

Herts 2021 Bulletin

www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward

May 2010

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

AT A GLANCE . . .

[Comprehensive Area Assessment](#)

Abolished by the Government!!

[Hertfordshire Forward Core Group](#)

Thinking about a 25% reduction in funding

[Sustainable Community Strategy](#)

Reviewing the priorities – event on 14 June

[Performance Reward Grant](#)

Government to review all spending decisions since January 2010

THEMES

[Better Places to Live](#)

Progress on Shared Housing Market Assessments and Green Flag initiative

[Healthier Communities and Older people](#)

Priority outcomes and achievements

[Transport, Access and Sustainable Development](#)

News on LTP3, school travel plans, waste recycling and climate change

[Children and Young People](#)

Children's Partnership newsletter

[Safer and Stronger Communities](#)

Community Cohesion Strategy

[Hertfordshire Works](#)

Future Jobs Fund, Economic Development Strategy, Skills, Participation, Investment, Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership

OTHER INFORMATION

[LSP Network and LAA2](#)

Network meeting and refresh of targets

[Past dates](#)

Key dates and meetings from the last two months

[Forthcoming dates](#)

Forthcoming partnership meetings

Comprehensive Area Assessment

Last week the Government announced its intention to abolish CAA with immediate effect. All work on the Use of Resources and Area Assessment has ceased and no scores will be published this year.

Our Audit Commission colleagues have written to partners in Hertfordshire to inform them that they will not be attending any meetings for the time being, and are awaiting further information from government.

This means that Hertfordshire's Self-Assessment no longer has to be submitted. However the document itself is 95% complete and a considerable amount of time and effort has gone into its production from many partners. It also contains examples of interesting projects and outcomes from across the county and as such is a useful assessment of progress over the past year. The document will therefore be completed as planned, albeit without the pressure of Audit Commission deadlines.

Contact jo.wilkinson@hertsc.gov.uk for more information.

Hertfordshire Forward Core Group

At their meeting on 29 March, the Core Group agreed to an event which would help build resilience within the partnership.

That will focus on a possible future scenario – “*dealing with a 25% reduction in all public sector budgets in the county*”, exploring how as partnership that could be managed, and what the landscape of public services might look like in such a context. The half day event will help the partnership to position itself for the challenges and opportunities ahead in the context of its strategic role for leading the area.

Hertfordshire Forward Chairman and Leader of Hertfordshire County Council, Councillor Robert Gordon, in his letter to members of the Core Group in May 2010, gives details of this event based on Total Place principles. Consultants from the Office of Public Management, funded via Improvement East, will facilitate that event.

On the 29 March the Core Group also considered the latest performance information for the sustainable community strategy, the Quality of Life Report and the new Policing Plan.

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

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

[Back to the top](#)

Sustainable Community Strategy

Hertfordshire Forward's Sustainable Community Strategy is due to be reviewed this year. Whilst many of the priorities and objectives set out in the current strategy remain important (such as dealing with traffic congestion, public health and reducing anti-social behaviour) new priorities have also emerged. There is also a need to re-focus objectives in the light of a radically different financial context – this review is designed to identify the small number of big issues we all collectively face and set out a realistic programme of improvement to address them.

The review process will begin with an event on 14 June, 2.00 – 4.30pm at the Node in Codicote. The purpose of the event will be to examine all the evidence we have about our people and places before discussing what the big issues facing us are. Subsequent workshops to progress those issues will be held over summer (the first taking place on 29 July) with a final event on 15 September.

Caroline Tapster, Chief Executive of HCC wrote to all LSP Chairs and the District Chief Executives Co-ordinating group to invite them to attend. We are expecting around 80 people from across the county to attend the event.

The Office of Public Management will facilitate those events, and the Core Group resilience building programme will run alongside the review process, ensuring that any new vision for the county is properly set in the context of a much tighter financial context.

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

Performance Reward Grant

On 17 May the Treasury announced its intention to cut £6bn from public sector expenditure. This included an announcement to re-examine all spending approvals made since 1 January 2010 (as well as all pilot schemes to ensure they are providing good value for money). An emergency budget is expected 22 June.

