

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 18 JULY 2017

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD, HOVE, BN3 3BQ

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Smith (Chair), Councillor Humphreys, Councillor Janio and Morgan, Councillor Wall

**Business Partners:** Steve Allen, Trevor Beattie, Dr Ian Carter, Prof. Humphris, Nick Juba, Dean Orgill, Andrew Swayne, Peter Webb

### PART ONE

#### 1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1.1 Robert Cottrill read the following statement:

*“At its meeting on 25 April 2017, 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 2017/18 term. Since the previous meeting, a confidential nomination and voting process was undertaken in accordance with that agreement Councillor Smith was nominated by fellow Board Members to the role of Chair of the Board for the 2017/18 municipal year”*

1.2 The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Smith as Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board for the 2017/18 municipal year.

1.3 The Chair thanked Board Members for their support for his appointment and his predecessor Councillor Humphreys for his chairmanship in the 2016/17 year.

#### 2 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 2a Declarations of substitutes

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

##### 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.

2.5 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded.

### **3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 April 2017 be approved and signed as the correct record.

### **4 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

4.1 The Chair provided the following Communications:

*On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome Cllr Tony Janio. Cllr Janio is Opposition Leader at Brighton & Hove City Council and joins the Board after Cllr Theobald stepped-down from the role.*

*This is the first Board meeting since Crawley Borough Council and Gatwick Airport Ltd were formally invited to be Constituent and Partner Members respectively. I am pleased that Councillor Peter Smith, Crawley's Chief Executive, Natalie Brahma-Pearl, and Alison Addy, Head of Community Engagement at Gatwick, are able to join us today. The Board is looking forward to working with Crawley and Gatwick through the ratification process.*

*Extending the membership to Crawley and Gatwick Airport will present us with tremendous opportunities in relation to economic regeneration and growth. It will allow us to focus on the A23/M23 growth corridor – linking Brighton, Gatwick and London. The corridor has been identified as one of nine 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.*

*This is Andy Hill's first meeting as the new Greater Brighton Business Manager for the Board, so welcome Andy. Andy replaces Thalia Liebig who made an invaluable contribution to the work of the Board.*

*It was agreed at the April Board meeting, that £40,000 would be utilised for the development of a proactive inward investment and export strategy, and that as lead partner, Brighton & Hove City Council would facilitate this process.*

*Work has now commenced on producing a new Economic and Inward Investment Strategy for Greater Brighton. The tender process to appoint specialists to support this work is well under way and following shortlisting and interview, we are looking to award the contract to the successful bidder next month.*

*The project will comprise three distinct phases:*

- *Produce an evidence report, 'The City Region's Economic Story & Policy Context' - by end September 2017*
- *Consultation period with stakeholders, including consultation events, face-to-face and group interviews – October 2017-January 2018*
- *Development of the Strategy – final Strategy presented for approval to the Project Board by end February 2018.*

*The formal invitation-only launch event for the Newhaven Enterprise Zone was held on Monday 26th June at the UTC@harbourside. The event was highly successful, with around 70 local dignitaries, businesses and partners attending, including Maria Caulfield MP. Attendees heard from a range of speakers, including Chris Rasmussen of Brightwell Dispensers (one of Newhaven's largest employers and have recently taken on new space within the Enterprise Zone).*

## **5 GREATER BRIGHTON CITY REGION WORKSHOP**

- 5.1 The Committee considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided an update on discussions with central government about a City Region focused deep dive into the issues, challenges and economic opportunities in the Greater Brighton Region and sought Board support for the planned activities to raise the profile of the Greater Brighton City Region with government.
- 5.2 Councillor Morgan welcomed the update adding that officers from key government departments would be visiting to see the work of the Board and the City Region and he would urge other Board Members and partners to attend.
- 5.3 Councillor Wall stated that whilst he welcomed the extra time provided to prepare, the agenda for the workshop was very focussed upon Brighton and activity from across the Region could be better reflected in the programme.
- 5.4 Nick Juba stated that central government were keen in driving improvement in skills and the issue could have more prominence in the agenda.
- 5.5 Nick Hibberd thanked members for their comments that would be taken into account. The workshop would be limited to two days and it would be difficult to reflect the very broad work of the Board in that timeframe so key aspects had been targeted in the programme. In such a short timescale, it was not desirable not travel too much across the Region but there would be a specific focus on housing delivery in Mid-Sussex and progress on the Newhaven Enterprise Zone encompassing a visit.
- 5.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Board approves the proposals for the Greater Brighton City Region Workshop and the associated work streams.

