

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report seeks to provide an update with regards to ongoing work on the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

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

(A)	the ongoing work in relation to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town be noted.
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1.0 Background

1.1 In October 2016, East Herts Council, working jointly with Harlow and Epping Forest Councils, submitted an expression of interest in response to the Government's Locally Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities prospectus. The Government subsequently advised that it would support the proposal for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town in January 2017. The support offered thus far includes payments totalling £675,000 in order to help fund any necessary technical work. The joint working Councils have also bid for further funding for the current 2017/2018 financial year. The outcome of this bid should be known in late summer or autumn.

2.0 Report

2.1 Following the confirmation of Government support, a number of workstreams have been progressed in relation to the Garden Town. In June 2017, two consultancies were commissioned by the joint working Councils in order to undertake specific pieces of work. Arup have been appointed in order to provide project

management support for an interim period. This work has included the establishment of governance arrangements for the Garden Town. In addition, Arup are currently facilitating two specific areas of work relating to the establishment of a Design Review Panel and the creation of Sustainable Transport Corridors. A paper detailing this work was presented to the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board on 31st July. The paper forms **Essential Reference Paper B** to this report.

2.2 In addition, Allies and Morrison have been commissioned to undertake some visioning and design work for the Garden Town. This work, which is expected to be completed in November, has so far included:

- A review of adopted and emerging planning policies from the constituent local authorities;
- An urban design, landscape and transport baseline review to understand the key characteristics of Harlow and the surrounding area;
- A review of good practice and key trends nationally;
- Stakeholder interviews and workshop.

2.3 The information gathered through this process will form part of a Stage 1 report. The next stage is to use those outcomes to inform a spatial vision and design charter for the various sites that will comprise the Garden Town. It is envisaged that this work will subsequently inform detailed masterplanning work in due course.

2.4 Further work in relation to the Garden Town will take place over the coming months. Further updates will therefore be presented to this Panel as appropriate in due course.

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

None

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