

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 8 September 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: Thursday, 8 September 2022

Attendance

Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

M Bright, Hertsmere Borough Council
L Cocking, Broxbourne Borough Council
S Nelmes, Three Rivers District Council
J Goodeve (*substituted for 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

Neil Rutledge (*substituted for M Bretton*), Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

1. Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 22 July 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 Visit Herts on the work of the Destination Management Organisation and plans for the next two years

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

- 4.1 The Board received a presentation from Visit Herts on the work of the Destination Management Organisation and plans for the next two years. The presentation can be viewed here: [Visit Herts Presentation](#).
- 4.2 Members welcomed the presentation and queried if there was enough of an emphasis on promoting Hertfordshire's evening economy. Members heard that Visit Herts were working closely with partners at the UK Hospitality and Tourism Alliance and would circulate a briefing note to Members detailing the local response to the support packages available for hospitality and tourism. Members acknowledged the promotion of short break/overnight stays to boost the evening economy. Members noted the more varied night-time economy offers which now included activities such as escape rooms. Hertfordshire's screen tourism offer was noted as a unique selling point and was being promoted to draw audiences into visiting the film and screen related attractions in the County.
- 4.3 In response to a Member question regarding destination management plans for each district, Members heard that Visit Herts could provide support and share relevant data. Connectivity and sustainability were recognised and were promoted.
- 4.4 Members commented there was a need for a central place to list free/upcoming activities within the county. It was noted that there was a free listing and search facility on the Visit Herts website that could help with this. The need to increase awareness and provide the correct content was acknowledged. Visit Herts welcomed

Hollie
Coffey,
Visit Herts

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communication from Members regarding support in developing a vibrant visitor economy.

- 4.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:04:15 [Item 4 - Visit Herts Presentation](#).

RESOLVED

- 4.6 The Growth Board noted the information shared within the presentation.

5. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) Overall Work Programme Progress and updates on Growth Board projects September 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 20 July 2022.
- 5.2 The recent changes in Government were noted and updates would be brought back to the Board in relation to what any changes meant for Hertfordshire. It was noted that there had been an announcement on combined County Deal proposals being signed buy Nottingham/Nottinghamshire and Derby/Derbyshire. More deals were expected to come forward and the Board would be updated on what it meant for Hertfordshire.
- 5.3 The Board noted that the fourth meeting of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board had taken place on 7 September 2022 and marked the end of the first year since establishment in 2021. The Board had over 45 organisations subscribed and regularly saw attendance of around 80-100 people, including senior politicians and officers from Hertfordshire. The meetings were seen to be valuable and provided direct dialogue with the sector. Members noted that there was a meeting on 13 September 2022 to discuss development standards across Hertfordshire.
- 5.4 Cllr Linda Haysey had chaired the first year of the HIDB and the sector were due to chair the second year, however, on reflection it had been requested by the sector that a Hertfordshire Leader continue to Chair the meetings for the second year. Cllr Lewis Cocking was proposed to take over as Chair for the next year by Cllr Morris Bright and this was seconded by Tony Kingsbury. Cllr Linda Haysey was thanked for her commitment as Chair and for her support in the setup of the Board.
- 5.5 Members noted that the Film Office Business plan had progressed and would be discussed under the Part II agenda. It was noted that

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the BBC were thought to be considering the sale of their Elstree site for residential, however it had been made clear that it was preferable that the site be kept for media and training, whether by the BBC or another production company. The Board heard that at the last Industry Panel it was discussed that the biggest challenge for production companies was ancillary space.

- 5.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:45:45 [Item 5 - Work Programme Progress Report](#).

RESOLVED

- 5.7 The Board noted the progress with the work programme and the overall priorities as set out in the paper and nominated Councillor Lewis Cocking to be the Chair of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board for 2022/23, effective from the November 2022 Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board meeting.

6. Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership – overview of the Herts economy Q2 2022

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

- 6.1 Members received a presentation from Neil Hayes, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership which shared an overview of the Herts economy Q2 2022. The presentation can be viewed here: [Herts LEP Presentation](#).
- 6.2 The Board heard that there was currently the biggest balance of trade deficit since records began in 1997, with inflation on the increase. It was noted that whilst wages were on the increase they were failing to rise at the pace of inflation. A number of businesses had paused future investment plans due to increased demands, however it was noted that foreign direct investment to Hertfordshire had steadily improved.
- 6.3 The LEP had established a Business Intelligence Group to provide advice initially in response to Covid, however, it had remained in place to assist with current economic issues and potential responses. It was noted that the six-month price cap on energy for businesses was shorter than for residential and that a dedicated section on the Herts Growth Hub website would be available for cost-of-living support.
- 6.4 The Board acknowledged the importance of getting support packages out to businesses and residents quickly and noted that the short-term support needed to be followed up with a longer-term plan.
- 6.5 In response to a Member question regarding the LEP holding data on the financial implications of energy prices on each sector and the

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confidence of early dialogue with Government, it was noted that energy costs were a real issue. Members heard that the potential impact needed to be fully explored and that whilst the LEP could help to encourage longer-term growth, financial concerns could continue grow over the coming months.

