

Agenda item 8

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

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1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides a short update on the overall progress of the Growth Corridor work programmes and projects since June 2021.
- 1.2 Attached at Appendix 1 are the updates from the latest Growth Corridor Programme Board meetings. The Growth Corridor Programme Board Political leads will provide highlights from each board at the meeting.

2 Updates on Corridor Growth Delivery Programmes and workstreams – June to September 2021

- 2.1 Both Growth Corridors have established programme board governance arrangement and are overseeing the development and implementation of the 2020 and 2021 work programmes, working to a set of agreed key deliverables and milestones. All projects have political and CEx/Senior Officer leads.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 has an update from each of the corridor projects showing the most recent milestones and current project status. The majority of projects are making good progress (green rated) there are red rated projects (or sub-components of projects). Amber rated projects are generally so rated because of matters outside the projects control. Oversight of the projects allows the programme boards to review any actions at a Growth Board level where these would assist the project to move forward.
- 2.3 Of note over the last period was progress on a number of workstreams, highlights on and related to this work include:
 - The Creative and Screen Industries group has commissioned research to better understand the extent of new screens/floorspace that is needed in Hertfordshire and to support the growth of the cluster,
 - The Science and Technology (Cell and Gene focus) is reviewing the brief for consultants for the development of a Framework/masterplan for the Gunnels Wood Road area in Stevenage, to support the Cell and gene cluster work.
 - Announcements by GSK to expand its Stevenage R&D site to create a £400m campus, one of Europe's largest life sciences clusters with up to 5,000 high value jobs; and Airbus' £35m investment in its new UK space and defence HQ in Stevenage have been welcomed
 - The Hertfordshire Mass Rapid Transit Scheme (MRT) has now been named as the Hertfordshire & Essex Rapid Transit (HERT). Stakeholder engagement started on 22 June 2021 following the last Growth Board meeting with a soft launch of the

name/branding, website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/HERT) and a short video to promote the public consultation later in the year. Early engagement with businesses and transport campaign groups, bus operators, interest groups and national accessibility campaigners is underway

- Plans for major new film/TV studios investment by Sunset Studios have just been announced in Broxbourne with the potential to create over 4,500 permanent jobs and with a value of £300m to the local economy.

3 Next Steps

- 3.1 Priorities for the coming months are to continue to move forward with the committed work programme, provide support for the next stage of bids where appropriate and when we hear outcomes (Levelling Up Fund, Community Renewal Fund and County Deals) along with the roll forward of the ongoing corridor programmes and project work.

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 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Leaders note the project updates in Appendix 1 and overall progress across the Growth Board programme and individual workstreams since the last meeting.