



## Greater Brighton Work-Plan 2018/19

### Aims and Purpose of the Work-Plan

The Greater Brighton Economic Board (“the Board”) was established in 2014 as the governance structure that would oversee and implement the Greater Brighton City Deal. The over-arching purpose of the Board is to bring about sustainable economic development and growth across the Greater Brighton City Region. To achieve this, the principal role of the Board is to co-ordinate economic development activities and investment at the City Region level. ‘Economic development’ shall bear its natural meaning but particular emphasis is given to:

- Housing
- Economic Growth
- Infrastructure and Transport
- Employment and Skills
- Utilisation of Property Assets
- Strategic Planning

### Achievements So Far

Four years on from signing the City Deal, great progress has been made against delivering on the key commitments agreed with Government. The Board has secured over £160m in Local Growth Funding which will;

- Create 24,000 jobs
- Build 18,000 new homes
- Deliver 750,000m<sup>2</sup> employment floor space
- Unlock £2bn in private sector investment

### New England House

The City Deal’s flagship proposal was to renovate and expand New England House, the centrepiece of the City Region’s creative-tech cluster, into an improved and expanded

**Greater Brighton Economic Board**  
c/o Andy Hill, Business Manager, Economy, Environment & Culture Directorate  
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ  
☎ 01273 291873, 07833 483293



facility for nurturing small creative-tech businesses. Over 90 organisations are currently based within New England House, including the Arts Council and Wired Sussex, a membership organisation that delivers a wide range of services, initiatives and networks designed to support the development of the digital cluster.

New England House is also home to the Digital Exchange, Digital Catapult and 5G Testbed. The 5G Testbed is one of only a handful of such facilities in the UK and the only one outside of a university. Future plans for New England House include the development of an Immersive Tech Lab, where developers of Augmented and Virtual Reality technologies will be able to apply their software to real-world settings.

### Flood Defences

The City Deal identified that creating new flood defences in Shoreham and Newhaven as being important for protecting existing residential properties and economic assets, and unlocking strategic sites for delivering new residential and commercial space.

In Newhaven, work on protecting the west bank of the Ouse was completed in October 2017, and work is underway on the east bank of the river. The overall programme is on schedule and due to be complete by autumn 2019.

In Shoreham, the Adur Tidal Walls scheme has been separated into 10 reaches. Work is underway or complete at seven of the reaches with work to commence on the other reaches over the coming months. The project will significantly reduce the flood risk to over 2,300 properties in Shoreham and East Lancing and will also protect key local infrastructure including the road network, railway line and Shoreham Airport.

### Growth Centres

#### **Newhaven Enterprise Zone**

The Newhaven Enterprise Zone opened in April 2017. Covering 8 strategic sites across the town, the Enterprise Zone offers a mix of undeveloped greenfield sites and the opportunity to refurbish, redevelop and intensify economic activity on a number of brownfield sites. In its 25-year lifespan, it is projected that the Enterprise Zone will;



- Create 55,000m<sup>2</sup> of new employment floor-space
- Refurbish 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of existing employment floor-space
- Create/sustain 2,000 FTE jobs
- Generate an uplift in business rates for reinvestment

### **Central Research Laboratory**

The Central Research Laboratory at the Ministry of Defence Preston Barracks site, is backed by the University of Brighton. The site will create an incubator for new businesses linked to university research. It is projected that the Laboratory will add around £465m in GVA over a 10-year period and deliver;

- 4,645m<sup>2</sup> of new employment space
- 500m<sup>2</sup> of high specification prototyping labs/workshops
- 107 onsite jobs

The site will support up to 99 businesses and 300 further jobs. Phase 1 work is due to begin in June 2018, and the estimated completion date for the project is December 2019.

### **Sussex Bio-Innovation Centre**

This facility, to be housed at the University of Sussex Falmer Campus, will expand biosciences research in Brighton and provide space for university-business collaboration in this field. The centre will provide around 2,200m<sup>2</sup> of dedicated specialist accommodation, and will be able to support 20 new business teams at a time. This will create over 60 specialist bio-science graduate-level jobs and a further 20 specialist technician, business support and management positions, as well as 147 new indirect academic and teaching jobs. As an 'incubator' the Centre will support the start-up and early growth of businesses, which will then graduate to larger premises and be replaced. An average business stay of 5 years is expected meaning that 100 bio-science businesses will be supported over the next 20 years, creating over 300 new scientific positions.

Work is due to be complete in 2020.

### **Other Growth Centres – Burgess Hill**

Burgess Hill is the largest growth area in Greater Brighton. The Northern Arc Housing development will create around 3,500 new homes across a 180 hectare site, and a further 1,500 homes are currently being delivered at other locations across the town. Two business parks will sit alongside the Northern Arc and a new Science and Technology Park will deliver 100,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floor-space. In total, the Burgess Hill Programme will create around 15,000 new jobs (including construction jobs).

