

# Agenda

## HERTFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD

Hertsmere Borough Council, Elstree Way, Borehamwood WD6 1WA

Wednesday 23 September 2026, 10.00-12.00

### Agenda:

| No. | Time  | Item                                                                                                              | Time               | Speaker                  |
|-----|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.  | 10.00 | Chair's Welcome                                                                                                   | 5 mins             | Chair                    |
| 2.  | 10.05 | Devolution Update<br>Towards a Local Growth Plan Overview                                                         | 20 mins<br>5 mins  | Neil Hayes<br>Mark Doran |
| 3.  | 10.30 | Local Transport Plan 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>       | 15 mins<br>25 mins | Rupert Thacker           |
| 4.  | 11.10 | Spatial Development Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul> | 15 mins<br>15 mins | Colin Haigh              |
| 5.  | 11.40 | Forward Plan: Discussion and Next Steps                                                                           | 15 mins            | Lucy Gravatt             |
| 6.  | 11.55 | Chair's Summary and Close                                                                                         | 5 mins             | Chair                    |

## **HGB Members:**

### **Council Leaders**

Corina Gander, Broxbourne Borough Council  
Sally Symington, Dacorum Borough Council  
Ben Crystall, East Herts District Council  
Steve Jarvis, Hertfordshire County Council (**Chair**)  
Jeremy Newmark, Hertsmere Borough Council (Senior Vice Chair)  
Val Bryant, North Hertfordshire District Council  
Paul de Kort, St Albans City & District Council  
Richard Henry, Stevenage Borough Council (Vice Chair)  
Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Three Rivers District Council (deputised by Cllr Louise Price, Deputy Leader)  
Peter Taylor (Mayor), Watford Borough Council  
Rose Grewal, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

### **Co-opted Members**

Ed Knowles, Director of Neighbourhood, Places and Partnerships, NHS Central East ICB  
Adrian Hawkins OBE, Chair, Hertfordshire Futures  
Julia Krause, Assistant Director, South East, Homes England  
Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner  
Prof. Anthony Woodman, Vice Chancellor, University of Hertfordshire

### **Chief Executives**

Jeff Stack, Broxbourne Borough Council  
Darren Welsh, Dacorum Borough Council  
Helen Standen, East Herts District Council  
Angie Ridgwell, Hertfordshire County Council  
Sajida Bijle, Hertsmere Borough Council  
Anthony Roche, North Hertfordshire District Council  
Amanda Foley, St Albans City & District Council (deputised by Robin Taylor, Strategic Director for Customer, Business and Corporate Support)  
Tom Pike, Stevenage Borough Council  
Joanne Wagstaffe, Three Rivers District Council  
Donna Nolan, Watford Borough Council  
Ka Ng, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

### **HGB Executive**

Neil Hayes, Director, Hertfordshire Growth Board  
Lucy Gravatt, Director of Advocacy and Partnerships, Hertfordshire Growth Board  
Brenda Harris, Programme Manager, Hertfordshire Growth Board  
Carley Di Vita, Project Officer, Hertfordshire Growth Board

### **Guests**

Mark Doran, Executive Director, Growth and Environment, Hertfordshire County Council  
Colin Haigh, Director of Growth and Place, Hertfordshire County Council  
Rupert Thacker, Director of Transport for Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire County Council  
Chris Lynch, Head of Transport Policy and Strategy, Hertfordshire County Council  
Trevor Mason, Team Leader Strategic Transport, Hertfordshire County Council

# Agenda item 2

## Devolution Update and Towards A Local Growth Plan Overview

**Presenters:** Neil Hayes, Director of HGB  
Mark Doran, Executive Director Growth and Environment, HCC

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**Please note this agenda item will be a verbal update and discussion**

# Agenda item 3

## Local Transport Plan

**Report Author:** Trevor Mason, Team Leader: Transport Policy, HCC

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### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide Board Members with a presentation to update on the development of the new Local Transport Plan prior to public consultation.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 The Local Transport Plan is a statutory document which sets out the future direction for transport in Hertfordshire. The current Plan was adopted in 2018 and is in need of updating.
- 2.2 The draft new Plan sets out a vision for 2050, with objectives, policies and schemes setting out how this can be achieved. Without significant transport interventions the level of congestion will increase significantly across the whole road network based on housing growth set out in adopted Local Plans.
- 2.3 The county council, in its role as Local Transport Authority, is responsible for developing the plan. However, due to its key links to other local authority functions such as spatial planning, it is important that member organisations in HGB are fully involved in shaping it.
- 2.4 The Local Transport Plan will also be a component part of the Local Growth Plan which will be adopted by the future strategic authority. Due to the close inter-relationship with the emerging Spatial Development Strategy, the Local Transport Plan will be developed in two parts. The second part, which will set out any new major transport infrastructure schemes, will be published once the Spatial Development Strategy has been further developed.

