

Appendix 11: Transcript between Hertfordshire County Council and Hertsmere Borough Council 05_12_2025



Summary and Actions of meeting between Hertsmere Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council and AECOM.

Meeting: 05/12/25 – Online

Attendees:

Hertsmere Borough Council

- Planning Strategy & Implementation Manager
- Planning Policy Team Leader
- Planning Policy Officer (Duty to Cooperate Lead)

AECOM

- Principal Planner, Project Manager for Technical Evidence
- Principal Planner, Project Manager for Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)

- Senior Planning Officer, Growth & Infrastructure Unit
- Minerals & Waste Planning Officer
- Transport for Hertfordshire Team
- Head of Sustainability
- Senior Flood Risk Officer (Lead Local Flood Authority)
- Senior Planning Officer, Southwest Team
- Senior School Planning Officer, Children's Services
- Senior Flood Risk Officer
- Head of Archaeology Team
- Graduate Planner
- School Place Planning Manager

Summary of Discussion

- **Purpose of Meeting:** Initial engagement between Hertsmere Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), and AECOM regarding the Duty to Cooperate and infrastructure planning for Hertsmere's Local Plan.
- **Key Themes:**
 - **Duty to Cooperate:** Essential to avoid plan failure at examination. Positive and open communication required with all stakeholders.
 - **Local Plan Update:** Ambitious timetable aiming for submission around this time next year. Strategy includes meeting housing need in full, focusing growth on Borehamwood and Potters Bar, supported by urban regeneration and extensions.

- **Evidence Base:** AECOM commissioned to prepare 22–26 technical studies, including Green Belt assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). A&R Urbanism working on settlement visions/masterplans.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** IDP will cover transport, education, social care, libraries, fire, flood risk, waste, digital, and health. Coordination with HCC critical.
- **Challenges Raised:** Timetable feasibility questioned by HCC due to complexity (e.g., transport modelling). Hertsmere officers acknowledged risks but emphasized political pressure and innovative twin-tracking approach.
- **Member Engagement:** Recognized as a major challenge. Need to educate members on implications of decisions (e.g., Green Belt release vs. densification).
- **Cross-boundary Issues:** Green Belt and potential new settlements near Enfield flagged as strategic considerations.
- **Water Infrastructure:** Thames Water capacity concerns noted; addressed via IDP and Water Cycle Study.

Agreed Actions

1. **GIS Data Sharing:** Hertsmere to provide site allocation GIS data to HCC next week.
2. **Follow-up Meetings:** Ciara to arrange targeted meetings with relevant HCC teams and AECOM for strategic issues.
3. **IDP Engagement:** AECOM to engage swiftly with HCC officers to gather baseline capacity and site-specific requirements.
4. **National Bodies:** Hertsmere to set up initial meetings with national agencies (e.g., National Highways) involving HCC and AECOM.
5. **Statements of Common Ground:** To be prepared later in the process.
6. **Transport Modelling:** Recognized as critical; Hertsmere and HCC to collaborate closely.
7. **Member Education:** Hertsmere to consider sessions with HCC (offer from Roger) to explain transport and infrastructure implications.
8. **Water Infrastructure:** Continue engagement with Thames Water and Affinity Water via IDP and Water Cycle Study.
9. **Holiday Coordination:** Ensure IDP contacts list shared before holiday season for efficient communication.

Hertsmere Duty to Cooperate 2025 Initial Meeting-20251205_110239-Meeting Recording

5 December 2025, 11:02am

55m 37s

- X started transcription

Hertsmere Borough Council 1 0:21

I would just like to thank colleagues from Hertfordshire for coming to this meeting today, especially on a Friday, especially as we're about to enter the Christmas party season so that thank you to you all for attending. This is a key meeting for us and I hope it's a key meeting for you as well, because I think some of the threads we're going to sort of pull out today are this isn't solely about the duty to cooperate, that is, that is a very important thing to us and our plan making we absolutely 100% want to get that right, we are determined not to fail on day one or two of the examination hearing sessions on that issue. My experience is it's a very easy thing to get right. All we need to do is talk to one another, listen and do some actions. So I'm convinced that we can do it, but it's not just about the duty to cooperate it. It is also about infrastructure planning and I've already said to ■ that's what I've implied, but it's what one of the key takeaways is please, please talk to Tim and his colleagues from AECOM about infrastructure planning. We are preparing an infrastructure delivery plan and Hertfordshire County are a key infrastructure delivery partner and this is an opportunity for all of us to get some mutual benefit.

