

REPORT TO: CABINET

DATE: 14 JUNE 2018

TITLE: EMPLOYMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR DANNY PURTON, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT

LEAD OFFICER: GRAEME BLOOMER, HEAD OF PLACE (01279) 446270

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: JULIE HOUSTON, STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (01279) 446445

This is not a Key Decision
It is on the Forward Plan as Decision Number I008916
Call-in Procedures may apply
This decision will affect no ward specifically.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- A** Approves the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between East Hertfordshire District Council, Epping Forest District Council, Harlow Council, Uttlesford District Council covering the Distribution of Objectively Assessed Employment Need across the West Essex-East Herts Functional Economic Market Area attached as Appendix A.
- B** Delegates authority to the Managing Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment to approve any minor and inconsequential amendments to the draft Memorandum.
- C** Subject to B, the Managing Director be authorised to sign the MoU in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder.

REASON FOR DECISION

- A** The MOU, once signed, will provide evidence that the four Local Authorities are working together under the Duty to Cooperate (as defined by the Localism Act 2011) to support and manage planned growth. This evidence is required to help ensure that the Local Plan is found sound by the Inspector when it is submitted to the Secretary of State.
- B** This joint partnership working will facilitate delivery of planned strategic employment locations to support sustainable development across the wider Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) at the most appropriate times.

BACKGROUND

1. This is one of four memoranda produced by the Co-op Member Board. This MoU concerns the distribution of employment need. Once signed, the MoU takes immediate effect. The MoU can be reviewed and amended if future circumstances dictate, subject to agreement between the Co-op Member Board partners.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

2. This MoU is designed to address the agreed distribution of employment land as defined by the 2017 FEMA report by Hardisty Jones Associates Ltd (HJA). Although the MoU addresses employment need within the West Essex-East Hertfordshire FEMA only, the draft of the MoU, and the evidence underpinning it, were discussed both at the Co-op Member Board and the Co-op Officer Group, which include other relevant authorities.
3. The purpose of this MOU is to ensure that the West Essex-East Hertfordshire Authorities (supported by Essex County Council and Hertfordshire Council), work together to plan for meeting, in full, the employment needs of the FEMA, as assessed by the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Assessment of Employment Needs Report (October 2017) and ensure the delivery of the following:
 - a) 51,000 jobs;
 - b) 10-24 hectares of employment land for office requirements;
 - c) 68 hectares of employment land for industrial requirements;
 - d) Achieve a) above through formalising agreement of the employment growth distribution which is set out within the "Assessment of Employment Needs" FEMA report (Hardisty Jones Associates Ltd (HJA) - October 2017) at sustainable locations in the FEMA;
 - e) To shape and deliver the shared Strategic Vision for the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) 'Core Area' which will include a focus on strategic and transformational growth at Harlow, to be developed through the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Economic Growth Strategy;
 - f) To continue to engage with one another in detail, and on a continuing basis through the plan-making process, with the intention of ensuring the preparation and delivery of sound local plans of each respective LPA, together with supporting economic growth strategies wherever necessary;
 - g) To continue to co-operate during the implementation and monitoring of individual local plans in order to ensure their effectiveness, including

ensuring flexibility and the ability to adapt and respond to changing circumstances as they emerge;

- h) To develop an improved shared understanding around the economic growth of the FEMA, and specific future requirements of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town, including the commissioning, interpretation and effective application of any future joint evidence work where required; and
- i) To meet the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate effectively and demonstrably and in particular, to focus on its strategic, cross-boundary considerations and to provide a clear framework for collaborative partnership working.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (Includes Sustainability)

The MoU is a key requirement to help ensure that the Local Plan is found sound and supports the delivery of sustainable development.

Author: Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place

Finance (Includes ICT)

Future Local Authority funding is likely to be dependent upon the level of economic growth that an area can generate and the associated increases in business rates this creates. The MOU will support the development of a strategy to deliver economic growth which will deliver financial benefits for Harlow and all local authority areas within the FEMA. **Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

Housing

None specific.

Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

The MoU presents a way forward in the delivery of employment outlined in this MoU and will help the delivery of the Council's Economic Development Strategy and support the future economic development of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

Governance (Includes HR)

Entering into the attached MoU will enable the Council to provide evidence towards its Duty to Cooperate obligations under the Localism Act 2011 when preparing its Local Plan.

Author: Amanda Julian, Legal Services Manager

Appendices

Appendix A – Memorandum of Understanding

Background Papers

2017 FEMA report by Hardisty Jones Associates Ltd

<http://www.harlow.gov.uk/sites/harlow-cms/files/files/documents/files/West%20Essex%20And%20East%20Herts%20Assessment%20of%20Employment%20Needs.pdf>

Localism Act 2011 – www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/part/2/enacted

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

DtC – Duty to Cooperate - created in the Localism Act 2011 this places a legal duty on local planning authorities in England to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.

MoU – Memorandum of Understanding - an agreement between two or more parties outlining the terms and details of an understanding, including each parties' requirements and responsibilities.