



HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership March 2021

Introduction

HIPP comprises the planning/transport portfolio holders and heads of planning from the eleven councils in Hertfordshire as well as representation from Herts LEP and others.

The current Chair is Cllr Linda Haysey and the current Vice-Chair is Cllr Derrick Ashley.

The partnership is supported by Herts Planning Group, comprising heads of planning and invited guests, as well as sub-groups which bring together planning policy managers and development management managers.

Terms of Reference

HIPP's overarching purpose is *"to provide a forum to discuss and develop a shared view and to propose joint work programmes on planning and infrastructure issues of common concern, working co-operatively within Hertfordshire and across county borders, according to the principles of localism and the duty to cooperate."*

Its other key objectives include:

- to work with partners such as Herts LEP, Herts Forward, the Local Transport Body, Herts Local Nature Partnership and others to develop and propose joint approaches to common issues
- to highlight the potential for and ensure co-ordination between emerging local plans and joint strategic plans in the county
- for the chair to represent the partnerships on external bodies such as Herts Growth Board and the Local Transport Body for Hertfordshire

The partnership is not a formal decision-making body and does not fetter the decision-making processes of individual authorities or Herts Growth Board.

Achievements

The partnership has had a number of recent outputs and successes:

- preparing a Herts Water Study to inform Local Plans and Infrastructure Delivery Plans
- preparing the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Funding Prospectus (HIFP) to understand the totality of infrastructure and services required to supported expected housing and job growth rates in the county

- progressing a countywide Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy
- co-ordinating a countywide response to the Planning White Paper and other government consultation exercises such as permitted development rights
- co-ordinating countywide input into the London Plan and South East collaboration programme
- keeping planning portfolio holders up-to-date on countywide issues and sharing best practice on issues like Article 4 Directions
- receiving presentations from a wide variety of bodies and topics, such as BRE's home quality mark, Herts LEP's construction skills academy, the GLA's viability protocol, Epping Forest Council's digital innovation zone, HCC Intalink partnership, Affinity Water's water resources management plan, etc.
- pushing for the creation of Hertfordshire Growth Board and the involvement of Leaders and Chief Executives in the countywide growth and infrastructure agenda

The Future

HIPP has recently debated its future and concluded that there remains a strong desire from planning portfolio holders and heads of planning to meet on a regular basis to discuss countywide planning and infrastructure issues. The partnership encourages cooperation, shares learning and best practice and achieves economies-of-scale.

Key challenges on the horizon include: implementation of Planning White Paper proposals, changes to Section 106 and the Infrastructure Levy, reviews of Local Plans, preparation of joint strategic plans, an early review of the London Plan, greater South-East collaboration, biodiversity net gain and recovery plans for local economies and town centres.

It is recommended that HIPP should regularly report into Herts Growth Board on its action plan and progress.

It is recommended that Herts Growth Board should regard HIPP as one its working groups to help progress planning and infrastructure projects.

Administration

HIPP members used to contribute £4,000 per authority to fund work and an administrator to arrange meetings, agendas and minutes, attend meetings on behalf of the partnership and draft reports and responses to consultations. This has more recently been done by the Chair of Herts Planning Group but is challenging to sustain on a formal basis. HIPP will therefore re-debate the best way of administering itself and delivering projects at a forthcoming meeting.