

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 17 APRIL 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD, HOVE, BN3 3BQ

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Smith (Chair) Humphreys, Janio, Lamb, Morgan, Parkin, Wall

Business Partners: Alison Addy, Prof. Sue Baxter, Eduardo Hernandez, Phil Jones, Nick Juba, Dean Orgill, Andrew Swayne and Peter Webb

PART ONE

30 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

30a Declarations of substitutes

- 30.1 Phil Jones was present as substitute for Steve Allen.
- 30.2 Prof. Baxter was present as substitute for Prof. Humphris.
- 30.3 Eduardo Hernandez was present as substitute for Prof. Davies.

30b Declarations of interests

- 30.4 Councillor Wall declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 36 as a member of the Transport for the South East.
- 30.5 Andrew Swayne declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 36 as a member of the Transport Forum.

30c Exclusion of the press and public

- 30.6 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.
- 30.7 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded.

31 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 31.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 February 2018 be approved and signed as the correct record.

32 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

32.1 The Chair provided the following communications:

“On behalf of The Board I would like to welcome Clare Mulholland, Greater Brighton Business Manager and Stuart Douglas, Greater Brighton Project Support Officer to the Greater Brighton Economic Board support team. This brings the team to its full complement at the start of this financial year.

“I am pleased to announce that EU Interreg funding of £35,000 has been confirmed for the Greater Brighton Energy Plan. This is in addition to funding provided by the Board and Brighton and Hove City Council to bring the total funding to £54,000. This will enable development of the Greater Brighton Energy Plan. This will detail how the City Region will deliver the Government’s Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy at a local level. It will enable development of the right infrastructure to support the growth of a smart and sustainable Greater Brighton economy.

“On behalf of the Board, I would like thank Coast to Capital for consulting us on the emerging Strategic Economic Plan, the consultation period for which closed on 23rd March. The Board welcomes the opportunity to respond and work with Coast to Capital, to both help shape this important plan and to support its delivery at a City Region level. I look forward to the presentation from Coast to Capital this morning.

“The Department for Transport has confirmed funding for the design stage of the Croydon Area Remodelling scheme. The project is the central element of Network Rail’s Brighton Main Line upgrade programme to deliver major improvements in punctuality between London, Gatwick Airport and the Sussex coast with the potential for more frequent services in the longer term.

“The University of Brighton Advanced Engineering Centre will be officially opened this week on 19th April. The centre provides specialist science-led teaching and research facilities for advanced automotive engineering, and will allow the university to expand its pioneering work on novel low carbon internal combustion systems. This will have a direct environmental impact through creating greater fuel efficiency and reducing CO2 and other harmful emissions”.

32.2 Board Members expressed their thanks to Councillor Smith for his diligent chairmanship of the Board adding that the Board had continued to build and strengthen relationships both across and beyond the partnership, raising its profile and voice of the Region over the past municipal year.

33 GREATER BRIGHTON INWARD INVESTMENT & EXPORT STRATEGY

33.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the Greater Brighton Inward Investment & Export Strategy as requested and agreed by the Board in April 2017. The report was accompanied by a presentation from a representative of Regeneris, the appointed consultants for the work.

