

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 25 APRIL 2017

GORDON ROOM, WORTHING TOWN HALL, CHAPEL ROAD, WORTHING BN11 1HA

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Humphreys (Chair), Councillor Morgan, Councillor Parkin, Councillor Smith, G Theobald and Councillor Wall

**Business Partners:** Steve Allen, Trevor Beattie, Sue Dare, Prof. M Davies, Prof. Humphris, Dean Orgill, Andrew Swayne and Peter Webb

### PART ONE

#### 29 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 29a Declarations of substitutes

29.1 Sue Dare was present as substitute for Nick Juba.

29.2 Steve Allen was present as substitute for John A. Peel

##### 29b Declarations of interests

29.3 Dean Orgill declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 34 as a member of the European Structural Investment Fund Board.

29.4 Prof Davies declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 34 as a member of the European Structural Investment Fund Board.

29.5 Trevor Beattie declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 34 as a member of the European Structural Investment Fund Board.

##### 29c Exclusion of the press and public

29.6 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.

29.7 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items contained in Part Two of the agenda.

**30 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 30.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 January 2017 be approved and signed as the correct record.

**31 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- 31.1 The Chair provided the following Communications:

*“Many of you will be aware that John Peel is stepping down from the Coast to Capital Board. This would, therefore, have been John’s last meeting with us but he is unable to attend today. I’m sure all Board members will want to join me in placing on the record our thanks to John for his support and contributions; he has been instrumental to the success of the Board since its inception in 2014. Steve Allen will join the Board as Coast to Capital’s representative. Steve, who is Vice Chairman of the Coast to Capital Board, is here today and I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome Steve.*

*I’m also sorry to report that this will be Thalia Liebig’s last meeting with us. Thalia has been the Business Manager for the Board since shortly after its inception and will be taking up a new position as Programme Manager for the One Public Estate Board. On behalf of the Board, I would like to offer her our collective thanks for all and wish her well for the future.*

*This is Peter Webb’s first meeting as the Coastal West Sussex Partnership’s representative and so welcome Peter.*

*Welcome also to Cllr Peter Lamb, Leader of Crawley Borough Council (seated in the public gallery) who is joining us again today as an observer. You will have seen that, as part of the Operational Arrangements item, we will be asked to agree that Crawley Borough Council and Gatwick Airport Limited be formally invited to join the Board as constituent members. Extending our membership and geographical remit presents us with tremendous opportunities in relation to economic regeneration and growth. It will allow us to focus on the London-Gatwick-Brighton Growth Corridor, identified by Grant Thornton’s High Growth Index of Places as one of nine corridors in England to have been at the heart of growth over the last decade and likely to maintain a pivotal role in shaping growth in the future. This will strengthen both our voice to Government and our case for continued investment – both public and private.*

*The Greater Brighton Metropolitan College – or GB Met – was formally created on 01 April, through the merger of City College Brighton and Northbrook College Sussex. There was a very positive celebration of the launch at the newly built – and Local Growth Fund funded – Construction Trades Centre on the 04 April. GB Met – which operates across five campuses in Brighton, Shoreham and Worthing – offers a comprehensive range of qualifications for 16 year olds leaving school, full and part time courses for adults, apprenticeships, professional qualifications and university degrees. It teaches around 3,500 16-18 year olds, 7,500 adult learners, 1,000 undergraduates and 800 apprenticeships. I’m sure that the Board will join me in congratulating Nick Juba, GB Met’s Chief Executive Officer and Sue Dare who is here as Nick’s substitute today.*

*I wanted to bring to the Board’s attention our recent success in securing new Local Growth Fund funding – totalling over £58m – for eleven regeneration and infrastructure projects located across Greater Brighton. Our Investment Programme is growing and, more importantly, it is delivering – unlocking much needed new homes, employment floorspace and jobs for our City Region”.*

