

Herts 2021 Bulletin

www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward

July 2010

These bulletins update partners on the development and work of the Hertfordshire Forward partnership family – the governance diagram for which is available [here](#).

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Hertfordshire Forward Core Group

Papers for the meeting are available [here](#).

Contact ben.wood@hertscc.gov.uk or more information.

Sustainable Community Strategy

Review of the Hertfordshire Forward Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2010

Phase one

A successful launch event for the SCS at the Node in Codicote took place on the 14th June, when the evidence base on people and place for Hertfordshire was presented to Herts Forward. OPM who facilitated the event will produce a report of key findings and conclusion. The report is due shortly.

It is clear that two themes emerged that require further exploration with partners and practitioners to inform the review of the SCS. They are People – tackling disadvantage and deprivation and Place – focussed on sustainability.

Workshops for these themes (Phase two of the review) are being planned and details can be found below:

Phase two

Following, Phase One of the SCS Review on the 14 June where the evidence base for Hertfordshire was presented, Hertfordshire Forward have organised a seminar for the 29 July 2010 at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield: -

Tackling disadvantage and deprivation in Hertfordshire

The purpose of this seminar is to determine how, collectively, the Hertfordshire Forward Partnership can tackle disadvantage and deprivation. The seminar will examine:

- delivering the right local services to local people
- prioritisation of what needs to be done
- finding and agreeing practical solutions
- dealing with this in the context of current financial constraints

The half day seminar will run from **9am - 2pm, including lunch.**

If you have not been invited but would like to find out more please email hertfordshire.forward@hertscc.gov.uk

To register for the event or for further information on the SCS review please click [here](#).

If you experience problems with registration, please contact:

Debbie Barker on 01992 588868 or Joan Green on 01992 555252

Invitations have been sent direct to a range of Herts Forward family members and beyond.

Please note the **Sustainability Seminar** which is being led by HCTOA (Hertfordshire Chief Technical Officers Association) has been **postponed** to a later date. This is predominately due to recent changes in the planning framework and the imminent announcement from Government on the planning system due later this month. A new date will be scheduled and published on the [Herts Forward web page](#).

Contact jo.wilkinson@hertscc.gov.uk or victor.wan@hertscc.gov.uk for more information.

Performance Reward Grant

On 10 June the Government announced a 50% reduction for all areas. This is obviously disappointing given Hertfordshire's success in delivery of specific service improvements.

Essentially this means the £8.7m received in March 2010 (as the first instalment of PRG) has been "banked" and 5% of that amounts has been allocated to all ten district LSPs. The second instalment of £8.7m (due March 2011) will not be granted. However we are likely to receive circa £2m as 50% of the 'extra PRG' generated by late targets (such as young people NEET). This means district LSP's will be getting approximately an extra £100k (50% revenue and 50% capital)

District LSP's are accountable for their own spend and all in the process of revisiting and refocusing priorities to address any areas of over-commitment.

For the countywide element of the monies no decisions have been made. The implications are being assessed by the County Council and partners through Hertfordshire Forward, but the two main programmes (Think Family and Response to Recession) will proceed, albeit with adjustment.

Contact ben.wood@hertscc.gov.uk for more information.

Better Places to Live

The BPL 2010 Conference date has been set for 4th October at the Fielder Centre Hatfield [Half day Event]. Further details will follow shortly conference and it should be noted event will be advertised on the Herts Forward website in due course.

BPL are developing links with the HCA [Homes & Communities Agency] and a county wide picture of housing and regeneration in these challenging times.

The new coalition government has made significant changes affecting housing delivery. This includes reducing funding available for developments [HCA funding], scrapping of Regional Spatial Strategy [Planning] and regional housing targets. Implications and way forward are of key importance to BPL and will form part of future work.

The BPL action plan can be viewed on the Herts Forward website under BPL/Work programmes. This represents the current plan in place for BPL and insight into the current focus of the partnership.

Additionally, I can be emailed for details on the partnership and am happy to discuss in further detail work of BPL.

Further information is available from the Partnership's Programme Manager, Julie Evans-Hughes, who can be contacted by email: julie.evans-hughes@hertsc.gov.uk.

Healthier Communities and Older People (HCOP)

The Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy was developed to highlight the issues which need to be addressed in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the county's population. It identifies eight priority outcomes which the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan aims to achieve. Please click [here](#) for details of these outcomes and an account of key achievements during 2009/10 together with details of the five HCOP targets in the Local Area Agreement.

