

Housing and Development Group (HDG)
(Working Group to SELEP)

Tuesday 16th June 2020

MS Teams

Nick Fenton	Kent Developers Group - Chair
Brian Horton	SELEP
Alex Riley	SELEP
Jonathan Buckwell	DES/DHA Planning
Helen McCabe	Chair South Essex Housing Group
Duncan Innes	Swan/Nu Living
Mary Gibbons	CHP
Mark Pullin	KPOG/ Ebbsfleet DC
Jemma Little	Haven Gateway Partnership
Lee Heley	Essex County Council
Alethea Evans	Essex County Council
Paul Thomas	DLS
Alastair Pollock	South Essex Housing Group/Essex Developers Group
Tina Hinson	EHOOG/Colchester BC
Jonathan Buckwell	DES/DHA Planning
Andrew Palmer	ESHOG/Hastings BC
Coby Tomlins	Dunton Hills
Dave Harris	KPOG/Medway
Liz Gibney	SELEP Board/Lee Evans Partnership
Jeremy Potter	EPOA/Chelmsford
Shona Johnstone	Homes England
Simon Payne	Uttelsford DC
Tracey Kerly	KHG/Ashford BC

Notes and Actions

1. Introductions and Apologies – Nick Fenton (Chair)

Apologies were noted.

2. Review & Agree Notes/Action Points of meeting held on 25 February 2020 - Nick Fenton

The notes were agreed and the group received an update on progress on the action points, with rollover actions from the February meeting listed below in the updated Action Log.

3. Update: Local Industrial Strategy – Alex Riley

Alex Riley provided an update on dialogue with Government on the LIS, he advised that further work will be done to align LIS priorities with the imperative to provide an effective response to economic recovery post COVID-19.

4. Homes England Update – Shona Johnstone

Shona Johnstone advised that Homes England have been engaging widely with the Housing and Development Sector. This engagement is being used to shape future priorities and they are keen to work with colleagues to fully understand how the COVID-19 emergency has impacted the operating environment and intelligence on priorities for intervention.

5. DES/EDG/KDG Chairs Letter to SoS Robert Jenwick 28 April 2020 – Brian Horton

Brian Horton provided an overview of the collective work that Developer Chairs have been engaged in with support from a number of HDG colleagues to join up on a shared response to the impact of COVID-19 from the Housing and Development sector. This work is being directly communicated to MHCLG and Homes England on a COVID focussed weekly MS Teams call. The body of learning to the end of April was collated into a letter from the Chairs to the Secretary of State at MHCLG Robert Jenwick. The letter remains under active consideration by MHCLG and Homes England. The Minister of State for Housing Chris Pincher has subsequently requested a meeting with Developer Group Chairs. A response to the letter is expected from the Secretary of State and the weekly Teams meeting continues with a flexible cohort of participants focussing now on both market intelligence and thematic briefings.

6. Kent Infrastructure First – David Godfrey

David Godfrey delivered a presentation on the scope and progress with the development of a deal with Government on what has been referred to as an 'Infrastructure First' deal to accelerate the delivery of housing, recovery and related infrastructure in Kent with an initial focus on the East of the County.

7. Open forum on Developer/Garden Community Issues - Post COVID-19 – Brian Horton

- Jemma Little provided an update on IConstruct and FutureProof.
- Jeremy Potter suggested we look at importance of the planning to promoting healthy vibrant communities and designing in wellbeing.
- The group had a discussion on the issues to be raised with MHCLG and Homes England on the Affordable Housing themed call 17 June 2020.

8. Any other business

Suggested by Mary Gibbons and agreed that HDG meet more regularly and virtually for immediate future. Agreed that we will move to 8 meetings over the next year with the next meeting in c.4/6 weeks time.

Future Meeting Dates

10.30 am Tuesday 4 August 2020 – MS Teams
10.30 am Tuesday 22 September 2020 – MS Teams
10.30 am Tuesday 3 November 2020 – MS Teams
10.30 am Tuesday 19 January 2021 – MS Teams
10.30 am Tuesday 23 March 2021 – MS Teams
10.30 am Tuesday 11 May 2021 – MS Teams
10.30 am Tuesday 29 June 2021 – MS Teams

Action Log from 18 June 2020 Meeting:

1. Share updated version of LIS, when available, to the group (Alex Riley)
2. Coordinate further discussions on Viability Protocols (Brian Horton)
3. The Kent Rural Housing Planning Protocol will be shared with the group when ready (Brian Horton)
4. Ebbsfleet's Estate Management Model will be shared with the group when ready (Ian Piper)
5. Provide time on future item for a Planning and Wellbeing item to be led by Jeremy Potter (Brian Horton)