## **6 UPDATE ON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

- 6.1 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 25 April 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 the progress of projects financed from unallocated Growth Deal round 1 and 2 funds.

- 6.2 Andrew Swayne praised the standard of the report but felt that future reports could give more details on timings and schedules. Andrew also requested the reintroduction of the traffic light grading for projects and timelines as a method of oversight.
- 6.3 Nick Hibberd replied that good progress was being made on projects and a lot of the work in the City Deal was now being delivered. The reintroduction of a traffic light grading could be considered alongside a closer alignment with the report mechanisms the LEP produced.
- 6.4 Steve Allen confirmed that the LEP used a project dashboard detailing deliverability and he would consult colleagues on the best way to share that.
- 6.5 Councillor Wall stated that the scale and ambition of the projects was clear to see however, it was clear that the regions highway authorities played a crucial role in the delivery of schemes, particularly those outside Brighton and at some point, the Board would have to consider their possible inclusion as active members.
- 6.6 Councillor Morgan stated that there was scope to address the points raised by Councillor Wall both through the LEP and SE7 and also Sub-National Transport Board for the South East (SNTB)
- 6.7 Councillor Wall replied that he did not believe the practicalities of the suggestion would be straightforward or simple.
- 6.8 Geoff Raw stated that it may be useful to the Board to receive a report on the matter both to understand and make clear the Board's role and to develop a narrative about what was intended across the City Region. That in turn could be put into the arena of the SNTB to influence funding and policy decisions.
- 6.9 Andrew Swayne stated that he was minded to agree with the comments made by Geoff Raw but it was essential that key transport partners were present at Board meetings in some capacity.
- 6.10 Prof Humphries stated that a joined up approach was incredibly important and a strategic engagement with partners and stakeholders was very much needed.
- 6.11 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report.

## **7 RAIL SOUTH**

- 7.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that outlined the options available to the Board in securing greater influence over rail infrastructure investment and rail franchising in the Region by working with and through the emerging Sub-National Transport Body, Transport for the South East.

- 7.2 Andrew Swayne welcomed the report that detailed a long and complex process. Andrew felt that there should be stronger emphasis on east to west transport connections however, the Brighton Mainline was at a critical stage and had to take first priority.
- 7.3 Prof. Humphris stated agreed that more emphasis was needed on east to west connections and stated her concern regarding the consideration by the rail franchise operators that services would stop to some smaller stations.
- 7.4 Councillor Morgan highlighted paragraph 4.2 and specifically that the aim of Rail South was to give customers, commuters and businesses and statutory voice into the awarding and operation of rail franchises.
- 7.5 Steve Allen agreed with previous comments that further conversations were needed on east to west connections and that needed to be in the context of connections to London.
- 7.6 Councillor Humphries stated he did not view the rail franchise issue as an overwhelming priority and that the majority of effort of the SNTB should be spent on making a case to increase rail capacity from London to Brighton as problems would persist until that was resolved.
- 7.7 Councillor Janio agreed that capacity was the most important issue and the Region needed to make a case on the need for improved rail infrastructure.
- 7.8 Steve Allen stated that the recommendations of the report ought to better to reflect a prioritisation of east to west connections.
- 7.9 Nick Hibberd stated that in previous consideration of the issue at GBEB meetings, there was consensus that the first priority would be investment in the Brighton to London mainline. Explicit emphasis on east to west connections could be added to, and reflected in recommendation 2.2 of the report should the Board agree.
- 7.10 Councillor Humphreys noted his concern that too many priorities may dilute the required emphasis on the Brighton to London mainline.
- 7.11 Nick Hibberd suggested that any motion to amend the recommendations could place emphasis on promotion of the east to west connections rather than prioritisation.
- 7.12 Councillor Humphreys agreed that the term promotion would better reflect the STNB and GBEB priorities.
- 7.13 Andrew Swayne moved a motion to amend recommendation 2.2 as shown in bold italics below:
- 2.2 That the Board use their positions on the Shadow Board of SNTB Transport for the South East to ensure;
- The development of a Rail Strategy as part of the SNTB Transport Strategy
  - The prioritisation of Brighton Main Line Upgrade project by Network Rail early in the next Control Period (CP6: 2019-2024)

