

# Agenda item 8

## Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Work Programme Progress Report January 2023

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### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report updates on progress with the current Growth Board work programme and specific areas of work that are new or which the Board needs to provide a view on. The last Growth Board meeting took place in September 2022.

### 2 The Growth Board Work Programme and Priorities

- 2.1 The Growth Board is currently reviewing its priority themes and work programme and an update on that will be provided to the next Growth Board meeting.

### 3 Work Programme Updates

#### Engagement with HM Government

- 3.1 New style County Devolution Deals have been announced in Nottinghamshire & Nottingham and Derbyshire & Derby along with Cornwall, Suffolk, and Norfolk. Michael Gove announced in early December 2022 that there would be a further round of devolution/County Deal expressions of interest starting in early 2023.

#### UK Shared Prosperity and Levelling Up Funds

- 3.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation has been confirmed and subject to investment plan clarifications Hertfordshire District and Borough Councils will receive their first allocations of UKSPF shortly.
- 3.3 Levelling Up Fund round two bids have been submitted by Broxbourne, Dacorum and Watford Borough Councils. Government advised before Christmas that confirmation on successful bids would happen in early 2023.

## **Digital Workstream**

- 3.4 The Hertfordshire digital framework was approved by HGB in January 2022 and the working team and digital board are now fully operational. The board has approved priorities including bidding for further national funding and a market engagement day took place in December.

## **Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board (HIDB)**

- 3.5 The HIDB held its inaugural meeting on 11 November 2021 and a year on is now meeting quarterly. Subscription levels for the second year are very good demonstrating the high levels of industry and sector interest in engaging with this consultative body. Forty plus organisations have become members and meeting attendances are now 100+ each time.
- 3.6 The meetings have been focussed on key issues for the sector and the Growth Board, including capacity and resilience for growth delivery, delivering sustainable growth, regeneration, and the cost-of-living crisis. The theme for the February 2023 meeting is housing.
- 3.7 Growth Board Leaders, Portfolio Holders, Chief Executives and Heads of Planning Services represent the board and lead the sector level engagement through the HIDB events. Cllr Lewis Cocking has taken over as Chair for the second year of the HIDB.

## **Hertfordshire Planning Resilience and Capacity Task and Finish Group**

- 3.8 The Action Plan for the task and finish group was approved at the last Growth Board along with funding to support the investigation of a joint planning application validation service and a number of other key actions. Funding was approved by the Growth Board to take the work forward and discussions have now been held with the task and finish group to approach the wider HIDB membership for match funding support.
- 3.9 A very successful symposium for planning staff working across Hertfordshire was held at the end of November with speakers from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and industry and over 100 attendees participating.

## **Hertfordshire Film Office**

- 3.10 The principle of establishing a Film Office for Hertfordshire was agreed at the July 2022 Growth Board. The emerging business plan was approved in September 2022 and the final version is attached as item (1) at Part II of this agenda.

## **Temporary Housing Accommodation Joint Investigation project**

- 3.11 The Temporary Accommodation working group are providing an update at Item 9 on this agenda.

## **Growth Corridor Programme Boards – Project Updates**

- 3.12 The updates from active projects and the ones that the Growth Board keeps oversight of are attached at Appendix A.

## **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.

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That the Board notes the progress with the work programme, workstream projects and the overall priorities as set out in the paper and at appendix A.