

## Agenda Item 11

**Report to:** HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN JOINT COMMITTEE

**Title:** HGGT 2024/25 budget and Programme

**Report Reference:** JC-002-2024/25

**Date:** 11 June 2024

**Report Author:** Naisha Polaine – Director Harlow & Gilston Garden Town

**Enclosures:** Appendix A – HGGT 2024/25 Budget  
Appendix B – HGGT 2024/25 Programme of Work

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### Recommendations/Decisions Required:

#### The HGGT Joint Committee is asked to:

- A.** Approve the HGGT 2024/25 Budget and Programme of Work as set out in Appendix A and B respectively, noting that the Budget and Programme were previously approved at the March 2024 HGGT Board.
- B.** Delegate authority to the Director of HGGT, in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Committee, to make minor changes within established thresholds to the Budget profile and allocation if required and note that any such changes will be reported to the next Joint Committee.
- C.** Note that a HGGT 3-year business plan for 2025/28 will be presented to the Joint Committee during 2024/25.

### Executive Summary:



The five Council HGGT Joint Committee's primary objective is to co-ordinate and enable the delivery of 16,000 new homes by 2033, along with the associated community and transport related infrastructure, that will deliver sustainable development in and around Harlow in line with the agreed **Garden Town Vision** and the Local Plans adopted by EHDC, EFDC and HDC.

Members of the HGGT Board agreed at the 12 March 2024 meeting, approved the 2024/25 Budget and Programme of co-ordinating and enabling work for officers to implement from 1 April 2024 and to allow contractual commitments to be met.

This report presents this agreed HGGT Budget and Programme of Work for 2024/25 for approval by the HGGT Joint Committee.

### **Reasons for proposed Decision:**

To establish the agreed 2024/25 HGGT budget and programme of work as the budget and programme of work for the HGGT Joint Committee for 2024/25.

### **Other Options for Action:**

Not to agree the 2024/25 HGGT budget and programme of work. This would require all work to stop to progress alternative arrangements requested by the HGGT Joint Committee. Delays to implementation may have consequences for grant agreements in place for the HGGT partnership.

## **I. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of the HGGT Joint Committee is to provide accountable and cross boundary leadership to deliver the ambitious spatial growth proposals set out in the Local Plans of EFDC, EHDC and HDC and supported by ECC and HCC, and to coordinate and maximise opportunities for new and existing residents and communities.
- 1.2 The HGGT Joint Committee will hold the responsibility to deliver the agreed HGGT Vision to promote healthy, sustainable communities and co-ordinate and facilitate the delivery of 16,000 new homes in the HGGT by 2033, and 7,000 new homes in the years after that along with associated transport, community and environmental infrastructure.
- 1.3 The HGGT Director is required to set out and submit to the Joint Committee an annual work programme that co-ordinate and enables the work to be carried out by the HGGT Delivery Team and the Delivery Teams across the five Councils, to realise the aims and objectives held in the HGGT Vision and the three Local Plans.

- 1.4 The HGGT Board agreed the 2024/25 Budget and Programme of Work at its meeting of 12 March 2024 to allow business continuity and contractual obligations to be met. This report presents this agreed budget and programme of work for the formal ratification of the Joint Committee.
- 1.5 Members should note that a 3-year Business Plan will be presented to the Joint Committee during 2024/25.

## 2. Background

2.1 The budget for the HGGT programme is made up of a mixture of central Government funding and contributions from each of the HGGT partners Councils.

2.2 The HGGT Programme of Co-ordination and Enabling Work is developed from across the five Council HGGT partnership. This, to date, has been developed in line with the **strategic objective, delivery aims, and programme priorities** agreed by the HGGT Board. These are set out below:

2.2.1 The **strategic objective** is to co-ordinate and enable the delivery of 16,000 homes by 2033, along with associated community and transport related infrastructure, delivering the Garden Town Vision that sets out the Garden City principles and guidance that has been agreed by the 5 partner Councils.

2.2.2 The key **delivery aims** for the HGGT partnership for 2024/25 were agreed as:

- Delivering and refreshing the Garden Town Vision of quality, beautiful and sustainable places
- Enabling the Infrastructure Foundations for Growth
- Maximising and Accelerating Delivery with a focus on outcomes through 2025
- Ensuring our Governance is Fit for the Future

2.2.3 The **programme priorities** for the HGGT partnership in 2024/25 we agreed as:

- Enabling the HGGT Strategic Sites to come forward
- Enabling Achievement of HGGT Modal Transition Target
- Demonstrating and engaging with the community on the benefits of growth
- Delivery of the long-term stewardship arrangements

2.3 During 2023/24, HGGT partners developed the programme of work for 2024/25 which was agreed by the HGGT Board in March 2024 to allow business continuity and contractual obligations to be met.

2.4 During 2024/25, the HGGT Director is required to present a 3-year Business Plan to the Joint Committee setting out a proposed programme of work for 2025/26 and the objectives for 26/27 and 27/28.

