

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 17 JULY 2018

ARORA HOTEL, SOUTHGATE AVENUE, CRAWLEY RH10 6LW

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Wall (Chair) Humphreys, Lamb, Parkin, Smith, G Theobald and Yates

Business Partners: Alison Addy, Prof. Baxter, Prof. Michael Davies, Nick Juba, Dean Orgill, Andrew Swayne and Peter Webb

PART ONE

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2018/19

1.1 Geoff Raw read the following statement:

“At its meeting on 17 April 2018, 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 2018/19 term. Since the previous meeting, a confidential nomination and voting process was undertaken in accordance with that agreement Councillor Wall was nominated by fellow Board Members to the role of Chair of the Board for the 2018/19 municipal year”.

1.2 The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Wall as Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board for the 2018/19 municipal year.

1.3 The Chair thanked Board Members for their support for his appointment and his predecessor Councillor Smith for his chairmanship in the 2017/18 year.

2 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

2a Declarations of substitutes

2.1 Phil Jones was present as substitute for Steve Allen.

2.2 Prof. Baxter was present as substitute for Prof. Humphris.

2.3 Councillor Theobald was present as substitute for Councillor Janio.

2b Declarations of interests

2.4 There were none.

2c Exclusion of the press and public

- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 **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 17 April 2018 be approved and signed 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 welcome Councillor Yates, the newly elected Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council, following Councillor Morgan standing down as Leader in May. The Board look forward to working with Councillor Yates, as this growing partnership moves towards an exciting new phase.

On the 2nd July Homes England announced that it had acquired the 176 hectare Northern Arc site in Burgess Hill, the agency’s most significant intervention to date. As land owner for the whole site, Homes England will submit an outline planning application later this year and bring forward early release of the first phases of new homes alongside investing in strategic infrastructure to unlock the site for development. This intervention will accelerate the delivery of around 3,000 new homes, and represents a clear vote of confidence in the City Region.

On behalf of the Board, I would like thank Coast to Capital for its continued efforts in preparing a new Strategic Economic Plan. That work is almost at an end with the new Plan to be launched at the Coast to Capital AGM later this week. The Board very much looks forward to seeing the final version and working closely with Coast to Capital to support delivery of the Plan at a City Region level.

On Thursday 12 July, local dignitaries were joined by business owners, partners and stakeholders to celebrate the Newhaven Enterprise Zone’s first year of success, and the launch of the Enterprise Zone’s Strategic Framework. The focus of the framework is to act as the catalyst for positive growth in Newhaven, which would not happen so readily without the practical incentives for business, and shared ambition for the economic success of the town.

Brighton & Hove has been shortlisted as a potential location for one of Channel 4’s Regional Creative Hubs, and on 21 June a delegation from Channel 4 was received for a visit. Attracting investment from such a high-profile business would be a major coup for the already-successful Creative Digital sector, and the benefits would cascade across the region. Channel 4 is due to announce their final decision on 1st October”.

- 4.2 The Chair stated that good progress had been made by the Board since its inception however; in his view, it now needed to consider its purpose going forward. Therefore, the priority of his stewardship of the Board for the 2018/19 would be establishing the focus, role and priorities of the Board for the next five years. To facilitate that, he had requested officers bring a report to the October 2018 meeting of the Board outlining its strategic position, its role in the new LEP geography, the opportunity to widen membership of the Board and create new partnerships and to consider a manifesto for the South East region. The Chair stated that comments and contributions from Board members into the report would be welcome and they could be made to himself or the Officer Programme Board.
- 4.3 Andrew Swayne agreed that huge progress had been made by the Board since its inception and the timing was right to reposition and rethink its role going forward.
- 4.4 Nick Juba agreed that the partnership of the Board was strong adding that careful planning was required on scale and boundaries and how the Board would continue to access funding after discontinuation of the Local Growth Fund. Nick Juba added that the Board needed to be clear about its role and relationship with Coastal West Sussex and in his view, there was more to be gained in working with educational partners.
- 4.5 The Chair concurred with the comments made adding that the Board needed to ensure its message was clear and consistent, needed to expand its message and ensure a position of implicit trust with central government.

