the Mayors Plan. Further technical meetings were taking place, but the date for the Greater South East Summit to discuss the draft Plan, had now been delayed until January 2018.

In the meantime the Transport Strategy for London had been published for consultation. This highlights the anticipated scale of growth in London and the scale of potential trip generation. The Draft Strategy is centred around the “Quality Streets” approach to encourage more trips on foot and by bike thereby also improving health and air quality.

The County Council's draft response was briefing summarised by Jon Tiley. It was highlighted that there are a number of cross boundary, strategic issues which HCC has highlighted, that are common to the interests of all authorities in Hertfordshire.

It was agreed that a HIPP response should be prepared, based around some of the themes in the HCC response. Jon Tiley will prepare and circulate for agreement.

6. NIC Oxford – Cambridge Growth Corridor

Tracey Harvey introduced this item setting out the background to the corridor. It was explained the 17 Authorities in the corridor are looking to establish a Growth Board in order to bid of the infrastructure investment in the corridor and help to deliver the anticipated growth.

For Hertfordshire, North Herts, Stevenage and St Albans were considered to be in wider corridor and were tracking the work of the group. However direct involvement in the corridor was limited.

The report on the corridor was noted.

7. LEP Update

Adam Wood highlighted a number of reports and events.

The Maylands Growth Area Study has now been completed and this will be used to trigger bids for investment to deliver development in the Enterprise Zone and beyond.

The Broxbourne A 10 Transport Study has also now been completed. This sets out the transport policy approach and major transport investment required to deliver the emerging Broxbourne local plan. The strategy is based around trying to maximise the opportunities which will arise through the improvements to the rail corridor in the District, both for this plan period and the next, whilst balancing local road improvements with improvements to pedestrian and cyclist accessibility.

Finally the Modern Methods of Construction Conference will take place on the 5th October. This will be centred around raising the profile of MMC in terms of it being a way to assist in the delivery of much higher house building rates in the County.,

8. LTP Update

Jon Tiley set out that the Draft LTP would be going to Environment Panel and HCC Cabinet in October, with a view to public consultation on the document starting at the end of October.

As with previous consultation, the offer will be made to come to individual authorities to do presentations on the Draft Plan.

It was also reported that the next meeting of the Local Transport Body would take place at the end of October.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Haysey reported that East Herts Council were undertaking a lot of work in connection with the stewardship and governance of large development sites, because of proposals such as Gilston.

A number of trips to gather experience from other areas are being made and the next one would take place on the 23 September to Chilmington Green. If any HIPP members would be interested in attending please contact Cllr Haysey.

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

There is a provisional date for the next meeting of the 27 November. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.