Irene Lucas, Director-General for the Department for Communities and Local Government, subsequently wrote to all Local Authority Chief Officers advising them to make no assumptions about grants approved under the previous administration. At this stage it is unclear what grants or pilot projects will be scrutinised, but various partners across the county have raised the possibility of PRG being included.

Currently we have no indication that the Performance Reward Grant from LAA1 will be affected. Equally however there has been no indication that it won't be. In any case the first instalment of the monies have been received and many projects are already underway using these funds. However it may be pragmatic for LSPs to consider 'worst case' scenarios as they develop their spending plans and think about possible contingencies/ exit strategies.

Hertfordshire Forward will endeavour to keep partners informed should any new information arise.

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

Better Places to Live

At their Annual Conference on 23 November 2009, the Partnership outlined plans to focus on housing, a subject which has come under the spotlight following the Comprehensive Area Assessment last year. Alongside robust and comprehensive strategic housing market assessments and focus on social and economic pressures for housing, the Partnership are aiming to conserve and enhance the rural environment, launch a green infrastructure framework for the County and build on the Green Flag success of 2009 to increase numbers of accredited green spaces.

Two of the three planned Shared Housing Market Assessments have been completed within Hertfordshire. The remaining assessment, in the west of the County, is in the final process of being signed off. The Partnership is also reviewing rural housing and considering improvements to asset management in the private and public sectors.

Hertfordshire currently has 28 Green Flag accredited sites reflecting 32 per cent of the Green Flag areas in the East of England. In addition, it has two of the five Green Pennant sites in the Region; this award is presented to green spaces that are managed by voluntary and community groups. Five of these sites serve areas of high multiple deprivation.

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

[Back to the top](#)

Transport, Access & Promoting Sustainable Development (TASD)

The TASD Theme Group incorporates the Transport and Access Partnership, the Climate Change Partnership, the Sustainable Development Partnership and the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership.

As reported in the last Bulletin, the Transport and Access Partnership oversaw the start of work on LTP3 (Local Transport Plan 3) in the summer of 2009 with five goals, issued by the Government, and 22 challenges. The County Council has identified 13 challenges of relevance to Hertfordshire which are now subject to consideration and consultation.

Workshops and public consultation are planned during 2010 and the final Plan will be published in April 2011. Further information on the challenges is included in the link at the end of this section or by contacting judy.cameron-rollo@hertscc.gov.uk.

We are pleased to report that 83% of Hertfordshire schools now have a travel plan including information about travel patterns and activities to encourage safe, healthy and green travel, many of which are run by volunteers. Around two-thirds of school students now travel to and from school using sustainable travel modes. With a clear indication of their success in other parts of the country, the Transport and Access Partnership is also investigating the potential for a car club in the County.

Eleven councils in Hertfordshire, who are members of the Hertfordshire Waste Consortium, signed two two-year initial contracts starting in February 2010 to send glass and plastic for recycling by two recycling firms. This arrangement will generate over half a million pounds a year in revenue. More details are available from Duncan Jones, Partnership Development Manager, on 01992 556150.

A new Climate Change Strategic Framework for Hertfordshire was approved by Hertfordshire Forward on 29 March 2010 as the County's agreed strategic response to climate change. This is a Strategy with a difference: the Hertfordshire Climate Change Partnership is not just publishing its own actions, but is asking all other public sector organisations and companies in Hertfordshire to adopt this strategy as well. As such, the document offers a framework approach as opposed to setting out a list of "dos and don'ts". It is intended to illustrate the key climate change challenges for Hertfordshire and how they relate to the many other pressing issues the County.

The Framework sets out nine key objectives, supported by a series of statements of commitment for action which the Partnership will adopt and embrace. Using a Framework approach offers other organisations the opportunity to incorporate these objectives into their own strategic planning and has the potential to allow a wide range of partners to work towards commonly agreed goals. The final document will be published and available for download in the near future – any enquiries should be directed to Bethan Clemence, Climate Change Officer, Hertfordshire County Council (bethan.clemence@hertscc.gov.uk).

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

[Back to the top](#)

Children and Young People

Much has happened in Hertfordshire's Children's Trust Partnership recently. New Executive members representing primary schools and GPs have been nominated. Up to date information and background on the HCTP, its structure and outcome lead members, is available from the information fact sheet [here](#). This fact sheet is a useful tool for partners and staff training or inductions.

