

Subject:	Greater Brighton Investment Programme Update Report		
Date of Meeting:	14 July 2015		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
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LA(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This report provides the Greater Brighton Economic Board ('the Board') with a progress update on the Greater Brighton Investment Programme ('the Programme').
- 1.2 The period covered by this report is 22 April 2015 to 22 June 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

3. PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS:**Schedule Status**

- 3.1 The Programme Dashboard and Reporting Book that are attached as Appendix 1 and 2 provide an overview of each project contained within the Programme and their current status.
- 3.2 The Programme is making steady progress and there are currently no major issues to report to the Board.
- 3.3 The Board is advised that whilst there has been a significant delay in finalising the grant agreements for all Local Growth Fund projects, the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP) reports that good progress is now being made. The C2C LEP and the Accountable Body (West Sussex County Council) are treating this as a priority and are working with a large number of delivery bodies, all of which is taking time. To aid the process, all delivery bodies are asked to provide any outstanding documentation that is required to satisfy the grant agreements to the C2C LEP and the Accountable Body as quickly as possible.

New England House Growth Centre

- 3.4 Redevelopment and investment options are currently being explored with potential joint venture partners.

- 3.5 Brighton & Hove City Council will be consulting with tenants and other stakeholders throughout the process. A tenants association has recently been formed and council officers attended a question and answer session.

Digital Exchange Brighton

- 3.6 The build of the Digital Exchange at New England House will be completed by the end of June 2015. The Digital Exchange is due to launch in July 2015.

Digital Catapult Centre Brighton

- 3.7 The Digital Catapult Centre Brighton at New England House will focus specifically on projects that encourage innovation and value from real-time and location-based data – known as the Internet of Place. The Centre was launched on March 2015 and initial engagement activities for SMEs are underway.

Superconnected Cities Programme – Broadband Voucher Scheme

- 3.8 The Broadband Voucher Scheme has now been extended to cover the wider Coast to Capital LEP area (excluding Croydon). A total refresh of all eligible postcodes for the area has been completed and over 41,000 postcodes are now covered by the scheme. To date, 157 vouchers have been offered (against a total target of 300).

Advanced Engineering Centre

- 3.9 A full planning application was submitted on 01 June 2015.
- 3.10 The University of Brighton is procuring the project on a 2-stage basis and expect to announce the award of contract by end June 2015.

Sussex Innovation Brighton (Block J)

- 3.11 Construction of the new facility continues and operational discussions are ongoing.

Circus Street Innovation Growth Centre and Regeneration

- 3.12 Brighton & Hove City Council is progressing work with its development partners to finalise the details of the Development Agreement and to ensure that the necessary funding mechanisms are in place for the development to go ahead.
- 3.13 Tendering of various elements of the build contract is currently being completed by Cathedral Group. A value engineering exercise is being undertaken to reduce construction costs.
- 3.14 Demolition is due in July 2015, with full construction commencing in November 2015.

Preston Barracks Central Research Laboratory

- 3.15 Brighton & Hove City Council in partnership with the University of Brighton and Cathedral Group have made good progress towards satisfying a number of important 'Preliminary Conditions' and it is hoped that these initial conditions will

be fully met shortly. The outstanding condition relates to an existing agreement between the Council and the Ministry of Defence, from whom the Council acquired the site in 2002. This matter needs to be resolved prior to moving to the detailed design stage and commencing consultation to inform the planning application.

- 3.16 In parallel with this, the University of Brighton and Cathedral Group have completed a review of the original masterplan proposals, the outline of which was reported to the cross-party Project Board in March 2015. These plans have undergone subsequent refinement and the University and Cathedral recently presented to the Council updated plans that the Council is now considering. A further 'Planning Workshop' will follow in the coming months and it is hoped this will enable progression to the more detailed stage. Submission of the planning application by the end of 2015 remains the target.

City College Brighton and Hove – Construction Trades Centre

- 3.17 The City College East project has obtained planning permission and has procured a preferred design and build contractor. Construction is due to commence in August 2015, for completion by end 2016.
- 3.18 The Construction Trades Centre presents an opportunity to link City Region skills and apprenticeships to construction projects.

Newhaven Flood Alleviation Scheme

- 3.19 Site surveys (topographical, ground conditions and ecological) are currently being carried out and it is anticipated that the preferred design options will be agreed during summer 2015. The Environment Agency will consult those residents and businesses that may be directly affected by the proposals before any detailed designs are finalised.
- 3.20 The Environment Agency has developed an outline proposal for a flood gate across the Lewes to Seaford railway line and is continuing work with Network Rail to agree the final design.

