

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 20 MAY 2014

AMEX STADIUM

MINUTES

Councillors Present: Councillor J Kitcat (Chair), Councillor G Theobald, Councillor Blackman, Councillor Parkin, Councillor Wall, Councillor Yallop

Business Partners Present: Prof. Julian Crampton, Prof. Michael Davies, Tony Mernagh, John Peel, Andrew Swayne, Lynn Thackway, Caroline Wood

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of substitutes

1.1 There were none.

1b Declarations of interests

1.2 There were none.

1c Exclusion of the press and public

1.3 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.

1.4 **RESOLVED** - That the public not be excluded from the meeting.

2. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Trevor Beattie as an observer at the meeting and relayed to the Board that the SDNPA would be formally represented on the Board at its next meeting.

3. OVERVIEW OF OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 The Board considered a report that set out the operating principles of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) that comprised of the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC) and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership (GBBP). The documents related to the operation of the Board included the Heads of Terms, the Memorandum of Understanding, the Procedural Rules and the Call-in Procedure.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council extended her view that the principle of the Board was to operate in an open and transparent manner and accordingly that meetings be held in public.
- 3.3 The Chairman of Coast to Capital LEP noted the discharging of functions listed at 3.3 of appendix 1 and stated that it should be recorded that the Board was not currently in adherence with the definition of proportionality due to the immediate focus upon deliverability.
- 3.4 Councillor Yallop expressed his preference that the seating plan be amended so that Brighton & Hove Economic Joint Committee Members could be positioned next to their respective Chief Executives.
- 3.5 The Chair stated that the Board administration was very much a work in progress and he was open to ideas about finding arrangements that were more suited to Members.
- 3.6 Councillor Parkin stated that Adur District Council would be able to offer room facilities for future meetings.
- 3.7 Members from the Adur & Worthing Business Partnership, Brighton & Hove Business Partnership and Coastal West Sussex Partnership, stated their concern regarding the schedule for the Apportionment of Losses between Board Members (of 1/12th) as this was not feasible for their organisations.
- 3.8 The Head of City Regeneration (Brighton & Hove City Council) explained that this was a unique situation as the organisations were contributors and decision makers on the Board but not funders. He acknowledged that this arrangement needed to be examined for its operation in practice.
- 3.9 The Head of Law (Brighton & Hove City Council) recommended that the Board agree the schedule subject to further discussions on its operation in practice.
- 3.10 **RESOLVED-** That the Greater Brighton Economic Board approve and adopt its operating principles as set out in appendices 1-4 to the report subject to further discussions on Appointment of Losses between Board Members.

4. GREATER BRIGHTON CITY DEAL

- 4.1 The Board received a presentation from the Head of City Regeneration (BHCC) and Director of Business Strategy & Development (LDC) that outlined the significance of the

City Deal, the actions undertaken since and key priorities for the short and long-term. The presentation is attached at Appendix 1.

- 4.2 The Executive Director of the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership enquired as to the level of housing provision identified for Newhaven.
- 4.3 The Director of Business Strategy & Development (LDC) clarified that whilst no firm proposals were in place; sites for development had been identified in the Local Plan, and were moving forward.
- 4.4 Councillor Theobald stated that whilst the local bus networks were to a high standard, he hoped that investment could be put into improving other transport links connecting Newhaven.
- 4.5 The Director of Business Strategy & Development (LDC) confirmed that the SEP had a long list of structural projects identified and they were aware of the case for improvement transport links to Newhaven.
- 4.6 The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton enquired as to the future of the Newhaven ferry and asked if the Board might consider it a matter of strategic investment.
- 4.7 Blackman clarified that there has been some correspondence with both ESCC and LDC about the future economic viability of the ferry given the failure of any recent tendering process to find a new operator. Local partners are committed to Newhaven and Councillor Blackman clarified that £35m of investment in the Newhaven area had been identified including improvements to the link road.
- 4.8 The Chairman of the Adur & Worthing Strategic Partnership stated that strategic investment in the A27 for all methods of transport was key to the future of Newhaven and it was important for that investment to be planned and delivered coherently.
- 4.9 The Chair agreed that it was important to make a case for a strategic overview of the Newhaven area.
- 4.10 **RESOLVED-** That the presentation is noted.

5. COAST TO CAPITAL LEP'S STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

- 5.1 The Board received presentation from the Coast to Capital LEP Partnership from the Strategic Director of Coast to Capital LEP that outlined the key factors in growth, investment and strategic vision for the economic region. The presentation is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The Chairman of Coast to Capital LEP thanked the Strategic Director who had led on the project and for the contribution of partners present at the meeting. The Chairman of Coast to Capital LEP stated that there was now a national LEP body tasked with lobbying government and Coast to Capital were undertaking work to convince central

government of the need for an investment strategy rather than ad-hoc investment in specific projects.

- 5.3 The Chair stated that the LEP network was very useful and he was aware that the Chair had written a strong letter to government ministers. Furthermore, representatives from the key cities had also written to government expressing their concerns regarding the absence of a strategic plan and requesting focus on key cities rather than core cities as evidence demonstrated that was where investment would yield greater return.
- 5.4 Councillor Theobald noted that central government were placing increasing emphasis on projects that were in place and could be delivered quickly. Councillor Theobald added that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been highly impressed that the recently approved Royal Sussex County Hospital had such a thorough business case and that work could begin almost immediately. Councillor Theobald noted his preference that BML2 be prioritised as he felt that project was more likely to acquire funding in the short-term than the reinstatement of the Ukfield-Lewes line.
- 5.5 The Chairman of Coast to Capital replied that both project were for discussion and assessment was currently being made on the case for each.
- 5.6 **RESOLVED-** That the presentation be noted.

6. OVERVIEW OF GREATER BRIGHTON'S INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- 6.1 The Board considered a report that set out the Greater Brighton Investment Programme and programme management arrangements for delivery of the Investment Programme.
- 6.2 The Chairman of the CWS Partnership noted that the visitor economy was not listed in the working arrangements.
- 6.3 The Chair stated that he understood this was covered as part of the seafront priority area work. The Chair added that part of increasing visitor numbers was promotion and the Board may wish to consider a co-operative campaign for the area as a whole.
- 6.4 Councillor Yallop noted that the ambitions for Worthing listed on pages 52-54 were currently quite lightweight and he hoped that more ambition could be demonstrated in time.
- 6.5 The Chair agreed with Councillor Yallop noting that the items listed focussed on short-term deliverability which would change and develop in the long-term.
- 6.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Greater Brighton Economic Board approve the Greater Brighton Investment Programme brief and programme management arrangements as set out in appendix 1 of the report.

7. FORWARD PLAN AND AGENDA SETTING

- 7.1 The Board agreed the following areas of work for the purposes of agenda setting and the Forward Plan:

- Assets
- Tourism
- Economic outlook
- Travel to work
- Travel to learn
- Retail catchment
- Employment training
- Officer resource to the GBEB
- Insight into key cities work
- Inward investment
- Discussions with London based companies regarding relocation to the area.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of