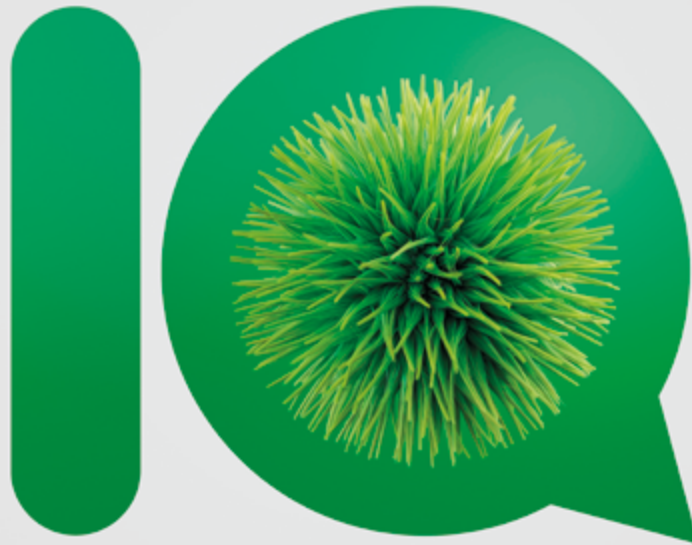




Hertfordshire
Innovation
Quarter

Impact Report 2019-2020



Our vision

To create Europe's most desirable, sustainable and in demand business hub.

Our purpose

To provide a natural home for responsible innovators to succeed and make our ever-changing world a greener, smarter, healthier place for us all.

Our values

Bold.

Bright.

Connected.

Evergreen.

- London
- Oxford
- Cambridge
- University of Hertfordshire
- BRE Group
- Rothamsted Research



About Hertfordshire IQ

Just 30 minutes from London, Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter is a destination space for future facing businesses. Positioned in the heart of the Golden Research Triangle between Oxford, Cambridge and London, it's constantly connecting tech, talent and research. A unique collaboration bringing together the brightest thinking in modern construction, agri-tech, robotics and big data, it's a place for innovation to thrive.

Overview

Since the launch of Hertfordshire IQ in March 2019, significant progress has been made in engaging target sectors for the development of an environmental technologies business cluster, with a focus on smart construction, agri-tech/science, and related digital technologies.

This is being delivered through the targeted outcomes of sector engagement and inward investment, development of high quality

commercial space across seven Enterprise Zone sites, creation of 8,000 new jobs for the local community, adoption of sustainable travel solutions, improved digital connectivity and the provision of skilled jobs and careers opportunities for future generations. In addition to the core delivery plan, Hertfordshire IQ also brings wider positive benefits to the area in many ways.

Catalyst for change

Hertfordshire IQ is seeking to create an environment for up to 8,000 new higher skilled jobs to flourish within exciting growth sectors, and is leading development of nearly 3million sqft of new high quality and contemporary employment space, much needed in the county.

Herts IQ also acts as a catalyst to leverage and accelerate further investment and improvements across public and sustainable transport, skills development and education, innovation networks and digital connectivity.

It encourages business start-up, incubation and growth through investment in two new innovation centres on Rothamsted Research and BRE campuses. As part of Hemel Garden Communities there is also potential to leverage further funding to support local growth and essential infrastructure, and to be the commercial heart of a transformational new community. This will bring additional benefits, including refresh and economic uplift to the existing Maylands employment area.

