

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

#### REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

#### DUTY TO CO-OPERATE UPDATE REPORT

WARD(S) AFFECTED:     ALL

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#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report presents the notes of the latest Member-level meetings with adjoining local authorities

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL:</u></b> That Council, via the Executive, be advised that:	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>the notes of the Member-level meetings held with neighbouring local authorities be noted.</b>

#### 1.0     Background

1.1     A report to the District Planning Executive Panel on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 throughout the plan-making process in order to address strategic cross boundary issues.

1.2     It was agreed that the notes of all Member-level meetings would be reported to District Planning Executive Panel. All previously agreed minutes have been published online at [www.eastherts.gov.uk/DutytoCooperate](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/DutytoCooperate).

#### 2.0     Report

2.1     This report presents the minutes of the following bilateral Duty to Co-operate meetings:

- Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, March 2015;
- Stevenage Borough Council, March 2015;
- Uttlesford District Council, April 2015; and
- North Hertfordshire District Council, July 2015.

2.2 In addition, the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board (known as the Co-op Board) was established in 2014 in order to facilitate strategic level co-operation between the following authorities: East Herts, Broxbourne, Harlow, Epping Forest, Uttlesford, Chelmsford, Redbridge, Enfield, Waltham Forest and Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils. The Terms of Reference for this group were presented to Panel on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014. To date, there have been three 'Co-op Board' meetings.

2.3 The minutes from all of the meetings identified above are presented within **Essential Reference Paper B**. Notes of any further meetings will be presented to future Panel meetings as required.

2.4 As work on the District Plan continues to progress, it is expected that a series of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU's) will be agreed with neighbouring local authorities, and other bodies where considered appropriate. The MoU's will identify how strategic cross boundary issues have been addressed. A number of authorities across the country have had their Local Plans found 'unsound' at Examination in recent months on the basis that they have not adequately demonstrated that they have met the requirements of the duty. The MoU's referred to above will therefore form a key piece of evidence in support of the District Plan moving forward to Examination.

2.5 There will be a series of further Duty to Co-operate meetings as work on the District Plan progresses.

### 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, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014)
- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014)
- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 16 January 2014)
- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013)
- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013)
- 'The Duty to Co-Operate' and East Herts District Plan (District Planning Executive Panel, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012)

All reports may be accessed at:

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

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