

## LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) VIRTUAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 June 2020  
Hertsmere Borough Council Civic Offices and Microsoft Teams

<b>Attendees:</b>	Councillor Morris Bright (Chair)	Leader, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Sajida Bijle	Managing Director, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Arran Elkeles	Chair, Citizens Advice
	Chief Inspector Mark Bilsdon	Hertfordshire Constabulary
	Councillor Caroline Clapper	Leisure , Culture and Health Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Mark Mills- Bishop	Executive Member, Hertfordshire County Council
	Councillor Paul Morris	Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Pervez Choudhury	Community Safety and Performance Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Dr Kate Page	GP Chair, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group
	Liz Applin (representing David Brame)	InspireAll
	Peter Evans	Aldenham Parish Council
	Rad Bristow	Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue
	Stuart Nagler	Chair , Communities 1 <sup>st</sup>

<b>In attendance:</b>	Hilary Shade	Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Abigail Stevens (Minutes)	Community Sport and Health Officer Hertsmere Borough Council
	Anne Harrison	Leecliffe Big Local
	Barry Ellis	InspireAll
	Carolyn Buller	CEO, Citizens Advice
	Councillor Anthony Spencer	Councillor, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Chris Myers	Councillor, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Christian Gray	Councillor, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Jeremy Newmark	Councillor & Leader of the Labour Group, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Pat Strack	Elstree and Borehamwood Town

		Council
	Elizabeth Biggs	Programme Lead, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group
	John Jason	Trustee, Communities 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Jyoti Bhojani	Policy Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Kate Mason	Hertfordshire County Council
	Laura Spooner	Community Sports Officer, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Lauren Mason	Clarion Housing
	Liz Cox	Chief Locality Officer, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group
	Liz Gore	Policy Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council
	Stephen Craker	Chief Executive, Communities 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Susan Pleasants	Victim Unit Manager, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
	Valerie Kane	Community Safety Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council

<b>Apologies for absence:</b>		
	David Brame	CEO, Inspire All
	Matt Ansell	Hertfordshire County Council
	Concetta Kyriacou	Department for Working Pensions

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Welcomes and apologies</u></b>
<b>1.1</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to the guest speakers. As this was the first virtual LSP meeting, the Chair explained how he would be conducting the meeting on Microsoft Teams and advised that the first part of the meeting would be webcast. The Chair thanked partner for their work so far on the Covid-19 pandemic and wished everyone well.
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</u></b>
<b>2.1</b>	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.
<b>2.2</b>	Hilary Shade provided an update on the work of the Cowley Hill Task and Finish Group which was established following the January LSP meeting. She advised that Paul Bragman of Community & Economic Consultants Ltd, had been commissioned to carry out the community engagement work in the ward. The work had been temporarily put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but that a revised worked plan was now in place. Key stakeholders were now being contacted and introductory meetings would be taking place over the coming weeks.
<b>3.0</b>	<b><u>Organisational Updates</u></b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group Update</b> The Chair invited Liz Biggs and Liz Cox to present their update to the meeting.  Liz Biggs explained the process of incident management and recovery during

	<p>the Covid-19 crisis within the CCG's.</p> <p>The main stages highlighted from the HVCCG response were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Swabbing</li> <li>• Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</li> <li>• Accommodation</li> <li>• Care Home Capacity</li> <li>• Respiratory Hubs</li> </ul> <p>Their presentation is attached, for information.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Hertsmere Together 020620.pptx</p> </div>
<p><b>3.2</b></p>	<p><b>Hertfordshire County Council Update</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop to present their update to the meeting. Cllr Mills-Bishop has responsibility for libraries and schools in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The Libraries have been shut since March, and HCC are now looking to open these in July, subject to government advice. It is expected that there will be a phased opening to ensure the health and safety of staff and service users. It was noted that most staff and volunteers from the libraries had been redeployed over the last three months, but that they would be resuming their roles as we move into the next recovery phase.</p> <p>Cllr Mills-Bishop commented on the Herts memories project and asked if anyone can share any photos of themselves in lockdown to go towards a project that is being out together.</p> <p>Cllr Mills-Bishop also commented that schools are in the process of having a phased return and HCC are looking after all school communities, so they have a safe return. Schools have been open throughout lockdown for key workers children. Cllr Mills-Bishop thanked all the schools across Hertfordshire and Hertsmere for their incredible hard work to get the schools back up and running.</p>
<p><b>3.3</b></p>	<p><b>Hertsmere Borough Council Update</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Hilary Shade to present their update to the meeting. A short update from HBC had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Hilary Shade commented that since the last LSP meeting there had been a number of senior staffing appointments at HBC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sajida Bijle has been confirmed in her new role as Managing Director of Hertsmere Borough Council</li> <li>• Peter Geraghty had been appointed as the new Executive Director</li> <li>• Ross Whear had been appointed as the new Head of Planning and Economic Development.</li> </ul> <p>She explained that while the Civic Offices were still closed to the public, the majority of services were continuing to be delivered. The briefing note, attached below, provides details of the changes in service provision. However</p>

