

Wider South East Political Steering Group

31 March 2017

Agenda and Papers Final



WIDER SOUTH EAST POLITICAL STEERING GROUP

31 March 2017 AT 14:00 – 16:00
AT LONDON COUNCILS, Conference Suite
LONDON 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 OAL

AGENDA

14:00	1. Welcome and apologies <i>London Councils to chair</i>
14:05	2. Note of the last meeting on 12 October 2016 <i>Paper herewith</i>
14:10	3. Next steps following WSE Summit on 9 December 2016
14:20	4. Housing White Paper consultation – overview and potential common WSE issues <i>Paper herewith</i>
14:40	5. Barriers to Housing Delivery: Update on engagement with Minister and possible next steps – for discussion/approval <i>Paper herewith</i>
14:50	6. London Plan Review – WSE related policies – for discussion <i>Working draft paper herewith</i>
15:20	7. Strategic infrastructure improvements: Draft lobbying programme – for discussion/approval <i>Paper herewith</i>
15:40	8. Technical evidence: GLA's demographic model - next steps – for discussion/ approval <i>Paper herewith</i>
15:55	9. WSE Communication (high-level principles) – for approval <i>Paper herewith</i>
16:00	10. Next Steps <i>Chairman to summarise actions/agreements</i>
	Meeting Close

**ATTENDANCE
WSE POLITICAL STEERING GROUP**

31 March 2017

East of England

- Cllr Linda Haysey, East Herts District Council
- Cllr Robin Howe, Huntingdonshire District Council
- Cllr Roy Davis, Luton Borough Council
- Mayor Dave Hodgson, Bedford Borough Council
- James Cutting, East of England LGA
- Cinar Altun, East of England LGA
- John Wood, Hertfordshire County Council

East of England Apologies

- Cllr David Finch, Essex County Council
- Cllr James Jamieson, Central Bedfordshire
- Cllr James Waters, West Suffolk Council

South East

- Cllr Nicolas Heslop, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
- Cllr Tony Page, Reading Council
- Cllr Paul Bettison, Bracknell Forest Council
- Cllr Carole Paternoster, Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Cllr John Furey, Surrey County Council
- Heather Bolton, South East England Councils
- Nick Woolfenden, South East England Councils

South East Apologies

- Cllr Peter Martin, Surrey County Council

London

- Cllr Stephen Alambritis, London Borough of Merton (Chair of this meeting)
- Cllr Kevin Davis, Royal Borough of Kingston
- Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor of London
- John Lett, Greater London Authority
- Jennifer Peters, Greater London Authority
- Jorn Peters, Greater London Authority
- David Jowsey, Transport for London
- Katharina Winbeck, London Councils

London Apologies

- Cllr Darren Rodwell, LB Barking & Dagenham

Item 2 Wider South East (WSE) Political Steering Group
12 October 2016, 14:00 – 16:30, Local Government Association, Smith Square, London
DRAFT Meeting Notes

ATTENDANCE

East of England

Name	Responsibility	Council	Group
CLlr Linda Haysey	Leader	East Hertfordshire DC	Con
CLlr James Jamieson	Leader	Central Bedfordshire C	Con
CLlr David Finch	Leader	Essex CC	Con
CLlr Roy Davis	Leader's Representative	Luton BC	Lab
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Leader	Bedford BC	Lib Dem
CLlr Aidan Van De Weyer	Elected member	South Cambridgeshire District Council	Lib Dem

South East

Name	Responsibility	Council	Group
CLlr Howard Mordue	Cabinet Member	Aylesbury Vale DC	Con
CLlr Nicolas Heslop	SEEC Chairman and Leader	Tonbridge & Malling BC	Con
CLlr Peter Martin	Deputy Leader	Surrey CC	Con
CLlr Paul Bettison	Leader	Bracknell Forest C	Con

London

Name	Responsibility	Council	Group
Jules Pipe	Deputy Mayor of London for Planning	Greater London Authority	Lab

Officers

Name	Responsibility	Organisation
John Wood	Lead Chief Executive	Hertfordshire County Council
Richard Hatter	Chairman of the East of England Officer Working Group	Thurrock Council
Cinar Altun	Policy and Secretariat Manager	East of England LGA
Heather Bolton	Director	South East England Councils
Nick Woolfenden	Head of Policy Co-ordination	South East England Councils
Katharina Winbeck	Head of Transport, Environment and Infrastructure Policy	London Councils
John Lett	Strategic Planning Manager	Greater London Authority
Jorn Peters	Senior Strategic Planner	Greater London Authority
David Jowsey		Transport for London

Introductions

- 1.1. Nicolas Heslop, Chair of the meeting, welcomed Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor of London for Planning, as new member of the Group. Apologies had been received from Cllr Tony Page and Cllr Carole Paternoster (all South East), as well as Cllr Darren Rodwell, Cllr Kevin Davis and Cllr Stephen Alambritis (all London).

2. Notes of previous meeting

- 2.1. The notes of the previous meeting dated 18 July 2016 (circulated previously) were approved.

3. Update on London Plan Review/Consultation

- 3.1. John Lett provided provide a verbal update on the 'Towards' consultation (covering all Mayoral Strategies) expected to start later in October and a brief initial overview of potential key components of a strengthened Wider South East (WSE) policy in the new London Plan. See slides provided separately.
- 3.2. Group members welcomed this wider collaboration opportunity beyond just bi-lateral engagement with neighbouring authorities. It was highlighted that members should be honest and clear about issues where there was scope for agreement and where not. It would be important to identify win-win solutions for all, not just for London's challenges.
- 3.3. John Lett indicated that more weight would be put on strategic corridors (most of them have a long history) and related infrastructure investment to address the needs of a growing population. The need for further engagement and the importance to focus on alleviating current acute congestion was highlighted in the subsequent discussion.
- 3.4. John Lett also raised the idea of the potential re-location of industrial land. However, parts of the WSE outside London had their own ambitions with regards to high quality as opposed to traditional industrial employment growth. So, the question of the potential re-location of office space was raised. The cost of moving employees and related impacts on housing need would also have to be considered. It was clarified that a significant shift of large industrial estates out of London was not expected, but that some industry-housing trade-offs may be inevitable in terms of land availability/growth options in London.
- 3.5. Members also reiterated their concerns about the Mayor's position on London's Green Belt ie. not considering review to meet housing need, like councils outside London have to. In response it was noted that London has on average 10 times more households per ha Green Belt than the East and South East of England.
- 3.6. Jules Pipe briefly introduced – as requested in particular by South East Members – the Mayor's 'Homes for Londoners' initiative. At its heart will be a new governance board, chaired by the Mayor.

3.7. ACTION: Further engagement on the London Plan review through the next Officer Working Group meeting and with members at the December WSE Summit and future PSGs, as well as the 'Towards' consultation and related events in October/November (invitations to be sent by GLA to East and SE).

4. Tackling Barriers to Housing Delivery

4.1. Nick Woolfenden provided verbal update on the joint letter to Government (circulated previously). A formal response was expected shortly. Members were asked to consider who would represent the WSE at a potential meeting with the Minister (up to two political representatives per region, plus one supporting officer). It was noted that substantial changes to Government's housing policy are expected in the near future through the forthcoming White Paper.

4.2. ACTION: SEEC to lead on the arrangements for potential meeting with the Minister.

5. Strategic Infrastructure Improvements

5.1. Jorn Peters presented an overview of identified strategic infrastructure improvement areas (identified by the three regions on the basis of previously agreed principles) with the aim to explore the phasing of joint lobbying for investment in these areas. Initial criteria to inform the phasing of schemes were also presented (papers circulated previously, presentation slides provided separately).

5.2. Members endorsed the 13 infrastructure areas in principle as appropriate to focus initial lobbying activities on. It was accepted that further work on cost-benefits may be needed. However, it would be ineffective to repeat detailed research work on making the case for several of these schemes that had already been done. Instead, it would be important to consider the level of information that is required to understand how WSE strategic lobbying could add value to the work of leading partners. Cllr Finch, Leader of Essex County Council also offered assistance from the councils' public affairs team to support influencing work.

5.3. ACTION: Officers discuss jointly the way forward and prepare a lobbying programme for all 13 areas. List of 13 initial schemes to be presented to the December WSE Summit for member endorsement.

6. Common Understanding of the Evidence

6.1. Richard Hatter presented activities by the GLA and the East of England LGA on the common understanding of technical evidence (paper circulated previously and slides provided separately).

6.2. Some members indicated their support for the GLA's emerging demographic model / projections in the longer-term but concerns were again raised about the potential of short-term disruption of Local Plans close to the Examination stage and therefore the timing for release of the projections. It was clarified that the emerging independent validation of the projections

would assess the 'maths' (methodology) of the model but not the assumptions e.g. on migration trends.

