

Herts 2021 Bulletin

www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward

February 2010

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

This month

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PRG

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[A message from Cllr Robert Gordon \(Chair of Hertfordshire Forward, and Leader of the LAA 'accountable body'\)](#)

I am delighted to let you know that, due to the collective effort in achieving performance improvement targets for LAA 1 reward grant a claim for £16.1 million has been submitted to central government. This is payable in equal instalments in the final quarters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 with the first payment expected by 31 March 2010.

This claim has been verified by Hertfordshire County Council auditors following detailed analysis of performance data, and endorsed as accurate by the regional Government Office, but it remains subject to confirmation by central government. Once confirmed, and payment is received, the County Council, as the 'accountable body', will allocate the reward grant (half revenue, half capital) in accordance with the model agreed in 2006.

- 5% of total to each of ten local LSPs
- 50% to countywide partnerships

Even better news is that

- a) the claim does not cover five targets which are still running and unverified. It now seems that these five targets may yield a further £3m or £4m. These would feature in the 2010/11 claim, in which case that instalment would be around £11m or £12m rather than £8m.

This improvement in earlier forecast is due to excellent recent performance in minimising the number of young people Not in Employment, Education or Training and a significant increase in the number of older people receiving intermediate care.

- b) the government has agreed that a target relating to physical education in schools that has been under national review will be paid in full and is worth £1.25m to Hertfordshire. It is not yet known whether that will be reflected in the 2009/10 payment or 2010/11.

As Chairman of Hertfordshire Forward I thank all partners and agencies for their outstanding work in delivering this level of reward, and for the outcomes for our communities which have generated the reward. If you want further detail, the County Council's Strategic Partnership Unit will be able to explain how the reward has been calculated.

The two countywide programmes funded by Performance Reward Grant

- 'Think Family'
- 'From recession to recovery'

are well underway under the auspices of the Children's Trust and the Hertfordshire Works Partnership respectively.

I am aware that district local strategic partnerships are considering how to invest their share of the grant and I wish you all well with that investment and related outcomes in due course.

I think this performance bodes well for future collaboration, taking opportunities to deliver together for the people of Hertfordshire in the context of challenges we all face over coming years.

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Hertfordshire Forward Video

The community strategy is three years into its delivery. This short video ([link](#)) illustrates some of the interesting projects that are taking place across the county to help us deliver its objectives.

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Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

Hertfordshire's Comprehensive Area Assessment has been published on the new OnePlace website (Wednesday 9th December.)

To view the web page please follow link: <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk>

Contact stewart.martin@hertscc.gov.uk for more

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[Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA2 Progress](#)

The latest performance information for the community strategy can be found here ([link](#)). This contains 29 performance indicators which help us track progress against SCS objectives. Each of these has been broken down to a district level in order to illustrate the contributions being made by district partners and LSP's, as well give an insight into what is beneath countywide performance.

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[HF Core Group](#)

The Core Group met on the 9 December 2009 and papers for that meeting are now available [here](#).

The agenda included LAA review and refresh, the scorecard, Area Assessment and the latter part of the meeting was focussed on Developing Stronger Communities in Hertfordshire and two workshops, one on Community Cohesion and the other on volunteering.

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[LSP Network](#)

The LSP Network met in December 2009, the key points were:-

Election of Chair for 2010: Andy Stovold (Three Rivers District Council) takes the chair for the group.

Countywide Community Strategy refresh: Keith Shephard outlined the forthcoming plans to re-write the County's Sustainable Community Strategy. Adoption is expected in 2011.

Place Survey issues: Andy Stovold outlined the main points emerging from ORS on behalf of the LSPs. The top four issues, crime, health, clean streets and education provision, are the same as in 2006 and the factors most in need of improvement were still road repairs, teenage activities and traffic congestion.

LAA2 disaggregation work: Stephen Taft, Frances Sidey and Anne Nicodemus gave short presentations on the disaggregation of four targets in the Local Area Agreement which will be delivered through the districts: NI 4, NI 8, NI 123 and NI 172. .

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[Better Places to Live](#)

Annual Conference

The Better Places to Live conference was held on the 23rd November and focussed on Hertfordshire's Neighbourhoods. The conference was very well attended and feedback from delegates was positive.

Copies of the delegate packs and presentations can be found [here](#).