	<p>the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is anticipated that there may be an increase in homelessness and private sector evictions once lockdown is lifted</li> <li>• Revenues and Benefits have allocated £16.4 million in business support grants and rate relief to 1183 businesses.</li> <li>• Discretionary business support for those who did not qualify for the business support grants is now open, details of this is available on Hertsmere Borough Council <a href="#">website</a>.</li> <li>• While parks and open spaces have remained open, there has been an increase in littering and there have been cases of individuals attempting to access closed off playgrounds.</li> <li>• Environment Health have been providing advice and guidance for ensuring that all premises are Covid-19 secure ahead of the re-opening of non-essential retail on 15 June.</li> <li>• Parking service charges had been suspended over the last three months. It is likely that these will be reinstated on 15 June. HBC have continued to enforce double yellow lines during the pandemic.</li> <li>• HBC have been working with HCC on Operation Shield and Sustain, to ensure those who are most vulnerable are able to access the support they need.</li> <li>• That a number of local organisations will be facing financial difficulty over the coming months, and HBC are encouraging all councillors to use their WIIS funding to support local organisations. In addition to this, the grants fund has been suspended and options for how this can be used to support the community will be considered at the Executive on 10 June.</li> </ul> <p>The HBC workforce have been working remotely over the last 3 months, and the Council are currently working to ensure that the Civic Offices and other Council buildings are Covid-19 secure.</p>  <p>HBC Partner Update 20200602.pc</p>
<p><b>3.4</b></p>	<p><b>Inspire All – Hertfordshire Family Centres Update</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Liz Applin to present her update to the meeting.</p> <p>The BECC in Borehamwood has remained open over the last three months. There has been community midwifery, childhood immunisations and the Star Jump nursery has remained open for key worker children. InspireAll are in the process of starting to reopen now as the lockdown eases.</p> <p>This week parenting groups were launched remotely so the Family Centres are continuing to provide targeted support in addition to the work in the wider community. The Hertsmere Family Centre Facebook Page has been regularly updated and has been streaming live videos and information.</p> <p>The link to the video that the family centres shared is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>3.5</b></p>	<p><b>Communities 1<sup>st</sup> Update</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Stephen Craker and Stuart Nagler to present their update to the meeting.</p>

	<p>In response to Covid-19, Communities 1<sup>st</sup> have had 675 volunteers sign up in Hertsmere since the outbreak. Many of these are waiting for ID confirmation to complete the volunteer induction process. It was noted that they are now beginning to see volunteers return to work and as such there might be a need to recruit further volunteers. Communities 1<sup>st</sup> are supporting around 600 Hertsmere residents, with most of these self-isolating. The volunteers have been helping with shopping, prescription collecting, dog walking, telephone befriending and many others. It was noted that Communities 1<sup>st</sup> have had double the number of phone calls in over the last three months.</p> <p>Stephen Craker commented that Communities 1<sup>st</sup> have established a local hardship fund in conduction with LeeCliffe Big Local</p> <p>Communities 1<sup>st</sup>are now beginning to reinstate pre-Covid work streams. It was noted that it is volunteer week, and they have their annual volunteer conference taking place. In addition to this, they have continued the Stronger Together Network, the better business and Inspire programmes, working with local schools and businesses. Furthermore, the Healthy Hub has also remained operational.</p> <p>Stuart Nagler commented that Communities 1<sup>st</sup> have been supporting many residents in Hertsmere throughout this period. Impact and sustainability has been the main focus over the past ten weeks to help get through this period. There has been great work carried out through partnership working and the hope is that this can continue.</p> <p>The report that Stephen Craker referred to in the update is attached for information.</p> <div data-bbox="357 1144 408 1205" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">HBC LSP CV19 Update.pdf</p>
<p><b>3.6</b></p>	<p><b>Hertfordshire Constabulary Update</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Chief Inspector Mark Bilsdon to present his update to the meeting.</p> <p>Mark Bilsdon commented that the primary concern has been neighbourhood policing to ensure appliance with Covid-19 requirements and social distancing over the last three months.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Bilsdon commented that the police in Hertsmere have sufficient PPE to match the demand, and crime had dropped off almost as soon as the lockdown happened. Crime was down 31% in April and down 19% in May which is a dramatic decrease.</p> <p>As the lockdown eases there will be a focus on public engagement with foot and cycle patrols whilst continuing to adhere to the current measures in place. .</p>
<p><b>3.7</b></p>	<p><b>Hertsmere Citizens Advice Update</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Carolyn Buller to present her update to the meeting.</p> <p>Carolyn Buller commented that since lockdown there has been 1701 contacts</p>

