

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 16 OCTOBER 2018

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

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors Wall (Chair), Jenkins, Nicholson, P Smith, G Theobald and Yates

**Business Partners:** Steve Allen, Prof. Humphris, Nick Juba, Lisa Lewis, Andrew Swayne, Peter Webb

### PART ONE

#### **9 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

##### **9a Declarations of substitutes**

- 9.1 Councillor Theobald was present as substitute for Councillor Janio.
- 9.2 Councillor Peter Smith was present as substitute for Councillor Lamb.
- 9.3 Councillor Nicholson was present as substitute for Councillor Andy Smith.
- 9.4 Councillor Jenkins was present as substitute for Councillor Humphreys.
- 9.5 Gavin Stewart was present substitute for Dean Orgill.
- 9.6 Lisa Lewis was present as substitute for Alison Addy.

##### **9b Declarations of interests**

- 9.7 There were none.

##### **9c Exclusion of the press and public**

- 9.8 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.
- 9.9 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded.

#### **10 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 10.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 July 2018 be approved and signed as the correct record.

## 11 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1 The Chair provided the following Communications:

“On behalf of The Board I would like to welcome Cllr Gillian Brown, leader of Arun District Council, and Chief Executive Nigel Lynn as observers today.

Some of you may be aware that Professor Michael Davies has recently stepped down from his role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Sussex, and therefore as the University of Sussex representative on this Board. I'm sure all Board members will want to join me in thanking Michael for his support and contribution since the Board's inception in 2014.

Last month Cllr Andy Smith and I attended a successful tour of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone and were given an update by Programme Director Corrine Day a year after 'go live'.

During the visit, we saw progress on some of the £30 million that has already been invested in the area - with critical flood defences created, new business units built and key regeneration sites unlocked. The tour also took in the site of the new £23 million port access road, which received £10 million of government funding in August. This will provide direct access to the East Quay area of Newhaven Port unlocking 80,000 square metres of business space, generating up to 1,500 jobs and taking HGV traffic away from unsuitable roads in the town.

On 26th September the 5G testbed was officially launched at the Digital Catapult Centre Brighton. The 5G testbed will allow small businesses to benefit from state of the art 5G mobile wireless communications, and provide space to test and explore the potential new applications of 5G. It will also help the City Region to support delivery of a key aim within Government's Industrial Strategy, which is for the UK to become a world-leader in 5G technology.

The Greater Brighton 'Expression of Interest' to the Cultural Development Fund was successfully shortlisted in late July and the deadline for the final bid submission is 19<sup>th</sup> October. The final bid will focus on developing a series of networked Creative & Cultural Accelerator Zones. Key aims will include; bringing forward affordable spaces; delivering business support and training focussed on the needs of employers; and supporting cultural and creative leaders to network within and across sectors.

The DfT announced at the end of September which non-mayoral cities will progress to the next step of the £840m TCF investment fund. In total, the DfT has shortlisted ten 'city regions' but unfortunately the Greater Brighton's submission, focused on the A259 corridor, was not one of those ten.

Initial feedback from the DfT confirmed that competition was high (approximately 30 applications for 10 places), and that the evidence provided in support of our bid was not as compelling as some of the other bids. However, it was a great achievement that

Greater Brighton partners, in collaboration with colleagues from East and West Sussex County Councils, and other agencies, produced such a credible bid in the timeframes and the proposals put forward were considered to be potentially appropriate for similar, future funding opportunities when these become available”.

## **12 FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

- 12.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out initial proposals on a Five Year Strategic Plan for the Board as requested by Members at the previous meeting held on 17 July 2018.
- 12.2 Andrew Swayne commended the report that set a foundation for discussions and would help establish the Board position in readiness of the Industrial Strategy.
- 12.3 Steve Allen stated that he welcomed the vision outlined in the report noting the importance for the Board to align its communal voice to the Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan. Steve Allen added that he looked forward to the facilitating discussion.
- 12.4 Prof. Humphris welcomed the report and the clarity it provided. Prof. Humphries stated that there was a differentiation between the GBEB and LEP, that the Board had be clear on how it would measure success and ensure that there was strong collaborative partnership with the University of Brighton and University of Sussex.
- 12.5 The Chair stated that it was imperative the Board be clear about its offer, strategy and vision and the report was the first step in that process. The Chair added that the Board needed a one voice message and to work with partners to get the best deal for the region. The Chair stated that he looked forward to the facilitated discussion and further discussion of the matter and he would welcome any additional comments from Board Members in advance of that meeting.
- 12.6 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board note the questions and discussion points contained in the discussion document.
  - 2) That the Board approves the next step, which is for Officers to arrange a facilitated session for Board Members, to discuss the paper in more detail.
  - 3) That the Board agrees that following that session, Greater Brighton Officers work to prepare the Five Year Strategic Plan to be presented to the Board on 29 January 2019.