- The ~~prioritisation~~ **promotion** of other rail improvements **including those east to west** and regional connections including those centred on Lewes – Uckfield, and connecting the Region to other areas of the South East including Heathrow.

7.14 Prof. Humphris formally seconded the motion.

7.15 The Chair put the motion to the vote which passed.

7.16 The Chair put the recommendations, as amended to the vote which passed.

7.17 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That members of the Board support the proposal to develop a “Rail South” model as a workstream under the emerging Sub National Transport Body, Transport for South East
- 2) That the Board use their positions on the Shadow Board of SNTB Transport for the South East to ensure;
  - The development of a Rail Strategy as part of the SNTB Transport Strategy
  - The prioritisation of Brighton Main Line Upgrade project by Network Rail early in the next Control Period (CP6: 2019-2024)
  - The promotion of other rail improvements including those east to west and regional connections including those centred on Lewes – Uckfield, and connecting the Region to other areas of the South East including Heathrow.

## 8 ONE PUBLIC ESTATE

8.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided an update on progress in relation to the City Region’s One Public Estate programme.

8.2 The Assistant Director, Property & Design noted that the recommendations requested the nomination of a business representative to join the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board. With the Board’s consent, that could be discussed with the business sector and brought back to the Board for approval.

8.3 Andrew Swayne noted that the One Public Estate programme was a key deliverable in the City Deal as part of public sector transformation. Andrew Swayne requested that more data be provided for future reports covering sites and details of housing projection on a site by site basis with delivery timescale. Andrew added that West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service was missing from the appendices and should be added in for future reports and the terminology for Greater Brighton Metropolitan College needed to be updated.

8.4 Dean Orgill stated that the potential ratification of Crawley Borough Council to join the Board would see an increase in potential project scale and asked how the current programme would dovetail.

8.5 Angela Dymott stated that the issue has not yet been discussed in a high level of detail but certainly would be in due course.

8.6 Prof Humphris stated that the University of Brighton (UoB) were delighted to be connected to many of the developments particularly the potential Healthcare Hub at Preston Barracks that would bring in the UoB's medical health science and social work school, linking academic activity with health and wellbeing services for local people.

**8.7 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board notes the report.
- 2) That the Board nominates a business representative to join the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board.

**9 UPDATE ON SCIENCE FESTIVAL**

9.1 The Board considered a presentation from Andrew Swayne that provided an overview of the upcoming Science Festival to be held in September 2017 across a number of locations in Brighton & Hove.

9.2 Prof Humphris stated that there were an extensive number of public lectures including some by those who would go on to become experts in their fields and urged people to attend.

9.3 Councillor Janio asked if there was anything the Board could do to encourage engagement and participation.

9.4 Andrew Swayne answered that the Board Members could promote the event in their varying capacities and roles and attend the events themselves.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 Andrew Swayne noted the A27 Worthing to Lancing scheme consultation opened the next day. Andrew stated that the consultation period was too short and the documentation was very complex so a request had been made to Highways England to extend the consultation as it was a major decision for the city region. Andrew requested that Board Members attend the events and engage with the consultation.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of