



Agenda Reports & Other Papers

Presented to the
Meeting of the
Hertfordshire Growth Board
on
Wednesday, 17 January 2024

HERTFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD

COUNCIL CHAMBER AT ST ALBAN'S CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2024, 11.30 – 13:00

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD (15) – QUORUM 9 VOTING MEMBERS

Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

L Cocking, Broxbourne Borough Council
B Crystall, East Herts District Council
E Dennis, North Hertfordshire District Council (Vice-chair)
J Thomas (*substituting for 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)

P Burstow, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS, NHS
A Hawkins, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Chairman
S Johnstone, Homes England
D Lloyd, Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Minutes

The Board is invited to note the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 July 2023 (attached).

2. Public Questions

At the discretion of the Chairman, members of the public may ask questions at meetings of the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB). Notice of the question should be submitted to the Chief Legal Officer of Hertfordshire County Council by 10am at least five working days before the meeting.

The Hertfordshire Growth Board arrangements for the receipt of public questions are set out in [Annex A – Standing Orders](#) of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Constitution*.

3. Public Petitions

At the discretion of the Chairman, members of the public may submit and present petitions to the Hertfordshire Growth Board if they include at least 500 signatures of people living or working in Hertfordshire.

Notification of intent to present a petition must be given at least 10 clear working days before the date of the meeting.

The Hertfordshire Growth Board arrangements for the receipt of petitions are set out in Annex A – Standing Orders of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Constitution*.

*If you have any queries about the questions or petitions procedures for this meeting please contact Stephanie Tarrant, Democratic Services Officer, by telephone on 01992 555481 or by email to stephanie.tarrant@hertfordshire.gov.uk

4. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB)

a. Vision and Missions Engagement Feedback Report

Presentation: Jake Setterfield and Alex Cowley, Meeting Place

b. Vision and Missions

Presentation: Forogh Rahmani, Director HGB

5. Hertfordshire Growth Board – Progress Report

Presentation: Forogh Rahmani, Director HGB

6. Strategic Update from Homes England

Presentation: Shona Johnstone, Head of Markets Partners and Places – South, Homes England

7. Spotlight on Broxbourne Borough Council, Levelling Up Fund

Presentation: Jeff Stack, Chief Executive, Broxbourne Borough Council

8. Date of next formal public meeting

The next formal public meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 11:30 – 13:00

9. Other Part I Business

Such other Part I Business which, if the Chairman agrees, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

“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/s of business on the grounds that it/they involve/s the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph/s 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.”

If you require further information about this agenda, please contact Stephanie Tarrant, Democratic and Statutory Services, Hertfordshire County Council on Telephone 01992 555481, or email stephanie.tarrant@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Agenda documents are available on the internet at:
<https://www.hertfordshiregrowthboard.com/documents>

QUENTIN BAKER
DIRECTOR OF LAW & GOVERNANCE
Hertfordshire County Council on behalf of the Hertfordshire Growth Board

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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.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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.
- 5.7 The Board commented on the fantastic work by Herts Insight and recommended viewing the micro site, where data could be cross

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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.
 - 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

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

- 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 Hertsmere Borough 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.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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.

CHAIRMAN.....

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS



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Hertfordshire
Growth Board

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Agenda Pack Page 12

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



Agenda item 4a

HGB Vision and Missions Engagement - Executive Report

Report Author: Jake Setterfield and Alex Cowley, Meeting Place

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report updates on engagement activity which sought to contribute to the development of the vision, missions, and overall ambition for the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) for years to come.
- 1.2 Following [HGB's meeting](#) (Thursday 20 July 2023), the subsequent engagement campaign sought to support the development of:
 - A unified vision for Hertfordshire
 - Refreshed set of priorities (missions) to take forward together and with other partners; and
 - Build on and elevate existing strategy and work underway at county-wide level, which confronts the strategic challenges faced.
- 1.3 Following July's HGB meeting, the Growth Board appointed communications agency Meeting Place in Autumn 2023 to deliver an engagement campaign across November and December 2023, to help inform and support development of HGB's future vision across its six core missions for Hertfordshire.
- 1.4 Centred on a county-wide engagement survey - www.hertfordshiregrowthsurvey.co.uk - this report summarises the quantitative and qualitative feedback gathered during the campaign, across the county.
- 1.5 It reflects the comments received via a series of in-person and digital engagement initiatives, collating feedback across Hertfordshire when it comes to resident and stakeholder opinions, against each of HGB's six draft mission statements.

