

## Reports from Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies 2019/2020

### **Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board**

#### Purpose:

The Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board supports Local Plan making and delivery for sustainable communities across geographical and administrative boundaries in West Essex, East Hertfordshire and the adjoining London Boroughs. It does this by identifying and managing spatial planning issues that impact on more than one local planning area within these communities.

The Board is an advisory body and any decisions resulting from its advice remain the responsibility of its constituent Councils. Core membership of the Board comprises of representative Councillors and Council officers from Epping Forest, Harlow, Uttlesford, Broxbourne and East Herts districts, and Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils.

#### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey  
(Substitute: Cllr Jan Goodeve)

#### Update:

The co-op board meets less frequently now as the Garden Town Board has taken over a number of its functions however the co-op board has met twice in the last twelve months to discuss the issues affecting all our local and growth plans. I have attended all meetings held virtually.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **East of England LGA**

### Purpose:

The East of England LGA is a politically-led, cross party organisation which works on behalf of the 52 local councils in the East of England to harness their collective strength to shape and serve their communities and localities.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey

### Update:

I became Chair in June 2020, a position held for two years. In the past year EELGA has run a series of webinars/seminars looking at aspects of recovery for the region. It presents frequently to the APPG for the East of England. The Growth and Infrastructure Panel was established to co-ordinate responses to the London Plan in association with South East LGA and also considers a wider remit of infrastructure requirements, including digital. All meetings have been held virtually.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Board**

### Purpose:

To achieve effective co-operation across the administrative boundaries of East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow Councils and Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils in matters relating to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

Officers will work collaboratively across agreed Garden Town workstreams and progress will be reported to the Member Group.

The Board does not have any decision making powers, and is an informal group that will make recommendations to the constituent Councils when appropriate.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey  
Cllr Eric Buckmaster

### Update:

I attend the Harlow and Gilston Town Board as the representative for East Herts. A series of seminars is underway to determine future policies which will underpin the development of the garden town. All meetings have been held virtually.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnership**

### Purpose:

The Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) provides a forum to discuss and, where appropriate, develop a shared view and agree joint work programmes on infrastructure and planning issues of common concern. A key objective is to work co-operatively within Hertfordshire and across the county borders according to the principles of localism and the duty to co-operate.

The partnership has developed new terms of reference following the creation of the Herts Growth Board. The HIPP will work closely with the HGB to ensure that the board is kept fully aware of planning and infrastructure needs. In 2018 HIPP commissioned the Infrastructure and Funding prospectus which details the funding requirements for each of the districts and boroughs.

The Chairman, or his or her deputy, represents the Partnership as appropriate on external bodies, including the Board of the Local Transport Body for Hertfordshire.

The Partnership is not a formal decision making-body and does not fetter the decision making processes of individual authorities. If individual authorities come to a different view from any collective Hertfordshire position they will ensure that all the other authorities are duly notified.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey (Substitute: Cllr Jan Goodeve)

### Update:

HIPP meets regularly to inform and procure work on infrastructure projects as requested by the Hertfordshire Growth. All meetings are virtual

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

### **LGA District Council Network**

Purpose:

The District Councils' Network is a cross-party member-led network of all 201 district councils in England. As a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), it provides a national voice for district councils within the LGA. It lobbies central government, the political parties and other stakeholders directly on behalf of its members, as well as commissioning research, providing support, and sharing best practice.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey

Update:

The DCN has met regularly over the past 12 months to keep all leaders up to date on all matters associated with the Covid pandemic. All meetings are virtual.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **Local Government Information Unit Assembly**

### Purpose:

The LGiU is a membership organisation, providing information, research and other services to over 150 councils, trade unions, universities and other organisations.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey

### Update:

The meetings are sporadic and I attend as necessary.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **Local Enterprise Partnership**

### Purpose:

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is focused on helping to drive forward sustainable economic growth – with local business, education providers, the third sector and the public sector working together to achieve this. It helps to foster the relationships for partnership working to flourish.

### East Hertfordshire District Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey (elected by Leaders at the Hertfordshire Leaders Meeting). I am the representative for the districts in the east of the county.

### Update:

The LEP board meets regularly and considers the funding requirements of projects for the county. There are 4 main board meetings a year.

Through my membership of the board, I sit on the Programme Management Committee.

