**Housing and Development Group (HDG)**

**(Working Group to SELEP)**

**19th July 2022**

1. **SELEP Update**

Alex Riley updated the group on the LEP’s new Strategy Network Model of engagement. A central hub for this activity is available on the SELEP website here: <https://www.southeastlep.com/our-network/>

This network page will also include regular economic data & intelligence reports.

1. **Phosphates & Nitrates**

Chair informed the group that a government announcement on this is expected soon. They are looking at legislative changes as part of a solution.

It was also noted that Canterbury had just finished its assessment looking at land available for wetlands and KCC has had funding to look across catchments at the wider position.

What Government says on wetlands will be crucial and there is also work to see where Southern Water’s responsibilities lie.

1. **Homes England**

Shona provided a written update to the group – Brian will circulate this.

1. **First Homes**

Brian noted that there were ongoing conversations on this topic across local authorities. DHA Planning is sponsoring a roundtable on the 22nd September bringing together colleagues across SELEP from various disciplines.

There is the ambition that someone from the development side with direct experience of delivering first homes will attend, alongside Homes England and DLUCH colleagues.

1. **Estate Stewardship**

Paul thanked Alastair for his continued support on this work. The experience of stewardship models from Harlow and Gilston had been shared. Homes England is keen to explore localised healthcare provision within garden communities.

Alastair also met with the new Homes Ombudsman and it was evident that she was highly experienced and open to look at estate charging, bad practice and mis selling. She would be invited to a meeting in September and there will be an ongoing dialogue.

1. **Lower Thames Crossing**

LTC colleagues sent their apologies. They are still aiming to submit the full application later this year.

1. **Planning Update**

Jonathan noted that there were ongoing pressures with a focus on what will happen at the national level. Many local authorities have put plans on hold as they wait for this.

What local authorities need is clear guidance, but the issue of resourcing this remains. Brian noted that there will be a consultation on raising planning fees with a strong push that this is ringfenced for planning department resources.

Action: Re-look at the planning protocols following any changes from Government in September – Brian to coordinate this.

1. **DLUHC**

Brian noted that engagement with the department continues and any suggestions from the group, in terms of what to feed into these discussions, are always welcome.

1. **Open Forum**

Next meeting is on the 20th September 2022.

Meeting closed.