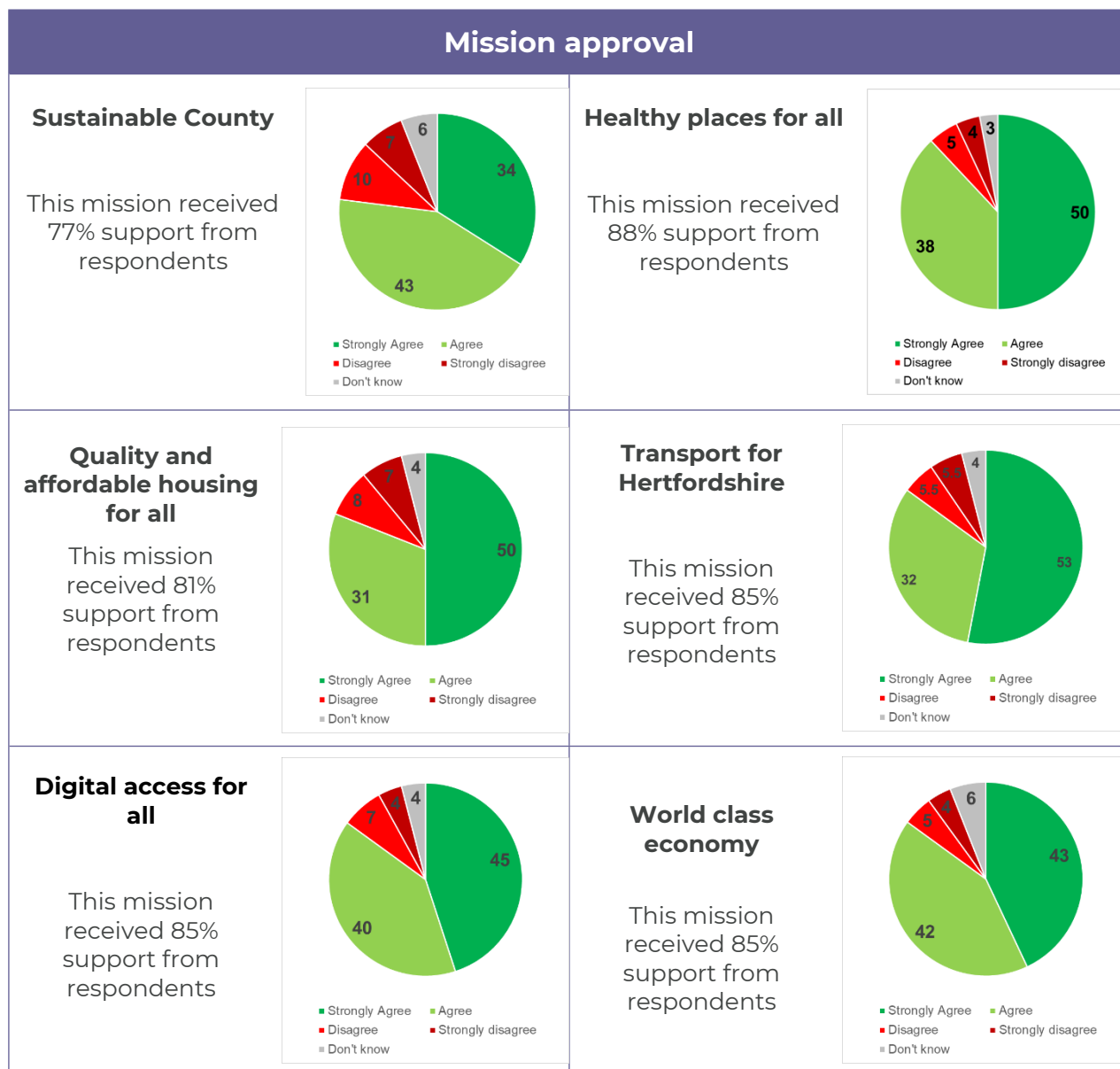
2 Methodology

- 2.1 With the campaign running across November and December 2023, HGB has engaged widely across the county, encouraging people to visit the landing page to complete the survey.
- 2.2 In total, the page received 8,763 page views over the engagement period, with 7,387 unique users accessing the page. In total, the project team received 4,379 survey entries across the engagement period.
- 2.3 This was achieved through the following channels:
 - Social media advertisement – The proposals were advertised through Meta ads targeting individuals across Instagram and Facebook. This created 403,334 total impressions, with 7,040 people clicking the ads to learn more about the missions and complete the survey.
 - Print and online media advertisement – The project team ran a press release in local media advertising the survey and encouraging residents to engage with the proposals. This was also promoted via stakeholders, such as Watford Borough Council’s website and social channels.
 - In person public engagement – The project team ran pop-up market stall events in three prominent town centre locations in Hertfordshire to engage local residents. In total, over 150 people participated in the campaign during these pop-up events.
 - In person stakeholder engagement – HGB held three stakeholder events to curate the views of local stakeholders in Hertfordshire. This included a public sector leaders’ workshop (Wednesday, 25 October 2023), the regular meeting of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board (Wednesday, 22 November 2023) and a private/public stakeholder workshop (Thursday, 7 December 2023).

3 Key findings

- 3.1 Table 1 provides an executive summary, giving a holistic overview of the respondents’ views of each mission and can be viewed below.

Table 1: Serving up interstitial context and information for each mission, the survey question then asked, 'to what extent do you agree with this mission?'



4 Key regional findings

4.1 The following table provides a summary of how Hertfordshire's boroughs responded to each of the six key missions and represent the percentage of people who either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' to the missions.

Table 2: The below responses are attributable to individuals who accessed the survey through a Unique Tracking Module (UTM) link, which enables a regional breakdown of responses – Please note, the darker the green, the higher the levels of agreement to the mission question.

	Sustainable County	Healthy Places for All	A World Class Economy	Digital Access for All	Quality Affordable Housing	Transport for Hertfordshire
Broxbourne	68.1%	74.1%	69.6%	63.7%	61.1%	61.9%
Dacorum	70.1%	73.4%	64.1%	56.5%	58.7%	60.3%
East Herts	69.3%	75.5%	75%	72.9%	64.1%	69.8%
Hertsmere	75.5%	83%	80.9%	80.9%	63.8%	74.5%
North Herts	78.1%	88.3%	79.7%	77.3%	76.6%	79.7%
St Albans	72.9%	76.6%	66.7%	70.3%	68.8%	66.1%
Stevenage	74%	76%	78.4%	70.4%	70%	69.6%
Three Rivers	72.3%	79%	70.2%	68.1%	64.3%	63.9%
Watford	77.3%	79%	70.2%	68.1%	64.3%	63.9%
Welwyn Hatfield	75.7%	84.1%	79%	76.6%	68.2%	71%

5 Next steps

- 5.1 HGB has undertaken a comprehensive programme of public engagement with the local community and stakeholders across the county on their drafted missions. The feedback from these activities so far demonstrates that there is acceptance and strong support for each of the missions with a majority of support in all boroughs and across all age groups.
- 5.2 The engagement strategy was designed to advertise and engage as widely as possible with the entire County of Hertfordshire to capture the views of

local residents and stakeholders through social media, print media and in-person events.

- 5.3 By taking these steps, this engagement activity has reached a large catchment area of Hertfordshire, and the feedback responses reflect the sentiment of the local community.
- 5.4 This survey has been widely advertised and consulted upon during the engagement period, and this is reflected in the quantity and quality of support demonstrated in the feedback. The engagement period ran from Wednesday, 8 November 2023 until Sunday, 10 December 2023.
- 5.5 The feedback summary has been shared amongst the mission leads for them to review and further refine the six missions identified within this survey.
- 5.6 Following the end of the engagement period, a detailed report which provides updated analysis on the feedback responses has been produced. The findings from the engagement activity have been incorporated into a presentation, with the final missions to be presented to Hertfordshire Growth Board in January 2024.

Table 3: The following timeline was outlined at the July 2023 meeting, in order to deliver the proposed vision and mission campaign.

	Activities	Original Milestone	Completed/ Comments
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HGB: secure approval to the proposed approach to establish strategic missions and key actions / next steps 	20 July 2023	Yes
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish working group Engagement with HGB Leaders and officers to further refine the vision and strategic missions Establish an approach for engagement with key stakeholders, communities and residents 	July onward	Yes
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal Growth Board: approve draft missions and engagement process 	10 October 2023	Yes

	• Launch engagement activity		
6	• Formal Growth Board engagement outcome and draft vision and missions document for approval	17 January 2024	Insert
7	• Publish final vision	February 2024	

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 That members of the Growth Board note the findings contained in this report and the contents of the associated presentation.

Agenda item 4b

Hertfordshire Growth Board – Vision and Missions 2024

Report Presented by: Forogh Rahmani, Director, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Tel: 01992 588233

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report updates on the progress in refreshing the ambitions for the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB). In conjunction with a presentation, it sets out the final draft Vision and supporting priority areas, known as Missions, for action over the coming years. The Missions build on and seek to strengthen and join up existing work underway at county-wide level in confronting the strategic challenges facing the county.
- 1.2 The Board are asked to approve the Vision and supporting Missions, enabling finalisation of oversight arrangements for the delivery of the Missions, with a draft implementation plan being brought to the next HGB in March 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1 Building on the report to Growth Board in July 2023, that focused on the identification of key strategic challenges facing the county, the following priority areas have been identified for the HGB to work together on to support inclusive and sustainable growth:
 - Housing
 - Transport connectivity
 - Economy (access to skills, good jobs and growing key sectors)
 - Healthy Places
 - Digital connectivity
 - Climate Change

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In taking work forward to develop a clear set of Mission statements to focus the priorities of Hertfordshire Growth Board, the six areas of challenge have been further explored through:
 - Identifying Mission champions from each District, Borough and County Council, who have engaged with Mission related subject matter experts and existing stakeholder groups where available.
 - Developing a Mission statement that sets out the ambition for each priority area.
 - Supporting each Mission statement with a series of strategic goals that clearly set the focus for action in delivering the Mission.