	<p>with clients with the majority of those coronavirus related concerns. Employment, evictions and financial issues, have been the major concerns in Hertsmere. For example, there have been some issues with residents who thought they were furloughed and not received any payments. With CA advice and guidance, it became apparent that the individuals concerned had been made redundant. It was noted that enforcement action has been suspended to date, and CA expect that there will be an increase in debt related issues when this s resumed. In addition, CA an increase in calls in the coming months regarding debt and financial management issues, as the uncertainty continues.</p> <p>The report Carolyn Buller referred to in this update is attached below.</p> <p> LSP - CA report June 2020.pdf</p>
<b>3.8</b>	The Chair thanked all of the speakers for their presentations and thanked them on all their hard work in response to the pandemic. The Chair then opened the floor to questions from the LSP Board members and then to all those in attendance.
<b>3.9</b>	Councillor Clapper thanked everyone for all of the presentations and all of the hard work that has taken place throughout these challenging times.
<b>3.10</b>	Cllr Gray commented on the work of the PSCO's in Potters Bar, he stated that they have been great at engaging residents throughout lockdown and very community focussed. Chief Inspector Bilsdon thanked Cllr Gray for his comments, and assured him that these would be passed on to the local PSCO's.
<b>3.11</b>	Anne Harrison asked whether there had been a rise in domestic abuse incidents during lockdown.
<b>3.12</b>	Chief Inspector Bilsdon explained that unfortunately there has been a slight increase in domestic abuse calls and this is something that Herts Constabulary are monitoring closely.
<b>3.13</b>	Cllr Chris Myers asked whether HBC have evicted rough sleepers, and what are these circumstances of these evictions and were HBC still in contact with the individuals concerned.
<b>3.14</b>	Hilary Shade explained that HBC have not directly evicted rough sleepers. Evictions have been undertaken by the accommodation provider's where complaints have been received while individuals have been in temporary accommodation. HBC are aware of the individuals concerned and continue to provide them with support.
<b>3.15</b>	Cllr Bright commented that he is proud of how incredibly hard Hilary's team have worked to help those in need at this time.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Covid-19 Cases and Deaths in Hertsmere</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p>This item was presented by Jyoti Bhojani, Policy Manager at Hertsmere Borough Council.</p> <p>Jyoti Bhojani talked through the attached report which covered the key statistics in relation to the numbers of Covid-19 cases and deaths in Hertsmere.</p> <p>It was noted that, while the initial peak is now over, and the reproduction rate, known as 'r' is reducing across the country, Hertsmere has recorded 387 cases of Covid-19 to 15 May, which equates to 36.9 cases per 10,000 population.</p>