My third thread, is that that this process is an evidence based process. And again Tim and his colleagues, my colleagues here at Hertsmere as well are preparing a whole heap of technical evidence. That technical evidence needs your input and, dare I say it's also mutually beneficial for your work as well. So there's potentially many wins all around.

This process for all of us and as I said to ■ in the build up to this meet this meeting this morning, I woke up with a really good feeling about this meeting. And I just know it's going to go well and there's going to be some good outputs.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 3:41

As ■ said, this is an initial meeting. I appreciate there are a lot of teams here. So if we

could just quickly do introductions, put names to faces and then we can go on with the rest. ■ I shall hand over to you.

Hertsmere Borough Council 3 4:03

Lovely morning all. I know quite a lot of you, but for those of you who don't know me, I'm ■. I'm the planning strategy and implementation manager and policy is one of the teams that fits into my remit. Good morning.

Hertsmere Borough Council 1 4:21

Good morning. I'm ■ I'm the planning policy team leader.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 4:38

My name is ■ I am a planning policy officer. I'm sure you've all had my emails or trying to organise this meeting and you will definitely be hearing from me in the future. I'm leading on the duty to cooperate. ■ if we could go over to you.

AECOM 1 4:58

Hi. I'm, ■ I'm a principal planner at AECOM. I am project managing the delivery of the technical evidence account. ■ mentioned that we're providing support the local plan and I will hand over to ■

AECOM 2 5:13

Morning. My name is ■ I'm a principal planner, AECOM and I'm a project manager for the infrastructure delivery plan.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 5:22

I'm just going to quickly round our HCC colleagues purely based on who comes first, so it's not in any particular order. So ■ if we could go to you.

Healthy Places and Communities 5:33

Morning, everyone. I'm ■. I'm a planning officer, and I sit in the Healthy Places and Communities team at Hertfordshire Council Public Health.

Growth and Infrastructure 1 5:42

Hi everyone. I'm ■ I'm a senior planning officer in the growth and Infrastructure unit

at HCC. We in the unit act as a bit of the interface, I suppose between the districts and our services at the County Council and represent them in the planning process, both local plans and at DM.

Thank you.

Minerals and Waste 6:07

Hi, I'm [REDACTED] I'm a minerals and waste planning officer in the County Council and I sort of cover SW Hertfordshire, so including Hertsmere Borough Council.

Transport 1 6:21

Hi, [REDACTED] in the transport for Hertfordshire team at Hertfordshire County Council. Responsible for local plans and strategic development.

Sustainability 6:32

Hi. Morning everyone. I'm [REDACTED] I'm head of sustainability at Hertfordshire County Council

Lead Local Flood Authority 1 6:39

Hi. Yeah, I'm [REDACTED] a senior focus officer at HTC, the local authority and I manage the team which responds to DM planning applications and local plan.

Growth and Infrastructure 2 6:53

Hi, [REDACTED] I've just joined the Southwest team, the team that [REDACTED] in as a senior planning officer. So I'm here just to gain some experience.

Childrens Services 7:04

Hi, I'm [REDACTED] I'm a senior school planning officer in children's services at HCC and I cover Hertsmere Welwyn, Hatfield and Broxbourne districts.

Lead Local Flood Authority 2 7:19

Hi, I'm [REDACTED]. I'm a senior flood risk officer. I'm working with [REDACTED] in the lead local flood authority team.

Archaeology 7:29

Hi, I'm [REDACTED], I'm head of the archaeology team at Hertfordshire County Council. We provide historic environment planning advice to Hertsmere and Hertfordshire County Council and also strategic local plan advice.

Planning 7:46

Hi, everyone. I'm a graduate planner. So currently at HCC, so working quite closely with [REDACTED] team. Thank you.

