

HARLOW GROWTH BOARD
Monday, 16 August 2021 at 10.00 am
Zoom - Online

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 2 - 3)
3. Towns Fund update
4. Community Renewal Fund Update
5. Anchor Institutions Network update
6. Harlow and Gilston Garden Town update (Pages 4 - 6)
7. Harlow Innovation Park update
8. PHE update
9. Active Travel Bid
10. Any Other Business

**MINUTES OF THE HARLOW GROWTH BOARD
HELD ON**

10 June 2021

11.00 - 11.30 am

PRESENT

Committee Members

John Keddie (Chair)
Michael Beard
Suzanne Bennett
Fiona Bodle
Steve Clark
Mark Doran
Robert Halfon MP
Michael Harrowven

Martin John
Brian Keane
John McGill
Iain McNab
Guy Nicholson
Chris Snow
Councillor Dan Swords

Officers

Hannah Criddle
Alison Fox
Rebecca Collings
James Gardner
Oliver Gillard
Jane Greer

Julie Houston
Adam Halford
Shannon Harris
David Sellings
Sarah Langmead
Naisha Polaine

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Will Allanson, Councillor Michael Hardware, Janice Lyon, Jemma Mindham and Councillor Lesley Wagland.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING ON 28 MAY 2021**

Agreed.

3. **TOWNS FUND BID**

Jane Greer confirmed that the Towns Fund bid was successful and £23.7 million had been awarded. The projects under this funding would need to be delivered by March 2025.

The Heads of Terms would be circulated to the Board. They are due back to the Government by 29 June 2021. The Board gave approval for John Keddie and Brian Keane to finalise the signing off of the Heads of Terms.

4. **LEVELLING UP FUND BID**

Jane Greer provided a further update on the Levelling Up Fund bid (focusing on proposals for the Playhouse Quarter and Stone Cross Square) following the previous Growth Board meeting including demonstrating how it fits into the wider plans for the Town Centre and potential additional funding from the Harlow Investment Fund.

Jane Greer confirmed that the comments and suggestions made by Board members have been included within the plans.

Regeneration officers presented the proposals at a Quality Review Panel. The review was very positive and provided good direction around elements such as access and nature of sustainability.

Since the last meeting conversations have taken place with Portfolio holders Dan Swords and Michael Hardware to ensure the bid met the requirements. MP Robert Halfon also received further information.

Cllr Swords and Robert Halfon confirmed support for the bid and several Growth Board members offer to provide letters of support to be included with the bid.

The bid would be circulated to the Board for any further comments. The Board gave approval for the bid to be submitted by 18 June 2021.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

John Keddie advised that the Board meetings schedule of dates would be reviewed. .

HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN

Report to: Harlow Growth Board

Title: HGGT Update

Date: 16th August 2021

1. Introduction

The HGGT project is now transitioning from a policy and plan making ‘duty to cooperate’ partnership to the delivery phase of the HGGT initiative. This paper provides an update briefing of the key HGGT work priorities for 2021/22.

2. HGGT – Next Steps for the Partnership - Governance Review

During 2020/21, a series of Governance review reports were presented to the HGGT partnership board and the Garden Town Council Leaders. discussions are now underway with the Lead Members and Chief Officers of the five partner Councils to address the current challenges and delivery issues facing the partnership.

Challenges include the ability to deliver cross boundary project delivery activities, address the crucial need for a set of formalised governance, audit and accountable body arrangements – these are currently not in place; establishing a back to back agreement between all five partner Councils to provide the formal framework within which the strategic and accountable political leadership can be enabled. Provide the formal arrangements that can manage the exposure to both programme and project risk and deliver the appropriate formal reporting line to third parties as the initiative transitions into the delivery phase.

The key objective is to ensure that the Councils can deliver their adopted HGGT Vision that is now embedded into each Councils respective Local Plans, alongside the commitments made to Government to deliver the quantum of new homes (some 23000) through a programme of accelerated housing growth which includes cross boundary supporting and enabling infrastructure.

To maintain Harlow’s position as a destination for both Government led and private sector investment the next iteration of the five Council partnership needs to be developed and formalised at pace.

Meetings with the 3 District Council Leaders and Chief Executives have taken place and a Governance Task & Finish Group established to provide recommendations to the HGGT partnership board scheduled for October 2021.

The five Councils are currently working on the establishment of a formalised ‘Joint Committee’ arrangement to which the initiative can be led from and report to.

3. Harlow Town Centre

A thriving Harlow Town Centre delivering retail, leisure, culture & creative industries, hospitality, small business spaces, homes and public services is key to the success of the whole Garden Town ‘good growth’ concept.

The five Council partnership recognise that the four new garden communities alongside the current residents of Harlow will look to a thriving and prospering Harlow town centre. This is a delivery priority and brings with it a great opportunity as well as a regeneration challenge.

The HGGT team is keen to continue to collaboratively work alongside Harlow colleagues and the Growth Board to support the town centre plans coming forward and contribute to the delivery teams programme management work.

Post-covid planning allows for the opportunity to re-think and review how many work and live in their homes and communities. The opportunity for small business space creating conditions for growth is vital as is revitalising

Harlow's hatches and the town centre with a thoughtful and planned mix of residential, retail, cultural and commercial uses.

4. HGGT Delivery Programme

The project delivery programme is currently being fundamentally reviewed with a report to October HGGT Board expected.

There are three key programme priorities for the Partnership at the current time, these are:

a) Rolling Infrastructure Fund (RIF) – the operation and governance of the £172m RIF needs to be agreed over the next few months. This is potentially a significant resource for the Partners all with a vested interest in its future allocation. This is intrinsically linked to the governance work and the formalisation of the Partnership as set out in section 2.

b) Gilston Villages 1 – 6 Planning Application

Planning application proposals for the 10,000 home garden community development at Gilston is currently going through due Planning process led by both Harlow and East Herts Local Planning Authorities. Planning Committee meetings to determine the applications are likely to be in the early part of 2022.

The Councils and applicants continue to work together to secure a development related funding package through a s106 Agreement, that will deliver a full range of supporting infrastructure and other service provision including transport connectivity enhancements, education provision and significant affordable housing delivery.

c) Housing Trajectories – the Harlow 'share' of housing delivery expected by HMG and set out in the MHCLG capacity funding bid as what we are expected to achieve, is set out in the table below.

Achieving these figures is critical in terms of reputation, confidence in awarding more resource to Harlow and the five Council partnership. The Growth Board should anticipate increased scrutiny from HMG of this delivery.

| Garden Town neighbourhood | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| East Harlow – (EFDC) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Harlow – (HDC) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Latton Priory (EFDC) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Water Lane (EFDC) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Gilston (EHDC) | 0 | 0 | 200 | 250 |
| Harlow regen (HDC) | 407 | 603 | 767 | 621 |
| TOTAL | 407 | 603 | 967 | 1,121 |

5. Programme delivery revenue support funding

HGGT

HARLOW & GILSTON
GARDEN TOWN

The primary source of external delivery revenue funding for the HGGT initiative has, to date been Garden Town Capacity Funding. This funding is made available by central Government and allocations are managed by Homes England.

The five partner Councils submitted an application delivery revenue support funding in September 2020. The funding award announcement was made in June 2021 confirming an allocation of £475,000.

