

Subject:	Update on Greater Brighton Investment Programme		
Date of Meeting:	13 October 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'), which includes projects that have been allocated City Deal and Coast to Capital Growth Deal funding.
- 1.2 The period covered by this report is 15 July 2015 to 15 September 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 continues to make steady progress and there are currently no major issues to report to the Board.
- 3.3 There are continued delays in finalising the Funding Agreements ('Agreements') for all Local Growth Fund projects. At the time of writing, two Greater Brighton projects had Agreements in place; the Construction Trades Centre (City College Brighton and Hove) and the Advanced Engineering Centre (University of Brighton). In addition, there are Agreements in place for all of the City Region's Learning Facilities Fund projects (see section 3.36 and 3.37 of this report), due to the requirement to spend 100% of the grant in 2015/16.
- 3.4 The Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP) and the Accountable Body (West Sussex County Council (WSSC)) are making every effort to catch-up and the Agreements are moving forward. To minimise the impact on delivery, completion of the Agreements have been prioritised to reflect spend profiles. For Greater Brighton, the current focus is therefore on

the Digital Catapult, Circus Street Innovation Growth Centre & Regeneration and Preston Barracks Central Research Laboratory. In the absence of an Agreement, delivery bodies can spend at their own risk. Once Agreements are in place, however, claims can be submitted mid-quarter, subject to the Accountable Body's agreement.

- 3.5 To aid the process, all delivery bodies are asked to provide any outstanding documentation that is required to satisfy the Agreements to the C2C LEP as quickly as possible.

New England House Growth Centre

- 3.6 Redevelopment and investment options are currently being explored with potential joint venture partners. A report is to be presented to Brighton & Hove City Council's Policy & Resources Committee in January 2016, seeking agreement on a proposed scheme and permission on an approach to implementation.

Digital Exchange Brighton

- 3.7 The Digital Exchange at New England House was launched in July 2015. It is now operating as a business, run by the Brighton Digital Cooperative.

Digital Catapult Centre Brighton

- 3.8 Phase 1 of the capital works has been completed and a fully functioning temporary space for the Centre created within the FuseBox at New England House.
- 3.9 The Centre has run a series of outreach events to begin to engage and inform its audience. The Centre's first project, 'Retail Innovation', has started and is currently in the scoping phase. The Centre will focus specifically on projects that encourage innovation and value from real-time and location-based data – known as the Internet of Place.

Superconnected Cities Programme – Broadband Voucher Scheme

- 3.10 The extended Broadband Voucher Scheme has now offered a total of 601 vouchers (against a total target of 300) and 482 connections have been made to date.

Advanced Engineering Centre

- 3.11 The project is in Stage 4 design. A full planning application, which was submitted on 01 July 2015, is due to be considered by Brighton & Hove City Council's Planning Committee on the 16 September 2015.
- 3.12 The University of Brighton has appointed contractors through a full tendering process and anticipates that work will start on site in October 2015.

Sussex Innovation Brighton (Block J)

- 3.13 Construction of the new facility on Block J at Brighton Station continues and is expected to complete by May 2016. This Centre will form part of a new network

of Centres, including a Centre in Croydon that has now been fully constructed and will be accessible to businesses from 01 October 2015, and the planned Bio-Innovation Centre on the University of Sussex's Falmer campus.

Circus Street Innovation Growth Centre and Regeneration

- 3.14 Brighton & Hove City Council continues to work with its development partner 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.
- 3.15 Demolition, which will be phased, is now due to commence in autumn 2015 and construction will begin in December 2015.

Preston Barracks Central Research Laboratory

- 3.16 Brighton & Hove City Council, in partnership with the University of Brighton and Cathedral Group, continue to make good progress towards satisfying a number of important 'Preliminary Conditions', including the Ministry of Defence 'claw back'.
- 3.17 Detailed design of the whole scheme, which includes the Central Research Laboratory, is delayed whilst the Preliminary Conditions are satisfied. However, informal planning discussions are being held and a planning workshop will be held in October/November 2015.
- 3.18 Work on establishing the brand and raising awareness of the Central Research Laboratory project is also underway. A newsletter has been launched, which is already subscribed to by several hundred relevant organisations and individuals, and a project website has been established.

City College Brighton and Hove – Construction Trades Centre

- 3.19 The City College East project is progressing through the design development stages. The Funding Agreement with the C2C LEP was finalised in July 2015, allowing a programmed start on site in October 2015 with completion at the beginning of 2017.

Newhaven Flood Alleviation Scheme

- 3.20 The site surveys have now been completed and the detailed design is under development. It is anticipated that a planning application be submitted in autumn 2015, with the construction contract then being awarded in spring 2016 and construction commencing in autumn 2016.

Newhaven Port Access Road

- 3.21 The first phase of the Port Access Road (A259 to Pargut roundabout), which is being constructed as part of the Eastside development, is nearing completion.
- 3.22 The development of a business case for the second phase of the Port Access Road (from Pargut roundabout to Mill Creek) is underway and, as a retained scheme, information has been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) for comment over the summer 2015, with a view to formal submission of the business case in autumn 2015.

Newhaven Growth Quarter

- 3.23 Construction of the £2.25m Newhaven Growth Quarter Scheme on Denton Island in Newhaven continues and is on schedule for completion by March 2016.
- 3.24 An application for an Enterprise Zone will be submitted on 18 September 2015.

