

# Agenda item 8

## Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Review of Temporary Accommodation Provision (Outline Business case)

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The attached Outline Business Case (OBC) (Appendix 1), investigates the joint options available to local authorities in Hertfordshire to better meet the housing need for people living in Temporary Accommodation (TA), whilst achieving quality and value for money.
- 1.2 The paper seeks approval from members of the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) to further develop the recommended options set out below, into Full Business Cases that will include consultation through the appropriate Local Authority decision process as required, before returning to the Growth Board.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The strategic case for this work, approved by the Growth Board at its meeting of 22 June 2021, identified the potential value of investigating the merits of adopting a joint, coordinated and innovative response to the supply and management of TA accommodation in Hertfordshire.
- 2.2 Detailed work has been undertaken with all of Hertfordshire's local authorities to investigate gaps in accommodation provision and options for joint working, 11 options were initially identified as having potential to meet the objectives of the work within three overarching generic blocks of activity:  
Block 1 - Closer working.  
Block 2 - Joint Working, and.  
Block 3 - New Builds or Acquisition,
- 2.3 Each option provides the potential opportunity for different levels of joint working between authorities depending on local policy and need.
- 2.4 Following consultation with officers and Leaders from all Hertfordshire councils, the options have been refined to 6 areas of focus that are recommended for more detailed investigation and development into a Full Business Case.

- 2.5 It is recognised that not all options will be suitable for a pan-Hertfordshire approach and may be more suited to a smaller number of councils to engage in joint working. This will be determined during the development of the Full Business Case.
- 2.6 The principle that households will be kept close to existing social networks in line with legislation and guidance when placed in TA is fundamental and will be a guiding principle for this work.

### 3. Recommended next steps

- 3.1 Following wide ranging consultation across the local authorities in Hertfordshire, the following six areas of activity have attracted the most interest from authorities and also have the highest potential to impact on the supply and management of accommodation used for housing homeless households, building on existing policy and practice as appropriate.
- 3.2 These areas also support the original vision and outcomes as outlined in the Strategic Outline Case. Each option is described in more detail in the OBC attached at Appendix 1.

Shortlist of options for further development	
Block	Option
Block 1	Development of a Hertfordshire TA Predictive Model to better understand manage future demand
Block 1	Development of a Hertfordshire wide procedure for setting maximum rates for private sector TA
Block 2	Development of options for the joint procurement and management of Private Rented Sector accommodation to prevent homelessness and for move on from TA
Block 2	Development of a multi-district or Hertfordshire wide Housing First service, building on lessons from existing practice
Block 3	Collaborative development of new build accommodation to let as PRS, TA or supported housing
Block 3	Development or commissioning of Hospital Stepdown accommodation to aid the recovery of patients without accommodation

### 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. Full financial appraisal along with any necessary legal due diligence will be undertaken as part of the detailed development of this work as it progresses.

## 5. Recommendation

5.1 The Growth Board is asked to approve the Outline Business Case including:

- 1) Further detailed investigative work on each of the six options to inform final recommendations for the preferred options in a Full Business Case (FBC). The FBC will contain a detailed appraisal for each option:
  - Including evaluating against criteria designed to assess each option's alignment with the vision and outcomes sought for this work;
  - preparing a financial model and financial appraisal of each option;
  - identifying funding streams and assets as required for each option (capital and revenue);
  - the level of involvement by authorities in Hertfordshire for each option;
  - a delivery programme for each option recommended to be adopted.