

Agenda item 4

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

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1 Purpose of report

1.1 This report updates on progress with the agreed work programme for the Growth Board in 2021 and specific areas of work that are new or which the Board needs to provide a view on.

2 The 2021 Work Programme and Priorities

2.1 At the January 2021 Board, Leaders confirmed the priority themes for 2021 as:

- a) Economic Recovery, performance and resilience;
- b) Working together to deliver the homes that Hertfordshire needs;
- c) Future Hertfordshire.
- d) Completion of the 2020 Work programme Projects

Hertfordshire Growth Board Work Programme Themes for 2021



2.2 By December 2021 the Board's ambition is to have:

- Matured its Governance and its 'reach';
- Continued to build on the HGB brand, story and reputation;
- Secured a Growth Deal with HM Government;
- Protected Hertfordshire from the impact of the virus upon the economy;

- Established the Hertfordshire Housing pipeline and Delivery Pathway;
- Developed an investment prospectus and approach;
- Assembled a spade ready projects investment portfolio;
- Embedded high productivity systems of joint working across our portfolio of projects;
- Delivered our wave 1 projects (current) and be progressing wave 2 (new).

2.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is the Work Programme Plan to March 2022.

3 Engagement with HM Government

- 3.1 As Board members will recall, officers have continued dialogue with John McManus and the team at MHCLG and colleagues from Homes England. Following their encouragement, officers have focussed on developing a robust housing pipeline and demonstration of housing delivery activity. This work is contained within the Growth and Housing prospectus at item 6 on this agenda. John Mc Manus will be briefing the Board immediately after the September 2021 meeting.
- 3.2 Hertfordshire Councils have made a number of Year 1 Levelling up and Community Renewal Fund bids for projects in Broxbourne, Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage, and Watford and the outcome of those bids are awaited.
- 3.3 County Deal pilots - an expression of interest on behalf of Hertfordshire was submitted on 13 August 2021, this is appended to item 7 on this agenda and will be discussed in the meeting.

4 Housing workstream update

- 4.1 The main output of recent work from the housing workstream is contained within the Growth and Housing Prospectus at item 6 on this agenda. Any feedback from MHCLG and Homes England officials on the draft prospectus and associated work will be provided at the meeting.

Temporary Accommodation in Hertfordshire

- 4.2 The current phase of work is focussed on developing options that will be contained within an Outline Business Case and will follow the process outlined below. This work has been informed by feedback from Members at the previous Growth Board and through responses provided by Districts, Boroughs and County Council to a survey circulated over the summer period. This has provided further information and perspective on potential options to be explored.
- 4.3 The strategic focus for this joint work is on exploring appropriate and flexible accommodation choices that enhances the opportunity to reduce the overall numbers of households in Temporary Accommodation whilst maintaining important local connections for those households. Whilst consideration of county wide approaches will form part of the investigation, the objective is to assist resolution to the demand and financial challenges placed on councils. The work will aim to learn from and share existing good practice that has been developed and to build on that were possible.
- 4.4 These proposed next steps build in engagement with key officers and leading members:
- w/c 13 September 2021: Detailed discussion on proposed options with Heads of Housing group and related officer leads.

- 22 September 2021: briefing to Chief Executives Co-ordinating Group
- Early October 2021 (TBC): Engagement with Leaders / portfolio holders to review the potential options to be explored, plus engagement with Corridor Programme Boards on 4 October 2021
- 2 November 2021: presentation of Outline Business Case to Growth Board for decision to proceed and next steps

4.5 Depending on progress at outline business case stage, the next steps would then be development of a Full Business Case. The aim would be to bring that to the Growth Board in the first quarter of 2022.

5 Hertfordshire Investment Ready Workstream

5.1 Work has started on preparing the Hertfordshire Investment strategy and a group of Chief Executives and s.151 officers will be scoping the content and approach. The intention is for the draft strategy to be brought to the November Growth Board.

