

# Hertfordshire Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 July 2024



**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:** Wednesday, 17 July 2024

## Attendance

### Council Leaders (11 Voting Members)

M. Mills-Bishop, Broxbourne Borough Council  
A. England, Dacorum Borough Council  
B. Crystall, East Herts District Council  
R. Roberts, Hertfordshire County Council  
J. Newmark, Hertsmere Borough Council (Chair)  
D. Allen, North Hertfordshire District Council  
P. De Kort, St Albans City and District Council  
R. Henry, Stevenage Borough Council (Vice-Chair)  
S. Nelmes (*substituted for S. Giles-Medhurst*), Three Rivers District Council  
P. Taylor (Mayor), Watford Borough Council (Vice-Chair)  
M. Holloway, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

### Co-opted Members (4)

P. Burstow, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS, NHS  
N. Rutledge (*substituted for A. Hawkins*), Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership  
J. Krause, Homes England

The full Board Meeting can be viewed here: [Hertfordshire Growth Board - 17 July 2024](#).

**1a. Appointment of Chair**

- 1.1 In accordance with Annex A to Appendix 1 of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Constitution, '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'.
- 1.2 Nominations for Chair were received for Councillor Jeremy Newmark from Councillor Peter Taylor and Councillor Richard Roberts from Councillor Mark Mills-Bishop. Both Councillors addressed the Board.
- 1.3 Following a vote, Councillor Jeremy Newmark received a majority. Councillor Richard Roberts withdrew from the election process and Councillor Jeremy Newmark was appointed Chair for the following year, as agreed by the Board.

**1b. Appointment of Vice-Chairs**

- 1.4 In accordance with Annex A to Appendix 1 of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Constitution 'the Board shall elect two Vice-Chairs .... at the time of appointing the Vice-Chairs, the HGB shall decide which of them takes priority if the Chair is absent and both of them are present'.
- 1.5 Following nomination by Councillor Richard Roberts, Councillor Richard Henry was appointed as a Vice-Chair, as agreed by the Board.
- 1.6 Following nomination by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Mayor Peter Taylor was appointed as the priority Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair and both Vice-Chairs present, as agreed by the Board.

**2. Minutes**

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 17 January 2024 (Part I) were confirmed as a correct record.

**3. Public Questions – Standing order 12**

- 3.1 There were no Public Questions.

**4. Public Petitions – Standing Order 13**

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

4.1 There were no Public Petitions.

## 5. Three Rivers Introduction

[Officer Contact: Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive Three Rivers District Council]

5.1 The Board received a presentation from Three Rivers District Council. The presentation can be viewed here: [Presentation - Three Rivers](#)

5.2 Members were welcomed to Three Rivers and noted that the district was coming up to 50 years old. It was noted that the district had a low population of those aged 25-34 but there was increased life expectancy. The unemployment rate was above national average at 4%, however claimants of Universal Credit below the national average at 2.2%.

5.3 The Board heard that Three Rivers had reduced its carbon consumption in a number of areas and strived to be net zero by 2045. Members heard about plans to help residents retrofit their homes to make them more energy efficient.

5.4 Members were given an overview on the natural areas across the Three Rivers district and the impact on the wildlife.

5.5 Thanks was given to Three Rivers District Council for hosting the Board.

5.6 This item can be viewed here at 00:56:30 [Item 5 - Three Rivers Introduction](#).

## RESOLVED

5.7 The Growth Board noted the information shared within the presentation.

## 6. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Budget Summary for 2023-24 and 2024-25 Forecast

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

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

- 6.1 The Board received a report which summarised the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) spend during the year 2023/24 and the forecast spend for 2024/25.
- 6.2 Members acknowledged that there was a £20,000 initial allocation, detailed in Table 2, for a professional consultant to evaluate Growth Board activity. Members agreed that there was now a move towards delivery and agreed to pause and revisit the allocation in January 2025.
- 6.3 This item can be viewed here at 01:10:25 [Item 6 - Budget Summary 23-34 & 24-25 Forecast](#).

Forogh  
Rahmani

**RESOLVED**

- 6.4 Leaders noted the content of the report and agreed:
- a) the budget outturn for 2023-24 set out in Table 1 above, and
  - b) the proposed budget and commitments for 2024-25 set out in Table 2, subject to the pause and reconsideration of the initial £20,000 required for Growth Board evaluation.
  - c) that funds remaining at the end of 2024/25 (forecasted to be £852,000) are used to fund Growth Board activity in 2025/26, subject to annual review.