I have attended all meetings which have been held virtually.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **The Innovation Corridor**

### Purpose:

The London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Consortium is a partnership of public and private organisations covering the area north of Tech City, the City Fringe, Kings Cross, and the Olympic Park, up through the Lee Valley and M11/A10, and West Anglia Rail corridors to Harlow and Stansted, and through to Cambridge. The partnership was formed to organise and promote a clear economic area, with strong inter-connections; commuting to work and learn patterns, clusters of industries and supply chains.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey

### Update:

The Innovation Corridor (previously called the LSCC) continues to make good progress in developing a coherent message for promoting growth along the corridor. A policy/briefing document has been produced outlining the benefits of investing in the Innovation Core which is the section not including London and Cambridge.

The LSCC board meets at least 4 times a year. There are also training sessions and ad hoc presentations and conferences

The districts and boroughs which make up the centre of the corridor – Broxbourne, East Herts, Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford work closely together to create an economic vision for this area.

Also, East Herts, both at a political and senior Officer level, is an active Member of those authorities in the middle of the corridor.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

**Transport East (EELGA)**

Purpose:

This is a forum lead by Essex County Council in order to consider the regions infrastructure requirements. They meet 4 times a year.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey (representing the districts in Hertfordshire)

Update:

Transport East has met 4 times in the last year. It is producing a strategy for the east of England (Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk) and looks at the infrastructure requirements for the region and transport requirements moving from ports into the Midlands. It works closely with the Heartland grouping of which Hertfordshire is a full member. It holds a conference once a year which is attended by a large number of businesses, agencies and local authorities. All meetings and the conference were held virtually.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **LGA General Assembly**

### Purpose:

A politically-led, cross-party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government. It aims to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they are able to deliver local solutions to national problems.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Linda Haysey

### Update:

The LGA holds a pivotal role in representing Local Authorities. I attend the LGA General Assembly and the executive in my capacity as chair of the EELGA. All meetings are held virtually.

Update provided by: Cllr Haysey

Date: April 2021

## **Bishop's Stortford Chamber of Commerce**

### Purpose:

The Bishop's Stortford Chamber of Commerce has been established for more than one hundred years and currently has a membership of more than ninety local businesses and organisations. Both the private and public sectors are represented, from retailers to manufacturers and from service industries to institutional bodies.

The Chamber Committee actively champions local projects and interests at local, regional and government level. The Chamber's sub-committee for Planning is active in putting forward to the District Council the Chamber's views, concerns and suggestions on various developments in and around the town.

The Committee consists of elected officers, the secretary and committee members plus co-opted representatives from the County, District and Town Councils and the Bishop's Stortford Police.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Graham McAndrew

### Update:

They are kept up to date with their membership of the monthly Shaping Stortford Steering Group which have now become 2 monthly.

Networking breakfasts and business lunches are the Chamber's main activities and were put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions

The Chamber is working in partnership with the Bishop's Stortford Business Improvement District (BID) and East Herts in communicating what business grants and rate relief is available for

the local business community.

The main purpose is for the council to have a close connection with the BSCC, and to inform them of any information they can then forward onto their members, and of course if they can be of help to the council.

Update provided by: Cllr McAndrew

Date: April 2021

## **PATROL (Parking & Traffic Regulations Outside London)**

### Purpose:

The joint committee of England and Wales (outside of London) for the civil enforcement of parking and traffic regulations outside London. It deals with the enforcement of parking tickets as well as parking and bus lane regulations for councils that are in the Civil Enforcement Scheme.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Graham McAndrew

### Update:

Meetings attended by East Herts representative, all by zoom

Update provided by: Cllr McAndrew

Date: April 2021

## **Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum**

Purpose: The Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum (HSF) is a county-wide strategic group of local authorities, third sector organisations and other partners working to raise awareness of environmental and sustainability issues across Hertfordshire. The Forum aims to bring together decision makers to develop environmental policies for the benefit of Hertfordshire as a whole and to raise awareness of key sustainability issues. HSF is hosted on rotation by the member authorities. It is currently hosted by East Herts District Council and meets quarterly.

East Herts Council Representative(s):  
Cllr Graham McAndrew

Update:

The Hertfordshire Sustainability forum has ceased to meet and has been superseded by the Hertfordshire Climate Change Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP)  
No meetings were held in this period.