- Setting out detailed actions against which progress will be monitored to measure progress and impact in delivering each Mission.
 - Engaging with residents, stakeholders and businesses across Hertfordshire through an online survey, in-person public engagement activity, and workshop events with businesses, for which we received 4,379 survey responses (the presentation to be delivered at Item 4a will provide an analysis of the responses).
- 3.2 Additionally, due to the level of interdependence between the Missions, and once approved by the Board, the arrangements to provide oversight of delivery will have a focus on ensuring a systems approach is maintained, reducing overlap, and increasing efficiency in delivery of outcomes.

4. Next steps

- **17 January 2024:**
HGB: secure approval to the draft Vision and Missions
- **January-Feb 2024**
Publish and launch final HGB Vision and Missions.
Communicate and publicise the Vision to partner organisations and wider public.
Develop a clear oversight arrangement and implementation plan.
- **March 2024**
Informal Growth Board: recommend oversight arrangements and implementation plan.
- **July 2024**
Formal Growth Board formally agree oversight arrangements and implementation plan.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That members of the Growth Board approve the new Vision and six Missions contained in this report.

Agenda item 5

Hertfordshire Growth Board – Progress Report

Report Presented by: Forogh Rahmani, Director, Hertfordshire Growth Board
Tel: 01992 588233

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This item, together with an accompanying presentation (see appendix 1), introduces the 2023 Growth Board Progress report (see appendix 2) which provides details on the work, progress and achievements made by the Growth Board to date.

2. Background

- 2.1 Hertfordshire Growth Board was established in 2019 when 12 partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding in order to respond to the challenges and opportunities growth will bring to Hertfordshire. To date, the aims of the Board have been:
 - 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 emerging Local Industrial Strategy.
- 2.2 Since the Boards creation, a number of projects and programmes have been developed in response to the aims set out above.

3. Purpose of the Impact Report

- 3.1 The report provides a summary of the progress and achievements made under each of the original aims of the Growth Board as well as examples of how the Board works in partnership and outlines the next steps.
- 3.2 The report will be used to demonstrate the successes of working in partnership and help increase understanding of its purpose and work for residents and business in Hertfordshire. The report contains links where interested parties can follow up on specific projects.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 Should the Board approve the report, forewords will be added prior to final versions being circulated to all Board members and the report being published on the Hertfordshire Growth Board website.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That members of the Growth Board note the 2023 Hertfordshire Growth Board Progress Report and agree to it being finalised and circulated.

If you have accessibility requirements and require further detail of the appendices, please contact the report author.



Agenda Pack Page 23



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)

- Agenda Pack Page 26
- 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



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

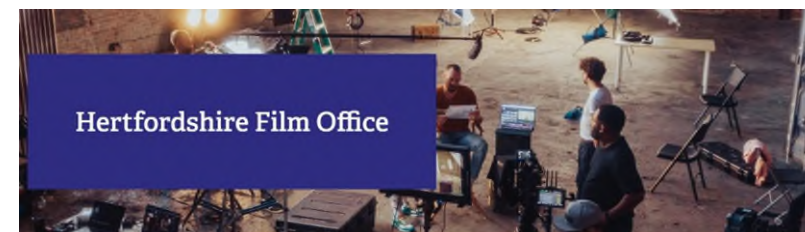
- Working with 'Save The High Street' to provide and deliver seed funding to every borough/district for innovative solutions to transform vacant units, support local businesses and trader associations

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 Gunned 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



Hertfordshire
Growth Board

Agenda Pack Page 32



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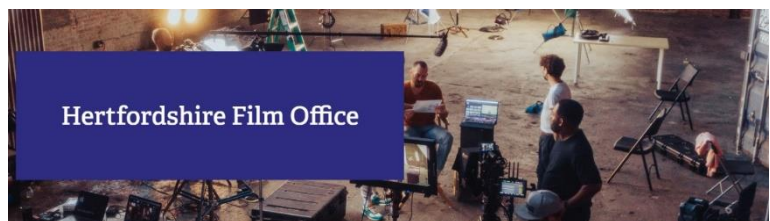
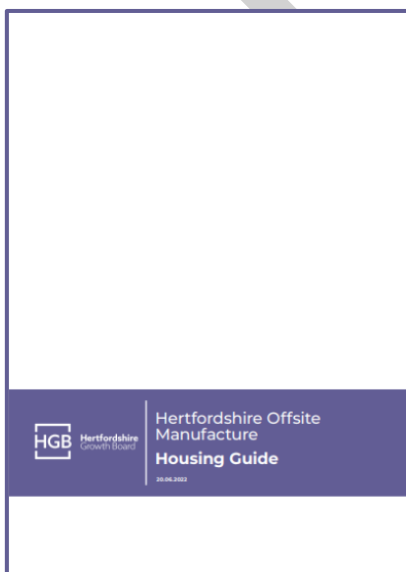


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HGB Progress Report April 2022 – December 2023



Contents	Page
Foreword from Chair and Vice Chair	3
Executive Summary	5
Introduction	6
HGB Successes and Achievements	8-23
Strategic Planning	8
Homes	13
Infrastructure	17
Economy	20
Working in Partnership	24
Strategic Growth Projects in Hertfordshire	26
Next Steps	30
Glossary	32

Foreword from Chair and Vice Chairs



**Chair of Hertfordshire Growth Board
Cllr Richard Roberts**

Leader, Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire is a special place because so many people work incredibly hard to make it so.

Our strength is in the range and depth of partnerships forged across local government, the wider public sector, business and our communities. The Hertfordshire Growth Board shows what this joined up working and shared determination can achieve.

I am immensely proud of the work delivered since April 2022 and showcased in this report.

From building new homes to protecting green spaces and growing our economy while cutting carbon emissions, Hertfordshire is leading the way on sustainable place-making.

Unemployment is low and last year more houses were built in the county since 2001. We're growing Hertfordshire's economy by supporting businesses to thrive, developing improved transport links and setting higher standards for a new generation of high-quality, sustainable homes.

We're also working with NHS partners, right across our towns and villages, to improve health and wellbeing and creating new plans to enhance Hertfordshire's natural environment.

Hertfordshire is living up to its name as the county of opportunity. We are recognised as a great place to live, learn, invest and work.

We are maximising our strengths from thriving sectors in film, TV and life sciences which contribute to our economic potential, to our beautiful natural landscapes and access to green spaces.

However, we know we face challenges too. Issues such as inequalities in health, qualifications and skills, and affordability of housing as well as increasing demands and continued pressures on our infrastructure.

That's why we are firm in our commitment to build on the strong foundations set since the Hertfordshire Growth Board was established in 2018.

We have listened to our partners and – most importantly our residents – to refresh our shared Vision and Missions to ensure we are best placed meet the opportunities and challenges Hertfordshire faces today and in the years ahead.

I am confident that together we will deliver a world-class local economy here in Hertfordshire. A place where our economy grows, our people prosper, and our environment is cherished.

Vice Chairs of the Hertfordshire Growth Board



Cllr Elizabeth Dennis
Leader, North Herts District Council



Executive Summary

The Hertfordshire's Growth Board (HGB) is the partnership between local government, Homes England, health, police, and business in the county brought together to lead good growth so that residents and businesses can succeed and thrive.

Since its inception, the HGB has established programmes aimed at promoting and delivering 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



Introduction

Hertfordshire has many strengths that make the county a great place to live, study, do business and work:

- It has outstanding places of natural beauty, chalk streams, and green walkways. The county has a strong heritage, combining traditional villages and market towns with new towns and developments.
- Hertfordshire has low crime rates and high employment. It has thriving industry across a number of key sectors, strong businesses with an entrepreneurial spirit supported by excellent academic and research institutions.
- Its location, being close to both London and Cambridge along with good north south transport links makes it attractive to both residents and businesses.
- The county also benefits from a strong partnership between local government, business, health, education and police.