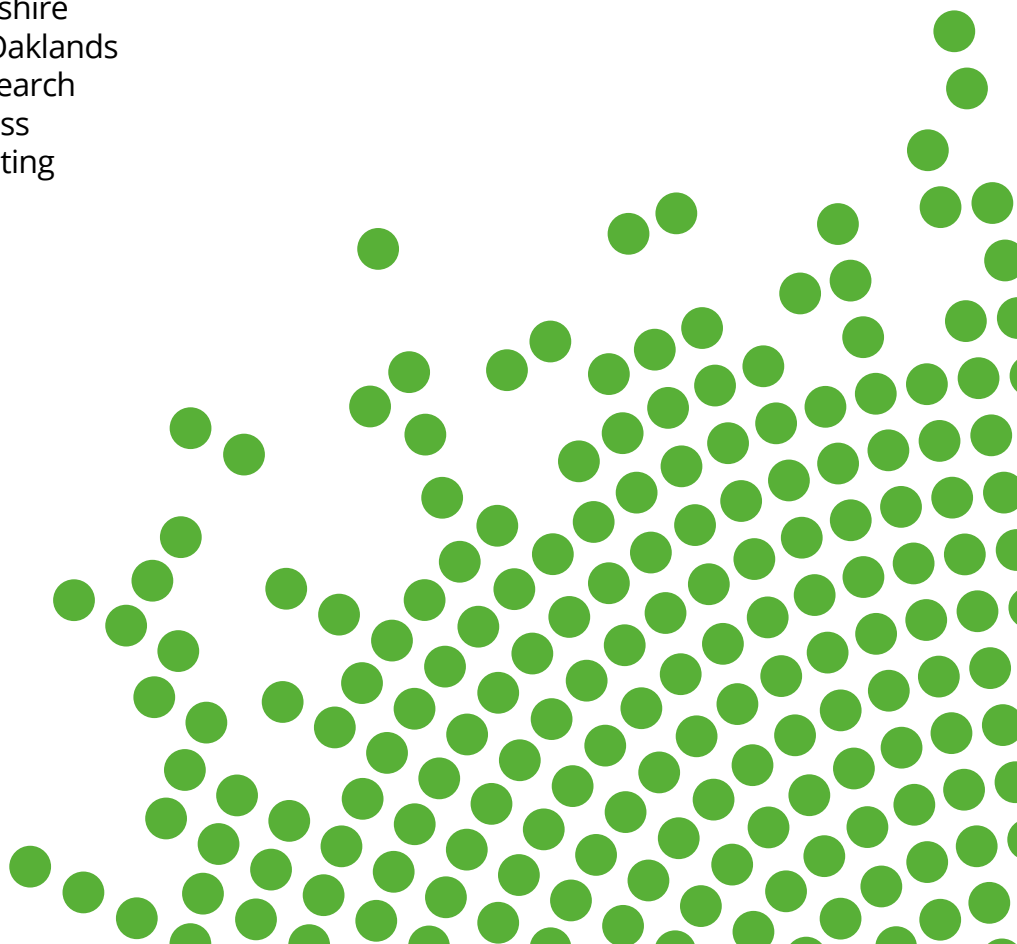
Connecting Hertfordshire businesses

Over one hundred new industry connections have already been made, forming the basis of what will become Herts IQ Network. Through these new connections, at least ten new collaboration opportunities were brokered, bringing fresh potential to local partners and stakeholders.

These range from business to business collaborations to industry research opportunities and new skills development strategies. Highlights include connections with green tech innovation funders, new sustainable energy opportunities and expansion of construction and digital skills programmes. Herts IQ works with partners Rothamsted Research, BRE Group, University of Hertfordshire and West Herts College and Oaklands College to support strong research and development and business connections, so that the resulting potential is maximised.

The collaboration with Watford Community Housing and a 'consortium' of Herts housing providers is now beginning to bear fruit with the development of an offsite manufacturing hub for the county, based in Hertfordshire IQ.

This will enable the Hertfordshire Growth Board (made up of representatives from Hertfordshire LEP, Hertfordshire County Council and ten District Councils) to accelerate the delivery of housing across the county, boosting affordable housing for the community, as well as creating new skills capacity and careers opportunities in the smart construction sector.



