

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 12 January 2023



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, 12 January 2023

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
R Henry, 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
P Burstow, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS, NHS

1. Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 8 September 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) – Governance arrangements: Nomination of new Vice Chair and Approval of the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner as a new Co-opted Board Member

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

- 4.1 The Board received a report which set out an update to the Governance of the Board. The Growth Board had a politically balanced set of Chair and Vice Chairs. With changes to the Leader at Stevenage Borough Council in late 2022, a new Vice Chair nomination was needed.
- 4.2 Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg was nominated by Richard Henry to become a Vice Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Chris White.
- 4.3 At the meeting on 8 September 2022, it was agreed that it would be desirable for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to be invited to join the Growth Board as a co-opted (non-voting) member.
- 4.4 Councillor Sarah Nelmes proposed that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hertfordshire be appointed as a co-opted (non-voting) Board Member. This was seconded by Councillor Morris Bright.
- 4.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:10:20 [Item 4 - HGB Governance arrangements](#).

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RESOLVED

- 4.6 The Board:
- i) Agreed the nomination for a new vice-chair; Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg
 - ii) Approved an additional co-opted member. The Police and Crime Commissioner joined the Growth Board in that capacity with effect from January 2023.

5. Hertfordshire Growth Board – Presentation: Harlow Gilston Garden Town, progress towards the vision

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

- 5.1 The Board received a presentation from Guy Nicholson, Independent Chair of Harlow Gilston Garden Town Board and Naisha Polaine, Garden Town Director on the progress with Harlow Gilston Garden Town. The presentation can be viewed here: [Harlow Gilston Presentation Slides](#)
- 5.2 Members heard that Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts District Council were two of five partners in the development of Harlow Gilson Garden Town, alongside Essex County Council, Harlow District Council and Epping Forest District Council. A Joint Committee approach was being proposed with a joint constitution to deliver urban regeneration at scale.
- 5.3 The Board welcomed the update and queried in terms of construction costs rising, if discussions were filtered back around contributions rising, including developer contributions. Members heard that the challenge fell around how viability was assessed going forward with the build price being unpredictable.
- 5.4 Members commented on the planned health infrastructure and the requirement for it to be fit for present needs and adaptable for future needs. The Board heard that health was a key concern of the community, and that health provision planning was taking place on a number of levels. The plans for Harlow Gilston Garden Town in principle included the proposed relocation of Princess Alexandra Hospital, which would release a site within Harlow for 600-800 new homes. The relocation of the hospital would reimagine healthcare and what the site may be able to deliver. It was noted that decisions were still awaited from Government around when the relocation may go ahead. In terms of local health care, dialogue was ongoing with service providers to ensure the needs of the projected population growth could be met. Discussions were also ongoing around the

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Latton Priory site which highlighted some of the complexities around the projection of services required. It was noted that the Integrated Care Board were keen to support developing plans.

- 5.5 The Board discussed the way the development would be designed to manage out within a new community. Members noted the challenge as 23,000 new homes were proposed and would bring new residents to the area alongside the 90,000 existing residents living there. It was noted that there was working ongoing with the existing community across Harlow to understand any concerns. It was noted that local community leaders were to be involved to bring local knowledge/experience. It was essential to review the project as a whole to create a successful area going forward.
- 5.6 Members highlighted that health care (including co-location) and facilities were two key features for future engagement and discussions to create a fit for purpose estate. An update report would be welcomed back to the Board in the Autumn.
- 5.7 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:12:30 [Item 5 - Harlow Gilston Garden Town update](#).

RESOLVED

- 5.8 The Growth Board noted the information contained within the presentation.

6. Hertfordshire Growth Board – Economy Briefing from Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

[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 unemployment had begun to fall again, however employment levels had also started to fall with around 18,000 people choosing not to re-enter the labour market.
- 6.3 The number of start-ups verses the number of businesses that had folded was reviewed, with more businesses folding that starting in 2020. It was noted there was variability across the county and data was being reviewed to understand the figures. Concerns were noted as Hertfordshire was only just above the UK average for high growth firms, with huge variation across the county.

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- 6.4 The LEP and Partners response to the challenges faced were set out, with attention given to addressing barriers to entering the labour market, exploring skills programmes and targeting resources.
- 6.5 In response to a Member question regarding the decline in the numbers in the workforce, it was noted that a number of different factors were affecting peoples choices. Travel into London was happening less and the nature of the workforce was changing, with more people looking to work reduced hours. Recruitment and retention required further consideration and as the economic strategy evolved, a more local forum would be used to review all barriers.
- 6.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:03:00 [Item 6 - Economy Briefing from Herts LEP](#).

