

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 25 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE UPDATE REPORT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

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

RECOMMENDATION FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL: That Council, via the Executive, be advised that:

(A)	the notes of the Member-level meetings held with neighbouring local authorities be noted; and
(B)	the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to prepare, agree and sign Memoranda of Understanding with neighbouring local authorities, and other bodies, as appropriate.

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 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.

2.0 Report

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

- Broxbourne Borough Council, January 2016;
- Broxbourne Borough Council, January 2015
- Broxbourne Borough Council, November 2014.

2.2 Members will note that two of the meetings with Broxbourne took place some time ago in late 2014 and early 2015. The minutes of these meetings were not previously presented to Panel as, at that stage, Broxbourne did not want details of their emerging Local Plan made public. However, as they have recently published a Local Plan Framework document which identifies their emerging proposals, the minutes have now been agreed.

2.3 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 8th December 2014. In recent months, there have been three meetings of the Co-op Board.

2.4 The minutes from all of the meetings identified above are presented within **Essential Reference Paper B**.

2.5 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.

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, 10th September 2015)
- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 8th December 2014)
- Duty to Co-Operate Update Report (District Planning Executive Panel, 22nd 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, 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>

Contact Member: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council
linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe - Head of Planning and Building Control
01992 531407
kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Chris Butcher - Principal Planning Policy Officer
chris.butcher@eastherts.gov.uk