As of 1 April the East and North, and West PCTs ceased to operate as two separate PCTs. They will now be known as NHS Hertfordshire. The public website address, which should replace any separate PCT links you may use, is www.hertfordshire.nhs.uk.

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Transport, Access & Promoting Sustainable Development (TASD)

Further information on these initiatives and on the TASD in general is available **here** and by contacting Emma Edgell: emma.edgell@hertsc.gov.uk.

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Children and Young People

For further information on the Children and Young People theme please contact Dee De Bruin, HCTP communications lead – e-mail dee.debruin@hertsc.gov.uk.

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Safer & Stronger Communities

Community Cohesion Strategy

The Hertfordshire Forward Community Cohesion strategy has now been printed and will be shared with partners shortly. The final version of the strategy can be found [here](#). The cohesion strategy group is currently being reshaped to reflect a move away from strategy development towards implementation and sharing best practice. The next steps for this group will be to develop a countywide action plan that translates the aims of the strategy into meaningful and measurable activity. Please contact Karen Griffiths (karen.griffiths@hertsc.gov.uk) for further information.

Hertfordshire Funding Fair

The annual Hertfordshire Funding Fair will be held in the Fielder Centre, Hatfield, October 13th. Hertfordshire County Council is working with Hertfordshire Community Foundation (www.hertscf.org.uk) to deliver this free information and training day. Open to all Hertfordshire based organisations this event will offer an exciting and useful mix of 1-1 funding advice sessions, seminars and workshops, expert presentations and a series of information stands, set in comfortable, accessible surroundings. Further information about the Fair including registration details will be posted on www.hertsdirect.org/funding shortly.

Herts Forward Conference

The date for the Herts Forward Conference is 12th November, and will be held in the Fielder Centre in Hatfield. This year the conference will be focusing on the Stronger Communities Theme and in particular the conference will offer an opportunity to partners and stakeholders to understand the Coalition Government's agenda in relation to 'civil society' and consider what we are doing locally to deliver this agenda. This will include showcasing successful projects, sharing good practice and stimulating debate about how to enhance Hertfordshire's civil society.

Email alerts from Hertfordshire County Council

Email alerts have been introduced as part of the e-localism theme of the County Council's Localism agenda. You can register to receive general information, or you can choose to receive emails on a specific range of topics such as funding, contracts and tenders, highways, schools, education, or trading standards. By entering your address details, we will be able to email you with information tailored to your area and local community. To find out more and to subscribe, please click [here](#)

We would like as many residents as possible to benefit from this service, so please tell your friends, families and colleagues who you feel would be interested in subscribing.

Building the Big Society

Through its Big Society agenda the Government want to transfer powers from central to local government; to give power to communities and encourage people to take an active role. There are two main strands to implementing Big Society policy which will cut across all departments:

- Decentralisation and transfer of power and opportunities led by CLG and

- Working to help build capacity in communities to make this happen led by the Office for Civil Society (Cabinet Office)

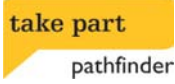
The Government has created the OCS with Nick Hurd as its Minister ([insert hyperlink to Cabinet office](#)) to develop a range of 'Civil Society' actions to implement Big Society policy focussed around building capacity within communities; supporting charities and social enterprises and increasing access to government held information. Specifically OCS has been asked to develop actions that:

- Make it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation
- Get more resources into the sector - social investment, giving and philanthropy
- Make it easier for sector organisations to work with the State
- plus push on the Big Society Bank, Big Society Day and training community organisers

This Civil Society agenda will have implications for how the public sector carries out its business in the future. Hertfordshire is well placed to embrace this agenda through its strong links for working with the voluntary and community sector and its ability to mobilise volunteers.

Migration Impact Fund

CLG Ministers have now authorised payments from the Migration Impact Fund for the six months to 30th September 2010 and HCC has received £138K to take forward the Education, Prevention, Information, Communication ([EPIC](#)) programme of activities. The programme is focused on a range of planned interventions to address identified barriers to the delivery of quality public services to our new migrant communities. It is unlikely that there will be additional Migration Impact Fund after September 2010.

Take Part Hertfordshire is two year government funded  initiative to March 2011 that aims to support individuals, groups and communities in building skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to take part and influence decisions in their locality. It focuses on the Cowley Hill ward in Borehamwood (Hertsmere) and on BME communities in Stevenage. Its website has just been launched at: <http://e-voice.org.uk/takepartherts> while it has also recently featured in CDF's 'Local Projects Local Lives' feature on the Local Government Channel which can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/s89aq>.

Contact Programme Manager stewart.martin@hertsc.gov.uk for more.

