

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 7 September 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, 7 September 2021

Attendance

Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

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
R Roberts, Hertfordshire County Council (Chair)
P Taylor (Mayor), Watford Borough Council
S Taylor, Stevenage Borough Council (Vice Chair)
C White, St Albans City and District Council (Vice Chair)
A Williams, Dacorum Borough Council

Note: Declarations of interest were made in relation to Item 7 of the agenda.

1. Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 22 June 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 September 2021

- 4.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on the progress on the agreed work programme for the Growth Board in 2021 and specific areas of work that are new or which the Board needed to provide a view on. Members noted that the work programme highlighted the breadth of ambition they have for Hertfordshire.

- 4.2 Members expressed concern that a response to the planning bill consultation from a year ago was still awaited from HM Government. The impact of permitted development has been particularly problematic in Hertfordshire and this issue had been raised in the Growth Board response to government. The LEP advised that it had recently undertaken an extensive report on permitted development and could provide access to figures to support any further representation to Government. Discussions were to continue with regards to an exemption or special case for Hertfordshire in terms of planning.

- 4.3 Members requested a summary of all of the submitted levelling up applications made across the county to consider the impact.

Patsy Dell

- 4.4 On the temporary accommodation plans, Members noted that consolidation of the information relating to social housing across the districts would be useful.

Patsy Dell

- 4.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:6:34 [Item 4 - Work Programme 2021 Progress Report September 2021](#).

RESOLVED

4.6 The Board noted the progress with the work programme and the overall priorities to March 2022 as set out in the paper and in Appendix 1.

5. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Growth and Housing Prospectus

5.1 The Board received a presentation on the Growth and Housing prospectus, work undertaken as part of our Accelerated Housing Delivery workstream. The presentation slides can be viewed here: [Accelerated Housing Delivery](#).

5.2 Officers advised that work undertaken had shown that new sites across Hertfordshire were not reaching full affordable housing policy compliance. Districts/boroughs were seeking to deliver 30-40% of affordable housing through local plans, but with viability this had not been deliverable.

5.3 The Board discussed the need for developers with outstanding planning permissions to move forward and deliver the agreed homes. In addition, Members noted that new homes built under old terms and conditions should meet the standards required now and for the future.

5.4 Members requested that the use of modern methods of construction were clarified in the prospectus as being required to be low or zero carbon methods.

Patsy Dell

5.5 In response to a member question regarding mitigating negative impacts of new developments on existing communities, officers advised that mitigation and placemaking should be built into planning processes. New developments coming forward would be required to be future proofed, sustainable and in line with the carbon net zero aspiration for Hertfordshire.

5.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:17:34 [Item 5 - Growth and Housing Prospectus](#).

RESOLVED

5.7 The Growth Board:

- approved the Growth and Housing prospectus for submission to MHCLG and Homes England.
- noted officers would continue the on-going dialogue with MHCLG/Homes England officials and updates the Board on any feedback received.

6. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – County Deals Update

- 6.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on matters arising since Hertfordshire's County Deal expression of Interest letter was submitted on 13 August 2021.
- 6.2 Members heard that Government was looking at levelling up and further devolution to shire county areas. Hertfordshire had presented its expression of interest to MHCLG and had demonstrated the strong local leadership position in Hertfordshire. Following presentation, positive, reflective and well considered feedback was received. The feedback suggested that whilst the levelling up agenda in Hertfordshire was not as visible and economic decline as significant as some communities in the North, there was recognition that levelling up was just as important and necessary in some of Hertfordshire's communities. It was recognised that with the right support, Hertfordshire could do more to contribute to the national levelling up agenda, and that serious consideration should be given to including Hertfordshire in the first tranche of deals.
- 6.3 Members commented that an outcome may be that whilst Hertfordshire might not get cash initially, it may get powers that would help across the county e.g. powers to prevent damaging permitted development.
- 6.4 The Board heard that MPs were hugely supportive of Hertfordshire's application and were comfortable with the County continuing to operate under a two-tier system and the strengths the system brought.
- 6.5 In terms of next steps, officers advised that if Hertfordshire was to get through to the next stage, invitations for further discussions for the first wave of deals would be imminent.
- 6.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:46:09 [Item 6 - County Deals Update](#).

RESOLVED

- 6.7 The Growth Board noted the Expression of Interest letter and the verbal updates.

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

- 7.1 L Cocking and C White declared an interest in item 7 due to being acquainted with one of the selected developers. They remained in the room and participated in the debate and vote.

- 7.2 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on establishing a Developer Forum for Hertfordshire. Officers advised that in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Board two potential partners had been selected to work with.
- 7.3 The Board heard that the new forum was to be called the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board, highlighting that it was not limited to development and carried the weight of other aspirations important to Hertfordshire.
- 7.4 Members noted the links to Hertfordshire's Infrastructure and Planning Partnership, which was chaired by Cllr. Haysey and noted that it was recommended that Cllr. Haysey chaired that new body for the first year, with the first meeting being planned for early November 2021. Having Leaders engaged with the new board would allow the Growth Board opportunity for greater influence over the pace of delivery and quality of development.
- 7.5 The Board discussed the need to have the LEP represented at the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board and the ties and lessons to be shared from the Strategic Infrastructure Board.
- 7.6 With regards to other representation, Members were advised that draft terms of reference and operating principles would be brought back to the Growth Board for Leaders to review to ensure that the new body was setting out on the right path in terms of expectations and transparency.
- 7.7 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:05:24 [Item 7 - Progress update Establishing the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board](#).

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RESOLVED

- 7.8 The Board noted the progress made and the intention to hold the first meeting of the new body in autumn 2021.

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

- 8.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the overall progress of the Growth Corridor work programmes and projects since June 2021.
- 8.2 Members congratulated Broxbourne on the announcement of Hollywood Sunset Studios locating in the borough, creating over 4,500 permanent jobs locally in the film and creative industry.
- 8.3 The Board noted GSK's announcement for the intention of a £400 million campus for life science, creating another 5,000 high valued

jobs in Hertfordshire. In addition, Airbus opened its £35 million investment in its UK space and defence HQ in Stevenage.

8.4 Members noted the opening of the co-space in Stevenage for flexible working which would hopefully attract new companies and businesses to Hertfordshire. Thanks were recorded to the LEP and Growth Board colleagues who were committed to providing opportunities for local people.

8.5 With regards to Mass Rapid Transport, Three Rivers noted the need for their communities to be able to connect into sustainable travel options across the county.

8.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:15:05 [Item 8 - Growth Corridor Programme Boards Work Programme Updates](#).

RESOLVED

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

9. Standing Items South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan

9.1 The Board heard that the Joint Strategic Plan continued to move forward with districts looking at statements of community involvement and statements of common ground, with a view to them being signed off over the following few weeks. Engagement over the visioning was moving forward and additional staff were being appointed. Members noted key issues for consideration were around digital and sustainability.

10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 2 November 2021: 16.30 – 18.30PM.

11. Other Part I Business

11.1 None.



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Growth Board

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