

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 4 November 2014

Subject: Planning Policy Portfolio Holder

Portfolio Holder: Cllr R Bassett

Recommending:

That the report of the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder be noted.

Local Plan

Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Work continues on this key pieces of work that is underway for our SHMA area. It is being done by Opinion Research Services and is using the latest Phase 6 Demographic Numbers that were commissioned by EPOA. Previously we had Demographic numbers which were Phase 4A. This latest phase incorporates updated 'official' statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This new evidence includes key assumptions from the 2012-based *national* population projection, plus area-specific data on fertility, mortality and migration which drive the 25-year, 2012-based sub-national population projections (SNPP). This new evidence is presented alongside revised jobs-led scenarios and the previous 2010-based SNPP.

All scenarios in Phase 6 have been formulated using POPGROUP 'version 4' technology, a 2014 upgrade to the forecasting software which incorporates important methodological changes, specifically to align more closely with ONS methods. The use of this latest phase is important to ensure our plan is based on the most recent information and this is what any inspector would be looking for.

We have just received some emerging findings of this updated study and these need to be understood and reviewed by officers and Cabinet. Both the SHMA and economic work will help identify our objectively assessed needs for the District. We are looking at presenting these emerging findings at a Member briefing on the economic work and the SHMA which we are targeting to be held on the 17th of November where we are also hoping Edge Analytics and ORS will be present to answer questions.

Duty to Cooperate

The first meeting of a Members' "Duty to Co-operate" Board, which included many members from our neighbouring authorities took place on the 20th October here at Epping. This represents an important step forward in demonstrating that the Duty to Co-operate is operating at a political level. This is an advisory group which will consider cross-boundary issues such as transport and other infrastructure, amongst other things, and it will make recommendations to be taken back to individual councils. The group includes Harlow, Uttlesford, Broxbourne and East Herts and Essex and Herts County Councils, as well as the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Enfield and Waltham Forest. EFDC have been integral in organising the group. A decision was made at the October meeting to approve the group's Terms of

reference and to support Junction 7a and receive an update on the updated SHMA

Options for Growth Workshops

In line with the approach requested by Cabinet members, a series of three workshops, organised on an Area Planning Committee basis, was held in September/early October to engage members in the process of identifying options to be tested. The workshops produced a great many ideas and steer from Councillors, which are being written up by the officers. Once this is complete I will communicate the key points from all of them to all Members in a letter.

Training

This week I attended a very good training course arranged by the Planning Advisory Services for Councillors involved in producing Local Plans called “**Leadership Essentials: Producing Your Local Plan**” . This looked any all the areas and discussed issues involved when producing Local Plans. We also were fortunate in having a half-day session with a senior PINS inspector who discussed with us what Inspectors were looking for and what their issues are.

North Weald Bassett Airfield and Village Master planning

The North Weald Bassett masterplan final report from the consultants was accepted into the evidence base by Cabinet on October 6th.

Neighbourhood plans

At the time of writing we await formal submission of the Moreton Bobbingworth and the Lavers Neighbourhood Plan to EFDC. The formal process of consultation followed by Examination will then commence.

The designation of Epping Neighbourhood Area was approved by Cabinet on the 6th of October.

Applications for Neighbourhood Area designation have been received by Buckhurst Hill Town Council and North Weald Bassett Parish Council. A formal designation consultation has begun and will end on the 31st of October.

Lee Valley Food Task Force

As previously stated the task force is progressing rapidly with our focus on five major work streams.

1. Planning
2. Food Summit
3. Employment Work stream
4. Skills Work stream
5. National Institute for Food Security

At our last meeting we agreed an interim report which I will place a copy in the members room. With our limited resources we are looking at concentrating our resources where they will have the most effectiveness.