

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
Thursday 29 September 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr. M. Perkins	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr P. Seeby	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr. L. Haysey	East Herts District Council
Cllr. D. Andrews	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr. H. Cohen	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr J. Gardner	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr. B. Read	St Albans City & District Council
Cllr I. Sharpe	Watford Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

T. Harvey	St Albans City & District Council (Chair HPG)
D. Cooper	Broxbourne Borough Council
L. Watts	East Herts District Council
K. Steptoe	East Herts District Council
J. Hayes-Griffin	Hertfordshire County Council
J. Tiley	Hertfordshire County Council
A. Wood	Hertfordshire LEP
C. Lyons	Hertsmere Borough Council
D. Scholes	North Herts District Council
I. Fullstone	North Herts District 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)

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were noted from Cllr G. Sutton (Dacorum), Cllr. G. Jones (East Herts), Cllr. D. Ashley (Hertfordshire County Council – Cllr Andrews substituting), Cllr. D. Levett (North Herts), Cllr A. Campbell (St Albans City & District Council – Cllr. B. Read substituting) and Cllr M. Trevett (Three Rivers).

2. STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK/DUTY TO CO-OPERATE & HIPP'S ROLE RE DEVOLUTION DISCUSSIONS

David Scholes referred to the discussion paper, the June 2016 Hertfordshire Leader's Group agenda report and the action plan that had been circulated. DS referred to the background to the discussions relating to the Government's Devolution agenda and the emerging Hertfordshire view. There was little appetite for a directly elected Mayor and still some question over how to take the devolution issue forward in Hertfordshire. However, it was felt that a

considerable amount more could be achieved through greater collaboration between partners; without necessarily seeking a devolution deal from the Government.

DS added that it was necessary to look at the mechanisms needed to move forward. This included whether a joint planning committee was appropriate and whether there was the appetite to work more closely in relation to planning, housing and infrastructure delivery for the period beyond 2031. Further questions related to whether HIPP provided a suitable building block to develop this work and what factors could enhance the effectiveness of HIPP. Resourcing was also a key issue including how to fund the Herts Growth Fund. Finally, it was necessary to consider if there was an appetite for more formal arrangements and if so in what areas.

In discussion, it was noted that for the period up to 2031 most Local Plans were in place or well developed and therefore it was now appropriate to look beyond 2031, especially given the long lead in times relating to infrastructure planning. The issue of staffing resources and difficulties in recruiting to vacancies was also recognised as a significant influencing factor.

Cllr Haysey commented that it might also be necessary for smaller groups of councils to work closely on some issues. She added that post 2031 it is likely that there will be a need for a New Town in the County and that there could be advantages in a smaller group of Councils to get together in the short term to discuss potential locations.

Jan Hayes-Griffin referred to the new sub national transport boards which can sometimes cover 7 or more counties. She was concerned that these could hoover up significant infrastructure resources and so it was imperative that Hertfordshire was prepared. Cllr Gardner referred to the influence of London growth and the growth corridors.

Cllr Perkins referred to the need for a closer working arrangement with the Chief Executives Group and David Scholes agreed to attend future HIPP meetings and be link between the two groups. It was noted that further discussion on the way forward would take place at item 9 on the agenda.

3. HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

It was noted that the Health sector representatives were not able to attend and consequently the item would be deferred to the next meeting.

4. HEALTH, WELLBEING & PLANNING

As this item related closely to the previous item it was also agreed to defer it to the November meeting.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2016 were agreed as a true record.

6. LONDON PLAN/WIDER SOUTH EAST (WSE) ENGAGEMENT 2015/16

The minutes of the Political Steering Group held on 18 July had been circulated. Cllr Haysey stated that it was hoped that the Mayor of London would be at the Political Steering Group meeting but instead James Murray, one of his deputies, attended. However, Mr. Murray gave some positive messages and the group felt that they could work with him.

Cllr Perkins asked if all local authorities would be invited to the December summit and Cllr Haysey confirmed this but said that the previous format was not considered very successful and consequently it is likely to be more of a round table focus group meeting. Cllr Haysey also confirmed that when completed HIPP would be able to see the joint letter to Government relating to tackling barriers to housing delivery.

There was a general discussion on the growth corridors and whether housing delivery targets were achievable. The need to attract high tech firms to the corridors to support the proposed growth was recognised.

7. TRANSPORT UPDATE & TRANSPORT VISION

Jon Tiley advised that the last LTB Board meeting had a Growth Deal 3 focus and the minutes would be circulated once approved at the next meeting. The next meeting is on 13 October and will receive updates from Network Rail and Highways England and will also discuss the funding implications of Growth Deal 3. JT asked if HIPP had any matters that they would like to be raised with Network Rail or Highways England.

