

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
Wednesday 25 January 2017

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr. M. Perkins	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr. P. Seeby	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr. L. Haysey	East Herts District Council
Cllr. G. Jones	East Herts District Council
Cllr. D. Ashley	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr. D. Andrews	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr. H. Cohen	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr. D. Levett	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr. A. Campbell	St Albans City & District Council
Cllr. J. Gardner	Stevenage Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

T. Harvey	St Albans City & District Council (Chair HPG)
D. Cooper	Broxbourne Borough Council
J. Doe	Dacorum Borough Council
L. Watts	East Herts District Council
K. Steptoe	East Herts District Council
J. Tiley	Hertfordshire County Council
P. Donovan	Hertfordshire County Council
J. Rumble	Hertfordshire County Council
J. Clarke	Hertfordshire County Council
A. Wood	Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
C. Lyons	Hertsmere Borough Council
I. Fullstone	North Herts District Council
I. Dunsford	Watford Borough Council
C. Haigh	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
D. Welton	Hertfordshire Planning Co-ordinator (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were noted from Cllr. G. Sutton (Dacorum), Cllr M. Trevett (Three Rivers) and Cllr. I. Sharpe (Watford).

2. HERTFORDSHIRE WATER STUDY – UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND EMERGING FINDINGS

John Rumble referred to the report that had been circulated. He confirmed that the first phase of the water study was close to completion. An associated confidentiality agreement was in the process of being signed off. It was

intended that the final report would be presented to the March meeting of HIPP and the consultants would be present.

JR added that the report would make it clear what further infrastructure investment was required that would need to be addressed in phase 2 of the study.

Cllr Levett asked for confirmation that the study did not raise any major implications for the current round of Local Plans. JR stated that the current round of Local Plans dealt with the period up to 2031 and that although some issues were raised these were considered to be manageable.

It was agreed:

- (i) The progress of the study be noted; and**
- (ii) That a full report and presentation be made to the March HIPP meeting.**

3. AN APPROACH TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Jennifer Clarke referred to her report that had been circulated and explained that the work had been initiated by the Hertfordshire Planning Group (HPG) and led by the Hertfordshire Landscape & Green Infrastructure Group (HLGIG) which was an officer group including representatives from the Districts and the County Council. She outlined the importance of green infrastructure and that although there were Green Infrastructure strategies in place the main challenge related to delivery.

JC explained that the approach included six projects, three of which could be carried out in house. However consultancy support was considered necessary for the remaining three and funding of £4,000 was requested from each HIPP authority to facilitate this work.

In discussion Members commented that, although there may be some benefit in using the Building Futures toolkit for Green Infrastructure purposes, the case for working collaboratively across the County had not yet been demonstrated. It was felt that it was not clear what the project sought to deliver. It was, however, recognised that there was an issue relating to ongoing maintenance funding and developers should be encouraged to provide funding to maintain green infrastructure.

Kevin Steptoe suggested that the report was too detailed and a more strategically focussed approach was required. He proposed that the matter be referred back to officers.

It was agreed that the proposal be referred back to the Hertfordshire Planning Group to re-examine the objectives and benefits of the project.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2016 were agreed as a true record. It was noted that the proposed letter to the Secretary of State for Health and the email to Laura Grigg's line manager had been circulated to HIPP for comments and were attached to this agenda as information items.

It was agreed that the letter to the Secretary of State for Health and the email to Laura Grigg's line manager be sent.

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

Cllr Haysey referred to the Wider South East Summit held on 9 December that had been attended by several HIPP members. Notes of the event had not yet been produced but would be circulated when available.

Cllr Haysey also referred to a Wider South East Member meeting held with Gavin Barwell MP on 19 January. A briefing note for this meeting had been circulated and the meeting provided the opportunity to raise issues relating to barriers to growth; unimplemented planning permissions and infrastructure needs. At the meeting Gavin Barwell MP confirmed that the Housing White Paper would be out in February along with details of the CIL review. Any notes from this meeting will also be circulated.

6. PLANNING TRAINING INCLUDING EELGA WORK, LEP INITIATIVES AND PLANNING APPRENTICESHIPS

An update was provided by Tracy Harvey, Jon Tiley and Adam Wood. It was noted that EELGA had commissioned a consultant to develop a proposal for establishing a place agency to support the recruitment of temporary staff. Work with Oaklands College on developing a degree level apprenticeship programme was progressing and expressions of interest were being sought. Adam Wood confirmed that the LEP were keen to work with HIPP authorities to roll out the apprenticeship levy across the county.

7. TRANSPORT UPDATE

Jon Tiley advised that LTB had met on 19 January and included updates on the A602, A120 and Growth Deal 3 funding. Highways England brought a number of matters to the table and the LTB will need to ensure that it is adequately engaged with these. There were also updates on the smart

motorway project and on rail issues. JT added that an update could be given at the next HIPP meeting on rail transport.

8. HERTFORDSHIRE LEP UPDATE

Adam Wood presented the report that had been circulated. Information on Growth Deal 3 was embargoed and therefore confidential. Detailed project outlines would be reported to the LEP in June 2017.

AW advised that the LEP were currently carrying out a light touch refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan that had been adopted in 2014. The consultation for the refresh had closed on 23 January and seven or eight responses had been received. The refreshed document will be formally launched at the LEP Annual Conference on 8 March 2017.

9. DRAFT LEADER'S PRESENTATION ON HERTS 2031

Cllr Perkins ran through the presentation she was due to give to the Leader's Group on 26 January.

In discussion it was commented that emphasis should be given to development pressures/housing need emanating from across the Hertfordshire border.

It was agreed:

- (i) That the presentation should go forward to the Leader's Group;**
- and**
- (ii) Feedback from the Leader's Group should be reported back to HIPP.**

10. HIPP FORWARD PROGRAMME

The forward programme was noted.

Cllrs Ashley and Haysey referred to a presentation at another forum on Infrastructure funding. This was provided by Sarah Whitney and demonstrated a very innovative and challenging approach. Reference was made to a 25 year bond established at Warrington which provided funding from future rental income. A presentation may be relevant for a wider forum than just HIPP and Cllr Haysey agreed to make initial contact with the speaker.

It was agreed:

- (i) **A presentation on Rail Transport be added to the March HIPP meeting;**
- (ii) **A possible presentation to HIPP, or a wider group, on Infrastructure Funding be investigated.**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jon Tiley referred to the Viability Study previously reported to HIPP and advised that he was due to meet the consultants the following week when a draft report of the study should be available. He added that it was now proposed that the findings would be presented at a Member's workshop rather than a HIPP meeting as it was of wider interest, for example to Resources Portfolio Holders. The workshop is likely to be held from February onwards and Members will be advised.

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 22 March 2017 at Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were noted:

A. HIPP WORK PROGRAMME

B. HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed letter to the Right Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health & the email to Laura Griggs Line Manager following the discussion at the last meeting.