

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 16 JULY 2019

THE COUNTY GROUND, EATON ROAD, HOVE BN3 3AN

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Humphreys (Chair) Ash-Edwards, Lamb, Linington, Mac Cafferty, Parkin, Platts and Walsh

Business Partners: Alsion Addy, Prof Humphris, Nick Juba, Dean Orgill, Henry Powell Andrew Swayne, Prof Tickell

PART ONE

1 RATIFICATION OF CHAIR

1.1 Alex Bailey read the following statement:

“At its meeting on 26 March 2019, 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 2019/20 term. Since the previous meeting, a confidential nomination and voting process was undertaken in accordance with that agreement Councillor Humphreys was nominated by fellow Board Members to the role of Chair of the Board for the 2019/20 municipal year”.

1.2 The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Humphreys as Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board for the 2019/20 municipal year.

1.3 The Chair thanked Board Members for their support for his appointment adding that he was excited to take the role on for the next year.

2 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

2a Declarations of substitutes

2.1 There were none.

2b Declarations of interests

2.2 There were none.

2c Exclusion of the press and public

2.3 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.

2.4 **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 26 March 2019 be approved 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 thank colleagues that are no longer members of the Board; Councillor Andy Smith, Councillor Dan Yates, Councillor Tony Janio, Steve Allen and Phil Jones. I’m sure all Board members will want to join me in thanking them for the contribution they made to this Board.

I would like to extend a special thankyou to our outgoing Chair, Councillor Garry Wall, who stood down as a councillor before the elections. He brought great energy as role of Chair and was instrumental in developing the Board’s Five Year vision and priorities, and we look forward to building on that work this year.

I would like to welcome those here that are attending as Board members for the first time; Councillor Nancy Platts, Councillor Phelim Mac Cafferty, Councillor Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Councillor Zoe Nicholson and Councillor James Walsh. I look forward to working with you all as the Greater Brighton Partnership moves forward.

At our last meeting we were given an update on the Business Survey from the Institute of Employment Studies, who performed the sector analysis and stakeholder engagement work of the project. As well as establishing an evidence baseline, that work helped to inform the development of the main business survey, which went live in early April. Lead consultants, BMG Research, have surveyed 1,500 businesses from across Greater Brighton, and the survey stage was completed at the end of June. BMG are now analysing the data and will be presenting the key findings at our next meeting in October.

Since the last Board meeting there has been a formal procurement process to appoint the consultants that will prepare the Greater Brighton Energy Plan. Buro Happold were awarded the contract and the project inception meeting took place a few weeks ago. The work on developing the plan will take place over the next 6 months, and the consultants are due to report back to the Board in the New Year.

On 11 June Coast to Capital published details of a call for bids to the Local Growth Fund with around £9.1m of unallocated Growth Deal Funding available to projects from across the Coast-to-Capital region. The deadline for expressions of interest was 2 July and a number were submitted from Greater Brighton partners. Details of the bids are referenced in the Investment Programme Update item.

Earlier this month MHCLG revealed that Newhaven was one of the towns that had made it through the first stage of the £675m Future High Streets fund. This is a considerable achievement, with only around 1 in 5 bids being successful. Towns reaching the second stage of the process will receive revenue funding to work up detailed project proposals, based on their initial plans, and colleagues at Lewes District Council will be leading this work. The detailed business cases will then be submitted to MHCLG in spring 2020 for a final evaluation”.

5 GREATER BRIGHTON FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- 5.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that sought approval of a list of projects and initiatives that would support delivery of the priorities aligned with the Board’s Five Year Strategic Priorities.
- 5.2 Andrew Swayne stated that as a member of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel, discussions had been held on whether 2050 was too late to achieve carbon neutrality. Andrew Swayne stated that it was highly important that the projects that came forward were realistic and quickly deliverable and that would be a challenge.
- 5.3 Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that the project summary sought a 50% increase in inward investment in two years and asked if that was an overly ambitious target. Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that recent research and studies indicated that Enterprise Zones had limited importance in economic performance and he did not feel the Newhaven site was something the Board could rely upon for economic improvement.
- 5.4 In relation to inward investment, Max Woodford replied that the region was currently at a low base level and therefore, it was felt the target was achievable. In relation to the Newhaven Enterprise Zone, Peter Sharp explained that there was currently no data available due to the relatively recent site occupancy and it was hoped that the Enterprise Zone would fare better than other areas.
- 5.5 Alison Addy noted that Gatwick had collated detailed data on the role of the airport in the region and that could be shared if of use.
- 5.6 Councillor Walsh stated that the skills base was relatively low in Arun District and he hoped that they could work with educational partners to deliver the methods to improve that.
- 5.7 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board agree to support delivery of the projects outlined in Appendix 1.
 - 2) That the Board approves the allocation of £25,000 from the Greater Brighton budget to establish a resource dedicated to inward investment as detailed in paragraphs 3.9 – 3.18.
 - 3) That the Board approves the allocation of £15,000 of Board funds to develop the inward investment proposition and Greater Brighton narrative for the City Region via a Pitch for Place, as detailed in paragraphs 3.19-3.22.

- 4) That the Board approves the allocation of £10,000 from the existing budget to support delivery of a research-based piece of work around capturing the economic impact of creative industries in the Greater Brighton region and its substituent LAs.

