

HAPTC Presentation to CECG 2nd Sept 2026

Background

Nikki Bugden (CEO) and Joseph Whelan (Hertford Town Council) attended a meeting of the Chief Executive Coordinating Group to introduce HAPTC, its members and the benefits of working with HAPTC and the PT&CCs in Herts.

Invitees listed below (waiting for confirmed attendance list as there were some substitutions)

Amanda Foley	St Albans	Darren Welsh	Dacorum
Ka Ng	Welwyn & Hatfield	Scott Crudgington	Deputy CEX HCC
Donna Nolan	Watford	Catherine Silva Donayre	Dacorum
Tom Pike	Stevenage	Jo Fisher	HCC
Anthony Roche	North Herts	Sajida Bijle	Hertsmere
Jeff Stack	Broxbourne	Helen Standen	East Herts
Angie Ridgwell	CEX HCC	Joanne Wagstaffe	Three Rivers
Tom Hennessey	HCC	Mark Doran	HCC
		Richard Taylor	HCC
		Alex Woodman	HCC
		Anna Morrison	HCC
		Helen Maneuf	HCC

Introduction

We were invited by Helen Standen at East Herts as part of the working relationship that HAPTC has fostered with Helen as CEO of East Herts having heard of Helen's open and supportive engagement with the PT&CCs in East Herts. The role of HAPTC was provided.

This was supplemented by case studies from Joseph Whelan at Hertford TC illustrating the benefits of cross tier collaboration in the important area of community safety. This provided strong positive impact of the work already being undertaken by PT&CCs in our communities.

The slides and a supporting brief can be found on our website <https://haptc.org.uk/lgr/> (these will be uploaded by Monday).

Requests to CECG

HAPTC asked CECG to consider the following with HAPTC on hand to co-ordinate/facilitate.

- Early meetings of new unitary groupings (perhaps Winter 2026).
- Consideration of a charter or outline of shared principles, as suggested in the Herts LGR submission document
- HAPTC representation on the implementation boards for the shadow authorities and in turn the new unitary authorities.
- Regular 'cross-tier' engagement with a longer-term aim for potential shared services (some examples to explore are payroll services/ green services & maintenance/ apprenticeships)

Offer of HAPTC on behalf of its Member Councils

Partnership – the opportunities are there; how can we explore them with you?

Participation – nationally early-stage participation of the county organisation and parish & town councils has proven to be a key factor in a successful transition to shadow and in turn unitary authorities, how can we participate?

Insight – We have a huge willingness to share our expertise and local insight with you and your teams and HAPTC are willing to work with you and our members to facilitate this where we can and to act as a conduit going forward.

Questions raised by CECG

Q) Why do we not have 100% membership (we currently have 90%)

A) *some clerks look after multiple councils*

Q) do we envisage some of the smaller councils merging

A) *clustering and shared services were discussed as this is the model successfully used in existing unitary council areas. There is good evidence of town councils in Hertfordshire having commenced informal discussion with neighbouring rural parishes about single service providers (e.g. for grounds maintenance) on behalf of several councils.*

Actions for HAPTC

- NB to follow up requests and offer listed above with CECG attendees over the new few week as LGR progresses.
- NB to follow up with HS to progress a discussion on developing a ‘blueprint for engagement’ with her unitary cohortⁱ.

Items to Note

HCC have today published an update on their demand for evidence behind the LGR decision.

[hertfordshire-county-council-formally-requests-evidence-behind-governments-lgr-decision.](#)

It has been stated that this will not affect the work already underway.

Nikki Bugden

2/9/2026

ⁱ **East Herts & Broxbourne (Broxbourne is unparished)**

Comprising of our member councils

Albury	Buckland	Hormead	Stanstead St
Anstey	Buntingford TC	Hunsdon	Margarets
Ardeley	Cottered	Little Berkhamsted	Stapleford
Aspenden	Datchworth	Little Hadham	Stocking Pelham
Bengeo Rural	Eastwick & Gilston	Little Munden	Thorley
Bishop's Stortford TC	Furneux Pelham	Much Hadham	Thundridge
Braughing	Great Munden	Northaw & Cuffley	Ware TC
Brent Pelham &	Hertford TC	Royston TC	Wareside
Meesden	Hertford Heath	Sawbridgeworth TC	Watton-at-Stone
Brickenden Liberty	Hertingfordbury	Standon	Westmill
	High Wych	Stanstead Abbots	Widford