

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Policy, Strategy and Finance for Decision

Portfolio:	Policy, Strategy and Finance
Subject:	Attendance at Garden Cities and Suburbs Seminar
Report of:	Director of Regulatory and Democratic Services
Strategy/Policy:	Protect and Enhance the Environment
Corporate Objective:	

Purpose:

This report seeks approval for the Executive Leader and the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment to attend the Town and County Planning Association (TCPA) Garden Cities and Suburbs Seminar on 25th June 2015, to be held at Arun District Council.

Executive summary:

Councils are now firmly in the driving seat in planning for and stimulating growth. This seminar for councillors, officers and delivery partners will highlight that in a localised planning system the real power is the Local Plan - this is a major opportunity to think about the long-term future and consider whether a Garden City or Suburb could provide the right solution. If the right plan is established for an area, it can help steer development to where it is needed and stop bad planning applications being made in the first place.

Significant momentum has been gained recently, both politically and across the built environment sector, on recognising the potential of the Garden City approach to development. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have both pledged their support for new Garden Cities; the Garden City principles have been enshrined in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework; and there is support for 'locally planned large scale development' in the Housing Strategy for England.

The new TCPA publication "Creating Garden Cities and Suburbs today: a guide for councils" will be presented at the seminar. The guide explains that well planned new communities, based on the Garden City principles, provide an opportunity to create high-quality inclusive places. By adopting the Garden City approach councils can rebuild trust in the development process, offering people a better quality of life by allowing for the highest sustainability standards, economies of scale, and better use of infrastructure. Given the scale of the challenges facing our communities, there has never been a more important time for councils to be innovative and ambitious in meeting local housing needs and aspirations, seizing the opportunities to create world-class new communities.

Recommendation:

That approval be given for the Executive Leader and the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment to attend the Town and County Planning Association (TCPA) Garden Cities and Suburbs Seminar on 25th June 2015, to be held at Arun District Council.

Reason:

This seminar is designed to help councillors, officers and delivery partners take advantage of the opportunities to create Garden Cities and Suburbs and deliver their benefits. It will also help with understanding the key questions that need to be asked and the tools and resources available in planning and delivering sustainable growth.

Cost of Proposals:

There is no cost for attendance at this seminar; expenditure would be for travelling and appropriate subsistence only.

The costs can be met from within existing budgets.

Risk Assessment:

There are no significant risks in relation to the Executive Leader and the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment attending this event.