

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Response to consultation on the green paper</b>	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>25 April 2017</b>	
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b> Name:	<b>Nick Hibberd</b>	<b>Tel:</b> <b>293020</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>	

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

- 1.1 On the 23 January 2017, Government published its Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper and invited comments.
- 1.2 The Greater Brighton Economic Board ('the Board') welcomes the opportunity to respond and work with Government, to both help shape its modern Industrial Strategy and to support the delivery of this at a City Region scale.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the City Region's Consultation Response ('the consultation response').

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

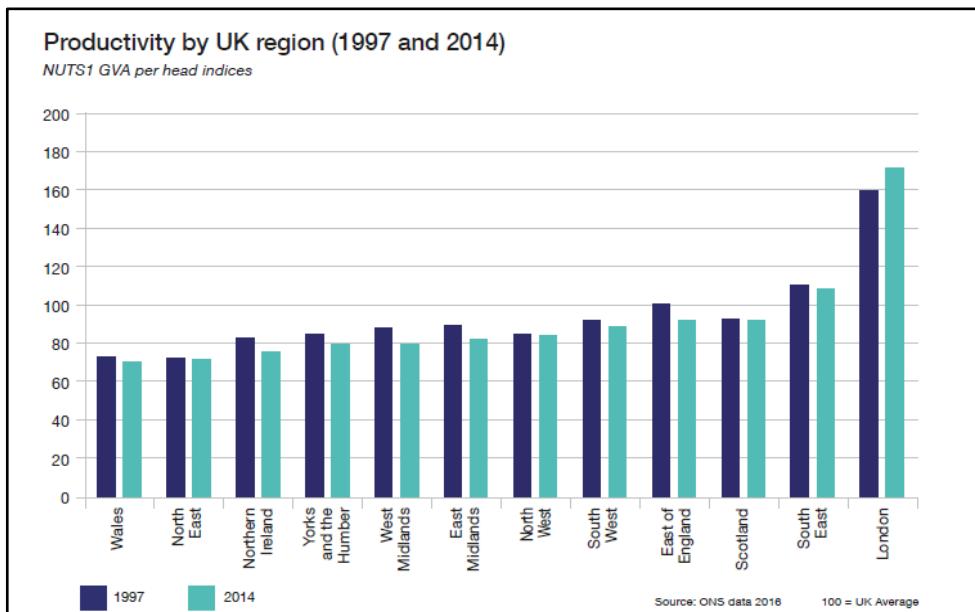
- 2.1 That the Board give retrospective approval to the Consultation Response, which was submitted to Government on 17 April 2017 in line with its deadline.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The purpose of the Green Paper is to build an Industrial Strategy that addresses long-term challenges to the UK economy. Government's aim is to improve living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country. The ten 'pillars' proposed are seen as the factors that drive growth.
- 3.2 The City Region's plans for investment and economic growth through the Greater Brighton City Deal and the Coast to Capital Growth Deal are ambitious. These ambitions are aligned with Government's focus on growth and productivity; however the City Region's consultation response emphasises the need for a broad based inclusive growth strategy.
- 3.3 The Green Paper and a number of recent Government announcements, including the Spring Budget 2017, have demonstrated Government's continuing use of and investment in the "Northern Powerhouse" and "Midlands Engine". The Chancellor recently unveiled a package of almost £400 million of investment in the Midlands following the launch of the Midlands Engine in 2015. Whilst there is no doubt that these areas are in need of regeneration in a way that the South East is not, the consultation response asks that the South East should not be

excluded from investment in infrastructure, jobs, housing, new technology and growth.

- 3.4 The table below, included in the Green Paper, shows that GVA per head has fallen in South East since 1997. Disparities exist within regions, as well as between, regions. The City Region's productivity, whilst comparable to the UK average, is not what it could be, given its proximity to London, access to international markets and the area's asset base. The City Region requires continued investment, which would be used to deliver 'quick wins' and high returns in terms of growth and productivity.



### The Southern Accelerator

- 3.5 The consultation response asks Government to support the creation of the Southern Accelerator, providing an overarching vision for the region within which other structures, strategies and bids would sit.
- 3.6 The Southern Accelerator would be a concept and a brand, in the same way as the "Northern Powerhouse" and the "Midlands Engine", not a new body. It is proposed that the Southern Accelerator initially centres on Greater Brighton and the Gatwick corridor and potentially be expanded to include Sussex and wider parts of the South East, such as the South East 7.
- 3.7 It is growth that now drives Government policy and the Southern Accelerator will enable the City Region economy to have its own identity and strategy when it comes to Government's agenda, to compete and to enable the region to go further and faster in a rapidly changing world.
- 3.8 The consultation response sets out a number of observations and asks to Government in relation to nine of the ten 'pillars' identified as fundamental for growth for the City Region as follows:
1. Investing in science, research and innovation
  2. Developing skills
  3. Upgrading infrastructure

4. Supporting businesses to start and grow
5. Encouraging trade and inward investment
6. Delivering affordable energy and clean growth
7. Cultivating world-leading sectors
8. Driving growth across the whole country
9. Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places

#### **4. ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Members of the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board ('the Officer Board') have been given opportunities to input into the drafting of the consultation response. In addition, all Officer Board members were invited to attend a workshop facilitated by the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership to discuss and develop the City Region's response.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The consultation response welcomes the publication of Government's Industrial Strategy Green Paper and its focus on growth and productivity.
- 5.2 The consultation response seeks Government's support for the creation of the Southern Accelerator, which would enable the City Region to set its own vision based on local priorities and growth indicators.
- 5.3 The consultation response sets out a number of observations and asks to Government linked to nine of the ten 'pillars' for growth.

#### **6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 The report has no direct financial implications. The Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper aims to improve living standards and economic growth and will support the creation of the Southern Accelerator to enable investment into Greater Brighton to generate growth.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen*

*Date: 11/04/17*

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 The report has no direct legal implications. Creation of and participation in the Southern Accelerator may have legal and constitutional implications which will be dealt with in future reports.

*Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Asha*

*Date: 11/04/17*

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 The consultation response highlights the absence of inclusive growth and that Government must consider the principles and invest in social infrastructure if a productive and inclusive economy is to be sustained. The Board would like to see Government supporting the inclusive growth agenda by using structural and

financial tools, and incentives that support measures to ensure that everyone benefits from economic growth.

**Sustainability Implications:**

- 6.4 Greater Brighton has requested a long term framework of policy and incentives, to ensure that the low carbon transition is investable.
- 6.5 The City Region asks that the integration of affordable, secure and low carbon energy infrastructure and resource efficient building practices is continued.
- 6.6 Greater Brighton would like Government, upon exiting the European Union, to retain environmental ambition and effective regulation.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

- 1. Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper. Consultation Response from Greater Brighton Economic Board