6 THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES OF GREATER BRIGHTON

- 6.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that sought approval to commission two pieces of research on the Creative Industries in the Greater Brighton region and report back to the Board with those findings and proposed next steps.
- 6.2 Councillor Mac Cafferty stated that report was short on a sense of purpose and could have been underpinned by an investment prospectus. Councillor Mac Cafferty stated that the industry had proven to be a resilient one and that could inform other sectors. Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that Brighton & Hove was a location often used for filming and film production and asked if that could be expanded across the region given the number of attractions.
- 6.3 Dean Orgill stated that he was pleased to see reference to performing arts that was a strength in the region and often neglected in favour of a focus on digital technology. Dean Orgill stated that the performing arts should be included in any message on inward investment.
- 6.4 Nick Juba stated that the Creative Industries sector was one that required support and intervention and part of the reason why the sector had seen recent success was because of previous investment in art colleges. Nick Juba stated that the Greater Brighton Metropolitan College would be anything it could to help reignite that support and investment.
- 6.5 Prof Humphris stated her disagreement with the 'more porous' statement made at paragraph 6.8 as the universities had been as open and supportive of the Creative Industries as they possibly could be. Prof Humphris stated that the University of Brighton was ready to work with any of the Creative Industries and it should be considered that as low impact industry, it was under attack in terms of funding. Referring to the statement made at the last sentence of paragraph 4.8, Prof Humphris stated that this was very unhelpful and in poor taste.
- 6.6 Councillor Platts stated that she had professional experience in SME's and in her view, it was important to consider what investment might look like, what research and development could go into co-work spaces and whether all businesses actually needed physical space and locations. Councillor Platts stated that the research should consider the potential for film space and whether that was something for the Board to consider investment in rather than wait for the industry to do so.
- 6.7 Councillor Lamb stated that the population of Crawley were not highly skilled and to build an economy for his residents, that would entail investment in light industry and education to improve skills. Councillor Lamb stated that the report proposals were overly focussed on a limited number of the region's population and a small sector.

6.8 In response to the various matters raised, Alex Bailey stated that a work was underway on the feasibility of creating a platform for film production in the region, that focus was not just on the digital industry and there was scope to bring culture and technology closer together, that investment in arts further education was a focus and awareness was high on the relationship and overlap between multiple sectors.

6.9 **RESOLVED-** That the Board:-

- 1) Note the importance of CI and the approaches to date as set out in the report.
- 2) Request a further report back once the two pieces of research data are complete and once the “Creative Coast” cluster has done further work on required strategic interventions.
- 3) Encourage all relevant partner and funder organisations to grasp the opportunity of CI for both our local and national economy and to recognise the importance of the sector in strategic planning, investment, funding, procurement and operations.

7 GREATER BRIGHTON ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

- 7.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that sought approval for the Board’s Annual Report as required by its Heads of Terms.
- 7.2 Councillor Mac Cafferty observed that the report detailed that work on One Public Estate had not accelerated as quickly as had been hoped particularly in relation to land occupied by Network Rail and the Ministry of Defence.
- 7.3 Geoff Raw replied that whilst it was true to say that progress had not been made as quickly as was hoped and there had been challenges with some public sector partners but also progress with others. This was true in the case of Brighton & Hove where there was closer working with the NHS.
- 7.4 Andy Hill added that an annual report on One Public Estate considered by the Board.
- 7.5 Councillor James stated that Arun had for many years required improvements to its transport links and any help partners would be able to offer would be welcomed. Furthermore, Arun required investment from Network Rail to improve connectivity between Worthing and Horsham that was not a testing ask given this concerned only a small amount of track.
- 7.6 Andrew Swayne stated that in his view, there was little prospect of bypass on the A27 between Worthing and Lancing.
- 7.7 The Chair agreed on the need for improved connectivity between Worthing and Horsham however, issues of congestion at Windmill Junction would need to be resolved first.

7.8 RESOLVED-

- 1) That the Board approve the 2018/19 Annual Report.
- 2) That Board members submit the 2018/19 Annual Report to their respective organisations.

8 LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019/20: COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

- 8.1 The Board considered a presentation that set out objectives and ideas for the Board communications for 2019/20.
- 8.2 Councillor Platts stated that the communications approach should have a focus on making clear what the benefit the Board could bring to them as well as a focus on sharing wealth, the circular economy and linking that to sustainability.
- 8.3 Mike Gibson replied that the approach from the outset would be encouraging buy in and the benefit of the work of the Board for the region.

9 PROGRESS UPDATE ON GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- 9.1 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 26 March 2019. Furthermore, the report sought approval to delegate authority to the Chair to prepare letters of support for those projects that make it through the expression of interest stage in the LGF Growth Deal Unallocated Funding June 2019 call; where those projects accord with the five-year strategic priorities of the Board.
- 9.2 In reference to page 80 of the report, Councillor Parkin explained that the Adur Civic Centre now would develop 400 jobs, up from 200 and that Adur District Council would sell the other site to Hyde Housing creating 171 social and affordable housing units.
- 9.3 **RESOLVED-**
 - 1) That the Board note the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1.
 - 2) That the Board delegates authority to the Chair to prepare letters of support for those projects that make it through the expression of interest stage in the LGF Growth Deal Unallocated Funding June 2019 call; where those projects accord with the five-year strategic priorities of the Board.

The meeting concluded at 11.50am