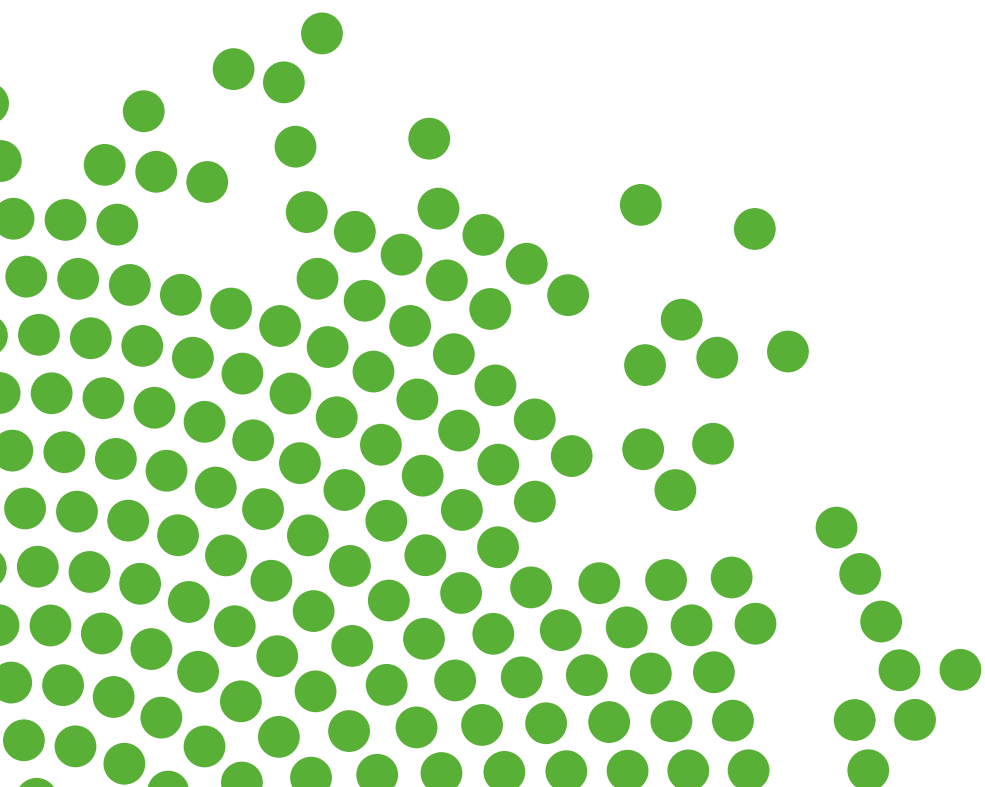
Boosting collaboration

Collaboration extends across the excellent business networks active in Hertfordshire. Partnering with Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce, Herts LEP and BRE, the Hertfordshire Opportunity for Construction event was developed to attract inward investment and promote Hertfordshire as the destination for smart construction.

Through partnership with Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors Herts IQ has stimulated the environmental discussion with businesses and supported creation of the Going Green Forum, to help local businesses adopt more sustainable working practices and embrace new commercial potential through green initiatives. Joint working with the team at Hertfordshire Growth Hub

makes sure that Herts IQ businesses are signposted to the wide range of business support available, to help enable their success.

By amplifying Hertfordshire initiatives already in place and offering support wherever we can, we aim to connect Herts businesses, boosting growth and keeping supply and demand inside county borders. Through doing so, we maintain awareness and positive perception of Herts IQ, nurturing good relationships and connections and continue to extend our reach into industry, so that we are well placed to embrace opportunities and also to build a strong pipeline of new occupier leads for Hertfordshire IQ.



Influencing positive outcomes

Our values flow through everything we do, as we strive to leverage better outcomes for the wider community.

The Herts IQ team has been actively involved with the development planning for all Herts IQ sites, and the Hemel Garden Community development. We aim to secure outstanding quality development across the employment sites and wider residential area, creating exciting and sustainable future places for communities to live and work.

Herts IQ Sustainability Framework (January 2019), drafted with BRE's guidance, resulted in four key areas of focus: energy, design and build, travel, and business operations. A feasibility assessment by The Energy Hub for Herts IQ provoked productive discussion with landowners and planning colleagues around 'art of the possible' for green energy infrastructure across the wider Hemel Garden Communities development, including the Herts IQ sites. A strategy for delivery is now being explored. We also actively supported colleagues in development of aspects of their Local Plan guidance and strategic sites design codes, in order to help stretch the quality of outcomes.

In terms of travel, the involvement of Herts IQ in the Maylands Area Travel Plan initiative will help embed green travel infrastructure right across the Hemel Hempstead area, not just the Herts IQ sites, improving sustainable travel for the local community.

Planet First is one of many organisations and initiatives available to help companies transform their business operations towards a greener future. Through Herts IQ connections they have extended awareness across over 50 local firms already and are well placed to guide future Herts IQ occupiers around the value and opportunities reducing business carbon footprint can bring.