Despite these strengths, there are challenges in meeting the growth needs of the county:

- The county's population is predicted to grow at a faster rate than the national average with an estimated increase of 21,614 between 2021 and 2031 (ONS population 2018 mid-year population estimates). The population will also get older which will challenge our economic potential and place increased demands on healthcare provision.
- The county has pockets of deprivation and there are disparities across the county in terms of health inequalities, low skills, digital exclusion, and affordability of housing.
- Inflation, economic instability following Brexit and Covid-19, employment land availability and grow on space are potential threats to business and jobs growth.
- Transport links need to be improved to provide greater choice and to connect residents to job opportunities, health, and education settings.
- Like the rest of the world, the county is suffering the effects of climate change, with transport being the greatest contributor to emissions, followed by the built environment.

In recognition of the growth and infrastructure needs of the county, leaders from the local authorities across Hertfordshire, together with our Health partners and the Police have agreed to work in partnership to develop a joint approach to ensuring that Hertfordshire addresses growth

sustainably and for the benefit of its residents, communities, and businesses.

Established in 2018, Hertfordshire's Growth Board is made up of the County Council and the 10 district and borough councils, along with representation from co-opted members including the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Chair of the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB), Homes England and the elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The vision established for Hertfordshire's Growth Board is for "Happy, healthy, diverse communities who feel they belong and get more out of life. A place that grows without compromising the character that makes it special. An economy and infrastructure that puts Hertfordshire people first."

Since its inception and to date, the focus of the Board has been on the following key areas:

Strategic Planning: Ensuring that Hertfordshire's challenges are understood at a national level, our profile is promoted and that we secure Government support for our plans. In addition, overcoming any challenges of existing arrangements in delivering homes, infrastructure, and employment.

Homes: Focusing on the need to develop and provide high quality affordable and social housing for inclusive communities using sustainable methods and excellent design principles.

Infrastructure: Ensuring that all new developments have considered and developed infrastructure prior to building, reducing the carbon footprint and increasing sustainable travel.

Economy: Recognising the need to further unlock the potential of our key sectors, stimulate new sectors, and create high-quality local jobs

Strategic Planning

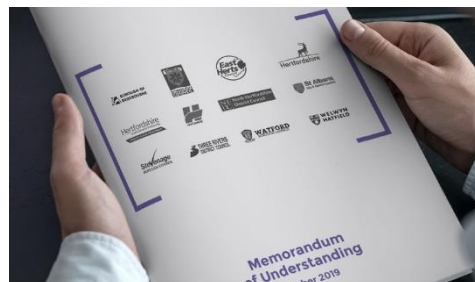
One of the key priorities for Hertfordshire's Growth Board has been to develop and agree joint visions and plans which set out how good growth in Hertfordshire will be delivered sustainably and to the benefit of residents, while raising the profile of Hertfordshire and gaining support from central government for our proposals. Progress towards this aim includes:

- Investigating the option of developing 2 strategic plans (one for South West and the other for North, East and Central Hertfordshire) which would set out the vision, needs and strategic development locations for each area.
- The work of Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership including influencing both national policies and local strategies.
- Planning Resilience work to build capacity and expertise to meet the challenge of growth in Joint Strategic Plans

Joint Strategic Plans

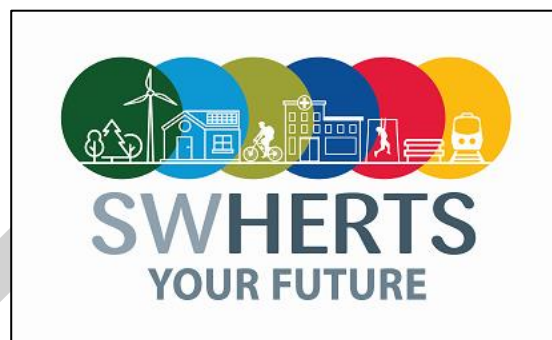
The purpose of Hertfordshire Growth Board is captured in our [Memorandum of Understanding](#), which contains a commitment to “Set out the shared vision for place and growth in Hertfordshire and the strategic priorities that will guide how the Partners collectively respond to demographic, economic and social challenges and work together for the continued success of a thriving Hertfordshire”

Partners are therefore assessing the option of developing two Local Strategic Plans for Hertfordshire which would identify a joint vision, long-term development needs, strategic development locations (possibly including new settlements), and strategic transport infrastructure, green infrastructure and climate change issues and policy responses.



South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)

The South West Hertfordshire authorities (Dacorum Borough Council, St. Albans City and District, Watford Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council and Three Rivers District Council, with the support of Hertfordshire County Council) have agreed to work together to produce the [South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan](#).



This will provide an integrated strategic planning framework and supporting evidence base to support sustainable growth in the area to 2050.

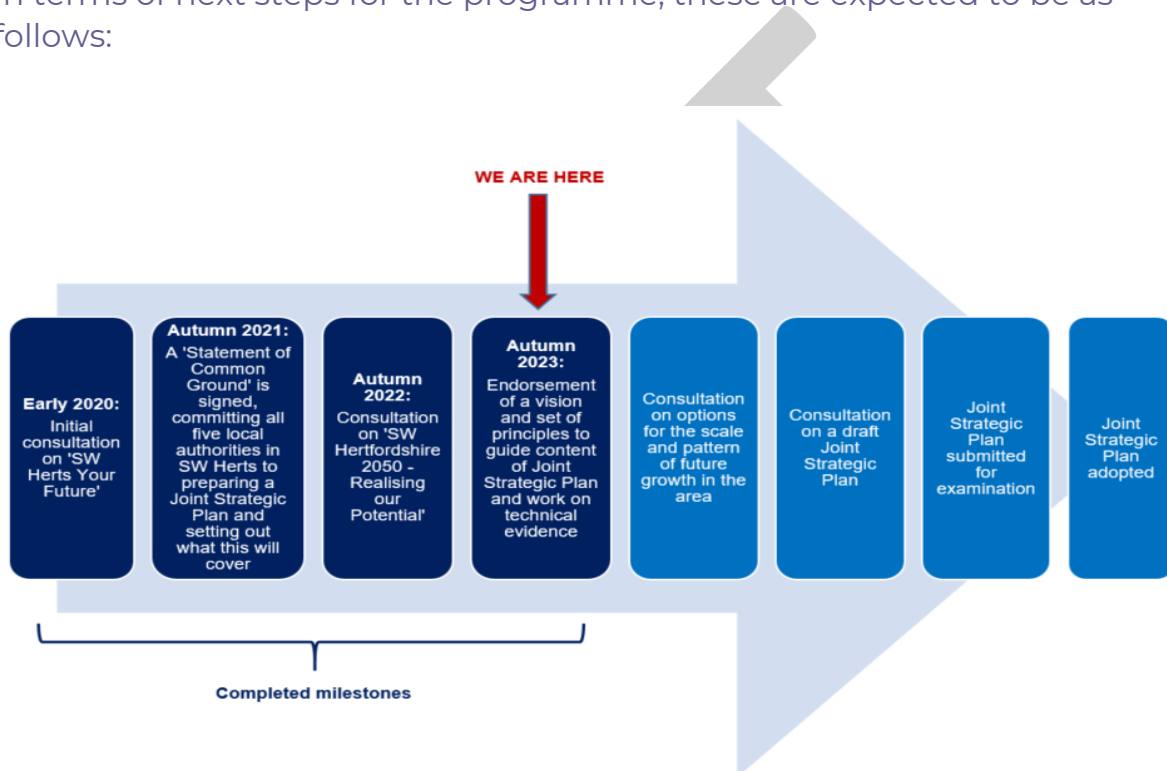
The South West JSP will be a statutory planning document and will identify the overall quantum of housing and economic growth within South West Hertfordshire to be planned to 2050. The plan will identify broad strategic allocations and priorities, as well as the strategic infrastructure necessary to deliver the spatial strategy.