The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board has launched its online training; it is simple to access and easy to see what training is available and to book on courses. Details are available [here](#).

The Children and Young People's Plan for 2010/11 is in the approval stages and will be available online in the near future at www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust.

Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership (HCTP) has made a number of changes to improve arrangements for ensuring that vulnerable children and young people receive the right response at the right time. As part of this work, there has been a review of the thresholds for accessing targeted and specialist services, and a revised version of the *Meeting the Needs of Children and Families in Hertfordshire* handbook is now available, together with a DVD to explain this further. Services may request additional copies of the handbook by emailing meetingtheneeds@hertsc.gov.uk. The handbook is also available online [here](#).

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.

[Back to the top](#)

Safer & Stronger Communities

Community Cohesion Strategy

Hertfordshire Forward agreed at its Core Group meeting in December that the draft strategy should be subject of a 12 week consultation period which is best practice identified with the Hertfordshire Compact agreement (www.hertsdirect.org/compact). The draft Strategy was widely circulated to statutory partners and key stakeholders from the Third Sector, Faith, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and the wider community sector seeking their comments and observations on the nature, tone and content of the Strategy. Two workshops were held in February 2010 to enable the chairs of School Governors and Community leaders from the BME, Faith and Third Sectors to feed their views into the consultation process.

The feedback was generally very positive about the tone and content of the Strategy with very few substantive changes required. Overall the respondents agreed that the vision and themes as detailed in the draft were right for the people and communities of Hertfordshire. The draft strategy was amended to take account of agreed feedback from the consultation and was endorsed at the Hertfordshire Forward on 29th March 2010.

The final document is positive in tone and outlook reflecting the strong cohesive base we have in our communities and builds on the good work of all partners to strengthen our communities and identify gaps that can be addressed to further reinforce cohesion. The final version of the strategy can be found [here](#).

The next steps will be to develop a countywide action plan that translates the aims of the strategy into meaningful and measurable activity. Our new found understanding and strategic vision places the county in a position of strength by enabling strategic partners to more effectively plan for the delivery of public services by taking into account the wider impact on communities and individuals and how this can impact on levels of cohesion.

Please contact Karen Griffiths (karen.griffiths@hertsc.gov.uk) for further information.

Hertfordshire Works

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

Future 565 (Future Jobs Fund)

The project continues to develop and the current figures are as follows:

Future jobs Fund

77 places confirmed by DWP

54 further places currently being assessed (results due by end of May)

50 (of the 77) have been recruited, with 27 (of the 77) at advertisement or interview stage

Apprenticeships (using PRG funding)

76 confirmed with a further 73 potential from Work Tasters

17 (of the 76) have started apprenticeship

20 (of the 76) are in the public sector

49 (of the 76) are in the private sector

7 (of the 76) are vulnerable young people

Work Tasters

73 places are confirmed. Working currently with employers to convert most of them into apprenticeships.

Economic Development Strategy 2009-2021 (HEDS)

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 support for the Hertfordshire Works approach towards achieving a balanced, resilient and low carbon economy. Officers are currently working on producing Action Plans to underpin the five themes of the Strategy.

Local Economic Assessments

Section 69 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (LDEDC) places a new duty on county councils and unitary district councils to prepare an assessment of local economic conditions. The duty came into force on 1st April 2010.

Formal statutory guidance was issued on 31 March 2010 and explains what the new duty is intended to achieve and how assessments should be taken forward. First assessments are expected within 12 months.

Low Carbon Economy

The County Council recently commissioned Oxford Economics to produce a report on a Low Carbon Economy for Hertfordshire. Two workshops were held in February focusing on the five themes of the Economic Strategy to discuss the next steps and to come up with some potential actions.

Ideas that emerged from the Action Planning included:

- Potential for an innovation centre based around low carbon businesses
- A “Hertfordshire Academy for Building Expertise” around developing low carbon construction skills
- Expanding Business Travel Wise/Travel Plan Initiatives
- Promotion and awareness campaigns for businesses on the various low carbon initiatives
- Course catalogue for HE/FE around Sustainable Learning opportunities (“from boilers to business efficiency”)

The outputs of the workshops will be fed into the work on developing the Action Plans for the Economic Strategy.