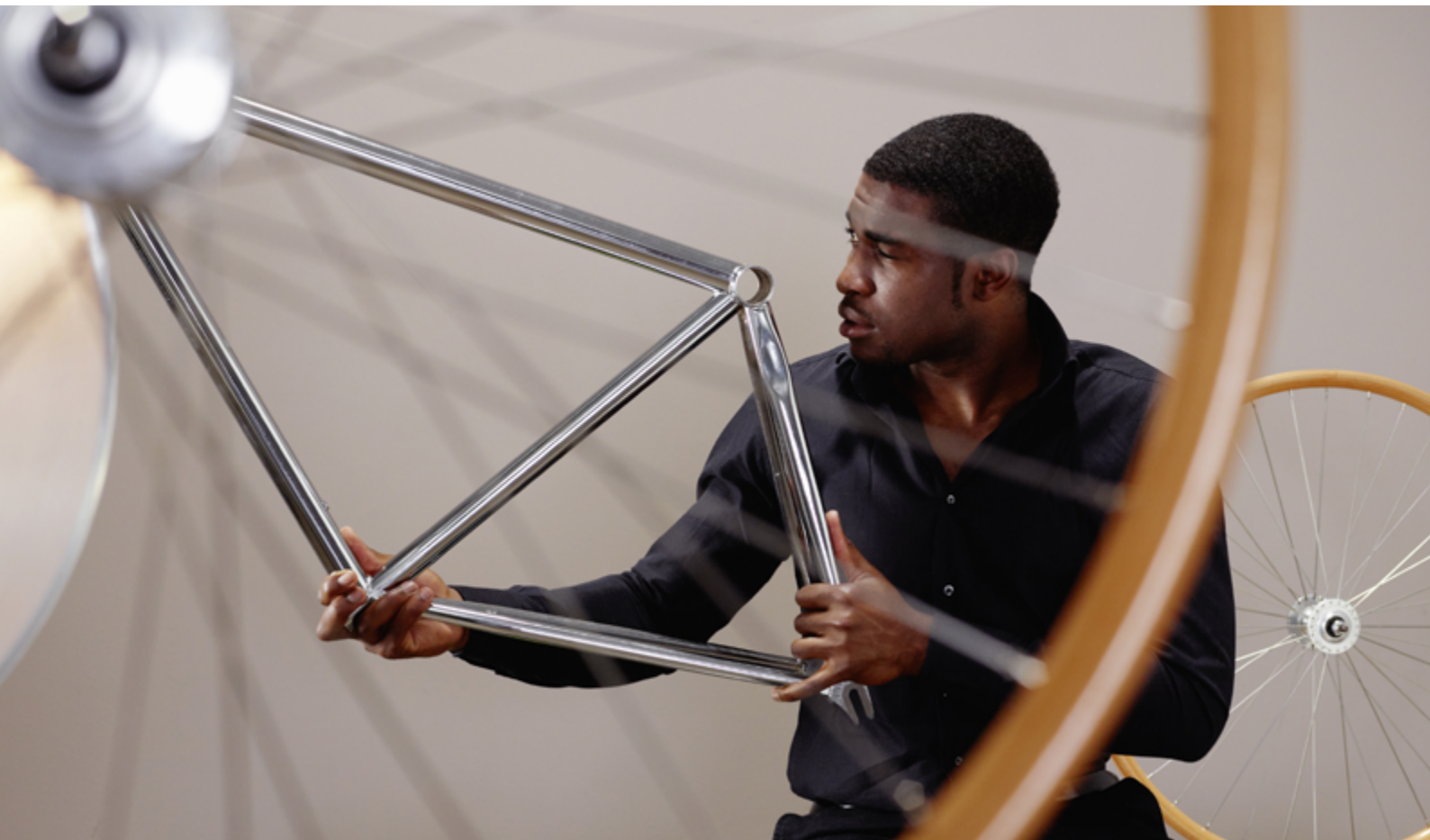
Securing outstanding digital infrastructure is another key focus for Herts IQ and the team's work has helped attract private sector investment interest to help embed technology, not only across the Herts IQ sites, but also more widely across Hemel Garden Communities. In doing so it has also laid foundations for fresh digital strategy for Hemel Hempstead and more widely across the county. Digital workshops led by Herts IQ engaged over 70 planning and infrastructure colleagues from HCC, DBC and SADC teams, with the aim of supporting local plan development and enable easier adoption of future technology.

Creating opportunities

Helping to evolve the local skills and education landscape to support sustainable future employment for Hertfordshire residents in target growth sectors is key to the long term success of Herts IQ. We are working closely with colleagues across the education spectrum to connect opportunities and help respond to changing industry needs.

Over the last year new opportunities have been identified for investment in virtual reality training, a new digital infrastructure skills initiative,

CITB have been engaged to support development of construction skills across the county, and the University of Hertfordshire's successful bid for Enterprise Zone status was supported. The team is connecting businesses across the area, including new Herts IQ occupiers, with Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP) and BRE Academy, as well as with our Further Education college partners and the University of Hertfordshire.



Hertfordshire IQ Milestones 2019/20

Commercial space and job creation

- 41,762 sqm of new commercial space created
- 27 new companies moved into Herts IQ
- 266 new jobs created
- First target sector occupiers secured on Maylands
- All units let on Prologis Park Hemel Hempstead
- New SME collaboration and growth space underway at Rothamsted Research

Built Environment and Infrastructure

- Digital and energy strategies complete and connected with landowners
- Design quality and sustainability strategies complete and connected with landowners
- £6m M1 J8 Design Project (Project Breakspear) underway
- SmartGo Maylands live, focused on sustainable travel initiatives

Skills

- CITB analysis into construction skills gap completed and shared with key stakeholders

Hertfordshire IQ Network

- Herts IQ Network development plan in place
- 100+ new industry connections
- 10+ new collaboration connections

Marketing

- Marketing strategy is live with evidence of impact and pipeline building
- 20 new occupier leads and additional opportunities with potential investors in skills and technology solutions

Community

- Hemel Garden Community status approved
- Active development planning with all 7 landowners