The JSP will focus on climate resilience, infrastructure delivery, strategic housing and employment and will help create a framework for investor confidence in South West Herts.

In autumn 2022, the South West Herts boroughs launched a public consultation on their draft Vision 'Realising our Potential'.

Over 3000 local groups/individuals were contacted directly and over 45,000 people saw the media adverts relating to the 'Realising our Potential' engagement in autumn 2022. This resulted in over 3,400 responses via letter, email, poll and online survey. A summary of what was said and how the JSP has responded can be found in the Consultation Report on the JSP website.

In terms of next steps for the programme, these are expected to be as follows:



[The long term vision for the South West Hertfordshire area was published in December 2023.](#)

North, East and Central Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan

The North East Central Hertfordshire (NEC Hertfordshire) authorities, together with Hertfordshire County Council, have jointly commissioned a cross-boundary growth study for the NEC Hertfordshire area covering Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield. The key aim of the commission is to support NEC Hertfordshire authorities in developing a series of place-based sustainable growth options that will form a critical piece of the evidence base to support a potential Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the period up to 2050.

These will be informed by growth scenario assessments of housing and economic demand and supply. The study will involve a cross-boundary collaborative approach focussed on addressing local and regional challenges to deliver growth in the right places.

NEC partners have already undertaken some visioning work about the future of North East and Central Hertfordshire which is due to be published in early 2024 and be used as a basis for further work.

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) provides a forum to discuss and develop shared views, develop joint programmes, and work together to overcome issues in infrastructure or planning. It is made up of representatives from all eleven local authorities in Hertfordshire.

Key areas of work achieved include:

- Working together to develop joint Hertfordshire wide responses on central government consultations on the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Fees, and Plan Making.
- Advising on the county-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy as well as supporting the work on Biodiversity Net Gain and [Local Nature Recovery](#).
- Assisting in the development and promotion of the [Hertfordshire Development Quality Charter](#), which was launched at Hertfordshire Development Board in Sept 2023 and already adopted by a number of developers and local authorities.



Planning Resilience

The Planning Resilience working group that reports directly into HIPP, is a partnership between Hertfordshire's local authorities to meet the planning and growth needs of the county. Set up in recognition of the difficulties in recruiting and retaining planners within Hertfordshire, the working group for this project consists of local government, further education, and private sector officers. An action plan was agreed in 2022 which focuses on, joint working, recruitment and retention, career promotion and progression.

Key areas of the group's work include:

- **Evaluating the feasibility of a shared validation service.** The results of this have been shared with Heads of Planning for further review and discussion in early 2024. Notable progress has been made to improve efficiency and reduce the number of invalid planning applications. Attention will now turn to the potential for shared IT systems and the use of AI tools to validate planning applications.
- **Developing and implementing training and development support for planners across the county.**



- Two Planning Symposiums have been held focussed on the importance of master planning and the challenges facing planning.
- Both events had more than 120 attendees from the public and private sectors and have helped to boost the capacity and development of planners in meeting our growth demands.
- **A mentoring scheme was launched** at the first Planning Symposium in November 2022. To date 14 pairs of mentors / mentees have been matched. This has provided opportunities for networking, sharing of experiences and support toward furthering their careers. The scheme continues to be open, with in-person events to be held for all mentors/mentees in 2024.
- **Developing a Career Progression Scheme** to allow planners and specialists to move between authorities and gain development in their careers within Hertfordshire on a range of projects and proposals.
- **Working with further education providers to deliver courses in planning** and to create apprenticeship schemes. The first pilot for this is expected to commence in September 2024.

So far, a mentoring scheme implemented by the Planning Resilience Working Group has matched 14 pairs of mentors /mentees. By learning new skills and gaining vital experience these planners will be far better placed to meet the current demands placed on our planning services



Homes: Delivering the Housing Hertfordshire Needs

With Hertfordshire's population predicted to rise significantly by 2031, one of the key areas of focus for the Board has been developing the housing that Hertfordshire needs. This includes designing and planning more social and affordable homes in addition to recognising and resolving issues with homelessness, stimulating the economy through building while using sustainable design and construction techniques, in line with our [Development Quality Charter](#) and our [Off Site Manufacturing guide](#).

Progress towards this aim includes:

- Bidding for £3.4m in central government funding to provide accommodation for young adults with complex needs.
- Launch of the Hertfordshire Development Quality Charter in September 2023 with the ambition of setting a new benchmark for high quality and sustainable investment.
- Encouraging new methods of construction to minimise waste and build better insulated homes.

Temporary Accommodation

The demand for Temporary Accommodation in Hertfordshire has doubled over the last ten years, and the enduring impact of Covid-19, the cost-of-living crisis and the impact of increasing numbers of refugees and asylum seekers has added significant new demand. Key areas of work have included:



- Supporting local decision-making processes by Housing Teams in responding to the demand from homeless people in need of temporary accommodation, through **the roll out of a Forecasting, Monitoring and Control Toolset**, along with an improved county-wide data collation process to understand total demand for temporary accommodation across the county. These were implemented in January 2023. The toolset has helped partners to understand where temporary accommodation is and will be required and provides examples and assistance of how temporary accommodation needs can be met.
- The Board has collaborated with Hertfordshire County Council Childrens Services and North Hertfordshire District Council in

partnership with OneYMCA to submit a bid for £3.4m to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP). The bid was submitted on time, and we await the results. This was a complex partnership arrangement which all partners worked together to successfully achieve. The proposed scheme is subject to both the bid outcome and planning process. If the bid is approved and planning permission granted, the scheme will provide a 23 bed accommodation space for 18-25 years old with complex needs not currently catered for. The project is to be delivered by March 2025.

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board (HIDB)

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board brings together Hertfordshire's district, borough and county councils, the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and organisations from the construction and development sector. The board has been established to strengthen partnership between the private and public sector to remove barriers to growth and bring about sustainable and deliverable development including the homes, employment, and infrastructure to meet Hertfordshire's needs.

More information is available on the [HIDB](#) webpages.

All 11 Hertfordshire Councils and over 60 organisations involved in construction and development are brought together under the HIDB



During 2022-2023 we:

- Increased our private sector membership to over 60 organisations.
- Held four HIDB meetings, at which we focussed on sustainability, cost-of-living, regeneration and growth.

“there is a vibrant spirit of collaboration and problem solving across the county – with a joined up ambition to see the bigger picture so we can build homes to the best possible quality”

CLlr Stephen Boulton, Executive Member for Sustainable Economic Growth at Hertfordshire County Council

“the council remains determined to work with developers to build homes as close to net zero as possible, whilst striving to achieve a 50% modal shift away from car usage”

CLlr Ben Crystall, Leader of East Herts District Council.

