

**Agenda Item:****REPORT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMITTEE****UPDATE OF A MEETING WITH NICK BOLES MP, PARLIAMENTARY  
UNDER- SECRETARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING).****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Committee on the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November with Nick Boles MP, attended by the Vice Chairman of the Committee, Councillor John Wilkinson and Sally Gill, Group Manager Planning.

**Information and Advice**

2. Nottinghamshire County Council, along with Nottingham City Council and the District/ Borough Councils of Ashfield, Gedling, Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Erewash was invited to meet with Nick Boles MP, the Parliamentary Under- Secretary for the Department of Communities and Local Government (Planning) at Portcullis House, Westminster. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Duty to Co-operate and strategic planning issues across the Nottingham conurbation. The meeting was attended by senior members and officers from the authorities. Nick Boles attended with the Department of Communities and Local Government's Director of Planning, Ruth Stanier.
3. Members and officers described the background to the joint working in the area, with the catalyst being designation as a Growth Point in 2007 which gave access to a share of £11.5M funding towards infrastructure and green infrastructure to compliment or assist new development and also met the revenue costs of managing joint working. Joint working has been steered by a Joint Planning Advisory Board which comprises members and officers from all the authorities with members having voting rights. (Any decisions taken are subject to ratification by each individual authority). The County Council is represented on this Board by the chairmen of the Environment and Sustainability and Transport and Highways Committees. Working together met the need to co-operate, enabled the joint funding of key studies, broad agreement on housing numbers and distribution and reduced costs to individual authorities.
4. Whilst the invitation to meet was welcomed, some of the districts felt that as they were at the post examination stage, a meeting with the Minister would have been

beneficial at an earlier stage in their plan process. The revocation of the Regional Spatial strategy had been welcomed but it was recognised that it had given a start to discussion about housing numbers and distribution, now there was no such mechanism. Mr Boles indicated that this was now up to the authorities to address. The latter part of the meeting discussed ways to ensure appropriate infrastructure was provided to bring forward development and working with the Local Economic Partnership.

### **Other Options Considered**

5. The County Council could have declined the invitation to meet Mr Boles, but this would have not given the opportunity to talk directly to a Government Minister.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

6. To advise members of Committee of the outcome of the meeting.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the report be noted.

**Councillor John Wilkinson**

**Vice Chairman Environment and Sustainability Committee**

For any enquiries about this report please contact:  
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### **Constitutional Comments (SHB.29.11.13)**

8. This Report is for noting only and as such no constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (SEM 04/12/13)**

9. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All