Update provided by: Cllr McAndrew

Date: April 2021

## **Lee Valley Regional Park Authority**

### Purpose:

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority runs award winning open spaces and sports venues along the 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park. The park was created by a unique Act of Parliament as a “green lung” for London, Essex and Hertfordshire. Its approach is to be community focused and commercially driven, to work with partners to produce a unique combination of activities, sights and experiences.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Graham McAndrew and Cllr John Wyllie

### Update:

The Authority took back the 14 sport and leisure venues and their associated staff from the Trust and have been running the venues when they have been allowed to open.

Covid meant most venues were closed throughout the year, which has had a major impact on the financial situation.

The Authority has raised the precept by 2% this year to help off set the financial impact of Covid and it is hoped that the centres will be fully up and running as soon as possible as the lockdown restrictions ease.

Update provided by: Cllr John Wyllie

Date: April 2021

## **Network Homes – Hertford and Out of London Area Panel**

### Purpose:

To ensure local residents and elected members are able to influence the future quality of housing provision for residents in East Hertfordshire

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Stephen Reed and Cllr Carolyn Redfern

### Update:

This panel meets quarterly and is chaired and composed of a range of tenants from Network properties. Both East Herts panel members usually attend all of the meetings.

Over the course of the year Network Homes has consulted and informed on strategies to evoke positive interaction as well as dealing with complaints and requests. There have been discussions over rent arrears to the lockdown, parking problems, and systems of neighbourhood management. The Panel has also been consulted on their views about overcrowding, the need for more family homes and the strategies to persuade some residents to downsize. As with most organisations Network Homes wish upgrade their customer care department including to digitising their communications without compromising their service to more vulnerable residents.

They are trying to manage the Business Transformation plan sensitively and carefully using surveys of resident 'satisfaction' in an effort to do so. There is a very real fear and reluctance of many tenants to engage in this way but there are also plans to aid residents to access the necessary IT skills. Network homes are making strenuous efforts to follow up and solve maintenance issues. Although the organisation has no high-rise buildings in East Hertford there has been a good discussion on how the expense of dealing with ensuring safety in properties owned in Watford and London, could have an indirect impact on East Herts residents if the costs of

refurbishment cannot be met. Less revenue would mean a lower ability to build much needed homes. This is an ongoing problem that the organisation is trying to tackle through interest free loans to leaseholders in the affected buildings.

Update provided by: Cllr Reed and Cllr Redfern

Date: April 2021

## **Wodson Park Sports and Leisure Centre**

### Purpose:

A community based trust and registered charity established to provide sports facilities and promote healthy lifestyles to the people of East Hertfordshire.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

David Andrews

Rishi Fernando

Jan Goodeve

Ian Kemp

### Update:

Jan Stock and Stuart Storey are an effective partnership delivering a wide range of sports/activities to the community.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, facilities have been shut for much of the last year. The impact of Covid-19 on revenue has been severe. Jan Stock is liaising regularly with the Head of Operations at East Herts. It is possible that financial support may be required depending on ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

Update provided by: Cllr Goodeve

Date: April 2021

## **Local Government Mutual**

### Purpose:

To establish the Mutual's management and governance arrangements and oversee its launch. This involvement was termed 'Founding Member' by the LGA.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr George Cutting

### Update:

The opportunity did not develop as expected and we have heard no more from LGM since the last report. As a result we have pursued our options through our new brokers and existing providers

Update provided by: Cllr Cutting

Date: April 2021

## **Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board**

### Purpose:

To champion the welfare of the Armed Forces community in-line with the Hertfordshire Covenant.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Andrew Huggins

### Update:

The Covenant Board met twice this year, via virtual meeting. The Board has representatives from all District and Borough Councils within Hertfordshire, members from the emergency services, reps from two military charities and other interested stakeholders.

The welfare of the Armed Forces, both serving personnel and veterans, remains high in the Government's priorities since Boris Johnson became PM. He has created the Office of Veteran Affairs and introduced the Veterans Bill. Within Hertfordshire, the Board seeks to promote the Armed Forces and ensure that Veterans have full access to public services and are celebrated for the work they do.

This year, Hertfordshire will celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the signing of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant. A number of events are going to be held, in-line with social-distancing rules.

Lastly, members should by now be aware of the veterans portal, which aims to signpost individuals to help and advice on all issues relating to the Armed Forces.

[www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)

Update provided by: Cllr Huggins

Date: April 2021

## **Stansted Airport Consultative Committee**

### Purpose:

Provides community consultation in regard to the workings of Stansted Airport. Its specific terms of reference are:

1. To consider, scrutinise and advise on matters primarily concerning the management and administration of the Airport.
2. To consider the impact of the Airport on the local community, the economy and the environment.
3. To consider matters affecting the experience of Airport users including passengers.
4. To consider the corporate affairs of the Airport.
5. To promote an informed understanding of airport operation and of their impact on communities of interest.
6. To consider matters specifically referred by interests represented on the Committee, by the management of the Airport or by the Government.
7. To share ideas and consider best practice from other airports and organisations.
8. To liaise with other Airport Consultative Committees on matters of common concern.
9. To make representations to the Government and other organisation as appropriate and
10. To take any action incidental to any of the above terms of reference, including co-options, the establishment of Working Groups and nominations to Outside Bodies.

East Herts Council Representative:

Cllr Andrew Huggins

### Update:

This year, the number of meetings, have been reduced, owing to Covid19. Despite restrictions, I have attended several meetings, via virtual platforms, of the full committee (STACC) and the Future Airspace Consultation Steering Group. Owing to the pandemic Stansted airport has seen a huge reduction in passenger activity, but

freight cargo has been steady. The airport has also hosted a drive-in testing site.

There have been two important issues for members to be aware of. The first has been the planning hearing into Uttlesford DC decision to rescind the permission for Stansted's expansion to 43 million passengers per annum. Whilst we await the decision, there has been a dramatic local fallout and the Stop Stansted Expansion group have decided to rebrand.

The other important issue is that the Future Airspace Programme continues to move along on schedule. This is a national directive passed down from the Civil Aviation Authority and the DoT. The scheme is to consult and then design possible changes to arrivals and departures from the airport. (Luton are doing the same). The airport is leading on the consultation for flight paths below 7000ft and NATS will be conducting a similar review of airspace above that level. My role is to voice an opinion on the approach to consultation. I shall be working with officers to ensure that the consultation is communicated to our members and residents effectively.

Update provided by: Cllr Huggins

Date: April 2021

## **Stansted Airport Community Trust**

### Purpose:

The Trust was set up in 2005 initially with an income of £100k per annum. This money was then distributed to good causes within a 10 mile radius of the Airport.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Diane Hollebon

### Update:

I am the current appointee on behalf of EHDC. There have been no meetings during the past year due to Covid. MAG have only transferred £3,500.00 to the Trust. This came from the Noise Fund Account. Still no update from MAG with regard to the SACT and its future. All requests are dealt with via e.mail with all the Trustees taking part. The Chairman, Cllr Susan Barker, then takes appropriate action. To date the Trustees have only dealt with three applications and there are a few projects still outstanding to be completed. Again, Covid has prevented some projects being completed on time. I am happy to continue to serve on this Trust.

Update provided by: Cllr Hollebon

Date: April 2021

## **Ancient Charities of Hertford**

### Purpose:

To assist individuals and families in Hertford and the surrounding villages.

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Sally Newton

### Update:

The Ancient Charities of Hertford have been distributing grants to individuals in financial need in Hertford for over half a century. They recently received a £2,000 donation from a mystery benefactor. This is great news as Christmas approaches and will help continue its important work.

Local organisations such as the Citizens Advice Services, Hertfordshire County Council Social Services and the local churches nominate recipients to receive grants. Grants are used to buy basic furniture including beds for young children. Other household goods such as cookers or washing machines are also provided.

The Mayor of Hertford, Cllr Bob Deering is a Trustee for his term of office.

Councillor Deering said "The Ancient Charities of Hertford continue to work to provide the helping hand to parts of the community in real need. Their longevity is a testimony to the foresight in establishing the Ancient Charities over half a century ago. I would encourage people to get in touch with the nominating organisations, or Hertford Town Council directly, if they think we can help".

Chairman of the Trustees, Jill Geall "The Ancient Charities of Hertford has helped hundreds of individuals who are in need of support. The help given at a particularly difficult time in a person's life can make a real difference to people recovering from trauma or illness. The

mystery donation is a terrific boost and on behalf of all the Trustees,  
I wish to say a public thank you to the anonymous donor”

Update provided by: Cllr Newton

Date: April 2021

## **Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust**

Purpose:

Preserving buildings of historical and architectural importance

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Peter Ruffles

Update:

A very basic staff team in action this past year, and voluntary directors and advisers also doing the basic things to care for properties most of which are in East Herts.

