

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 22 June 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, 22 June 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
L Haysey, East Herts District Council
T Kingsbury, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
E Dennis-Harburg, 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

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (1 Co-opted Member)

M Bretton, Chairman

This meeting was chaired by C White, Lead Vice Chair.

1. Appointment of Chair

In accordance with Annex A to Appendix 1 of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Constitution the Board, following nomination by L Haysey, seconded by T Kingsbury, Richard Roberts was elected Chair of the Hertfordshire Growth Board, for a term of two years.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 30 March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Public Questions – Standing order 12

- 3.1 There were no Public Questions.

4. Public Petitions – Standing Order 13

- 4.1 There were no Public Petitions.

5. Presentation of the Hertfordshire and Essex Mass Rapid Transit (HERT) Scheme Strategic Outline Business Case stage

- 5.1 The Board received a presentation on Hertfordshire and Essex Mass Rapid Transit. The presentation slides can be viewed here: [HERT Presentation Slides](#).
- 5.2 In response to a Member question regarding Government support for scheme, officers advised that there had been some good early discussions with Government, which encouraged development of the Strategic Outline Business Case and the engagement taking place.
- 5.3 Members commented on the evidence base for the need for the scheme. Officers advised that the East/West scheme would provide new routes of travel for all residents across Hertfordshire, as it would link up all of the major North/South railway lines. Identification of core corridors to support the delivery of the scheme would be developed going forward.
- 5.4 In response to a Member question on the Metropolitan Line extension and how the schemes may link together, officers advised that they were working on a brief looking at opportunities around the old metropolitan line extension corridor and were also awaiting an outcome from DfT on the 'restoring our railways' bid in relation to the Abbey Line. Once those aspects were known, it would help officers refine the approach taken to connectivity long-term.
- 5.5 Officers took on board feedback from Members around the communications to the public and agreed to review the promotional video. In addition, officers noted that they

Rupert
Thacker

were willing to attend any local district/borough meetings to share details of the scheme.

- 5.6 In response to the LEP, officers advised that they were keen to engage with local businesses and would welcome the support of the LEP.
- 5.7 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:6:34 [Item 5 - HERT Presentation](#).

RESOLVED

- 5.8 The Board noted the content of the presentation.

6. Hertfordshire LEP Key Sector investigations – Headlines from the recent Creative Industries and Cell and Gene cluster studies and action plans.

- 6.1 The Board received a presentation on developing key clusters: Cell & Gene – Film & TV. The presentation slides can be viewed here: [Developing Key Clusters: Cell & Gene Slides](#).
- 6.2 Members welcomed the Cell and Gene cluster. An employment issue was noted, with the need to close the level of attainment among young people and the level required by employers in Cell and Gene cluster. The Board noted that more courses were needed to upskill residents to take up employment opportunities locally.
- 6.3 The Board noted that there was a number of new studios across Hertfordshire but that in addition a significant amount of filming took place on location. Members noted the importance of having the right infrastructure to link the studios with filming locations in order to continue to attract interest of filming in Hertfordshire.
- 6.4 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:30:05 [Item 6 - Hertfordshire LEP Key Sector Investigations Presentation](#).

RESOLVED

- 6.5 The Board noted the content of the presentation.

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

- 7.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the progress made 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.
- 7.2 Members received an update on the continued engagement with MHCLG. Officers proposed a briefing for Board Members over the summer to update Members on the revised proposition (including an updated Growth and Recovery prospectus and housing pipeline) to MHCLG.

Patsy Dell

- 7.3 The Board heard that following the investigation of the feasibility of submitting an expression of interest for the Homes England Local Authority Strategic Partnership, it had been recommended not to proceed with this at the current time, however dialogue with Homes England would continue.
- 7.4 Members were given an update on the review of temporary accommodation provision across Hertfordshire. Members expressed concerns in relation to losing localism when taking a county-wide strategic approach. Officers took on board Members comments and noted that sharing some risk county-wide may provide more flexibility in accommodation choices and best practices would be shared.
- 7.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:53:21 [Item 7 - HGB Work Programme 2021 Progress Report](#).

RESOLVED

- 7.6 1) The Board noted the progress with the work programme and the overall priorities to December 2021 as set out in the paper and in Appendix 1.
- 2) The Board additionally noted and approved the current scope of work for the housing workstream:
- i. MHCLG engagement as set out in section 3, specifically further development of the Hertfordshire Housing Pipeline and updating of the growth and recovery proposition (to be brought back to the September Growth Board for formal ratification)
 - ii. The outcome of the feasibility investigation of the merits of an Expression of Interest under the Homes England Local Authority Strategic Partnership Prospectus, (confirming not to proceed at this time)
 - iii. The developing work on a collaborative approach to Temporary Accommodation provision across Hertfordshire as set out in section 4 and the background in Appendix 3, noting the next steps in preparation of an outline business case.
- 3) The Board noted the proposed date for an introductory webinar on the work of the Growth Board for all new and existing councillors across Hertfordshire, and for the proposed series of externally focussed webinars over the summer promoting the Boards' work.

8. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Investment into Hertfordshire Programme Next Steps

- 8.1 The Board reviewed a report which proposed that further work should be undertaken to complete Hertfordshire's investment strategy and associated actions as agreed at the exploratory investment workshops held in May 2021.

8.2 Members noted that the potential LEP legacy funding (as detailed at 5.1 of the report) would need to be sourced following a governance regime which was outside of the Growth Board.

8.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:14:50 [Item 8 - Investment into Hertfordshire Programme](#).

RESOLVED

8.4 The Growth Board:

- Agreed the contents of the report and the areas identified for further development.
- Agreed the intention to undertake further work to complete the Hertfordshire Investment Strategy.
- Agreed that the Growth Board Steering Group and s151 Officers be commissioned to look at how a regional investment fund could operate within this area (scope to include principles, aims / rules), drawing on best practice from elsewhere.

9. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Establishing a Hertfordshire Development Forum

9.1 The Board reviewed a report which explored the options and potential benefits from establishing a joint Development Forum for Hertfordshire.

9.2 Members expressed some concerns regarding the selection of the preferred partner being fully delegated to officers. Following discussion, it was noted that the partner could be selected in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Growth Board. Members also commented on developing a suitable name for the forum.

9.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:18:23 [Item 9 - Establishing a Hertfordshire Development Forum](#).

RESOLVED

9.4 The Board agreed:

- to the implementation of a Hertfordshire Development Forum (or alternative name if required) in accordance with the principles set out in this paper;
- to delegate to officers, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Growth Board, the selection of the preferred partner organisation and the completion of the partnership memorandum of understanding and any associated arrangements necessary to bring the Forum into being (in accordance with the principles set out in this report), and
- That the first Forum meeting should be planned for September 2021.

10. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Evolving the Growth Board Governance

- 10.1 The Board reviewed a report which considered the principle of extending the co-opted membership of the Committee.
- 10.2 Members noted that they did not want to duplicate the work of the LEP Board but heard that Health Representatives and Homes England had expressed an interest in joining the Co-opted Membership.
- 10.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:27:21 [Item 10 - HGB Growth Board Governance](#).

RESOLVED

- 10.4 The Board indicated their preference to extend the co-opted Membership to include a Health Representative and Homes England Representative.

11. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Growth Corridor Programme Boards Work Programme Updates

- 11.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the overall progress of the Growth Board Work Programmes and projects since March 2021.
- 11.2 Members heard that an officer had now been recruited to support the strategic planning work for the North/East/Central Joint Planning Collaboration and preparation was underway for tendering of the joint growth study work and that a number of bids had been put forward for Community Wealth Building. Members were given an update on the Climate and Sustainability project.
- 11.3 The Board were advised that in the Southern corridor discussions were ongoing with developers with regards to Harlow Gilston Garden Town as an agreement had not yet been reached on S106 funding which meant planning applications would be delayed until September 2021. Work was commencing on Hemel Garden Communities and a planning application was moving ahead for a new business park in Broxbourne.
- 11.4 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:37:51 [Item 11 - Growth Corridor Programme Boards Work Programme Updates](#).

RESOLVED

- 11.5 The Board noted the project updates in Appendix 1 and 2 and the overall progress across the Growth Board Programmes and Individual Workstreams since the last meeting.

12. Towards Digital Growth – Draft Framework and Priorities

- 12.1 The Board reviewed a report which and supplementary presentation on working towards a Digital Strategy for Hertfordshire. The presentation slides can be viewed here: [Towards a Digital Strategy for Hertfordshire Slides](#).
- 12.2 In response to a Member question, it was advised that the framework would bring together the digital skills required across the county as well as feed into the Skills and Employment Strategy. Members heard that an additional piece of work headlining the Growth Strategy would be undertaken on conclusion of the framework.
- 12.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:44:25 [Item 12 - Towards Digital Growth](#).

RESOLVED

- 12.4 The Board approved the draft Framework and Priorities as attached at Appendix A, to be further developed into a final version later this year, and agreed that options to establish/address the foundation matters identified in 2.8 were to be investigated over the summer for approval and implementation to progress late summer/ early autumn 2021.

13. Standing Items

South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan

- 13.1 The Joint Strategic Plan Exercise continues with visioning due to be signed off and go live in July if agreed. A communication and engagement plan and a statement of common ground were due to be approved at constituent councils in August/September. Two additional members of staff were being recruited to lead the joint approach.

14. Date of next meeting

- 14.1 The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 7 September 2021: 09.30 – 11.30AM.
- 14.2 A briefing will take place for Members in July/August 2021, with date to follow.

15. Other Part I Business

- 15.1 None.



Hertfordshire
Growth Board



www.HertfordshireGrowthBoard.com



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



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