**7. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) - Advocacy Plan, Communications & Engagement Approach**

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

- 7.1 The Board reviewed a report which detailed proposals for the Hertfordshire Growth Board's (HGB) Advocacy Plan and engagement approach to promote the county's opportunities and challenges to the next government.
- 7.2 Members welcomed the proposals and noted that there was a lot of opportunity across Hertfordshire. In light of the new Government and Local MPs, Members valued the clear pathway to engagement.
- 7.3 The Board acknowledged Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner's desire to engage with County Councils, and in turn, district councils around Growth and were conscious that Leaders did not provide mixed messages from different parts of the county.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

7.4 Members noted that Hertfordshire was polycentric and that it needed to increase productivity in relation to consumption. A key area for consideration was transport and reviewing how centres were joined.

7.5 The Board requested further detail behind the high-level plans and officers agreed to organise a workshop to discuss plans further.

Forogh  
Rahmani

7.6 This item can be viewed here at 01:13:15 [Item 7 - Advocacy Plan, Communications & Engagement](#).

### RESOLVED

7.7 The Growth Board supported the proposed Advocacy Plan, Communications and Engagement Approach.

## 8. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Mission Delivery Arrangements

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

8.1 The Board received a report which summarised the progress made in the delivery and governance structures for each of the six Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) Missions. Due to time constraints, the report was taken as read.

8.2 This item can be viewed here at 01:22:55 [Item 8 - Mission Delivery Arrangements](#).

### RESOLVED

8.3 The Growth Board agreed the implementation of the delivery arrangements outlined in this report.

## 9. Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Sustainable County Mission Deep Dive

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

9.1 The Board received a report and subsequent presentation on the Sustainable County Mission Deep Dive. The presentation can be viewed here: [Presentation - Sustainable County Mission Deep Dive](#)

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

- 9.2 Members heard that since inception in 2020, at the request of the Hertfordshire Leaders Group, Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership (“HCCSP”) had delivered policy and on-the-ground interventions across the county, progressing the sustainability agenda through information sharing, cross-working and stakeholder engagement.
- 9.3 Board Members reviewed a number of milestones for the Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership, alongside suggested time scales and resource requirements.
- 9.4 This item can be viewed here at 00:28:20 [Item 9 - Sustainable County Mission Deep Dive](#).

### RESOLVED

- 9.5 The Board:
- supported the proposed approach to implementing the Sustainable County Mission and associated Goals as outlined within the report, including the work programme outlined at Appendix 1.
  - agreed to task officers with the development of the associated resourcing strategy.
  - agreed to receive a further report once the strategy had been produced.

## 10. Spotlight: Decarbonisation across Hertfordshire

[Officer Contact: Lynne Ceeney, Director of Environmental Sustainability Hertfordshire County Council]

- 10.1 The Board received a presentation on decarbonisation across Hertfordshire. The presentation can be viewed here: [Presentation - Decarbonisation across Hertfordshire](#).
- 10.2 Board Members were provided with an overview of decarbonisation opportunities and challenges in Hertfordshire, which included current activity across the public and private sectors, the role of local and central government and potential solutions and approaches to take forward in future work programmes. Members noted that the investment strategy would need to be positioned correctly to enable maximum benefit.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

**ACTION**

10.3 Members heard that Hertfordshire Futures held its launch event last week and were working to build a new economic strategy, in which Hertfordshire Futures were fully intending to speak to investors around decarbonisation.

10.4 Members agreed to receive a further technical briefing session.

Lynne  
Ceeney

10.5 This item can be viewed here at 00:49:10 [Item 10 - Decarbonisation across Hertfordshire](#).

**RESOLVED**

10 The Growth Board noted the information shared within the presentation.

**11. Other Part I Business**

11.1 None.

**12. Date of next meeting**

12.1 The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 22 January 2025.

**CHAIRMAN**.....

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS



.....  
8





**Hertfordshire**  
Growth Board



[www.HertfordshireGrowthBoard.com](http://www.HertfordshireGrowthBoard.com)

[@hertsgoodgrowth](https://twitter.com/hertsgoodgrowth)



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