

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 16 JANUARY 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND TRANSPORT

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE - UPDATE REPORT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report presents the notes of the latest round of Member-level meetings with adjoining Local Planning Authorities

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE
PANEL AND EXECUTIVE: That:**

(A)	the notes of recent Member-level meetings with Broxbourne, Epping Forest and Welwyn Hatfield Councils, be noted.
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RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL: That:

(A)	the notes of recent Member-level meetings with Broxbourne, Epping Forest and Welwyn Hatfield Councils, be agreed.
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1.0 Background

1.1 A report to the District Planning Executive Panel on 28th November 2012 (see Background Papers) explained the background to the Duty to Co-Operate and its implications for the East Herts District Plan. The report explained that the duty required the Council as Local Planning Authority to engage constructively with a range of bodies at the formative stages of plan-making. The duty also applies to other public sector bodies such as the County Council.

1.2 The report of 28th November 2012 explained that one of the most complex areas of the duty is around the issue of cross-boundary

strategic priorities, in particular in relation to the issue of unmet housing need, which applies in the case of districts with little physical capacity to accommodate their housing and development needs.

- 1.3 The report sought agreement for the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Transport to be authorised to represent East Herts Council in meetings with the relevant Member(s) from neighbouring local planning authorities, Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils, and other relevant bodies.
- 1.4 It was agreed that the notes of all Member-level meetings would be reported back to the District Planning Executive Panel. Member-level meetings with Welwyn Hatfield Borough, Stevenage Borough, and North Herts District were reported in the Duty to Co-Operate Update Report of 25th July 2013. The same report also included a summary of the main cross-boundary issues for each of the seven adjoining Local Planning Authorities.
- 1.5 A further Duty to Co-Operate Update Report to the District Planning Executive Panel on 3rd December 2013 detailed that additional Duty to Co-Operate meetings had taken place with Harlow and Uttlesford Councils and notes of these meetings were reported.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 Subsequent to the Duty to Co-Operate meetings detailed above, further meetings have taken place with Broxbourne, Epping Forest and Welwyn Hatfield Councils. The notes of all of these meetings are attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. Broxbourne, Epping Forest and Welwyn Hatfield Councils have agreed the notes of the meetings as presented here.
- 2.2 A webpage has been set up on the Council's website so that notes of all meetings can be easily accessed by interested parties. The friendly URL for the webpage is: www.eastherts.gov.uk/DutytoCooperate. Notes of any further meetings undertaken will be added as they become publicly available.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 3rd December 2013)
- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 25th July 2013)
- 'The Duty to Co-Operate' and East Herts District Plan (District Planning Executive Panel, 28th November 2012)

All reports may be accessed at:

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=151>

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