New recruit

The Partnership have now recruited a new Programme Manager to support BPL .The new officer started in January 2010. Julie Evans-Hughes is hosted with the Forward Planning Unit, Environment Dept, Hertfordshire County Council. Julie can be contacted by email: - julie.evans-hughes@hertscc.gov.uk

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Transport, Access & Promoting Sustainable Development (TASD)

New recruit

The Transport, Access and Sustainable Development Programme Manager, Emma Edgell started on the 11 January 2010. Emma will be supporting the TASD partnership, as well as making the key links to the other thematic groups and colleagues in the district. Emma will be based at County Hall, in the Transport and Planning Policy Team; Environment Dept. Emma can be contacted by email: emma.edgell@hertscc.gov.uk

Transport and Access Partnership

Local Transport Plan 3

Work on LTP3 started in summer 2009, after having analysed the DfT's LTP 3 guidance document. HCC has undertaken a detailed analysis of each of the five transport DaSTS goals taken from the Government's 2008 paper 'Delivering a sustainable transport system' and gathered evidence of each of the 22 challenges linked to the 5 goals.

The goals are:

- Support economic growth
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Contribute to better safety and health
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment

Challenges include:

- Sustain and improve transport's contribution to the quality of people's lives by enabling them to enjoy access to a range of goods, services, people and places.
- Enhance social inclusion by enabling disadvantaged people to connect with employment opportunities, key services, social networks and goods through improving accessibility, availability, affordability and acceptability.

HCC have prepared summary papers for each challenge to describe the evidence, the problems and linkages with other plans including the Sustainable Community Strategy and corporate plan objectives. The summary papers were used to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders at themed workshops in October and November. By January 2010 the summary papers, the write up of the consultation events and responses to the workshop events questions are available on the internet at www.hertsdirect.org/ltp in the local transport plan section.

The next stage; prioritisation of the goals and challenges for Hertfordshire, has been undertaken, and a list of options as to how to meet the challenges is being prepared and will then be appraised in the light of DfT advice.

Meanwhile LTP3 options must be assessed for their environmental impact; the Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping report is nearing completion and will be sent out to the four statutory consultees in the New Year.

The LTP3 process continues in 2010, with public consultation later in the year. The final plan will be available to the public in April 2011.

Please contact judy.cameron-rollo@hertsc.gov.uk for more information.

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Children and Young People

The HCTP is launching a regular e-news bulletin to keep members of the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership up-to-date with developments. The bulletin will be sent out on an ad hoc basis as-and-when important news or decisions need to be communicated. If you would like to receive the bulletin, or have a snippet of news that you would like included, please contact Dee De Bruin, HCTP communications lead - e-mail dee.debruin@hertsc.gov.uk

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Safer & Stronger Communities

Stronger Communities

Community Cohesion (NI 1)

Community Cohesion Strategy

The draft was approved for consultation at the 9 December 2009 meeting of the Herts Forward Core Group. The Strategy is focussed around four key themes:

- Building Inclusive Communities in Hertfordshire
- Developing Confident Citizens in Hertfordshire
- Promoting Good Relations in Hertfordshire
- Respecting Hertfordshire's Diverse Culture and Heritage

Key stakeholders are now being consulted on the tone and content of the strategy which can be found at;

<http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward/15communitystrategy/safstroncom/14078356/14145484/>

It is proposed that the final strategy be put forward for endorsement by Herts Forward at their March 2010 Core Group.

Contact Andrew Burt andrew.burt@hertsc.gov.uk or Karen Griffiths karen.griffiths@hertsc.gov.uk

Green Heart Partnership research

H.C.C. commissioned Green Hearts Partnership to carry out qualitative research on Community Cohesion to support the emerging Herts Forward Cohesion strategy. The research was carried out in 4 areas in the county: (Broxbourne, North Herts, Stevenage and Watford) from September-November and focussed on certain communities and target groups. The work explored people's views of community issues and tensions, reasons for community pride and what contributes to a sense of place. A project website <http://withourearstothe ground.wordpress.com/> has been developed to provide ongoing and up to date information about the project for all the partners, participants and other interested parties. The project artists held chats, meetings and workshops with individuals and groups in the field. They often also used triggers, such as photographs of Hertfordshire, maps, or postcards of the area, to start conversations or to trigger more information about a certain area or issue. They avoided asking direct questions and would tailor their conversations to the particular group they were working with. An illustrated publication is currently being developed that includes the main views and voice of participants.

