

Agenda item 4

Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Governance

Report Author: Charlotte McKay, Assistant Chief Legal Officer, Hertfordshire County Council

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for members of the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) to appoint the Chair and Vice Chairs of the HGB for 2023-2024 and to note the amendment to Standing Order 4.2 contained within Appendix 1 Annex A of the Hertfordshire Growth Board standing orders.

2 Background

- 2.1 The HGB was formally established in Autumn 2020 via an Integrated Governance Framework and brought into effect in January 2021 following approval from all 11 district, borough, and county council in anticipation of securing a Growth Deal with Government.
- 2.2 In the three years since the joint committee was established and the governance framework created, much has changed on the back of the levelling up agenda including the availability of Growth Deals, and the greater focus on devolution.
- 2.3 Whilst a 'deal' has not yet been secured from Government, it is important that the HGB continues the positive partnership arrangements that are in place to drive and deliver sustainable and good growth across the county for the benefit of all its residents. This will help to deliver county-wide, joined up strategies and solutions to growth and future inward investment from the private sector, as well as support the route-map for any prospective Government 'deal' in the future.
- 2.4 Cllr Richard Roberts has been Chair of the HGB since 2021 and his term in office had been for a two-year period which therefore ends this year. Members of the HGB are supportive for Cllr Roberts to continue as Chair of the HGB for 2023/24, to continue to provide county-wide steer and support.

- 2.5 Standing Order 4.2 contained within Appendix 1 Annex A of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Standing Orders dealt with the re-appointment of the Chair.
- 2.6 It had been identified that the wording of Standing Order 4.2 was ambiguous and unclear in relation to the term of Chairs and the re-election of Chairs for periods exceeding two years.
- 2.7 Each member council has therefore been consulted, via their Monitoring Officers, on amendments to Standing Order 4.2. It has been recommended that Standing Order 4.2 be amended to read:
- “With effect from the Annual General Meeting 2023 the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair shall be decided annually as the first substantive item of business at the AGM.”*
- 2.8 An oral update will be provided at this meeting to confirm that all Councils have approved this amendment.
- 2.9 In accordance with the amended SO 4.2 the Chair and Vice Chairs shall be appointed at the AGM annually, therefore nominations for Chair and Vice Chair have been invited.
- 2.10 The HGB holds two formal and two informal meetings per year, one of the formal meetings per year will be called an Annual General meeting.

3 Consultation with relevant members

- 3.1 Each member council has been consulted, via their Monitoring Officers, on amendments to Standing Order 4.2. An oral update will be provided at this meeting to confirm if all member authorities have approved the amendment detailed within this report.
- 3.2 The Members of the HGB have been consulted and have informed the Director of HGB of their nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023-24.
- 3.3 Cllr Richard Roberts, Hertfordshire County Council, has put forward a nomination to continue as Chair of the HGB for the forthcoming year, this would ensure continuity and stability for this positive county-wide partnership. The amended Standing Order 4.2 would allow Cllr Roberts to be appointed as Chair for the forthcoming year.

- 3.4 No other nominations for Chair have been received.
- 3.5 Cllr Elizabeth Dennis, North Herts Council and Cllr Chris White, St Albans City and District Council, have also put forward nominations to continue as Vice Chairs for the forthcoming year, again ensuring continuity and stability for this positive county-wide partnership.
- 3.6 No other nominations for Vice Chair have been received.

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 amendment to Standing Order 4.2 detailed in this report be noted.
- 5.2 That the Chair of HGB be appointed for 2023/24 as detailed within this report.
- 5.3 That the Vice Chairs of HGB be appointed for 2023/24 as detailed within this report.