	<p>During the same period of time, Hertsmere recorded 166 deaths, to 15 May. This equates to 15.8 deaths per 10,000.</p> <p>Furthermore, it was evident from district and borough comparisons that Watford and Hertsmere have been worst affected in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The high death rate is of concern and the report sets out emerging issues that the LSP may wish to consider in greater detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care homes</li> <li>• Hertsmere's diverse population</li> <li>• Deprivation</li> <li>• Older people</li> <li>• Proximity to London</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the picture in Hertsmere looks completely different now, and during the week of 9-15 May, Hertsmere reported four covid-19 deaths compared to 12 in the previous week.</p> <p>It was proposed that the LSP continue to receive updates on this matter.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Covid-19 Deaths in Hertsmere.pdf</p> </div>
<b>4.2</b>	Cllr Bright thanked Jyoti Bhojani for the paper. He explained that there were a variety of reasons that Hertsmere has had one of the highest deaths per head ratio.
<b>4.3</b>	Cllr Choudhury asked if there was further ward level data which could be shared.
<b>4.4</b>	Jyoti Bhojani commented that initial ward level data showed variation in the number of Covid-19 registered deaths across the Borough. For example, the numbers may be higher for example in Bushey due to the high number of care homes. However, the ONS have not yet released a data set covering the more recent timeframe and that they will be shared once they are released to the LSP.
<b>4.5</b>	Cllr Paul Morris commented that as a Bushey Heath councillor, an issue that is of concern is the management of care homes and the numbers of Covid-19 suspected deaths in these settings. He noted that some care homes locked down completely including their staff and have as a result had nearly no deaths compared with other who did not act so quickly. How will these messages be filtered down to prevent it happening again?
<b>4.6</b>	Cllr Bright thanked Cllr Morris for the question and comment that it is a matter for Public Health and Hertfordshire County Council, so this question will be passed on for them to answer.
<b>4.7</b>	Cllr Newmark thanked Jyoti for the presentation and for the information provided. He asked if there was any further insight for the BAME communities within Hertsmere. He also asked if it would be worth extending the Cowley Hill Ward research project to cover a bigger area across Hertsmere.
<b>4.8</b>	Cllr Bright commented that when there is updated minutes the figures will be circulated to the LSP group.
<b>4.9</b>	Jyoti Bhojani further commented that Public Health England are currently undertaking work looking into BAME communities in relation to coronavirus and

	the report was published earlier this afternoon. Officers will consider the report and its findings and ensure that this work is fed into the wider work in the community.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Proposal to use the LSP as the Hertsmere Covid-19 Cell</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<p>This item was presented by Sajida Bijle, Managing Director at Hertsmere Borough Council.</p> <p>Sajida Bijle summarised the report attached below suggesting that the LSP is used as the Hertsmere Covid-19 Cell. This will consider emerging issues from the Covid-19 pandemic as they move into the recovery phase and that the Hertsmere Covid-19 cell plays a role in supporting the Borough's long-term recovery.</p> <p>The LSP brings together a range of partners, covering the emergency services the NHS, the community and voluntary sector, leisure and housing providers along with the Borough and County Council. It is therefore decided appropriate for the LSP to act as formal Hertsmere Covid-19 Cell to consider emerging issues and to support the Borough's wider recovery.</p> <p>It was proposed that virtual meetings be held until such time when the LSP is able to meet in person.</p> <p> Proposal to use the LSP as the Hertsmer</p>
<b>5.2</b>	Cllr Pat Strack asked if Clarion Housing were a part of the LSP as they are an important partner in Hertsmere.
<b>5.3</b>	Cllr Morris commented that they are a part of the LSP and Lauren Mason was in attendance representing Clarion.
<b>5.4</b>	Cllr Newmark commented that it makes absolute sense to use the LSP as the Hertsmere Covid-19 Cell as it brings together a whole range of vital services that are provided to support the residents. Cllr Newmark also commented on the LSP group members and asked if this could be reviewed to ensure all relevant organisations are involved in the meetings.
<b>5.5</b>	Cllr Bright commented that the LSP members are regularly updated by the administrators and that it is open for everyone to attend and ask questions.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Emerging Issues – Part II</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<p>At this point the webcast was turned off and the Chair asked all those who were non-LSP Board Members to leave.</p> <p>Partners discussed a range of issues around schools, community safety, food poverty and the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr Bright opened the floor to questions from the LSP Board members regarding any emerging issues.</p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>A.O.B</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Date of future meetings 2020</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 28 July</li> </ul> <p>All meetings start at 2pm and are held at the Civic Offices, Borehamwood. You can view the webcast of this meeting via Hertsmere Borough Council's website (<a href="http://www.hertsmere.gov.uk">www.hertsmere.gov.uk</a>). Please scroll to the bottom where you will be able to access the full list of archived webcasts.</p>