Emerging themes include:

1. **Listening:** The issue of being listened to and having the opportunity to be heard was expressed time and again during the research
2. **Movement:** The importance of feeling welcomed to an area and the need to develop a sense of belonging irrespective of native background.
3. **Transport:** How the planning of infrastructure and availability of transport can act as a barrier to neighbourhood interaction.
4. **Community:** The importance of friendliness and knowing those around you.
5. **Getting Involved:** People spoke about willingness to contribute and participate but lack of time is an issue.
6. **Perceptions:** Many people feel the media propagate negative stereotypes and perceptions of certain communities.

Engagement and Empowerment (NI 4)

Take Part Pathfinder

The Take Part Pathfinder works in Cowley Hill in Borehamwood and with BME communities across Stevenage to improve levels of civic participation. A number of events are planned for 2010 with further details to follow in future bulletins. In the meantime if you want to know more about Take Part please click [here](#) or contact stewart.martin@hertsc.gov.uk

The Environment for a Thriving Third Sector (NI 7)

The Hertfordshire score for NI7 (14%) is lower than the National average (16.2%). This lower than expected score is primarily due to the high number of respondents who stated that statutory bodies had neither a positive/nor negative effect of their success (51%) and a high number that did not know (24%). This highlights the need to communicate more

effectively the work that statutory partners and infrastructure organisations are currently doing to develop and maintain a Thriving Third Sector in the county. Following a successful NI 7 workshop on 17 November a draft action plan has been produced that identifies key actions in the following areas.

- Funding
- Information, Advice & Guidance
- Strategic (Representation and engagement)
- Awareness raising
- Volunteering

During early 2010 a new NI 7 Third Sector Support Group will be established to take forward the action plan.

Contact Andrew Burt andrew.burt@hertscc.gov.uk or Karen Griffiths karen.griffiths@hertscc.gov.uk

The New Hertfordshire Community Assembly for Third Sector Groups

At the Herts Infrastructure Consortium's (HIC) AGM held on 1st December 2009 the HIC formally outlined the changes needed to turn it into the Hertfordshire Community Assembly (HCA), a countywide body to represent the entire community sector and not just infrastructure organisations. Three key outcomes have been identified with the HCA to:

Provide a stronger VOICE A legitimate representative voice on strategic partnerships with a mandate to lobby and campaign

Enable effective COMMUNICATION A route of contact and communication for engagement, consultation and feedback

Demonstrate IMPACT For example coming up with research and information that evidences the economic and social value of the sector

More details about the HCA can be found on:

<http://www.eastspace.net/hertsinfrastructure/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=9779>

Contact Andrew Burt andrew.burt@hertscc.gov.uk

Volunteering (NI 6)

Volunteering Strategy

Members of Herts Forward Core Group held workshop sessions on the tone and content of the volunteering strategy as prepared by Volunteering Herts (VH) on 9 December. The Strategy's mission is to create a countywide approach to the support, development and resourcing of volunteering so that everyone has the opportunity to contribute to building stronger, cohesive communities, to gain useful experience for themselves and to make Hertfordshire a better place to live and work. VH were seeking the observations and support of Core Group Partners to take forward the strategy which is seen to complement the emerging Community Cohesion and Economic Development Strategy.

The need for such a strategy has been given more emphasis as the Volunteer Centres in Herts have recorded a 25% rise in volunteer recruitment from April 2008 to March 2009 with over 6,000 volunteers recruited through Volunteer Centres (VCs). The current recession has raised these figures even higher with VCs reporting a 73% increase in recruitment from April to October 2009.

