

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER C

Response to LSCC

To: Alexandra Jones
Chairman LSCC

Dear Alexandra

As a member of the LSCC, we felt it would be helpful to you, and the board, to set out our views on the Commission's report.

East Herts is supportive of the five priorities set out in the report. One of our key priorities is to maintain the quality of life for our residents whilst ensuring on-going prosperity within the district and UK Plc as a whole. A strong corridor helps us to achieve this.

There is of course a great deal of convergence with the findings in the Growth Commission report and our own District Plan, which was approved for pre-submission consultation by Council on 22nd September and which we are hoping to submit to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2017. The District Plan includes a section on the vision for the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Core Area up to 2050 (see Chapter 2, section 2.6). We have also been working collaboratively with Harlow, Uttlesford and Epping Forest Councils on their local plans, including taking a strategic view of housing and infrastructure needs.

We are of course concerned that the scale of growth outlined in the report may impact upon environmental quality and an already over stretched transport network in the area. We are keen to ensure that investment in these areas is in line with overall growth and believe good progress is being made across the 4 districts (and with other organisations as part of the duty to co-operate including Hertfordshire County Council and Essex County Council). We would not want any of that progress to be undone but do believe there may be a need for a wider, strategic view across the corridor on infrastructure needs. As such we support the priority of new powers and financial vehicles for infrastructure, housing and placemaking in principle and would be keen to have further discussion about what this means.

We support the priority of place making for tech and life sciences. Although East Herts is, and will no doubt continue to be a net exporter of skills and expertise we are also keen to retain a local employment and business base. We see this as complementary to a strong, successful corridor. It is with that in mind that we would like to raise the profile of Bishop's Stortford as a potential site for attracting inward investment (not just as a direct consequence of growth at Stansted). The proposals for housing growth around the town make provision for new employment land. Alongside our emerging planning framework for the town centre which will include mixed use development proposals we believe a strong platform exists to attract businesses to the area. Research by *Business Stortford* in the Summer of this year identified 20 life/ bioscience organisations that have located to the area in recent years. With LSCC support as an advocate for the corridor, and subject to the right infrastructure investment, we believe Bishop's Stortford could be a much more prominent business location. We welcomed the opportunity to showcase our plans to the LSCC Board at its recent meeting, held in Bishop's Stortford, on 6th October and

hope to continue dialogue with you as we move forward.

Lastly we support the priority of deepening the relationship with London. We are keen to ensure engagement and dialogue about the growth plans for London and the implications for the surrounding areas given the emerging references to the potential of transport corridors to absorb growth in future. As a member of the wider South East Steering Group I will represent both the interests of East Herts and the corridor in these discussions as fully as possible.

Councillor Linda Haysey
Leader of East Herts Council