

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 26 January 2021



Hertfordshire
Growth Board

Minutes

To: All Members of the Hertfordshire Growth Board
From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services, Hertfordshire County Council
Ask for: Stephanie Tarrant
Tel: 01992 555481

Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Members of the Board

Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

M Bright, Hertsmere Borough Council
L Cocking, Broxbourne Borough Council
S Giles-Medhurst, Three Rivers District Council (*substituted for S Nelmes*)
L Haysey, East Herts District Council
T Kingsbury, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
M Stears-Handscorn, North Hertfordshire District Council
P Taylor (Mayor), Watford Borough Council
S Taylor, Stevenage Borough Council
C White, St Albans City and District Council
A Williams, Dacorum Borough Council
D Williams, Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (1 Co-opted Member)

M Bretton, Chairman

1. Appointment of The Chair

- 1.1 In accordance with Annex A to Appendix 1 of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Constitution the Board, David Williams was elected Chair of the Hertfordshire Growth Board, for the term up to the first meeting of the HGB that follows both the 2021 local elections and the 2021 Annual Meetings of the constituent Councils, as agreed by the Board.

2. Appointment of The Vice-Chair

- 2.1 In accordance with Annex A to Appendix 1 of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Constitution the Board shall elect two Vice-Chairs at its first meeting. At the time of appointing the Vice-Chairs, the HGB shall decide which of them takes priority if the Chair is absent and both of them are present..... There shall be no term limits for Vice-Chairs”.
- 2.2 Following nomination by M Stears-Handscomb, seconded by Linda Haysey, Sharon Taylor was appointed as a Vice-Chair, as agreed by the Board.
- 2.3 Following nomination by Peter Taylor, seconded by David Williams, Chris White was appointed as the priority Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair and both Vice-Chair’s present, as agreed by the Board.

3. Apologies

- 3.1 None.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 17 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Public Questions – Standing order 12

- 5.1 There were no Public Questions.

6. Public Petitions – Standing Order 13

- 6.1 There were no Public Petitions.

7. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Work Programme 2021

- 7.1 The Board reviewed a report which outlined the priorities and work programme for the Growth Board in 2021. Members noted that the appendix to the report referenced an April meeting of the Growth Board, however the correct date is 30 March 2021.
- 7.2 Officers agreed to update the programme to show that ‘ongoing’ items were more accurately described as continuing projects being worked on throughout the year.

ACTION

- 7.3 Members supported the development of an 'investment ready' workstream and requested further emphasis on digital delivery and placemaking where rapid progress is sought. Members noted that the LEP had already initiated and were leading the digital workstream, with investigatory discussions taking place with the major digital providers. It was hoped that by the end of February 2021 a draft list of actions would be in place in relation to the future of fibre rollout across the county. The Board requested involvement at the appropriate stage of discussions.
- 7.4 The Board supported the proposed workshop to discuss investment, infrastructure and development across the county. Members noted the possibility of funding from the planned National Infrastructure Bank would be investigated. Officers advised that the workshop would be facilitated by CBRE or similar organisation who should have a clearer idea of the national picture and Government initiatives available. The Board also noted that bidding to the Levelling Up Fund and from UK Shared Prosperity Fund should be considered as part of the future work programme. Looking ahead the Growth Board and the LEP would look to make best use of existing skills and practice around preparation of funding bids.
- 7.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:10:50 [Item 7 - HGB Work Programme 2021](#).

Patsy Dell/
Neil Hayes

RESOLVED

- 7.6 The Board approved the work programme and priorities for 2021 and the new and existing workstreams contained therein.

8. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Growth Board Growth Fund and Budget 2021/2

- 8.1 The Board considered a report which provided updates on the Growth Board Growth Fund (GBGF), both ongoing spend and proposed budget profile for 2021. Members were provided with an overview of the funding streams/projects.
- 8.2 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:30:50 [Item 8 - HGB Growth Board Growth Fund and Budget 2021/2](#).

