



## Duty to Cooperate meeting between St Albans DC and Hertfordshire CC

**VENUE: Via MS Teams**

**DATE: 22 January 2021 @ 14.00**

### Meeting Notes

#### 1. Introductions

##### Attendance

##### St Albans District Council

Cllr Day

Chris Briggs, Spatial Planning  
Manager (CB)

Charlotte Morphet, Team Leader  
Spatial Planning and Design (CM)

##### Hertfordshire County Council

Cllr Ashley

Russell Monck, Team Leader South West  
(RM)

Anthony Collier, Transport (AC)

Martin Wells, Senior Planner (MW)

- Cllr Day confirmed that SADC will produce a note of meeting. RM – HCC likely to summarise points from HCC and respond to draft meeting note with a letter with more info – eg on older people's accommodation
- CM noted started in September 2020.

#### 2. Update on St Albans Local Plan

- CB provided update that SADC withdrew Local Plan on 23 November 2020 following issues raised at examination in relation to Duty to Cooperate.
- A new Local Development Scheme has been prepared and taken to Planning Policy Committee and the intention is to consultant on a Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan in January 2022.
- Aim is to adopt a new Local Plan before the end of 2023.
- Starting with 'blank sheet of paper' including new Sustainability Appraisal and Green Belt Review. Noted that some other evidence base (e.g. joint South West Hertfordshire Local Housing Need Assessment) can be used for new Local Plan. Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement, Sustainability Appraisal Scoping and Call for Sites go live on 25 January
- Draft Vision, Strategic Priorities and Objectives paper has been taken to Planning Policy Committee. Emphasis for new Local Plan is on Climate Crisis and sustainability, recognising the Council has called a Climate Emergency.
- HCC stated transport is a priority in particular MRT. Keen to have discussions outside of Regulation 18 and 19 about the emerging sites and LTP4. By Regulation 19 aim is for no objections.
- RM specifically stated at Regulation 18 want as much detail on the sites as possible and to look at Growth Scenarios outside of formal consultation stages.

- RM noted good working relationship that HCC want to maintain.

### 3. Update on Hertfordshire LP-related Workstreams

- a. Transport - SWHGTP, SCGTP, A414, COMET, Abbey Line, MRT etc
  - AC updated on transport.
  - SWHGTP is now adopted
  - St Albans LCWIP
  - SCGTP will be fully adopted by the summer 2021. Majority of comments received were positive.
  - A414 strategy is in the SCGTP. MRT timeframe of circa 2038 and should be embedded into SADC Local Plan. There may be a requirement for land / space in due course.
  - There is currently a study being undertaken on the feasibility of increasing the Abbey Line train frequency with a passing loop.
  - COMET Run and scenarios currently approach similar to previous Local Plan.
  
- b. Education
  - RM updated on education.
  - Noted that primary schools are very sensitive to the location of new development and secondary schools need to take account of the wider strategic picture.
  - CB noted previous discussions about detailed evidence required to understand why a secondary school was required for Hemel Hempstead potentially within SADC's area. All agreed to look further at the issue on a tripartite basis with DBC.
  - CB – the aim for SADC's new Local Plan is generally for strategic sites to provide school provision.
  
- c. Minerals & Waste
  - MW updated on minerals and waste.
  - Currently consultation on Regulation 18 Waste Local Plan which closes on 19 March. The Regulation 19 Waste Local Plan consultation is expected in Summer 2022 with anticipated adoption in Spring 2024.
  - CB – SADC will be responding to the current Waste Local Plan consultation.
  - MW - Main change in approach is no employment land and allocated sites for waste and that it more based on the policies that will aim to deliver potential new waste management facilities.
  - The revised Regulation 19 Minerals Local Plan is expected later this year.
  - Noted that there is an intention in DBC's current draft LP consultation for a new enlarged household waste recycling centre within North Hemel, Phase 1.
  - Noted that at Bowmans Cross (in Hertsmere) there is a need to consider the existing waste sites and ongoing mineral extraction.
  
- d. Older persons Accommodation and Special Needs accommodation

- RM updated on older persons accommodation and special needs accommodation.
- Noted it was a difficult issue and there are areas to improve on with provision of information to Districts/Boroughs.
- Discussed LPAs generally in Local Plans looking to strategic sites to make provision.

#### **4. Potential Strategic Cross Boundary Issues, inc.**

- AC stated that for the Local Plan start with LTP4 principles encouraging active travel first as it is not only about movement but also health benefits. Specifically raised issues of air quality and need for public health involvement.
- There will be a need for some transport elements to be more accurately costed as the GTPs don't always have enough costing information/detail for an Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- Secondary schools often providing strategic cross boundary provision (a per 3b bullet 2 above)
- Generally noted need to consider joint community facilities / hubs
- RM to get back to SADC about next steps for the proposed updated county-wide Green Infrastructure Study.
- AC - work closely with ROW colleagues – more miles or ROW than traditional highways – great opportunities for higher quality GI
- Strategic Rail Freight Interchange
  - CB - An update was provided on Strategic Rail Freight interchange. The direction of travel is to follow advice from Inspectors in recent examination to allocate the site - subject to technical work. Recognise that it is a complex issue and seeking as much certainty from landowners/developers as possible.
  - RM stated that the Inspectors have been clear on approach and he will facilitate a conversation with property colleagues.
- CB stated that the Call for Sites is wider than usual and includes land for biodiversity net gain, tree planting, energy.

#### **5. Arrangements for future DTC working and SOCG**

- RM keen to understand approach to Statement of Common Ground
- CB indicated current consideration was one SoCG for South West Hertfordshire; will see over time if additionally possibly one for Minerals and Waste and a bi-lateral one for the rest of HCC services.

#### **6. A.O.B and Date of Next Meeting**

- Next meeting proposed for Summer 2021