

# Agenda item 7

## Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Progress update Establishing the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board

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### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The work programme for 2021 identified the desire to establish a Developer Forum for Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The last Growth Board agreed the principles for a co-designed partnership model where the sector leads the on-going delivery. Officers have engaged potential partners who bring experience in delivering similar arrangements elsewhere. A partner has now been chosen in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

### 2 Shaping a Development Forum for Hertfordshire

- 2.1 The Growth Board agreed that it wants a reference group which will provide a forum for more focussed engagement between the Growth Board partners with house builders (both private and RSL), Infrastructure providers, developers, investors and their consultants. The Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Infrastructure Board has also agreed to partner in with this arrangement and create a single, strategic body for Hertfordshire.
- 2.2 There are a number of different models around and at the June 2021 meeting the board confirmed the principles that it is looking for from the arrangement:
  - The Growth Board is looking for relevant, regular market intelligence, feedback and sector advice,
  - the ability to take soundings on growth board and partners work e.g. joint and local plans,
  - positive engagement and influence with the sector in the delivery of sustainable, good growth and placemaking (and growth board programmes),
  - feedback from the sector on barriers to delivery and closer working with the sector on joint advocacy with/to HM Government,
  - opportunity to co-design the arrangement for Hertfordshire, agree any relevant communications, terms of reference, meeting agendas and content, forward programmes, scope of participants and representative groups involved,
  - Frequency of meetings – depending upon the form that is chosen for Hertfordshire, meetings could start on a six-monthly basis and move to quarterly or a different frequency over time and if that was considered desirable,

- attendance – Growth Board members and appropriate officers from across Hertfordshire depending upon the agenda, there is also an opportunity for the members of Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership to play an appropriate leading role in this engagement as the representative planning leads from across the councils,
- a partnering approach that provides a fully funded secretariat and support/administrative functions (potentially through a membership approach managed and administered by the providing partner).

2.3 There has been sector feedback that this initiative would be welcomed and the process of finding a partner to work with the Growth Board on this arrangement and in accordance with the preferred principles have now concluded.

2.4 The Chair and Vice chairs were consulted during the process of selecting an appropriate partner in accordance with the approval process agreed at the last board meeting.

### **3 Conclusion and next steps**

3.1 Terms of reference and a simple memorandum of understanding between the Growth Board and the preferred organisation will now be drawn up. These will clarify expectations and commitments in the creation of the proposed body, which is now proposed to be named the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board. The first Board meeting will take place in the autumn, as soon as arrangements permit. Further updates will be given at the meeting.

### **4 Implications**

4.1 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.

### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 That the Board notes the progress made and the intention to hold the first meeting of the new body this autumn.