- 6.3. Richard Hatter then referred to the potential commissioning of joint research including on migration that could also assist with the preparation/interpretation of the GLA projection outputs for authorities outside London. Some Members stated that demographic data is changing all the time and that therefore the GLA projection results would inevitably be different from currently available data. The uncertainty of Brexit impact on migration patterns was also raised.
- 6.4. **ACTION: The validation will be presented to the next Officer Working Group meeting in November and subsequently potentially to the Technical (officer) Working Group meeting. The results would then be reported back to the next Political Steering Group meeting in March 2017, and the projection results would not be released before that.**

7. Preparations for WSE Summit on 9 December

- 7.1. Nick Woolfenden introduced the draft Summit agenda (circulated previously). A workshop about the London Plan review and in particular policies that are of relevance for the WSE would be at the centre of the event. Members were keen on a more interactive format, and possible questions suggested covered housing need, economic development and Brexit.
- 7.2. Representatives from outside London were very keen for the Mayor to attend, but he is not available for the identified date. However, postponing event to spring 2017 was not considered favourable.
- 7.3. **ACTION: SEEC to lead refining the agenda in the light of comments by Members. Jules Pipe to raise members' keenness to meet the Mayor with him.**

8. WSE Communications Principles

- 8.1. Cinar Altun presented broad standardised communication principles – presentation slides provided separately. These included thinking about how to publicise key WSE actions eg. the recent Barriers to Housing Delivery letter. A quick/timely agreement procedure between the Lead representatives from the East, South East and London should be at its centre, including for joint letters.
- 8.2. **ACTION: EELGA to consider publicity options re Barriers to Housing Delivery.**

9. Next Steps

- 9.1. Cllr Nicolas Heslop summarised the key decisions and actions (see above)
- 9.2. **ACTION: GLA officers to schedule meeting dates for 2017 in liaison with East and South East, reflecting 2016's timing of meetings.**

**Item 4 –
Housing White Paper consultation**

**Item 5 –
Barriers to Housing Delivery: Update on engagement with Minister and possible next steps**

Recommendations:

- **Members discuss key strategic issues in the housing White Paper with implications for Wider South East priorities, housing delivery and plan making, including next steps on points raised directly with the Housing Minister in January 2017.**
- **Consider writing to the Minister on issues of shared interest in response to the White Paper. This could build on outstanding issues/proposals from earlier input to the Minister, as well as highlighting any new issues raised by the White Paper.**

1. Context

- 1.1 The Government published its long-awaited Housing White Paper ‘Fixing our broken housing market’ on 7 February 2017, for consultation until 2 May 2017. It includes a wide range of proposals that the Government hopes will increase the supply of homes. Many are subject to further details/consultation.
- 1.2 The Government’s view is that the housing market in this country is broken, and for too long not enough homes have been built. It identifies three aspects that need addressing: (1) Planning for the right homes in the right places; (2) Building homes faster; and (3) Diversifying the market. A fourth area focuses on helping people in the short-term. Housing Minister Gavin Barwell’s view is that there is no ‘silver bullet’ to solve the housing crisis and it will require developers, councils/planning authorities, land agents, and utilities/infrastructure providers to co-operate and deliver.
- 1.3 Prior to the White Paper’s publication, Wider South East (WSE) members met with Housing Minister Gavin Barwell on 19 January. Discussions focused on ways to unlock unimplemented housing capacity following an initial letter¹ sent in September. Members followed up the meeting with a further letter² to the Minister, including more information/data on the scale of unimplemented permissions and key policy proposals for the White Paper on speeding up delivery of housing and associated infrastructure/ utilities.

2. White Paper recognition of Wider South East concerns

- 2.1 It is encouraging to see some WSE proposals from the original Ministerial letter and subsequent meeting/follow-up letter reflected in the White Paper:
 - Industry delivery – speed, capacity and approach: recognition of the problem of unimplemented planning permissions, and that developers need to build out in a

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wider_south_east_letter_to_the_rt_hon_sajid_javid_mp.pdf

² <http://www.secouncils.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/WEB-FINAL-WSE-Letter-to-Gavin-Barwell-MP-31.1.17.pdf>

- timely way; including some tools for councils to help tackle slow delivery, such as development schedules/review mechanisms, and increasing construction skills.
- **Affordable housing**: some actions to support building affordable homes to rent and buy.
 - **Infrastructure**: recognition of the importance of infrastructure to unlock housing growth, including utilities, and some funding opportunities.
- 2.2 Other key White Paper proposals relevant to the Political Steering Group's (PSG) priorities, which members may wish to discuss implications of for plan making/delivery in the Wider South East, include:
- **A new 'housing delivery test' for councils**, with phased introduction from November 2017, which will monitor completions against target housing requirements.
 - Forthcoming consultation on a new **standard approach to calculating housing need**, which will be used as the baseline for the new delivery test.
 - Consultation on a new requirement for planning bodies to prepare a **Statement of Common Ground** on how they will work together to meet housing requirements/other cross-boundary issues.
- 2.3 Overall, whilst the White Paper helps address some aspects of WSE members' previously raised concerns, many involved in plan-making believe **further action is needed to help deliver the White Paper's aims of increasing housing supply** – especially if the new 'delivery duty' is to be introduced on councils. The Minister has also been clear that delivery of plans is a priority, **so transition and implications for plan making within the WSE are also important**, for example around proposed changes to measuring housing need and introducing a new statement of common ground.

3. Next steps/actions

3.1 We suggest members:

- **Discuss key strategic issues in the housing White Paper with implications for WSE priorities, housing delivery and plan making (outlined in section 2 above), including next steps on points raised directly with the Housing Minister in January 2017.**
- **Consider writing to the Minister on issues of shared interest in response to the White Paper. This could build on outstanding issues/proposals from earlier input to the Minister, as well as highlighting any new issues raised by the White Paper. For example:**
 - i) **Transition:**
 - Councils/Mayor need to be closely involved in shaping the detail of how White Paper proposals are implemented. Whilst welcoming the White Paper's aim to speed up delivery, Government needs to ensure proposed changes do not have the unintended consequence of hindering current progress in delivery of homes or local plans eg. proposals to standardise calculation of housing need could impact on local plans close to completion; and clarifying how the new proposed 'statement of common ground' on growth between councils will differ from current Duty to Co-operate good practice principles.

- Proposed 20% increase in planning fees is welcome but unlikely to provide the capacity that councils need to take on new duties such as delivery tests. Councils should instead be free to set appropriate fees reflecting local circumstances.
- ii) **Housing delivery test :**
 - If Government presses forward with its proposed new 'housing delivery test' on councils, councils need further powers beyond those outlined in the White Paper (current Government proposals in White Paper paras A94-A108) to incentivise building once permission is granted eg. reiterate calls from WSE members' previous letter on clarifying 'commencement' and then the ability to charge Council Tax/fees on uncompleted units after a specified period; *OR* if Government will not offer councils more powers, ask it to shift the emphasis of the new delivery duty to permissions rather than completions, as councils have more control over permissions.
 - Also reiterate the need to accurately assess the scale of unimplemented permissions and ask for feedback on the WSE data provided after the Ministerial meeting.
- iii) **Affordable housing:**
 - Further action to free-up finances to build affordable homes at scale, for example through the Housing Revenue Account, and progressing housing deals as proposed in the White Paper (parts of WSE may want this, like DCLG is discussing with Sheffield/Stoke-on-Trent).
- iv) **Infrastructure:**
 - The scale of challenge requires more funding opportunities, for example powers/freedoms for local areas including greater retention of business rates, local retention of stamp duty etc; and land value uplift capture from granting permission.
 - A more joined-up approach is needed from Government to help deliver more homes eg. making it easier to gain commitment on funding infrastructure for growth from different Government departments/other infrastructure providers.
 - Also need a strategic approach by the industry/regulators to allow for timely up-front funding and delivery of large scale infrastructure, ensuring it unlocks and does not hinder development delivery.

Item 6

WORKING DRAFT - New London Plan Wider South East policies

Recommendation:

Political Steering Group members to (a) discuss and provide input on working draft of Wider South East specific policies for the new London Plan, and (b) consider the specific questions related to the Corridors policy (see page 4)

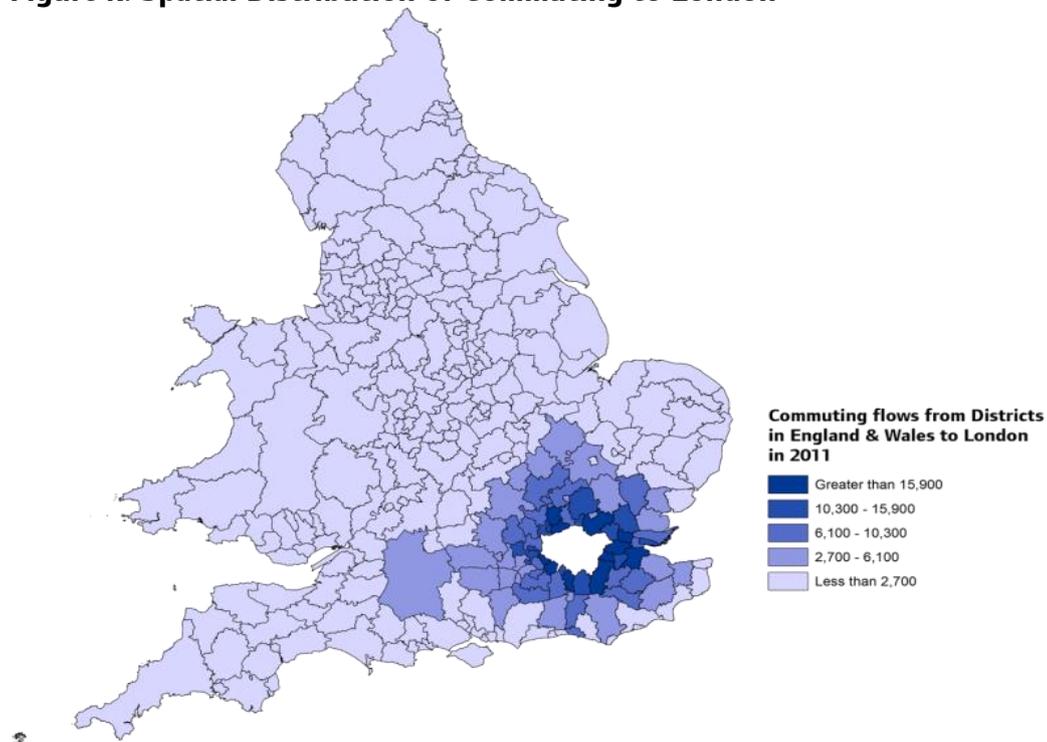
Introduction

- 1 This paper presents a working draft overview of the headlines and broad structure of the new Wider South East policies for the new London Plan. The policies are proposed to sit within the new London's Geography chapter of the Plan and include
 - A. A new Wider South East policy (replacing current London Plan policy 2.2)
 - B. the Wider South East level policy of a range of Growth Corridor policies (replacing current London Plan policy 2.3)

A New draft Wider South East policy

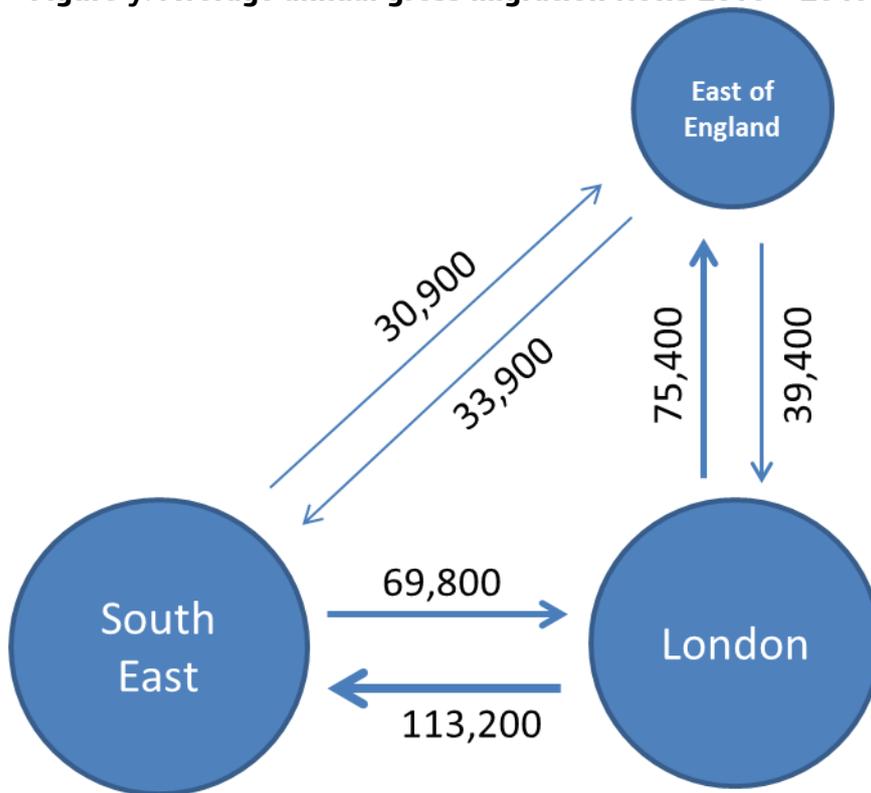
- 2 Wider South East (WSE) - complex network of centres of different sizes and functions, together comprising the most productive region in the country
- 3 WSE projected to grow rapidly by 2041 – population, households, employment...
- 4 Strategic relationships between London and the WSE outside London in terms of commuting (see Figure x), labour markets, housing markets and migration (see Figure y), as well as certain social and environmental issues...

Figure x: Spatial Distribution of Commuting to London



Source: GLA

Figure y: Average annual gross migration flows 2016 – 2041



2016-2041 average flows

Source: GLA, Interim 2015-based central projection

- 5 Mutual benefits in working together to tackle strategically important matters.
- 6 New collaboration structure supports/compliments Duty to Inform/Consult and Duty to Co-operate requirements and can facilitate coordinated approach and joint working

Policy X – Wider South East

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | Jointly addressing appropriate regional and sub-regional challenges and opportunities |
| B | Ensuring Local Plan making across the WSE is informed by consistent technical evidence |
| C | Taking account of longer-term trends in historic migration |
| D | Promoting joint preparation of evidence |
| E | Finding solutions to shared strategic issues such as barriers to housing and transport infrastructure delivery (including ‘smart’ solutions); factors that influence economic prosperity; the need to tackle climate change (including water management and flood risk); improvements to the environment and waste management; wider needs for freight, logistics and port facilities; as well as scope for the re-location of industrial land. |

B New draft WSE Corridors policy

- 7 Seeking to accommodate London's growth within its boundaries without intruding on its Green Belt or other protected open spaces
- 8 London may maintain significant capacity (*x dwellings pa*) but may not meet need (*x dwellings pa*) – depends on SHLAA results, which will be published alongside draft Plan
- 9 Working with willing partners beyond London to agree joint Strategic Corridors for Infrastructure Investment (based on list below) that can help unlock development and strategic growth opportunities/capacity where strategic infrastructure improvements can be promoted
- A. Thames Gateway Kent
 - B. Gatwick/Brighton corridor
 - C. South Western/Surrey corridor
 - D. Great Western/Reading corridor
 - E. Midlands corridor (Luton/Bedford/Milton Keynes)
 - F. West Anglia corridor
 - G. Great Eastern corridor
 - H. Thames Gateway Essex
- 10 The Wider Context Diagram below showing London in its wider regional setting.
- 11 Supporting joint Statements and Memoranda of Understanding to formalise partnership agreements/commitments between relevant authorities

Policy Y – Growth Corridors beyond London

- | |
|--|
| <p>A. Realising the potential of the wider city region and beyond through investment in strategic infrastructure to support housing and business development, especially along Strategic Corridors extending beyond the capital's boundaries.</p> <p>B. Recognition of these Corridors and the associated additional growth in relevant Local Plans.</p> |
|--|
- 12 The concept of Growth Corridors is also reflected in this Plan at other spatial levels within London:
- **London Growth Corridor** level – promoting group of Opportunity Area/ Intensification Area 'pearls' where there is value in promoting infrastructure investment also between them as an package to help unlock growth; many of these 'fuzzy' Corridors extend into the WSE
 - **Opportunity Area / Intensification Area** level – undertaking/facilitating master planning for these distinct growth 'pearls' that will accommodate a significant level of growth and also support regeneration
 - **Infrastructure Scheme** level - promoting the planning/delivery of big distinct infrastructure kit (in particular but not exclusively transport and often within these corridors) that will help to unlock significant levels of growth and investment