Useful Hertfordshire Local links:

- **HCC Email bulletins:** can be signed up to here: <http://tiny.cc/3x8rn>
- **HCC Locality Budgets:** £10,000 available to each County Councillor to benefit their division. Find out more here: <http://tiny.cc/tmtsij>
- **HCC webcasts:** www.hertsdirect.org/actweb/webcasts
- **HCC facebook:** <http://tiny.cc/0b3w1> and twitter: <http://twitter.com/hertsc>

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Hertfordshire Works

Hertfordshire Works' website can be found [here](#), including meeting papers.

Future of EEDA/Local Enterprise Partnerships

As part of the emergency budget (22nd June 2010) the Government confirmed its intention to abolish a regional development agencies and replace them with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). A White Paper is expected to be published in the summer providing further details on future economic development arrangements and timescales for change. As part of the Chancellor's recent £6.2 billion budget cuts, EEDA's budget for 2010-11 will be reduced by £24.9 million, a cut of 24%.

The Coalition Government has recently outlined its proposals for LEPs. It sees these as providing strategic leadership for economic development and being central to the Government's vision to rebalance the economy towards the private sector. An equal representation of civic and business leaders is envisaged with the Partnerships normally chaired by a prominent business leader. There is also the aspiration that they should reflect functional economic areas.

A representative of BIS attended the last Hertfordshire Works meeting to explain the new proposals. The Partnership took the view that a Hertfordshire LEP would be the preferred option but to also have arrangements in place with neighbouring LEPs to address functional economic areas.

The partnership will need to submit proposals for a new LEP for Hertfordshire to BIS by early September 2010 and a small task group from the Board is being formed to steer the process.

Economic Participation

EEDA is still considering how it will apply the recent budget cuts (above) and we are waiting to hear how our 2010 'Ready for Enterprise' Economic Participation programme will be affected.

Inward Investment

The new Invest Hertfordshire web site was soft-launched at the Hertfordshire Works meeting on 30th June and well received by Partnership members. It highlights the advantages of new businesses locating in Hertfordshire, tells them who is here already and signposts to sources of business support. The site can be found at: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/investhertfordshire>

The need now is to make sure that when prospective investors look at locating in Hertfordshire, the systems are in place to give them the best possible response.

We are going to move forward on two fronts. We are about to recruit two Business Liaison posts on 2 year fixed term contracts to provide a first point of contact and to support

existing businesses and HCC will be hosting a workshop for county and district Members later in the year to demonstrate the key role inward investment and business retention has in supporting and growing our economy.

Advocacy and Lobbying

The Advocacy and Lobbying Group chaired by County Councillor David Lloyd, met for the second time to agree the six key asks of Government which will form the basis of the strategy as well as discussing a priority target list of influencers and potential Hertfordshire Ambassadors. These are now being revised and will be circulated to wider partnership groupings for comment.

It is also agreed that the group pilot the approach with one specific ask to test the effectiveness of the process. Given that the partnership is looking to launch the revised inward investment offer in the autumn, it is proposed that this be key ask be used initially.

Economic Development Strategy

Consultation on the Hertfordshire Works draft Economic Development Strategy finished at the end of February. Responses from partners have been very positive. There has been broad support for the Hertfordshire Works approach towards achieving a balanced, resilient and low carbon economy.

There was broad endorsement for the Hertfordshire Economic vision and to the five key economic objectives. There were no substantive changes proposed via the consultation process. The most significant change being a consolidation of priorities resulting in 25 priorities as opposed to 35 contained in the draft.

The Hertfordshire Works Board at its meeting on the 30 June endorsed the Strategy. The Board recognises that economic climate and context for the Strategy has been changing rapidly over recent months. As a result, it recommended that officers undertake a refresh/annual report on the Strategy in 12 months, when the economic context/climate may have stabilised.

Economic Strategy Action Plans

The Hertfordshire Works Board at its meeting on the 30 June also received a report on draft Action Plans for the Economic Strategy.

The effectiveness of Hertfordshire Works actions will be judged in part by reference to Hertfordshire's economic performance. Under each of the agreed objectives in the Economic Strategy, an Action Plan is being produced which will attempt to monitor progress against a series of actions.

The context and economic climate for the Action Plans has been changing rapidly over recent months, with reductions in funding programmes and planned changes to delivery structures that are likely to impact on delivery.

The Board are recommending that the Strategy and Intelligence Group

of Herts Works, do further work on revising the plans over the summer with partners to develop “smarter” measures and bring updated plans back to the Board in the Autumn, when the economic context may have clarified.