School Place 8:27

[REDACTED] School Place planning manager. I historically covered Hertsmere. It's actually now being passed over to my colleague [REDACTED] who will be joining us this morning. But because of my previous knowledge of the area we'll just be covering for the initial sections whilst we formally hand over to [REDACTED], who will be with us in just a moment as well.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 8:52

Amazing. Thank you so much. I'll move on to item 2, which is an update on the Hertsmere Local Plan.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 9:19

I'm certain colleagues around the table will have followed the history of Hertsmere's plan making over the over the past few years. I'm hesitant to say this, but I'm going to say that that's very much previous history. I think under [REDACTED] leadership we are now moving forward with our local plan. We have an ambitious timetable set by our Members and senior leadership which would, which would see us submitting roughly around this time next year, we remain confident that is achievable and within the realms of the art of the possible. And I think to a large extent that could be possible. Because of the fairly innovative way that we're procuring our evidence base and that is one of the focuses of today, we have procured the services of AECOM who are in the call here today under Tim and Yanny. But we've also procured the services of a company called AR Urbanism. I'll explain the division of labour, AECOM are doing a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of the general evidence based building and are pulling together a suite of technical evidence based documents comprising I think somewhere between 22 to 26 separate evidence based studies that will contribute towards plan making and eventual submission.

Those include everything that you would imagine would be necessary for Hertsmere, so everything from Greenbelt Assessment, right the way through to the IDP, which I'm going to repeatedly mention today because like I said, this is an advert for that. But there are going to be clearly other technical evidence-based studies that Hertfordshire colleagues will want to interface with. Alongside that work that AECOM are doing, we have commissioned, as I said, AR Urbanism. They are essentially preparing a series of settlement visions or master plans for our four principal settlements, Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Bushey and Radlett, that process is also well under way. They are engaging with the good people and communities of those settlements that is underway almost as we speak and that there's already been some very positive initial outcomes from that process, as I know [REDACTED] can attest to.

All of that is working to feed into our policy making and I think that will obviously be of interest to you alongside that policy making is the spatial strategy formulation and the site allocations work the initial workings of which I've fed through to you because I know that that you guys are excited to see where growth may go. Just to very quickly summarise that sort of emerging spatial strategy, I think it's a very obvious one. It focuses on distributing the housing requirement as set out by the standard method amongst the boroughs for settlements proportionately it also includes the possible option of a new settlement that potential new settlement feeding in to growth at the very end of the plan period and I suspect tantalisingly providing that the necessary step change in growth that we need to demonstrate into the next plan period, which I suspect could be useful for strategic plan making going forward.

As I said, we are working to an ambitious timetable. That timetable has some key milestones next year. I'm not going to fix those milestones with precise dates here and today. All I will say is those milestones around Regulation 18 and Regulation 19. I think given where we are and how fast we're moving are achievable. They are dependent on external forces. They are dependent on relationships like ours working positively and constructively. So we're determined to make that work, that's where, we are. To be clear Hertfordshire County Council are an important part of this process.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 15:02

So, as [REDACTED] mentioned, we are looking to meet our housing need in full if possible and

the makings of a sound plan. Obviously that is a significant increase in number of houses that we need to accommodate on an annual basis. And HCC as well as AECOM are quite a key factor in making that possible going forward before I hand over to AECOM to maybe talk about the IDP a little bit more, just in terms of duty to cooperate. There is obviously a need to do it properly before possible changes are being made next year, we are working under the assumption that the duty to cooperate will need to be fulfilled to ensure that the plan doesn't fail at the first step. I know there have been some plans around the country that have failed on duty to cooperate and we're obviously looking to avoid that.

Unless told otherwise by the government, we are working on to the assumption that we will need to fill our requirements and so going forward, we will be looking to set up individual meetings with, with teams to discuss the relevant strategic issues. Obviously this won't be possible in this meeting, there's so many of us, we're kind of treating this meeting as an initial, putting names to faces, marking out where we are in the process and what we'll need, which is honestly positive and open communication between all three parties in this meeting. But yes, going forward you will be hearing from me and it's likely that AR Urbanism and AECOM will be part of those meetings. That will purely be dependent on what teams we talk to and what strategic issues we will be talking about.

We're also at a point where we've had initial conversations with our neighbouring authorities, both in Hertfordshire and London. The Greenbelt is a big, topic, especially with local authorities in London looking to potentially bring forward new settlements in Enfield which are close to Potters Bar. Transport and public movement will be a massive factor in how a we accommodate our own housing, but the wider strategic area as well, because all authorities are looking to accommodate their housing. To confirm we're in quite an interesting position. It's quite exciting. We're also looking to set up initial meetings with our national bodies. For example, national highways, we would really like HCC and AECOM to be a part of that, just so we're all on the same page and then further on the process setting up statements of common ground, all the usual processes or the usual business, that's kind of what to expect on the duty to cooperate front.

