

Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 March 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: Wednesday, 15 March 2023

Attendance

Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

M Bright, Hertsmere Borough Council
S Nelmes, Three Rivers District Council
L Haysey, East Herts District Council
T Kingsbury, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
R Brown (*substituted for E Dennis-Harburg*), North Hertfordshire District Council
R Roberts, Hertfordshire County Council
P Taylor (Mayor), Watford Borough Council
H Campbell (*substituted for C White*), St Albans City and District Council
A Williams, Dacorum Borough Council

Co-opted Members

M Bretton, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
D Lloyd, Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner

The full Board Meeting can be viewed here: [Hertfordshire Growth Board - 15 March 2023](#).

1. Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 12 January 2023 (Part I and Part II) 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. Update on Watford Regeneration

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

- 4.1 The Board received a presentation from Mayor Peter Taylor and Managing Director Donna Nolan from Watford Borough Council which provided an update on the regeneration of Watford. The presentation can be viewed here: [Watford Regeneration Presentation Slides](#).
- 4.2 The Board heard details of the ongoing development plans and the work being undertaken with partners to ensure Watford is fit for the future.
- 4.3 Members welcomed the presentation and noted that a number of projects had been undertaken without a huge amount of public investment. The redevelopment was bringing vibrancy back to Watford, with Watford featuring in the Top 10 in the recently published Vitality Index.
- 4.4 The Board noted that a criticism of councils was that they were not forward planning enough and commended Watford for coming up with an extensive plan and leading by example.
- 4.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:17:50 [Item 4 - Update on Watford Regeneration](#).

RESOLVED

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

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

5. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Refreshed priorities, Work Programme, and actions March 2023

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

- 5.1 The Board received a report which set out the proposed next steps for the work programme to 2025, following a review supported by consultants.
- 5.2 Members heard that place-based priorities were important for Hertfordshire and that those of the Board had evolved since it was set up in 2018. Members noted particularly the number of changes over recent years in relation to the policy landscape and the global and national economic situation.
- 5.3 In 2022, external independent consultants were commissioned to support the process of reviewing and refreshing the priorities of the Board to ensure that effective place leadership was provided. Appendix A set out the consultant’s final report and was subject to Board’s approval. Refreshed drivers for economic growth focussed on sustainable growth, improvement in health across Hertfordshire, economic resilience, and inclusion across the county. Four key areas of priority across the county were highlighted as capital projects, housing affordability and supply, connectivity and skills, sectors, recruitment, and retention. Appendix C mapped out the proposed work programme.
- 5.4 It was noted that the Chair of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership was proposed in the new terms of reference as a Board Member, and it was noted if this was the case then the Chair of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership should also be included to enable Growth Board congruence. Members reflected on the option to review the governance arrangements post local elections in May 2023.
- 5.6 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:46:55 [Item 5 - Refreshed priorities, work programme and actions](#).

RESOLVED

- 5.7 The Board:
- a. Agreed the final version of the consultant’s report (Appendix A) and summary of the work undertaken to refresh the joint place leadership priorities for Hertfordshire
 - b. Agreed the set of joint priorities and cross cutting drivers identified in the consultant’s report and in this paper (section 4)

CHAIRMAN’S INITIALS

- c. Agreed the proposed Growth Board governance (subject to review post May 2023 elections) and programme/project management changes set out in this paper (section 5)
- d. Agreed the high-level work programme approach and identified components set out in this paper (Appendix C)
- e. Agreed the proposed next steps and actions set out in this paper (section 6).

6. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Work Programme Progress Report March 2023

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

- 6.1 The Board reviewed a report which provided updates on progress with the current Growth Board work programme and specific areas of work that are new or which the Board needed to provide a view on. The last Growth Board meeting took place on 12 January 2023.
- 6.2 Members noted the comprehensive report update including:
 - An award had been made to Broxbourne, following the Levelling Up 2 bidding round and submissions for Levelling Up Fund 3 was due to start.
 - Another successful meeting of the HIBD was held in February 2023 and Leaders/Chief Executives and Heads of Planning were encouraged to continue to attend.
 - The Film Office had now appointed a manager and the LEP had appointed their sector lead.
 - The Temporary Accommodation Project has undertaken interesting joint work and will form part of the housing priority work moving forward.
- 6.3 Members were provided with an update from the last Creative and Media Board meeting. The Board heard that there was a lot of progress to be made with several new production stages under construction across Hertfordshire and the need to address skills gaps to ensure the right staffing was available.
- 6.4 The Board noted that there had been further bio-science applications for Stevenage and skills gaps were also a focus to be addressed in this area.
- 6.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:59:00 [Item 6 - Work Programme Progress Report](#).

RESOLVED

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6.6 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.

7. Hertfordshire Growth Board Presentation – Joint Strategic Planning progress in Hertfordshire

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

7.1 The Board received a presentation from Sara Saunders (Head of Planning & Building Control, East Herts District Council) and Chris Outtersides (SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan Director) on the Joint Strategic Planning progress in Hertfordshire. The presentation can be viewed here: [Joint Strategic Planning progress slides](#)

7.2 Members noted the updated position of the South-West and North-East Central Joint Strategic Planning progress.

7.3 The full presentation can be viewed here at 01:05:00 [Item 7 - Joint Strategic Planning Progress in Hertfordshire](#).

RESOLVED

7.4 The Growth Board noted the information contained within the presentation.

8. Date of next meeting

8.1 The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at 11:30am.

8.2 Members were thanked for their contributions to the Growth Board, with recognition and thanks given to the Councillor Linda Haysey, Patsy Dell and Mark Bretton who were leaving the Board.

9. Other Part I Business

9.1 None.

CHAIRMAN.....

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Growth Board



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