Specific questions re the Corridors policy members may wish to address

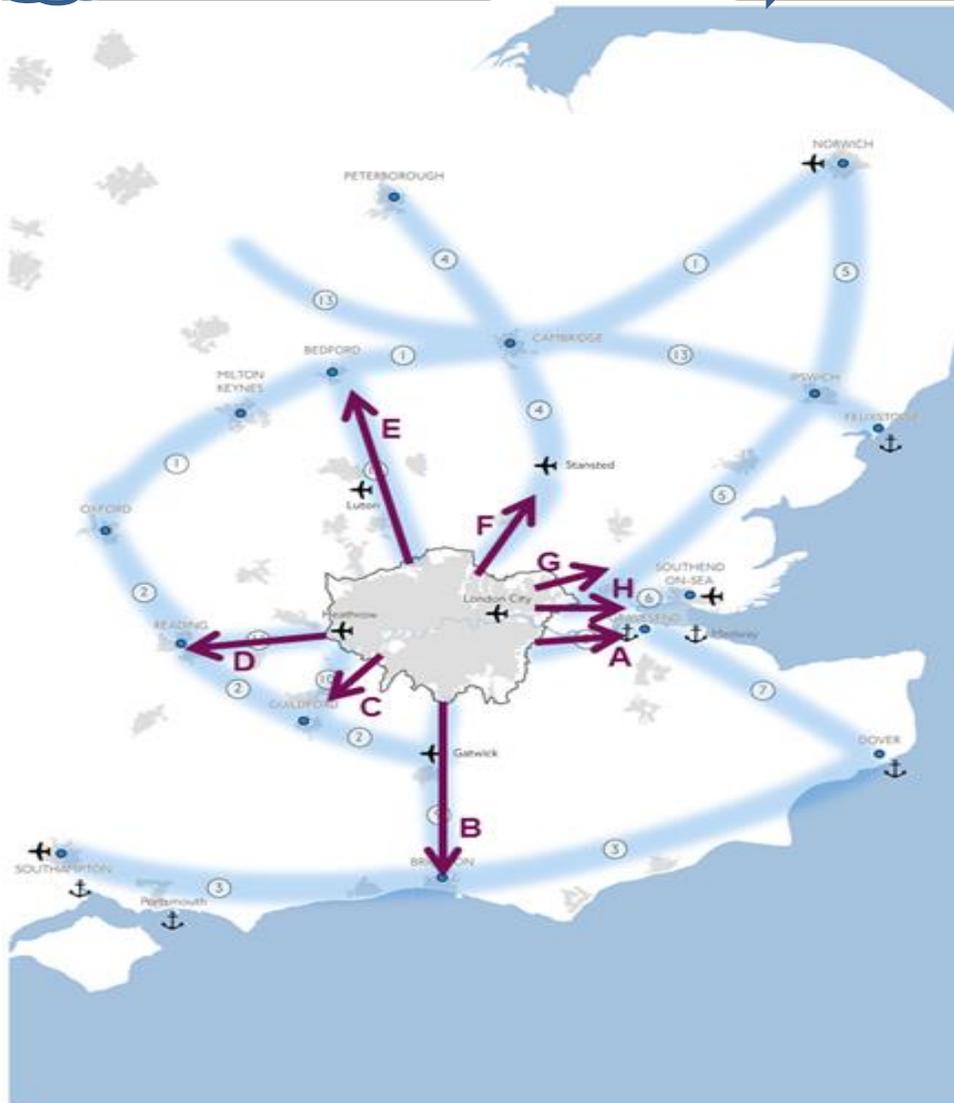
- (1) In advance of technical work on housing demand/supply in London becoming available, if there would be a supply shortfall in London, what broad options could there be through which the WSE might assist London in meeting any growth shortfall that might arise?
- (2) Would Corridors feature highly among such options?
- (3) What could be the nature/remit/role of such Corridors and how would they be identified?
- (4) Which level of resources would be required (technical research, engagement)?

Wider Context Diagram

WSE Infrastructure Links

WORKING DRAFT - New London Plan Wider South East policies

Potential Strategic Corridors for Infrastructure Investment (see para 9)



1. East West Rail and new Expressway road link (Oxford - Cambridge)
2. North Downs Rail Link (Gatwick – Reading) inc. extension to Oxford
3. A27/M27/A259 and rail corridor (Dover – Soton)
4. West Anglia Mainline and Crossrail 2 North (London – Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough)
5. Great Eastern Mainline (London – Ipswich – Norwich)
6. Thames Gateway Essex: C2C and Crossrail 2 – Eastern Branch (London – South Essex / London Gateway Port)
7. Thames Gateway Kent: Crossrail 1 ext. East and HS1 route (London – North Kent – Channel Tunnel)
8. Lower Thames Crossing
9. Brighton Mainline (London – Gatwick – Brighton)
10. South West Mainline and Crossrail 2 South West (London – Surrey / southern access to Heathrow)
11. Great Western Mainline (London – Reading / western access to Heathrow)
12. Midlands and West Coast Mainline (London – Luton – Bedford / Milton Keynes)
13. Felixstowe – Nuneaton / Midlands

Item 7

Subject: Strategic Infrastructure Lobbying Opportunities 2017-18

Purpose

To set out key opportunities for lobbying on the schemes for initial focus as part of the Wider South East collaboration programme.

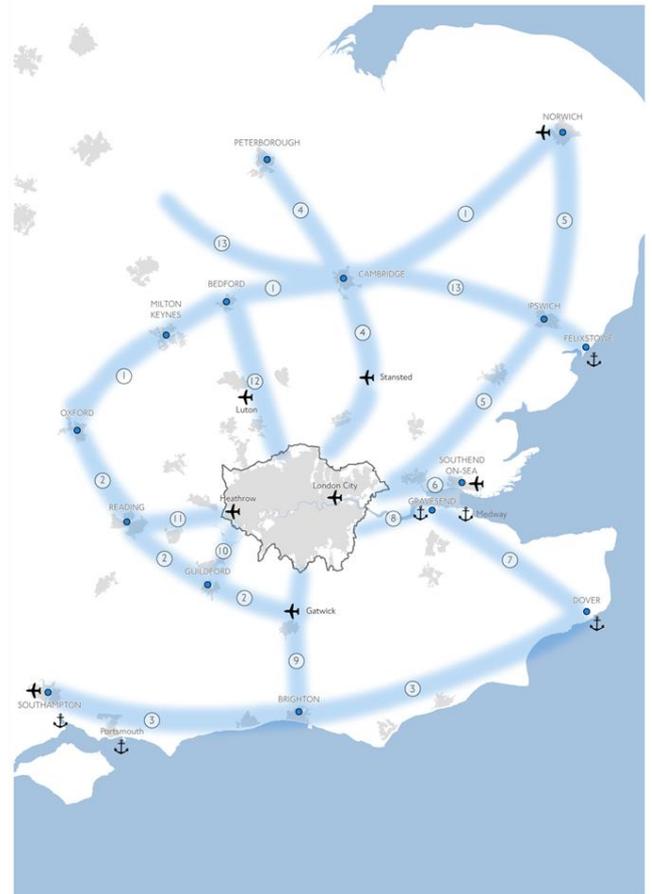
Recommendation

1. It is recommended that members discuss and agree ways to start to promote the collective infrastructure priorities of the WSE as set out below, in particular it is recommended that:
 - EELGA, SEEC, London Councils and the GLA ensure that their local MPs are aware of and engaged in the WSE lobbying efforts throughout 2017-18 (para 2.2)
 - The WSE PSG write a high level letter to the Secretary of State and the Department for Transport outlining the purpose of the WSE collaboration programme and highlighting the initial 13 infrastructure schemes/corridors which the PSG is supporting, and that these could help deliver Government aims including the Industrial Strategy. (para 2.5)
 - The WSE PSG write to the National Infrastructure Commission outlining the purpose of the WSE collaboration programme and highlighting the initial 13 infrastructure schemes which the PSG is supporting. The letter should welcome an opportunity for further engagement with the NIC and invite the chairman of the Commission to meet with the PSG. (para 2.9)
 - The WSE PSG make contact with DfT and NIC and thereafter mandate officers to explore the possibility of a joint strategic transport and infrastructure funding proposal for the initial schemes identified ahead of the Autumn budget. (para 2.11)
 - Consideration be given to a meeting of the WSE PSG and transport partners, including government, National Infrastructure Commission, Network Rail and Highways England. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the WSE schemes/corridors, provide an opportunity for a multi-way dialogue between various stakeholders and ensure that next steps for progressing these priorities are identified and actioned in a timely manner by the relevant partners. (para 2.14)
 2. Members are also asked to consider next steps for more detailed scheme/corridor specific lobbying opportunities which have been identified at **Annex A**.
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Wider South East (WSE) Political Steering Group (PSG) have agreed an initial list of 13 infrastructure schemes/corridors that are of strategic significance for the economic prosperity of the East of England, South East and London. Through joint lobbying, the PSG aim to draw on their collective strength to support the future economic success of the three regions and continue fostering stronger partnership working. The initial 13 schemes/corridors identified are set out below:

1. East West Rail and new Expressway road link (Oxford – Cambridge)
2. North Down Rail Link (Gatwick – Reading) incl. extension to Oxford
3. A27/M27/A259 and rail corridor (Dover – Southampton)
4. West Anglia Mainline and Crossrail 2 North (London-Stanstead-Cambridge-Peterborough)
5. Great Eastern Mainline (London – Ipswich – Norwich)
6. Thames Gateway Essex: C2C and Crossrail 2 Eastern Branch (London – South Essex/London Gateway Port)
7. Thames Gateway Kent: Crossrail 1 Extension and HS1 (London – North Kent – Channel Tunnel)
8. Lower Thames Crossing
9. Brighton Mainline (London – Gatwick – Brighton)
10. South West Mainline and Crossrail 2 South West (London – Surrey/southern access to Heathrow)
11. Great Western Mainline (London – Reading/ western access to Heathrow)
12. Midlands and West Coast Mainline (London – Luton – Bedford/Milton Keynes)
13. Felixstowe – Nuneaton/Midlands



1.2 The WSE Officer Working Group have been tasked with drawing up lobbying proposals for consideration by the PSG, which are broadly split into:

- Opportunities to promote the collective infrastructure priorities of the WSE; and
- Scheme/corridor specific opportunities.

