

MINUTES

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

Friday 27 January 2017

Hosted by: Warwickshire County Council

Present:

Cllr Peter Butlin, Chair Warwickshire County Council	Mark Ryder Warwickshire County Council
Jim Graham Warwickshire County Council	Paula Deas CWLEP
Cllr George Duggins Coventry City Council	Martin Yardley Coventry City Council
Cllr Mike Hall Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Bill Cullen 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 Chris Saint Stratford-on-Avon District Council	David Buckland Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Cllr Michael Coker Warwick District Council	Chris Elliott Warwick District Council
Bill Blincoe CW Growth Hub	Celestine Banks, Minute taker Rugby Borough Council

19. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Cllr Butlin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016

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

21. MATTERS ARISING

- 15.1 Coventry & Warwickshire Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) – Cllr Saint reported that he had met with Andy Hardy and they had discussed the constraints and national concerns regarding timescales for the plans to be

produced. He was extremely amenable and keen to meet with the Committee. Stratford District Council will be meeting with him.

22. HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

– Chris Elliott

A report had been circulated with the agenda.

In September 2015 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) were unable to sign up to the Housing MoU. They signed up to the Employment Land MoU with a caveat that they would need to undertake further assessment work. The current position is that NBBC are taking forward, in their local plan, a shortfall in housing numbers of just over 2,000 and a shortfall of 9½ hectares in employment land. The consequence of which is that the sub-regional plan is not being met.

Clearly the other councils in Coventry and Warwickshire want to support NBBC as they have supported each other previously but there are processes which need to be put in place for the benefit of everyone.

From next week the other councils in Coventry and Warwickshire will collectively test NBBC's SHLAA to make sure that what they have put forward is the case and recommend the way forward. NBBC are very clear about the duty to co-operate imposed by government. It is in everyone's interests to agree the process and timetable as authorities are left much more exposed if plans are not in place. NBBC's period of consultation ends on 13 March and it was agreed that the Joint Committee will meet as planned on 8 March.

Cllr Stokes stated that although Rugby Borough Council will contribute fully to the process it will be very challenging as their local plan consultation period has just ended and the plan is due to go to Council at the end of March. They will do their best to support NBBC but their priority is their local plan and their residents and any change could result in severe financial implications. With that caveat, they will do all that they can.

Cllr Butlin advised the group that the region as a whole will run out of employment land in the next 2 years. Relatively small numbers of people are employed in some of the 'sheds' which take up several acres. Cllr Stokes said that he and officers at Rugby Borough Council have met with ministers and civil servants on this topic and he would encourage colleagues to lobby ministers on the guidance for additional housing for employment land associated with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Steve Maxey proposed that the Committee agree the recommendations contained within the report.

The Joint Committee unanimously agreed the recommendations contained within the report as follows:

- i. That the process and timetable set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report be supported as the way forward to address the implications of NBBC's draft Borough Plan.
- ii. That the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 8 March 2017 consider a report on the outcome of the process set out in this report.
- iii. That the potential scenarios in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report be noted.
- iv. That the position of Rugby Borough Council be noted.

23. STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION PLAN (STP)

A paper had been circulated with the agenda outlining the current position of Warwickshire County Council (WCC), in relation to the STP which was published on 6 December 2016.

Jim Graham addressed the group and covered the main themes associated with why WCC will not consider signing up to the STP in its current form.

Cllr Duggins said that Coventry City Council has the same reservations as WCC but does not concur that an independent chair be appointed and they believe that Andy Hardy can move this forward.

Discussion followed with general agreement to the position of WCC. The current document is not easily comprehensible and authorities want to be involved in the process and contribute to it. The plan needs to be far wider and ensure better health care which is local and accessible; planning in healthy lifestyle solutions.

Cllr Duggins and one member of the public left the meeting.

Officers, please note that the Joint Committee would like:

- local government input to the STP;
- a clear report of where the £267m will be taken from and what is being done to achieve this;
- cross border considerations; and
- it to be noted that Coventry City Council are happy with the existing chair

Jim Graham and David Buckland left the meeting.

24. WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY (WMCA) UPDATE

Steve Maxey referred to a meeting of the WMCA last week and several issues it raised:

- Membership of the WMCA - There were some concerns about a letter to authorities from the minister around non-constituent members and the impact that has on the overriding vision of the 3 LEP geography. Those who are not currently members may struggle to get in and the interim picture may cause problems.
- Mental Health Commission - Everyone has until Thursday to decide on the protocol for the launch next week.
- Growth Company - The CWLEP want to see how this fits in with what works locally.

- Land Commission – This is back on the agenda at a meeting on 8 February and legal officers are meeting today.
- Mayoral candidates - There is a protocol to follow for contact with mayoral candidates which affects some areas of this committee more than others but that everyone needs to be aware of.
- Devolution talks – Are ongoing with central government although it wasn't possible to gain a real sense of how this is progressing.

David Buckland returned to the meeting.

Paula Deas addressed Steve Maxey's first point. There had been a frank conversation about the content of the letter and it was agreed that without a change of mind by ministers the economic objectives that have been set out in the strategic economic plan would be virtually impossible to achieve. It was agreed that Cllr Bob Sleigh, Chair of the WMCA, with Cllr Bill Hartnett, would ask for a face to face meeting with Sajid Javid, make representations and try to unpick what was behind this letter.

From a LEP point of view speaking on behalf of the private and public sector they made it clear that the advice in the letter should be challenged.

Martin Yardley added that Coventry City Council and other constituent members were surprised at the content of the letter and will show their full support of non-constituent members. Cllr Harvey reiterated this view as the only other full member.

There was general agreement amongst Committee members that the position was frustrating. Authorities within the 3 LEP geography should not be excluded, as the growth plans of the Super SEP and SEPs will be incapable of being achieved, as the constituent members are reliant on the non-constituent members around them.

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

There were no further matters of public business.

26. 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.

The remaining member of the public left the meeting.

27. CWLEP BOARD MEETING ON 30 JANUARY 2017

The agenda and papers had been circulated prior to the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the proposed changes to the CWLEP constitution and Growth Deal 3.

Cllr Harvey questioned whether there is a need to look at the CWLEP Board papers at these meetings moving forward, given the proposed changes in their constitution.

28. 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 8 March 2017 at Coventry City Council's offices. Further details will be advised.

CHAIR

Date