

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Growth Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Elaine Manzi  
Ext: 28062

## GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY CABINET PANEL

THURSDAY 5 JULY 2018

### ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

D A Ashley (Chairman), S J Boulton, S J Featherstone, S B A F H Giles-Medhurst (*substituting for S Bedford*), S K Jarvis, A K Khan, P Mason, G McAndrew, R H Smith, (*substituting for D J Barnard*), A Stevenson (Vice-Chairman), S Taylor, A S B Walkington, J A West,

#### OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

N A Hollinghurst; I M Reay

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy meeting on 5 July 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

*Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet Panel in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.*

### PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

#### 1. MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT OF THE PANEL

#### ACTION

1.1 Members noted the membership of the panel as outlined in the agenda, and the remit of the panel which was as follows:

Promotion of the Council's cross-boundary strategic spatial and economic policy objectives, joint working with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), leading for the Council on key projects/regeneration schemes including the delivery of key employment sites. Coordination and promotion of the Council's

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service requirements to LPAs as part of the local plan process. Development and maintenance of the County's Strategic Infrastructure Plan, lead on infrastructure funding and planning obligation policies including a shared viability assessment capability. Strategic planning policy including relationships with the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership, the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor, London/GLA, sub-national transport bodies and airports, transport planning, passenger transport, the Council's Total Transport strategy and Lead Local Flood Authority Development management and enforcement. Minerals and waste planning policy.

- 1.2 In response to a Member query, it was agreed that consideration would be given to adding supporting bus services to the list of criteria within the remit.

Derrick  
Ashley/Simon  
Aries/Jan  
Hayes-  
Griffin

**CONCLUSION:**

- 1.3 Members noted the membership and the remit of the panel.

**2. MINUTES**

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Environment, Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel meeting held on 11 May 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

- 3.1 There were no public petitions.

**4. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) UPDATE**

**Officer Contact:** Neil Hayes, Hertfordshire LEP

- 4.1 Members received a presentation from Neil Hayes, Executive Director, Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) detailing the work it had been undertaking with regards to the Local Industrial Strategy.

The presentation can be found here:

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/976/Committee/143/Default.aspx>

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- 4.2 Clarification was received in regards to slide 10 that HE was the acronym for Homes England.
- 4.3 In response to a Member question, it was established that given the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, consideration was being given to developing the Airbus facility in Stevenage and the enterprise zone in Luton to incorporate a training development area to increase resilience in the light of the uncertainty. Members received assurance that due to the specialist nature of the work undertaken at the Stevenage Airbus site, it was likely that there would be minimal risk to the workforce currently employed there.
- 4.4 During discussion it was noted that the direction of travel for the LEP was not to create new sites, but to invest and develop existing sites into sustainable manufacturing centres for the future.
- 4.5 It was noted that Panel Members who were also District Councillors should raise within their districts the need for equal consideration to be made for manufacturing developments as well as housing developments in local development plans.
- 4.3 Members learnt that training was an ongoing consideration for the LEP and joint funded training posts and apprenticeships were being explored.
- 4.19 **CONCLUSION:**
- Members noted the presentation from the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 5 WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN: AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND AND HEARING STATEMENT (JANUARY 2018) IN RELATION TO NEW BARNFIELD, HATFIELD**
- Officer Contact: Sarah McLaughlin, Head of Growth and Infrastructure Unit Tel: (01992) 588110
- 5.1 Members considered a report detailing the discussion surrounding the site at New Barnfield in the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Local Plan Examination in Public.
- 5.2 Members were pleased to note the revision to the statement of common ground, as outlined in 6.7 of the report created provision for a school development on the site, given the proposed increase in housing and demography in the area.

All Members

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5.3 The Panel noted and discussed the plans for a development of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to replace the current site at Cole Green.

5.4 Further to discussion it was agreed that given the likelihood of the increase in demography, consistent emphasis and clarity should be given to ensuring that any planned development of a HWRC should be on an area on land of a mimumum of 1ha, as outlined in 5.1 of the report, but not reiterated at point 6.4.

Sarah  
McLaughlin

5.8 **CONCLUSION:**  
The Panel considered and commented on the report and recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet recommend that County Council approves the revision to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and Hearing Statement for Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Policy SP14 in relation to the land at New Barnfield as set out in paragraph 6.7 of the Report.

