



Meet our new Chair Designate

Mark Bretton, a managing director at leading global professional services company Accenture, joins as Business Representative and will act as Chair Designate until our current Chair John Gourd steps down in June.

Mark brings a wealth of experience to the Board with a 33-year career spanning Plessey, Siemens, Royal Mail Group, Tata Consultancy Services and most recently Accenture Operations. Outside work, he sits on the Business Leaders' Council of the charity Teach First, whose mission is to end inequality in education.

Mark said: "I am looking forward to building on John's success in helping to accelerate the county's economic performance."

[Read the full Press Announcement here.](#)

We are delighted to welcome two other new high-calibre individuals to our LEP Board:



Andrew Stroomer

Andrew Stroomer, Stevenage Site Director, Airbus Defence and Space, is taking over from Martino Picardo as Business Representative. We would like to thank Martino for the tremendous contribution he made and we will continue to work closely with Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst to accelerate the second phase of development, see below for the latest update.

Andrew spoke at our recent **[A1\(M\) Growth Area Forum](#)** on the challenges of meeting the skills gap in the space industry and how improving the local environment can have a huge impact on recruiting and retaining a suitably skilled workforce.

Addressing the STEM skills gap is a key priority for Hertfordshire LEP. See our **[Skills Strategy](#)**



Tina Barnard

Tina Barnard, Chief Executive of Watford Community Housing Trust, the first Community Gateway association in the south, joins as Commercial Not-For-Profit Representative. She is a qualified accountant, and has worked in housing for over 20 years. Tina was previously Deputy Chief Executive/Resources Director at CHP, Resources Director at Worthing Homes and Finance Director at New Era Housing Association.

Current LEP Board Chair John Gourd said: "I have greatly enjoyed my time as Chair and would like to thank the Board and the Executive for their support over the past four years. I am thrilled that we have secured such high-calibre individuals to bring renewed vigour and a fresh outlook to the Board."

Meet the LEP Board

Programme Board Changes

We are pleased to welcome....

Lee Mason to the Skills and Employment Board. Lee, Apprentice Programme Manager for Liebherr GB Ltd, chairs the South East Midlands Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network and was the City & Guilds Apprenticeship Champion 2014 and highly commended for his apprenticeship advocacy in 2015.

A former apprentice himself, Lee said: *"I am passionate about young people as they are the future of our industry and apprenticeships are a viable option for forging a very successful career."*

Rodney Wicks, Neil Rutledge and former LEP Board member **Tony Jackson** to the Programme Management Committee.



£40m Apollo Therapeutics Fund to be based at SBC

Stevenage has once again reasserted its life-sciences credentials with the new £40m Apollo Therapeutics Fund choosing Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst (SBC) as its base.

Three global pharmaceutical companies and the technology transfer offices of three world-leading universities – Imperial College London, University College London and the University of Cambridge – have joined forces with a combined £40m to create the Apollo Therapeutics Fund.

The joint venture, based at SBC, will support ground-breaking academic science being translated into innovative new medicines for a broad range of diseases.

The arrival of the Apollo Fund also heralds SBC reaching its important milestone of 50 tenants on site. It is now preparing for Phase 2 of development. Hertfordshire LEP secured £3m from its Growth Deal to accelerate this and offered infrastructure support to help SBC realise its ambitions.

[Read more here.](#)



Enterprise and Innovation

Broxbourne Enterprise Centre: Work is due to start next month on an ambitious enterprise centre in Hoddesdon which is set to create 300 jobs, support 120 businesses and inject £20m into the local economy. The centre is part funded by £1.8m of our Growth Deal funding to provide 20,000 square feet of modern flexible serviced business space. **[Read more here.](#)**

How it will look: the new facility has been

Hertfordshire Growth Hub

Events: Here you can view Growth Hub and partner events as well as promote your own events.

Case studies: the Growth Hub continues to support businesses with the ambition to grow, with notable successes.

Here is what one SME owner has to say about Hertfordshire Growth Hub:

"Dr Abrar Jawaid from Hertfordshire Growth Hub was really helpful – he gave me excellent advice and also some very useful contacts. I'd recommend the Growth Hub, and Abrar was great to work with."

Ricky Moore, Project Manager, Scoots

FSB Awards: Hertfordshire Growth Hub is proud to be supporting these awards. Meet the sponsors [here](#).



Hertfordshire Growth Hub

Local support and advice for Hertfordshire businesses



Strategic Infrastructure

Hatfield 2030+ A wide-ranging public consultation has taken place to field the views of residents and the business community on the future vision for the New Town.