### 3 Progress made and next steps

- 3.1 The developing Local Transport Plan has been a standing item at the HGB Transport for Hertfordshire Mission Steering Group and Officer meetings.
- 3.2 Public engagement was undertaken in Autumn 2025 to help develop the vision and objectives. Work has now been undertaken to develop the Plan around this vision, taking on board new Government guidance published in April 2026.
- 3.3 The draft Plan will be considered by the county council's Environment, Transport and Growth Cabinet Panel on 24 September 2026. A full public consultation will then be undertaken during Autumn, with a view to adopting the final Plan in early 2027.

### 4 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Growth Board are invited to note the progress made and the information contained within the presentation.

# Agenda item 4

## Spatial Development Strategy

**Presenters:** Colin Haigh, Director of Growth and Place, HCC

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**Please note this agenda item will be a verbal update and discussion**

# Agenda item 5

## Hertfordshire Growth Board Forward Plan

Report Author: Lucy Gravatt, Director of Advocacy and Partnerships, Hertfordshire Growth Board

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### 1 Purpose

The Forward Plan sets out the Board's priorities, programme of activity, advocacy agenda and key milestones for the next 6-12 months, supporting the development of Hertfordshire's Local Growth Plan and wider growth ambitions.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 Hertfordshire Growth Board has a key role in providing strategic leadership for Hertfordshire's growth agenda, bringing together partners across local government, business, education, health and the voluntary sector. The Forward Plan has been developed to provide a clear framework for the Board's activity over the coming year and to ensure alignment around shared priorities for growth, investment and prosperity.
- 2.2 The Plan reflects the evolving national policy landscape, work to develop a Local Growth Plan and the county's continued ambition to secure greater powers and influence through devolution. It sets out a coordinated programme of engagement, advocacy, thought leadership and partnership activity designed to strengthen Hertfordshire's voice nationally and position the county for future opportunities.

#### 2.3 Key Features

The Forward Plan is structured around three areas:

- Development of a Hertfordshire Local Growth Plan.
- Programme of Board and partner meetings.
- Advocacy, engagement and thought leadership activity to promote Hertfordshire's growth ambitions.

The Plan also identifies a series of strategic discussions and events focused on priority themes including digital infrastructure and AI, life sciences, healthy placemaking, sustainability, screen industries and investment.

### 3 Next Steps

- 3.1 Subject to endorsement, the Forward Plan will guide the Board's activity over the next 6-12 months, providing a framework for engagement, advocacy and partnership working. Progress will be reviewed regularly through Board meetings and updates, with activity evolving in response to emerging opportunities, Government priorities and the development of Hertfordshire's Local Growth Plan.

### 4 Recommendations

- To endorse the Hertfordshire Growth Board Forward Plan 2026-27
- To support delivery of the programme through their organisations and networks.
- To provide any final comments on priorities and proposed activity for inclusion in future iterations of the Plan.

## Introduction

Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) has been clear from the outset about its ambition to support greater devolution for Hertfordshire. Building on the county's formal expression of interest in a Mayoral Strategic Authority and continued engagement with Government and relevant Ministers, HGB will continue to champion Hertfordshire's growth and investment ambitions. As the Government reviews its approach to Local Government Reorganisation and future governance arrangements, HGB provides an important mechanism for maintaining strategic alignment across the county, articulating Hertfordshire's long-term economic priorities, and evidencing the strength of the partnerships and delivery capability needed to secure future devolved powers, funding and investment

## Hertfordshire Growth Board's core purpose over the next 6-12 months is to:

- **Shape a shared vision for Hertfordshire's future growth**, bringing together partners, evidence and investment priorities to inform the development of a Local Growth Plan that improves community prosperity, economic growth, health outcomes, environmental sustainability, climate resilience and quality of life for current and future generations.
- **Strengthen Hertfordshire's readiness for devolution and future strategic governance**, building on Hertfordshire's formal engagement with Government for a Mayoral Strategic Authority and demonstrating the county's ability to operate effectively at scale through collective leadership, evidence-based planning and partnership working.
- **Champion Hertfordshire as a leading place for sustainable growth and investment**, providing a strong, unified voice that attracts investment, influences policy, supports innovation and showcases the county's contribution to national economic priorities.