31.2 Councillor Morgan expressed his thanks to Councillor Humphrey for his diligent chairmanship as of the Board for the past municipal year. Councillor Morgan noted some of the achievements and milestones achieved with Councillor Humphrey as Chair: the Board had continued to build and strengthen relationships both across and beyond the partnership, raising its profile and voice. Excellent progress had been made in delivering the City Region's Investment Programme and securing over £58m in new Growth Deal funding to continue to grow the Programme - unlocking more new jobs, homes and employment floorspace across Greater Brighton. Ensuring that the Board was ready and able to quickly bid for new funding opportunities as and when these arise, by maintaining a live and prioritised project pipeline. Identifying, including through the development of the City Region's devolution bid, priority projects and initiatives for Greater Brighton and taking steps to deliver these, including: Developing the City Region's successful One Public Estate bid and creating the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board; rolling-out the Greater Brighton Broadband Voucher Scheme, which installed over 1,000 vouchers; commencing work with the Department for International Trade, to develop a proactive Inward Investment Strategy for the City Region, and launching the Greater Brighton website. Furthermore, Councillor Morgan extended an invitation to all Board Members to attend a civic reception to celebrate the promotion of Brighton & Hove Albion on 14 May.

## **32 GREATER BRIGHTON RESPONSE TO INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY GREEN PAPER**

- 32.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided the Board with the City Region's consultation response to the Government's Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper.
- 32.2 Nick Hibberd supplemented that officers had held meetings with the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) the previous day and had received a very positive response in relation to the work the Board was undertaking on Smart Growth and City Ambassadors. DCLG had arranged to visit the Region to undertake an intensive piece of work in those areas.
- 32.3 Councillor Theobald welcomed the response but felt it could have addressed the severity of problems relating to rail travel between London and Brighton slightly more. Councillor Theobald stated that the route was one of the busiest in the country and a solution to the current situation was desperately needed.
- 32.4 Prof Humphris stated that she welcomed the response to the consultation and the Southern Accelerator descriptive term. Prof Humphris stated that the key to devolution was outstanding civic leadership and universities driving innovation.
- 32.5 Councillor Morgan noted that the Southern Accelerator had been his suggestion and reflected the importance of identity in order to compete with other devolved regions such as the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine. Councillor Morgan stated that the Region had achieved much success but it was time to raise performance and the use of City Ambassadors and Town Halls would go some way toward that.

- 32.6 Councillor Wall noted his support for the recommendations adding that it had never been a better time for the Region to move forward. Economic aspirations should continue to be made and the report needed to push the case for the Region forward.
- 32.7 Sue Dare noted that page 37 of the agenda referenced the intention of Greater Brighton Metropolitan College to establish proposals for the creation of an Institute of Technology (IoT) and Board support for that would be welcome and the application would need to be made shortly.
- 32.8 Andrew Swayne stated that the business community supported the approach and he felt the Southern Accelerator was a good step forward in terms of identity.
- 32.9 Prof Davies relayed the support from the University of Brighton for the proposals. The University had submitted its own response to the Green Paper and he would be happy to share that with fellow Board Members.
- 32.10 Councillor Parkin welcomed the report adding that it would be beneficial for government officials to meet the universities and business leaders during their scheduled visit.
- 32.11 Councillor Smith stated that investment in infrastructure was key to the region and should form the central part of the devolution process.
- 32.12 The Chair gave the following statement:

*“At our last meeting, we agreed to commission a short piece of work to demonstrate the economic impact of the rail disruption on the Greater Brighton economy. This proved exceptionally difficult to do in a short space of time: the impacts vary by sector and by geography; it is hard to verify the correlations and causes, and; businesses and people are finding ‘work arounds’.*

*Nonetheless, there is significant anecdotal evidence that the ongoing industrial action is having a harming effect on our residents’ wellbeing and livelihoods, on our businesses and on investor confidence. I have therefore written, on behalf of the Board, to the Secretary of State for Transport to urge Government to do all that it can to encourage the relevant parties to work together to resolve the dispute expediently and ultimately move forward. I also took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of the Brighton Mainline Upgrade project to increase capacity and reliability in the long-term, asking Government to recognise this critical route when setting its priorities for investment in the national rail network and associated infrastructure.*

*I have also written to the National Infrastructure Commission to supplement the ‘priorities map’ sent to them by the South East England Councils; outlining the importance of the Brighton Main Line, the M23 and Shoreham Port to the City Region economy.*

*Brighton & Hove City Council, in consultation with Transport for the South East partners, is currently exploring and developing the Rail South proposals put forward by Cllr Warren Morgan at our last meeting. We will be receiving a report on the proposals at our next meeting, in July 2017”.*

- 32.13 **RESOLVED-** That the Board give retrospective approval to the Consultation Response, which was submitted to Government on 17 April 2017 in line with its deadline.