Company Meetings for me, and other business meetings of the Trust have continued by Zoom. I've attended each relevant meeting.

Alas, my volunteer work at Cromer Windmill when open to the public did not happen all year. Much Hadham Museum also closed all year.

All set for reopenings; and more business to do with buildings at risk in 2021.

Update provided by: Cllr Ruffles

Date: April 2021

**Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust (now part of Groundwork East)**

Purpose:

To create better places; improve people's prospects and encourage greener living and working.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Peter Ruffles

Update:

There were no meetings in 2020/21

Update provided by: Cllr Ruffles

Date: April 2021

## **Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership**

East Herts Council Representative(s):  
Cllr Graham McAndrew

Update:

### **The challenge**

Working in a two-tier authority area involves recognising and respecting individual strategies and plans, whilst seeking to collaborate. A significant challenge is managing expectations, identifying relevant issues for all partners and matching that to resources available to deliver on plans.

### **The solution**

The solution was to form a joint partnership with the county council, all 10 districts and boroughs and the Herts LEP. This proposal received unanimous support and agreement and resulted in the establishment of the HCCSP - with representation at leader or executive member level.

The partnership takes a collaborative approach to tackling wider issues outside of the direct control of individual authorities, to meet targets related to climate change including meaningful carbon reduction. Four initial priorities and joint Strategic Action Plans have been drafted to tackle specific countywide issues.

### **Water**

A Strategic Water Action Plan has been prepared with engagement from water companies, the environment agency and lead local flood authority. The plan was approved by HCCSP in January, subject to consultation with strategic planning groups across the county.

Key features:

- optimise use of building regulations
- improve consultation and engagement with water companies and the environment agency on local plans

- improve consistency on planning policy
- behavioural change campaigns

### **Biodiversity**

HCCSP agreed to a countywide biodiversity baseline to enable identification of opportunities for biodiversity improvement and to develop an evidence base for biodiversity net-gains. The draft Biodiversity Action Plan was presented to the partnership in March and received agreement in principle.

Key features:

- countywide approach to biodiversity net gain
- countywide map of opportunities
- influencing policy at local level
- education and awareness raising

### **Carbon Reduction**

This plan is in the development stages and focusses on a consistent approach to monitoring and reporting carbon emissions, improved training for Local Authority staff, identifying opportunities to reduce local authority emissions, and to reduce emissions more broadly, e.g. working with businesses.

### **Transport**

This plan is in the development stages and will align with the delivery of current policies and policy change options in areas including; electric vehicles, taxi licensing, and co-ordinated long-term behaviour change campaigns.

The impact (including cost savings/income generated if applicable):

The Partnership has made considerable impact in a short space of time; increasing the collaboration of partners and enabling a greater sharing of opportunities through joint work. Officers have established a network of peers, which has proved invaluable and the

workstreams have fostered stronger working relationships with colleagues in other service areas to work on realising the ambitions.

Virtual HCCSP meetings have enabled cost savings, increased participation and reduced carbon emissions.

**How is the new approach being sustained?**

The partnership was set up with agreed Terms of Reference and established a Hertfordshire Sustainability Officers group (HSOG) to support action planning and implementation of work plans. The key themes have specific tasks and officer subgroups, with a local authority officer as lead, responsible for setting up meetings and ensuring buy-in and ownership of the plans.

The HCCSP and its officer group (HSOG) meet every six weeks; both groups have good attendance from all partners and the subgroup leads also meet six-weekly. The partnership is jointly funded by all members and has employed a dedicated coordinator to facilitate its work.

Community engagement events are planned for this year, including a COP26 event in November. There is an ongoing focus on identifying funding opportunities and sharing best practice between partners

Update provided by: Cllr McAndrew

Date: April 2021

## **Hertfordshire Lifestyle Network**

### Purpose:

Originally set up to continue the legacy created from the Olympics in 2012

### East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Eric Buckmaster

### Update:

Formed after the 2012 Olympics this partnership has provided important links across County and District Councils, Herts Sports Partnership and other Community and Voluntary organisations. The 'Year Of' initiatives such as Year Of Physical Activity and Year of Culture were intended to create a legacy of community activity and involvement to bring strength to our society. The Year of Culture was unable to take place as originally envisaged owing to Covid but a great attempt was made to provide alternatives on line and promote them as much as possible.