## To achieve this, HGB will:

- **Act as the strategic advisory forum and prime advocate for the Local Growth Plan**, bringing together strategies, evidence and investment priorities into a coherent county-wide proposition.
- **Provide a public gateway for Hertfordshire's growth agenda**, helping partners, stakeholders and residents navigate key strategies, consultations and establish the evidence base and opportunities that contribute to the Local Growth Plan.
- **Convene partners** across local government, health, police, business, education and the voluntary sector around shared growth priorities.
- **Lead advocacy and engagement with Government, MPs, investors, regional bodies and national institutions**, building the case for greater local powers and decision-making through a future Mayoral Strategic Authority.

- **Facilitate learning, partnership and system leadership**, connecting Hertfordshire with national partners and places further advanced on the devolution journey.
- **Ensure governance and workstreams evolve to support future priorities**, aligning activity around economic growth, environmental sustainability and social outcomes.

## This plan been divided into 3 sections:

1. [Towards a Local Growth Plan](#)
2. [Meetings calendar](#)
3. [Advocacy, engagement and influence](#)

## Towards a Local Growth Plan

Hertfordshire Growth Board acts as the strategic advisory forum for the development of Hertfordshire's Local Growth Plan, bringing together evidence, strategies, investment priorities and stakeholder engagement activities into a coherent county-wide growth narrative. While responsibility for individual strategies sits with the relevant organisations, HGB provides a single gateway for partners to understand how they contribute to Hertfordshire's wider growth ambitions. The Local Growth Plan will support alignment across economic development, infrastructure, placemaking, skills, health and sustainability, considering productivity, health, carbon reduction, climate adaptation, biodiversity recovery and resource efficiency.

The following strategies and supporting documents will help inform the emerging Local Growth Plan. Collectively, they will shape a shared growth narrative for Hertfordshire, bringing together evidence, investment priorities and policy ambitions into a coherent countywide proposition. HGB will use its website and engagement programme to signpost consultation opportunities, key milestones and published evidence as they emerge.

### Published

- The [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) identifies priority areas and actions to restore nature, increase biodiversity and strengthen environmental resilience across Hertfordshire.
- [Hertfordshire Economic Strategy 2026-2036](#) prioritises actions to grow productivity, support innovation, attract investment and create wider economic opportunities across Hertfordshire.

Supporting documents:

- [Hertfordshire Get Working Plan](#) provides a coordinated programme to tackle economic inactivity, improve workforce participation, develop skills and connect residents to employment opportunities.

### Under development

**Local Transport Plan (LTP)**: this is a statutory document that sets out the overall framework for all HCC transport activities and has wider links to social inclusion, health and sustainability objectives. It has been split into two distinct phases with Part 1 focusing on the vision, objectives and policies (Feb 2027) and Part 2 more aligned to the Spatial Development Strategy process.

Early engagement and evidence can be viewed [here](#).

Key milestones for Part 1:

- Spring 2026: LTP workshops
- 23 Sept: LTP discussion at HGB Board Meeting
- 24 Sept: Draft LTP to Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Environment, Transport and Growth Cabinet Panel
- **28 Sept - 9 Nov 2026: Public consultation**
- 18 Jan 2027: Revised draft to HCC Environment, Transport and Growth Cabinet Panel
- 11 Feb 2027: HCC Cabinet approval
- 23 Feb 2027: Final to HCC Full Council for formal adoption and publication

**Spatial Development Strategy:** A 25-year framework for sustainable growth across Hertfordshire, guiding the location of future homes, jobs, infrastructure and environmental investment, and helping to coordinate development across the county.

Key milestones:

- Sept-Oct 2026: Planning workshops (Heads of Planning)
- Late 2026 – Spring 2027: Engagement window
- Summer 2027: Initial public consultation likely on SDS Scope and baseline information (evidence)
- Early 2028: Formal consultation (subject to legislative process)
- Late 2028: Formal adoption

**Digital Strategy:** this provides a roadmap for harnessing digital connectivity, technology and AI to drive productivity, support innovation and enable inclusive growth across Hertfordshire.

Key milestones:

- May 2026 – Draft presented to Hertfordshire Growth Board and Hertfordshire Futures
- Sept/Oct 2026: Final version to HCC Environment, Transport and Growth Cabinet Panel for formal endorsement ahead of publication

