

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
Wednesday 22 March 2017

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr. M. Perkins	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr. P. Seeby	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr. G. Sutton	Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr. L. Haysey	East Herts District Council
Cllr. D. Ashley	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr. D. Andrews	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr. A. Campbell	St Albans City & District Council
Cllr. J. Gardner	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr. I. Sharpe	Watford Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

T. Harvey	St Albans City & District Council (Chair HPG)
J. Tiley	Hertfordshire County Council
J. Rumble	Hertfordshire County Council
T. Mason	Hertfordshire County Council
A. Wood	Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
I. Fullstone	North Herts District Council
Z. Al-Jawad	Stevenage Borough council
M. Wells	Three Rivers District Council
I. Dunsford	Watford Borough Council
C. Haigh	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
D. Welton	Hertfordshire Planning Co-ordinator (Minutes)

Guests

R. Gunasekara	Arcadis (Item 2 only)
R. Shipway	R.S. Regeneration & Civix

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were noted from Cllr. G. Jones (East Herts), Cllr. D. Levett (North Herts) and Cllr. H. Cohen (Three Rivers).

2. HERTFORDSHIRE WATER STUDY

Rob Shipway introduced Renuka Gunasekara, the Technical Director of Arcadis, the consultants who carried out the work. RS referred to the accompanying report that had been circulated and highlighted that the study was hugely complex which as a consequence was leading it to being delivered later than anticipated; that it moves away from short termism; has

links to the Housing White Paper and in particular helps to tackle barriers to housing delivery. John Rumble added that the study does not imply where growth should go but instead tests growth scenarios in order to determine the resilience of the infrastructure.

Renuka Gunasekara gave a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the methodology of the water study and the approach to identifying robust projections to 2051. This included how future system capacity and potential deficits were identified and how this led to identifying water infrastructure options. The aim is to produce district summaries that would highlight where intervention was needed. RG also outlined the main conclusions and outcomes of the study

John Rumble added that he was prepared to visit each district and explain how the projections were arrived at. He added that the Water Companies now had a greater understanding of the issues and that it was necessary to work with them to lobby the government for more infrastructure investment. It was proposed to have a joint session with the water companies once the districts had digested the study findings.

In discussion Cllr Andrews referred to the problems of existing inadequate infrastructure as a result of old pipe work and the need to address that. JR stated that the joint event with the water companies would be a good forum to discuss this. Cllr Sharpe referred to the highly technical nature of the presentation and the need for a different approach when taking the study to the districts. JR agreed and confirmed that the emphasis would then be on outlining specific matters.

Cllr Gardner asked if the water companies were surprised at the study findings. JR replied that they had a reasonable feel of the issues up to 2031 but were surprised at some of the other conclusions and some of the growth patterns.

It was agreed that the presentation should be circulated to Members.

HIPP also agreed to note:

- 1. The findings of the Water Study, and the valuable contribution that it adds to the longer term understanding of future water infrastructure need and the planning that needs to go into secure it**
- 2. That notwithstanding the fact that the purpose of the Study was not to examine in detail short term needs, the Study outcomes are of considerable value to the local plan process in that they show that, subject to appropriate future investment, no critical issues which would undermine local plan growth strategies have been uncovered, and that the fact that local authorities are taking a longer term holistic view of water infrastructure will earn them considerable credit at local plan examination**

3. That in support of point 2 above, the County Council (and, it is understood, the Environment Agency) has indicated its willingness to prepare a technical paper and appear at local plan examinations to explain the detail underpinning the Study's conclusions
4. The government's concerns around utility planning and infrastructure rollout being a potential source of delay in relation to housing delivery, and the potential template the Study identifies for multiple agency working on this issue

HIPP agreed to;

5. Feed the Study outcomes into the 'Planning for Hertfordshire beyond 2031' visioning work that it has agreed to promote
6. Receive in due course a report specifically around the recommendations for long term actions including a consideration of:
 - a water infrastructure partnership
 - the identification of a single point of contact across Hertfordshire to act as liaison between water companies and local planning authorities on the strategic aspects of water infrastructure planning
7. Receiving and considering a brief for Stage 2 individually tailored piece of work for each of the districts to explore specific long term water infrastructure needs and costs
8. A joint HIPP/Water Companies session on water infrastructure planning and the Study outcomes
9. That each district and the Hertfordshire LEP be offered an individual tailored presentation of the study findings relevant to their area.

3. RAIL ISSUES IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Trevor Mason provided a PowerPoint presentation. He confirmed that the Rail Strategy had now been published. He added that passenger growth had grown by 28% in the five years to 2015/16. Watford junction is the counties busiest station with 8 million passengers a year. There are 24 stations in the county with over one million passengers a year. Nationally the number of bus journeys is one and a half times the number of rail journeys yet in Hertfordshire there are more rail journeys than bus trips.

TM outlined details of major schemes including the Thameslink/Crossrail connection; the Metropolitan Line extension where there is still some uncertainty around funding; HS2 and the opportunity it presents to improve local services and East West Rail. He added that consultation for crossrail 2 is due in the summer with construction likely to commence in 2023. Other issues raised related to local east – west connections, Chilterns and train lengthening, frequency on the Abbey line and network rail property sales.

It was agreed that the presentation should be circulated to HIPP.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2017 were agreed as a true record. In matters arising DW advised that, regarding the previous health infrastructure item, he had recently been in contact with Laura Griggs former line manager and LG's vacant position had still not been filled. Cllr Seeby referred to the discussion at Hertfordshire Forward regarding the NHS's Sustainability and Transformation Plan and their lack of engagement with local authorities. Cllr Haysey referred to information she had seen which provided a formulaic approach to identifying health infrastructure. Rob Shipway added he was aware of this and would circulate the information to HIPP.

