

APPENDIX 3

From: Chris Briggs <chris.briggs@stalbans.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 August 2014 16:53
To: Richard Blackburn
Cc: John Hoad; Tracy Harvey; Laura Wood
Subject: RE: Jointly Commissioning Strategic Housing and Economic Market Area Assessments

Richard

Further to our conversation, I am happy to confirm in brief:

St Albans Council has already undertaken a recent SHMA and will be updating it in due course. We are happy to support a 'reference group' for your joint SHMA and I offer myself as a contact in the first instance.

For the Economy/ Economic Development/ Employment work, the district has already undertaken some work and will be doing more in due course in this area. Again we are happy to support a 'reference group' for your joint work in this area and I offer myself as a contact in the first instance.

KR

Christopher Briggs
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From: Richard Blackburn [mailto:Richard.Blackburn@hertsmere.gov.uk]
Sent: 24 July 2014 10:05
To: Chris Briggs
Cc: John Hoad; Tracy Harvey; 'Laura Wood'
Subject: Jointly Commissioning Strategic Housing and Economic Market Area Assessments

Chris

I am writing on behalf of planning officers from Dacorum, Hertsmere, Three Rivers and Watford Councils

Officers from these four SW Herts Authorities met on 10 July to discuss how we should address key strategic growth issues and in particular what evidence should underpin this consideration for our respective Core Strategy Reviews or Local Plans. The meeting stemmed from a round of duty to co-operate meetings and from a suggestion made by Dacorum earlier in the year to jointly commission a strategic housing market assessment. The meeting was attended by Carol Hyland (Welwyn-Hatfield) to explain their recent experience of commissioning SHMA, economy study and household/population forecasting work. I attach a copy of the final draft notes of that meeting for your information.

The outcome of the meeting is that the SW Herts Authorities agreed to:

1. jointly commission a strategic housing market study (this will include population projections and take into account the DCLG household forecasts expected this Autumn); and
2. jointly commission an economy and economic market area study.

The studies should cover the SW Herts area and insofar as appropriate cross administrative boundaries.

We will be brainstorming and discussing the project brief for each study at a meeting on 13 August to be held at 10.00am at Dacorum's Civic Centre. We will also consider some of the practical arrangements for the completion of the studies – e.g. project steering, reference groups to enable wider input.

Your authority may wish to join the four of us in jointly commissioning one or both of the studies, and we invite you to do so. The study area(s) would obviously be extended in that event. James Doe (Assistant Director, Dacorum) has earlier contacted Tracy in respect of a joint SHMA. The experience of Welwyn-Hatfield is that the economic study is not only important in its own right, but also inputs into the SHMA. Clearly this is a decision for your authority, and you may agree there are good reasons to join with us – for example, objectively assessing needs in the light of the best DCLG/ONS information, collectively agreeing what that is, demonstrating through effective participation and consultation that the duty to co-operate is being met, jointly tackling the growth context for the expansion of Hemel Hempstead (which is indicated in the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan) and elsewhere, helping to resist what could be an inappropriate level of growth exported from London.

If you wish to be involved, we would appreciate your reply as soon as possible and would like you to attend the meeting on 13 August. In the event, please note that Dacorum has volunteered to hold the SHMA contract and unless you wish to manage the ES contract, Hertsmere will volunteer. As a prompt for the discussions on 13 August we will use Welwyn-Hatfield's project briefs and other material.

Please note that in any event we will consult you (and others) at key stages in the studies and invite you (and other authorities) to be part of a 'reference group'.

Regards

Richard



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Richard Blackburn

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