

## Agenda Item 8

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

**Title:** HGGT Annual Review 2023-24

**Report Reference:** JC-003-2024/25

**Date:** 22 July 2024

**Report Author:** Matt Phillips - Principal Communications & Engagement Officer

**Enclosures:** Appendix A – HGGT Annual Review 2023-24

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### Recommendations/Decisions Required:

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

- A. Agree the draft HGGT 2023-24 Annual Review as set out in Appendix A.
  
- B. Delegate authority to the Director of HGGT, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee, to make minor changes and publish the final version of the HGGT 2023-24 HGGT Annual Review on the HGGT website.

### Executive Summary:

This report presents the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Annual Review for 2023-24. This is our sixth Annual Review, and it records a number of significant steps taken in the delivery of the adopted HGGT Vision during the last year. It also sets out our ambitions for the year to come.

### Reasons for proposed Decision:

The HGGT initiative publishes an Annual Review each year which sets out the achievements and progress of the 5-council partnership towards its vision to promote healthy, sustainable communities and co-ordinate and facilitate the delivery of 16,000 new homes by 2033, and 7,000 new homes in the years after that along with associated transport, community and environmental infrastructure.

## **Other Options for Action:**

To not produce or publish an Annual Review. This option is not recommended as a clear and publicly available record of activity would not be in circulation as has been the practice since the inception of the HGGT initiative.

## **1. Introduction**

It is important that the progress of the 5-council partnership led HGGT initiative is reported through the Annual Review in an accessible public facing record. The Annual Review will also be used to support future funding bids, inform project communications, and increase the visibility and prominence of the initiative across the wider community.

## **2. Background**

The HGGT Annual Review 2023-24 highlights the progress that the 5 Council Partners are making in the planning and delivery of the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town initiative. Delivery highlights include the start of the Garden Town's North to Centre Sustainable Transport Corridor; the Latton Priory Design Code and the Masterplan Guidance for East of Harlow. At the heart of any sustainable and lasting town-led regeneration is a thriving town centre and Harlow has now begun significant town centre regeneration. Lastly, the Discover Harlow Engagement Hub has opened this year providing a place that local people and visitors can find out more about the work detailed above and talk to the HGGT and Harlow Regeneration Teams.

## **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 The HGGT Joint Committee is asked to agree the draft Annual Review attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 The Joint Committee is asked to delegate authority to the Director of HGGT, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee, to make minor changes and publish the final version of the HGGT 2023-24 HGGT Annual Review.

## **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 welcome, creates uncertainty in planning for enabling and delivery work. Officers of HGGT will continue dialogue with

Government for future arrangements. Each council partner also considers contribution to the HGGT partnership as part of annual budget setting.

## Equalities and Diversity

### Equality Impact Assessment

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?	Yes
Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy or decision	Provide a public facing record highlighting the last 12 months of the HGGT project.
What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve (ie decommissioning or commissioning a service)?	Agreement to publication
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>	No
Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?	No
Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?	No
Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies and how, if applicable, does the proposed policy support corporate outcomes?	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:	N/A
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**Use this section to assess any potential impact on equality groups based on what you now know.**

Age, Disability, Gender, Gender reassignment, Pregnancy/maternity, Marriage/civil partnership, Race, Religion/belief, Sexual orientation	N/A	
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Does the EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?	No	See comment above
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## HGGT Vision Assurance

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

The 2023-24 Annual Review encompasses updates across Economy and Regeneration, Placemaking and Homes, Sustainable Movement and Landscape and Green Infrastructure.

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

The 2023-24 Annual Review showcases the HGGT vision in action, from planning policy and strategy to delivery and spades in the ground.