## 6. **WASTE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW, SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE INITIAL CONSULTATION**

Officer Contact: Hannah Regis, Planning Officer, Tel: (01992) 556051

6.1 Members noted the report on the Waste Local Plan Review, detailing the summary of the representations made during the initial consultation of the waste local plan, and the options for the direction of travel for the next steps of the review.

6.2 In response to a Member challenge, it was established that independent consultants were being considered as an option to identify sites for future waste development as this would ensure transparency in terms of the decision making. Assurance was received, that independent consultants would only be commissioned, if officers were confident that this would be the option with the highest possibility of success.

6.3 **CONCLUSION:**  
The Panel

- I. noted the schedule of representations to the consultation and the suggested response to them (as attached in Appendix 1 to the report).
- II. considered the recommended option of a 'Call for Sites' as set out in Section 7 which directed the way forward for the next steps of the Waste Local Plan review.

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7. **BUS SERVICES ACT 2017**

Officer Contact: Matt Lale, Passenger Transport Manager  
Tel (01992) 588633

- 7.1 Members considered a report detailing the progress of the implementation of the Bus Act 2017 for Hertfordshire related issues.
- 7.2 It was noted that to date, the council had experienced challenges in obtaining data such as passenger numbers from bus operators, so the legislation outlined in the Bus Act for open data to be available was viewed as a positive development.
- 7.3 In response to a Member concern regarding how sustainable an Enhanced Partnership model would be, assurance was received that the Bus Act legislation would be legally binding, so this would enforce compliance by all partners.
- 7.4 Members learnt if an Enhanced Partnership model were to be introduced, this would reduce the need for the Local Authority to be responsible for franchising of the networks, which was currently perceived to not be a popular or practical option by council officers or bus operators.
- 7.5 A Member comment that Highways colleagues ought to be consulted in any discussions on bus routes, due to the challenges faced by drivers in navigating parked cars in town centres and small villages was noted.
- 7.6 **CONCLUSION:**  
The Cabinet Panel noted the report and that noted that officers would be bringing an updated draft Intalink/Bus Strategy to Panel later in the year which would incorporate suggestions and proposals for a Hertfordshire response to the Bus Act.

8. **NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT, “SLOW THE FLOW” IN HERTFORDSHIRE 2017/18 TO 2020/21 – YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT**

Officer Contact: John Rumble, Head of Environmental Resource Planning, Tel: (01992) 556296

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8.1 Members received a report detailing the progress of the natural flood management (NFM) project funded by the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC) in Hertfordshire.

8.2 The Panel were advised that the options outlined in the paper were all 'high level' options, none of which would fully solve the potential challenges caused by flooding, but would reduce the impact it would have.

8.3 Local Member N H Hollinghurst stated that he felt that a strengthening of relationship with Thames Water would be beneficial to any future developments in the project. Cllr Hollinghurst highlighted the difficulties experienced by Hertfordshire residents in a recent incident where a storm caused a power outage at a local sewer plant, causing flooding in residents gardens, and the difficulties presented to residents in getting this resolved.

8.4 Members were advised to continue to encourage residents to report any incidents of flooding to the council either online or by telephone.

All Members

8.5 Further to discussion, it was agreed that council officers would approach appropriate Thames Water officers with the view to inviting them to a future meeting of Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy Cabinet Panel to discuss what strategies they had adopted to reduce the risk of flooding and explore opportunities for collaborative work with the council to improve the resilience within the county.

John Rumble

8.6 In response to a Member comment on the methodology used by Welwyn Hatfield council in draining flooded marshland, it was noted that the methodology used was not a practical or economically viable solution on a countywide level.

8.7 **CONCLUSION:**

Cabinet Panel noted the content of the report on the Natural Flood Management Project.

9. **REGIONAL FLOOD AND COSTAL COMMITTEE FUNDING**

Officer Contact:  
Ryan Thomas, Schemes and Partnerships Officer, Tel: (01992) 556549

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- 9.1 Members received a report on the projects that have been submitted to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) 6 year programmes 2015-21 and 2021-27.
- 9.2 In response to a panel member query it was clarified that in 6.2 of the report the Kings Langley Flood Alleviation Scheme was proposed in the Surface Water Management Plan for Dacorum and not North Hertfordshire.
- 9.3 During discussion it was explained that in order to receive one source of funding for flood risk management projects, the council is required to pay in to two local levy funding schemes; the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (£920k) and the Anglian Central Flood and Coastal Committee (£65k), to which they then submit bids for funding.
- 9.4 It was noted that further funding is received from the national Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid.
- 9.5 Members acknowledged that although both pots of funding were available there was the expectation of central government that any funding gaps should be sourced through partnership funding.