Are there any questions on the duty to cooperate front before I hand over to AECOM to talk about the IDP?

Growth and Infrastructure 1 18:18

Thank you for setting up the meeting and it's really great to get these conversations going, especially with your ambitious timetable that you have and obviously the County Council are keen to engage with Hertsmere and to ensure that all the appropriate infrastructure.

Transport 1 18:45

Thanks, ■. Yeah, I think I know we're amongst friends here, aren't we? So the reality is, is you've had a timetable set by your politicians. And so an obvious question for the County Council would be we've got a guide for how we would engage on local plan development. It's got, you know, potential time scales and expectations around outputs required at the various stages to what extent, if any, and I suspect I know the answer were the time scales around those things that we need factored into the timetable that you're working to, because I understand what ■ says that you know we think this is achievable but if I'm honest, I don't think it's achievable because I know the amount of work that needs to go into the various stages and actually how can you possibly predict how many consultation responses you will get and what they will say. And what will come out of the evidence bases and how you will need to react to those information that comes out of those evidence bases. So we're here to work with you absolutely. And we will do everything in our power to work with you to find solutions and to find a way forward.

But there is somewhat in my view there is somewhat an inevitability that we are going to reach certain stages of this process like a Reg 19 submission where insufficient information is available for us to conclude that your plan is sound and that feels like an inevitability at this stage, just purely because of what I know needs to happen.

Now on that point, so let's be honest with each other. We may be saying your plans not sound because there's insufficient information and actually we've been there with a lot of other districts as well. And what matters is by the time we get to examination, whether or not all those evidence bases are actually in place. And then whether or

not the inspectors are prepared to turn a blind eye to the fact that they weren't there at the point where you submitted a plan and said it was sound. So I just want to be honest with you guys at this stage. There is an awful lot of work to be done and transport modelling is not a 5 minute job. So if you come out of your Reg. 18 and I think you're going to turn around into a Reg 19 within a matter of weeks and you haven't done any transport modelling, there's no way that that's going to have a transport modelling evidence base to support that Reg 19. So just being cards on the table, being honest.

Hertsmere Borough Council 3 21:24

Thank you ■ your opinion is noted.

Just to be very clear about this matter, I think we've been set the task as officers by Members to just get this done and we've been very clear with them about all of the challenges that we face. Equally, we've got MHCLG also challenging us to get this done as well. Hertsmere Borough Council doesn't have a choice and we have got to just go all guns blazing to move this forward and obviously we are doing it. Our approach isn't we're not approaching it in a traditional way. You know there is a reason why we're twin tracking 25 pieces of work at the same time and that is to try and get it done five times quicker than you would do normally.

Hertsmere Borough Council 1 24:03

I think you've said almost everything that I was going to say, ■ I think the only thing I would add is that we do really want to work positively and constructively with Hertfordshire County colleagues. This is not a normal plan-making situation we would not normally build a new local plan in this in this fashion. The reality is that unusual situations demand unusual and innovative solutions. You've heard from ■ that the Council is rising to the challenge. I hear everything that you're saying, ■ I can't disagree with any of it, but we're up for the challenge. My closing comment is you spoke about inevitability. Hertsmere needs a local plan and this work is not going to go away and as far as I can see the only way to go is forward with this if that means detailed transport modelling work, that's what it means. We continue going forward. We're not going to stop. We're not going to park this, that's not going to help. It's not ultimately not going to help us. It's not going to help residents and communities. It's not going to help the development industry. It's not going to help

partners elsewhere, so the only way is forward really and you know that demands us to work together on this, but really we do hear what you're saying loud and clear.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 26:25

I'm going to hand over to AECOM to just talk us through their work on the IDP and what they need from all of us. So ■ and ■ take it away.

AECOM 1 26:40

Yeah. So I'll start. I'll just kind of give a quick overview of just of the Commission in general. So as ■ and ■ has said, we've got a whole suite of evidence. So we're preparing most of those studies are kind of stand-alone where we focus spatially just on Hertsmere. Obviously there are some evidence based studies where we will need input from HCC and that's particularly around, as you said ■ the transport work and linked to that, the air quality assessment that we're doing and most importantly is the IDP where we're obviously covering a number of structure areas that HCC is responsible for in terms of the timings. Then I think the way that it's being commissioned will help with that because we have the various technical teams who are working on the on the plan and can feed into each other probably more efficiently than if those studies have been commissioned corporately from different consultancies. So we're obviously aware of the timing issues and we're kind of pushing ahead as quickly as we can and kind of twin tracking all of our evidence based studies. But I will hand over to Yanny to go into more detail on the IDP and the particular engagement that is likely to be necessary with HCC.

