

Subject:	Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan (SEP): Greater Brighton Consultation Response		
Date of Meeting:	17 April 2018		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nick Hibberd	Tel: 293020
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 On the 6th March 2018, Coast to Capital published its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for consultation and invited comments.
- 1.2 The Greater Brighton Economic Board ('the Board') welcomes the opportunity to respond and work with Coast to Capital, to both help shape its Strategic Economic Plan and to support the delivery of this at a City Region level.
- 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 note the Consultation Response, which was submitted to Coast to Capital on 23rd March 2018 in line with its deadline.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The first Coast to Capital SEP was published in March 2014. Since then, there have been significant changes including the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, a new Industrial Strategy as set out by the Green Paper and White Paper, and changes to the economy of the LEP region. Coast to Capital has developed a new SEP to address these changes.
- 3.2 The new SEP sets out the strategy for economic growth for the LEP region, including challenges and opportunities, and what conditions, investments and interventions are required to achieve that growth. The SEP will also be the main tool used by the LEP to inform conversations with the Government on the development of the region's Local Industrial Strategy.
- 3.3 The SEP has identified five opportunities and 10 key priorities to drive investment into the region and contribute to growth of the national economy;

- **Be the Partner Choice for London**

- 1) Investment in regional transport infrastructure
- 2) Investment in business infrastructure in our region which offers significant opportunity for high value businesses to scale and grow, bringing high value jobs back to the region and reducing our reliance on commuter journeys

- **Lead UK Trade Growth**

- 3) Utilising the region's strong international connectivity as a key driver of economic growth
- 4) Create a successful unifying identity for the region which supports the diversity and opportunity of business opportunities in the area. To use this to encourage inward investment, promote tourism and reflect the strength of the region. This is essential in order to allow us to compete effectively with English city regions, which are better able to present themselves to international partners

- **Support Economic Growth which Enhances Our Region**

- 5) Ensuring that all investment in our economic capacity is accompanied by similar investment in our natural capital and clean growth, so that the unique nature of our region is enhanced by a growing economy
- 6) Prioritising the intensification of towns where development is focused on sustainable locations and there is a base level of existing infrastructure for transport, employment, health and wellbeing which can be enhanced and augmented

- **Pioneer Digital Innovation**

- 7) Leading the way in digital innovation to drive productivity and growth across all sectors
- 8) Ensuring the region has the best digital network capability essential to deliver high productivity gains across all sectors

- **Create an offer for all Stages of Life**

- 9) Developing a highly productive workforce that meets the needs of business in a changing economy
- 10) Maximising the productivity of the working population.

3.4 Coast to Capital have sought views on the draft SEP to ensure it meets the needs of all stakeholders and partners. The consultation is made up of three key questions on the unique opportunities and three key questions on the priorities and goals outlined in the SEP.

- Has the region been described in the best way possible?
- Are the unique opportunities for the region set out credibly and confidently?
- Is there any further evidence that will support these arguments?
- Do you agree with the ten priorities?

- Do you agree with the goals that we have set against each priority?
- Do you have any other suggestions as to how we might achieve these goals?

3.5 The Board welcomed the opportunity to respond and raised a number of key themes for consideration. The response states the following:

- More emphasis should be made to the strengths of the City Region and the economic benefits it brings to the UK as a whole
- The description of the region as a partner to London needs more clarity and in particular, detail on the economic benefits this brings to the region itself
- More clarity is needed on creating an offer for all stages of life and how this opportunity will be met.

3.6 The response lends support to the priorities outlined in the SEP but suggests that these should be linked back to delivering objectives in the Government's Industrial Strategy White Paper. The response provided specific comments on each of the ten priorities.

3.7 The Greater Brighton Economic Board welcomes the opportunity to respond to the emerging Strategic Economic Plan. The response from the Board suggests that the goals are not clear as indicators of success, and further information is required on the desired outcomes for the LEP region and the UK economy as a whole. Further information is required on the impact the outcomes will have on helping Government achieve its vision for the UK outlined in the Industrial Strategy White Paper.

4. ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

4.1 Members of the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board ('the Officer Board') have been given the opportunity to input into the drafting of the consultation response. At the most recent Officer Board meeting, all Officer Board members were invited to discuss the SEP with the LEP and provide feedback for the Greater Brighton Economic Board's response. The Officer Group were also circulated the draft version of the response for comment.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The consultation response welcomes the publication of Coast to Capital's SEP and its focus on growth and productivity.

5.2 The consultation response sets out a number of recommendations for more specific detail and clarification on the opportunities, priorities and goals within the SEP and with particular reference to the Board and the City Region.

5.3 The consultation response asks the LEP to ensure the outcomes can be measured and can be linked to the Government's Industrial Strategy White Paper.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant *Date:28/03/2018*

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Alice Rowland, Head of Commercial Law *Date:28/03/2018*

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 None.

Sustainability Implications

- 6.4 The Board agrees that it is essential the all investment in our economic capacity is accompanied by similar investment in our natural capital and clean growth. Greater Brighton will put low carbon growth at the heart of the Greater Brighton economy and wants to be seen as a platform for Green Growth.
- 6.5 The Greater Brighton Economic Board work plan includes developing resilience and sustainability plans for water and energy, to ensure that the City Region has the capacity for future growth and that growth will be sustainable. The City Region asks that the integration of affordable, secure and low carbon energy infrastructure and resource efficient building practices is continued.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Greater Brighton Response to SEP Consultation