6 Digital Workstream

6.1 The draft digital framework was presented to HGB in June 2021 and the final version along with workstream capacity and programme delivery options will be at Growth Board in November 2021.

7 Update on Place Narrative, Branding and Communications workstream

7.1 The familiarisation webinar for new and existing councillors took place on 9 July 2021 and was attended by over 100 councillors across Hertfordshire. This was an opportunity to bring all current and newly elected members up to speed on the HGB programme, building on the progress made since the last webinar on 12 March 2021. A recording of the event was distributed to all councillors and senior officers. Ninety per cent of participants said it had increased their understanding of the Growth Board's aims and ambitions, with all those taking part requesting to be kept further informed.

7.2 A further series of external events will take place this autumn to update stakeholders/partners on activity over the past 12 months and future priorities. These livestreamed panel discussions, sponsored by Willmott Dixon, are scheduled to take place on 7, 28 October and 25 November and will each last one hour.

7.3 HGB Chair Profile: Cllr Richard Roberts is to be interviewed on 2 November 2021 as part of the leader profile series on The Voice of Authority platform (TVoA). This will be available to view on the HGB YouTube channel and TVoA platform. There will be further opportunities for HGB members to be profiled in this way. Cllr Roberts will also be making the address at the inaugural Building Futures conference on 21 October 2021, setting out the challenges and opportunities for delivering growth to a wider audience.

7.4 Sponsorship: The Growth Board is sponsoring Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce's Keeping the Heart in Hertfordshire campaign which aims to help businesses to recover by promoting 'buy local' and creating opportunities for Hertfordshire's talent base through apprenticeships and recruitment opportunities.

8 Implications

- 8.1 There are no adverse legal, financial, equalities, environmental, sustainability or other implications arising from this report and its recommendations which support the ongoing work and priorities of the Growth Board.

9 Recommendation

- 9.1 That the Board notes the progress with the work programme and the overall priorities to March 2022 as set out in the paper and in Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1: HERTFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD WORK PROGRAMME Sept 21– Feb 22

Agreed Hertfordshire Growth Board Priority Themes:

- Economic recovery, performance and resilience,
- Building the homes Hertfordshire needs, and
- Future Hertfordshire

Workstream	Key deliverables	Key activities	Sep (w/c)	Oct (w/c)	Nov (w/c)	Dec (w/c)	Jan (w/c)	Feb (w/c)																					
			3	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2		
			0	6	3	0	7	4	1	8	5	1	8	5	2	9	6	3	0	7	3	0	7	4	1	7	4	1	
HGB Governance	Implementation of Joint Committee(s) - Completed		Hertfordshire Growth Board dates in 2021																										
	Review Co-opted membership to see if other partners should be involved – Completed . New co-opted members join from September		0	7																									
	Communications and Engagement	HGB Communications Strategy	Implementation across 2021																										
		Engagement and participation events (virtual) - two events held in 2021, three webinars planned autumn 2021	Implementation across 2021																										
Delivering the Homes Hertfordshire Needs	Strategy & Steering Group established.	Group formed & priorities agreed Housing Policy statement to be updated																											
	Strategic Partnership work	On-going housing pipeline and delivery pathway development work informed by Government discussions & accelerating housing workstream.	Prepare housing pipeline and Growth and Housing prospectus																										
		Homes England Strategic Partnership Expression of Interest Bid to Homes England Affordable Homes Fund	Affordable Homes Fund bidding prospectus published. Feasibility Investigation of the merits of submission of a Hertfordshire EoI for Local Authority Strategic Partnership. Concluded May 21 – recommendation not to proceed at this time. Completed.																										
		Temporary Accommodation Collaboration Investigation	Outline case to proceed to next stage considered at HGB in June.																										
	Preparation of Housing and Growth submission to MHCLG	OSM/MMC project actions – facilitating the uptake of this option as part of our pipeline of sites	Support for the work on Herts OSM with Herts LEP continues. Planning and Development Guide for increased use of OSM in Herts commissioned, expected HGB November																										
		Programme of meetings with MHCLG officials on-going. MHCLG Deputy Director attends and briefs Growth Board regularly.	On-going engagement with officials from MHCLG, BEIS & DfT. John McManus from MHCLG briefed HGB on 30/3/21, briefing again September HGB. Growth and Housing prospectus prepared. County Deal expression of Interest submitted 13-8-21																										
		Briefing Herts MP's at the appropriate times	Briefings to Herts MPs on HGB work, County Deals and Levelling up Fund project bids as and when needed																										
Partners, investors & delivery bodies Engagement	Establish Developer Forum with agreed partner, implementation Autumn																												