## Meetings calendar

| Name                                                      | Agenda/Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Date/Venue                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Sept-26                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |
| Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Development Board (HIDB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote Speaker: Andrew Lewin MP</li> <li>• LGR update</li> <li>• Construction Panel - skills and social value focus</li> <li>• Action Funder</li> </ul>                                                                                                   | 16 Sept<br>The Riding School,<br>Hatfield House |
| Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) Meeting                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards a Local Growth Plan – strategic overview</li> <li>• Draft Local Transport Plan 5</li> <li>• Spatial Development Strategy</li> <li>• Forward Plan</li> </ul>                                                                                        | 23 Sept<br>Hertsmeire Borough Council           |
| Nov-26                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |
| Local Growth Plan Online                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Informal members' briefing – these will be arranged either quarterly or ad hoc with this one focusing on key fiscal decisions from the Autumn Budget and devolution position.</i></li> </ul>                                                            | TBC                                             |
| HIDB                                                      | Likely agenda items to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devolution</li> <li>• HIDB members' response to HMG's Five Plans</li> <li>• Spotlight on Volker Wessels and Teens Unite's plans to build the UK's first cancer retreat for teenager and families in Broxbourne.</li> </ul> | 25 Nov                                          |
| Jan-27                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Growth Plan and Devolution update</li> <li>Advocacy Programme – quarterly review</li> <li>Spatial Development Strategy (inc. National Planning Policy Framework) and Development</li> </ul> | 26 January |
| March-27                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |            |
| HIDB                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3 March    |
| HGB Meeting                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Date TBC   |

## Advocacy, Engagement and Influence

HGB's advocacy and engagement programme is focused on raising Hertfordshire's profile nationally, strengthening relationships with Government, investors, industry and strategic partners, and positioning the county as a strong candidate for further devolution and investment.

Alongside participation in key regional, national and international events (*see Appendix for Wider Engagement Opportunities*), HGB will continue to develop and promote a clear, shared growth narrative for Hertfordshire, showcasing the county's strengths, key growth opportunities and ambitions through coordinated engagement, targeted influencing activity and strategic communications.

HGB Board members and partner organisations<sup>1</sup> will play an important ambassadorial role in championing this narrative, helping to extend the county's reach and influence through their own networks and relationships. This will be supported by the development of the HGB website as a public gateway for Hertfordshire's growth agenda, providing a single point of access to key strategies, evidence, consultations and opportunities.

A short promotional film could also be developed for the website homepage, providing a dynamic introduction to Hertfordshire as a place to live, work, learn, create and invest. This would strengthen Hertfordshire's place narrative and public profile, bringing our communications approach more in line with emerging strategic authority models and supporting engagement with residents, businesses, stakeholders and strategic partners.

## Roundtables and leadership discussions

HGB will convene a programme of roundtables, briefings and stakeholder engagement activities focused on the opportunities and challenges shaping Hertfordshire's future. Bringing together local authorities, businesses, Government representatives, investors, voluntary and community partners, these discussions will provide opportunities to share best practice, strengthen partnerships, explore emerging issues and support Hertfordshire's wider growth and devolution ambitions. This will culminate in a Hertfordshire Growth Summit in Spring 2027.

**Together, these activities will provide the collective thought leadership, convening power and strategic dialogue expected of places operating at scale.**

| Subject                     | Format                               | Date    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| UK Screen Investment Dinner | Invitation-only dinner hosted by HGB | 15 Sept |
| Local Transport Plan        | MP online briefing                   | 25 Sept |

<sup>1</sup> HGB members and partners include all 11 Hertfordshire local authorities, the NHS, Police and Crime Commissioner, University of Hertfordshire, Homes England and Hertfordshire Futures. The Board also works closely with countywide partnership bodies including the Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership, Hertfordshire Infrastructure & Development Board, Hertfordshire Infrastructure & Planning Partnership (HIPP) and Transport for Hertfordshire. Regional strategic partners include Local Government East, England's Economic Heartland and the UK Innovation Corridor.

|                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Digital Infrastructure and AI roundtable                                              | In partnership with Herts Futures and Data Centres Task Force Roundtable                                                                                                                                  | Late Autumn                              |
| AI and Data Roundtable                                                                | Part of EXPO Real, Munich                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5-7 Oct                                  |
| VCFSE Conference Workshop                                                             | HGB on panel discussion                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7 Oct                                    |
| Healthy and Safe Places Framework                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport, Planning and Health 2026, Leicester (plenary - Donna Nolan)</li> <li>Healthy Places Local Government East (LGE) Regional Discussion (online)</li> </ul> | 8 Oct<br>10 Nov                          |
| UK Screen Investment Summit and Regional Roundtable                                   | HGB is key sponsor for this event (see <i>Appendix</i> ) and regional roundtable host.                                                                                                                    | 19 November                              |
| Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) Annual Conference | HGB speaking slot                                                                                                                                                                                         | 26 January, Hertfordshire County Council |
| Spatial Development Strategy                                                          | MP Briefing                                                                                                                                                                                               | Early 2027                               |
| Social Impact Dinner                                                                  | Invitation-only investors' dinner                                                                                                                                                                         | Jan 2027                                 |
| Life Sciences Roundtable                                                              | With University of Hertfordshire                                                                                                                                                                          | Date TBC                                 |
| <b>Hertfordshire Growth Summit</b>                                                    | <b>Public conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>After May elections</b>               |