2 Opportunities to promote the collective infrastructure priorities of the WSE

2.1 Officers have engaged with key partners involved in the 13 initial schemes/corridors identified for lobbying. As a result of those discussions some opportunities in common between the schemes have emerged which, if utilised, can benefit the WSE lobbying activity as a whole and help to progress the individual schemes/corridors. One of the key suggestions from the most recent Summit was the lack of MP engagement in the work of the WSE PSG. It is considered important to engage MPs henceforth in the lobbying programme of the WSE by ensuring that they are informed of both current and forthcoming activities of the WSE PSG.

2.2 It is recommended that EELGA, SEEC, London Councils and the GLA ensure that their local MPs are aware of and engaged in the WSE lobbying efforts throughout 2017-18.

A. Engaging Central Government

2.3 A key step to moving this work forward will be influencing DfT Ministers and seeking Government support for the initial 13 schemes/corridors.

2.4 In seeking support for the schemes, cross-reference can be made to how these provide high-level support to deliver Government's wider growth aims. For example, the Government's

Green Paper on “Building a modern industrial strategy” is open for consultation until 17 April 2017. The Government has stressed that this is the beginning of a conversation about a modern industrial strategy for the UK, including infrastructure. A key pillar in the Green Paper – creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places – focuses on new Mayoral Combined Authorities as regional institutions, which is welcome but does not acknowledge the extent of collaboration occurring in the WSE and the benefit of collective lobbying. Although a collective response to the Green Paper is not considered appropriate at this stage, it is considered important to highlight the significant collaboration taking place across the WSE and that the 13 initial schemes/corridors could help support delivery of the industrial strategy.

2.5 It is recommended that the WSE PSG write to the Secretary of State and the Department for Transport outlining the purpose of the WSE collaboration programme and highlighting the initial 13 infrastructure schemes/corridors which the PSG is supporting, and that these could help deliver Government aims including the Industrial Strategy. The initial high level letter should outline the work we are doing to support these priorities, welcome an opportunity for further engagement with DfT and propose a meeting with the SoS/Ministers to discuss the schemes/corridors identified.

2.6 This high/level letter and any feedback received could also help pave the way for more discrete lobbying on individual schemes, whilst demonstrating that they sit within a wider strategic context. This letter can also be used as the basis for more tailored letters through which other key partners such as the DCLG, No.10, National Infrastructure Commission, Highways England and Network Rail can also be engaged (as set out below).

B. Engaging with National Infrastructure Commission

2.7 The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has published its corporate plan for 2017-18 to 2018-19. The NIC is tasked with providing the Government with impartial, expert advice on long-term infrastructure challenges. It has been operating in interim form since October 2015 and was established permanently as an Executive Agency of HM Treasury on 24 January 2017.

2.8 The NIC are holding discussions with LEPs and local authorities for priorities over the next 30 years. In light of the now permanent nature of the NIC and the significant role it will be playing in the setting of infrastructure priorities for the UK as a whole, it is essential that the WSE PSG engage with the commission with a view to influencing future announcements (particularly the NIC report that is expected in the Autumn of 2017).

2.9 It is recommended that the WSE PSG write to the National Infrastructure Commission outlining the purpose of the WSE collaboration programme and highlighting the initial 13 infrastructure schemes which the PSG is supporting. The letter should welcome an opportunity for further engagement with the NIC and invite the chairman of the Commission to meet with the PSG.

C. London Finance Commission Recommendation

2.10 The report of the London Finance Commission, published on 30 January 2017, proposed increased co-ordination and co-operation between authorities in the Wider South East, i.e. London, the East and South East regions. The report recommends that *‘the GLA, TfL and London Councils should consider developing with their counterparts in the rest of the Greater South East a strategic transport and infrastructure funding proposal for submission to the Government by the time of the 2017 Autumn Budget’*. The report also advises that the WSE *‘should also work with the NIC to form evidence for the National Infrastructure Assessment’*.

- 2.11 It is recommended that the WSE PSG make contact with DfT and NIC as set out above and thereafter mandate officers to explore the possibility of a joint strategic transport and infrastructure funding proposal for the initial schemes identified ahead of the Autumn budget.**

D. Engaging Highways England and Network Rail

- 2.12 Network Rail draft route strategies expected in March 2017. It is suggested that representations be made to Network Rail to make the case for the rail elements of the 13 schemes to be included, that representatives from Network Rail be invited to work with the WSE OWG.
- 2.13 The Autumn Statement in 2016 announced that the National Road Fund from 2020 would be allocated to Highways England for strategic investment. However the funds ring-fenced are likely to be higher than those required by Highways England, as such the additional monies should be allocated to strategic schemes in line with local plan priorities. This is a broader lobbying point for the WSE and could be included in correspondence with government at other opportunities throughout 2017.

E. A WSE Transport Partners Meeting

- 2.14 Finally, subject to progress being as set out above, it is recommended that consideration be given to a meeting of the WSE PSG and transport partners, including government, National Infrastructure Commission, Network Rail and Highways England. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the WSE schemes/corridors, provide an opportunity for a multi-way dialogue between various stakeholders and ensure that next steps for progressing these priorities are identified and actioned in a timely manner by the relevant partners.**

3 Scheme/Corridor Specific Opportunities 2017-18

- 3.1 Through engagement with scheme/corridor key partners, officers have reviewed each of the schemes/corridors identified and have identified more-detailed opportunities, which could help schemes progress. A table which provides further information on these is attached as **Annex A.**
- 3.2 Members are asked to consider the opportunities set out in the Annex and decide, in light of the resources available, how to proceed and whether to prioritise any scheme specific activities.**

ANNEX A. Scheme Specific Opportunities 2017-18

Scheme/Corridor	Opportunity
<p>1. East West Rail (Oxford-Cambridge/East Anglia) and new Oxford-Cambridge Expressway road link</p>	<p>Partners have advised that it would be helpful if the WSE could ensure that the Central and Eastern sections are included in any lobbying effort on the Western Section and within the WSE transport lobbying more broadly. Specific opportunities relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging the APPG in relevant activities throughout the year and inviting members of the group to events and meetings where relevant. • There will be a consultation on Western Section of East West Rail in May 2017, further consultations on Eastern and Central sections will follow. WSE could respond to the consultation and encourage councils/partners to engage with the consultation. • Atkins Consultants have been instructed to prepare a Conditional Output Statement (COS) regarding the potential enhancements to the existing rail links between Cambridge, Norwich and Ipswich. This report is expected in May 2017, after which there will be a need for summer lobbying for new control period funding and to announce current findings from Network Rail's investigation work. This should be aimed at Government not just DfT. The WSE could issue a supportive letter to Network Rail. • Annual Stakeholder event (September/October 2017). WSE PSG representatives to attend if possible. <p>With respect to the Express Way - Partnership working on Stage 1 options are underway. This needs to be monitored for possible actions needed.</p>
<p>2. North Downs Rail Link (Gatwick-Reading) inc extension to Oxford (linking to E-W Rail)</p>	<p>North Downs rail line improvements: There is a need for high-level lobbying for a holistic approach to the scheme and to ensure GWR (operator) progresses actions to deliver current franchise commitment to increase from 2 trains per hour (tph) to 3 tph.</p> <p>Didcot-Oxford rail link electrification/capacity enhancement: It may be helpful to lobby Government/Network Rail on the specific works/funding required for scheme. This can be captured in the wider WSE PSG lobbying activities in 2017.</p>
<p>3. A27/M27/A259 and rail corridor (Dover-Southampton)</p>	<p>With respect to the Highways Improvements, there is a need to support the proposed improvements and case for more strategic, holistic approach.</p> <p>With respect to the rail upgrades, it is suggested that the WSE PSG support DfT in getting approval for enhanced rail corridor service provision at start of process for new GTR Southern franchise (2021 onwards).</p>

