

## Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

N/A

*If not a Key Decision write n/a above*

### OFFICER DECISION RECORD <sup>i</sup>

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

**Subject:** Harlow Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) Joint Committee Inter Authority Agreement

**Type of Decision:** Executive

**Key Decision (Executive Functions only):** No

**Executive Member:** Cllr Stephen Boulton

**Portfolio (Executive Functions only):** Sustainable Economic Growth

**Officer Contact:** Colin Haigh, Director of Growth & Place, 01992 556122

#### 1. Decision

To agree the HGGT Joint Committee Inter Authority Agreement.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision

Harlow-Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) is the name of a project to build 24,000 new homes and supporting infrastructure in and around Harlow, to deliver modal shift and sustainable travel corridors and to regenerate the town. HGGT is also the name of the partnership comprising East Herts District Council, Epping Forest District Council, Harlow Borough Council, Essex County Council and Herts County Council, who are working together to achieve the above objectives.

HGGT Board considered the merits of a Joint Committee in July 2023, and this was ratified by SEG Cabinet Panel and Cabinet in Sept 2023 and Full Council in October 2023.

The final stage is to sign and seal the Inter Authority Agreement.

The overarching purpose of the Joint Committee is to develop and maintain a HGGT vision and oversee delivery of that vision, both collectively and by individual partner authorities. Its functions are defined as: approving visions and strategies; recommending action to individual partner authorities; oversight/awareness of the master programme of actions; and consulting on visions and strategies.

### 3. Alternative options considered and rejected

The HGGT Board considered a number of alternative options, including ongoing informal partnership arrangements, which it judged to be too informal for a project of this size and complexity, and the creation of a New Town Development Corporation, which it felt would take too long and rely on Government approval. The Joint Committee model was considered to be the right balance, that recognises that importance of working together, whilst maintaining control amongst the five partner councils.

### 4. Consultation (see Summary of Requirements below)

**Was any Councillor consulted? Yes**

**If yes:**

(a) Comments of Executive Member

Cllr Stephen Boulton. Confirmed 26 March 2024.

(b) Comments of other consultees

Cllr Eric Buckmaster (Sawbridgeworth Ward). Confirmed via email 26 March 2024.

### 5. Any conflict of interest declared by a councillor who has been consulted in relation to the decision

N/A

### 6. Following consultation with the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.

Signed: Mark Doran

Title: Executive Director Growth & Environment

Date: 26 March 2024

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- Hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager, Room 213, County Hall.<sup>ii</sup>

---

### Summary of Requirements to Inform/Consult Councillors

Significance of Proposed Action	Controversial	Relevant Councillor(s) to be Consulted
Technical/Professional/Routine	No	No need to inform or consult councillors

Technical/Professional/ Routine	Yes	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member and, where appropriate, Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor</p>
Local	No	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Inform Local Councillor</p>
Local	Yes	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult Local Councillor</p>
General or County-wide	No	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s)</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman</p>
General or County-wide	Yes	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) and the Leader of the Council</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman/Leaders of all Political Groups</p>