## Roundtable/Conference Briefs

### Digital Infrastructure and AI: Maximising Hertfordshire's Growth Opportunity

Building on the *Digital Infrastructure: Powering Modern Industrial Growth* roundtable delivered with Last Mile at UKREiiF 2026, Hertfordshire Growth Board, Hertfordshire Futures and the multi-agency Hertfordshire Data Centres Task Force will bring together leaders from industry, government, education and local authorities to explore how the county can maximise the economic, social and environmental opportunities created by digital infrastructure investment.

With national planning policy reforms<sup>2</sup> placing increasing emphasis on digital infrastructure as a driver of growth, the roundtable will consider how Hertfordshire can capitalise on investment opportunities while managing associated impacts and infrastructure requirements.

As one of the UK's leading locations for data centres and digital connectivity, Hertfordshire is well positioned to support national ambitions for AI, innovation and productivity growth. The county is already attracting significant investment from global digital infrastructure operators, creating opportunities to strengthen skills pipelines, support local supply chains, accelerate innovation and improve resilience across key sectors. At the same time, stakeholders must mitigate negative environmental impacts and address challenges relating to energy demand, planning, sustainability and community impact.

This roundtable will explore how public and private sector partners can work together to ensure digital infrastructure investment delivers long-term value for Hertfordshire. Discussions will focus on developing the future workforce, creating pathways into high-value employment, supporting local businesses to access supply chain opportunities, unlocking innovation through AI and advanced computing, and maximising wider social and environmental benefits such as heat reuse, energy and water resilience, grid capacity and flexibility and community investment.

Timed to coincide with the launch of [Hertfordshire's Digital Strategy 2026-36](#), which is currently out for consultation, the roundtable supports its Digital Development ambition, exploring how investment in data centres, AI and digital infrastructure can create economic, social and

<sup>2</sup> National Planning Policy Framework

environmental value for Hertfordshire. The discussions will also help inform the ongoing work of the Hertfordshire Data Centres Task Force.

**Key discussion themes:**

- Skills and workforce development for the digital and AI economy
- Supply chain and business growth opportunities
- AI, innovation and advanced computing ecosystems
- Energy, sustainability and infrastructure resilience
- Social value, community benefit and inclusive growth
- Hertfordshire's role as a nationally significant digital infrastructure hub

**Suggested attendees**

- Data centre operators/developers (Equinix, ARK/NTT Global)
- Energy and utility providers (Octopus Energy/Affinity Water/UK Power Networks)
- Hertfordshire Futures (Neil Rutledge)
- Herts IQ (Adam Wood) and Crown Estate (Rob Chesworth)
- Chair, Digital Hertfordshire (Cllr Paul de Kort)
- University of Hertfordshire

**VCFSE Conference Workshop**

Hertfordshire Growth Board will participate in a workshop at the Hertfordshire VCFSE Conference exploring how the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector, businesses, public sector organisations and the University of Hertfordshire can work more effectively together to support local communities.

The session will focus on the strengths each sector brings to partnership working, the challenges that can limit collaboration, and practical opportunities to strengthen relationships and improve outcomes. Drawing on examples from across Hertfordshire, discussions will explore how strategic partners can better align community needs, investment, skills, innovation and growth ambitions.

HGB will highlight its role in convening partners, fostering collaboration and connecting economic growth opportunities with community priorities to ensure the benefits of investment are shared across Hertfordshire.

**Healthy Places: Considering health in planning and economic growth**

This event in partnership with Local Government East will showcase Hertfordshire's nationally recognised [Healthy and Safe Places Framework](#) and explore how planning can be used as a powerful tool to improve population health, reduce health inequalities and create safer, more sustainable communities. The Framework was developed in response to growing recognition that the places where people live, work and travel have a profound impact on health outcomes and that stronger alignment between planning and public health is essential to delivering long-term, inclusive growth.

Developed in collaboration with Hertfordshire's local planning authorities, public health teams, the NHS, police and community partners, with strategic planning support from Prior + Partners, the Framework provides a shared evidence base, practical guidance and digital tools to help embed health, wellbeing and safety within planning and placemaking decisions. As the first framework of its kind in the UK, it has attracted significant national recognition and interest from authorities seeking to adopt a similar approach.