Meetings include updates from partners and include:

### **Voluntary and Community Sector Update**

#### **Update from VPA Cell (volunteering and people assistance cell)**

Looking at achievements and challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic in Hertfordshire

**Physical Activity & Lifestyle Update** from Herts Sports Partnership looking at achievements, challenges and opportunities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Arts and Culture Updates including Hertfordshire Year of Culture**

**2020** – A look back at achievements for the Year of Culture 2020.

### **Proposal for a cultural strategy for Hertfordshire**

One of the initiatives reported on was a new Crowdfunding Platform Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) presented a progress report on *Crowdfund Hertfordshire*, the crowdfunding platform for Hertfordshire. It was noted that the crowdfunding Hertfordshire platform has been able to grant funds to four initiatives, supporting local not-for-profit organisations to deliver services that will support vulnerable adults.

Crowdfunder has been seen as a fun way to fundraise amongst Hertfordshire's local communities. Additional funds are to be included as part of the Crowdfund Hertfordshire process. This includes the Hertsmeire Borough Council's CIL Fund and the East Herts Community Fund.

HACO reported that It was expected that COVID-19 will have a significant impact on the Arts & Culture and Leisure industries across the nation as well as the county of Hertfordshire. It is estimated that there will be a £30.6 billion loss from visitors coming into the UK. The tourist industry is not expected to recover until 2023, 2024. As such HACO recommended that Hertfordshire public sector organisation invest in customer support, helping to reassure residents and local businesses during the recovery process.

**From Voluntary and Community Sector** we learned about the achievements and challenges faced by the VPA Cell during the COVID-19 pandemic in Hertfordshire. The multi-partnership delivery of Operation Sustain and Shield helped to support isolated and vulnerable individuals during the lockdown period. It was noted that Operation Sustain was responsible for coordinating in excess of over 10,000 volunteers in Hertfordshire. Support is now being provided to carers and frontline service workers, with support mechanisms in place to look after the physical and mental health of these individuals during the recovery process.

**From the Herts Sports Partnership** we discovered the important role sports club will play in tackling the expected mental health challenges that will arise as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. To combat this, 250 coaches have been trained by Sports England to address mental health challenges, both in children and adult's sports teams.

Also highlighted was the key role Sports England will play in the delivery of mentor programmes, helping children adjust to the "new normal" as a result of the easing of lockdown restrictions. There will also be a review of Sports England's strategic priorities, evolving around what they stand for as an organisations and revolutionising how they will deliver their services.

**In Terms of Art and Culture a case is being made for a County wide Cultural Strategy.** Covid-19 pandemic is having a negative impact on most sectors, and there is growing evidence that shows that the impact on the leisure, creative and cultural sectors may be particularly devastating. There is a case to identify Covid-19 impact and work on finding solutions and funding to help the sectors. Developing a Cultural Strategy for Hertfordshire has the potential to help the county develop a clear vision and long term plans that would enable the creation of projects that benefit the sectors. The Arts Council England is supportive of the process and has indicated that an overarching strategy for Hertfordshire could have the potential to unlock funds to help develop businesses, structures and communities. It is envisaged that the overarching strategy will define themes of interest. Whilst it is hoped that this strategy may identify some areas in which HLN partners may wish to work together, it is envisaged the strategy will primarily be a tool for partners such as districts and boroughs to adapt to their own local plan of action.

Finally In 2020 it was decided to review and refresh the remit of HLLP. As part of this, the partnership was renamed the **Hertfordshire Lifestyle Network.**

The aim of the Hertfordshire Lifestyle Network:

- a) To act as a network of partner organisations within Hertfordshire to discuss issues of common interest in the areas of culture, sports, physical activity and lifestyle.
- b) To share best practice, identify and discuss areas of potential joint working.
- c) To explore the possibility of pursuing possible funding opportunities.

### **Membership**

Relevant partner organisations including (not exclusive to):

- Hertfordshire County Council [Executive Members and Officers]
- Borough and District Councils [Executive Members and Officers]
- Herts Association of Cultural Officers
- Herts Sports Partnership
- Hertfordshire voluntary sector
- Creative Hertfordshire
- Herts Association of Leisure Trusts
- Private Sector Leisure and Fitness Providers

Update provided by: Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Date: April 2021