### Completed Projects

In 2017 we reached the completion phase for several key projects that received LGF Funding through Growth Deal rounds 1 & 2.

### **The Newhaven Enterprise Zone**

As described above.

### **University of Brighton Advanced Engineering Centre**

Construction of the University of Brighton Advanced Engineering Centre was completed in the spring of 2017, which was followed by the installation of specialist equipment in the research areas. The new Centre was used during the 2017 British Science Festival and will be officially opened on 19 April 2018.

The centre will provide specialist science-led teaching and research facilities for advanced automotive engineering. Key features of the centre will be;

- laboratories, tutorial rooms, meeting rooms and exhibition spaces
- the base for 300 students, 15 academic staff and 35 research posts
- delivering around 60 engineering graduates each year.

### **Greater Brighton Metropolitan (GBMet) College Construction Trades Centre**

The Construction Trades Centre, situated on the East Brighton Campus of the College, will train the next generation of electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, bricklayers and plasterers. Employers in construction and catering already face significant problems in recruiting skilled workers, and in 2017 GBMet published a report entitled “Have you Met your future”, which suggested that jobs in construction will be amongst

the top 10 growth occupations in Sussex and the UK over the next 5 years. With the government in the process of negotiating Great Britain out of the EU, it remains unclear what the impact might be for the supply of labour to key industries including construction, health and tourism, so the new educational facility is going to be vital for the post-Brexit economy.

### **Brighton & Hove Bike Share Scheme**

The Brighton & Hove Bike Share Scheme was officially launched on 1 September 2017. Public bike share is part of a wider strategy to enhance public transport infrastructure, walking and cycling across Brighton & Hove and the wider region to improve connectivity between existing employers and developments, the city centre and more local/district centres.

The network involves 50 docking stations and around 450 bikes, and the contract for the operation, management and maintenance of the scheme was awarded to HourBike. Early take-up has been excellent, with 20,000 registrations in the first four months, and the scheme was awarded the “Green Project of the Year” Award from the Argus newspaper.

The scheme could be expanded to cover parts of the City Region and provide cycle access to the South Downs National Park.

## **The Future**

Whilst much has been achieved since 2014, the Board’s aspirations have grown since its inception, and this ambition is reflected in the work-plan for 2018/19. The 2018/19 work-plan sets out to deliver on the key threads of economic development as outlined on page 1. Below are the proposed activities, which fall into two categories:

1. Ongoing/continuous work streams that are delivered by the Board’s existing resources, or supported by officers from the local authorities and other Greater Brighton partners
2. Specific/one-off pieces of work where additional resource is required e.g. the use of the Regeneris consultancy to deliver the Greater Brighton Inward

Investment & Export Strategy. These work streams have a stated resourcing requirement.

## **Housing**

### **Development and negotiation of a Greater Brighton Housing & Growth Deal**

In the Industrial Strategy White Paper Government is clear that it is looking to agree specific Local Growth Deals with localities and has shifted away from more general devolution deals. Continuing our engagement with Central Government, and building on the success of the 2-day Charrette last autumn, work on preparing a possible Housing & Growth Deal will continue through 2018/19.

The Housing & Growth Deal will be much like the original City Deal document and will set out a number of key asks of Central Government along with corresponding offers. The asks and offers will be grouped into the following themes, all crucial to the future success and prosperity of the City Region;

- Delivery of housing and employment space
- Delivery of smart infrastructure
- Delivery of clean and sustainable growth
- Knowledge intensive growth
- Inward investment and trade

## **Economic Growth**

### **ESIF Business Support Bid - £30,000**

One-off contribution towards the 100% match-fund requirement (totalling £6m) for the region's European Regional Development Fund Business Support bid.

The Board has committed £30,000 to support the ESIF Business Support Bid, which is being led by the University of Chichester. Following submission to DCLG of the final bid for the delivery of a £12m Business Support programme in November 2017, there have been a number of queries back from DCLG on the bid. These have been responded to, but as yet there is no indication of when (if) the contract will be awarded.

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## **Implementing the Recommendations in the Inward Investment & Export Strategy - £50,000**

The key recommendation from the Inward Investment & Export Strategy is that in line with other City Regions that have been very successful at establishing a USP and attracting Inward Investment e.g. Milton Keynes, Reading, Bristol & Bath etc, there be a dedicated resource allocated to inward investment. This and any other recommendations will require resource, which may be significant, and the Board will need to take a view on which recommendations to prioritise and how much resource is allocated. Whatever is decided, implementing the recommendations is likely to be a significant work stream for 2018/19 and possibly for several years beyond.

The suggestion is that £50,000 be allocated towards implementing the recommendations, and will be used for engaging in inward investment activity while work to resource the new team is underway.