JT also gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Transport Vision and said that there could be further discussion at the next meeting. He explained that the consultation document had been published and it sets the LTP objectives and clarifies the long term vision and major policy changes. It is, however, not a full draft strategy and not all major schemes and policy changes are included. Consultation on the Vision will take place over the next 12 weeks and in mid 2017 there will be a full consultation on the Local Transport Plan.

JT added that some of the key challenges related to funding and delivery of infrastructure; improving access to jobs; retaining Hertfordshire's character; and responding to the impact on health. Transport was a very dynamic sector that was subject to technological change. Reference was made to it not being possible to build our way out from congested roads and a more positive approach to more sustainable forms of transport had to be built into everything, including proposals for new development. In the past the words were there but it is now essential for them to be really owned.

In discussion Cllr Sharpe commented that with regards to achieving modal shift it was a battle for hearts and minds. He referred to comments made that local authorities were anti the motorist and that some people would never reduce their car use. However it was important to convince those who are more amenable. Jan Hayes-Griffin referred to the need to consider to what point sticks should be used such as parking standards and work based parking levies.

It was noted that the Transport Vision did not adopt a 'one size fits all' approach and that rural areas, for example, had different issues and needs.

In conclusion JT said that he would email the link to the consultation document to Members. He also offered that the County Council could visit Districts on an individual basis to present the document.

8. HERTFORDSHIRE LEP UPDATE

Adam Wood referred to the update report that had been circulated. He gave a background to Growth Deal 3 and explained that Hertfordshire LEP was in completion for a limited amount of capital funding with the other 39 LEPs in the country. The original 13 projects had been reduced to eight that went forward through the bidding process; these are identified in his report. The LEP are also looking to see if the five that had not made it could be progressed in other ways. AW added that the total of Hertfordshire's bid was £87m and this was to lever in £500m which was the highest leverage of all LEPs.

AW also stated that the LEP would be reviewing and refreshing their Strategic Economic Plan. This would, however, be a light touch review.

In discussion Cllr Perkins commented that there was only one line on page one that mentioned apprenticeships. AW replied saying that page 1 referred to Growth Deal 3 which was a capital funding project and that responses to skills issues was more related to revenue funding. He agreed to ask a colleague to prepare a report on skills issues that could be presented to a future HIPP meeting.

9. HIPP FORWARD PROGRAMME & HOW TO TAKE THE DEVOLUTION DISCUSSIONS FORWARD

There were further discussions on HIPP's role in taking forward the devolution discussions (item 2 of this agenda). Cllr Perkins commented that she had spoken to the Leader of Hertfordshire County Council and in the past he had expressed the view that HIPP had a role to play. The view was expressed that there should be closer working in Hertfordshire irrespective of any devolution deal.

JT referred to the Statutory Transport Bodies and said that it may be possible to build on the LTB. He also referred to the previous work facilitated by Catriona Riddell and that it may be appropriate to review her reports to HIPP.

Cllr Gardner commented that he was not in favour of a joint planning committee unless it was part of a devolution deal. Cllr Seeby referred to other partnership and joint working. Reference was also made to examples where authorities shared certain posts but it was also recognised that it was now required to consider going much further. Cllr Sharpe added that it was at least necessary to investigate whether it was appropriate to do this.

Cllr Perkins referred to the importance of everyone, including all Leaders, being on board. She proposed a daytime workshop, possibly externally facilitated, to progress the matter and she liked JT's suggestion that Catriona Riddell's report be reviewed. HIPP members were asked if they supported the idea of a workshop and all agreed.

It was noted that the HIPP Forward Programme would need to be reviewed to reflect this work and that the Health item was to be deferred to the next meeting.

Agreed:

- (i) That Officers, through the Hertfordshire Planning Group, review the previous report(s) by Catriona Riddell and investigate the options for a daytime workshop for HIPP to debate their role in progressing the devolution issue.**
- (ii) That the Chair, in liaison with officers, reviews the HIPP Forward Programme.**

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Martin Wells offered Three Rivers District Council as a potential venue for a future meeting.

Cllr Perkins referred to an email from EELGA that referred to the future resourcing of planning. This referred to a consultation by the RTP1 on

planning education that HIPP authorities may wish to respond to. She agreed to forward the email.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted that the next meeting of HIPP was scheduled for Thursday 17 November 2016.

The January and March meetings were revised as follows:

Wednesday 25 January 2017

Thursday 16 March 2017

HIPP meetings are 6.00pm (for 6.30pm) usually at County Hall.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were noted:

A. HIPP WORK PROGRAMME

B. HERTS LEP STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2016.

C. REVISED HIPP TERMS OF REFERENCE

The HIPP Terms of Reference were revised at the last meeting and were previously circulated to Members.