AECOM 2 28:03

So for the infrastructure delivery plan will be as many of you would know would be establishing an infrastructure requirements for a range of infrastructure items for the case of HCC, we think that would be spanning on transport education, especially early years primary and secondary and then send adult and social care, library facilities, fire rescue, water, especially on flood risk, waste disposal and management, so both disposal and minerals and waste Planning authority, digital and health. So that's I think more than 10 sort of different aspects, but we're looking to establish those infrastructure baseline capacity with you as well as to understand the site specific infrastructure requirements for the plan period. At the moment, we've had a stage 1 sort of engagement e-mail with a various stick holders, which I think one of

them has went to HCC, which you've helpfully directed us to the local and joint strategic plans engagement document. And when we have also received some high level commentaries from your team from the LFA. So, but I think for the next stage we'll be looking to establish with you. What are these sort of current level and capacity of each infrastructure item? What are the some of the strategic infrastructure issues which we would have to consider and then?

More importantly, once we've sort of finalised on the requirements in terms of housing and employment development needs and where they will be located, the site specific infrastructure requirements on those, I think there's a question in particular from ■

Transport 1 29:53

Yeah, it's not a question it's just an observation really around the IDP. So we've been engaged with St. Albans and Dacorum on the evolution of their plan and they have a few sites which are in effect unlocked within the planning period but deliver beyond which I think it's the same case that was referred to around probably Bowman's cross, I suspect, and so it kind of dawned on people quite late in the process. So you know, learn the lesson, give you a bit of a heads up and insight is the inspectors are really want to understand how any infrastructure requirements that are required as a consequence of that development delivered beyond the plan period is secured and there is a confidence around the deliverability of those pieces of infrastructure and that might be particularly pertinent around the M25 junction, I suspect from a national highways perspective, so I think it's just flagging that now to say that your IDP and potentially even your transport modelling might have to have a sensitivity test beyond the plan period to make sure that everything works and that you know, you can satisfy inspectors that it's deliverable and it's not going to happen. Any problems associated with it, so yeah, just plug in that really.

AECOM 2 31:13

That's great. Thank you.

So just in terms of next steps, I think we'll be arranging with Hertsmere colleagues in terms of having sort of discussions and meetings with yourselves to understand some of the baseline capacity initially and then to understand the further site specific requirements essentially. But we'll be sending those to you.

Growth and Infrastructure 1 31:48

Thank you. I was just going to say that ahead of those next meetings, ■ I know you obviously said that you have shared some of the information about potential site allocations if ahead of those next set of meetings, if we could have those details and like GIS information that we could share with the team, that would be really helpful to inform those discussions.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 32:08

Yes, we should have GIS at some point next week so we can send those through when we have them. You're not the only ones waiting on that, don't worry.

Hertsmere Borough Council 1 32:19

The team are working really hard to get that information through. So we understand the urgency and we're responding accordingly. Hopefully that should give colleagues the confidence that we're up for the challenge.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 32:20

Are there any other questions that anyone in any other teams want to want to raise?

Lead Local Flood Authority 1 32:51

Yeah. Thanks, Just one quick question, if it's too detailed and more appropriate for later discussion, that's fine. I would just really recommend that discussions I had with Thames Water amount infrastructure if that's not already on the list. My reason for saying that is up in number county, we're increasingly seeing Thames Water responded to planning application, saying we don't have capacity for your wastewater or your surface water. Just early this week I was in a meeting with one of your colleagues in Hertsmere DM where that was the case and the kind of solution Thames Water had tried to help with was a kind of condition but Hertsmere planning weren't really sure if that would meet the tests and be appropriate, so it's just a flag that in terms of infrastructure from the LFA, it's kind of simple for our purposes because the sites should take care of themselves. It's where they send that water and in terms of water that is a growing issue around the county and probably. Urban field as well.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 33:52

Yes, it's definitely on our list of we have other issues with water, especially surrounding data centres, which we have well, a couple in the pipeline. So, thank you for raising it. We're definitely very aware of that. ■ is there anything that you want to add?