The session will tell the story behind the Framework's development, exploring how Hertfordshire has worked to reconnect planning and public health around a common set of objectives and create a consistent 'Health in all policies' approach across the county. It will examine the role of placemaking in addressing health inequalities, supporting prevention, creating safer communities and delivering sustainable economic growth.

Looking ahead, the discussion will explore how the Framework can support wider growth agendas, as well as opportunities for adoption across the country. The session will consider the next phase of the programme, including the development of training and implementation resources to help practitioners embed health more effectively within planning policy, development management and place-shaping activities.

### **Target audience**

#### Political Leadership

- Elected members
- Cabinet Members for Planning, Public Health, Housing and Growth

#### Planning and Placemaking

- Local planning authorities
- Strategic planning, planning policy and development management professionals
- Urban designers and placemaking specialists
- Developers and regeneration partners

#### Health and Wellbeing

- Directors of Public Health and public health practitioners
- NHS and Integrated Care System (ICS) leaders
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities representatives
- Health and Wellbeing Planning Network members

#### Community Safety

- Community Safety Partnerships
- Police and community safety professionals

### **Format** (90 minutes)

#### Welcome and Introduction (5 mins)

##### Chair (LGE)

- Why this conversation matters now
- Growing national recognition of planning's role in improving population health and reducing health inequalities
- Introduction to Hertfordshire's Healthy and Safe Places Framework

#### Why We Created the Framework (20 mins)

##### Public Health Lead + Planning Lead

##### Topics:

- The challenge of health inequalities in Hertfordshire
- Planning as a determinant of health
- Why planning and public health needed a shared approach
- How planners, public health, NHS, police and community partners came together around a common objective

#### From Vision to Practical Tool (20 mins plus demo)

##### Prior + Partners/HCC

##### Topics:

- The development journey

- Translating health evidence into planning practice
- The seven healthy placemaking principles
- The digital hub and evidence base
- Creating tools that planners and developers can actually use
- Lessons for other authorities looking to replicate the approach

Implementation and Impact (20 mins)

Additional panellists: LPA representative / NHS partner / Community Safety representative

Topics:

- How the framework is being used in practice
- Embedding health into local plans and development decisions
- Cross-sector working in practice
- Early outcomes and benefits
- What's next –
  - o Growing national interest from other authorities
  - o Potential implications of emerging national planning policy
  - o How the framework could support strategic authorities and devolution
  - o Opportunities for wider roll-out/development of a national training and implementation toolkit

Audience Q&A (20 mins)

Moderated discussion with attendees.

Plenary and close (5 mins)

## **UK Screen Investment Summit Breakfast Roundtable**

Following requests from regional partners to host a follow-up breakfast roundtable ahead of the UK Screen Investment Summit, the Hertfordshire Growth Board will convene senior representatives from local authorities and partner organisations supporting areas with a significant film and television production presence.

The roundtable will provide a forum for peer-to-peer discussion and knowledge sharing, enabling participants to exchange experiences, insights and emerging priorities from across the UK's screen sector. The event will facilitate collaboration between places with established and growing screen economies, helping to strengthen relationships and encourage the sharing of best practice.

The session will build on the strong engagement generated through previous events and provide an opportunity for regional partners to re-connect immediately ahead of the wider UK Screen Investment Summit. The programme can be viewed [here](#).

## **Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) annual conference**

The HCCSP Annual Conference provides an important opportunity to reinforce the message that sustainability is not a separate agenda from growth, but a fundamental component of delivering long term economic prosperity, investment, infrastructure, skills development and place-based growth across Hertfordshire. By HGB playing a more prominent role at this event, it provides a valuable platform to position sustainable growth as a shared countywide objective and to strengthen connections between environmental ambitions and economic outcomes.

## Social Impact Dinner

### *Creating a Lasting Legacy for Young People Living with and Beyond Cancer*

An invitation-only dinner bringing together developers, investors, business leaders and philanthropists to explore how they can play a direct role in supporting England's first dedicated retreat and support centre for teenagers and young adults recovering from cancer.

In 2025, Teens Unite moved into its new headquarters in Broxbourne, creating a permanent home from which it can expand its life-changing support for young people living with and beyond cancer. The next phase of its ambition is the development of a dedicated retreat centre, providing a safe and inspiring space where young people and their families can recover, reconnect and rebuild confidence following treatment.

Hosted in partnership with VolkerWessels UK and Teens Unite, the discussion will focus on the opportunity to create a nationally significant facility in the county that will provide young people and their families with a safe space to recover, reconnect and rebuild confidence following cancer treatment.

While VolkerWessels UK is leading the construction of the centre, delivering the full vision will require a coalition of partners to help raise the £4.5 million required before construction starts in April 2027. The dinner will provide an opportunity to hear more about the project, understand its long-term community benefits, and explore how private individuals, businesses and development partners can contribute through funding, expertise, networks and strategic support.