### **Delivery of the Greater Brighton Investment Programme**

In July 2017 Coast to Capital launched a new funding round for unallocated funds from rounds 1 & 2. In December 2017, Coast to Capital announced that five projects from across Greater Brighton had been awarded funding totalling around £12m, so the investment programme continues to grow. The five projects are;

- **Crawley College STEM & Digital Centre** to develop a new Science Technology and Maths and Digital Skills centre in Crawley, to create a state of the art learning environment
- **Pelham Campus Redevelopment** to construct a new Centre for Creative and Digital Industries, together with part refurbishment of the Pelham Tower
- **Ricardo Hybrid Powertrain** to deliver a state of the art four-wheel drive hybrid powertrain rig to enable the research and development of the next generation of electrified powertrain systems and vehicles
- **Charleston Trust Centenary Project** to preserve Charleston's heritage, enhance the Trust's economic and cultural role and expand the site to achieve a sustainable financial future

- **Sussex Innovation Centre** to create more space and enable additional support through redesign of the large reception area at Sussex Innovation centre Falmer and to create a co-working space and meeting area, with Business hub space, within the Number One Croydon building.

## **Infrastructure and Transport**

### **Transport Infrastructure - £10,000**

Analysis and articulation of Greater Brighton's transport priorities, and explore opportunities for improved City Region transport.

### **Water Plan - £5,000**

Development of a Greater Brighton Water Plan, linked to the Investment Programme/Pipeline and Local Plans, working in partnership with the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere Board, Southern and South East Water and UK Power Networks and other local suppliers.

### **Energy Plan - £5,000**

Work continues on the Energy Plan to which the Board has agreed to commit £5,000.

### **Digital Infrastructure - £10,000.**

Development of a local Digital Connectivity Delivery Plan and supporting the growth the creative Digital and IT cluster, in partnership with the Digital Catapult Centre Brighton. Several Greater Brighton authorities submitted bids to the DCMS Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN). Mid Sussex were successful in their bid. It is suggested that the development of a Greater Brighton Digital Connectivity Delivery Plan should follow this work, and this plan would form the reference point when applying for future rounds of the LFFN Challenge Fund, or other funding streams around digital connectivity.

## **Employment and Skills**

### **Skills & Employment - £10,000**

Development of a Greater Brighton Skills & Employment Plan. In addition, in the Industrial Strategy White Paper Government announced that it will start to devolve the adult education budget in Combined Mayoral Authorities from early 2019. Greater





Brighton has similar accountable governance structures in place and we will be making the case for more flexibility around how the adult education budget is utilised.

## **Utilisation of Property Assets**

### **Delivery of the Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme**

The One Public Estate (OPE) Programme is a significant Greater Brighton sub-programme with its own resource and governance arrangements. The programme is funded by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit (GPU) and delivered in partnership with LGA. Greater Brighton was accepted onto the programme in November 2016, and there are four main objectives;

- Create economic growth (new homes, employment floor-space, jobs)
- Enable more integrated customer-focused services
- Generate capital receipts
- Reduce running costs

It is expected that the OPE Programme will continue to grow through 2018/19.

## **Strategic Planning**

### **Development of a Greater Brighton Communications Strategy**

The Communications Team have developed a number of proposals with a more strategic and front-foot approach to Board communications. These proposals are currently being evaluated. The aim of a new support package will be develop a comprehensive engagement programme which would increase visibility of the Greater Brighton brand and its activities. This could include engaging with new audiences via Social Media and other digital platforms, further development of the brand, increased media presence, a redesign of the website, and attendance at events to profile Greater Brighton.

### **Working with Coast-to-Capital to develop a Local Industrial Strategy**

The indication from Government is that they see Local Industrial Strategies being developed in line with LEP boundaries. Coast to Capital is currently developing a new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and Greater Brighton recently submitted a response to the SEP Consultation. The final plan will be published in late spring, and the new SEP

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will provide the reference point for future discussions around a Local Industrial Strategy.

### **Development of other policy responses, including to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper and the implications of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union**

Greater Brighton submitted a response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper in April 2017, and was pleased to see that some areas of concern were addressed in the White Paper. The potential impact of Brexit continues to be monitored, and the Board will respond to future policy announcements where relevant; Government has pledged to launch the UK Shared Prosperity Fund following departure from the EU and intends to consult this year on the precise design and priorities for the fund.

### **Maintenance of the Greater Brighton Project Pipeline**

Although no new funding streams have been announced, having a list of projects has enabled Greater Brighton to respond more quickly to funding opportunities that emerge. The project pipeline will allow opportunities for collaboration and potentially joint bidding, so the recommendation therefore is that the pipeline is maintained whether for future LGF, UK Shared Prosperity Fund or other government funding opportunities. Now that Crawley and Gatwick have joined the GBEB there is an opportunity to add more projects to the pipeline.

End.