

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 14 JULY 2015

TERRACE ROOM, BRAMBER HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, BRIGHTON, BN1 9RH

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Parkin (Chair), Blackman, Humphreys, Morgan and G Theobald, Wall

Business Partners: Trevor Beattie, Dr. Carter, Prof. Crampton, Peter Davies, Kirsti Godson, Dean Orgill, John A. Peel, Andrew Swayne

Other Members present: Councillor Bewick

PART ONE

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1.1 Nick Hibberd read the following statement:

“At its meeting on 21 April 2015, the Board agreed to a number of recommendations as to its Operating Principles, one being the process by which the Chair of the Board would be nominated for the 2015/16 term. Since the previous meeting, a confidential nomination and voting process was undertaken in accordance with that agreement Councillor Parkin was nominated by fellow Board Members to the role of Chair of the Board for the 2015/16 municipal year”

1.2 The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Parkin as Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board for the 2015/16 municipal year.

1.3 The Chair thanked Board Members for their support for his appointment and his predecessor Councillor Kitcat for his chairmanship in the Board’s opening year.

2 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

2a Declarations of substitutes

2.1 Dr. Carter was present as substitute for Prof. Davies.

2.2 Kirsti Godson was present as substitute for Monica Box

2b Declarations of interests

2.3 There were none.

2c Exclusion of the press and public

- 2.4 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the Act”), the Board considered whether the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business on the grounds that it is likely in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during it, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2015 be approved and signed as the correct record.

4 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 The Chair read the following statement:

“We are joined today by Phillip Carr from the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. As many of you will already be aware, Phillip is our new City Deal lead within Government’s Local Growth Team. He is also the new Relationship Manager for the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership. I am sure that you will join me in welcoming Phillip.

On today’s agenda we have an item on Skills. This discussion is being led by Councillor Tom Bewick, Chair of Brighton & Hove City Council’s Children, Young People and Skills Committee. Cllr Bewick has a professional background in education, skills and enterprise policy and I would like to thank him for joining us today, to share his experience and perspective. We are also joined by Sue Dare, Principal of Northbrook College. Sue’s input will be invaluable and I would like to thank her for her time.”

- 4.2 Alex Bailey supplemented that much discussion was ongoing at both national and local level on devolution; the matter was being discussed in the House of Lords and HM Treasury had recently published a report ‘Fixing the Foundations’ that very usefully set out central government’s commitment to the devolvement of powers. Alex Bailey suggested a meeting in the autumn to discuss the matter further amongst a broader interest group.
- 4.3 The Chair stated that he had recently met with Greg Clarke MP who had been very responsive to discussion on the Greater Brighton region.
- 4.4 Councillor Theobald added that he had also spoken with a number of government ministers and it was clear that the duty was with the Greater Brighton region to put forward proposals.
- 4.5 Alex Bailey agreed adding that the proposals would need hard evidence and a business case.

- 4.6 Councillor Wall stated that he supported the proposal for a meeting in the autumn to discuss the matter fully.

5 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD- OPERATING PRINCIPLES 2015/16

- 5.1 The Board considered a report of the Lead Authority Chief Executive that set out the operating principles for the Greater Brighton Economic Board including its Heads of Terms, Memorandum of Understanding, Procedure Rules and Call-In Procedure.
- 5.2 **RESOLVED-** That the Greater Brighton Economic Board approve and adopt its operating principles as set out in appendices 1-4 to the report.

6 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD 2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT

- 6.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the achievements made in 2014/15 and the key areas of focus for 2015/16. The Board had agreed to receive an annual report as part of its reporting and accountability arrangements set out in its Heads of Terms. The report was supplemented with an interactive presentation.
- 6.2 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board approve the 2014/15 Annual Report.
 - 2) That the Board give delegated authority to the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board to make any minor amendments to the 2014/15 Annual Report.
 - 3) That the 2014/15 Annual Report be submitted to respective organisations.