The evening will also consider the broader role that investment and development can play in creating enduring social value, leaving a legacy that extends well beyond the built environment and transforms lives for generations to come. This dinner is funded by VolkerWessels. More information on retreat can be found [here](#).

## Life Sciences Roundtable

*(first in a series of sector-focused roundtables)*

Hertfordshire is home to one of the UK's most significant life sciences clusters, with around 245 businesses, more than 4,350 sector jobs and strengths spanning discovery, clinical development, advanced therapies, manufacturing and commercialisation. The county hosts world-leading assets including Eisai, Roche, Pharmaron, Autolus, LifeArc, Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst and the Cell and Gene Therapy Manufacturing Catapult, positioning the county at the forefront of a rapidly evolving global industry.

The life sciences sector is undergoing significant change, with increasing international competition, evolving investment patterns and growing demand for specialist manufacturing, scale-up and commercialisation capability. Recent announcements relating to GSK's Stevenage operations have reinforced the importance of building a resilient and diverse ecosystem that is not dependent on any single organisation. Hertfordshire's strengths extend across research, translation, manufacturing and commercial application, creating opportunities to support the next generation of life sciences growth.

Convened by Hertfordshire Growth Board and Hertfordshire Futures, working alongside industry partners, local authorities which have a significant life sciences presence (Stevenage Borough Council, Broxbourne, North Herts and Welwyn Hatfield) and the University of Hertfordshire, this roundtable will bring together business leaders, NHS partners, investors and policymakers to explore the future of Hertfordshire's life sciences sector and its role within the

wider London-Cambridge growth corridor.

The discussion will consider how Hertfordshire can build on its distinctive strengths and complement the research excellence of London and Cambridge through its capabilities in advanced therapies, translational science, GMP manufacturing, scale-up and commercialisation. Particular attention will be given to the opportunities created by the continued growth of cell and gene therapies, the future demand for specialist facilities and skills, and the conditions needed to attract investment and support business expansion.

The session will also explore the growing convergence between life sciences, advanced manufacturing, engineering, data and AI, identifying opportunities to strengthen collaboration across sectors, accelerate innovation and support the development, production and deployment of new therapies, products and technologies.

Discussions will examine the talent, infrastructure, investment and place-based factors required to support long-term growth, including the role of Hertfordshire within national and international life sciences networks.

The roundtable will help inform future advocacy activity and strengthen the case for the investment, infrastructure, skills provision and policy interventions needed to support the continued growth and competitiveness of Hertfordshire's life sciences sector. It will also provide an opportunity to consider how partners can work collectively to enhance the county's position as a globally significant location for life sciences innovation, manufacturing and commercialisation.

Other roundtable discussions to reflect Hertfordshire's status across the full Industrial Strategy (IS-8) sectors and opportunities for convergence, with the strength of the defence sector in central and north Herts recognised as a key strength.

### **Hertfordshire Growth Summit**

As Hertfordshire develops its Local Growth Plan and responds to a rapidly changing economic landscape, this flagship summit will bring together leaders from business, local government, education, health, development and the voluntary sector to explore the priorities, partnerships and investment needed to deliver long-term sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth.

Building on a programme of strategic discussions focused on digital infrastructure and AI, healthy and safe placemaking, life sciences, film and TV and other innovative high growth sectors, the summit will bring together the key insights and recommendations emerging from across Hertfordshire's growth agenda. Discussions will examine how the county can strengthen productivity, support business growth, accelerate innovation, improve infrastructure and connectivity, create healthier places resilient to the changing demands of the future and ensure that economic opportunity is shared across communities.

The summit will provide an opportunity to consider how Hertfordshire can build on its strengths as a globally connected economy, attract investment, support key growth sectors, develop the workforce of the future and deliver the infrastructure required to support sustainable growth. Participants will explore practical solutions to shared challenges and identify opportunities for greater collaboration across sectors and places.

It will help inform the ongoing development of Hertfordshire's Local Growth Plan and establish a shared vision for growth that can support Hertfordshire's long-term ambitions and inform future governance, devolution and investment opportunities. It will also ensure that the

perspectives of younger residents are reflected in future plans, building on the successful youth panel discussion held at the Hertfordshire Futures Conference in June 2026.