<p>4. West Anglia Mainline and Crossrail 2 North</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Anglia Task Force and LSCC are leading on the West Anglia Mainline and would like support with general campaigning for the corridor throughout 2017-18, including evidence of development unlocked to expedite delivery. • There is a lobbying plan underway for local authorities outside London to show their support for Crossrail 2 as it goes through DfT - Business Case now submitted. The Lee Valley OAPF will be published for consultation Summer 17. It will set out scale of growth including indication of growth in Broxbourne. The WSE PSG could raise awareness of these proposals with Government, as they show the scale of growth that could be unlocked through this scheme. • The WSE PSG can supporting Essex to lobby for four tracking ahead of Crossrail 2, by highlighting this particular need in its wider lobbying activities throughout 2017-18. • The LSCC will be engaging businesses to make the case for investment in the West Anglia Corridor in 2017. • It is suggested that the East of England LGA continue discussions with the LSCC and West Anglia Task Force, and support their activities throughout the coming year.
<p>5. Great Eastern Mainline (London – Ipswich – Norwich)</p>	<p>There is a need to lobby for Haughley Junction to be completed and for improvements at Liverpool Street beyond just new platforms. Haughley Junction and Trowse Swing Bridge – have been costed out and are in the running for CP6. The Highways England consultation on the A12 is currently open and one issue is how to tackle government on overpromising and under delivering. The A12 is likely to cost more than what highways England assumed, which may impact next stages of this corridor. At this stage, these concerns can be picked up under the wider lobbying activities of the WSE PSG.</p>
<p>6. Thames Gateway Essex: C2C and Crossrail 2 – Eastern Branch (London – South Essex / London Gateway Port)</p>	<p>There are high level discussions ongoing with TFL to understand the plans outside of London. Once progress is made on these discussions, lobbying opportunities can be identified towards the end of 2017.</p>
<p>7. Thames Gateway Kent: Crossrail 1 extension East and HS1 route (London – North Kent – Channel Tunnel)</p>	<p>There is a need to continue making the case for the scheme, including evidence of development unlocked to expedite delivery and continue lobbying Government to fund the Business Case for the Crossrail extension to Ebbsfleet, to enable growth at Ebbsfleet Garden City and wider Thames Estuary. (Strategic Outline Business Case to be submitted to Treasury for Autumn 2017 budget by C2G (Crossrail towards Gravesend) Working Group).</p>

<p>8. Thames Gateway Essex-Kent: Lower Thames Crossing</p>	<p>There is a need to continue making the case for the scheme, including evidence of development unlocked to expedite delivery.</p> <p>An announcement on the route is expected in March 2017. If no decision is announced, urgent lobbying is required for a decision to be made and support is required thereafter to develop transport perspectives on the options. A letter to Government and press release is likely to be an effective next step if no announcement is made.</p> <p>There is also a broader need to lobby government for environmental mitigation, delivery of scheme to 2025 timetable, confirmation of funding and commitment to delivering necessary supporting infrastructure – for example the completion of A2 dualling to Dover, A2/M2 junction (J7) upgrade and improved A229/A249 links between M2 (J3 & J5) and M20 (J5 & J7). The Submission made to Thames Estuary Growth Commission, Bexley Growth Strategy and OAPF is due to be published for consultation in Autumn 2017. The WSE PSG could raise awareness of this work towards identifying the scale of growth that could be unlocked through the scheme.</p>
<p>9. Brighton Mainline (London-Gatwick- Brighton)</p>	<p>The WSE PSG can support the case for the Brighton mainline upgrade with Network Rail and with TfL, lobby Government to prioritise reconstruction of junctions around the Selhurst triangle and building additional platforms at East Croydon. There is a need for Government approval for Control Period 6 (construction potentially in CP7). The Coast to Capital LEP and local authorities around Croydon are supportive.</p>
<p>10. South West Mainline and Crossrail 2 South West (London-Surrey / southern rail access to Heathrow)</p>	<p>Crossrail 2: There is a need to continue making the case for the scheme, including evidence of development unlocked to expedite delivery. It would be helpful to write to Ministers to ask for quicker action on next stage consultation so the public can have say on proposals and avoid delays/ lack of public engagement in the project.</p> <p>There is a lobbying plan underway for local authorities outside London to show their support for Crossrail 2 as it goes through DfT - Business Case now submitted. Relevant Local Plans to identify potential development opportunities to be unlocked by the scheme, and Kingston and Wimbledon to be identified as new Opportunity Areas in new London Plan. The WSE PGS could raise awareness of this work towards identifying the scale of growth that could be unlocked through Crossrail 2.</p> <p>South West mainline improvements/Woking grade (track levels) separation: There is a need for continued lobbying for the scheme to be included in Control Period 6, to ensure Woking can continue to act as a transport hub for developments such as southern rail access to Heathrow.</p> <p>Southern Rail Access to Heathrow (SRAtH): It would valuable for the WSE PSG to write to DfT asking it to commission a GRIP1-2 review by Network Rail. An initial study has identified there is a market for the project and high returns on investment with existing 2 runway configuration so a swift commitment is needed to the next step to test the feasibility of detailed options.</p>

<p>11. Great Western Mainline (London- Reading / Western Rail Access to Heathrow)</p>	<p>It would be valuable for the WSE PSG to write to Government with regards the delays announced in November 2016.</p>
<p>12. Midlands and West Coast Mainline (London – Luton – Bedford / Milton Keynes)</p>	<p>The key needs identified are to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Midland Mainline Improvement Programme (electrification) • Access improvements to Luton Airport • M1/M25 - A414 Breakspear Way Signalisation, A41 Resilience <p>However, further information is required. Officers will engage with relevant partners and provide a further update on this corridor.</p>
<p>13. Felixstowe to Nuneaton rail improvements & A14 road improvements (Felixstowe-Midlands)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Rail’s five-year spending plan for Control Period 6 (C) has not yet been approved by the DfT, with representations currently being made to determine expenditure from 2019 to 2024. Pushing for the schemes within the Felixstowe to Midlands route to be prioritised for CP6 as possible is a priority, so that they do not slip into CP7 and beyond. Haughley Junction has been costed out and is in the running for CP6. This needs to be mentioned in any representations to Network Rail and Government. • A business case needs to be made for the Ely Junction in particular and the task force have to find the funding for this ahead of growth deal three. The Greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LEP has said upgrading the Ely Area is their top priority and are working closely with New Anglia LEP and South East LEP to lobby for the investment.

Item 8

Subject: Technical evidence: GLA's demographic model - next steps

Purpose

Under the theme of working towards a **Common Understanding of Evidence**, and following member discussion at last PSG, this report provides an update on independent verification of the GLA's demographic projections. It also sets out the issues to consider to inform the next steps regarding the GLA's intention to make public its projections for the Wider South East area, including the potential for a new standard methodology for calculating objectively assessed need.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

Given the GLA's intention to publish its projections more widely, that the steps below be undertaken prior to the formal release of the GLA's projections for the Wider South East:

- 1) Following GLA's recent sharing of the current interim data with Local Planning Authorities (see appendix), agree the timetable for wider formal public release and the steps to mitigate concerns about the perception of the projections undermining local plans;
- 2) The GLA provide support to officers to explain the differences between ONS/DCLG and the GLA's results, including making clear that the GLA data is being released as part of its duties to inform and consult and does not supersede the "official projections";
- 3) Seek clarity from DCLG and the Planning Inspectorate Service on the use and stages/timing of incorporating the outputs of the GLA data into local plan evidence and the relationship to plans being prepared, and
- 4) During local authority engagement, there is a clear link made to the Government's White Paper proposal for a standard national methodology for calculating objectively assessed need.

Members consider whether there may be common ground within the Wider South East to respond to the Government's forthcoming consultation on a single approach to calculating housing need and possible transition arrangements.

1.1 Introduction

1.1 The Wider South East (WSE) Political Steering Group (PSG) has previously discussed issues surrounding the publication of the results of modelling undertaken by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to project population and household trends for the England as a whole. Whilst some members recognised the potential benefit to their local plan making of having access to this information, others were concerned about how it might impact on local plan's existing evidence bases – particularly, those that are progressing towards an Examination in Public.

1.2 The GLA has formed its own demographic and housing projection model to underpin the review of the London Plan and to assist with its engagement with the Wider South East. The

data on households is taken from that used by DCLG but the underpinning demographic assumptions are different from those used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which is used by DCLG to project households.