Workstream	Key deliverables	Key activities	Sep (w/c)		Oct (w/c)		Nov (w/c)		Dec (w/c)		Jan (w/c)		Feb (w/c)															
			3	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2
Economic Recovery, Performance and Resilience	Hertfordshire Investment Ready	Development of a purposeful Investment Ready Strategy – to bring greater investment into Herts (both public and private sources). Investigate options such as impact and regional funds and bear down on establishing the conditions locally that need to be created to leverage in investment. Investment Strategy and Portfolio of our investable propositions (infrastructure and schemes that are or can be made spade ready). Investigation of potential funding options/routes for strategic scale, part or non-commercial infrastructure projects.	Investment Strategy to November Growth Board Funding investigations to November Growth Board																									
	Digital Workstream	LEP lead, supported by HGB and partners. Draft Digital Framework presented to June HGB, final version to November HGB																										
	Virtual observatory	Enhance the joint LEP/HGB data analytics availability to support Board members as well as enhancing bidding and lobbying activities across our priority areas. Monitoring of national funding streams and bidding opportunities aligned with bidding capability and expertise – progress delayed, scope to November HGB																										
Workstream	Key deliverables	Key activities	Sep (w/c)		Oct (w/c)		Nov (w/c)		Dec (w/c)		Jan (w/c)		Feb (w/c)															
			3	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2
			0	6	3	0	7	4	1	8	5	1	8	5	2	9	6	3	0	7	3	0	7	4	1	7	4	1
Future Hertfordshire	Closer working with Health sector, ensuring wellbeing as part of placemaking (planning and delivery stages)	Working group set up with Health sector, task and finish project to enhance cross sector working and impact, particularly around infrastructure and place-making																										

	Climate, Carbon and Sustainability work alignment with HGB	Alignment with the current work being overseen by Herts leaders.		Ongoing, progress being reported through Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP)																											
	Infrastructure costs update via the HIPP in 2021/22	Roll Forward of the HIPP – investigate cost effective options and optimal timing for this. HIPP oversight and recommendations to HGB later in 2021																													
Workstream	Key deliverables	Key activities		Sep (w/c)			Oct (w/c)			Nov (w/c)			Dec (w/c)			Jan (w/c)			Feb (w/c)												
				3	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2		
				0	6	3	0	7	4	1	8	5	1	8	5	2	9	6	3	0	7	3	0	7	4	1	7	4	1		
Growth Corridor Programme Boards	HGB overall Strategy & Steering Group structures in place.	HGB Senior Officer Steering Group meets fortnightly HBG agenda oversight through CEX CG meetings																													
	Development of two E-W strategic growth corridors	Corridor growth opportunities and priority projects overseen by corridor programme boards,		See below. Progress on projects reported to HGB through project updates from the corridor programme boards.																											
	Development of Common HGB Policy Programmes.	Work Programmes established, policy statements and positions being updated/prepared in 2021	To be updated/ prepared across all workstreams in 2021	Developing a framework of common policies from which HGB can lobby for developed powers/legislative changes and through which delivery projects can emerge and be assessed against. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Investment • Future Hertfordshire 																											
	Outline Business Cases.	Initial tranche of business cases developed to a common framework and to support investment opportunity discussions with Government and private sector. Update where supports spade readiness for bidding.		Information gathering and detailed OBC development work as needed across 2021 and in support of HGB submissions to HM Government Funding rounds.																											
Workstream	Key deliverables	Projects & key milestones		Sep (w/c)			Oct (w/c)			Nov (w/c)			Dec (w/c)			Jan (w/c)			Feb (w/c)												
				3	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2		
				0	6	3	0	7	4	1	8	5	1	8	5	2	9	6	3	0	7	3	0	7	4	1	7	4	1		
Southern Corridor Board and Delivery Programmes	Southern Corridor Programme Board	Board oversight	Southern Corridor Programme Board dates	0				0																							
	Southern Corridor Delivery Programmes	Accelerating Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Pipeline monitoring • Local interventions to address housing market failure • Deploying freedoms and flexibilities from Govt to accelerate housing delivery 	6				4																							
				Housing pipeline validation and dialogue with MGCLG. Progress being reported through project updates.																											

