

Agenda item 9

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 September 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.
- 1.3. Attached at Appendix 2 is a draft letter from the Revitalising Town Centres Group. The Growth Board is asked to submit the letter to the new Minister for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities.

2 Updates on Corridor Growth Delivery Programmes and workstreams – September to December 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 no red rated projects at the moment. Amber rated projects are generally so rated because of matters outside the projects control. The current rating system for Growth Corridor projects has been in place for the last 12 or so months. A review of the rating system is now considered necessary and will be informed by the Growth Board annual review.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 Of note over the last period was progress on a number of workstreams, highlights on and related to this work include:
- The Growth Study consultants brief for the North East and Central Joint planning collaboration work is out to procurement
 - The consultants brief for the ‘Vision, Opportunity Plan and Design Guide’ for the Gunnels Wood Road area in Stevenage is out to procurement to support the cell and gene cluster work.
 - The investigation of new film/tv floorspace needs in south west Hertfordshire has now concluded and ‘Greenlit Hertfordshire: working towards further film and TV studio development opportunities for the county’ has been completed and is informing the workstream work on this vitally important economic cluster.

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 (Levelling Up Fund, Community Renewal Fund, shared prosperity Fund and County Deals) along with the roll forward of the ongoing corridor programmes and project work.
- 3.2 The annual review of progress will take place before the January 2022 Growth Board meeting.

4 Town centres workstream

- 4.1 Attached at Appendix 2 is the letter from the workstream group that is proposed to go to the Minister from the Board. The political lead will highlight the concerns for High Streets and Town centres from permitted development changes.

5 Implications

- 5.1 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.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Leaders note the project updates in Appendix 1 and overall progress across the Growth Board programme and individual workstreams since the last meeting.
- 6.2 That the Board provides any feedback on the suggested letter at Appendix 2 and agrees a final version to be submitted to the Minister/Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities.