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please ask for Sandra Hobbs
direct line 0300 300 5257
date 10 July 2009

**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE
LUTON & SOUTH BEDS JOINT COMMITTEE**

10 July 2009

Dear Councillor

LUTON & SOUTH BEDS JOINT COMMITTEE - Friday 24 July 2009

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, please find attached the following additional report(s):-

13. Minutes of the Members Steering Group

To consider the minutes from the Members Steering Group held on 24 April 2009 and 1 July 2009.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Sandra Hobbs on Tel: 0300 300 5257.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Hobbs
Democratic Services Officer
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Luton & South Beds Joint Committee
Notes of the Meeting of the Member Steering Group held at the JTU Offices
at Capability Green, Luton on 24th April 2009

Present:-

Members:-

Cllr Tom Nicols – Chair (SBDC)
Cllr Roy Davis (LBC)
Cllr Peter Rawcliffe (SBDC)

Officers:-

Chris Pagdin (LBC)
Lachlan Robertson (LBC)
David Atkinson (LBC)
Trevor Saunders (CB)
Mehmood Khan (LBC)
John Ironside (NHDC)
Bijon Bhowmick (Project Coordinator)

Apologies Received:-

Colin Chick (LBC)

		Action
1.	<u>Matters Arising from the meeting held on 27th February 2009</u>	
	None	
2	<u>Draft Core Strategy Chapters and Key Strategic issues for discussion</u>	
	Chairman asked LR to introduce, LR said that he was Luton Head of JTU to support and add capacity – 3 weeks in post now. Challenging period ahead of us.	
	Gave his thoughts on the way forward	
	- A project plan to the EIP stage	

- To report back as a matter of progress
- Managing the Team

Cllr N – Asked about staffing issues – 2 vacancies to help boost capacity of the team. TS confirmed this – Central Beds looking for Seniors as additional response to support the JTU team. Market is now better.

Cllr N – How long the duration? TS – Confirmed these 2 will be permanent. The JTU Managers post will be temporary

Cllr N – No finance report – asked whether the budget is on track

TS – Confirmed that it was okay.

3 Public Consultation

LR introduced – Public Exhibitions have been settled – paper with details circulated and will be published in the Newspapers - Press Release will be issued.

Given the timescale for arranging this consultation, we can confidently say that this was arranged well.

TS asked whether the Leaflet would be distributed in NHDC

JI – 5 public meeting organised in Parish (close to the boundary) Annual Parish meeting arranged to consult with CS

Cllr N – Offered to attend any meetings in NHDC area if needed. JI said that their involvement was not needed. JI said that these are the key points – will put additional information available on the website.

Cllr N – Reiterated that the offer was still available

Cllr Nr – asked whether the issue of NHDC – legal challenge JI said that they considered this

Issues and options stage – lack of consultation in the NHDC area with is consultation, errors have been rectified that the issues have been resolved.

Now if they wish to legal challenge this case, hopefully it will not come to a legal challenge – at the EIP. Concerns can be raised. It would be arranged at a principal basis.

Cllr Davis – whether there are NA have elections on June 4th. This should be extended to all authorities – cabinet NHDC is later. Intentions of the NHDC would be able to send officer's comments.

Central Beds meeting is on 23rd June.

LR – we are under Ref 25 – it relates to continuous engagements. Can accept late submissions – until 24th July. Agenda has to be set out around 15th July.

At the July meeting – complete analysis will not be finished – themes of objections could be presented.

Cllr HN – Fundamental objection list
Number of objections – where are we going with it

Cllr D – As long as it fits in with our detailed programme – LR confirmed that extension of time is possible.

It was agreed that LR would write to adjoining authorities that the consultation period would be extended to 1st July.

Cllr R – Preferred an indoor (rather than outdoor) venue for exhibition.

Cllr N – asked whether Cllr Rawcliffe had an indoor venue – asked whether Leighton Buzzard market was not ideal.

LR – nothing to update.

Cllr R – nothing was in the Leighton Buzzard this Thursday.

CD – asked whether it was available for the general public.

LR – would refer to the website.

Cllr N – would prefer the CD to be made available to the public.

TR – Every Councillor has been sent a CD.

Cllr N – should be made to all proposed Groups – asked if they should be identified.

4. Gipsy and Travellers

Cllr N – has responded to Central Beds.

- not upset with the numbers – concerned with the use of the word 'minima' – this concept undermines everything. Cllr D – agreed that this unacceptable – whether it was housing or gipsies.

TS – Commitment – 50 + 15 in the LDS
Post 2011 – New Allocation sites

5. Strategic Applications

LR – nothing to report

Cllr N – Southern Beds.

West of LB – 80 houses

Aylesbury Application - is in

Cllr P – East of LB – 4,400 dwellings – Actual applications has been pulled back – their assignment would be through the EIP.

West of Luton Borough Council

East of Luton – progressing

TS – EIP for Mid Beds starts 23rd June – finish mid July
Initial members to attend if they wished.

