

# Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 20 July 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, 20 July 2023

## Attendance

### Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

B Crystall, East Herts District Council  
E Dennis, North Hertfordshire District Council (Vice-chair)  
R Henry, Stevenage Borough Council  
S Nelmes, Three Rivers District Council  
J Newmark, Hertsmere Borough Council  
R Roberts, Hertfordshire County Council (Chair)  
P Taylor (Mayor), Watford Borough Council  
R Tindall, Dacorum Borough Council  
C White, St Albans City and District Council (Vice-chair)  
P Zukowskyj, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

### Co-opted Members (4)

Sharn Elton, substituted for P Burstow, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS, NHS  
Neil Rutledge, substituted A Hawkins, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership  
S Johnstone, Homes England  
D Lloyd, Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner

The full Board Meeting can be viewed here: [Hertfordshire Growth Board - 20 July 2023](#).

## 1. Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 15 March 2023 (Part I) 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

[Officer Contact: Charlotte McKay, Assistant Chief Legal Officer, Hertfordshire County Council]

- 4.1 The Board received a report which set out an update to the Board's Governance. All member councils had been consulted, via their Monitoring Officers, on an amendment to Standing Order 4.2, contained within Appendix 1, Annex A. It had been agreed that Standing Order 4.2 be amended to read that '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'.
- 4.2 The report also set out the nominations for Chair and Vice Chairs for 2023/24.
- 4.3 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:02:50 [Item 4 - HGB Governance](#).

### RESOLVED

- 4.4 The Growth Board:
1. noted the amendment to Standing Order 4.2 detailed in the report.
  2. agreed Richard Roberts be appointed as the Chair of HGB for 2023/2024.
  3. agreed Chris White and Elizabeth Dennis be appointed as Vice Chairs of HGB for 2023/24.

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## 5. Hertfordshire Growth Board – Vision and Priorities 2023-25

[Officer Contact: Forogh Rahmani, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Tel: 01992 588233]

- 5.1 The Board received a report which provided an update on the progress in refreshing the ambitions for the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB). The Board received a supplementary presentation from Paraic McKenna, Head of Intelligence HCC and Forogh Rahmani Hertfordshire Growth Board - Director. The presentation can be viewed here: [HGB Vision and Priorities slides](#).
- 5.2 Members queried whether the data sets available were able to identify any predictions for those residents coming into the county from London and the impact on property, services and schools. Officers advised that they would explore if this data was available. The Chair noted that Hertfordshire welcomed arrivals and recognised the strong and vibrant contribution made to Hertfordshire’s economy & environment.
- 5.3 The Board considered the future of living in Hertfordshire and noted that it was important to get the place narrative right. It was noted that designing out crime needed to be considered and the need to be able to develop communities that support each other. Members heard that data maps showed that areas with poor economic and health outcomes matched with the areas of highest harm crime. It was therefore important to include prevention alongside looking at other attributes.
- 5.4 Members noted the need to have a focussed list of priorities which were practicable and achievable and supported by appropriate evidence.
- 5.5 Access to equal health data for all partners was discussed, including better access for the voluntary sector. It was noted that integrated data sharing with districts was also vital.
- 5.6 Members acknowledged the importance of the digital priority, with more residents opting out of having Wi-Fi due to the cost of living. Opportunities to join up with other strategies and exploring new technology, such as assistive technology were discussed. It was noted that the right housing and support needed to be available for residents with the most complex needs.

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- 5.7 The Board commented on the fantastic work by Herts Insight and recommended viewing the micro site, where data could be cross referenced and reviewed at a local level. It was noted that going forward it was important to work jointly and for the Board to consider what gaps were looking to be filled.
- 5.8 Board Members and Chief Executives were thanked for their input to date in drilling down areas of focus. Working groups had been set up with mission leads, with draft missions to be shared with Members at the Informal Board meeting in October 2023. Following consultation, the final vision and missions would be presented to the Formal Board meeting in January 2024, with the aim of publishing the final plan in February 2024.
- 5.9 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:05:10 [Item 5 - Vision & Priorities 2023-25](#).

**RESOLVED**

- 5.10 The Growth Board agreed the proposals contained within the report and noted the content of the associated presentation.

## **6. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Work Programme Progress Report June 2023**

[Officer Contact: Roger Barrett, Programme Lead, Hertfordshire Growth Board]

- 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 15 March 2023.
- 6.2 Members noted the comprehensive report and highlights including work on:
- Reinvigorating town centres and projects in the pipeline.
  - The joint review of temporary accommodation including the review of hospital discharge for the homeless.
  - Planning resilience and skills - A planning symposium was scheduled for 30 November 2023 and a Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship scheme developed through the Hertfordshire Property Partnership was due to commence in September 2023.

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- Creative and Screen - A Skills Forum was launched and work continued to promote opportunities for local businesses to engage with the TV and film production sector.
- Science and Technology – Focus continued on developing cell and gene at Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage
- Climate Change and Sustainability – A Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) Annual Conference has been organised for 7 November 2023.

6.3 The Board noted that as part of the review of the Board's priorities, it was recommended that locally specific projects currently listed as Hertfordshire Growth Board workstreams were removed from formally reporting into the Growth Board. These included Hemel Garden Communities, Harlow and Gilston Garden Town and Watford Junction Quarter. As appropriate, updates would continue to be presented to the Growth Board over the course of the projects.

6.4 The Board noted that the South-West Joint Strategic Plan had been omitted from Appendix 1 and would be added.

6.5 The full Board discussion on this item can be viewed here at 00:55:20 [Item 6 - HGB Work Programme](#).

## RESOLVED

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.

6.7 The Board agreed to remove locally specific projects listed as Hertfordshire Growth Board workstreams from formally reporting into the Growth Board, including the following: Hemel Garden Communities, Harlow and Gilston Garden Town and Watford Junction Quarter.

## 7. Hertfordshire Growth Board – Growth Board Growth Fund and Budget 2023-24

[Officer Contact: Roger Barrett, Programme Lead, Hertfordshire Growth Board]

7.1 Cllr J Newmark declared an interest as designate Chair of Elstree Film Studios Limited (wholly owned subsidiary of Hertsmeire Borough

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Council), due to the budgetary allocation for the Hertfordshire Film and Screen Office.

7.2 The Board received a report which provided an update on the Growth Board Growth Fund (GBGF). The report included the operational budget and outturn for 2022-23 and proposed work programme budget for 2023-24.

7.3 Members noted the outturn position for last year and the proposed spend for the current year spend. It was noted that funding initiated from the 2019 business rates retention pilot. There was an underspend on the outturn due to resourcing vacancies and activities not yet undertaken. It was noted that the intention was to carry funds forward to draw down from. The Board acknowledged the proposed budget for 2023-24 as set out within the report and noted that this would be aligned to the Board’s refreshed priorities going forward.

7.4 The full presentation can be viewed here at 01:07:10 [Item 7 - HGB Growth Fund and Budget 2023-24](#).

**RESOLVED**

7.5 The Board:

- a) noted the budget outturn for 2022-23 set out in section 4 of the report.
- b) agreed the proposed budget and commitments for 2023-24 as set out in section 5 of the report.

**8. Date of next meeting**

8.1 The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday, 17 January 2024 at 11:30am.

**9. Other Part I Business**

9.1 None.

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