### **Target Audience**

- Business and industry leaders
- Local authority leaders and chief executives
- Universities, colleges and skills providers
- NHS
- Investors, developers and infrastructure partners
- Voluntary and community sector organisations
- Young people and future leaders working with FE and HE sectors

## Appendix: Wider engagement opportunities

| Name                                                     | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Date                                                     | Opportunity                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept-26                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                          |                                                         |
| Film and TV Regions MOU Signing                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOU between Liverpool City Region and Hertsmere to strengthen collaboration in screen, creative and immersive industries.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 30 Sept, after Labour Party Conference closes, Liverpool | Profile raising and partnership development             |
| Party conferences                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform UK National Conference (3-5 Sept, Birmingham)</li> <li>Lib Dem Party Conference (19-22 Sept, Brighton)</li> <li>Labour Party Conference (27-30 Sept, Liverpool)</li> <li>Green Party Conference (2-4 Oct, Brighton)</li> <li>Conservative Party Conference (4-7 Oct, Birmingham)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                         | From 3 Sept-7 Oct                                        | Advocacy and relationship building                      |
| UK Screen Investment Programme (UKSIP) Investment Dinner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusive invitation-only dinner to connect key industry and government figures to help shape the film and TV sector and attract investment. Sponsored by HGB.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 15 Sept, The Londoner                                    | Profile raising and partnership development             |
| UH Medical School Launch                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial visit to mark the launch of the University of Hertfordshire Medical School, providing an opportunity to showcase the county's strengths in workforce development, health, life sciences, innovation and skills.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 26 November, 10-1pm                                      | Profile raising and partnership development             |
| Local Plans                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the St Albans and Dacorum Local Plans, marking an important milestone for Hemel Garden Communities and demonstrating Hertfordshire's ability to progress strategic growth, infrastructure and placemaking at scale.</li> </ul> <p>This will be followed by the anticipated East Hemel planning decision, which could unlock significant investment including new homes, schools, parkland, commercial space and supporting infrastructure.</p> | Late Autumn onwards                                      | Showcasing growth delivery and investment opportunities |
| Oct-26                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                          |                                                         |
| Expo REAL                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest Hertfordshire to represent county as part of UK Cities &amp; Partners delegation at Europe's leading real estate and investment forum. As part of this there will be a separate UK wide data centres and AI event.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 5-7 Oct 2026, Munich                                     | Showcasing growth delivery and investment opportunities |
| UK Autumn Statement                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to respond to Government fiscal and policy announcements, demonstrating the implications for Hertfordshire's growth, investment and devolution ambitions, while evidencing that the county is already operating at the scale and level of strategic economic leadership expected of a Mayoral Strategic Authority.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  | 28 Oct                                                   | Advocacy                                                |
| Nov-26                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                          |                                                         |

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| UK Screen Investment Programme (UKSIP) Summit                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HGB is the principal sponsor and plays an influential role in shaping and delivering its year-round programme culminating in this summit. This provides opportunities to champion Hertfordshire's screen sector strengths, influence national policy and investment discussions, and engage directly with government, investors, industry leaders and regional film and TV hubs.</li> </ul> | 19 Nov, BAFTA, London | Profile raising and partnership development             |
| Dec-26                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                                                         |
| Elstree Immersive Experience                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening of the Elstree Immersive Experience, showcasing Hertfordshire's strengths in the creative, digital and visitor economy sectors and reinforcing the county's position as a centre for screen and immersive technologies.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  | Dec                   | Profile raising                                         |
| Mar-27                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                                                         |
| MIPIM                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A key international forum to engage Government, investors and developers, champion Hertfordshire's growth and devolution ambitions, influence policy discussions, and promote investment across priority sectors.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                | 16-19 March, Cannes   | Showcasing growth delivery and investment opportunities |
| May-27                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                                                         |
| UKREiIF (UK Real Estate and Investment Infrastructure Forum) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A key national platform to champion Hertfordshire's devolution ambitions, demonstrate delivery of growth across the county, and engage Government, investors and developers on priority investment, infrastructure and regeneration opportunities. HGB plays a leading role in promoting Hertfordshire's strategic proposition and shared growth story.</li> </ul>                          | 18-20 May, Leeds      | Showcasing growth delivery and investment opportunities |
| Local Elections                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to refresh engagement and strengthen collaboration around Hertfordshire's growth priorities.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 6 May                 | Supporting collaboration                                |
| Jul-27                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                                                         |
| Hertfordshire Film and TV Festival                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launching in July 2027, the Hertfordshire Film &amp; TV Festival will celebrate the county's screen success, connecting communities to local opportunities and inspiring the next generation of creative talent. A separate partner briefing pack is available.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  | 2-4 July, 2027        | Profile raising and partnership development             |
| End-27                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                       |                                                         |
| Sky Studios Elstree and Fairbanks Studios                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled completion of major studio developments</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       | Profile raising and partnership development.            |