


**SWHERTS**

Joint Strategic Plan

YOUR FUTURE

**SW Herts JSP Strategic Planning Officer Group (SPOG) Meeting**

 10am, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 – MS Teams

**NOTES OF MEETING**
**Attendees**

SWH Herts JSP Programme	Chris Outtersides (Chair) Laura Wood	CO LW
St Albans C&D	Chris Briggs	CB
Watford BC	Jack Green (first hour) Tom Shaw	JG TS
Three Rivers DC	Marko Kalik	MK
Dacorum BC	Francis Whittaker	FW
Herts CC	Ashley Baldwin	AB

Item	Notes & Actions	Action Owner
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Gerard Woods at HBC.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Notes from the previous meeting and actions arising</b>  All relevant matters from the meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> October were actioned or appear on this agenda apart from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCC (education) comments on draft infrastructure report still outstanding and are now overdue. AB to chase.</li> <li>- LW to resend DBC email on FOI to CB.</li> </ul>	<b>AB</b> <b>LW</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>  TS introduced the climate change paper noting that the paper had been prepared to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stimulate discussion amongst SPOG;</li> <li>- Pose several questions for consideration;</li> <li>- Consider the approaches taken by other strategic planning partnerships; and</li> <li>- Revisit the conclusions reached by the University of Herts as part of their advice in 2021.</li> </ul>	

	<p>TS also noted that the JSP team had met with Julie Greaves (HCC) to discuss the paper and that the approach to climate change being taken by Liverpool City Region would be discussed at a meeting to be scheduled for later in November.</p> <p>In conclusion, it was the view of the JSP team that, while climate change will be a key element of the JSP, it is not prudent to commission further climate change evidence for the time being, for the reasons set out in the paper.</p> <p>The following was noted / agreed by the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CB confirmed that, while he agreed that additional climate change evidence wouldn't be needed at this stage, it will be important that DLA continue to look at climate change as a potential growth option scenario / scenarios;</li> <li>- CB and JG noted that the wording of any climate change references should be consistent with the approach taken by the districts, and specifically any terminology around what 'zero carbon' means and what is and what isn't included in this commitment. This messaging will be particularly important when briefing Members, in particular any resultant impacts of zero carbon targets;</li> <li>- CB noted that there may be a strategic piece of work around water and flooding that the JSP could coordinate. LW confirmed that TS was currently preparing a short water position statement and would revert back to SPOG in due course;</li> <li>- CB confirmed that any additional evidence required in the future would need to be clearly scoped and costed as there was currently additional scrutiny around anything that had budget implications at SADC.</li> </ul> <p>In concluding, and subject to the above caveats, the group were happy with the approach taken in the paper.</p> <p>CO noted that, while not directly relevant to the paper, it will be important that the JSP continues to be represented wherever possible at district, SWH and County level meetings/groupings.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TS to amend paper and circulate final version amongst SPOG.</b></li> <li>• <b>CO and LW to ensure that the JSP continues to be represented at meetings/groupings where appropriate</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>TS</b></p> <p><b>CO/LW</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>SPMG Workshop</b></p> <p>CO confirmed that a draft workshop note had been prepared by DLA with input from the JSP team and this had been circulated to SPOG in advance of the meeting for comments,</p> <p>CO requested that any further comments be passed to him ASAP so that the note could be finalised and used to brief Cllr Saffery, Cllr Giles-Medhurst and circulated more widely to SPMG as a record of the workshop.</p>	

	<b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ALL to advise CO of any comments on draft workshop note.</b></li> <li>• <b>CO to arrange briefings with Cllr Saffery and Giles-Medhurst once workshop note has been agreed.</b></li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b>  <b>CO</b>
5	<b>R18 Vision Reporting Update</b> <p>LW advised that the amended vision and objectives had now been endorsed by all of the authorities. A 'stand alone' vision statement (appended to agenda) had therefore been put together by LW with graphics input from Penknife. Once SPOG were happy with its content, it, together with the updated SA Scoping Report would need to be send to SG / SPMG for final approval prior to publication.</p> <p>As agreed previously, a draft press release has also been drafted and was circulated in advance of the meeting. Any comments on the draft PR should be passed to CO and LW ASAP.</p> <p>CB noted that SADC would be in PURDAH until c7th December due to a by-election. Following discussion it was agreed that any release should therefore be delayed until the w/c 11/12.</p> <p>LW also confirmed that Penknife had been instructed to make final changes to the vision document.</p> <b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ALL to review PR and vision document and pass any comments to LW and CO.</b></li> <li>• <b>ALL to advice CO of district comms officers' contact details.</b></li> <li>• <b>CO to liaise with district comms officers to agree release.</b></li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b> <b>ALL</b> <b>CO</b>  <b>LW</b>
6	<b>Technical Work Updates</b> <p><b>Green Belt</b> LW advised that the con with Graeme Keen KC had been arranged for the 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9am. ARUP and DLA would be attending along with the JSP team. LW confirmed that she would prepare a note and circulate amongst SPOG.</p> <p><b>Infrastructure</b> HCC education comments are still outstanding. LW confirmed that all other comments had now been passed to ARUP with a revised report expected on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>SGLS</b> CO confirmed that DLA were currently working on the next phase of work following the SPMG workshop and the identification of spatial options. Timing wise, this will likely lead to DLA presenting to SPOG in January on their proposed approach. This will be followed by SG in early February and SPMG in late February.</p> <p>LW noted that she was preparing a list of possible regeneration sites for consideration in the SGLS 'sieve'. This was based on a minimum of 500 x units and for those areas/sites that could extend</p>	

	<p>beyond the current local plan period. This would be circulated for review and then inclusion in the SGLS mapping for spatial options.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ALL to advise LW if they wanted to attend the con with Graeme Keen.</b></li> <li>• <b>LW to circulate note of potential regen sites for review.</b></li> <li>• <b>ALL to advise LW on potential regeneration sites for inclusion in the SGLS.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>LW</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>PropTech Updates</b></p> <p><u>Continuous Funding</u></p> <p>CO advised that Alma Economic were about to be appointed to carry out the representations reporting project. This would assist districts with any consultation reporting from early 2024 onwards and would be available for use free of charge.</p> <p><u>Round 3</u></p> <p>Work on the dashboard was progressing well and Prior &amp; Partners would be attending SPOG on 24/11 to demonstrate it in action.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CO to invite Alma Economics to a future meeting.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CO</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Local Plan Updates</b></p> <p>FW advised that consultation on a revised R18 Local Plan had commenced on 30/11 for 6 x weeks.</p> <p>MK confirmed that a targeted sites R18 consultation had commenced on the 27/10 for 6 x weeks.</p> <p>CB confirmed that SADC were currently reviewing responses to their R18 process.</p> <p>LW confirmed that a revised LDS would be considered by HBC at their next Cabinet. This proposed both another R18 and R19 consultation in 2024, with submission in 2025.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>LW reminded the districts that the action to check the settlement population data provided by HCC was still outstanding. Any feedback should be passed direct to Amy at HCC.</p> <p>CO advised that the North East Central group had their second vision workshop on 16/10.</p> <p>AB queried whether SG and/or SPMG would benefit from a briefing on the LURA and any impact it could have on the JSP and its transition to an SDS. LW and CO confirmed that a meeting had been set up with DLUHC to discuss the Regulations and that an update would be provided at the next SPOG meeting.</p>	

	<b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CO/LW to update SPOG on DLUHC discussions</b></li> </ul>	<b>LW/CO</b>
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