- Launched the [Hertfordshire Development Quality Charter](#) in September 2023 with the ambition of setting a new benchmark for high quality and sustainable investment. Tarmac was announced as the first business to sign up to the Charter.



“By signing the Hertfordshire Development Quality Charter, which sets out a new standard for high quality and sustainable development in the county, we’re proud to demonstrate our commitment to the local area. We’d encourage both private and public sector bodies which share this vision for the future of the county to get behind the charter.”

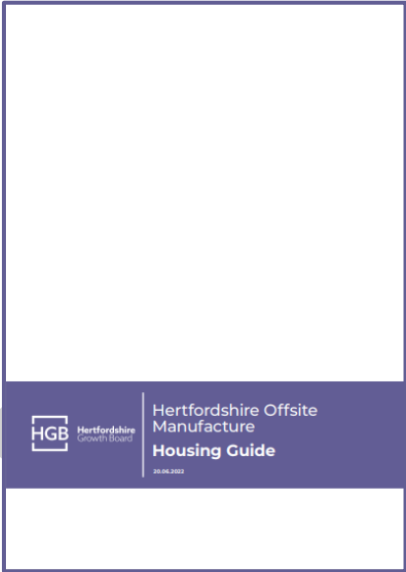
Michael Holloway, Development Manager at Tarmac

Offsite Manufacturing/Modern Methods of Construction

National Planning Policy states that 25% of housing completions should utilise Modern Methods of Construction. For Hertfordshire this could represent up to 25,000 new homes of our overall target of 100,000 new homes by 2031. To help promote Offsite Manufacturing/Modern Methods of Construction, the Growth Board appointed a working group which developed, published, and promoted guidance for planners and

developers working in Hertfordshire. Details of the guide can be found here: [Hertfordshire Offsite Manufacturing: Housing Guide](#)

Offsite Manufacturing/ Modern Methods of Construction minimises construction waste (around 3% versus traditional methods of 50%) and brings forward completions significantly faster than that of traditional methods, and results in better insulated homes



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Infrastructure

The Growth Board recognise the need to access sufficient forward funding to put 'infrastructure in first' ahead of development delivery. This will ensure Hertfordshire has a high-quality digital infrastructure, reduces our carbon footprint, and plans for active and sustainable travel.

Progress against this aim has seen:

- The development of a Hertfordshire Digital Connectivity and Inclusion Strategy which will result in 13,000 residents and businesses having high speed broadband connections installed.
- Developed plans to meet digital skills gaps in Creative Industries, Life Sciences and Advanced Manufacturing, working with further education providers, the Department for Work and Pensions and employers.
- Reviewing options on how to improve transport, including for a Hertfordshire and Essex Rapid Transport scheme.

Towards Digital Growth:

Towards Digital Growth is our approach for attracting commercial and public funding to deliver a high-quality digital infrastructure across Hertfordshire.

- 'Project Gigabit' is a government project with the target of making gigabit-broadband (the fastest broadband currently available in the UK) will be available nationwide by 2030. To support this target:
 - A Hertfordshire Digital Connectivity and Inclusion Strategy will be published in 2024. Aligned with the Government's target, it will describe the steps being taken to deliver high quality digital infrastructure for Hertfordshire.
 - An estimated 13,000 residents and businesses in Hertfordshire are being targeted for having gigabit connections installed in their properties by 2026. One contract, awarded by Building Digital UK (BDUK), for approximately 2,000 connections in the northeast of the county has already been awarded to CityFibre and other contracts are being bid for.

- The programme will also bid for external funding which will help install the telecoms infrastructure needed for high-speed broadband in non-commercial and harder to reach areas across the county.
 - We have held events with broadband providers to demonstrate our plans and targets and to encourage commercial expansion in Hertfordshire.
- Work is also underway to increase broadband and mobile coverage in the county through the Local Planning process and providing guidance on new developments. A myth busting guide on 5G will be made available early in 2024 to encourage more successful applications.
 - We are exploring innovative options such as allowing mobile operators to utilise lighting columns in the county to improve mobile coverage and capacity.
 - Working in partnership with the Department for Education we aim to deliver gigabit lines to between 40-80 Herts schools over the next few years.
 - We were successfully awarded a £400k grant from central Government's BDUK Grant which provided vouchers that assisted people experiencing slow broadband speeds to pay for gigabit installation). Although currently paused, we are working with BDUK to open the scheme in areas not currently set to benefit from Project Gigabit. Timings for this are to be confirmed.
 - Several Digital Inclusion priority actions have been identified in the short-term to assist residents and businesses in accessing information and support, as well as promotion of schemes like Social Broadband Tariffs.

Building a Digital Sector and Skills:

- Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has identified a skills gap in high-end digital skills in key sectors such as creative, life sciences and advanced manufacturing and is working with education providers and the Department for Work and Pensions to meet this demand. Schools are also being engaged with to develop pathways into accessing and boosting digital skills.

Hertfordshire and Essex Rapid Transit (HERT)

The plans to create additional homes and jobs in Hertfordshire will place greater demand on our already congested road and rail network. Consideration is therefore being given to the Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) proposal: a new, sustainable passenger transport network which could provide an accessible, reliable, and affordable transport between Essex and Hertfordshire. Options are being considered and public engagement ([HERT engagement](#)) has been undertaken to ascertain resident support prior to further work being undertaken on the proposal. Next steps include producing a prospectus to outline the plan and exploring funding opportunities.

Headline findings from public engagement:

- 75% of respondents supported or strongly supported the HERT vision
- Reliable journey times was the biggest priority for respondents, with 73% selecting this option. Service frequency was deemed to be the second most important feature, with 71% of respondents selecting this.
- 68% of respondents to the survey suggested that they would be likely to use the HERT



Economy

Hertfordshire has a strong and thriving economy, generating over £46bn per annum, with over 70,000 businesses. We have thriving sectors in film and screen, life sciences, manufacturing as well as professional services.

We benefit from highly skilled residents and high levels of employment. Our proximity and strong transport links to London and Cambridge, makes Hertfordshire an attractive place to locate for businesses and residents.

The Growth Board recognises the further potential to unlock growth and investment in the county's key sectors, while stimulating new sectors and creating quality local jobs that residents can access and benefit from.

Progress towards this aim includes:

- Working with District and Borough Councils to strengthen and reinvigorate town centres.
- Work to grow the cell and gene therapy industry in Stevenage and other locations across Hertfordshire.
- Co-ordinating a joint approach to how Hertfordshire develops its offer to creative and screen industries including the creation of the Hertfordshire Film Office.

Reinvigorating Town Centres

Local town centres and high streets play a significant role in the vitality and local economies of our places. To help strengthen our town centres, the Growth Board established a project to support collaboration and to test solutions for our local centres helping them to be dynamic and innovative.

Work in this area has included:

- **The creation of a [10 point checklist](#)** to support the re-opening of town centres safely following downgrading of Covid-19 restrictions. In 2023, the Institute for Public Management (IPM) undertook a survey which helped to identify 5 top priority factors to enact specific interventions in each centre. The factors were - activity, vision and strategy, appearance, experience, and the actual retail offer.
- **Working with Save The High Streets.org, £5,000 of seed funding was awarded to each district/ borough**, endorsed by the Growth Board in January 2023.

