



Better Places to Live Steering Group

Minutes

10 December 2009

Present

Anne Freimanis,	Theme Lead
Duncan Jones	Waste Partnership
Alison Page	Street Scene
Ian Orton,	HACO
Jon Tiley,	FPU, HCC
Richard Protheroe,	Herts Head of Housing Group
Graham Cowell,	Environment Agency
Tony Jackson,	Theme Lead, Chair
Rob Rees,	CMS HCC
Victor Wan,	SPU, HCC
Andrew Weaver	Herts Head of Housing Group
Clive Matthews	Constabulary
David Bogle	RSL's group

Apologies

Steve Harvey, Ann Janz, Steve Henning, James Doe, David Scholes

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Agreed as accurate

BPL conference was very well received. Evaluation forms were positive in the feedback

2. Herts Forward update

The Core Group focus this time was on the safer and stronger thematic group.

The CAA red flag will be led by a specialist theme group who will report to the BPL steering group and others.

GO East are reviewing action plans to ensure the key areas of concern are covered.

Parish and Town Council are now represented at the HF Core Group.

3. BPL action plans

Copies of the draft electronic action plan for BPL had been circulated. VW explained the refreshed version, which supersedes the previous versions. GO East have been keen to see all the thematic groups action plans.

ACTION: RP and AW would finalise the section for the housing targets, although they were still waiting for the SHMA to come in, by the 16 Dec 2009.

The action plans for BPL will cover the period up to April 2010. The 2010-2011 action plan would be drafted early on in the new financial year.

ACTION: The Housing Consortium needs to be incorporated into structure chart.

Discussion followed on the CAA red flag which was around the the progress of the LDF's and understanding the needs of the housing market. Although red flagged the Audit Commission had acknowledge progress via the BPL partnership.

ACTION: Action plan for 2010-2011 to be on the agenda of the next steering group

4. LAA review and refresh

The LAA Review and Refresh paper was circulated electronically.

BPL has to refresh NI154 which was 'locked down'.

Members of the BPL steering group have a meeting with GO East on the 15 Jan 2010 to renegotiate the LAA target.

There are a total of 4 lockdown targets across the thematic groups of HF.

For BPL the issue lies with the trajectory of the housing figures in the current climate.

5. New BPL Programme Manager

JT updated the group. Interviews took place in November and the preferred candidate has accepted the post.

Julie Evans-Hughes the new BPL Programme Manager will start on the 4 January 2010. The post is funded through LAA PRG for two years.

Julie will work 0.6 of a post, based within the Forward Planning Unit, HCC.

6. HIPP update

HIPP has formally amended its Terms of Reference to reflect the closer working relationship with BPL.

BPL has asked HIPP to work on the red flag and to oversee the LDF's progress in Hertfordshire.

Jon highlighted that HIPP has no statutory role but has developed as a body in the absence of the county wide structure plan.

Partners asked for an update on the Infrastructure Strategy.

ACTION: Jon Tiley

7. Heads of Housing Group update

RP and AW highlighted the importance of planners and housing officers working together.

Discussion followed on the role of the LCBSR and whether Hertfordshire should seek to be a sub region in its own right.

Jackie Rose has been appointed as the new Investment Manager at HCA.

Steve Collins (HCA) was highlighted as a future guest at the next BPL Steering Group.

ACTION: Victor Wan

Partners raised concerns that HCA were not aware of what grant allocations had been made in Hertfordshire.

The consortium is examining support for the group with Martin Ling, via a one day a week release.

It is also looking to develop a performance framework.

8. Green Infrastructure update

Rob Rees summarised the key findings from the BPL conference:

The BPL conference has helped to shape the work programme.

A key point highlighted at the conference has been the need for bespoke approaches for certain areas.

There is a need for work on the urban and rural interface and the physical links to the urban areas.

Parish and town council have to be engaged in the design and consultations

9. BPL and CAA

Members of the Steering group met with GO East reps on the 8/12/09.

GO East will be drawing up a proposal for moving on from the red flag.

Gary Hammersley from the Audit Commission reiterated that the red flag was around the pace of the LDF's and not having a clear picture of the housing needs in Hertfordshire.

It was suggested that the new programme Manager could table authorities where they had received a green flag for housing.

Action: Julie Evans-Hughes

10. NI 195

Duncan Jones presented his paper on NI195.

Steering group partners were asked to review the performance figures and propose areas of priority works.

Ian Orton, on behalf of HACO identified litter as a major issue.

It was agreed by the steering group that all four indicators under NI195 should be addressed equally in the county.

The steering group highlighted that there was a need for designing the issues in the indicator out and a change in behaviour/perception.

Duncan Jones informed the group that performance is regularly monitored and would be able to report progress at future steering groups.

11. Graffiti removal/joint working

Alison Page presented her paper on the proposal for Herts Highways on the cleansing of graffiti on highway structures.

The steering group agreed that partners should not work in silos and proposed that this should be moved forward.

12. National drivers and strategic policies – roundtable update

Duncan Jones: DEFRA have announced that the definition of waste shall include levels of Co2. In addition waste will be defined by areas and not in the current silo categories.

Jon Tiley: Consultation on different growth scenarios to 2031 for the Review of the Regional Plan has just ended. EERA will now try to work up formal proposals for altering the Plan by March 2010. In April 2010, new arrangements for regional planning will come into force, with a Single Regional Strategy which will be jointly prepared by EEDA and a Regional Leaders Board.

Tony Jackson: The refresh of the HF SCS will be aiming towards working with a low carbon agenda.

David Bogle: On the 19-4-10 Herts Housing Conference. For more info please speak with David.

13. Dates of the next meetings

All meetings will be held in Room 1.11 at Wallfields, Hertford, 2-4pm

1. 31st March 2010
2. 15th June 2010
3. 28th September 2010
4. 21st December 2010

End 4pm