

Subject:	Greater Brighton City Region Workshop		
Date of Meeting:	18 July 2017		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nick Hibberd	Tel: 01273 293020
	Email:	Nick.hibberd@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
LA's affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

1.1 On the 25th April 2017 the Greater Brighton Economic Board gave retrospective approval to the Greater Brighton response to the government's Industrial Strategy. Following this submission officers from Brighton & Hove City Council have been talking to government about a City Region focused deep dive into the issues, challenges and economic opportunities in the Greater Brighton City Region. This report provides an update on these discussions and seeks Board support for the planned activities to raise the profile of the Greater Brighton City Region with government.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Board approves the proposals for the Greater Brighton City Region Workshop and the associated work streams.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 On the 23 January 2017, Government published its Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper and invited comments. On the 13th April 2017 the Greater Brighton response to the Economic Strategy was submitted to government.

3.2 The Greater Brighton submission highlighted the need for ongoing investment in the South East region due to its strategically important role in the UK both in terms of its fiscal contribution to the exchequer and in the opportunities that it creates for increased economic activity. The term Southern Accelerator was coined within the document as an overarching vision for the region within which other structures, strategies and bids would sit. The Southern Accelerator is similar to that of the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands engine in helping to frame future investment for growth.

3.3 In April 2017 the Director for Economy Environment & Culture at Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) met with officers from the Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)/ CLG Cities and Local Growth Unit to explore opportunities for joint working as part of their work on the Industrial Strategy and with a particular focus on economic growth in the context of place.

3.4 The initial areas of focus that government would like to consider are:-

City Ambassadors & City Halls for Business (see previous report to the Board)
Housing Growth Corridor
Digital Growth
University Driven Growth
Creative Digital Growth
Skills

3.5 The Cities and Local Growth unit would like to take forward this work through a series of intensive workshop sessions to explore these themes drawing on the knowledge and expertise of senior leaders, government officials and businesses. The aim will be to agree areas of focus that would be of interest to government in taking forward the Industrial Strategy and which may lead to shared investment.

3.6 The first of these interactions will take the form of a workshop over two days the autumn. Central government officials will be given a tour of key sites and will then move in to workshops comprising Greater Brighton Board Members, government officers, businesses and subject specialists.

3.7 Greater Brighton Board members will be invited to attend and take part in this two-day event and subsequent meetings to determine the areas of focus for joint working and the potential for future government investment.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 On 31 January 2017 the Greater Board received a report on the work undertaken to update the Greater Brighton Devolution Bid however the pace at which new devolution deals are agreed has slowed dramatically since the initial agreements were made and it is evident from the emerging Industrial Strategy that government is considering new ways to engage with local government in delivering economic growth.

4.2 The planned workshop with government is part of the refocused engagement between central and local government which aims to identify particular areas of need where government intervention will have the greatest impact.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

The planned activities with government over the coming months will be developed through a process of consultation with key agencies and businesses across the City Region.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Board is asked to note the planned activities with central government and support the work streams that arise from it.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The funds to support the work will be drawn from the 2017/18 Greater Brighton Operational Budget along with contributions in kind from Board members. The 2017/18 Greater Brighton Operational Budget and contributions from members were reported to this Board on 25 April 2017.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant
Date: 05/07/17*

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report

*Lawyer Consulted: Alice Rowland, Head of Commercial Law
Date: 29/06/17*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 None identified.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None identified

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None identified

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Proposed Agenda for Greater Brighton City Region Workshop

