

Subject: Update on Greater Brighton Devolution Bid
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:**

- 1.1 On 04 September 2015, the Greater Brighton Economic Board ('the Board') submitted its initial Devolution Prospectus *Platforms for Productivity* ('the Prospectus') to the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's formal approval of the Prospectus and to agree the next steps.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Board:

- (1) Formally approve the Prospectus;
- (2) Agree the continued development of the proposals contained within the Prospectus, delegating authority to the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board ('the Officer Board') working in partnership with the Board, the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP), the Three Southern Counties and other neighbouring authorities, wider partners and stakeholders and in line with feedback and guidance from Government, and;
- (3) Agree the funding of additional consultancy support for the continued development of the proposals and the associated business cases. The Officer Board will ensure the best use of these resources, drawing these down as required against clear outputs. Any additional costs will be capped at £50,000.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

- 3.1 On 13 February 2015, the Board agreed the need to develop its response to the national policy debate on place-based devolution, to seize any new opportunities, freedoms and flexibilities introduced by the incoming Government.

- 3.2 In response, the Board gave approval to commission consultants to work with the City Region to:
- Develop Greater Brighton’s long-term **economic priorities and goals**, building on the evidence base compiled by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners and Interfleet Transport Advisory;
 - Formulate policy proposals for a coherent and sensible **devolution proposition**, to support the delivery of these priorities and goals, and;
 - Assess and recommend options for the most effective **delivery model** for services relating to economic development and regeneration, to ensure the continued capacity to deliver.
- 3.3 Following an open procurement process, Grant Thornton in partnership with Mott MacDonald were appointed in May 2015. An Officer Steering Group (a sub-group of the Officer Board) and numerous Task & Finish Groups comprising local experts and stakeholders were established, with the aim of developing draft proposals and high-level business cases for presentation to the Board in October 2015.
- 3.4 The Spending Review document [A country that lives within its means: Spending Review 2015](#) was issued on 20 July 2015. This gave a deadline of 04 September 2015 for devolution submissions, to allow sufficient time for deals to be agreed as part of the wider budget settlements.
- 3.5 The Greater Brighton Prospectus was subsequently developed and, following extensive input by the Board, submitted to the Secretary of State for the DCLG. The cover letter and Prospectus are attached as Appendix 1 and 2.
- 3.6 The proposals contained within the Prospectus build on the successful Greater Brighton City Deal and C2C LEP Growth Deal. They are focused on accelerating growth and increasing productivity by creating and sustaining three platforms for productivity:
- **Economic productivity**, through the provision of infrastructure, housing and employment land and enterprise support;
 - **Social productivity**, through the creation of skills, living wage housing and the acceleration of the information/"sharing" economy to drive a vibrant social economy, and;
 - **Public service productivity**, through the radical redesign of public services and the introduction of new models of governance.
- 3.7 The Prospectus is Greater Brighton’s initial submission. It signals the Board’s commitment to agreeing a deal with Government and enters the City Region into this process. The Prospectus is a work in progress and a starting point for any negotiations with Government; it outlines the areas that the Board wishes to explore further with Government, the C2C LEP, the Three Southern Counties and other neighbouring authorities and wider partners and stakeholders.
- 3.8 At the time of writing, feedback and steer in terms of the next steps and timetable is being awaited from Government. To ensure readiness, it is

proposed that the Task & Finish Groups be convened to further develop and refine the proposals throughout October 2015 and that, following consultation with the Board, consultants be engaged to support the development of both robust business cases during November/December 2015 and the City Region's full submission in January 2016. It is anticipated that the final version of the Prospectus be presented to the Board on 26 January 2016.

- 3.9 External consultancy support brings added capacity and expertise and it is therefore proposed that the Board agrees to fund additional consultancy hours. The Officer Board will ensure the best use of these resources, drawing these down as required against clear outputs. Any additional costs will be capped at £50,000 and, in line with the current arrangements, it is proposed that 40% be funded by Brighton & Hove City Council and that the remaining 60% be funded in equal measure by Adur District Council, Worthing Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Mid Sussex District Council and the C2C LEP (12% each).

4. CONCLUSIONS:

- 4.1 By submitting its initial Prospectus to the Secretary of State for the DCLG on 04 September, the Board has clearly signalled its commitment to agreeing a devolution deal with Government.
- 4.2 Over the coming months and in line with the guidance received by the Cities & Local Growth Unit and HM Treasury, the proposals contained within the Prospectus will be developed into the City Region's full submission. This will ensure that the Board is in the strongest possible to agree a devolution deal that will catalyse significant economic, social and public service change across Greater Brighton.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The cost of appointing the consultants to continue to support the development of business cases during November/December 2015 for submission in January 2016 will require additional contributions from the Board Members. This one-off contribution is to be capped at £50,000. The additional work will ensure that the Devolution Prospectus and any associated business cases are put in place for the deadline and are financially viable.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant, BHCC
Date: 01/10/15*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no direct implications arising from the Bid submission, but clearly if any aspects of the Bid are to be worked up, the direct legal issues then arising will need to be considered by the Board and constituent members.

*Lawyer Consulted: Bob Bruce, Deputy Head of Law BHCC
Date: 29.09.15*

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None

Any Other Significant Implications:

5.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix 1: Cover Letter to the Rt. Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for the Department for Communities & Local Government (04 September 2015)
2. Appendix 2: Greater Brighton Devolution Prospectus, Platforms for Productivity (September 2015)

Background Documents

1. None