Lead Local Flood Authority 2 33:59

Acknowledged.

AECOM 1 34:07

Just want to come in on that point. So as well as looking at the infrastructure through the IDP, the water infrastructure, we're also preparing the water cycle study and there is already engagement with both Affinity and Thames Water on that issue. And looking at the capacity and the location of the development so we should cover it through both of those studies.

Hertsmere Borough Council 1 34:34.

Moving on to further steps. As previously mentioned, we will be in touch with relevant teams to discuss strategic issues and we can kind of dive down into them.

We will obviously be accompanied by AECOM, potentially ARU.

But no, we will be in touch. And yeah, if there's any areas for the business that want to be raised.

Transport 1 36:22

Just a couple of couple of questions if I can. I mean in terms of the spatial distribution, are you pretty set on your sites even though I know you're providing GIS or you know, are you going out again to another sort of you expected to score, go out and again and say is there any other sites that want to be put forward I suppose. And then so just link to that is to what extent are you asking those sites to undertake work because if you try to do all the work on your own, that's a that's a that's a massive task. And actually if you ask the developers to do a lot of work and encourage them to engage through pre app and PPA processes, at least gives us the opportunity to secure contributions towards that allows us to bring in additional

resource as well because realistically, my team is 3 people and I'm covering the whole county, so our ability to kind of respond and get involved in any level of detail is somewhat hampered by the resources that we have at our disposal, we can reach back and get additional resource, but that comes at a cost so typically we try to engage through PA app and PPA processes to kind of supplement our resource.

Hertsmere Borough Council 1 37:41

I think that the scale of housing growth that's being directed to Hertsmere should be well understood. The scale of the housing requirement is clear – as it is set out in the standard method. It is about 1012 new additional homes per annum. I think that that, that distribution amongst the boroughs sort of settlement hierarchy is fairly obvious. That hierarchy can be set out as Borehamwood, Potter's bar, Bushey and Radlett It's then a case of how you carve it up. An approach is to focus growth on, Borehamwood and Potters Bar with an emphasis on urban regeneration so that that is a focus on those strategic urban sites within those two settlements that that bring about improvement change, sorry, qualitative improvement and change an investment in infrastructure through quality development that that secures intensification but obviously supported by strategic urban extensions and to deliver essentially that that rolling five year housing land supply because as we know previously developed sites are the most difficult sites to bring forward. I mean look, looking at Hertsmere, I think that should that should be logical. So we know where the infrastructure investment needs to go, it is essentially to those to those two settlements with a slightly lesser degree to Bushey and Radlett as they pick up the remainder.

Everywhere else across the borough the, the rural areas, will receive minimal growth – essentially comprised of small infill development. One of the key threads of the strategy is to remove the pressure on those unsustainable places.

And reduce the need to deliver in in those unsustainable locations, which obviously is what's been happening in the policy vacuum that existed. So, I think that's where we are I think in terms of bringing in the industry, I mean, yes, that is, that's where we would like to be and certainly in in respect of sites that are in the immediate first five year housing land supply that that's where we would hope to be.

I think, the message for the industry is and this is this may be a difficult message for some people to hear is that they need to be bolder, they need to be more innovative

and they need to be thinking of the future rather than trying to proverbially fight the last war, so to speak. And that's inclusive of intensification, densification, it's inclusive of a mix of uses. So not just homogenised housing estates, it's inclusive of what we're really seeking in envisaging in terms of infrastructure investment, so that's sort of transition from a dependency on car use to something that's a bit more self-sustaining and really looks to the future rather than the past.

I hope that's helpful.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 42:20

If there's no further questions or businesses needs to be discussed, I'm happy to draw the meeting to a close. This has obviously been recorded. I know a couple of people were following along as they couldn't attend today, so I will get the transcript go through it and then send it around.

Transport 1 42:41

Sorry at risk of extending the discussion in respect of the ambitious time scale. Understood, we're here to help work with you as best we can. How are the Council bringing members on the journey because there's going to be some difficult discussions, isn't there? And there's going to be some need for expectation around sustainable travel, I suspect and understanding what the consequences of that are. We've been in a fairly kind of merry go dance around Borehamwood for years on this, and we've still not delivered anything. So how do we get members to a position where they're actually going to agree to some of this innovative infrastructure that you mentioned, because up to this point they've increasingly backed away from it.