Newhaven Port Access Road:

- 3.21 In October 2014, the Department for Transport made the following announcement in relation to the provisional LGF funding for the Port Access Road:

“Ministers have decided that the Department for Transport should retain approval oversight of a small number of large and/or complex local schemes. The Newhaven Port Access Road scheme is one such scheme. This means that the Department’s approval will be required before the LGF funding for the scheme will be released, and the funding will come directly from DfT when the scheme is ready to begin.”

- 3.22 This has resulted in changes to the scope of the business case submission and work is ongoing with Department for Transport and the C2C LEP to understand the new requirements. Information will be submitted for comment during summer 2015, with a view to formal submission of the business case in autumn 2015.

Shoreham Flood Defences – Adur Tidal Walls

- 3.23 The Environment Agency is preparing to submit a full planning application in September 2015. The planning process is to be progressed in parallel with the construction tender process. The construction tender award is programmed for January 2016, with an anticipated start on site in February/March 2016.

Shoreham Flood Defences – Western Harbour Arm

- 3.24 The need for compensatory habitat has been identified, which requires the purchase of additional land. A landowner has been identified and negotiations are proceeding.
- 3.25 The 'design and build' tender is being prepared for the construction of the flood defences at the Sussex Yacht Club and Kingston Beach sections of the scheme, using the Environment Agency Framework Agreement.
- 3.26 Delays in the above have resulted in a slight slippage to the project. It is now anticipated that the planning application be submitted by end 2015 and that work start on site in summer 2016.

A2300 Corridor Improvements – Burgess Hill

- 3.27 West Sussex County Council and Mid Sussex District Council continue to work together to develop the business case for the A2300 scheme. Consultants are currently preparing bids for a commission to update the Burgess Hill Transport Model, which will be used to support the evidence base for the Business Case.

Brighton Valley Gardens – Phases 1 and 2

- 3.28 The project received agreement from Brighton & Hove City Council's Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee on 17 March 2015 to proceed the detail design. Since coming into office, the new administration has asked that a further review of the technical and engineering aspects of the design be undertaken. The administration has made it clear that it does not intend to stop the scheme or impose any undue delays, other than to ensure that the overall capacity of the road network in the Gardens and across the City is managed effectively during and post construction. The review is now underway and it is hoped that it be completed within a matter of weeks to avoid further delays to the project.

Brighton Bike Share

- 3.29 The Brighton Bike Share project is working to satisfy the conditions of the agreement, as set out by the Local Transport Body (LTB) on 25 March 2015. This includes the ability to run the scheme for 3 years with no recourse to additional revenue funds. Following requests for information from the market, Brighton & Hove City Council is satisfied that this condition can be met and will be providing the C2C LEP with the requisite information as soon possible.

Brighton & Hove Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Package

- 3.30 Brighton & Hove City Council's bid for £1.83m of Local Growth Fund funding for its Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Package was made to help safely and sustainably improve the movement of people and vehicles to/from and around the City. It is based on the use of technologically advanced equipment and infrastructure to better monitor, manage and improve what is happening on the city's road network.
- 3.31 The C2C LEP's LTB conditionally approved the bid in March 2015, subject to some further clarification and amendments to the funding application. This requirement was subsequently addressed and in May 2015 the Council was advised that the amended application was considered to be acceptable to the independent assessors and that the funding allocation will now be recommended for full approval by C2C LEP officers, under delegated authority.
- 3.32 Work is currently underway to develop a programme of schemes that achieves the most efficient way of delivering the Package's objectives across a 3-year period, which takes account of the need to maximise the outputs that will be delivered through the investment whilst minimising disruption on the network when/if other work is planned. This programme will primarily aim to treat individual corridors one by one in order to complete the delivery of a comprehensive set of measures and begin to secure the potential benefits at an early stage.

Worthing Sustainable Transport Package

- 3.33 The Worthing Sustainable Transport Package is being delivered in phases and the first, for which a Local Growth Fund has been secured, consists of the refurbishment of the Public Realm along the pedestrian section of Montague Place and Crescent Road junction.
- 3.34 Montague Place detailed design is now complete and procurement, through the West Sussex County Council's Major Projects Framework, has commenced. Contract award is expected in October 2015, with start on site planned for early January 2016 to avoid the busy Christmas shopping period. Purchase and delivery of materials is envisaged during November and December 2015.
- 3.35 Test panel is complete and being monitored for construction suitability and maintenance requirements. Notice boards are up on site and information will be posted over the coming months, advising of progress and sources of further information.