- 1.3 Interim data showing trends over three time periods is now available to local authorities to use in reviewing evidence. The GLA intends to finalise the projections by Spring 2017, which will then feed into the London Plan, which is expected to be published in Autumn 2017. The three time periods refer to the length of time that past migration trends form the basis of the projections, these are: 5 years (short), 10 years (central) and 14 years (long). The GLA is likely to use the central (10-year) variant for the new London Plan.
- 1.4 The household projections are not published housing numbers. However, the concern is that making the GLA's data more widely available will delay or stall the progress of local plans. The progress of adopting local plans provides more certainty within an area, and greater certainty increases the likelihood of homes being delivered.

2 Why did the GLA form its own projections?

- 2.1 The driving force for the GLA preparing the projections was because ONS were not going to publish a version of its Sub-National Population Projections incorporating longer-term migration trends. The GLA's population and housing projections are being shared as part of the GLA's duties to inform and consult.
- 2.2 Population and household projections published by ONS/DCLG are based on trends over a five-year period. The latest being available cover the period 2009-2014. During the examination of the Further Alterations to the London Plan in July 2014, the GLA advanced the case that the recession (2008-2012) and resulting lower levels of migration out of urban areas, like London, weakens the suitability of a five-year approach for use in plans covering longer time horizons.

3 Independent verification

- 3.1 The GLA sought to replicate, as far as possible, the approaches used by ONS. To allay concerns about the operation of the model and to undertake due diligence, the GLA commissioned the Centre of Population Change (CPC), an academic research body based at Southampton University, to undertake an independent verification of the model.
- 3.2 The CPC concluded that: "overall, the GLA model utilises the best data sources available together with a trusted projection method to obtain credible estimates of future population. The assumptions are realistic, and sometimes more robust than those implemented as a part of the standard ONS".

4 What are the differences in the results within the Wider South East?

- 4.1 The main difference between the current ONS-based data and the GLA's central projection is that the level of growth in population is less with GLA's data at regional level, which results in fewer households being projected. What is notable, is that the difference in households does not decline by the same proportions.

Table 1 – Comparison between ONS/DCLG and GLA Central (10-year) Population/Household Projections 2014-2039.

	Population Projections (2014-2039)			Household Projections (2014-2039)		
	ONS (2014)	GLA Central (2015)	% Central Diff.	DCLG (2014)	GLA Central (2015)	% Central Diff.
EAST OF ENGLAND	1,219,200	1,182,334	-3%	655,949	649,231	-1%
LONDON	2,436,900	2,001,440	-18%	1,389,838	1,193,456	-14%
SOUTH EAST	1,634,600	1,606,338	-2%	925,233	924,352	0%
WIDER SOUTH EAST	5,290,700	4,790,112	-9%	2,971,020	2,767,038	-7%
ENGLAND	8,964,900	8,555,017	-5%	5,257,111	5,118,518	-3%

4.2 This difference suggests that, if the household rates are the same as DCLG, the resultant change in overall age structure from the two approaches differs. There will be some substantial variations to the results for individual authorities. The differences for the regional totals, and those of each local authority, will require explanation if local authorities are to respond to questions regarding the GLA's data and incorporate these results as part of the evidence base.

5.1 What is the timescale for publication of GLA's data?

The WSE Political Steering Group has previously agreed that a report on the validation/recommendations for next steps should be taken to this meeting; and that the GLA data must not be made public until they have considered the issue/agreed the way forward.

5.2 In mid-March, the GLA made interim data informally available to all authorities in the WSE (see appendix). Given the timetable for publication of the consultation into the review of the London Plan is not until Autumn 2017, which will incorporate the finalised projections, formal publication could be sometime from late spring 2017, to account for the forthcoming local elections. However, the longer the delay in publishing the projections, the greater risk in Freedom of Information requests undoing a managed approach.

6 What are the concerns?

6.1 The implications for local plans is the central issue to arise from various fora. However, there is a difference between the GLA informally informing officers for evidence and formally releasing the housing projections more widely. The latter is likely to result in different bodies trying to use this as a means to prevent the progress or alter the content of local plans by arguing that

the data undermines existing evidence. The release of the projections would, therefore, add to LPA's workload in addressing questions from members and the public.

- 6.2 There is a view that any form of release should depend on clarification from DCLG and/or the Planning Inspectorate Service (PINS) about how and when such data should be incorporated into local authority plan-making processes. The potential relationship to any standard methodology also needs discussion with DCLG.

7 What is the current relevant guidance?

- 7.1 The latest Government guidance on how to assess housing need is the National Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014. Plans that are being produced must follow this guidance, which sets out the process for undertaking needs assessments.

- 7.2 The guidance requires plan makers to “consider sensitivity testing, specific to their local circumstances, based on alternative assumptions in relation to the underlying demographic projections and household formation rates”. This includes consideration of the different migration flows as alternative assumptions.

- 7.3 Most Strategic Housing Market Assessments (SHMAs) published since 2014 – which provide the evidence of housing need - have already considered longer-term migration trends and flows from London. (Consideration does not necessarily mean incorporation as a judgment needs to be made about the relevance of different trends). If SHMAs have not undertaken such consideration, or if Local Plans are being examined using housing need data published before 2014, Local Plans are likely be found unsound.

- 7.4 Furthermore, the guidance is clear that:

“Wherever possible, local needs assessments should be informed by the latest available information. The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that Local Plans should be kept up-to-date. A meaningful change in the housing situation should be considered in this context, but this does not automatically mean that housing assessments are rendered outdated every time new projections are issued.”

National Planning Practice Guide, para. 016 Reference ID: 2a-016-20150227

- 7.5 Given local plans need to be supported by local needs assessments, which need to be informed by the latest information and follow current guidance, emerging plans that have been formed since March 2014 and which have considered sensitivity testing arguably should not then be affected by the publication of the GLA's data. Local authorities must demonstrate the robustness of their data, in sharing the projections the GLA is providing local authorities with the necessary sensitivity testing. However, in making the data available, local authorities will need time to consider the implications and further assistance from the GLA is likely to be necessary.

8. How would the GLA's model relate to a standard methodology (Housing White Paper)?

- 8.1 The Housing White Paper indicates that the Government will consult on options for a standard methodology for assessing housing need. The issue of the duration of time for trends will be a critical part of wider discussions on establishing the methodology.
- 8.2 The GLA will be making its own representations to Government on how the standard methodology should function. The likelihood is that the GLA (and other areas) will be advancing the case for the incorporation of longer-term trends.
- 8.3 The possibility of a standard methodology being realised does not negate the consideration of the GLA's projections and, instead, strengthens the case for a wider discussion about the function and outputs from the GLA's model. Furthermore, if a standard methodology were adopted, there is potential for the GLA's model to inform the development of that approach or even providing a final output in a consistent manner.

What could be a way forward? / Recommendation

- 9.1 Given the GLA's intention to publish its projections more widely, that the steps below be undertaken prior to the formal release of the GLA's projections for the Wider South East:
- 1) Following GLA's recent sharing of the current interim data with Local Planning Authorities (see appendix), agree the timetable for wider formal public release and the steps to mitigate concerns about the perception of the projections undermining local plans;
 - 2) The GLA provide support to officers to explain the differences between ONS/DCLG and the GLA's results, including making clear that the GLA data is being released as part of its duties to inform and consult and does not supersede the "official projections";
 - 3) Seek clarity from DCLG and the Planning Inspectorate Service on the use and stages/timing of incorporating the outputs of the GLA data into local plan evidence and the relationship to plans being prepared, and
 - 4) During local authority engagement, there is a clear link made to the Government's White Paper proposal for a standard national methodology for calculating objectively assessed need.
- 9.2 Members consider whether there may be common ground within the Wider South East to respond to the Government's forthcoming consultation on a single approach to calculating housing need and possible transition arrangements.

Appendix

GLA e-mail to all Local Planning Authorities in the Wider South East

Dear Wider South East colleagues,

In February the GLA Intelligence Unit published its interim 2015-based population projections. The publically available outputs only include data for the 33 London Boroughs. However, the GLA trend projection model produces outputs, which cover each local authority in England plus national outputs for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The link below is to a zip file download providing the full range of outputs from the trend model. It includes:

- Data for every local authority
- Detailed populations data
- Detailed components of change data

The GLA has opted to publish three variants of its trend projections, these are:

- Central – uses a 10 year migration backseries for domestic and international migration
- Short-term – uses a 5 year migration backseries for domestic and international migration
- Long-term – uses a 14 year migration backseries for domestic and international migration

Full details of the model setup for each variant can be found in the Metadata.txt file included in the download.

Accessing the data

The data is available in a zip file (480Mb) here: <https://londondatastore-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/interim-2015-based-gla-projections.zip>

The password is **gla-projections**.

Please note, if you download the zip and then try and open the files directly it will ask you for the password every time you open a file. However, if you right click on the downloaded zip and choose 'extract' then you'll just have to enter the password once.

Note

These projections are labelled 'interim' in anticipation of possible changes to the model setup before the final projections, which will feed into the London Plan, are published in late spring 2017. In the case of the trend-based projections shared here, these changes are expected to be minor and based on any feedback received on the interim projection methodology and results.

