

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 19 December 2023

Subject: Place Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Nigel Bedford

Recommending:

That the report of the Place Portfolio Holder be noted.

1. Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT)

EFDC officers continue to liaise with key stakeholders across the five Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) authorities and relevant site promoters. This is undertaken in the context of wider Garden Town activities. Key updates in terms of the Garden Town are:

- Inter Authority Agreement for a Joint Committee is due to be taken to a full Council meeting for consideration.
- HGGT Draft Stewardship Charter has been developed and was subject to public consultation between 7th August 2023 and 1st October 2023.
- Updated HGGT Infrastructure Delivery Plan was approved by HGGT Board in September and has been subject of a EFDC portfolio holder report for noting as technical evidence.
- HGGT Strategic Economic Framework was approved by HGGT Board in September and has been subject of a EFDC portfolio holder report for noting as technical evidence.
- The Laton Priory Design Code has been subject to a public consultation and will be reviewed following the feedback with the intention of seeking endorsement for the final version in early 2023.
- Officers are currently engaged with the promoters of the Water Lane masterplan and it is anticipated that the masterplan will be developed further throughout 2024.
- The East of Harlow masterplanning guidance Supplementary Planning Document consultation has concluded and officers are working with Harlow Council officers on the review and updating of the document. It is anticipated that this will be finalised for endorsement in early 2024.

2. Other Strategic Masterplans

The public consultation on the draft North Weald Bassett Strategic Masterplanning Framework has commenced and will run through to 16th January 2024. Thereafter feedback will be reviewed and amendments to the masterplan made as is appropriate.

The site promoters of the South Epping masterplan are engaged with Council officers on the development of a Strategic Masterplan for the site. A fixed programme has not yet been agreed but public consultation on a draft masterplan is anticipated to take place in 2024.

The developers of the Waltham Abbey North masterplan are engaged with officers and receipt of a draft Strategic Masterplan Framework document is currently awaited.

3. Climate Change

Climate Change Steering Group

Two meetings of the Climate Change Steering Group have now taken place with the terms of reference and objectives of the group agreed. The objectives of the group have an internal focus and include the sharing of information on climate related projects and best practice, facilitating the progress of actions, and the monitoring and reporting of progress.

As a first step the group are collating information on climate related projects organisation wide, with a focus on how these meet actions in the climate change action plan and the carbon impact these projects will have once complete.

Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2

The Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 scheme from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, provides energy efficiency funding for private tenure, off-grid, low income and hard to heat households. The scheme is open for applications from residents of Epping Forest District Council and will run until March 2025.

For this round of the scheme the financial criteria has changed, residents are eligible if they live in Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Income Deciles 1-3. Our Managing Agents will be contacting residents who are likely to be eligible for the scheme and the Council will also be conducting a wider marketing campaign.