## **13 GATWICK 360: GREATER BRIGHTON LEADING DELIVERY OF THE SEP**

- 13.1 The Committee considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided a Board with a summary of the priorities contained within the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and how they aligned with the Greater Brighton priorities and work plan.

- 13.2 The report was supplemented by a presentation from Jonathan Sharrock on the vision and eight priorities of the C2C LEP and the preparation for negotiation on the Local Industrial Strategy.
- 13.3 Andrew Swayne welcomed the useful insight the report and presentation provided and asked how matters relating to Highways England were intended to be progressed.
- 13.4 Jonathan Sharrock replied that the matter would be progressed through Transport for the South East (TfSE) on which the C2C LEP had two representatives.
- 13.5 Councillor Theobald stated that the issue of transport mobility was a priority for the region, particularly a potential second Brighton Mainline and stated his concern this was not adequately being progressed.
- 13.6 Jonathan Sharrock agreed with the comments made and better transport mobility and infrastructure was one of the eight key priorities. Jonathan Sharrock highlighted the proposed major improvement of transport links in the Gatwick and Croydon corridor, the high level of engagement with the Greater London Authority and the support of the Mayor of London.
- 13.7 Prof. Humphris stated that the University of Brighton could offer collaboration and innovation on the eight priorities if that was required.
- 13.8 Jonathan Sharrock clarified that work was underway on how to incorporate the universities into implementation of the eight priorities could offer and further, how higher education presence in the Gatwick area could be introduced as this was currently absent.
- 13.9 The Chair stated that the report and presentation correlated with the previous item on the agenda and the priorities of the GBEB. The Chair added that both highlighted potential issues and the need to ensure the Board were fully prepared mobilised for the Local Industrial Strategies. The Chair supplemented that the Board needed to pull its various strategies together to form a collective voice and leadership.
- 13.10 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board note the contents of the report, specifically the ways in which the current Greater Brighton work programme is already supporting delivery of the SEP, and the opportunities for future working with C2C.
  - 2) That the Board agree that the paper be submitted to C2C, to inform C2C about how Greater Brighton will support delivery of the SEP.
  - 3) That the Board agree that officers should work closely with colleagues at C2C to deliver the SEP at a Greater Brighton level, and support C2C in its dialogue with Government around developing a Local Industrial Strategy.

#### 14 GREATER BRIGHTON FULL FIBRE

- 14.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that requested approval to commit to working alongside other bodies and stakeholders to bring full fibre connectivity to the region.
- 14.2 Prof. Humphries stated that a key issue appeared to be the installation of ducting and asked if that could be facilitated through the planning process.
- 14.3 Simon Hughes confirmed that direction could be given through planning policies and Mid Sussex District Council had specific policies on fibre and ducting.
- 14.4 Geoff Raw stated it would be useful to receive more information on the work currently being undertaken and where private sector funding was coming from. Geoff Raw added that the matter perhaps required a more strategic discussion between the relevant local authorities.
- 14.5 Andrew Swayne welcomed the report noting that the South Downs National Park Authority was currently debating the issue of broadband connectivity. Andrew Swayne stated that there were not only economic benefits to Full Fibre but also opportunities for social value such as decreasing social isolation.

**14.6 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board support the opportunity to join other partners in the sub region and prioritise the development of full fibre digital infrastructure for the Greater Brighton area and work cooperatively to secure funding opportunities to achieve this aim.
- 2) That the Board notes the contents of the report and the activities of partner authorities and expresses its support for the development of full fibre digital infrastructure as a part of the economic development approach for the sub region that is entirely consistent with the Government's Industrial Strategy

**15 BRIGHTON MAINLINE UPDATE (PRESENTATION)**

- 15.1 The Board received a presentation from Rupert Walker of Network Rail on the Croydon area remodelling scheme that was a part of the Brighton Mainline Upgrade Programme.
- 15.2 Councillor Theobald stated that whilst the proposals would be welcomed by those living north of Three Bridges, there was no proposal for improvement to the network south of that area. Councillor Theobald stated he was personally of the view that a second line on the Brighton Mainline would prevent the rail disruption that occurred across the region on a daily basis.
- 15.3 Prof. Humphries noted that the schedule set out did not detail any plans for consultation events outside of Croydon that appeared short-sighted as the entire region would be affected.
- 15.4 Rupert Walker clarified that the consultation was still at a draft stage with a prominent focus of those properties most likely to be affected and any suggestions for other areas could be incorporated.

**16 ONE PUBLIC ESTATE UPDATE**

16.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided an update on the Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme.

**16.2 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board note the progress made by the Programme, as outlined in Sections 4 and 5.
- 2) That the Board endorse the development of a bid to the Phase 7 funding call, as detailed in Section 6, and devolve sign-off of this bid to the Chair of the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board.

**17 INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

17.1 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 of 17 July 2018.

17.2 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1.

The meeting concluded at 11.55am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of