At this stage the GLA numbers are not publically available. Colleagues in the WSE are welcome to use this information to inform their own internal analysis and sensitivity testing. The GLA anticipates publishing data for the whole country as part of the final projection release in late spring 2017. As previously stated, we remain open to feedback and opportunities for collaboration to maximise the utility of the GLA's models and projections. We hope to offer a second technical workshop in the near future where such possibilities might be explored.

For more information or to provide feedback on these projections, please contact demography@london.gov.uk.

Further Information

Detailed methodology papers covering the full suite of GLA models are available on the London Datastore:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/interim-2015-based-projections-documentation>.

The final report from the independent review carried out by the Centre for Population Change at the University of Southampton is also available:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/projection-methodology-independent-review>

If you have any questions relating to the projections please contact demography@london.gov.uk.

Kind regards

Jorn

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Item 9

DRAFT WSE COLLABORATION PROGRAMME COMMUNICATION PRINCIPLES

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Wider South East (WSE) Political Steering Group (PSG) was formed as a means to “*address high-level, cross-boundary planning and investment issues facing the area which are of wider importance than those addressed by existing partnerships and organisations*”.
- 1.2. The Terms of Reference state that the role of the WSE PSG is to:
- *Oversee an effective engagement network to underpin communication between the bodies and members involved to ensure progress on agreed actions is made between meetings, and in particular; it is also important to provide regular updates for all WSE Leaders’; and*
 - *Use the collective influence of the Political Steering Group to further joint strategic goals with Government and other stakeholders*
- 1.3. The WSE PSG agree that there is value in some targeted communications to support priority work streams, but that such activity should be kept light touch and non-bureaucratic. The purpose of this document is to suggest ways to help:
- a) Develop partnership working across the WSE and achieve effective and timely communications between partners;
 - b) Raise the profile and visibility of the WSE collaboration effort;
 - c) Ensure awareness and understanding amongst primary stakeholders is high and effective buy-in is maintained;
 - d) Respond appropriately to emerging challenges relevant to the priority issues in a timely and effective manner; and
 - e) Strengthen the voice and influence of the WSE as a whole.

2. Audience

Primary	Secondary
Central Government	
Government Agencies and Commissions	
Local Authority Leaders, Local Authority Lead Members	
Local Authority CEXs	Local Authority Senior Officers for Economic Development, Planning, Housing and Transport
Local Enterprise Partnerships	Other partners, for example water and utility companies, TfL, Network Rail, Highways England
Local and national media/publications	Other Stakeholders, for example National LGA, Rural England

3. Communication Approaches

The WSE Communications and Public Affairs ambitions are interwoven with the WSE work programme. The success of WSE collaborative effort is reliant on a strong programme of work which includes consideration and agreement on key messages and policy positions relevant to the four priority work streams³. The WSE PSG will have oversight of joint communications and agree high level communication actions. The core officer group⁴ will be responsible for the communications and public affairs element of the activities contained in the work programme and for progressing decisions made by the WSE PSG. A virtual WSE Communications group will support the communications and public affairs element of the work programme.

Examples of various communications tools available to the WSE and principles for their use are set out below:

³ London Plan Review, Achieving a Common Understanding of the Evidence, Investment in Strategic Infrastructure and Overcoming Housing Barriers

⁴ Lead officers from the East of England, Greater London Authority, London Councils and South East England Councils.

Tool	How it will be used
Stories of Mutual Interest	<p>WSE partners will maintain regional independence and decision-making in their individual communications relating to the WSE collaboration programme, and are encouraged to communicate regularly with their respective member councils and stakeholders on progress made.</p> <p>Partners will however alert counterparts in partner organisations before a unilateral press-release /public statement is made on a story of potential mutual interest. This includes use of social media and providing a verbal statement/interview to the media where applicable.</p>
Proactive Media	<p>Proactive press releases will be produced alongside relevant pieces of work or following key decisions by the WSE Political Steering Group (PSG). They will usually contain a quote from members of the WSE PSG.</p> <p>The content of proactive releases must be approved by the Chair from each region, or the Vice-Chair in the event that the Chair is unavailable of each region.</p> <p>Final approved media releases will be circulated to all members of the WSE Political Steering Group immediately prior to media distribution.</p>
Reactive Media	<p>Media reaction can often be required at short notice. It will be the responsibility of all core officers to work together to respond appropriately (either collectively or individually), with input from communications officers as appropriate.</p> <p>Any proposed media reaction must be approved by the Chair from each region, or the Vice-Chair in the event that the Chair is unavailable of each region.</p> <p>Final approved media releases will be circulated to all members of the WSE Political Steering Group immediately prior to media distribution.</p>
Engaging Central Government	<p>Engaging central government will be a key element of the WSE work programme going forward.</p> <p>When undertaking a piece of joint work requiring engagement with central government ministers and departments, the PSG will provide strategic direction and leadership.</p> <p>Any letters/invitations to central government will be approved and signed by the Chair from each region, or the Vice-Chair in the event that the Chair is unavailable of each region.</p>
Events / Meetings	<p>Events / Summits will be held as required to engage the wider stakeholders in the work of the WSE programme. Joint branding of each of the partner organisations will be used when marketing these meetings and events.</p> <p>Members of the PSG (or officers) who are invited to address externally organised events and meetings on the work of the WSE will inform partners before the speaking engagement takes place, and will be supported by officers to prepare if required.</p>
Briefings and Reports	<p>All briefings and reports produced for and by the WSE collaboration programme will be drafted jointly by officers from the East, South East and London.</p>

For information

Terms of Reference and Membership **Wider South East Political Steering Group**

East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) nominates five members representing the East of England, South East England Councils (SEEC) nominates five members representing the South East of England and the Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Councils jointly nominate five members representing London. Members will meet 2-3 times per year. The group will have a rotating chair, and agendas/paperwork and arising work will be jointly prepared and agreed.

The purpose of the Steering Group is to initiate, steer and agree strategic collaboration activities across the Wider South East (WSE) – defined as East of England, South East of England and London.

The Steering Group will

1. Be a forum for political oversight and debate on key issues arising from the Summit, including identifying opportunities for engagement, joint working and input to the London Plan process;
2. Be accountable to the annual Summit as well as its constituent membership bodies addressing actions identified by the Summit but also propose key issues for discussion to the Summit;
3. Prioritise work and resources and take forward agreed joint projects, including tasking officers to pursue strategic actions on behalf of the WSE and oversee their progress. Also keep oversight of functions, terms and membership of the Officer Working Group, which serves the needs of the Political Steering Group and the Summit;
4. Advise on the need for any additional thematically/geographically focused working groups beyond existing groupings to address strategic issues;
5. Oversee an effective engagement network to underpin communication between the bodies and members involved to ensure progress on agreed actions is made between meetings; it is also important to provide regular updates for all WSE Leaders.
6. Use the collective influence of the Political Steering Group to further joint strategic goals with Government and other stakeholders;
7. Be informed of the work of relevant other groups and organisations that relate to the priorities of the WSE.

Wider South East Political Steering Group Membership

EAST OF ENGLAND

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Cllr Linda Haysey	Leader	East Hertfordshire DC	Conservative
Cllr Roy Davis	Leader's Representative	Luton BC	Labour
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Leader	Bedford BC	Liberal Democrat
Cllr James Jamieson	Leader	Central Bedfordshire C	Conservative
Cllr David Finch	Leader	Essex CC	Conservative
Cllr Aidan Van de Weyer (sub)	Member	South Cambridgeshire DC	Liberal Democrat
Cllr Robin Howe (sub)	Deputy Leader	Huntingdonshire DC	Conservative
Cllr James Waters (sub)	Leader	Forest Heath DC	Conservative
Cllr John Gardner (sub)	Deputy Leader	Stevenage BC	Labour

SOUTH EAST

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Cllr Nicolas Heslop	SEEC Chairman and Leader	Tonbridge and Malling BC	Conservative
Cllr Peter Martin	Deputy Leader	Surrey CC	Conservative
Cllr Paul Bettison	Leader	Bracknell Forest C	Conservative
Cllr Carole Paternoster	Cabinet member	Aylesbury Vale DC	Conservative
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader	Reading BC	Labour
Cllr Ann Newton (sub)	Portfolio Holder for Planning & Development	Wealden DC	Conservative

LONDON

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Jules Pipe	Deputy Mayor of London	Greater London Authority	Labour
Cllr Darren Rodwell	London Councils' Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure and Regeneration, and Leader	LB Barking & Dagenham	Labour
Cllr Kevin Davis	Leader	RB Kingston	Conservative
Cllr Stephen Alambritis	Leader	LB Merton	Labour