

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 July 2022



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: Wednesday, 20 July 2022

Attendance

Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

M Bright, Hertsmere Borough Council
L Cocking, Broxbourne Borough Council
S Nelmes, 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
P Taylor (Mayor), Watford Borough Council
S Taylor, Stevenage Borough Council
C White, St Albans City and District Council
A Williams, Dacorum Borough Council

Co-opted Members

M Bretton, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Chairman

1. Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 14 June 2022 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) – Presentation by Arup on the development of the Vision for Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage

[Officer Contact: Jenny Foster, Hertfordshire Growth Board,]

- 4.1 The Board received a presentation from Arup on the development of the Vision for Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage. The presentation can be viewed here: [Vision for Gunnels Wood Road Presentation](#).
- 4.2 In response to a Member question regarding timescales for the project and whether the vision included any residential elements, the Board heard that the commissioning project was expected to take 6-9 months with outputs seen from spring 2023. With regards to residential, the Board heard that employment enrichment had been the focus so far. It was noted that there was a long-standing view in new towns of separating residential to commercial/industrial areas. The Board heard from Stevenage Borough Council's Leader that the town had recently renewed a planning restriction known as an article Direction and because of its strategic importance as an employment site/area would be applying to exclude the Gunnels Wood Road (GWR) area from having the general permitted development rights that allow employment uses to go to residential uses without needing planning permission.
- 4.3 The Board discussed how the GWR project would come together and the need to ensure coordination of the various activities supporting the life sciences sector in Stevenage, including this project. The presentation was being delivered to the Growth Board first as the project had been led and commissioned by the Growth Board with co-commissioning by the LEP, County and Borough Councils. All key stakeholders would be involved and the Sector Action Plan being developed by the LEP would be critical in informing this project.

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Officers agreed to circulate a briefing note to Members confirming how effective co-ordination would be secured.

Tom
Pike/Jenny
Foster

- 4.4 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:03:15 [Item 4 - Vision for Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage.](#)

RESOLVED

- 4.5 The Growth Board noted the information shared within the presentation. A further update will be brought back to the board when the work is completed.

5. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) Overall Work Programme Progress Report July 2022

[Officer Contact: Patsy Dell, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Tel: 07949 887794]

- 5.1 The Board received a report which detailed the progress on the current Growth Board work programme a since the last meeting on 14 June 2022.
- 5.2 The Board noted that engagement with Government has been affected by the changing situation nationally. Growth Board work continues, and updates were given on a number of key projects. It was noted that the Digital Oversight Board was now in place and had begun to meet, with representatives from industry and the public sector. Cllr M Bright was the Board Chair and Mayor P Taylor was the district and boroughs representative on the Board. A full update of the work of the Board would be presented to the September 2022 meeting.
- 5.3 Members heard that the next meeting of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board planned for early September, the focus this time would be on regeneration. Invites would follow shortly.
- 5.4 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:32:48 [Item 5 - HGB Overall Work Programme Progress Report July 2022.](#)

RESOLVED

- 5.5 The Board noted the progress with the Growth Board Work Programme Plan and progress to July 2022, as set out in the paper and in Appendix 1.

6. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Growth Board Budget outturn 2022, Budget Proposals 2022/23 July 2022

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[Officer Contact: Patsy Dell, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Tel: 07949 887794]

- 6.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the Growth Board Growth Fund (GBGF), both ongoing spend and proposed budget profile for 2022/3. Appendix 1 included the budget outturn and proposed budget profile.
- 6.2 Members noted that historically the Growth Board was funded by retained business rates pilot pot from 2018/19. Any unspent funds would be rolled forward to 2022/23.
- 6.3 Areas identified as a priority include the digital workstream, the team and framework were now in place alongside the Board to oversee the work. A film office was another project area for consideration with a report considered at item 7 of the agenda. Hertfordshire Planning Resilience and Capacity project was progressing with the proposal for matched funding support. A number of corridor projects remained underway and required budget support. The Growth Board had also brought in external funding of approximately £830,000 over the past year.
- 6.4 Board Members commented on the digital workstream and noted that Hertfordshire was behind on digital infrastructure and that the Board should be reviewing best processes from other authorities rather than starting from the beginning. Members agreed that the digital workstream was a priority across the county.
- 6.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:38:29 [Item 6 - Growth Board Budget outturn 2022, Budget Proposals 2022/23 July 2022](#).

RESOLVED

- 6.6 Board Members noted the report, and:
 - a) agreed the proposed budget and commitments for 2022/23 (including the new and continuing £325k of specific project funding) set out in Appendix 1, and
 - b) noted the budget outturn for 2021/2 set out in Appendix 2.

7. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Proposals for Establishment of the Hertfordshire Screen Office

[Officer Contact: Adam Wood (Herts LEP), Patsy Dell (Hertfordshire County Council 07949887794)]

- 7.1 The Board received a report which set out the case for creating a Hertfordshire Film/Screen Office. Officers thanked all those involved with the project to date.

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- 7.2 Members heard that the creative and screen sector was one of the most important in Hertfordshire with significant investment from the private sector. The Growth Board and LEP had undertaken a lot of work with the sector and in setting up a Sector Panel. The proposal for a Herts Screen Office was to provide a one-stop-shop service for a variety of film and TV-related activities across the county. Members noted the proposal for initial seed corn funding and a request to match funding from the sector.
- 7.3 It was noted that some local authorities had agreed to use some of their UK shared prosperity funding to get the project started, however some Members considered that the film industry was not a sector that required the shared prosperity fund whereas other sectors required support in levelling up.
- 7.4 The Board discussed the benefits of a screen office for all areas of Hertfordshire, with on location filming bringing in between £25,000-£45,000 a day for local businesses. It was noted that by the Growth Board managing the screen office, it would remove competition within the sector and ensure added value for companies that make the shows, the studios and for Hertfordshire as a whole.
- 7.5 Members commented on the benefits to skills across Hertfordshire with many young residents choosing creative industries as a first-choice profession.
- 7.6 The Board discussed the mechanism for funding the screen office and it was noted that endorsement from the Growth Board was considered necessary as part of using UK SPF Funds and approaching the sector for support. The Film Office concept had previously been discussed at the LEP Sector Panel and had been supported by the sector.
- 7.7 Members commented on the connection with Visit Herts and requested a presentation to the Board from Visit Herts with a focus on film tourism.
- 7.8 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:45:53 [Item 7 - Proposals for Establishment of the Hertfordshire Screen Office](#).

Patsy Dell

RESOLVED

- 7.9 The Hertfordshire Growth Board agreed:
- a) in principle to the establishment of a Herts Screen Office for the county, in partnership with the LEP and Local Authorities and to work closely with external partners such as Creative England, Visit Herts, Higher and Further Education and the Creative Sector representatives (through the LEP sector panel).

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- b) to seed corn match funding support of up to £25k to be made available from the Growth Board Growth Fund in 2022/23, subject other partners and the sector also committing sufficient funding support to proceed
- c) that a more detailed business plan and regular updates be brought to a future meeting of the Growth Board.
- d) approval of any immediate consultancy support of up to £10k¹ needed to enable progress with this work.

8. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Planning Resilience and Capacity Task and Finish Group, update, and next steps for approval

[Officer Contact: Patsy Dell, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Tel: 07949 887794]

- 8.1 The Board reviewed a report which considered the current challenge of operating an effective and well-resourced pan-Hertfordshire growth delivery and planning system.
- 8.2 The Board noted the action plan within the report and heard that funding was requested from the Growth Board to help move the project on at pace and to engage with the sector. The measures in the action plan range from apprenticeships, mentoring and support through to a coalition of councils of sharing capacity around validation.
- 8.3 Members heard that the task and finish group included representation from the University of Hertfordshire and Oaklands College with Hertfordshire Regional College interested in becoming involved. It was noted that this was a national problem and Hertfordshire should look to be an exemplar county. Members noted that there was a whole generation of planners missing and that local courses should be available locally.
- 8.4 Members were encouraged to attend the next Hertfordshire Infrastructure & Development Board (HIDB) meeting to engage with developers.
- 8.5 It was noted that regular updates from the task and finish group would be presented back to the Board.
- 8.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:12:35 [Item 8 - Planning Resilience and Capacity Task and Finish Group, update, and next steps for approval.](#)

¹ To be taken from the principal £25k contribution

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RESOLVED

8.7 That the Board agree the action plan actions identified in Table 1.

9. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Updates from Growth Corridors

9.1 The Board received a verbal update on the Growth Corridors.

9.2 Members heard an update on the Abbey Line between St Albans and Watford and noted that the option of heavy rail appeared to have been closed on that section.

9.3 The Board were informed of the recent announcements about the further development of the GlaxoSmithKline campus into a world class research development and production site for life sciences. The project will generate around £1 billion investment and create around 5000 new jobs. Members noted the need to continue to attract high tech investment across Hertfordshire.

9.4 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:19:55 [Item 9 - Updates from Growth Corridors](#).

RESOLVED

9.5 The Growth Board noted the information shared within the update.

**10. Standing Items
South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan**

10.1 The Board heard that the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan had now been signed off and was about to go out to regulation 18 consultation.

11. Date of next meeting

11.1 The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 11:30am.

12. Other Part I Business

12.1 None.

CHAIRMAN.....

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