6.6 Members noted that the LEP annual conference in December 2022 would look ahead to the next ten years and the key sectors for growth. Economic challenges and the movement of people/commuter belt would be considered for the longer term.

6.7 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:57:20 [Item 6 - Overview of the Herts Economy Q2 2022](#).

RESOLVED

6.8 The Growth Board noted the information shared within the presentation.

7. Digital Hertfordshire Board update

[Officer Contact: Tony Gibbons, Senior Project Officer, HCC / Patsy Dell, HCC, Tel: 07949887794]

7.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on the work of the recently established Digital Hertfordshire Board.

7.2 Members were given an update on the four board priorities:

- Priority 1 - Accelerating the delivery of high-quality digital infrastructure in Hertfordshire. A digital growth team and Governance Board had been established with work on project gigabit underway, with the aim to secure investment in the county to deliver gigabit connectivity. A market information day was to be set for early November 2022 to promote Hertfordshire as a commercially viable location.
- Priority 2 - Flexing public sector assets, levers, and resources to deliver digital Hertfordshire. GigaHubs data set had been reviewed but did not appear a viable funding stream due to the overlap with Project Gigabit. A small Cell pilot feasibility review was underway for mobile coverage.
- Priority 3 - Achieving pervasive digitisation – places, communities, and businesses. The bid for an LEP top-up voucher had been approved to help target and support businesses in rural areas who lacked connectivity.

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- Priority 4 - Building a world class digital sector and world class digital skills. Aligned with work underway with the LEP to look at sector action plans.

7.3 Members heard that the Digital Board had also been liaising with the planning team at Hertfordshire County Council regarding developing a consistent approach to 4g/5g rollout in relation to new developments and planning permissions being granted across the county.

7.4 In response to a Member question on whether it was felt the set priorities would help Hertfordshire catch up with rural digitalisation and connectivity across the wider community, officers advised that they believed that they would help, with project Gigabit bringing a potential large investment to the county to help improve connectivity in rural areas. Continued bidding for funding was key and having strategies in place that were ready to deploy was essential.

7.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:19:05 [Item 7 - Digital Hertfordshire Board Update](#).

RESOLVED

7.6 The Hertfordshire Growth Board noted the progress with the Digital Hertfordshire Delivery Board programme.

8. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Temporary Accommodation Joint project update

[Officer Contact: Roger Barratt, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Tel: 07949 887794]

8.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on progress made developing the recommended options available to help local authorities in Hertfordshire to better meet the housing needs for people living in Temporary Accommodation (TA).

8.2 Members heard that work on the Temporary Accommodation predictive model was in the final stages and the business case for development was planned to go live in January 2023. There had been strong engagement across Hertfordshire with Heads of Housing, and training was being developed to make sure the model could be rolled out and embedded across Hertfordshire.

8.3 Work continued to shape the approach to the cohort of homeless people with ultra-high-level and complex needs. Whilst this was a small group in total across Hertfordshire it represents a particularly challenging need for the councils to address along with other demands currently being faced.

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- 8.4 Engagement continues with Homes England to further understand any funding rounds that may be on the horizon.
- 8.5 Hospital step down accommodation to aid the recovery of patients without accommodation was under review, with discussions taking place to understand the gap in provision and feasibility of sources of funding and sites being evaluated.
- 8.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:26:30 [Item 8 - Temporary Accommodation Joint Project Update](#).

RESOLVED

- 8.7 The Hertfordshire Growth Board noted the progress made.

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

- 9.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on the overall progress of the Growth Corridor work programmes and projects since July 2022.
- 9.2 Members acknowledged the comprehensive update at appendix A.
- 9.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:30:05 [Item 9 - Updates from Growth Corridors](#).

RESOLVED

- 9.4 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.

10. Standing Items South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan

- 10.1 The Board heard that the Regulation 18 consultation stage of the plan was underway, in relation to the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

11. Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday, 10 November 2022 at 11:30am.
- 11.2 Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd requested a formalised co-opted position on the Board. Officers agreed to consult the constitution and provide advise ahead of the November 2022 meeting.

Patsy Dell

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12. Other Part I Business

12.1 None.

PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman moved:

“That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

1. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Film Office Business Plan

1.1 The Minute for this item of business is set out in the separate Part II Minutes.

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