**CONCLUSION:**

- 9.6 Members noted the report on regional and coastal committee funding.

**10. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SOUTH WEST HERTS GROWTH & TRANSPORT PLAN**

Officer Contact:

Rupert Thacker, Highways - Group Manager for South West Herts and Head of Profession Policy, Strategy & ITP Tel: (01992) 658176

- 10.1 Members were presented with a report detailing the proposed public consultation on the South West Herts Growth and Transport Plan.
- 10.2 Members discussed the packages outlined in the report and in particular Package 4 and requested that further consideration be given to increasing the frequency of trains on the line.
- 10.3 The Panel also noted that further consideration should be given to the plans outlined for the M25/M1/A405 link as this was a crucial through route for commuters travelling to the west of the county.

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| 10.4  | During discussion, it was agreed that further detail should be provided within the plan regards to how the growth predictions were calculated.   | Rupert Thacker |
| 10.5  | A Member suggestion that increased investment in e-bikes should be considered was noted.   |                |
| 10.6  | The format and presentation of the Consultation Summary (Appendix A) was discussed in detail by Members.   |                |
| 10.7  | In response to a Member challenge that the questions within the public consultation gave no provision for the public to partially agree with the individual package propositions, if they did not agree with all elements within them, it was agreed to add 'partially agree' to the options for the questions, and to ensure that clarity was added to the wording for the comments area to encourage the public to provide as much detail as to which areas they only partially agreed with and why. | Rupert Thacker |
| 10.8  | Members also expressed concern about the level of detail, the layout and the colours used within the consultation summary. Members suggested that in its current format, it would be challenging for the public to understand and engage with the consultation.  |                |
| 10.9  | It was acknowledged that the nature of the consultation meant that there was a was a lot of information to consider, however, officers agreed to review the consultation document, given the concerns expressed by the Panel.  | Rupert Thacker |
| 10.10 | Members received assurance that the public would have access to the consultation through various methods other than it being available online, for example via public noticeboards and residents groups.   |                |
| 10.11 | Further to a Member challenge, it was agreed that the deadline for the conclusion of the consultation would be extended if necessary to ensure that adequate opportunity is available for the district councils to discuss the consultation within their relevant planning committees.   |                |
| 10.12 | <b>CONCLUSIONS:</b><br>That the Cabinet Panel considered the draft South West Herts Growth & Transport Plan Prospectus, the draft South West Herts Growth & Transport Plan Consultation Summary (Appendix A), the draft Consultation Communication Strategy (Appendix B) and Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix C).  |                |

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10.13 The Cabinet Panel commented on the content of the draft SWH GTP Prospectus, the draft Consultation Summary and the draft Consultation Communication Strategy.

10.14 The Cabinet Panel noted the intention to hold an eight-week public consultation on the South West Herts Growth & Transport Plan from mid-July 2018.

**11. A PROPOSAL BY RT HON DAME CHERYL GILLAN DBE MP TO EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE CHILTERN'S AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY BECOMING A NATIONAL PARK**

Officer Contact:

Tony Bradford, Head of Countryside and Rights of Way Tel: (01992) 556028

Paul Donovan, Team Leader Strategic Land Use Tel: (01992) 556289

11.1 Members considered a report detailing the suggested response to a proposal by the Rt Hon Dame Cheryl Gillan DBE to explore the opportunity of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty becoming a National Park.

11.2 The Panel were advised of an amendment to the recommendation outlined in the report as follows:

The Panel note the contents of the report and supports further investigation of the opportunity for the Chilterns AONB becoming a National Park. It requests that in undertaking this work the Chilterns Conservation Board take account of the points raised in section 9-11 of this report and in due course provide a detailed update to this Panel on the outcome of the investigations. At this stage if necessary the County Council can take an informed formal position to the merits of such an application.

**CONCLUSION:**

Members noted the report and supported the opportunity for the Chilterns Area of Natural Beauty becoming a national park.

**12. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

12.1 There was no other Part I business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

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