### 3. Proposals

- 3.1 The HGGT 2024/25 Budget and Programme of Work are found at Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.
- 3.2 It was reported to Members of the HGGT Board in March 2024 that funding from both Homes England and DHLUC, awarded in Quarter 4 2023/24, has created the opportunity for funding carry-forward into the 2024/25 programme. This is set out in the Budget in Appendix A.
- 3.3 The HGGT 2024/25 Programme of Work as set out in Appendix B. This is a combination of work that commenced in previous years and new commissions to continue to progress the HGGT project meeting the objective, aims and priorities set out in 2.2. It should also be noted that this is a mixture of work to be delivered 'in-house' by HGGT partners and externally funding commissions.
- 3.4 Members should note that an estimated 75% of the available resource for 24/25 will be required to meet committed contracts that include staffing, legal and land advisors and the Quality Review Panel.
- 3.5 Members will note that there remain unallocated funds against the total budget. This headroom is for the restricted funds made available to the partnership by DHLUC and for which service proposals are currently being scoped.
- 3.6 As the programme develops and work is commissioned, the profile of spend may alter. Delegated authority is requested from the Joint Committee for the Director of HGGT, in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Committee, to make changes to the budget profile and allocation if required and in line with established thresholds of the Accountable Body. Any such changes will be reported to the following Joint Committee.

### Implications:

#### Resource Implications

Central Government Funding has been made available to date to support the work of the HGGT partnership. This is the result of annual bidding rounds and while the funding is both welcome and essential, this approach creates uncertainty in planning for enabling and delivery work. Officers of HGGT will continue dialogue with Government for future arrangements in an attempt

to establish multi-year revenue funding agreements. Each council partner also considers contribution to the HGGT partnership as part of the annual budget setting.

## Legal and Governance Implications:

Each of the Partner Authorities have agreed to establish and constitute a Joint Committee for the purposes of section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to be known as the Joint Committee for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

## Equalities and Diversity

### Equality Impact Assessment

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?	No
Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy or decision	To provide budget and programme information to deliver the aims of the HGGT Joint Committee
What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve (ie decommissioning or commissioning a service)?	Provide baseline information to measure progress.
Does or will the policy or decision affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• service users</li> <li>• employees</li> <li>• the wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities?</li> </ul>	Yes - contributes to the delivery of the HGGT project to deliver 23,000 new homes and associated infrastructure in and around Harlow which will affect existing and future residents.
Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?	No
Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?	No
What does the information tell you about those groups identified?	N/A

Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision you want to implement? If so, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision?	N/A	
If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary:	The work of HGGT has been subject to public consultation and will continue to be so in the future.	
<b>Use this section to assess any potential impact on equality groups based on what you now know.</b>		
Age, Disability, Gender, Gender reassignment, Pregnancy/maternity, Marriage/civil partnership, Race, Religion/belief, Sexual orientation	N/A	

Does the EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high	No	
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## HGGT Vision Assurance

1. What principles of the HGGT Vision does this seek to achieve?

The objective of the Programme of Work is to deliver the HGGT Vision.

2. What steps have been taken to ensure the HGGT Vision is embedded into the project?

The delivery of the HGGT Vision is the primary objective when setting the programme of work.

## APPENDIX A

### The HGGT 2024/25 Budget

#### Budget 2024-25

	2024-25 £
<b>Programme Expenditure</b>	
Employee costs	451,318
Sustainable Mobility	125,000
Policy & Strategy	30,000
Infrastructure & Delivery	290,000
Placeshaping & Engagement	137,430
Governance	126,518
Proptech	209,201
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,369,467</b>
<b>Funded By</b>	
In-year Partner Contributions	675,000
Contribution from Carry forward funds	694,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,369,467</b>
<b>Net</b>	-
	<b>31/03/2025</b>
	<b>£</b>
Funds as at 1 April 2024	797,810
Contributions towards the programme	-694,467
<b>Estimated Funds as at 31 March 2025 (carry forward)</b>	<b>103,343</b>

## APPENDIX B

### The HGGT 2024/25 Programme of Work

Programme Item		2024										2025		
		April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Sustainable Mobility	LCWIP Refresh	Development					Board	Publish			Comms			
	Bus & Operational Services - Enhanced Bus Partnership							Develop Operational Plan						
	Shared Mobility - Bike Hire	Report Due	Consult											
	Future Transport Review Group Setup	Establish TRG												
	Active Travel Behavioural Change (Systrans)	Onboard		Embed										
	Modal Transition Delivery Framework	Take forward prioritised initiatives as per delivery framework												
	Parking Guidance for Garden Communities and Large Scale Development			Present to EPOA										
Harlow Town Rail and Access Improvements	Scope activity and resource required													
Policy and Strategy	IDP Update 2024	Endorsed												
	IDP Refresh 2026 Scoping											Scoping procurement brief		
	HGGT Vision Refresh							Refresh						
	Design Guide Refresh					Refresh								
	Infrastructure Funding Statement			Scope	Research				Endorse	Publish				
Infrastructure and Delivery	Land Assembly and CPD	Continued Delivery of the Land Assembly Programme												
	RIF Development	Procure		Develop						Endorse				
Placeshaping & Community Engagement	Gilston Stewardship Model Delivery			Establish Community Forum	Shadow Board									
	HGGT Stewardship Charter	Consult			Joint Committee	Embed								
	HGGT Strategic Stewardship Options	Umbrella Body Update & Options Report			Refine	Options Consult	Paper to Joint Committee (22 Oct)		Review and Scope Resultant Projects					
	Communications	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Endorse Plan	Publish	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly		
	HGGT Data Dashboard and Insights (Local Digital Fund)	Testing Digital Dashboard Solution			Implementation	Training	Evaluate Renewal							
	Citizenlab Engagement Platform	Continued Monitoring and Evaluation of the Citizenlab Platform and Adjusting Where Needed												
	QRP	Ongoing drumbeat of QRPs												
	East of Harlow			SPD EFDC & HDC Adopt										
Economic Development	Scope													
Governance	Latton Priory	Publish Design												
	HGGT Joint Committee	Establish Joint Committee			Operationalise Joint Committee									
	PMO & Master Programme	Scope Milestones			Maintain									