Hertsmere Borough Council 3 43:42

We have arranged a meeting with Key Members for two weeks' time which is trying to get them to understand the implications of different sort of visions or objectives of what they want to see in a local plan. That meeting will clearly and concisely set out what a positively prepared local plan will need to deliver – specifically in terms of future housing (numbers). What we're trying to explain to them is you can reduce Greenbelt release, but you need to start building upwards – in terms of vertical intensification. Within that context the Council will need to start thinking about parking standards being reduced. You know things like that. It is acknowledged that there are implications to each decision they (Members) make and we're trying to s

take them on that journey so that they can ultimately own what is moving forward. I'm not surprised from what I've seen because I don't think there was ever a holistic vision that sat behind some of that stuff. And I know there's been Hertfordshire County Council plans. But I don't think Hertsmere had the idea about how that fitted into a wider plan for Borehamwood, and that is part of the reason why we've also gone down this development Visions (for each settlement) approach, because there is just a total void over the years of actual settlement planning and actually trying to work out what these settlements stand for and what direction they're going in. So I think that's kind of been one of the sort of options we've looked at to try to address that side of things and actually get members to buy into something so they can see that the implications that decisions they're making on the ultimate endpoint for those settlements. But I think ultimately it comes down to just trying to get an actual plan together and not simply a local plan, but a plan. And look at the different steps and the processes behind that to achieve something.

Hertsmere Borough Council 1 48:31

I would just add that I've been in this situation before – namely, trying to get a local plan through where very similar challenges existed. I failed miserably. However, that was about seven years ago (before the Global pandemic). I genuinely believed that the context has wildly changed, in particular the hope factors around national policy changing, which could allow local planning authorities to get away with things contrary (to national policy) well that's all gone. The reality is that we will be unable to get a local plan found sound without meeting our housing requirements without that, that sound technical evidence base without demonstrating how we deliver infrastructure comprehensively, we'll never, we'll never get there if we don't do those things so that that in itself forces us to pursue this positive path for growth. Politicians need to make those challenging decisions because not having a local plan is a far worse a situation - as we've seen, because it just gives carte blanche to others and external forces to make the decisions for us. And inevitably, those are decisions that don't fully consider infrastructure investment. So it's far better to have a local plan and make those difficult decisions than to just give that responsibility away to others.

Transport 1

Just to come back briefly, all I was going to say is I think it's that point around

bringing Members on the journey is really important for us because the last thing we need is infrastructure locked into IDPs that actually everybody opposes. Once we get a plan through and I've seen that many time actually one of my colleagues, was at the Planning Committee for the Potters Bar site and then his suggestion to me is that I think we need to offer to Hertsmere Members to have a conversation around transport and I'm happy to do that, as long as we're not walking into a bear pit where we're just going to get, you know, a load of accusations thrown at us. So if it's done in the right spirit and everybody's there to learn and to ask questions and respect the answers that they received from officers, then I'm more than happy to kind of be part of that process in terms of educating members and bringing them on that journey, so the offers there. So if you do want us to come along at some point and you're confident that you know it would be taken as it was intended to be, which is to be helpful. We're not there to go and preach to you. We're just trying to sort of answer questions and help people kind of understand the things that we're trying to balance up when we're responding to this stuff then, and I'm happy to do that.

AECOM 1 53:48

I just wanted to come in it. I don't know if you're going to cover this on kind of next steps on kind of follow-ups. But I think for the for the IDP then engagement fairly swiftly would be would be good from our perspective and it doesn't necessarily have to be in the form of meeting. So it'd be quite helpful if we could get a list of the relevant officers at HCC who we can engage with, maybe by e-mail or setting up things so we can. I was just saying you'd be helpful if we get it out. Press things on the IDP.

AECOM 2 54:36

I think essentially we're looking for a list of the HTC offices get out there and then so that we can actually make contacts for both emails and setting up meetings, just being mindful in terms of the upcoming holiday season.

Hertsmere Borough Council 2 54:52

Yes that can definitely be arranged. You will be hearing from us regarding both IDP and other AECOM related projects as well as duty to cooperate. If there's if there's nothing else, I just want to say thank you, everyone, for coming.

X stopped transcription