Agreed that the information on the NHS's formulaic approach to identifying infrastructure needs be circulated.

5. ACTION FROM HERTS LEADER'S/NEXT STEPS

Cllr. Perkins referred to the circulated paper. She advised that the presentation to the leader's Group, which was agreed at the last HIPP meeting, was well received. Although the emphasis was on growth post 2031 concern was also expressed in the period before 2031. The proposal is now for the informal steering group to develop the work further and report back to the September Leader's Group. An update will be given at tomorrow's meeting of the Herts Public Sector Leaders Steering Group. Updates will also be reported to HIPP at their meetings before the September Leader's Group.

Cllr Perkins asked Members whether they were content with the membership of the steering group. Cllr Gardner asked that more immediate updates be given rather than Members waiting for this to be made at the next scheduled HIPP meeting. Cllr Perkins agreed that notes of the informal group meetings could be circulated.

Jon Tiley referred to the requirement to fund an external resource to assist in the development of the work, and although this could be funded in the short term from the Co-ordinator budget it may be necessary to consider alternative

means. It was agreed to raise this at the Herts Public Sector Leaders Steering Group.

Cllr Ashley referred to the need to raise developer's expectations regarding the levels of CIL contributions required to support infrastructure and growth. Jon Tiley suggested raising this at the funding and viability study event.

It was agreed:

- 1. That the existing make up of the informal steering group, namely the Chair & Vice Chair of HIPP, Cllr Haysey as a Leader representative, David Scholes as a Chief Executive representative, the Chair and Vice Chair of HPG and Jan Hayes Griffin and Jon Tiley representing HCC, be endorsed.**
- 2. That the notes of the informal steering group minutes be circulated to HIPP.**
- 3. That funding for an external resource to support the work is raised at the Herts Public Sector Leaders Steering Group.**
- 4. That the issue of the level of CIL contributions required to support growth be discussed at the Funding and CIL Viability workshop.**

6. LONDON PLAN/WIDER SOUTH EAST (WSE) ENGAGEMENT

Cllr Perkins commented on the update report that had been circulated and that the follow up letter to the Minister, mentioned in the report, would be circulated. Cllr Haysey gave a verbal update and advised that the London Plan was now scheduled to go out for consultation in the autumn.

7. HOUSING WHITE PAPER & GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

The papers relating to the Housing White Paper and the Industrial Strategy were noted. It was advised that HPG Dev Plans were to focus on the Housing White Paper at their next meeting on 28 April.

It was agreed that the HPG Dev Plans group be asked to draft joint HIPP responses to the consultations on the Housing White Paper and the Industrial Strategy for agreement with the Chair of HIPP.

8. TRANSPORT UPDATE

Jon Tiley provided an oral update. He advised that Highways England were working up their five year funding programme and it will be necessary to engage with them on it.

Cllrs. Perkins and Sharpe referred to the Transport Vision and the challenges in getting acceptance of the need to achieve a rapid modal shift away from the car.

9. HERTFORDSHIRE LEP UPDATE

Adam Wood provided an oral update and added that he would circulate a written report. He referred to confirmation of Growth Deal funding for 12 projects and on a forthcoming apprenticeship event demonstrating how apprenticeships benefit business.

Rob Shipway introduced the appendix report which referred to the role of modern methods of housing construction and how modular housing can help in the challenge of delivering ambitious housing targets. The LEP were proposing to hold a conference in the autumn and would like HIPP to join them to make it a joint initiative. The invitation was welcomed and RS asked if an officer could be nominated to work with the LEP on developing the proposal. It was suggested that Kevin Steptoe as the Chair elect of HPG and Jon Tiley, who are both on the LEPs Strategic Infrastructure Board, be the nominated representatives.

It was agreed:

- 1. That HIPP works with Hertfordshire LEP on developing a proposed conference on 'Housebuilding in Hertfordshire and the potential role of Modern Methods of Construction.'**
- 2. That Kevin Steptoe and Jon Tiley be nominated as officer representatives to work with the LEP on the arrangements for the conference.**

10. HIPP FORWARD PROGRAMME

The forward programme was noted. Cllr Perkins advised that further discussions on the Herts 2031 work would need to come to future HIPP meetings and consequently space for other items will need to be limited with reports taken as read.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Perkins advised that Tracy Harvey was standing down as Chair of HPG and would be replaced by Kevin Steptoe. Tracy was thanked for her work and support for HIPP. In addition, the Co-ordinator was retiring at the end of March and was also thanked for his service to HIPP.

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following provisional dates, which were subject to amendment following the publication of council diaries, were noted. Venues are yet to be confirmed:

Monday 12 June 2017

Thursday 27 July 2017

September Meeting - to be confirmed (dependent on details of Leader's Group meeting)

Monday 27 November 2017

Wednesday 31 January 2018

Thursday 22 March 2018

HIPP meetings are 6.00pm (for 6.30pm).

Cllrs Ashley and Haysey offered their apologies for 12 June meeting.

Martin Wells repeated his previous offer that Three Rivers District Council was prepared to host a HIPP meeting if required.

It was agreed to look at the possibility of changing the date of the meeting currently proposed for 12 June 2017.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information item was noted:

A. HIPP WORK PROGRAMME