7 GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 7.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided a progress update on the Greater Brighton Investment Programme in the period 22 April 2015 to 22 June 2015.
- 7.2 Peter Davies stated that further classifications may be beneficial to inform Board Members. This would be whether the project would have direct benefit or whether investment was a means to an end with the intention that it would lead to later benefit and would mean an improvement in risk management assessment.
- 7.3 Martin Randall stated that this was a very good suggestion and the possibility of inclusion would be examined.
- 7.4 **RESOVLED-** That the Board note the report.

8 GREATER BRIGHTON SKILLS

- 8.1 The Board considered a presentation from Councillor Bewick (Brighton & Hove City Council) that detailed the region's current performance on apprenticeships, examined case-studies from other regions and how they had performed and facilitated a discussion on the potential opportunities for the Greater Brighton Region.
- 8.2 Andrew Swayne stated that he was supportive of the proposals but observed that they should form a part of wider improvements in the skills employment chain including graduates. Andrew Swayne noted his support for engaging with schools and asked if there could be further focus on work experience programmes.
- 8.3 Councillor Blackman noted that Lewes had patterned with LEAP on a similar program and had found through that program that a high amount of spending was required to attract employers. Councillor Blackman stated that any potential opportunities for the Greater Brighton region should be outcome driven and he was mindful that there were already many companies operating on a similar platform in the region. Councillor Blackman added that efforts should be targeted toward training that provided a skill set needed by local employers.
- 8.4 Dean Orgill stated that many employers were confused by what apprenticeship schemes could offer and an awareness campaign should be run alongside any potential scheme. Dean Orgill added that he agreed there was deficiency in the local employment available for graduates.
- 8.5 John A. Peel stated that he was familiar with incentives (such as freeman of the city) as part of a successful apprentice scheme in Coventry and urged for the City Region to instigate something similar in any future scheme.
- 8.6 In response to the matters raised, Councillor Bewick noted that there had been some discussion in Parliament of creating a Royal Society of Apprentices; that he supported a focus on outcomes and not just the number of successful apprentice schemes and that there was a solid network of local companies currently in the area and a focus of any potential scheme would be to build upon what was already in place.
- 8.7 Jenny Rowlands noted that there were a number of construction projects coming forward, many of which had been approved by the Board and asked if portable apprentices could be created. Jenny Rowlands also commended the work of the Universal Technical College in Newhaven that had changed perceptions related to value.
- 8.8 Councillor Bewick noted that central government had in June introduced a levy on large companies to fund apprenticeships that could raise £50m for investment. Councillor Bewick added that the proposed Brighton & Hove apprenticeship task force would not be comprised of any local councillor's and would report its findings and recommendations to the council and the city's three MP's.
- 8.9 Kirsti Godson noted her support for the proposal for a City Region apprentice company that could send a clear message and supplemented that in her experience, larger companies had often been unreceptive to apprenticeship schemes.

- 8.10 Prof. Crampton stated his support for the proposals adding that a much more comprehensive approach was required.
- 8.11 The Board agreed to ask the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board to consider the proposal for a City Region apprenticeship company in more detail and return to the Board with its findings and proposals.

9 GREATER BRIGHTON AND COASTAL WEST SUSSEX BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that reported the final versions of the three background papers commissioned by the Board to provide evidence and inform future strategic decision-making within the Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex on economy, housing market and transport systems.
- 9.2 Councillor Wall stated that he welcomed all three background papers but suggested that it would be more appropriate for the Board to resolve to note rather than approve the final versions as there were actions recommended that the Board may not be able to achieve, particularly with regard to housing development.
- 9.3 The Chair moved a motion to amend the recommendation, as shown in bold italics below:

2.1 That the Board ***note*** the Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex background papers and executive summary.

- 9.4 The Chair put the motion to a vote which was agreed.
- 9.5 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex background papers and executive summary.

10 FINDINGS FROM COAST TO CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

- 10.1 The Board considered a presentation from Ian Parkes that set out the background to the Coast to Capital Infrastructure study in the areas of: transport, water supply, flooding and digital.
- 10.2 Councillor Theobald asked if discussions had taken place with the Croydon-based part of the LEP on the issue of Brighton Mainline 2 (BML2).
- 10.3 Ian Parkes clarified that discussions had taken place with partners in Croydon and the importance of BML2 to the regional economy was clearly recognised.

The meeting concluded at 11.50am

Signed

Chair