Shoreham Flood Defences – Adur Tidal Walls

- 3.25 Detailed design work is now underway and the Environment Agency plans to submit a full planning application in autumn 2015. This process will be progressed in parallel with the construction tender process. Start on site is anticipated for March 2016.

Shoreham Flood Defences – Western Harbour Arm

- 3.26 Following the adoption of the Shoreham Harbour Flood Management Guide - Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) negotiations have been continuing with key stakeholders at the Sussex Yacht Club and Kingston Beach sites. The SPD had indicated a flood defence solution along the river frontage for the Yacht Club, which would have required significant compensatory habitat further along the River. However, since that time the Yacht Club has suggested that it would be feasible to relocate the Yacht Club and build a cheaper flood defence solution along the back edge of the highway. A significant benefit of this proposal would be the opportunity to create a new cycle-path along the A259 by setting back the Yacht club boundary. This proposal is currently being discussed with the C2C LEP.
- 3.27 Consultants have been engaged to develop a concept design for this alternative proposal and this work is due to be completed by end October 2015. It is then intended to go out to tender for the detailed design stage prior to pursuing the necessary planning permissions for the works and work to commence in autumn 2016. It is still intended to use the existing Environment Agency Framework Agreement to appoint Design and Build Contractors.
- 3.28 At Kingston Beach it has been agreed to implement part of a more comprehensive solution addressing the immediate need for coastal defence works by way of new rock revetments. The requirement for a new flood wall leading back to the A259 and a cycle path connection would be provided by the adjoining development site.

A2300 Corridor Improvements – Burgess Hill

- 3.29 West Sussex County Council and Mid Sussex District Council continue to work together in progressing the scheme and developing the business case for submission to the Local Transport Body and, as a retained scheme, the DfT. Consultants WSP have been commissioned 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

- 3.30 The review of the technical and engineering aspects of the design has now been completed. Whilst reaffirming the robustness of the transport modelling used in the business case, the review has recommended updating the city centre model with 2015 data, to reflect recent changes to the traffic network in the area such as Lewes Road, Brighton Station Gateway and Edward Street, and re-running the modelling, to help ensure key junctions in the area respond to latest traffic flows as efficiently as possible. This work is anticipated to take approximately 3-4 months, after which any necessary design amendments can be made before the project progresses to construction.

Brighton Bike Share

- 3.31 Brighton & Hove City Council is now satisfied that the conditions set out by the Local Transport Body (LTB) on 25 March 2015 can be met and a letter of confirmation has been issued by the council's Chief Finance Officer. A report is due to be presented to the LTB on 08 October 2015, to obtain an unconditional offer of funding.
- 3.32 A report will be presented to Brighton & Hove City Council's Policy & Resources Committee on 03 December 2015, to seek approval to proceed to procurement and commence the requisite consultation.

Brighton & Hove Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Package

- 3.33 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.
- 3.34 Work continues 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.

Montague Place, Phase 1 Worthing Sustainable Transport Package

- 3.35 Detailed design is now complete and procurement, through the West Sussex County Council's Major Projects Framework, continues and remains due for award in October 2015. Construction is on target to commence in January 2016.

Learning Facilities Fund

- 3.36 Each of the City Region's Further Education colleges have successfully secured funding through the Local Growth Fund's Learning Facilities Fund, as follows:

- City College Brighton & Hove - £250,000
- Northbrook College - £200,000
- Plumpton College – £200,000
- Sussex Downs College – £100,000
- Worthing College-£99,960

3.37 These allocations will fund refurbishments and improvements to the colleges' existing assets and facilities to reduce the estate E-mandate condition.

Business Finance

3.38 To date, 12 businesses from the City Region have been awarded grants (13 small grants and 7 business growth grants), totalling £451,528.53, creating 44.5 new FTE jobs and safeguarding 50.5 jobs.

3.39 The closing date for expressions of interest was 15 September 2015 and these are now being reviewed.

3.40 The C2C LEP hopes to re-launch both the small grants and the business grants schemes next year.

Greater Brighton Next Steps Commission

3.41 On 04 September 2015, the Board submitted its initial Devolution Prospectus to the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG).

3.42 The proposals contained within the Devolution Prospectus build on the successful Greater Brighton City Deal and C2C LEP Growth Deal and have a continued focus on accelerating growth and increasing productivity.

3.43 The Devolution Prospectus is a work in progress; it outlines all of the areas that the Board wishes to explore further with Government, partners and wider stakeholders.

3.44 An item on this is featured elsewhere on the agenda.

4. TASKS TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT PERIOD

4.1 The next period will be focused on:

- Each Delivery Body to work with the C2C LEP and the Accountable Body to complete Funding Agreements for their respective projects.
- Partnership to continue to develop and further refine Greater Brighton's devolution proposals, working with neighbouring authorities and key stakeholders and supporting the consultant team to develop the associated business cases and the next version of the Devolution Prospectus (to be presented to the Board for sign-off on 26 January 2016).
- Partnership to continue to develop the pipeline of projects for the next round of the Local Growth Fund. An item on this is featured elsewhere on the agenda.

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.

Delays to the Funding Agreements are being addressed for priority schemes according to their particular spend profiles. Whilst bodies are able to spend against these schemes at their own risk it is advisable that the risks and consequences against each scheme are carefully considered and due diligence undertaken to ensure that spend and commitments are not made that may incur unnecessary liabilities upon individual bodies.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant

Date: 18/9/2015

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 case 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: 29.09.15

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

Attached as a separate document

Appendix 2: Greater Brighton Investment Programme Reporting Book

Attached as a separate document

Background Documents

None