

**PROPOSED CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC
PLANNING & TRANSPORT MEMBER GROUP**

To: Economy & Environment Committee

Meeting Date: 21st April 2015

From: Executive Director - Economy Transport & Environment

Electoral division(s): *Huntingdon
The Hemingfords and Fenstanton
St Ives
Sawtry and Ellington
Little Paxton and St Neots North
Brampton and Kimbolton
St Neots Eaton Socon and Eynesbury
Little Paxton and St Neots North
Norman Cross*

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable **Key decision:** No

Purpose: Seek approval to develop joint member working arrangements related to work on planning and infrastructure in Huntingdonshire and to seek nominees for relevant County Council representatives for this group

Recommendation: The Committee are asked to:

- a) Approve the establishment of a Joint Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Strategic Planning & Transport Member Group and
- b) Propose three County Council nominees to join the group

Officer contact:	
Name:	Dearbhla Lawson
Post:	Head of Transport, Infrastructure Policy & Funding
Email:	Dearbhla.lawson@cambridgeshire.com

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Significant growth is planned in Huntingdonshire to 2036 and the District Council is conducting targeted stakeholder engagement until 20 March in preparation for their pre-submission Local Plan due to be published in June. The plan will set out the development strategy including consideration of Alconbury Enterprise Zone and Airfield, and other key proposals such as Wyton Airfield, that have arisen since the Core Strategy was adopted in 2009.
- 1.2 The Long Term Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire highlighted that there are likely to be significant infrastructure requirements related to Huntingdonshire Local Plan's growth aims, and that further work is needed to develop a package of transport measures, particularly in the Huntingdon, St Ives and Wyton area, where there are real capacity constraints
- 1.3 In addition, there is also a very significant requirement for education places related to growth. All these issues need bringing together to ensure clarity regarding the necessary infrastructure required and its likely impacts, deliverability and affordability.
- 1.4 The District Council, once they submit their Local Plan, will need to be able to demonstrate at Examination that their proposals are effective and deliverable, based on sound evidence and that the impacts can be mitigated. Therefore it will be important to ensure effective joint working arrangements are in place to help ensure an agreed joint approach on infrastructure issues, with a particular focus on transport and education. This will help to ensure clarity on the issues and agree common ground related to proposed solutions ahead of Huntingdonshire finalising their plan for submission.
- 1.5 It is also intended to progress the development of a Huntingdonshire District Transport Strategy this year to update and replace the current Market Town Transport Strategies. It is proposed that a joint member group would be well placed to also steer the development of this strategy.

2 JOINT WORKING PROPOSALS

- 2.1 There is an existing 'Huntingdonshire Growth and Infrastructure Group' which meets quarterly, the main focus of which is on Community Infrastructure Levy and includes stakeholders such as Highways Agency, Environment Agency etc. A sensible approach would be to look at revising the scope and terms of reference for this group. This would enable Members and officers in the two authorities to play a wider role regarding infrastructure needed to support delivering the local Plan. The District officers are currently revising the Terms of Reference (TOR) and these will be shared with Members for consideration. As this group is already constituted, and includes Cllr Bates for the County Council and Cllr Doug Dew for the District, this would help make the most of current arrangements, and help ensure that there is one key group tasked with considering infrastructure issues for the area.
- 2.2 In terms of representation for the group, it is proposed that three additional County Council and three additional District Council representatives be nominated to join this group. It is proposed that the TOR be amended to fit the revised requirements as outlined in para 1.4 and 1.5 and that the membership

should ideally be based on political proportionality with good geographic coverage, with representatives from key market towns in the district. There is already a Conservative representative on the group for the County Council, Subject to the agreement of the Committee, nominees are therefore required from the following groups for three additional members; UKIP, Liberal Democrat and Conservatives. The District is also being asked to nominate three additional representatives.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

Effective joint working arrangements to support plans for growth across Huntingdonshire will help support the local economy for the benefit of all.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

Joint work to support plans for growth In Huntingdonshire will help to ensure that plans support in helping people live healthy and independent lives.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications for this.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant resource implications here as this proposal proposes revising the remit of an existing 'Huntingdonshire Growth and Infrastructure Group'. This is already constituted and meets quarterly and would help make the most of current arrangements, and not add extra costs of set up. This also helps to ensure that there is one key group tasked with considering infrastructure issues for the area.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications for this.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications for this.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications for this.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The proposal is to strengthen the joint working arrangements to help ensure good engagement and support the local economy for the benefit of all.

4.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications for this.

Source Documents	Location
<i>Huntingdonshire Local Plan Consultation</i> <i>Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy</i>	http://consult.huntsdc.gov.uk/portal . http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/66/transport_plans_and_policies