Connecting Communities Project - Bury Green, Broxbourne

DCLG are looking to fund projects in areas where the results of the national Place Survey conducted in 2008 show comparatively low scores for some responses, especially for:

- residents feeling that people from different backgrounds get on well together (NI 1) and
- ability to influence decisions in the local area (NI 4)

In the region Broxbourne and Kings Lynn have been chosen as project areas. Broxbourne will receive approximately £49,000 to deliver a programme of activities before March 2010. The intention is to carry out a series of intensive local engagement initiatives in the Bury Green ward area of Broxbourne. The proposals submitted to GO East include:

- facilitated meetings of residents (facilitated by a Local Improvement Advisor)
- access to training for councillors to raise understanding and awareness of cohesion issues and ways to encourage engagement amongst the community.
- Work with secondary schools and children's' centre to develop educational programmes for residents, access by the community to school facilities etc.
- Support of an LIA communications specialist for local public sector bodies to enable them to ensure that clear messages are given about services and facilities available to residents and how these are allocated. To build upon information gained from the facilitated residents' meetings mentioned above.
- support of a specialist youth worker to do intergenerational work and work with different communities of young people. Worker to exploit social networking, text messaging etc to engage with young people and ensure they have a voice and are consulted. Focussed work with NEETs and teenage parents in Bury Green will be a priority.
- Use of connecting communities money to deliver a programme of actions to address the issues identified by residents, including young people.

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[Jobs, Prosperity & Skills](#)

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

Economic Development Strategy 2009-2021 (HEDS)

The new draft Hertfordshire Economic Development Strategy was launched at the Conference and is now out for consultation until 26 February 2010.

The documents and response form can be accessed [here](#).

Hertfordshire Works Video

Click [here](#) to hear Cllr Robert Gordon outlining some of the key issues facing the county's economy, and some of the main points of the draft strategy. The video features comments from guests and speakers from last year's Hertfordshire Forward conference.

Low Carbon Economy for Hertfordshire

Oxford Economics have undertaken a study on a "low carbon economy" and what this might mean for Hertfordshire. Creating a vibrant, low carbon economy is one of the five themes in the new draft economic development strategy; the consultants gave a presentation on the report to the meeting of Hertfordshire Works Board on 2 December 2009.

Vibrant Towns Group

Expressions of Interest for the £500,000 potential LAA Performance Reward Grant (PRG) funding allocated to improve local shopping centres are due to be submitted by 30 November. A Panel will be meeting to shortlist bids on 15 December 2009. 24 expressions of interest have been received.

Economic Participation

A stakeholder workshop was held on 10 November at Ware Priory to discuss potential themes to input into the Economic Participation template for 2010/11, the programme is being developed and an update was reported to Hertfordshire Works Board on 2 December 2009. The template needs to be reported to EEDA by 31 December 2009.

Inward Investment and Business Support

Work continues on developing an inward investment website, designers have been appointed. The launch is likely to be in February/March 2010. The website's purpose is to sell Hertfordshire as a premier business location. Facilities of the website will include: An interactive map, a property search facility and elements that help push the site up the search engine rankings.

Economic Intelligence

The latest monthly economic briefing: Hertfordshire Works Economic Briefing No.14 November 2009 is online and can be accessed [here](#).

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[Job Opportunities](#)

Partnership Performance Officer: £28,113 - £31,942

Based in the busy Corporate Support Unit, you will assist the Head of Corporate Support in reporting regularly to the Chief Officer Board, Executive Performance Panel and Overview Committees, and will be required to support the performance management arrangements and to extend these to key partnerships such as the Local Strategic Partnership and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Improving overall performance across all council services is one of the key priorities for the organisation and is being championed, and led, by the Chief Executive. You will co-ordinate activity in relation to the implementation of the council's performance management framework, including the utilisation of Covalent the council's performance management system, and the collection and reporting of all performance data. With the increasing emphasis on

partnership working to deliver wider community outcomes a key aspect of this role is to provide strategic support for the development and implementation, on behalf of the council, of performance management frameworks and governance arrangements for key community partnerships. This is a challenging role both within the council and with key partner agencies and will therefore require good skills in communication, negotiation and diplomacy.

Closing date: 15 February 2010

Interview date: 24 February 2010

This post is offered on a full time basis (36 hours per week). Benefits include 25 to 30 days annual leave (depending on the length of Local Government Service), final salary pension scheme, flexible working hours, free car parking and free use of leisure facilities.

A copy of the job description and application form is available via www.Hertsmere.gov.uk or telephone 020 8207 7475 (24 hour answer phone service).

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Last month

9 Dec	HF Core Group meeting (Fielder Centre, Hatfield)
16 Dec	LSP Network meeting

Future 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 Herts Council)

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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Children & Young People

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Hertfordshire Works (Economic Partnership)

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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](#))