

## **London and Wider south East Strategic Planning Network**

### **Note of meeting 6 July 2021 MS Teams**

Present: Chris Tunnell (chair), Duncan Bowie (notes), Vincent Goodstadt, Andrew Jones, Catriona Riddell, Andrew Barry-Purcell, Tim Marshall, James Stevens, Dave Valler, Rob Whitehead, Peter Studdert, Nick Woolfenden, Sue Janota, Penelope Tollitt, David Godfrey, Ismail Mulla, Allan Cochrane, Chris Lamb, Nick Smith, Neil Border, Robert Purdon, Michael Thornton, Judith Ryser.

Apologies: Nicolas Bosetti, Neil Sinden, Martin Simmons, Martin Crookston, Christine Whitehead

#### **1. Discussion Paper**

Duncan Bowie, Vincent Goodstadt and Andrew Jones introduced the revised draft of the discussion paper, which has been revised by the network sub-group to incorporate points raised at the previous network meeting.

James Stevens noted that strategic planning was not popular with the government or wider population whose main interest was in development management. He supported the approach in the paper to advocate a return to strategic planning. The arguments in the paper were applicable in other regions, notably in the West of England. City regional Mayors while supporting more strategic approaches might be supportive, but the Government's urban uplift to the housing targets had made LA collaboration more difficult. Ministers were also wary of new strategic planning structures.

Michael Knott suggested that we make a stronger reference to the need for MHCLG and the London Mayor to support development of a city regional perspective on strategic planning. Andrew Barry Purcell and Duncan Bowie commented that this did not appear to be currently a priority for either MHCLG or the GLA planning team, noting that there had been no new information on the Wider south east collaborative planning website since September 2019. Vincent Goodstadt noted that this made the case to promote our proposals more urgent.

The meeting agreed to progress the paper. The sub-group was meeting the following day to finalise arrangements for publication.

#### **2. Briefing Papers**

The draft briefing notes were introduced by Vincent Goodstadt. They had been drafted by Duncan Bowie (housing), Andrew Barry-Purcell (economy) and Tim Marshall (costs of strategic planning gap). It was proposed to hold three round tables in early September. Arrangements could be made by Turner and Townsend who supported the UK2070 commission. Each briefing note included possible key questions for the round tables and list of potential participants. Duncan pointed out that the briefing notes would be expanded to include links to recent data such as the Barton Wilmore analysis on the most recent mid-year estimates in relation to migration from London to the Home Counties.

Tim Marshall referred to the third briefing note which stressed the importance of linking spatial planning to infrastructure provision. Andrew Barry-Purcell with reference to Buckinghamshire, noted that the recent by-election demonstrated the degree of popular dissatisfaction with the current planning system. James Stevens referred to the significance of recent data on out-migration

which was leading to increase house-prices and reduced affordability in the Home Counties. He referred to the significance of environmental factors, including the issue of nutrient neutrality and offered to draft a paragraph on this issue. He also suggested that Natural England (Alan Law) and DEFRA be invited to the roundtables and that Jules Pipe, deputy Mayor of London for planning also be invited. Andrew Jones also suggested Phil Graham of the GLA Good Growth team. Michael Thornton referred to the importance of the decarbonisation targets. Catriona Riddell referred to Lord Heseltine's support for unitary authorities, noting that Government policy on levelling up was unlikely to rely on metro Mayors, given they were mostly Labour politicians. Agreed members contact Vincent or Duncan with any suggestions for additional points for the briefing notes or additional invitees for round tables.