Cllr D – asked to be kept informed

6. Chair for Luton Borough Council

Cllr N – would seek permission for RD – ideally on the 24th July at the Joint Committee

If elected, then it will be at the July JC meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Cllr N – Legal issued by West of Luton. CR helps to draft a response. Cllr D – they also have sent a reply assisted by Legal expects – they will send the copy

Date of next MSG meeting – LR suggested late June

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Luton & South Beds Joint Committee
Notes of the Meeting of the Member Steering Group held at the JTU Offices
at Capability Green, Luton on 1st July 2009

Present:-

Members:-

Cllr Tom Nicols – Chair (SBDC)
Cllr Roy Davis (LBC)
Cllr Michael Dolling (LBC)

Officers:-

Chris Pagdin (CP) (LBC)
Lachlan Robertson (LR) (LBC)
David Atkinson (DA) (LBC)
Trevor Saunders (TS) (CB)
Mehmood Khan (MK) (LBC)
John Ironside (JI) (NHDC)
Keith Dove (KD) (LBC)
Colin Chick (CC) (LBC)
John Austin (JA) (LBC)
Nick Clark (NC) (CB)
Jacqueline Veater (JV) (LBC)
Pauline Thomas (PT) (Administrator)

Apologies Received:-

Cllr David Franks (LBC)

	Action
<p>1. <u>Matters Arising from the meeting held on 24th April 2009</u></p> <p>Cllr Nicols confirmed that Richard Thake is no longer the Planning & Transport holder for NHDC. This role has now been taken by Councillor Tom Brindley.</p> <p>Cllr Nicols read through the last MSG Minutes dated 24th April. All matters arising were dealt with on the Agenda.</p>	

	Action
<p>2. <u>Public Consultation Planning/Programme Update</u></p> <p>LR - confirmed that the Consultation ended 12th June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received Responses from the two joint Councils - Local Partnerships, Central Bedfordshire and Luton have combined their Responses - Public Consultation went well - There have been mixed responses covering a wide variety of topics. All will be considered as we work towards the 18th September Joint Committee. - Some people would like to have been consulted before - Around 9,000 responses <p>Cllr Davies – asked about what degree of duplication in the responses was received? LR confirmed unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>LR - will consider further analysis</p> <p>Cllr Nicols – asked how the consultation went in the North Herts area?</p> <p>Jl – spoke and said significant effort was put in by NHDC to ensure all residents who wanted to find out about the Consultation could do this. He felt that this approach had worked well.</p> <p>LR – Further work will involve analysing the responses in detail for 18th Sept. Joint Committee.</p> <p>Delivery of the pre-submission Draft Core Strategy to be finalised in early November to start this process.</p> <p>Cllr Davies – requested that the meeting on 18th September was rescheduled for 16.00 p.m.</p> <p>DA – said he would look into this.</p> <p>A meeting of the JC will be held in early November</p> <p>DA – outlined a draft Report will be on the Agenda of JC on 20th July summarising the consultation responses. Further details will be presented on 18th September.</p>	

<p>Cllr Nicols – Would arrangements to be made for an extended MSG to discuss any concerns and discuss any substantive issues that come out of detailed processing and analysing of the consultation responses prior to 18th September 2009 Joint Committee.</p> <p>TS – Agree that it would be helpful for all members to attend the meeting to flush any concerns prior to the 18th September 2009 Joint Committee.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>3. <u>Reports to Joint Committee on 24th July 2009</u></p> <p>LR – went through the Reports to the Committee</p> <p>Feedback from the Committee:</p> <p>Overview of Consultation Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee felt that the style of the report to be more obvious as to the source of the comments. - More refinement on the numbers of responses received re East of Luton was called for a breakdown e.g. how many postcards/petitions etc. received. <p>DA – would look into what could be done</p> <p>Update on evidence base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JI felt that we should keep to strategic level and focus on nos. 1,2,6,7,8 & 9 in Table 2; - Add ‘co-ordinating environmental sensitivity with North Herts to the list; - North Herts have analysed Table 1 in the report and came to a view on what additional work ought to be done; - Explain more fully why the extra work/evidence streams set out in Table 2 are needed <p>Core Strategy Direction of Travel</p> <p>It was felt that there is a need ‘soften’ the 8 bullet points paragraph 2.14 to a more general statement that contingency measures may be necessary</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>LR/DA</p>

<p>Vision – further work recommended.</p> <p>Recommendation that contingency planning is investigated further.</p> <p>PT – Consult Luton Offices and Central Beds offices regarding organising dates for further meetings.</p> <p>The outcome will be schedule monthly dates for future MSG's for 2009/10 financial year.</p> <p>DA – to check with Luton Committee Admin that November committee dates are okay with Luton members.</p> <p>Progress on other DPDs – report just for information.</p> <p>No action.</p> <p>JV – showed a draft SPD document re a project relating to the regeneration of High Town and confirmed that the report on this will be going to the Committee at the end of July with a view that the JC will adopt the documents provisions.</p> <p>Cllr Dolling – expressed an interest.</p>	<p>PT</p> <p>DA</p>
<p>4. <u>Local Transport Plan (LTP3) – presentation from Central Beds.</u></p> <p>Nick Clerk – gave a presentation re Local Presentation Plan (LTP3).</p> <p>Cllr Davies - had a concern that it was the first occasion he has been made aware of this proposal.</p> <p>Cllr Davies - said he needed more time to consider the implications of the presentation.</p> <p>Cllr Nicols - agreed to this request.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Cllr N – Dates for future MSG's for 2009/10 financial year to be organised and relayed to him for approval.</p>	

<p>LR – Staffing update – attempts to recruit 1 Senior Planning Officer and 1 Principal Officer was unsuccessful. New advert to be sent out in the meantime an agency will be contacted with a view to filling the posts on a temporary basis.</p>	

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