- 33.2 Councillor Janio moved a motion to amend recommendation 2.1 as shown in bold italics below:
- 2.1 That the Board agrees the Inward Investment & Export Strategy, noting its two key proposals;
- (a) Creation of a new Trade and Investment Team, subject to funding being identified, ***that would focus on producing a strategic assessment of the economic segments within the Greater Brighton area; using this assessment to identify areas that would produce the greatest opportunities to attract Foreign Direct Investment – then*** focusing on attracting new investment to Greater Brighton, and on supporting City Region Businesses to grow and trade internationally
- 33.3 Introducing the motion, Councillor Janio explained that whilst the Regeneris report was thorough, the objectives to take forward the work were not fleshed out and the motion would enable a clear vision on future direction and a specific remit.
- 33.4 Councillor Humphreys formally seconded the motion.
- 33.5 Andrew Swayne stated his support for the motion adding that the presentation had been a helpful guide.
- 33.6 Alison Addy stated that the Gatwick Growth Board had conducted a thorough study into trade and investment relating to the airport and the wider region and the information collated could certainly be shared.
- 33.7 Councillor Morgan stated that with 12 months until the implementation of the EU withdrawal agreement and other city regions establishing similar investment and export bodies, it was vitally important for the Board to establish its own offer without delay.
- 33.8 Prof. Baxter welcomed the timing of the initiative supplementing that the University of Brighton (UoB) had its own international strategy relating to student recruitment and partnerships and that could also be shared.
- 33.9 Councillor Wall welcomed the motion adding that it was highly important to understand the role of the region going forward and the avoid duplication wherever possible to ensure funding was spent diligently and effectively. Councillor Wall noted that investment would likely required from each partner body and it was very important that the strengths of the different areas were clearly signposted in the region's joint message and the collective voice of the LEP was built in to that. Councillor Wall expressed his view that five years on from the Board's inception, it was still unclear on its vision and a greater understanding of that would be essential moving forward.
- 33.10 The Chair then put the motion to the vote that passed.
- 33.11 The Chair then put the recommendations, as amended, to the vote that passed.
- 33.12 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board agrees the Inward Investment & Export Strategy, noting its two key proposals;
 - (a) Creation of a new Trade and Investment Team, subject to funding being identified, that would focus on producing a strategic assessment of the economic segments within the Greater Brighton area; using this assessment to identify areas that would produce the greatest opportunities to attract Foreign Direct Investment – then focusing on attracting new investment to Greater Brighton, and on supporting City Region Businesses to grow and trade internationally
 - (b) Delivery of a physical and high-profile hub for Greater Brighton trade and inward investment activities, with potential ‘satellite’ hubs across the City Region.
- 2) That the Board agrees the recommended next step, which will be to commence work on preparing a detailed working proposal around how to take forward the two key recommendations. The detailed proposal would be presented back to the Board for approval at a subsequent meeting.

34 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018/19

- 34.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that that set out its Operational Arrangements for 2018/19.
- 34.2 Nick Juba stated his support of the approach detailed in the 2018/19 Work Plan adding that it was important to have greater understanding of the relationship of educational provision at regional and wider LEP level in the Skills & Employment Plan. Nick Juba added that in relation to adult education, it was critical to ensure greater clarity about the geographical strengths of the region in order to be readied to respond to central government in the event a devolution offer was made.
- 34.3 Councillor Lamb expressed his disappointment in various aspects of the report. Councillor Lamb explained that contributions were proposed to increase yet the Board had recorded underspends in each financial year since its inception and it was proposed to allocate a £30,000 contingency fund. Councillor Lamb stated that the Board had to be mindful of the continued pressures on local authority budgets and that the resource was publically funded and that a more logical approach would be to identify the scope of work required and then make a budget allocation accordingly. Councillor Lamb supplemented that the Work Plan had also not adjusted in relation to the change in the geographical area of the Greater Brighton Region.
- 34.4 Nick Hibberd clarified that contribution levels were remaining the same however, £30,000 would be allocated as contingency funds for unexpected spends such as any need to provide matched funding. He added that the underspend related to vacant posts that had now been filled and this would mean not only that an underspend in future financial years was not expected but existing projects could move at a faster pace due to increased staff resource. Nick Hibberd supplemented that an approach to use the underspend to reduce partner contributions had been considered however, that had not been deemed viable as it would in turn reduce the allocations made for each element of the Work Plan that in themselves were at a base level and relied upon working in partnership to achieve a level beyond the allocation.

- 34.5 Councillor Wall stated that he understood the comments made by Councillor Lamb however; the figures in the Work Plan were indicative. Councillor Wall explained that it was clear the Board had achieved success and the issue going forward would be a clearer understanding of the vision of the Board, what it wanted to achieve and a clear plan for how it would achieve its objectives. Councillor Wall stated that to be successful, the Board needed a collective voice and leap of faith and greater clarity on what its ambitions were.
- 34.6 In relation to the contingency funding, Geoff Raw stated that it was required to take advantage of project calls announced by central government that were sometimes made at short-notice and not identified in the Work Plan.
- 34.7 Andrew Swayne noted that central government's Industrial Strategy was beginning to take shape and suggested that the Board agree its contribution levels before local authority's set their annual budgets in order to allocate appropriate funding to the Board's objectives and the opportunities that may be available for year to year.
- 34.8 Councillor Janio stated that whilst he agreed with the comments made by Nick Hibberd, there were several matters the Board could consider going forward such as widening the scope of expertise of its membership to specific opportunities upcoming and to increase its visibility and work in the commercial sector.
- 34.9 Councillor Humphreys stated that he did have sympathy for the points made by Councillor Lamb however; he did not believe the report gave the full picture of the Board's work that had been a story of success and the return on investment had been to a high level. Councillor Humphreys added that the Board was at a crossroads and its next objectives should be to articulate its vision and formulate a five year plan.
- 34.10 Councillor Lamb stated that budgets and workloads were increasing yet there was no expansion of the geography of projects. Councillor Lamb relayed that he was personally of the opinion that the underspend should have been reflected in a pro-rata reduction in contributions rather than carried forward and he hoped going forward there would be more effective budget monitoring and a greater understanding of the value of investments.
- 34.11 Andrew Swayne commented that the Board had brought benefits to districts and borough's that might not have otherwise been possible such as the Newhaven Enterprise Zone adding that the meeting's agenda represented a crossroads for the Board with new members and new members of staff.
- 34.12 Nick Hibberd agreed adding that a number of discussions had been held in relation to the next steps for the Board. In relation to the comments made in relation to monitoring, scrutiny and the budget setting process, these would be considered and reviewed by the Officer Programme Board.
- 34.13 Councillor Lamb clarified that he did see the benefits of the Board however; Board members had a duty to be open, transparent and clear about its use of public money.
- 34.14 **RESOLVED-** That the Board:

- 1) Agree and secure the budgetary contributions sought to fund the cost of running the Board and delivering its workplan in 2018/19;
- 2) Note the current workplan and agree the projects/activities prioritised for funding;
- 3) Agree that Brighton & Hove City Council shall continue to act as Lead Authority for the Board in 2018/19 and 2019/20;
- 4) Agree the process by which the Chair of the Board shall be nominated for 2018/19;
- 5) Note the date by which the Lead Authority must be notified of all named substitutes and instruct any necessary actions within their respective organisations;
- 6) Note the date by which the lead authority must be notified of all nominations to the Greater Brighton Call-In Panel and instruct any necessary actions within their respective organisations;
- 7) Note that the Annual Report will be drafted for presentation to the Board at its first meeting in the new municipal year;
- 8) Requests that Greater Brighton Officers develop a 4-5 year plan that outlines the next steps for the future development of the Board alongside a sustainable model for supporting the Board in the medium term, and;
- 9) Agrees that as part of the 4-5 year plan outlined in (8) the future business membership of the Board is considered.

35 COAST TO CAPITAL STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

- 35.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided the response to the Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan consultation. The report was supplemented with a presentation by Jonathan Sharrock, Chief Executive of Coast to Capital.
- 35.2 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the Consultation Response, which was submitted to Coast to Capital on 23rd March 2018 in line with its deadline.

36 TRANSPORT FOR THE SOUTH EAST (TFSE) - UPDATE REPORT

- 36.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided members with an update on the progress, constitutional arrangements and work plan of Transport for the South East (TfSE), the emerging Sub National Transport Body for the South East region.
- 36.2 Andrew Swayne asked for further information on the mechanics of the Transforming Cities Fund bid.

- 36.3 Geoff Raw explained that there would be a 1,500 word submission devised by the Officer Programme Board with a steer and input from constituent members of the Board. The deadline for submission was 8 June 2018.
- 36.4 Councillor Janio asked who was eligible to bid for the £840m Fund.
- 36.5 Mark Prior clarified that the 10-12 city regions would be eligible to bid.
- 36.6 Councillor Wall stated that it would be beneficial to consider how the Board would coordinate with bodies such as the TfSE and this should be aligned with the process of considering the future vision of the Board referenced earlier in the meeting.
- 36.7 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board note TfSE progress to date and endorse Local Authority TfSE Shadow Board Members to continue to represent and champion the interests of the Greater Brighton City Region in its various Business Plans and activities.
 - 2) That the Board supports Brighton & Hove City Council and City Region partners to submit a bid to the Transforming Cities Fund on behalf of the Board.

37 UPDATE ON INVESTMENT PLAN

- 37.1 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 on 6 February 2018. The report also provided an update on the Local Growth Fund (LGF) allocations made as part of the Growth Deal Round 3 and the progress on projects awarded unallocated monies from Growth Deals Rounds 1 & 2. Furthermore, the Board were presented with two new methods of reporting the Investment Programme update for consideration following member requests for additional information and a clearer format to be proposed.
- 37.2 Andrew Swayne commented that the landscape option of the two proposals was his preferred format as it had a clear narrative, was well presented and would be useful for public communication purposes however; he would like to see some information on risk management included in the document.
- 37.3 Nick Hibberd stated that whilst there were mixed views on a 'traffic light system' of reporting, risk was clearly an important factor in the Plan and consideration would be given as to how that could be included.
- 37.4 Councillor Wall stated that oversight was different to extensive scrutiny as future versions of the report should be mindful in how it best presented the former.
- 37.5 **RESOVLED-** That the Board note the contents of the Investment Programme Update.

The meeting concluded at 11.55am

