

Subject:	Greater Brighton Five Year Strategic Plan		
Date of Meeting:	16 October 2018		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nick Hibberd	Tel: 01273 293020
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board (“the Board”) was established in 2014 as part of the Greater Brighton City Region Deal with Government. The principal role of the Board has been to co-ordinate development and investment activity across the City Region.
- 1.2 To that end the Board has been successful, as it has helped to secure over £160m in Local Growth Funds (LGF) through several funding rounds. This funding is supporting projects across the City Region ranging from flood defences in Shoreham and Newhaven, new buildings at the University of Brighton and Greater Brighton Metropolitan College, and transport infrastructure improvements in Burgess Hill and Worthing.
- 1.3 A further £48m has been secured from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to unlock the development of key strategic sites where progress has stalled. As per the LGF funds, HIF allocations will be supporting projects across the City Region where there is high housing demand; Burgess Hill, Crawley, Hove, Lewes and Shoreham.
- 1.4 Through the Board’s activities there has been an increased profile for the City Region. This has helped the region to engage with Government and made possible the 2-day Charrette that took place in September 2017, and subsequent discussions arising from that event.
- 1.5 However, there is a growing sense from Board members that for Greater Brighton to reach its full potential there is a need for the Board to take a step forward, both in terms of aspiration and the level of associated activity. It was decided at the Board meeting on 16 July that the Board should develop a Five Year Strategic Plan, which would set out what the vision is for Greater Brighton over the next five years and establish a clear list of objectives and priorities for 2019-2023.
- 1.6 The future direction of the Board needed to be driven by the Board Members, so officers produced a questionnaire that was circulated to all members to elicit feedback. This feedback has then been collated and forms the basis of the appended discussion paper.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board note the questions and discussion points contained in the discussion document.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Board has been successful since its inception but at a regional and national level the economic and political context has changed since 2014. A new Government Industrial Strategy, a new Strategic Economic Plan from Coast-to-Capital and the upcoming UK departure from the European Union, are all significant developments that will have an impact on the Greater Brighton Region.
- 3.2 These changes, coupled with the consensus from Board members that the Board should be more ambitious, more strategic and more proactive, mean that now is a good time to reflect on the last four years and look ahead to the future.
- 3.3 The Five Year Strategic Plan will set out what the Board wants to achieve over the next five years and a clear road map how this will be achieved.

Three main areas will be covered with the Plan;

1. Aspirational & Strategic

What is the vision of the Board and what are going to be the key objectives and priorities over the next five years?

2. Operational & Governance

How does the Board need to be organised to achieve the agreed vision and priorities?

3. Resourcing & Delivery

What resources need to be in place or available to deliver the agreed vision and priorities?

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The appended paper will form the basis of a discussion around the options for a strategic vision and set of priorities for the Board.

- 4.2 An alternative to developing a Five Year Strategic Plan would have been a “do nothing” approach and retain the existing status quo. However, for the reasons outlined in 1.5, and 3.1-3.3, this is not advisable. To continue to have an impact and to be the best representation for City Region residents and businesses, the Board does need to take a step forward. It is time to broaden the ambition of the Board in line with other strategic developments such as the establishment of Transport for the South East (TfSE). The Board needs to be an active and dynamic influencer in the sub-region, ensuring that Greater Brighton ambitions are cogently promoted with regional partners. The Board needs to ensure that Coast-to-Capital and other partners are engaged advocates and supporters, working with the Board to help realise those ambitions. All of this needs setting out in a new strategy for the City Region, underpinned by a strong vision statement and a clear set of priorities.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There has been consultation and engagement with Board Members to prepare the discussion document, and there will be further consultation and engagement to get to a final proposed strategy.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Five Year Strategic Plan is a crucial document that will set out the vision for the Board over the next five years. It will also set the clear priorities for Greater Brighton and will form the basis of discussion with Coast-to-Capital, Government and other stakeholders.
- 6.2 It will also set out the governance structures, operational arrangements and resourcing requirements that will be needed to ensure the Board will deliver the agreed vision and priorities for the City Region.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 The work associated with preparing the final strategy for the Five Year Strategic Plan will be met from the existing Greater Brighton Operational budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant
Date: 01/10/18

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The legal implications of the Five Year Strategic Plan will be outlined in the report which will be brought to the Board on 29 January 2019.

Lawyer Consulted: Alice Rowland, Head of Commercial Law
Date: 04/10/18

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 The Five-year strategy will seek to ensure that the benefits of economic regeneration are shared across the City Region.

Sustainability Implications

- 6.4 None identified at this stage. The final proposed Five Year Strategy will need to consider sustainability implications for the city region.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Greater Brighton Five Year Strategic Plan Discussion Paper