- Using the findings from the IPM report, Save the High Streets.org worked with districts to identify innovative solution to support town centre vacant units, support for high street businesses and support for local champions in the form of trader associations.
- Dacorum, Welwyn Hatfield, Hertsmere, Watford and St Albans have focussed on undertaking health checks for local businesses. These checks will allow businesses to see what they are excelling at and where they can make tangible improvements to their businesses, driving footfall and ultimately profits to their businesses.
- North Herts, East Herts and Broxbourne are focussing on local champions and setting up Traders Associations in Baldock, Ware and Waltham Cross. By bringing businesses together they can shape and grow their high streets.
- Stevenage will be running a marketing campaign for their indoor market to drive footfall and drive down the number of vacant units.
- The impact of these projects will be reported in 2025.



Growing Science & Tech (Cell & Gene focus)

To support the growth of the cell and gene therapy sector in Stevenage, and to support the longer-term growth of other high-tech organisations in space and defence, communications, digital and advanced manufacturing a multi-agency working group was established to develop a high level 2040 vision for Gunnels Wood Road.

Key progress has included:

- The **completion of design work for Gunnels Wood Road roundabout scheme in December 2023**, to help enable the development of the land adjacent to GSK, into a leading life science campus.
- Proactive **engagement with GSK and a preferred developer to help shape the Life Sciences campus in Stevenage**, with planning permission granted in August 2023 for the £900m investment and creation of up to 5,000 new jobs.

- The **formation of a wider strategy and action/delivery plan** based on the outcomes of a Gunnels Wood report which will be published in quarter 1 of 2024.

The vision is for Hertfordshire to be the premier destination of choice for cell and gene therapy, drawing enterprises to Hertfordshire, growing our economy, enabling a global cluster to expand generating skilled employment opportunities. While the heart of this vision is rooted in Stevenage, its applicability and benefits span wider across the county in boosting investment and creating quality jobs for residents.


Creative & Screen Industries


The creative and screen industry is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK, with just over half of the new studio space being planned and delivered in London and the south-east coming to Hertfordshire. If all the studio floorspace planned for the county is delivered, Hertfordshire could exceed Hollywood in area of sound stages.

A working group has been established to pull together the work of all district and borough councils across Hertfordshire to strengthen and support the creative and screen industries in the county.


Work in this area has included:

- **The Greenlit Herts report providing a baseline overview** of the current status of Film and High End TV production in the county. This report is helping to shape further strategy and engagement between districts, boroughs, county and the private sector.
- **Establishing the Creative and Screen Industry Panel** in May 2022. This provides industry insight to the sector's needs and comprises the major studios (Warner Bros. Leavesden, Sky Studios Elstree, Elstree Studios, BBC StudioWorks and Sunset Studios), small and medium enterprises and industry bodies such as BAFTA Albert.
- The **Creative and Screen Industry sector strategy and action plan was established in September 2022**. This was created for the industry panel and identified the six key areas of focus for the sector's growth in Hertfordshire.


 1: A reliable **supply of talent** consistent with the scale of studios which are either planned or proposed and the productions that will use them

 2: Novel **business models** across the wider ecosystem consistent with productivity gains

 3: **Net Zero** outcomes in Film and TV Production

 4: **Commercial property solutions** for Film and TV Production (including the wider supply chain)

 5: Outstanding **digital infrastructures** for Film and TV Production

 6: Hertfordshire as a **location** for Film and TV Production which is recognised around the world, promoted effectively and valued fully

- **Creation of the Hertfordshire Film Office** in March 2023, which to date has:
 - Received over 170 enquiries from production companies
 - Provided face to face support to over 100 businesses
 - Started the development of a charging plan and process for filming on highways
 - Created a location database searchable by location scouts and production companies. Districts and borough councils, along with residents and local businesses can add details of assets, such as property and land to the database
 - Focus event in London showcasing the Film Office – many connections made with productions and industry representatives
 - Work is underway to develop the Hertfordshire Film Office website, which is due to launch in January 2024.

The Hertfordshire Film Office provides a one-stop-shop service for film and TV-related activities across the county. Over the next 18-36 months all film and TV-related enquiries will come through the Film Office



Working in Partnership

The Growth Board has worked closely with a range of local partnerships across the county focused on areas of growth. Two of these key partnerships include the Herts Property Partnership and Hertfordshire Climate and Sustainability Partnership.

Hertfordshire Property Partnership (HPP)

HPP is a partnership made up of District/Borough councils, Police, local Health organisations and County Council with the intention of identifying and delivering development opportunities across the county. This includes major growth schemes, town centre regeneration and ensuring we are making the most out of public owned assets to deliver the homes, jobs, services and living environment expected by our communities.

Since 2017, HPP has attracted over £3.5 million of central government funding for developments in Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Since 2019 Hertfordshire County Council and nine of the District and Borough Councils have declared a climate emergency. In recognition of these declarations and the level of growth needed across the county, the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) was established as a strategic group to be the lead partnership organisation in the county for collaboration and to identify joint work programmes on environmental, climate change and wider sustainability issues.

Through Solar Together, 10,200 solar panels have been installed at more than 1,100 properties (including 1,500 with batteries and dynamic electric vehicle chargers included). This equates to £12.6m local investment by homeowners and 18,907 tonnes of carbon reduction over 25 years

HCCSP engages with Hertfordshire community groups, the voluntary sector, residents, and businesses to stimulate behaviour change around climate change and achieve shared carbon reduction goals across the county.

HCCSP has led on projects and events including launching a HEAT App which has helped to provide users with average savings of £198 and to date has been downloaded over 500 times. HCCSP has also led the coordination of

schemes such as Solar Together which helps residents buy solar panels as a group to reduce costs.

To further understand work plans for the future, visit: [Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership](#)



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Strategic Growth Projects in Hertfordshire

There are a number of large-scale developments planned and underway across Hertfordshire, drawing in significant local/ central government and private sector investment, to deliver thousands of quality homes, supporting sustainable places, boosting businesses and quality jobs for residents. Below are some examples of the growth projects being implemented across Hertfordshire.

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town

Harlow and Gilston was designated as a Garden Town by the Government in January 2017 and will comprise new and existing communities in and around Harlow.

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town is a significant growth and regeneration project and has involved partnership working between East Hertfordshire, Epping Forest and Harlow District Councils working together with Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils. The Garden Town itself encompasses Harlow, together with new strategic development sites to the north, east, south and west of Harlow, including seven new villages to the north of Harlow.

The Garden Town will bring a range of benefits for all existing as well as new residents, including:

- New fast, frequent, high quality bus services
- Town Centre enhancement and regeneration
- New jobs
- New schools
- New homes
- New and improved cycling routes
- New opportunities



ILLUSTRATOR: NEREA I

Housing infrastructure investment of £172million has been awarded by the government for the delivery of a sustainable travel infrastructure for the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town project. In Gilston, the infrastructure

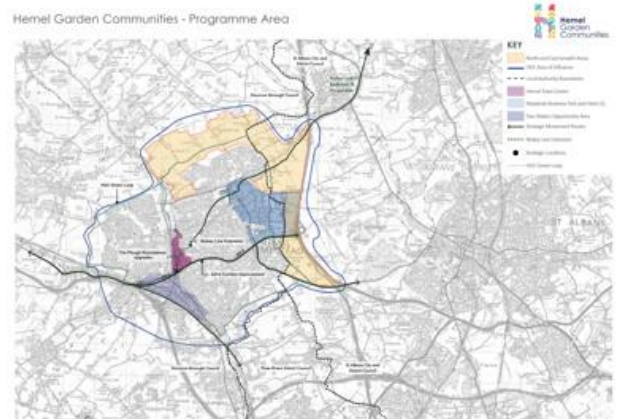
that this investment will help to make possible will lead to 10,000 new homes by 2040, with at least 3,000 in place by 2033, while 20 hectares of employment floorspace are planned at sites across the Garden Town.

