

East Herts Council Report

Executive

Date of meeting: 24 November 2020

Report by: Leader of the Council

Report title: Hertfordshire Growth Board Joint Committee Proposal

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary – To advise the Executive of proposals to establish the Hertfordshire Growth Board and Hertfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Committee as formal joint committees under the Local Government Act 1972 and Local Government Act 2000 and to set out the actions required to do this.

RECOMMENDATIONS for EXECUTIVE:

- a)** Notes the content of this report and attached joint cover report at Appendix A: “Hertfordshire Growth Board Integrated Governance Framework”;
- b)** Agrees to recommend to Council endorsement of the establishment of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Joint Committee and Hertfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Joint Committee as Joint Committees
- c)** Nominates the Leader as the Council’s representative on the Hertfordshire Growth Board Joint Committee, should Council endorse the establishment of the joint committee and the council’s membership, with delegated authority to appoint a substitute representative as required.

That the Executive recommends to Council:

- d)** That it endorses the establishment of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Joint Committee and Hertfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Joint Committee (to hold their inaugural meetings in January/February 2021 and then HGB Scrutiny aligned to confirmation of securing Government funding in 2021) and that the council becomes a member of both.

- e)** That Council adopts the Growth Board Integrated Governance Framework into its own constitutional framework.

- f)** That Council nominates a member and substitute member as the council's representative on the Hertfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Joint Committee (note that nominees must not be members of the Executive).

- g)** That Council notes that, subject to approval of Recommendation (d), the Leader is nominated as the council's representative on the Hertfordshire Growth Board Joint Committee with delegated authority to appoint a substitute representative as required.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 As above

2.0 Background

2.1 Attached at Appendix A is a detailed report prepared on behalf of all the District, Borough and County Councils in Hertfordshire, together with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), recommending to each authority the

setting up of a formal Joint Committee and Scrutiny Joint Committee to manage and oversee the work of the Hertfordshire Growth Board.

3.0 Reason

3.1 To provide longer term joint place leadership.

4.0 Options

4.1 To not agree to the setting up of the Hertfordshire Growth Board Joint Committee and Hertfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Joint Committee. This option is NOT RECOMMENDED as it would place East Herts Council at odds with partners and may affect government funding to Hertfordshire for strategic schemes within its terms of reference.

5.0 Risks

5.1 No specific risk implications have been set out in the cover report, however as indicated at 4.1 above, there will be associated, albeit as yet unknown perceived risks if East Herts Council does not proceed with the proposal.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 On 11 November 2020, an all Member briefing session was provided by the Director of Hertfordshire Growth on the implications of the proposals.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

See para 3.4 (page 6) of Appendix A

Environmental Sustainability

Yes – See para 3.3 (page 6) and para 1.3 (Page 7) of Appendix A

Financial

Yes - See para 3.1 (page 5) and para 7 (page 23) of Appendix A.

Funding to support the operation of the HGB and initial project work comes from a sum set aside from the 2019/20 business rate pilot. All eleven councils in Hertfordshire jointly bid to pilot plans for Councils to retain a greater share of business rate growth. As well as benefit for each individual council, it was agreed to hold a central sum from the gains to fund joint projects through the HGB

HGB will seek Growth Funding from Central Government for the benefit of the constituent Councils. In the event that HGB enters into future arrangements with HM Government and secures funding for homes and infrastructure, an assurance framework to govern the contractual and accounting arrangements for the use and management of that funding will need to be developed and agreed between government and the HGB, and HCC as the accountable body overseeing those arrangements.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No – See 3.1 (page 5) of Appendix A. Secretariat , and support, accommodation, ICT and streaming support for the Joint Committee / Scrutiny Committee is to be provided by Hertfordshire County Council.

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes – Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) Regulations (England) Regulations 2012 enable councils to establish joint committees together with other councils to discharge certain of their functions.

In a Leader Cabinet model, the decision to approve the establishment of a Joint Committee must have the approval of both the Executive and Full Council of the authority: sections 101(5), (5A) & 101(5B) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Regulation 4 Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012/1019.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

- 7.1 Appendix A - "Hertfordshire Growth Board Integrated Governance Framework"

Contact Member

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Same as above