

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CABINET HOUSING & PLANNING PANEL – 11 AUGUST 2016  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE)

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING PARTNERSHIP (HIPP)  
ANNUAL REVIEW 2015/2016

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) is a partnership of the ten borough/district councils and county council in Hertfordshire, as well as other invited guests such as the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Hertfordshire Local Nature Partnership. Its purpose is to discuss and attempt to reach a shared approach on planning and infrastructure issues affecting the county, to help inform local plans, transport plans and other strategy documents and to help achieve the duty to co-operate and localism agendas. It is attended by both elected councillors and officers from each authority and is chaired by Cllr Mandy Perkins.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the achievements of HIPP.

**3 Explanation**

- 3.1 The Annual Review sets out the achievements of HIPP over the course of 2015-2016. This includes proactive engagement with the Greater London Authority and other suburban authorities in respect of the London Plan, commented on the Hertfordshire Transport Vision and Rail Strategy, commissioned research into development viability, undertook a review of housing and population projections, progressed a county-wide Water Study, a joint workshop with the health sector, promoted sustainability and good design through the Building Futures initiative, alerted MPs to the considerable level of infrastructure investment required to support growth, submitted consultation responses to the Dept for Communities and Local Government on changes to national legislation and national planning policies and worked with local education institutions to increase the supply and quality of planning officers in the county.
- 3.2 It is anticipated that many of these activities will continue into 2016/2017, such as engagement with the Greater London Authority in respect of the London Plan, the Hertfordshire Transport Vision, the county-wide Water Study and recruitment and training of planning officers, as well as any new issues as they arise.

- 3.3 Copies of HIPP's terms of reference, agendas and minutes are available at:  
<http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/plan/hccdevplan/HIPP/>

**4 Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The Council's Business Plan 2015-2018 contains corporate priorities to meet the borough's housing need, help build a strong local economy, protect and enhance the environment and maintain a safe and healthy community.

## **5 Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal, financial, risk management, security/terrorism, procurement, climate change or policy implications associated with this report. HIPP is a voluntary partnership with no direct membership fee, although each authority contributes £3,000 per year to the employment of a Hertfordshire Planning Co-ordinator. The cost of any work or studies agreed by the Partnership is generally funded jointly by the constituent councils. The Terms of Reference make clear that HIPP is not a formal decision-making body and will not fetter the decision-making process of individual authorities.

## **6 Equalities and Diversity**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with this report.

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### **Background Papers:**

- HIPP Annual Review 2015/2016