Creative & Screen Industry Sector Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen Industries new space research commissioned • Film & TV Production Business Support and Creative & Screen Industries Skills Development Programme reviewed through LEP sector action plan 	Progress being reported through project updates.
Harlow Gilston Garden Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Transport Hubs & Sustainable Mobility Behavioural Change • Local Employment Space & Digital Implementation • Supporting Infrastructure Projects 	Progress being reported through project updates.
Hemel Garden Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viability and Delivery Strategy • Stewardship Framework & Approach • HGC Strategic Masterplan Guidance & Transformational Plan • HGC Infrastructure Delivery Plan • Social Housing Delivery • Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Projects - Evidence Base Study 	Progress being reported through project updates.
Hertfordshire and Essex Rapid Transit System (HERT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRT Promotional Video • Options Assessment Report; Appraisal Specification Report • Strategic Outline Business Case • Sustainable Travel Towns Design 	Progress being reported through project updates.
SE Hertfordshire Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Plaza West – Sunset Studios investment confirmed • New Park Lane Railway Station (Waltham Cross) - Footbridge Procurement • New Business Park and hi-tech starter Centre: Maxwells West – Planning permission & procurement • Waltham Cross Town Centre Regeneration - Public realm design - Phase 1 	Progress being reported through project updates.

		Watford Junction Interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOBC Transport Interventions (subject to funding) • Network Rail design pedestrian link/entire station development • Development Agreement • Design & Planning 	Progress being reported through project updates.																															
Workstream	Key deliverables	Projects & key milestones		Sep (w/c)				Oct (w/c)				Nov (w/c)				Dec (w/c)				Jan (w/c)				Feb (w/c)											
				3	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2	0	1	2
				0	6	3	0	7	4	1	8	5	1	8	5	2	9	6	3	0	7	3	0	7	4	1	7	4	1	7	4	1			
Northern Corridor Board and Delivery Programmes	Northern Corridor Programme Board	Board oversight	Northern Corridor Programme Board dates				2								0				0																
	Northern Corridor Delivery Programmes	Community Wealth Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWB Pilot 1 Stevenage & 2 North Herts • County-wide working group established 	Progress being reported through project updates.																															
		Future Growth Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope review to be undertaken 	Progress being reported through project updates.																															
		Town Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal steering group with monthly meeting • Health check questionnaire 	Progress being reported through project updates.																															
		Science and Technology (Cell and Gene Focus) Sector Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework/Masterplanning/visiting study for Gunnels Wood Road 	Progress being reported through project updates.																															
		Climate, carbon and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised Water Action Plan • Biodiversity Action Plan and baselines established • Carbon Action Plan finalised • Transport Action Plan finalised 	Progress being reported through project updates.																															
Joint Strategic Planning (JSP) workstreams	SWH JSP	JSP Programme		On-going implementation programme across 2021. Progress being reported through project updates																															
	NECH JSP	JSP Programme		On-going implementation programme across 2021. Progress being reported through project updates																															