5 CREATIVE COAST

- 5.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that outlined a new joined-up programme across the Greater Brighton region of investment and support in culture, creative and digital industries and requested support of the development of a concept with the working title 'Creative Coast' as a strategic programme.
- 5.2 Councillor Humphries stated that whilst he supported the recommendations to the Board, the report was vague on the digital sector and what could be achieved, was unclear on the membership of the task group and didn't highlight key matters underway in the Region such as the roll-out of ultra-fast broadband. Councillor Humphries noted that he understood officers were working at pace on the matter and the report had been brought forward from a later meeting for consideration.
- 5.3 The Chair asked if Board Members would have oversight of the expression of interest before it was submitted.
- 5.4 Nick Hibberd stated that Board representation on the task group would be ensured and officers would seek Board approval of the expression of interest before it was submitted.
- 5.5 Phil Jones stated there were strong existing structures and new emerging technology in the region and they should be aligned with the Creative & Cultural Industry Strategy.

- 5.6 Dean Orgill asked whether the purpose of Creative Coast was to build a strategy or whether it was being developed to access funding.
- 5.7 Nick Hibberd answered that its purpose was to build a strategy as there were many regional strengths in the sectors and Creative Coast would provide a platform for joined-up thinking.
- 5.8 Prof. Baxter stated that the universities could help provide a forensic analysis of the sector to help foster a targeted approach. Furthermore, there was an opportunity for the region to become the test bed for a new national economic sector.
- 5.9 Nick Juba stated that the strategic document required more clarity on the difference between the creative digital sector and digital advancement and the 'People' section required further development and input from the relevant sector.
- 5.10 Nick Hibberd stated that the comments made were useful and well-made and whilst there were gaps in the report, this was the beginning of the process and wider sector involvement would be sought.

5.11 RESOLVED-

- 1) That the Greater Brighton Economic Board supports the development of Creative Coast as a place-based strategic programme for culture and the creative economy through cultural led economic growth and productivity.
- 2) That the Board notes the four proposed areas of focus for the programme (People, Business, Places and Spaces, Reputation) set out at 3.10-3.13 below) and tasks officers to develop these into a portfolio of projects.
- 3) That the Board agrees to support an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Cultural Development Fund, based on the principles of Creative Coast set out at 4.2 below, with a more detailed proposal to be considered at a future meeting if the initial EOI is successful at the first stage.

6 TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

- 6.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that summarised how the application to the Government's newly created Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) was co-ordinated and developed prior to its submission to the Department for Transport (DfT) on 8 June 2018.
- 6.2 Andrew Swayne congratulated officers for developing and submitting the bid at considerable pace and he hoped it would be successful.
- 6.3 Nick Hibberd noted that the Board should be mindful of the DfT's interpretation of the city region and the officer response to that. The DfT believed a city region was a continuous urban area and that was felt to be short-sighted in relation to Greater Brighton as there were breaks in urban areas such as the South Downs. Nick Hibberd stated that a case of the complexity of the Region relating to the bid had been made

strongly however, the advice received was that there would be continued focus on intra-urban systems.

6.4 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board note the content of the Transforming Cities Fund application form, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, which was submitted on its behalf to the DfT .
- 2) That the Board expresses its sincere thanks to all those organisations and individuals who participated in the development of the application and/or submitted letters of support.

7 **GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD 2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT**

- 7.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the achievements made in 2017/18 and the key areas of focus for the medium to long-term.
- 7.2 Dean Orgill asked where the document was published as that would help Board Members circulate the report to partner organisations and promote the work of the Board on an inter-regional level.
- 7.3 Max Woodford clarified that once approved by the Board, the Annual Report would be published on the Greater Brighton website and an email link to the website page could be circulated to Board Members.
- 7.4 Councillor Parkin stated that it was important to note that the development at Shoreham Harbour would also have business space and that could be used for high-tech industry, for example.
- 7.5 Councillor Smith noted that he had recently supplied a copy of the Annual Report to a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Group Challenge and they had been surprised as to the extent of the success of the Board. Councillor Smith stated that more work needed to be done by business partners and local authorities to promote the work of the Board.
- 7.6 Alison Addy stated that as a relatively new member of the Board, the Annual Report was very valuable and would help to build a narrative.

7.7 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board approve the 2017/18 Annual Report.
- 2) That Board members submit the 2017/18 Annual Report to their respective organisations.

8 **GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE**

- 8.1 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 17 April 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.

- 8.2 The Chair stated that the investment and support by Homes England in the Growth Location, Burgess Hill was a significant achievement by the Board and could facilitate other housing projects in the region.
- 8.3 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1.

The meeting concluded at 11.15am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of