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

- 3.36 The most recent Coast to Capital ESIF update is attached as Appendix 3.
- 3.37 Local authority representatives from the Coast to Capital area along with colleges and the private sector have met to consider the LEP ESIF call for projects to tackle unemployment. The group is currently scoping a project that will provide pre-employment and/or customised training to unemployed residents linked to recruiting employers across the Coast to Capital area. The call for projects is due out in July 2015 and partners have agreed to start work on the scoping now

as the bid window is likely to be short. The call for projects to support the unemployed will be largely pre-matched so project partners will not have to find match funds for their bids.

- 3.38 West Sussex County Council is working with local authority partners, universities and other learning providers across the Coast to Capital area to develop a proposal for generic business support. The proposal will build on the research findings of the Brighton & Hove, West Sussex and Lewes Business Survey 2014 and the current Regional Growth Fund business support programme. The call is expected in July 2015 and partners are working now to identify the required match funds for the proposal.

Coast to Capital Business Grants Programme

- 3.39 The Coast to Capital LEP in partnership with West Sussex County Council has now launched its Business Grants programme.
- 3.40 This year, there are two types of grants available – Small Grants (between £5,000 and £20,000) and Business Growth Grants (between £15,000 and £100,000). Grants are for businesses based in the Coast to Capital area and can only be used for capital expenditure.
- 3.41 Further information including eligibility criteria and application forms are available at:
- Small Grants: <http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/2-uncategorised/451-coast-to-capital-small-grants>
 - Business Growth Grants: <http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/2-uncategorised/450-coast-to-capital-business-growth-grants>
- 3.42 Greater Brighton partners are asked to Coast to Capital Business Grants Programme on their respective websites and social media.

Commissioned Work

- 3.43 Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners and Interfleet Transport Advisory have now finalised the Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex Background Papers on the areas' economy, housing market and transport system. An item on this is featured elsewhere on the agenda.
- 3.44 Following an open procurement process, Grant Thornton in partnership with Mott MacDonald has been appointed to support the Next Steps for the City Region Economy work. This work will focus on developing the City Region's long-term economic priorities and goals and the associated policy proposals for a coherent and sensible devolution proposition to support delivery of these goals. The work will also assess and recommend options for the most effective delivery model for the services relating to the City Region's economic growth, to ensure that the Greater Brighton partners have the continued capacity to deliver. The consultant team has undertaken scoping meetings with all members of the Board. They have reviewed all existing information and are now working with the Officer Steering Group and the Board to develop the priorities and policy proposals.

Wider consultation will be undertaken during summer 2015. A report will be presented to the Board in October 2015.

4. TASKS TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT PERIOD

4.1 The next period will be focused on:

- Agreeing the Delivery Body Agreements with the C2C LEP and the Accountable Body.
- Working with the Coast to Capital LEP to finalise and roll-out clear monitoring and reporting processes for City Deal and Local Growth Fund projects.
- Working with partners to continue to develop the pipeline of projects for the next round of the Local Growth Fund.
- Working with partners to continue to develop the pipeline of projects in preparation for the Calls on European Structural and Investment Funds funding.
- Supporting the consultant team to complete the work on the Next Steps for the City Region Economy (final report to be presented to the Board for sign-off on 13 October 2015).

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 This report provides updates on the progress of a number of projects each with individual sources of funding from both the government and various partners. Each project will be subject to individual business cases that consider the financial benefits and risks associated with each project. The financial implications relating to each of the projects in the programme have been reported individually at various stages and considered by their lead bodies and further updates will be provided to the Board throughout the year.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant *Date: 25.06.15*

Legal Implications:

5.2 Each of the projects in the Programme will be subject to individual Funding Agreements between West Sussex County Council as the Accountable Body, Coast to Capital Limited and the Delivery Body. In some cases it may be necessary for the delivery Body to enter into a further agreement if the funding is ultimately drawn down by a third party. State Aid issues need to be reviewed on a project by project basis.

Lawyer Consulted: Bob Bruce, Deputy Head of Law BHCC *Date: 23.06.15*

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None. As the business cases for individual projects are developed, lead partners will be asked to develop an Equality Impact Assessment for their projects as appropriate.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None arising from this report. Sustainability issues will be addressed on a project by project basis.

Any Other Significant Implications:

5.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Greater Brighton Investment Programme Dashboard

Appendix 2: Greater Brighton Investment Programme Reporting Book

Appendix 3: Coast to Capital European Structural & Investment Funds Update

Background Documents

None

Appendix 1: Greater Brighton Investment Programme Dashboard

Attached as a separate document

Appendix 2: Greater Brighton Investment Programme Reporting Book

Attached as a separate document

Appendix 3: European Structural and Investment Funds Update (23 March 2015)

Attached as a separate document