RESOLVED

- 8.3 The Board noted the report and agreed the proposed budget commitments for 2021/22 (including the new £250k priority project funding), as set out in Appendix 1.

9. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Communications Strategy and Protocols

- 9.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on the development of Hertfordshire Growth Board's Communications Strategy and Protocols. A presentation was given providing an overview of the strategy and protocols. The presentation slides can be viewed here: [Communications Strategy presentation](#).

ACTION

- 9.2 In response to a Member question regarding the involvement of the communication teams from each local authority, given their current focus on Covid communications, Members heard that the strategy aimed to lessen the demands on individual authorities. Members were advised that a communications workshop had been planned for the end of December 2020, but it had not been the right time. The strategy and protocols had been developed to help guide local authorities rather than place extra pressure on them.
- 9.3 Members queried if MPs were to be involved, as their input would be vital in some of the projects of the Board. It was noted that MPs were a listed as one of target audience and were a key channel to reach. Consideration will be given to inviting MPs to Board meetings and engaging with other bodies e.g. the Health and Wellbeing Board. Lucy Gravatt
- 9.4 The Board welcomed health representatives being identified as key stakeholders and requested that public health (health and wellbeing/population health) was identified specifically in the strategy, especially given the roles played during the pandemic, the way it has highlighted inequalities and expected contributions to the recovery. Lucy Gravatt
- 9.5 Members commented on engagement with residents in relation to future projects being taken forward and queried if community engagement could be embedded within this strategy or whether a separate engagement strategy would be suitable. It was noted that there were recent local examples of engagement that could be followed. Members noted that a lot of recent communication had been online due to Covid but acknowledged that not all residents were online and that those residents should still be considered in relation to engagement. Lucy Gravatt
- 9.6 The Board requested that the term ‘anchored’ with the strategy was replaced with a public facing term e.g key partners. Lucy Gravatt
- 9.7 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:38:00 [Item 9 - HGB Communications Strategy](#).

RESOLVED

- 9.8 Subject to the comments detailed above:
- The Board approved the Communications Strategy and Protocols and noted and agreed to the roll-out of the Organisational Messages set out in Section 2 of the Document.
 - The Board approved the draft 2021 Communications Plan, as attached at Appendix B.

10. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Growth Board Work Programme 2020 Updates

- 10.1 The Board reviewed a report which detailed the overall progress of the key Growth Board programmes and projects since December 2020.
- 10.2 Members heard that the Southern corridor was making good progress. The report for the creative industry sector had begun. The acceleration of housing workstream was

ACTION

continuing and Homes England were working closely with the team on this. The Mass Rapid Transport project was progressing to Strategic Outline Business case stage and was due to go out for consultation over the coming months.

- 10.3 The Board were provided with an update from North East/Central. A meeting took place regarding the Joint Strategic Plan on 11 January 2021 and during discussion it was noted there were some issues from colleagues with regards getting local plans signed off and some concerns regarding district/borough financial contributions to fund the key programme. A meeting of Chief Planners and Chief Executives was to be scheduled as soon as possible to scope out which elements of work could be moved forward collectively straight away. Good progress had been made in scoping the science and technology strand and the work being done to reinvigorate town centres.

Patsy Dell

- 10.4 The Board noted that the RAG rating for the North East Joint Central Planning showed as amber but read green. The correct rating was amber and would be corrected.

Patsy Dell

- 10.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:03:15 [Item 10 - HGB Work Programme Updates](#).

RESOLVED

- 10.6 The Board noted the update in Appendix 1 and the overall progress across the Growth Board programme and individual workstreams since the last meeting.

11. Standing Items

South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan

- 11.1 The Board heard that a joint press release was going to be published imminently, detailing where the plan was up to. Future reports should take the full title of the plan, 'South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan'.

Patsy Dell

12. Date of next meeting

- 12.1 The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 30 March 2021: 9.30 – 11.30.

13. Other Part I Business

- 13.1 None.



www.HertfordshireGrowthBoard.com



[@hertsgoodgrowth](https://twitter.com/hertsgoodgrowth)



Room 204, Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DE