

## **Hereford Area Plan Reference Group Meeting**

### **Notes of Meeting**

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Time: 15:30

Venue: Hereford City Council Offices, Town Hall, Hereford

#### **Attendees:**

Cllr P Price (Chair), Herefordshire Council – (PP)  
Steve Kerry, Hereford City Council (Clerk) - (SK)  
Georgia Smith, HBID – (GS)  
Kevin Singleton, Herefordshire Council – (KS)  
Victoria Eaton, Herefordshire Council – (VE)  
Cllr P Andrews, Herefordshire Council – (PA)  
Bill Bloxsome, Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership – (BB)  
Joy Harvey, HVOSS – (JH)  
Cllr M Lloyd-Hayes, Hereford City Council – (MLH)  
John Jones, HBiD – (JJ)

#### **Apologies:**

John Bothamley, Hereford Civic Society – (JB)  
David Sheppard, NMiTE – (DS)

- 
1. Welcome and apologies.
  2. Minutes of previous meeting agreed as a true record. No amendments suggested.
  3. Updates
    - The Flood Risk Assessment report is due to be published imminently. KS to chase up.
    - Minerals & Waste Local Plan Issues and Options Paper: an all members seminar is being held on 6<sup>th</sup> July in the Shire Hall, where the consultants will provide detail on the content of the forthcoming public consultation.
  4. Issues and Options consultation responses
    - 4.1 A total of more than 13,000 responses were received to the joint HAP/HTP consultations. These were from 1,400+ individual commentators. Approximately 75% of these related to the HAP. Around 1,200 responses were related to the housing questions, including from 40 organisations and/or stakeholders. This free write responses will be assessed and their content added to the summary list. And the response analysis carried out will be shared with the group. PP suggested a joint approach to the analysis of both the HTP and HAP issues. KS confirmed that officers will identify the key issues raised to the HAP and ensure that cross-cutting transport

related matters are included. BB thought that an infrastructure project list should be considered alongside the responses so that the HAP can integrate with these, particularly if a theme or topic area based approach is to be followed.

- 4.2 The summaries will draw out the key themes of the issues raised, rather than listing individual comments. The role of the HAP group is to decide how to respond to these and how policies in the HAP will be developed and to identify appropriate sites. JH: there is a need to protect both city living and the country life. This is Hereford's ultimate selling point.
- 4.3 SK queried the possibility of the Youth Council having a seat on the HAP Reference Group. Although it was acknowledged that the time of the meetings would make this difficult. Perhaps going to speak to them would be more productive. KS: there is a forthcoming meeting with the Youth Council and Hereford City Council. It may be useful to update them on HAP matters through much meetings.
- 4.4 PP: The group will need to know more about the analysis of the consultation before the forthcoming visioning event. KS: it may be useful to have more regular Reference Group meetings to discuss the various themes.
- 4.5 PP: NMiTE have commissioned architects who should ensure that the plans for the university integrate with the plans for the city. The HAP needs to be part of this process. SK queried whether the architects have had experience of this type of integration before? DS not present, however, it may be useful to ask to see examples of cities where they have planned an integrated university before. JH asked if the trip to visit Lincoln or another city has been pursued. KS: DS is organising this.
- 4.6 The outcome of the consideration of responses may quickly identify a gap in the evidence base. Should we get the evidence prepared or at least commissioned before deciding on a way forward? KS: if a need for additional evidence is identified, this will be dealt with as soon as possible.
- 4.7 PP: The summary consultation responses will be needed as soon as possible, along with a formal position on the university locations and design matters. This will allow the university's architects to be informed early in their commission. PA: does the group need to identify potential university sites? PP: a firm direction of travel is required, with a timetable needed to be set. ML-H: the reference group would find it useful to have a list of possible sites that the university have under consideration, along with an idea of scale and massing. PP: they have already been offered a number of sites as possibilities and they will chose whichever fits in best with their business plan. Options under consideration include; Franklin Barns, the police station, Maylord Orchards and the Essex Arms site. The reference group can provide a vision and direction of travel. KS advised that the final policies of the HAP are still some way off yet. GS: is there a need for the group to consider any particular sites in more detail?
- 4.8 KS: Herefordshire Council is commissioning a piece of work to provide a conservation appraisal of the city. This will identify sites with opportunities and constraints. It will inform the development of the city area, not prevent it. BB: should a wider area than the central part of the city be considered? KS confirmed that the study would include the wider city area and that it should take around four months to

complete. JH: the HAP could integrate the heritage aspects into the NMiTE work. PA: has the Faraday Road site been considered? GS: the HAP should also consider the growth in numbers of students over time and the need for more sites. PP: the university will grow incrementally. There is a need for 1,000 students to make it viable initially. It must also be considered that the university may start with buildings which may no longer be needed in the future.

4.9 BB: it may be useful to have a group of fast acting, ready team of experts available to respond to NMiTE. PP: the Reference group will discuss the topics and invite others for professional help or information.

4.10 KS: the next reference group in on the 9<sup>th</sup> August. It was agreed that this meeting should focus on the city centre through a workshop session using the consultation analysis to draw out themes and start to develop a preferred approach. This may then provide a model for each topic area at future meetings. The group could identify the themes to be pursued through policy development, and where there are gaps in what the Core Strategy covers, as well as identify any areas where further evidence may be required. It may be that an expert in the relevant topic area under discussion will be able to attend. The consultation summaries will be sent out as soon as possible before the next meeting and other officers including conservation officers should be invited to the next meeting.

#### 5. Visioning Event update

5.1 It is hoped that the Youth Council will be able to be involved in the HAP preparation. A member of the reference group may be able to attend the next Youth Council meeting in August.

5.2 Visioning event: all reference group representative groups will be invited, along with relevant stakeholder organisations. Susi Gilson (Community Engagement Officer) will be organising this event. PP discussed the recent Economic Vision event held at Eastnor Castle. Should there be input from the economic vision team? Local businesses could be invited, or potential developers perhaps. How big an event do we want? KS: the Economic Vision event called for expressions of interest. This is likely to be a one-off event. JH highlighted that if there is more than one visioning event then there may be consultation apathy amongst the public. Those who are interested will make themselves known. JH: it will be better to provide some information and context to such a consultation rather than have a blank sheet of paper approach. Could a digital impression of the future city of Hereford be possible?

#### 6. Update Holmer and Shelwick Neighbourhood Plan

6.1 The neighbourhood plan group for the area are soon to be commissioning someone to undertake the preparation of their neighbourhood plan.

#### 7. Date of Next Meeting

7.1 9<sup>th</sup> August at 15:00hrs