



Appendix 1 Hertfordshire Growth Board Progress Report 2022-23



Hertfordshire
Growth Board

Progress Report Summary

- **The Progress Report summarises the work and achievements of the HGB across the period 2022-23, including collaborative action to:**
 - Support Hertfordshire's town centres and local traders
 - Boost the screen and film industry through the Hertfordshire Film Office
 - Improve digital connectivity for residents and businesses
 - Improve the quality and standards for sustainable homes through Hertfordshire's Development Quality Charter
 - Identify opportunities for joint work on providing temporary accommodation for homeless people
 - Support and join up strategic planning
 - Improve capacity and resilience across planning teams in Hertfordshire

Previous Aims of HGB

Strategic Planning and Positioning

The need to raise Hertfordshire's profile and secure central government support for scaled and accelerated delivery, helping to overcome the challenges faced by the local plan system, and growing strategic employment and housing corridors within Hertfordshire

Homes

The need to deliver the housing Hertfordshire needs. This includes more social and affordable housing; good and inclusive growth that delivers sustainable communities, housing, and places into the future; and accommodating housing and economic growth with sustainable construction and excellent design that does not compromise the attractiveness of our existing places

Infrastructure

The need to access sufficient forward funding to put 'infrastructure in first' ahead of development delivery, reduce our carbon footprint, and plan for active and sustainable travel

Economy

The need to further unlock the potential of our key sectors, stimulate new sectors, and create quality local jobs growth, in alignment with the (then) emerging Local Industrial Strategy

Strategic Planning and Positioning

Southwest Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)

- Southwest Hertfordshire boroughs - Dacorum Borough Council, St Albans City and District Council, Watford Borough Council and Three Rivers District Council agreed to work produce JSP
- Consultation undertaken with 3,400 responses on the draft vision 'Realising our Potential'
- Vision and set of supporting principles has now been endorsed by all authorities and published December 23
- Key next steps include producing options for scale and pattern of future growth in the area and consultation on draft JSP

North, East and Central Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan

- Commissioned a cross-boundary growth study for the NEC Hertfordshire area covering Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield to support the development of a potential JSP
- Visioning work undertaken and expected to be published in early 2024, and used as basis for key next steps



Strategic Planning and Positioning

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP)

- Created to develop shared views and joint programmes to overcome issues in infrastructure or planning
 - Developed joint Hertfordshire wide responses on the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Fees and Plan Making consultations
 - Advising on the county-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy as well as supporting the work on Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery

Planning Resilience

- Established in recognition of difficulties of recruiting and retaining planners across the County
 - Currently evaluating use of shared validation service, shared IT systems and AI tools
 - Developed and delivered training events (over 120 participants attended two Planning Symposiums)
 - Launched mentoring schemes with 28 mentors/mentees
 - Developed career progression scheme



Temporary Accommodation

- Creation and roll out of Forecasting, Monitoring and Control Toolset to meet demand for homeless people
- Joint bid for £3.4 million funding for 23 bed accommodation for 18-25 year olds with complex needs (awaiting Government response)

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board (HIDB)

- Established to strengthen partnership between the private and public sector to remove barriers to growth and bring about sustainable and deliverable development
- All 11 Councils and 60 organisations are partners
- Launched Hertfordshire Development Quality Charter

Offsite Manufacturing/Modern methods of construction

- Published guide for designers, developers and builders covering the advantages, principles and methods of offsite manufacturing to encourage use



Towards Digital Growth

- Digital Connectivity and Inclusion Strategy will be published in 2024 with target of an additional 13,000 residents having high speed gigabit connections by 2026 (contract for 2000 connections already awarded)
- Encouraging mobile coverage (utilising lighting columns, local planning process and providing guidance on new developments) across the County

Building a Digital Sector and Skills

- Herts LEP are working with education providers and Department for Work and Pensions to develop pathways into accessing and boosting digital skills

Hertfordshire and Essex Rapid Transit (HERT)

- Consideration given to HERT proposal
- Public engagement undertaken to ascertain support : 75,000 visits to HERT webpage and over 1,500 responses received with 75% supporting or strongly supporting the vision



Reinvigorating Town Centres

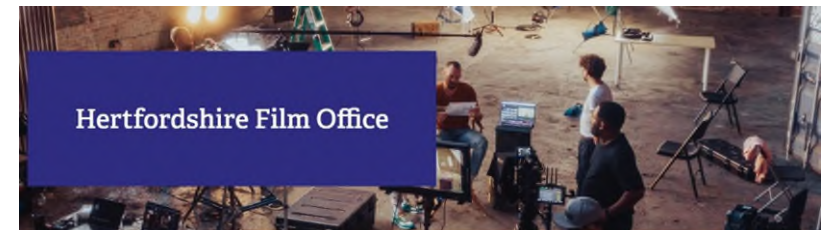
- Working with 'Save The High Street' to provide and deliver seed funding to every borough/district for innovative solutions to transform vacant units, support local businesses and trader associations

Growing Science and Tech

- Engagement with GSK and a preferred developer to help shape the Life Sciences campus in Stevenage, with planning permission granted in August 2023 for a £900m investment and creation of up to 5,000 new jobs
- Arup commissioned to work with partners to scope and design a vision for Gunnels Wood to 2040, engaging with Stevenage Development Board and the Stevenage Industrial Area Board

Creative Screen Industries

- Working group established
- Creative and Screen Industry sector strategy and action plan created
- Hertfordshire Film Office established in March 2023 with:
 - Over 170 queries responded to from production companies and support provided to over 100 businesses
 - Website to be launched in January 2024



Next Steps for HGB

- **Implementation of the refreshed HGB Vision and six new Missions** -HGB will work towards maintaining Hertfordshire's position as a world-class economy, delivering healthy, inclusive, safe and connected communities who have access to skills, good jobs, and sustainable quality places to live
- Current HGB workstreams and projects reflected in this report will be incorporated into one of the new six missions
- The implementation plan and future progress and impact reports will be in response to the six HGB missions



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