**33 INNOVATION SOUTH**

- 33.1 The Board considered a presentation from Dave Cooper, Professor of Management and Economic Development and Head of Business School, University of Chichester that set out the focus and progress and emerging themes of Innovation South.

**34 EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND BUSINESS SUPPORT BID**

- 34.1 The Board considered a presentation that gave an overview of the objectives and ambition of the European Regional Development Fund Business Support Bid Priority Axis 3.

**35 UPDATE ON GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND LOCAL GROWTH FUND**

- 35.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided a progress update on the Greater Brighton Investment Programme since the previous meeting on 31 January 2017. The report also provided an update on the Local Growth Fund (LGF) in relation to both the allocations made as part of round 3 of the Growth Deal and new bidding opportunities presented by the C2C LEP's new six monthly call for growth projects financed from unallocated Growth Deal round 1 and 2 funds.
- 35.2 Councillor Parkin relayed to the Board that the redeveloped Town Hall in Adur would shortly be welcoming a new occupier thereby retaining 400 jobs in the area.
- 35.3 Councillor Morgan welcomed the near completion of the Construction Trades Centre and thanked the Greater Brighton Metropolitan College for their investment. Councillor Morgan noted that whilst investment in high tech and innovations sectors should be welcomed, the importance of practical skills to the employment sector was just as important.
- 35.4 Prof Humphris noted that the Advance Engineering Centre was close to completion and she hoped a future meeting of the Board could be held there.
- 35.5 Steve Allen noted that there would shortly be another call for applications for £11m of unallocated and £16m of allocated funding. Steve Allen congratulated the Board for its readiness and how quickly work was progressed.
- 35.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report.

**36 NEWHAVEN ENTERPRISE ZONE**

- 36.1 The Board considered a presentation from Peter Sharp, Regeneration Project Officer, Lewes District Council that provide an overview of regeneration, investment and growth in Newhaven.
- 36.2 Steve Allen noted that the Newhaven area had declined as a town over the past two decades and the proposals represented a once in a generation opportunity to raise the profile of the region. Newhaven was one of just twelve enterprise zones in the country

and was one of the granted asks of the City Deal. Steve Allen supplemented that the proposals were ahead of the curve and the improvement and innovation plan was ready. The next stage would be work on how to move things forward but there had been an immediate benefit demonstrated in the Eastside South and East Quay.

- 36.3 Councillor Theobald welcomed the update and asked what ideas were being considered for improvements to transport infrastructure.
- 36.4 Steve Allen responded that the development of Port Road was being pushed and as with any EZ, the main ask was unlocking barriers around the zone.
- 36.5 Councillor Smith expressed his thanks to the Board as it had started the process for improvements to Newhaven.

### **37 BRIGHTON CITY HALL PROPOSAL**

- 37.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that summarised the emerging opportunities for a Brighton City Hall proposal in supporting business growth, promoting trade and attracting inward investment and requested endorsement for the proposal and the proposed expansion of the City Ambassador role.
- 37.2 Andrew Swayne welcomed the proposals but cautioned that the limits of what was a listed building would represent a challenge.
- 37.3 Councillor Parkin stated his support for the proposals noting that further consideration would be required for how delegates reached the Town Hall as there was significant traffic issues in the surrounding area, particularly at weekends.
- 37.4 Prof Humphries welcomed the proposals adding that the location was ideal in representing the Greater Brighton region. Prof Humphris added that detailed co-ordination would be needed with all partners in relation to meeting delegates.
- 37.5 Councillor Smith asked if any investigation on footfall in the area and a business case for the investment required in improving a semi-redundant building had been undertaken.
- 37.6 Nick Hibberd replied that initial work had been undertaken including soft market testing that had received positive feedback. There was also a business case relating to capital investment considering how grant funding could be achieved and potential for borrowing against future revenue streams to enable renovation work.
- 37.7 Councillor Theobald stated his agreement that the term 'City Ambassador' be used instead of Alderman as the latter was an antiquated title and not relevant to the proposed role. Councillor Theobald added that he believed the proposed City Ambassador should have a business or university background from within the Greater Brighton area.
- 37.8 Prof Humphris stated that a lot could be learned from how Manchester had developed the role of its Town Hall.