Vibrant Towns Group

The ‘Recession to Recovery’ LAA Performance Reward Grant (PRG) programme includes a local shopping centres improvement fund. The group has overseen a bidding and selection process and as a result, seven town and neighbourhood centres will share £405,000 of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) capital for a variety of schemes.

The Vibrant Towns Group has worked with Inspire East to run a seminar for planners, economic development officers and town centre managers in March which considered the future challenges and opportunities that might be available to ensure that town centres remain vibrant and at the heart of their communities.

Skills and Economic Participation

Economic Participation

Our 2010-11 Economic Participation (EP) prospectus is now out to tender and bids have been requested and received to deliver a 'Ready for Enterprise' programme.

Following an approach from EEDA, officers have agreed to run the Economic Participation programme as a European Social Fund (ESF) pilot to put Hertfordshire in a better position to access ESF or other European funding in future years.

Employment and Skills Board

Professor Alan McGregor of the University of Glasgow has facilitated two workshops with employers and partners at the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The workshops have explored the potential options around establishing an employer led Employment and Skills Board (ESB), have scoped current developments on the Skills

agenda e.g. local economic assessments, worklessness assessments and Work and Skills Plans and discussed skills issues and priorities for Hertfordshire.

Potential areas for action could include:

- Enhancing information, advice and guidance
- Promoting apprenticeships
- Enhancing, integrating and communicating the employer offer
- Matching more effectively the demand for and supply of skills
- Creating a flexible and innovative employment and skills system

Inward Investment and Business Retention Group

The new Hertfordshire Inward Investment Website is being finalised and a presentation to partners on progress has been well received. Job descriptions for the proposed two new Inward Investment/Business Retention (PRG funded) posts have been agreed with Districts and will proceed to recruitment.

A meeting with commercial agents will be held in April/May to explain the proposed Hertfordshire Inward Investment offer, and the new service will be launched in June. This will include representatives from District Councils, EEIDB Ltd, to present a united front to potential investors in Hertfordshire.

The first meeting of the Advocacy and Lobbying Group will take place on 26 April. The aim of the group will be develop a series of key “asks” for Hertfordshire in relation to Skills, Infrastructure, Sectors/clusters, identifying key individuals/organisations Hertfordshire Works need to influence at regional and national level, and create a series of ‘economic ambassadors’ who will lobby on Hertfordshire’s behalf.

<http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward/content/items/13843183/13843206/13938636/16024441>

Economic Intelligence

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

Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership

A meeting of the Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership Board took place on 26 March where updates were received from each of the theme leads and overall from the Hertfordshire Ambassador for the 2012 Games, John Fuller.

At that meeting, a draft final action plan was circulated where it was agreed to simplify the action plan to a single, overarching strategic vision supported by five priorities.

Strategic Vision:

Using the Power of the Olympic Games, to improve the Quality of Life for the people of Hertfordshire.

Five Priorities:

1. Increased participation through sport, competing, culture and volunteering, delivering healthier and closer communities;
2. Education curriculum developments with more opportunities for young people, including a growing countywide talented young athletes scheme;
3. A world class sports facility and local improvements which everyone can use and which deliver a sporting and cultural legacy;
4. A stronger Hertfordshire economy and regeneration opportunities;
5. A communications framework that inspires with Games opportunities and engages all those who live, work or study in and visit Hertfordshire.

Future meetings of the Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership Board will be on 9 July, 24 September and 9 December.

Notable achievements in the last couple of months include:

- We held a 'Win Business Gold' business breakfast at The Grove Hotel in Watford on 26 February, a great success and oversubscribed. The next event will take place on 1 July at Hatfield House and we have arranged for Lord Salisbury, our new patron, to welcome attendees.
- Hertfordshire's *CompeteFor* registrations as percentage of business stock are still the highest county figure in the East Region.
- Following the securing of the jointly agreed Memorandum of Understanding with the British Virgin Islands National Olympic Committee (NOC), we are looking forward to a visit of the Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee of St Lucia to view training facilities at the end of May. We are also currently negotiating to secure a visit from the St Vincent and Grenadines NOC President later in the year.
- 70% of schools have registered to be a part of the Get Set curriculum programme, which is the second highest in number in the Country. In addition, the next stage after registration is the elite group of schools which have joined the network and we now have 10 of the 30 schools in the Region.
- We have been successful in our application for an 'Inspire Mark' for the HRFWP Business Breakfast programme. Applications are being developed for the Get Set and Cultural Olympiad 'Love to' programmes. Some free swimming programme applications have also been approved.

