

# Agenda item 5

## Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) - Endorsement of Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy

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### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report seeks the Board's endorsement of the Hertfordshire Local Retrofit Strategy (the 'Strategy') at Appendix 1. The Strategy establishes a coordinated framework for retrofit delivery, partnership working and access to funding. It supports Goal 3 of the *Sustainable County Mission* in the HGB Vision and Mission and builds upon the Commitment to Retrofit, which was endorsed by local authorities in Hertfordshire in April 2025.
- 1.2 The Strategy has been shaped through a consultation process (March – June 2025) engaging all Hertfordshire local authorities. Endorsement by HGB will demonstrate unified support at the highest level across the public sector in the county.
- 1.3 The Strategy has been developed through the Local Area Retrofit Accelerator ('LARA') project – a cross-sector initiative involving local authorities, training providers, social landlords, trade representatives, and community organisations to establish a shared framework for retrofit initiatives. Endorsement of the Strategy will strengthen joint working and improve access to funding opportunities while placing no financial or legal obligations on signatories at this stage.
- 1.4 HGB members may recall the previous endorsement of the *Commitment to Retrofit* which set out a high-level ambition and framework for collaboration. The Strategy now provides the detailed roadmap for delivery, including strategic priorities and mechanisms for coordinated action through task and finish groups, projects and action plans.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 The LARA initiative was developed to address the systemic challenges of delivering large-scale retrofit programmes. It provides a countywide approach to scaling up domestic retrofit delivery by increasing coordination, stakeholder engagement, and investment opportunities.
- 2.2 Benefits of adopting a countywide retrofit strategy include:
  - a) Enhanced collaboration across local authorities and key industry sectors.

- b) Greater access to funding through joint applications and shared resource development.
- c) Targeted skills development to grow the local retrofit supply chain.
- d) Resource efficiency through alignment with national and regional climate adaptation and sustainability goals, in particular those of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) and HGB.

2.3 Given the urgency of retrofit to achieve net-zero targets and improve housing efficiency, achieving formal support is a critical step in enabling implementation.

### **3 Summary**

3.1 Endorsing the Strategy will position HGB as a regional leader on retrofit and provide a platform for joint action, capacity building and economic opportunity. It will also strengthen Hertfordshire's collective voice in regional and national policy and funding forums.

3.2 Approval of this report will signal support for a collaborative delivery model and enable the next phase of strategic planning and implementation.

### **4 Next Steps**

- 4.1 Subject to HGB approval, the following actions will be taken:
- a) The Strategy's action plan will be refined with input from multi-agency stakeholders.
  - b) Initial LARA engagement will focus on identifying priority actions, progressing opportunities for strategic alignment, and identifying funding and resourcing structures.
  - c) Progress updates will be reported via Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) and Hertfordshire Growth Board.

### **5 Implications**

5.1 There are no adverse legal, financial, equalities, environmental, sustainability or other implications arising from this report and its recommendations which support the ongoing work and priorities of the Growth Board.

5.2 Endorsement of the Strategy carries no immediate legal or financial commitments. Funding to support coordination and delivery oversight is currently being sought from the MCS Foundation.

5.3 Any future proposals requiring financial support will be brought to HGB for consideration as individual projects are developed.

## 6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Hertfordshire Growth Board agree to:
- a) Endorse the Hertfordshire Local Retrofit Strategy in principle, as aligned with the Board's Vision and Mission.
  - b) Support continued engagement with the Strategy to enable knowledge-sharing, partnership working, and collaborative access to funding.
  - c) Encourage internal coordination to ensure alignment with relevant service areas and strategic priorities.
  - d) Note the development of a delivery-focused action plan, to be finalised through multi-agency collaboration.