

## FULL COUNCIL - 20 OCTOBER 2020

### PART I

#### 7. HERTS GROWTH BOARD (CED)

##### 1 Summary

1.1 Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) has been operating since late 2018 as a non-constituted partnership of the 11 Local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnership in Hertfordshire. Formed as a coalition of the willing with the purpose of taking a longer term place leadership approach to our place ambitions, growth pressures and economic performance, it has promoted effective joint working and common cause, delivering more than the sum of the parts and seeking to create additionality for all partners and the residents and businesses of Hertfordshire

1.2 Attached at Appendix 1 is a detailed report prepared on behalf of all the Councils in Hertfordshire and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) recommending to each authority and the LEP the setting up of a formal Joint Committee and Scrutiny Committee to manage and oversee the work of the Herts Growth Board.

##### 2 Details

2.1 As set out in Appendix 1.

##### 3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 There is recognition that an informal constitution and governance can only take those ambitions so far and formalising the Growth Board into a statutorily constituted Joint Committee with associated scrutiny function will bring benefits for the partnership.

3.2 The Council could choose not to participate in the joint committee arrangements and no longer be part of the Growth Board.

##### 4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The Council has signed a memorandum of understanding.

##### 5 Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website

5.1 Contained in the report at Appendix 1.

##### 6 Financial Implications

6.1 The financial implications of establishing joint committees for the Hertfordshire Growth Board consist primarily of time for the attendees (Members and officers), secretariat and support, accommodation (for when meetings are hybrid or in a single location) and cost of ICT/live streaming of meetings. These costs will be met from the Hertfordshire Growth Board Growth Fund. The Growth Board Growth Fund is overseen by the Growth Board and accounted for by the Section 151 Officer at Hertfordshire County Council who are the accountable body for the fund.

##### 7 Legal Implications

7.1 The legal implications of setting up the joint committees relate primarily to governance, meeting and publications arrangements and conduct of members. The proposed Integrated Governance Framework addresses the governance requirements and also to the way that meetings will operate. The publications and procedures rules that both committees will need to operate within are also addressed in the document, where not the normal statutory rules will apply including those related to Covid-19 arrangements for virtual meetings. Local Government and LEP members, alternates and substitutes are covered by the general code of conduct for their organisations.

7.2 Specific details are set out in Appendix 1.

## 8 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

8.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

8.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Economic Development and Sustainability service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this plan.

<b>Nature of Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Suggested Control Measures</b>	<b>Response</b> <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	<b>Risk Rating</b> <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
TRDC does not participate in the Growth Board and therefore potentially does not benefit from any funds obtained from Government under a Growth Deal Treat	District loses out	Council agree to participate in the Joint Committee	Treat	1
2 Other councils in Hertfordshire do not agree to the setting up of the joint Committee	Possible loss of grant funding	All councils agree to participate	Treat	1

and Scrutiny Committee 3.The Joint Committee and Scrutiny Committee are not constituted and the Government does not agree to fund a Growth Deal for Hertfordshire	As above	As above	Treat	1
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8.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

<b>Very Likely</b> ----- <b>Likelihood</b> ----- ▼ <b>Remote</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very High</b>
	4	8	12	16
	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>
	3	6	9	12
<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	
2	4	6	8	
<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	
1	2	3	4	
<b>Impact</b>				
<b>Low</b> -----▶ <b>Unacceptable</b>				

**Impact Score**

4 (Catastrophic)

3 (Critical)

2 (Significant)

**Likelihood Score**

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Likely (21-79%))

2 (Unlikely (6-20%))

1 (Marginal)

1 (Remote (≤5%))

- 8.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

## 9 Recommendation

- 9.1 That: Council agrees to and confirms the establishment of the Growth Board and Growth Board Scrutiny Joint Committees (to hold their inaugural meetings in January/ February 2021 and then HGB Scrutiny aligned to confirmation of securing Government funding in 2021) for the Hertfordshire Growth Board and that the Council becomes a member of both.
- 9.2 That the Council adopts the Growth Board Integrated Governance Framework into its own constitutional framework.
- 9.3 That it nominates a member and substitute member as its representative to the Scrutiny Committee.
- 9.4 That it nominates a member and substitute member as the Council's representative on the Joint Committee.

Report prepared by: Anne Morgan Solicitor to the Council and James Baldwin Principal Solicitor

### Data Quality

Data sources: Herts Growth Board

Data checked by: Joanne Wagstaffe

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	
3	High	x

### Background Papers

Hertfordshire Growth Board Proposed Joint Committees Integrated Governance Framework

### APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 Hertfordshire Growth Board Proposed Joint Committees Integrated Governance Framework