- A report submitted to Herts Forward seeking funding for 2009/13 was approved. With the funding secured, together with subscription and other contributions, it has been possible to create a team to support the Manager. It has now been agreed by the Hertfordshire Ready for Winners Partnership Board to appoint a team of 4, with the current Manager now becoming the Ambassador for the Games. Posts of a new Manager, senior support, projects and communications officers are now in the process of being appointed with contracts to 31 December 2012.

[Back to the top](#)

LSP Network

The LSP Network met on 22 February 2010. It was updated on:

The proposed process for updating the Sustainable Community Strategy (see separate section in this Bulletin for further details)

The Recession to Recovery Programme via a presentation from the Jobs, Prosperity and Skills Theme Group

Comprehensive Area Assessment and the Self Assessment (see separate section in this Bulletin)

There was also a round table discussion on **governance arrangements in each of the district local strategic partnerships**.

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

The Network met again on 24 May 2010 when it received presentations updating on:

- the **Children and Young People theme** (looking at the effectiveness of District Children's Trust Partnerships in responding to a local agenda) and
- the **Valuing People Now initiative** (strengthening the role of local strategic partnerships in improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities).

The meeting also received details of the programme for refreshing the Sustainable Community Strategy (details are given above in the section covering the Sustainable Community Strategy).

[Back to the top](#)

LAA2 Refresh

This year's Local Area Agreement refresh took into account four targets that had been 'parked' due to the adverse affects of the recession on performance. All four LAA targets have now been agreed. In addition to the renegotiated/revised targets, we had two targets that were awaiting new data, which we have now populated, and one new 'local' target.

Refreshed targets can be found [here](#).

In summary targets renegotiated/revised are:

- NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits
- NI 172 Percentage of small businesses in an area showing employment growth
- NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty
- NI 154 Net additional homes provided

Targets with agreed new figures:

- NI 54 Services for disabled children
- NI 125 Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care

New 'Local' target:

- NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police

For further information please contact: victor.wan@hertsc.gov.uk

[Back to the top](#)

Past dates

22 Feb	LSP Network
1 March	PDPG
2 March	TASD group meeting (University of Herts)
29 March	Hertfordshire Forward Core Group (Fielder Centre, Hatfield)
31 March	BPL Steering Group (East Hertfordshire District Council)
19 April	HCOP Executive
28 April	Safer Stronger Communities Executive Group (Stevenage Borough Council)
10 May	PDPG
13 May	Safer Communities Group
24 May	LSP Network (Stevenage)
26 May	TASD Steering Group

Forthcoming dates

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

[Contacts](#)

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

Keith Shephard, Head of Strategic Partnerships Unit
keith.shephard@hertscc.gov.uk

Ben Wood, Team Leader - Community Strategy & Delivery
ben.wood@hertscc.gov.uk

[HF LSP Network](#)

Andy Stovold, Community Partnerships Manager
andy.stovold@threerivers.gov.uk

Theme Leads

[Better Places to Live \(BPL\)](#)

anne.freimanis@eastherts.gov.uk or julie.evans-hughes@hertscc.gov.uk

[Children & Young People \(CYP\)](#)

ian.knowles@hertscc.gov.uk or rebecca.price@hertscc.gov.uk

[Hertfordshire Works \(Economic Partnership\)](#)

john.pryor@hertscc.gov.uk

[Healthier Communities & Older People \(HCOP\)](#)

raymond.jankowski@herts-pcts.nhs.uk, or mark.lobban@hertscc.gov.uk
Programme manager: karyn.jones@herts-pcts.nhs.uk

[Safer & Stronger Communities \(SSC\)](#)

nick.parry@stevenage.gov.uk or nicola.kilvington@stevenage.gov.uk

Safer Communities: gary.ray@hertscc.gov.uk

Stronger Communities: andrew.burt@hertscc.gov.uk

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

john.wood@hertscc.gov.uk or emma.edgell@hertscc.gov.uk

Herts Forward Website

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

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