Elstree Way Corridor: A total of £277,000 has been allocated to Hertsmere Borough Council as part of the Government's flagship **Housing Zones** programme to build thousands more homes on brownfield land.

Adam Wood, *pictured left*, is our new Infrastructure Delivery Manager and is responsible for managing the LEP's Growing Places Fund (a £16m fund from Central Government) and the Single Local Growth Fund (over £150m) relating to delivery of infrastructure, regeneration and housing projects across the county. Adam brings a wealth of experience to the role. Meet Adam and the LEP Executive Team [here](#).

Skills and Employment

Top 100 Apprenticeship Companies: Congratulations to **B3Living, MBDA, Computercenter, Freedom Communication** and **Hertfordshire County Council** in making it into The City & Guilds Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers. Our congratulations also go to **Neil Cain**, of John O'Conner (Grounds Maintenance) in Kimpton, Hertfordshire, on winning the The City & Guilds Award for National Apprenticeship Champion of the Year 2015.



Princess Royal Training Awards: Applications are now open for a new set of awards designed specifically to recognise UK employers who directly link learning & development to the performance of their business.

English Apprenticeships: Our 2020 Vision: Find out how the Government is proposing to reach its target of three million starts in 2020.

Don't forget!

National Living Wage: On 1 April workers aged 25 and

will be legally entitled to the new minimum pay rate of £7.20 per hour.

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Update

We are delighted to have recruited Jay Wheeler, director of market research company Red Potato in Hatfield, as our first **Enterprise Adviser**. We are now recruiting more senior leadership volunteers from the local business community to act as mentors and engage with schools and colleges.

Our team of **Enterprise Co-ordinators** are now actively engaging with secondary schools to broker more effective and lasting connections with local businesses and increase opportunities for young people. Read more [here](#).

Inspiring Herts: We're proud to be sponsoring the Education in Employment category for these awards. Closing date for entries is 14 March.



European Union
European Structural
and Investment Funds

Latest EU Funding Calls

Hertfordshire is in the first tranche of four LEPs nationally to launch the DWP specification, Support for unemployed to return to the labour market, with a budget of around £1.8m. See further ESIF updates [here](#).

BIG WEEKEND

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th March 2016

Big Weekend ballot opens

Residents can now apply for tickets for Hertfordshire's first ever Big Weekend on 12-13 March when a huge range of tourist attractions will open for free.

service, Big Weekend is the first major campaign ahead of the consumer launch of Visit Herts this Spring. Up to two tickets per household will be allocated with some family tickets available as well. Apply for tickets [here](#). Keep up to date on Twitter @VisitHertsUK and get regular updates via #hertsbigweekend.

Businesses interested in finding out more about the new tourism service can visit the interim [Visit Herts](#) website or contact Visit Herts consultants: [David Curtis-Briqnell](#) or [Sean Owens](#)

Other news

Growth Deal update: It is anticipated that an announcement on the next round of Growth Deal funding may be made in the next Budget. Following the Comprehensive Spending Review last year LEPs were asked to start preparing proposals, and a number of projects were submitted in January to the LEP Board to consider.

UK Vitality Index: St Albans has scored once again in the UK top ten for future economic growth prospects and first for growing affluence index. Cambridge was ranked first. Read more [here](#).

University of Hertfordshire: The university is in the top 200 of international universities, according to the Times Higher Education's latest rankings.

Have your say: Hertfordshire County Council is seeking the views of businesses on its revenue and capital budget. Deadline for responses is 15 February.

Romania Trade Mission: Enterprise Europe Network and UKTI London's next trade mission is to Bucharest, Romania, at the end of February.

biz4Biz Connexions: A networking club for senior managers, directors and CEOs of Herts-based businesses is to launch on 25 February at the Mercure Letchworth Hall Hotel, SG6 3NP.

Read all about it! Our first column in the Hertfordshire Mercury Business supplement is now out.



Building Futures Awards

The finalists for our Project of the Year category are:

Hitchin Campus– college campus - Scott Brownrigg
Batchwood Tennis Centre, St Albans– tennis centre - AFLS+P

Beesons Yard, Hertford– mixed use residential and commercial - Kirby Cove Architects

Parkside View, St Albans- independent living apartments for older people - Kyle Smart Associates

The winner will be announced on 15 March. [Read more here.](#)

Find out more about Herts LEP

We are committed to being open and transparent. View our Governance arrangements and Board Papers [here](#). We always welcome feedback and your views. Contact us [here](#). [Sign up](#) for more newsletters.

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