

Planning Policy Forum

10.00 am on Tuesday 2nd September 2014, Chelmsford Museum, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, CM2 9AQ

**[Free parking available within Museum grounds](#) accessed via Moulsham Street, street parking also available in front of Museum*

AGENDA**1. Introductions & Apologies**

Apologies from Paul Macbride (Harlow DC) and Sarah Nicholas (Uttlesford DC)

Jeremy Potter (Chair) (JP)	Chelmsford CC
Gary Guiver (GG)	Tendring DC
Amanda Raffaelli (AR)	Castle Point BC
Laura Percy (LP)	Chelmsford CC
Phil Drane (PD)	Brentwood BC
Hamish Barrell (HB)	Essex CC
Kevin Fraser (KF)	Essex CC
Zhanine Oates (ZO)	Essex CC
Lesley Stenhouse (LS)	Essex CC
Philip Dash (PS)	Essex CC
Emma Goodings (EO)	Braintree DC
Carl Glossop (CG)	Basildon BC
Laura Chase (LC)	Colchester BC
Colin Endean (CE)	Harlow DC
Gary Sung (GS)	Maldon DC
Paul Clark (PC)	Thurrock BC
Velda Wong (VW)	Rochford DC

Also attendance up to Item 3 Ian Blake and Alan Potter from BPP Consulting

2. Local plan preparation: National News

- [Planning Practice Guidance](#) (PPG) updates published on-line in May (Historic Environment, Duty to Co-operate and Renewable and Low Carbon Sections, in June (Various Sections) and July (Appeals and Minerals Sections)
- DCLG Consultation [Technical Consultation on Planning](#) closing date for comments 26/9/14
- [Announcement from George Osborne](#) in June about use of LDOs on 90% of Brownfield Land suitable for housing
- [Luton BC has applied for a Judicial Review](#) of decision by Central Beds Council to approve application for 5,000 home proposal. Challenge focuses on the Duty to Co-operate, Green Belt changes and the level of affordable housing. Other Duty to Co-operate issues Mid Sussex and Brighton and London and wider South East.

- [Written Statement made by Nick Boles](#) for the Secretary of State to recover more appeals within Neighbourhood Plan areas.
- [Gladman Developments have been refused an injunction](#) to stop a referendum on a Neighbourhood Plan at Winslow in Bucks.
- Letter sent from Chair of Sefton Council Planning Committee to all Planning Chairman in England raising issues with Government's approach to Localism and planning

3. Presentation on Feedback from ECC Consultation on Viability of Industrial Sites for Waste Facilities – Hamish Barrell ECC/Consultants BPP

Ian Blake and Alan Potter from BPP Consulting gave a presentation providing feedback from the work undertaken on the viability of Industrial Sites for Waste facilities which will form part of the evidence base for the emerging waste Local Plan.. Discussion followed which focused on:

- The impact on viability if there is potential for sites to be used for residential development and the need for LAs to allocate more employment land.
- The wide range of potential waste-related facilities which affects whether particular sites are suitable for particular uses.
- The need for Local Planning Authorities through their Local Plan-making to recognise and help address the need for waste facilities in their areas.

HB set out the latest timetable for the production of the Waste Local Plan. The next consultation would take place early 2015 with adoption scheduled by 2016.

There was general agreement from those present that they would generally assist ECC is pulling together any additional evidence needed for the waste plan in investigating the potential for waste facilities on suitable employment / industrial land.

ACTION: ECC to contact relevant Local Planning Authority contacts for land agents and/or industrial estate owners.

4. Further alterations to the London Plan (FALP) Update

LS updated the Forum on the progress of the FALP. Colleagues from ECC, Thurrock, Chelmsford and Uttlesford are currently participating in the Examination Public. The main issue for Essex Authorities (and many others in the wider South East) is the uncertainty about the housing numbers in the document and making sure that London is meeting its own Objectively Assessed housing requirement. The GLA have suggested further amendments in response to these issues.

5. Draft London Infrastructure Plan 2050: *Discussion on Joint Response*

LS updated the Forum on the recently published Draft London Infrastructure Plan 20150. The closing date for comments to the GLA is the 31 October. TGSE are preparing a joint response. There was general agreement on a joint response from EPOA. This would not preclude individual authorities preparing their own responses.

ACTION: JP to convey Forum's view at EPOA meeting on 4/9/14

6. National Airspace Consultations: *Update* – Zhanine Oates ECC

ZO updated the Forum on the latest position on airport and airspace matters. The Airports Commission published two Discussion Papers in the Summer focusing on regional connectivity.

The Airports Commission have announced the shortlisted options for increasing airport capacity which do not include the proposals for an Inner Thames Estuary Airport. The three remaining options at Heathrow and Gatwick airports are being appraised which will be published for consultation in October.

ZO set out the current NATS consultation on proposed changes on the use of the existing south (Dover) and East (Clacton) Stansted Airport departure routes. Although the consultation is not proposing any changes to route boundaries, there are a number of issues created by the proposals. The consultation closes on 8 September 2014.

ACTION ZO to circulate ECC draft response for information ahead of consultation closing date.

7. EPOA New Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update

JP outlined that the GTAA has been published and is available on the EPOA website. A number of local authorities are reporting the GTAA to their relevant Committees for it to be included as part of their evidence base.

8. EPOA Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts Update

JP reported that the Phase 6 Report has been circulated in draft and is expected to be published early September. JP confirmed that the Phase 7 report is scheduled for completion in Quarter 1 2015. It may be possible for this date to be brought forward.

It was agreed that this on-going work was of great use and it was generally agreed that the commission should be extended if possible. In addition new or amended scenarios should also be investigated.

**ACTIONS: JP to contact consultants regarding timetable of Phase 7 Report
JP to convey Forum's feedback on future work at EPOA meeting
on 4/9/14**

9. Five Year Land Supply Working Group Update

JP reported that the Group met in June. It was agreed that because the PPG now provides detailed guidance on the preparation and methodology for calculating the five-year housing supply it was not necessary to replicate this in EPOA document. It was acknowledged by the Forum that the work undertaken by the Group has been very useful, even if now there was not the need for shared Essex methodology.

PC conveyed his disappointment that this work is not going to be progressed.

10. Duty to Co-operate

The work being led by ECC on the Planning Compact appears addressing matter related to collaborative working and potentially the wider Duty to Co-operate matters. The next Planning Compact meeting is on 25 September which a number of Forum members are attending. There is an update on the Planning Compact at the EPOA meeting on 4 September.

11. Local Plan progress report

Progress on Local Plan Preparation will be recorded in the latest Plan Preparation Schedule. Particular reference was made to:

- Thurrock – the deferment of the decision on the Lower Thames Crossing which have implications on Local Plan progression
- Maldon – Local Plan submitted and Hearing Sessions planned to start in October
- Chelmsford – A new open space assessment is being prepared and consultants will be contacting neighbouring authorities for general information.

12. Any other business

- None

Date of Next Meeting: 18 November 2014