More information is available at: [Harlow & Gilston Garden Town](#)

Hemel Garden Communities

Hemel Garden Communities is an ambitious development programme that will transform Hemel Hempstead and create attractive and sustainable new neighbourhoods and communities to the north and east of Hemel Hempstead, through the delivery of more than 11,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs by 2050.

More information is available at: [Hemel Garden Communities](#)



Watford Junction Quarter



This project will see Watford Junction station and surrounding lands transformed by Watford Borough Council in partnership with Halkin,

Network Rail, London North Western Railways and Hertfordshire County Council. This will create an exciting and vibrant quarter around the station, with plans including a new station, new shopping facilities, new bus stops, better walking routes and a brand new connecting bridge. In addition, there would be a second entrance to the station and a new ticket hall to banish long queues at the ticket barriers, and a new multi-storey car park for station users. In preparation of the work, Watford Junction rail lands has been adopted as a Strategic Development Area in the new Local Plan.

Re-setting the South-East Herts Economy

The Broxbourne Local Plan was adopted in June 2020, identifying five key projects amounting to approximately £1 billion of investment that will have a huge impact on regeneration and positive impact on the local economy.

- 1. Park Plaza West:** The creation of a world class film, TV and animation studio on a 91 acre site in Waltham Cross. New film studios and employment hub with the aim of creating 5,000 jobs.
- 2. Brookfield:** The creation of a new town centre and Garden Village Suburb looking to create 2,000 new jobs and bring inward investment into the borough of up to £1 billion. A new station at Turnford is being promoted as supporting infrastructure. It is anticipated infrastructure works will commence in late 2024.
- 3. Park Lane Railway Station:** Creation of a new train station to serve Waltham Cross and Park Plaza, supporting c. 10,000 new jobs at sites within easy walking distance of the station and connecting business areas with the town centre and housing, enhancing the overall transport connections in the county. A Strategic Outline Business Case has been shared with Network Rail. This is expected to progress in 2025.
- 4. Theobalds Business Park:** The creation of a new Business Park to include a hyper-scale data centre, warehousing and a new Theobalds Enterprise Centre (TEC), creating up to 1,500 new jobs. The TEC has been completed and work on the data centre is expected to start in late 2023.
- 5. Waltham Cross Renaissance:** The revitalisation of the town centre to provide a range of new amenities including a skills hub, new public realm, leisure facilities to support health and wellbeing. This includes plans to provide up to 750 additional homes within the town centre. Work has



already commenced on the Levelling up funded elements which are due to complete in 2026.

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Next Steps

Building on the work to date, the Hertfordshire Growth Board is setting a new Vision and Missions for how Hertfordshire's leadership across local government, health, business, and policing will work together around shared county-wide goals to deliver sustainable and good growth for residents, communities and businesses for years to come.

The Vision will guide and steer the focus of HGB over the coming years. It will respond to county-wide growth challenges that matter to Hertfordshire residents, whilst recognising the need to evolve and be agile to changing political, environmental, societal and economic contexts and demands.

It will seek to better join up growth related policy, interventions, and services across Hertfordshire; identify opportunities that will unlock and boost investment; and secure government deals into the county for the benefit of its residents and businesses.

It will complement existing local and strategic plans, promote the emerging joint strategic plans, as well as the LEP's economic and inward investment strategies and the Integrated Care Strategy to achieve an overarching common purpose on growth for the county.

Hertfordshire continues to be a county of prosperity and opportunity, with one of the strongest economies in the country.

To ensure we maintain and build on our strengths, the county must work together to respond to key challenges in meeting our growing infrastructure needs as well as responding to environmental, societal, and economic impacts.

Our vision is that the Hertfordshire Growth Board will work together to ensure we have:

- Healthy, inclusive, safe and better-connected communities who thrive, and enjoy Hertfordshire's quality of life.
- A place that grows responsibly, and celebrates its diversity, heritage, rural and green landscapes that makes Hertfordshire special.
- A vibrant and resilient economy that seizes the right opportunities, enabling Hertfordshire's residents and businesses to succeed.

To achieve this vision, the Growth Board has identified six missions:

- Enhance Hertfordshire's reputation as **a world-class economy** by improving skills and job opportunities for residents, growing our key sectors, and accelerating business investment into the county.
- Every Hertfordshire resident and business has access to **best-in-class connectivity, essential digital skills, and the device or support** that they need to be online by 2030.
- Deliver **a safe and integrated transport system** which unlocks growth and enables communities and businesses to thrive.
- **Deliver the right homes**, including increasing the provision of social/affordable and specialist homes, in the right locations and with associated infrastructure, to support the county's socio-economic prosperity.
- By 2040, Hertfordshire's residents and communities will benefit from **neighbourhoods that are designed and regenerated with physical health, mental wellbeing and social connectedness** at the heart.
- By 2050, Hertfordshire will be a prosperous, **low carbon economy with a thriving natural environment**, having maximised the benefits of sustainable growth for our residents and businesses, and achieved net zero Green House Gas emissions.

This Vision and Missions have been formed after a period of public engagement. Throughout the last 6 months of 2023, Hertfordshire residents and businesses were contacted through social media, local printed and online media, pop up market stall events in places such as town centres and specific engagement events in order to understand views and thoughts on the priorities for the Hertfordshire Growth Board. Over 4,000 survey entries were received with overwhelming public support for each of the six Missions identified. The final Vision and Missions will be published on the Hertfordshire Growth Board's website in early 2024. Through the refreshed Vision and 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.

Glossary

AI	Artificial Intelligence
BDOUK	Building Digital UK
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities
GSK	Glaxo Smith Kline
HCCSP	Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership
HEAT	Herts Energy Advice Tool
HERT	Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit
HGB	Hertfordshire Growth Board
HIDB	Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board
HIPP	Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership
HPP	Hertfordshire Property Partnership
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IPM	Institute for Public Management
IT	Information Technology
JSP	Join Strategic Plan
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
NEC JSP	North, East and Central, Joint Strategic Plan
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
SHAP	Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme
SW JSP	South West, Joint Strategic Plan

Agenda item 6

Hertfordshire Growth Board – Presentation from Homes England

Report Presented by: Shona Johnstone, Head of Markets Partners and Places - South, Homes England

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide Board Members with a presentation from Homes England with an overview of the strategic priorities and opportunities for investment in Hertfordshire.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Growth Board are invited to note the information shared within the presentation.

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Agenda item 7

Hertfordshire Growth Board – Presentation by Broxbourne Borough Council, Levelling Up Fund Programme

Report Presented by: Jeff Stack, Chief Executive Broxbourne Borough Council

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide Board Members with a presentation from Broxbourne Borough Council on their Levelling Up Fund Programme of work.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Growth Board are invited to note the information shared within the presentation.

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