

## **Housing and Development Group (HDG)**

**(Working Group to SELEP)**

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Video Conference**

### **1. Introductions and Apologies – Brian Horton (Chair)**

Chair noted that the usual Chair (Nick Fenton) sends his apologies and that he will Chair the meeting with consent of the other Development Group leads.

### **2. Review & Agree Notes of Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed, and the actions will be covered off in the meeting.

### **3. SELEP Update**

Alex Riley updated the group that the Covid-19 Recovery Fund is underway and more information on this can be found here: <https://www.southeastlep.com/covid-19-recovery-funds-programme/>

SELEP are also working with Arts Council England on the production of a report which will focus on how the cultural and creative sector can act as a driver of High Street recovery and renewal. Consultants We Made That have been appointed to deliver this work and will be engaging with local authorities over the coming months on developing case studies as part of this work.

### **4. Lower Thames Crossing**

The group were informed that the Lower Thames Crossing is going through an additional consultation process running from 14<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> September. If the project does get through the planning process construction would be expected to start in 2024 and complete between 2029 and 2030.

There is ongoing work to engage the local community on the potential impacts of the scheme and promoting the local benefits that it will provide.

### **5. Chris Pincher 15/6 Meeting and MHCLG/HE Engagement**

Chair noted to the group that Developer Group Leads met on the 15<sup>th</sup> June to continue the ongoing dialogue with MHCLG and Homes England that has been taking place since the lockdown. Colleagues now involved are focused on engagement and market intelligence and information provided feeds into the regular ministerial briefing.

Priorities for discussion were market conditions - in particular materials and skills, planning issues – frustration from developers in terms of what is seen as unhelpful messaging coming out of the LGA, the discussion of a workshop for affordable development finance and Nick Fenton provided a briefing on phosphates and nitrates.

## **6. Phosphates and Nitrates Update**

Chair noted that there is now a cross-departmental task force focusing on these issues. It was noted that the situation in Kent could act as an early warning for Essex and East Sussex. The solutions proposed in Kent also provide a template for a wider solution at a national level.

How infrastructure to deal with the issue is paid for is a key question that requires answering and could impact viability.

Alex Riley informed the group that SELEP has been having discussions with Water Resources East that links to this topic and they could be invited to present at a future meeting.

It was also suggested by Liz Gibney that Kent representatives attend EPOA to speak on this issue.

Action - Chair was also asked if they could share a map that has been developed on this with the group.

## **7. Planning and Wellbeing**

Jeremy Potter presented a slide pack on the Livewell development accreditation that has been developed in Essex.

The group were informed that the accreditation focused on where developments are considered to make a positive contribution to health and wellbeing. Noting the need to encourage this behaviour beyond what is required in the planning policy.

The slides will be shared with the group.

## **8. Homes England Update**

Shona gave her apologies and was unable to attend to present on this item.

## **9. Open Forum**

Chair raised the issue of materials, skills, productivity, and inertia in terms of supply. Mark Curle noted that we are seeing a slow correction in some cases, but major suppliers are going back on allocation which is not a good sign. It was also noted that this is not just a cost issue but its availability among other issues such as labour and training. Jonathan Buckwell noted that the issues do not appear to be getting much better.

Jemma Little informed the group that through IConstruct they are seeing SMEs adapting and innovating around the digital agenda.

Chair noted that future meeting dates will be circulated in the new few days.

#### **10. Any other business**

Chair wished Lee Heley well in his secondment to Tendring District Council, noting the positive contribution that he has made to this group.

Meeting closed.