

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 30 March 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, 30 March 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-Handscomb, 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. Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 26 January 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. Public Questions – Standing order 12

- 2.1 There were no Public Questions.

3. Public Petitions – Standing Order 13

- 3.1 There were no Public Petitions.

4. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Work Programme 2021 Progress Report

- 4.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the progress with the agreed work programme for the Growth Board in 2021 and specific areas of work that were new or which the Board needed to provide a view on.

- 4.2 Members were given an update on the national budget announcements and new funding streams under the government's build back better programme. Officers proposed that the Growth Board Steering Group worked with the Chief Executives' Group to ensure that bids to Government were co-ordinated. Members noted the expertise of the Herts LEP in bidding processes.

- 4.3 In relation to the housing workstream, the Board noted that the Affordable Homes prospectus from Homes England was being considered and the feasibility of submitting an expression of interest to become a strategic partner with Homes England was being looked at. Conversations were taking place with stockholding councils and other partners with current delivery programmes. Officers would report back on progress and if the examination suggested it was a feasible proposition, an expression of interest could be made in agreement with partners.

- 4.4 Members acknowledged the scope for the investment workstream, as detailed within the report.

- 4.5 With regards to governance arrangements, the Board discussed options to recruit additional co-opted Members. The Board heard that Paul Burstow, Independent Chair of Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care System, had been asked to join the Growth Board in recognition of the importance of health and place on the lives of residents. Members suggested representation from further education colleges to support local growth. Members suggested that rather than expanding the board membership, a broader contact group with representatives from the railway/police was created, for routine engagement when developing plans. Members agreed any governance changes would be from September 2021, with review to ensure the work of the LEP was not being duplicated. A proposal for this to be brought back to the June Board meeting.

- 4.6 In terms of the communications workstream, a Growth Board webinar took place on 12 March 2021, with over 130 attendees. Work was to continue with MPs and communities in promoting the work of the Growth Board.
- 4.7 Neil Hayes, Chief Executive, Herts LEP gave a presentation on the digital workstream progress. The Board heard that a plan for the digital workstream was being progressed and that a separate session would take place with Board Members on next steps. Members welcomed the update and acknowledged the priority need for high quality digital infrastructure across the county and the necessity to meet future digital requirements, including the change in ways that people/organisations may work.
- 4.8 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:5:55 [Item 4 - HGB Work Programme 2021](#).

RESOLVED

- 4.9 The Board:
- 1) noted the progress with the work programme and the overall priorities to September 2021, as set out in the paper and in appendix 1.
 - 2) noted and approved the current scope of work for the housing workstream (noting that the final submission of any Expression of Interest to be a Homes England Strategic Partner would need the board partners' support).
 - 3) noted and approved the scope of investigatory work for the investment workstream.
 - 4) agreed to review a list of organisations to join the Growth Board as co-opted Members at its June 2021 meeting, with membership taking effect from September 2021.
 - 5) noted the next steps and the urgency of the digital workstream, with a further update to be brought to the June 2021 Board meeting.

5. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Establishing a Hertfordshire Developers Forum

- 5.1 The Board considered a report which explored the principles and next steps in establishing a Hertfordshire Developers Forum.
- 5.2 Members heard that a co-designed model with developer funding was being considered, with Members suggesting that their preference would be for a co-designed model supported by the development sectors. The need to engage across a wide agenda and promote issues such as Modern Methods of Construction were discussed for consideration. It was noted that some districts already had forums in place and that their best practices should be reviewed.
- 5.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:06:03 [Item 5 - HGB - Establishing a Hertfordshire Developers Forum](#).

RESOLVED

- 5.4 The Board provided feedback to officers on preferences for the development of a Hertfordshire Developers Forum. Preferences to be worked up into a firm proposal,

including engagement with the sector as needed, for consideration at the June 2021 Growth Board Meeting.

6. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Growth Board Work Programme 2020 and 2021 Updates

- 6.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the overall progress of key Growth Board programmes and projects since January 2021.
- 6.2 Members heard that the agreement for the Housing Investment Grant contract (£172 million) was due to be signed for the infrastructure for the Harlow/Gilston Garden Town. Gratitude was expressed to all involved in the successful bidding and contracting process.
- 6.3 In relation to the Northern Growth Corridor, it was noted that the first step for the Joint Strategic Plan had commenced with a tender to be put out for a growth study. The science and technology programme was progressing, and development of a county wide approach to climate and sustainability issues was being considered.
- 6.4 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:14:50 [Item 6 - HGB Work Programme 2020 and 2021 updates](#).

RESOLVED

- 6.5 The Board noted the project updates detailed in Appendix 1 and the overall progress across the Growth Board programme and individual workstreams since the last meeting.

7. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Review of Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership (HIPP)

- 7.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the recent review of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership (HIPP).
- 7.2 Members heard that HIPP had discussed its future and that there remained a strong desire to meet on a regular basis to discuss countywide planning and infrastructure issues. It was proposed that HIPP should regularly report to the Growth Board on its actions and progress.
- 7.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:10:58 [Item 7 - HGB Review of Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership](#).

RESOLVED

- 7.4 The Board:
- noted the paper attached at appendix 1.
 - agreed that the Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership continued to have a valuable role to play within the wider work of the Growth Board. Updates

from the Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership should be provided to each Hertfordshire Growth Board meeting in future.

- agreed to provide future secretariat support to the Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership meetings.

8. Standing Items

South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan

- 8.1 The Board heard that a statement of common ground was about to be created. The statutory statement of community involvement, a visioning engagement and regulation 18 consultation was to commence after the elections.

9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1 The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 22 June 2021: 16.30 – 18.30.

10. Other Part I Business

- 10.1 None.



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