



Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	10 December 2019
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Hertfordshire Growth Board – Memorandum of Understanding
Contact:	Cllr Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council Author/Responsible Officer: Sally Marshall, Chief Executive
Purpose of report:	To seek Cabinet approval for the attached Hertfordshire Growth Board Memorandum of Understanding setting out the objectives, principles, and scope of the collaborative work being and to be undertaken through the Hertfordshire Growth Board.
Recommendations	That Cabinet approves the Memorandum of Understanding set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
Corporate Objectives:	A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring economic growth and prosperity Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> There are no financial implications directly arising from the recommendations in this report.
'Value For Money Implications'	The signing of the MOU does not commit any Hertfordshire Council or the Local Enterprise Partnership to expenditure at this stage. The work of the Growth Board is evolving and at present is being funded in-kind or through use of the Growth Fund established for use by the Growth Board through the retained Business Rates Pilot Funds secured for Hertfordshire.
Risk Implications	Risk Assessment reviewed December 2019
Community Impact Assessment	When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.

	<p>Councils will be aware of their statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.</p> <p>There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.</p> <p>No Equalities Impact assessment was undertaken in relation to this report.</p>
Health And Safety Implications	None
Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments	<p>Deputy Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>Although the MOU is not a legally binding document, by signing up to the MOU, the Council is covenanting with the other partners to observe and commit to the principles and objectives set out therein.</p> <p>Deputy S.151 Officer</p> <p>There are no direct financial implications proposed in the MOU. Any future financial implications, linked to development of the MOU, will need to be assessed as and when they are requested.</p>
Consultees:	<p>Corporate Management Team</p> <p>Hertfordshire Councils</p> <p>Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership</p>
Background papers:	Hertfordshire Growth Board Agendas and minutes
Glossary of acronyms and any	

other abbreviations used in this report:	
---	--

Background

1. Since September 2018 the Hertfordshire Leaders and Local Enterprise Partnership Chair have been collaborating through the Hertfordshire Growth Board. Together they have undertaken the Growth Board Development Programme, which has allowed the leaders to identify their key growth challenges, emerging programmes of work, and key features of an emerging proposition to government. Work is now taking place to move those programmes into implementation and to deepen our ongoing collaborative ways of working and engagement with central government.
2. The Leaders of the District Councils, County Councils, and the Local Enterprise Partnership agreed at the September 2019 Hertfordshire Growth Board meeting to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to be considered by the Hertfordshire Growth Board at its meeting on 15th October. The Memorandum of Understanding attached to these papers has now been considered by the Growth Board and is recommended for agreement by all the Hertfordshire Councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership Board.
3. In terms of scope and content, the Memorandum of Understanding sets out the Core Objectives and Aims of working through the Hertfordshire Growth Board and the Principles of Partnership between the parties to the agreement. It also makes clear what is in and what is not within the scope of the work of the Hertfordshire Growth Board:
 - The objectives of the collaboration focus on taking a broader place-based approach to strategic planning for development, infrastructure, transport, climate change, and economy. The aims of the collaboration expand on the work that the parties might undertake through the Hertfordshire Growth Board to help achieve these objectives.
 - The principles set out some of the benefits to be achieved through partnership working, using the two-tier system at its best, responding to wider challenges, providing leadership of place, and increasing impact. It also sets out the principles of how the parties will work together, how they will undertake placemaking in Hertfordshire, and approaches towards governance.
 - The scope of the Memorandum of Understanding makes clear that any council exercising any particular function shall continue to do so – including local plans, housing, and development management.
4. The Memorandum of Understanding has a number of legal terms and conditions, which are summarised as follows:
 - It is not enforceable in law and cannot override existing statutes;
 - Parties are free to withdraw individually at any point, and the Memorandum of Understanding shall wholly terminate if the growth board dissolves; and
 - It is amendable only by the unanimous written consent of all its members.

5. Drafts of the MOU have been circulated through the Chief Executives and Leaders groups and amended as a result of feedback. The attached version has the support of the Growth Board to go forward through individual Councils democratic processes.
6. The draft Memorandum of Understanding, if adopted by the Councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership, will give a very clear signal to Government and partners about the Hertfordshire joint working ambition. It will also demonstrate how the Growth Board's members are providing place-based leadership and governance across Hertfordshire and is maturing as a body that government can talk with about an enhanced collaborative relationship in future.