Hertfordshire Works Annual Report

Hertfordshire Works has made an excellent start and in its first year, has laid the foundation for a strong and more resilient Hertfordshire economy.

It has:

- Delivered a new economic strategy and action plans
- Secured £4.5 million resource
- Delivered 600 new jobs through foreign direct investment
- 132 Future Jobs Fund places confirmed or being assessed
- 76 apprenticeships created
- 378 people assisted to get a job
- 26 CAB clients prevented from losing their homes

Copies of the report will be available at the Hertfordshire Works website.

The latest monthly economic briefing: Hertfordshire Works Economic Briefing No 19: April/May 2010 is attached [here](#).

Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership

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Herts Ready For Winners

Notable achievements in the last couple of months include:

- It was agreed by the Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership Board to appoint a team of four officers alongside the Manager who had become the Hertfordshire Ambassador for the 2012 Games. A new Manager, Senior Support Officer, Project Officer and Communications Officer have now been appointed with contracts to 31st December 2012.
- We held a ‘Win Business Gold’ business breakfast at Hatfield House on 1 July that was well attended by a number of Hertfordshire small-medium businesses, a great success. The new patron of the HRFWP Lord Salisbury welcomed attendees and also opened up Hatfield House for a tour after the event.
- In Hertfordshire we have 3,533 businesses registered for the CompeteFor portal competing for contracts associated with London 2012 which is 26% of the total number of registrations for the East of England, and is 6.5% of Hertfordshire's business stock which is the highest percentage of all the counties in the Eastern Region.
- Following the securing of the jointly agreed Memorandum of Understanding with the British Virgin Islands National Olympic Committee (NOC), Eric Matthias a discus

thrower is currently staying with volunteers in Aston, near Stevenage and taking advantage of the pre-Games approved training camps in the county.

- We were also visited by the Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee of St Lucia at the end of May to view training facilities.
- For the London 2012 'Get Set' education programme 71% of Hertfordshire schools have registered which is the highest percentage amongst counties in the region. In addition the next stage after registration is the elite group of schools which have joined the network and Hertfordshire now has 10 of the 30 network schools in the Region and there are only about 230 nationally.
- We have been successful in our application for an 'Inspire Mark' for the HRFWP Business Breakfast, Get Set and Cultural Olympiad 'Love to' programmes.
- The latest HRFWP Board meeting was held on July 9th at LVRPA where updates were received from each of the theme leads and with an overall update from the Hertfordshire Ambassador for the 2012 Games, John Fuller. The next meetings will be on October 20th, 14 January, 08 April, 15 July and 14 October.

LSP Network

The Network last met on 24 May 2010; details are contained in the previous edition of the [Bulletin](#).

The next meeting will be on 20 September 2010.

A programme for the Network to the end of 2010 is given below:

20th September 2010 Venue: St. Albans	Theme group updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better Places to Live • Transport, Access and Sustainable Development 	Julie Evans-Hughes Emma Edgell
	Feedback from Herts Forward Core Group meeting on 14 th June and 15 th September	Strategic Partnerships Unit
	CAA Update	Strategic Partnerships Unit
	HF SCS Refresh update	Strategic Partnerships Unit
13th December 2010 Venue: Welwyn Hatfield	Theme group updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthier Communities and Older People ▪ Safer Stronger 	
	Feedback from Herts Forward conference on 12 th November and HF Core Group meeting on 6 th December 2010	Strategic Partnerships Unit
	Freedom to Lead discussion	James Blake (St Albans District Council)

Further details and papers are available [here](#).

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Past dates

10 May	PDPG
13 May	Safer Communities Group
24 May	LSP Network (Stevenage)
26 May	TASD Steering Group
14 June	SCS refresh event
15 June	BPL Steering Group (East Hertfordshire District Council)
16 June	Stronger Communities Group
21 June	Transport and Access Partnership Core Group
23 June	HCOP Executive
23 June	Migration partnership
23 June	PDPG
29 June	CECG

Forthcoming dates

26 July	Herts Leaders Group
29 July	SCS event
1 Sep	CECG
2 Sep	PDPG
6 Sep	TASD
15 Sep	Stronger Communities Group
15 Sep	Core Group
20 Sep	LSP network

[Contacts](#)

[Hertfordshire Forward Core Group & Partnership Development & Performance Delivery Group \(Strategic Partnerships Unit, HCC\)](#)

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[HF LSP Network](#)

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[Transport, Access & Sustainable Development \(TASD\)](#)

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Herts Forward Website

<http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward>

(Previous bulletins: [click here](#))