

MINUTES

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE AND HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Wednesday 23 November 2016

Hosted by: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Present:

Cllr Chris Saint, Chair Stratford-on-Avon District Council	David Buckland Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Cllr Mike Hall Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Steve Atkinson Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr David Humphreys North Warwickshire Borough Council	Steve Maxey North Warwickshire Borough Council
Cllr Dennis Harvey Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	Ian Powell Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Cllr Mike Stokes Rugby Borough Council	Adam Norburn Rugby Borough Council
Cllr Andrew Mobbs Warwick District Council	Chris Elliott Warwick District Council
Cllr Kam Kaur Warwickshire County Council	Monica Fogarty Warwickshire County Council
Bill Blincoe CW Growth Hub	Paula Deas CWLEP
Celestine Banks, Minute taker Rugby Borough Council	

11. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Cllr Saint welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr George Duggins and Martin Reeves (Coventry City Council), Alan Franks (Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council), Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Warwickshire County Council), Jonathan Browning and Martin Yardley (CWLEP) and Dave Webb (Stratford-on-Avon District Council).

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 21 JULY 2016

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

13. MATTERS ARISING

4. ELMOU - Chris Elliott confirmed that the only caveat is around Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
5. Market Signals and Market Intelligence – Bill Blincoe confirmed that work is ongoing.

14. SINGLE SPATIAL STRATEGY (SSS)

– *Chris Elliott and Bill Blincoe*

A report had been circulated with the agenda, together with appendices, to update committee members on the progress made since the presentation at the last meeting and to set out a business case for developing a single SSS.

Bill Blincoe reported that officers were making good progress with the Compendium document utilising, in the main, internal resources. An external resource will be required to create the web based tool which has gone out to tender to four web design companies and an appointment will be made in December.

A flexible framework will be produced which the six district councils will populate with local information including summaries of the 2011-2031 local plans; clearly reflecting where some have not been adopted. The tool will enable users to click into an area to view information on the policies of each district with access to the relevant district web pages behind that.

Committee members agreed that they were happy to see local plans drawn together onto one web-based site. **Officers please note** that members asked that the web-site name be re-considered so that it does not contain the word ‘planning’.

Chris Elliott referred to the business case which sets out the proposition for developing a single SSS. There is the potential for significant financial savings across local authorities through joint working and given the current financial austerity how best to use public resources needs to be considered.

This is not about trying to influence local plans, but it is about what to base the next plans on and how to better serve the community. The committee has already agreed the Memorandums of Understanding which are key common building blocks. The Government needs to see active co-operation between districts and one of the conditions around the Growth Deal funding was that we have a SSS in place.

There are questions of timing as Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council and Rugby Borough Council will not be in a position to participate at present, although both agree to the SSS in principle. Planners are clearly aligned and the general feeling was that this should be brought back in six months’ time.

Concerns were raised about how the SSS fits as we move closer to the West Midlands Combined Authority and it was acknowledged that the risk in delaying could mean being overtaken by events.

The CWLEP would support keeping the momentum going in the direction of a SSS and the outcome of this meeting will be reported to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy at their Annual Conversation on 7 December.

Cllr Saint suggested that there should be some member debate around the SSS.

Officers please provide the committee with an explanation of how the costs of a SSS would be divided between authorities and when these would be scheduled in.

It was moved that the Joint Committee agree to recommendation 5.1 below and that recommendations 5.2 and 5.3 in the report be considered in six months' time:

- 5.1 That progress on developing a Compendium Spatial Strategy is noted and a further report on progress is made by June 2017.

Cllr Saint proposed the motion, which was agreed unanimously.

15. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF PUBLIC BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

- 15.1 Coventry & Warwickshire Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) – This will be published on 6 December. Concern was raised by all members that there had been less than satisfactory involvement with the district councils; no direct involvement other than one workshop some 18 months ago and no feedback as to whether any points raised have been incorporated. The process has not been explained and members agreed that they need to understand if there will be an opportunity to give input once the plan is published. It would also be useful to know what is happening in peripheral areas as people who live near to the county border will use the services closest to them which may be across that border.

The Joint Committee agreed unanimously on the following course of action:

That Cllr Saint would, as the current Chair of the Committee, write a letter to the Sustainability and Transformation Leader for Coventry and Warwickshire, Andy Hardy, asking for the Joint Committee to be briefed (in private) so that members are prepared prior to the STP's publication.

- 15.2 Coventry City Council representation at Joint Committee meetings - Concern was raised that this was the third meeting where Coventry City Council had not been represented.

The Joint Committee agreed unanimously on the following course of action:

That Steve Maxey would approach Coventry City Council to discuss their future commitment to attending the meetings.

16. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12a to the Act.

There were no members of the public present.

17. CWLEP BOARD MEETING ON 28 NOVEMBER 2016

The agenda and papers had been circulated prior to the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the proposed changes to the CWLEP constitution. Paula Deas, Bill Blincoe and Chris Elliott will report back the comments made at this meeting to the Board on Monday.

18. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF PRIVATE BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

There were no other matters.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 27 January 2016 at Warwickshire Council Council's offices in Warwick. Further details will be advised.

CHAIR

Date