RESOLVED

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

7. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Re-invigorating Town Centres Workstream

[Officer Contact: Jenny Foster, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Tel: 01992 556621]

- 7.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on the progress of the re-invigorating town centres workstream in supporting district/borough councils with the increasing challenges facing Hertfordshire's town centres and high streets.
- 7.2 High streets and town centres were identified as an area for monitoring back in 2019 and work had been undertaken with the Institute of Place Management to establish as baseline of information, which was initially to support the welcome back funding in 2021. A follow up survey on the general town health was commissioned in 2022 and this highlighted some prospering town centres whilst others struggling. To enable growth across the county, vibrant and prospering town centres needed to be secured.
- 7.3 Work had been undertaken alongside savethehighstreets.org, who had developed three offers of support for the county. Up to five thousand pounds worth of support was requested from the Growth Board Growth Fund for each district/borough to support the programme.

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- 7.4 Members discussed whether areas should have to bid for funding so that funding was provided where it was most needed. It was noted that more money could be contributed by district/boroughs for specific support and that districts/boroughs could pool funding together for projects. Officers confirmed that the money would be used to target areas highlighted and outcomes would be measured.
- 7.5 The Board recognised the importance of sharing best practice across high streets and town centres.
- 7.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:18:00 [Item 7 - Re-invigorating Town Centres Workstream](#).

RESOLVED

- 7.7 The Board approved funding of up to £5,000 per district/ borough council to provide the support offer for high streets and town centres and ongoing monitoring of the local economic situation in these locations across Hertfordshire.

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

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

- 8.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided an update on the progress with the current Growth Board work programme and specific areas of work which were new or which the Board needed to provide a view on, since the last meeting took place in September 2022.
- 8.2 Members acknowledged the update at appendix A. Progress had been made with the digital work programme and bids were being taken forward alongside meetings with the sector/marketplace. The Board were updated on the latest digital connectivity meeting including progress with project Gigabit. Market information was being gathered with the change in working environments being established. Concerns were noted around the level of infrastructure required in harder to reach areas across rural Herts, however these were being addressed. Officers were thanked for their support on the project.
- 8.3 The next meeting of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board was due to take place on 8 February 2023 and Leaders, Chief Executives and Heads of Planning were encouraged to

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attend. The meeting would cover influencing the development sector and would be themed around housing.

- 8.4 Work was progressing with the planning resilience and capacity task and finish group. It was noted that the lack of planning capacity in the market remained an issue and the group were trying to support the cohort locally to develop their careers within Hertfordshire and stay in the public sector.
- 8.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:26:10 [Item 8 - Re-invigorating Town Centres Workstream](#).

RESOLVED

- 8.6 The Board noted the progress with the work programme, workstream projects and the overall priorities as set out in the paper and at appendix A.

9. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Temporary Accommodation Joint Work: Options Development

- 9.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on the progress made developing the recommended options available to local authorities in Hertfordshire to better meet the housing needs for people living in Temporary Accommodation (TA).
- 9.2 Members heard that progress was being made, with key milestones implemented over the past few weeks. The temporary accommodation predictive model was now live and would help all partners manage supply and demand for temporary accommodation and the effectiveness of this would be monitored over the next few months.
- 9.3 Officers advised that the level of demand for supportive accommodation for those with ultra-high-level needs was being refined and the leads were proactively looking across the county for sites with ongoing discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and Homes England around potential funding.
- 9.4 Another £20,000 from the Housing Advisers Programme had been secured to support the workstream, bringing the total external investment to £65,000.
- 9.5 In response to a Member question, officers confirmed that there had been a rise in homeless applications across the county in relation to refugees, asylum seekers and Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Heads of Housing were monitoring the situation closely and it was noted that there was the opportunity to apply for Government funding for

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accommodation in relation to Ukrainian households that were settled in Hertfordshire. A coordinated approach and shared thinking would be beneficial and would be tasked to the Heads of Housing Group.

Claire
Hamilton

- 9.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 01:29:45 [Item 9 - Temporary Accommodation Joint Work: Options Development](#).

RESOLVED

- 9.7 The Hertfordshire Growth Board noted the progress made across the three workstreams.

10. Standing Items South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan

- 10.1 The Board heard that the next stage of plan making was to commence following the process set out in the adopted statement of common ground. Draft spatial options were to be produced and taken through the Joint Strategic Plans own systems, followed by a further regulation 18, public consultation.

11. Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday, 1 March 2023* at 11:30am.

*this meeting was subsequently rearranged to Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 3:00pm.

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.”

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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.

CHAIRMAN.....

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Room 204, Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DE