37.9 Dean Orgill stated that the proposals had been discussed by the Brighton Economic Partnership and had received unanimous support. There was a need for good quality office and meeting space in the area and the Town Hall would be a valuable focal point.

**37.10 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board endorse both the Brighton City Hall proposal and the proposed expansion of the City Ambassador role, to include sector representation and business leaders from across the City Region.
- 2) That the Board task the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board ('the Officer Programme Board') to further explore and develop the opportunities presented by the Brighton City Hall proposal for the City Region, aligned to the worked currently underway to develop Greater Brighton's strategic approach to Inward Investment & Trade.

**38 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD 2017/18 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 38.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out its Operational Arrangements for 2017/18.
- 38.2 Councillor Morgan stated that at one of his first meetings attending the Board, expansion and next steps had been extensively discussed and he was pleased that the Board had reached a position to begin discussions to invite Crawley Borough Council and Gatwick Airport Limited to formally join. As a major international airport and the base of an economic powerhouse in Crawley, both would be a major asset to the Board and was a testament to the increasing importance the Board had. Councillor Morgan stated that he was very pleased to endorse the two invitations.
- 38.3 Andrew Swayne concurred with the comments made by Councillor Morgan adding that it demonstrated the economic evolution of the Board.
- 38.4 Prof Humphris welcomed the invitations to Crawley Borough Council and Gatwick Airport Limited that would be an enormous positive for the Board.
- 38.5 Councillor Wall welcomed the proposals that demonstrated the scale of the ambition of the Board and how far it had come since its inception. Councillor Wall cautioned that expansion sometimes could bring unintended consequences and he was pleased that this issue had been considered in the report. Councillor Wall supplemented that he would like to see the new Chair of the Board take the case for Greater Brighton to central government that would require skilful and careful management and common unity and purpose from the wider Board membership.

**38.6 RESOLVED-**

That the Board:

- (1) Agree and secure the budgetary contributions sought to fund the cost of running the Board and delivering its workplan in 2017/18;
- (2) Note the current workplan and agree the projects/activities prioritised for funding;
- (3) Agree that Brighton & Hove City Council shall continue to act as Lead Authority for the Board in 2017/18;
- (4) Agree to formally invite Crawley Borough Council and Gatwick Airport Limited to become constituent members of the Board, joining the Greater Brighton Joint Committee and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership respectively, subject to both their agreement and formal ratification from the Board's member organisations;
- (5) Agree the process by which the Chair of the Board shall be nominated for 2017/18;
- (6) Note the date by which the Lead Authority must be notified of all named substitutes and instruct any necessary actions within their respective organisations;
- (7) Note the date by which the lead authority must be notified of all nominations to the Greater Brighton Call-In Panel and instruct any necessary actions within their respective organisations, and;
- (8) Note that the Annual Report will be drafted for presentation to the Board at its first meeting in the new municipal year.

### **39 PART TWO MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 39.1 **RESOLVED-** That the Part Two minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 January 2017 be approved and signed as the correct record.

### **40 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS**

- 40.1 **RESOLVED-** That the Part Two minute item remains exempt from disclosure from the press and public.

### **41 MATTERS ARISING**

- 41.1 Dean Orgill communicated to the Board that due to a change in his professional commitments, he would unfortunately be standing down as the Board's representative to the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Board. With Peter Davies the current vice-representative also standing down due to retirement, the Board would need to appoint a new representative and deputy to the ESIF Board.
- 41.2 The Chair thanked Dean and Peter for their work as representatives to the ESIF Board and recommended to Board Members they consider new a new representative and deputy to be appointed at a later date that was agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of