

Subject: Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel Update
Date of Meeting: 29 January 2019
Report of: Chair, Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel
Contact Officer: Name: Joel Hufford Tel: 01273 293020 (or 01903 272776)
Email: joel.hufford@southernwater.co.uk
Ward(s) affected: All

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

- 1.1 Since its inception in 2014 , one of the principal roles of this Board has been to co-ordinate development and investment activity across the city region.
- 1.2 Delivering clean growth, or sustainable growth, is also a priority for the Board. Growing economic, cultural and demographic constraints within the city region require us to be more resourceful with our amenities; the Board has chosen to develop proposals on the two linked themes of energy and water with the aim of unlocking sustainable growth. A do nothing approach would pose a risk to current and future growth.
- 1.3 Resilience is essential for sustainable growth. The region must be proactive in building resilience in its infrastructure in order to protect existing homes and businesses. Recent projects such as the Adur Tidal Walls and Newhaven Flood Alleviation scheme are examples of proactive measures to improve resilience, and will unlock key development sites for much needed housing and employment space. However, new technological developments, such as the electrification of transport through electric vehicles, is dependent upon the resilience in our energy network. Catering for significant local growth, such as new housing and commercial space, while protecting and enhancing the environment, also raises a further challenge in how to manage water - for example, ensuring there is a resilient and reliable supply of water and that wastewater and surface water is dealt with effectively and sustainably.
- 1.4 Recent analysis projects that the population of Greater Brighton is set to grow by 97,000 between now and 2030, and over the same period 48,000 jobs will be created. To be able to meet the increased level of demand for energy and water, the city region needs to understand what the associated infrastructure requirements are going to be. There is otherwise a risk that the city region will not be able to deliver secure, resilient, sustainable and affordable energy and water to nearly 950,000 residents.
- 1.5 In April 2018, the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel was established comprising senior representatives from key stakeholders across the public and private sectors to oversee the delivery of the Greater Brighton Energy Plan and

Water Plan and ensure that commonality and overlaps are exploited to maximise benefits and minimise duplication of effort. The Panel is chaired by Ian McAulay, CEO Southern Water, and supported by vice chairs James Humphrys, Regional Director Environment Agency, and Geoff Raw, CEO Brighton & Hove City Council.

- 1.6 The Panel must also ensure that the Plans fulfil the requirements of the Greater Brighton Economic Board as referred to in the Operational Arrangements, and to report back progress to the Board. This paper and update meets this obligation.
- 1.7 In the course of its discussions/considerations, the Panel has increasingly focused on the concept of delivering 'resilience in the round'. This involves taking a more comprehensive, holistic and integrated approach across multiple aspects, rather than concentrating on resilience in the context of a particular sector or sectors.
- 1.8 After looking at number of different approaches being used worldwide, the panel has concentrated on 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) - a well-established and respected framework approach to resilience. 100RC helps cities around the world become more resilient to a variety of social, economic and physical challenges, both shocks and ongoing stresses, which are a growing part of the 21st century. 100RC provides this assistance through: supporting the establishment of a Chief Resilience Officer (executive level) post in each of its member cities who will lead the resilience efforts; resources for developing a resilience strategy and implementation plan; access to private sector, public sector, academic, and NGO resilience expertise; and membership of a global network of peer cities with which to share best practices and challenges.
- 1.9 The Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel is interested in the possibility of the region becoming a 100RC member and recommends further exploratory work.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the update provided by the Chair of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel.
- 2.2 That the Board approves the next step, which is for Greater Brighton to further explore potentially becoming a 100RC member location, as outlined in point 1.8.
- 2.3 That the Board requests a further update on recommendations for the Board from the Water and Energy plans once completed with the likely date being January 2020.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In April 2017 the Board approved the operational arrangements and budget for the 2017/18 municipal year. As part of the work-plan for 2017/18 the Board agreed to financially support the delivery of Greater Brighton Energy and Water Plans, with funding of £10,000 allocated for this project. The Energy and Water Plan would be linked to the Greater Brighton Investment Programme and Project Pipeline and Local Plans. The Plans would need to be developed in partnership

with the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere Board, Southern and South East Water, UK Power Networks, as well as other local partner organisations.

- 3.2 The original agreement was that the Energy and Water Plans would be one piece of work. However, as part of a wider project, European Funding has been secured that will support the delivery of the Energy Plan, which has meant that the Energy Plan and Water Plans will be two discrete, but very much connected projects. This revised approach was approved by the Board in April 2018, and funding for the Energy and Water Plans (previously agreed) was reconfirmed and allocated as £5,000 for each Plan.
- 3.3 In April 2018, the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel was established. The Panel's remit includes:
- Increase infrastructure security and resilience; health and wellbeing; clean growth; and the affordability of energy and water in the city region
 - Ensure the Energy and Water Plans fulfil the requirements of the Greater Brighton Economic Board, as referred to in the Board's Operational Arrangements
 - Bring professional knowledge and insights pertinent to the development of the plans
 - Produce plans which are highly practical in application and which provide a clear indication of priorities, investment opportunities and potential financial mechanisms and sources for delivery.
- 3.4 Officer working groups have been established for both the Energy and Water Plans and comprise of stakeholders from public, private and third sector organisations. The Water Plan working group is chaired by Ben Earl, Southern Water and the Energy Plan working group is chaired by Ollie Pendered, Community Energy South. Both plans are due for completion at the end of 2019.
- 3.5 A vision, policy areas and key outline project proposals for the Greater Brighton Water Plan have been developed with the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board. The strategic aims and objectives are outlined as follows:
- By 2050, drive down average daily water use to 80 litres per person in the Greater Brighton region – currently it's at around 130 litres
 - Achieve the over-arching water plan vision and supporting goals via a true partnership approach involving public, private and third sector organisations
 - Increase security and resilience of the water environment, with affordable water bills for all
 - Understand the key water infrastructure constraints and opportunities to support sustainable, clean growth
 - Understand the linkages between different infrastructure needs and develop approaches for better supporting these
 - Drive and support effective forward planning and policy development, taking full account of wider context
 - Develop and implement water-related initiatives that can act as exemplars of best practice locally, nationally and internationally
 - Develop a collection of water-related projects, together with clear funding / investment mechanisms for them
 - Ensure that the Greater Brighton region is open to water-related innovation, new techniques / approaches and technology.

- 3.6 The Energy Plan has a set of outline strategic aims and objectives agreed by the working group and these are as follows:
- Develop an ambitious carbon pathway with interim carbon targets towards being carbon neutral by 2050
 - Increase security and resilience of energy supply
 - Achieve affordable energy bills and eliminate fuel poverty
 - Understand where there are infrastructure deficits/barriers to future economic growth in the city region
 - Create a portfolio of ready-to-invest energy projects and identify investment opportunities
 - Recognise the inter-relations between infrastructure needs and develop approaches for better supporting these.
 - Develop a region that is open and ready for supporting new and innovative technologies
 - Support effective Planning and Policy, aligning with areas such as economic, transport, waste and leisure strategic planning
 - Deliver this vision as a joined up approach across public, private and third/community sectors
 - Showcase our energy projects that are recognised across the country as best practice and replicable.
- 3.7 As highlighted in point 1.7, the Panel has discussed / considered at length the much increased benefits of taking a fully comprehensive and holistic approach to resilience, in line with regional, national and international thinking / best practice – for example, Coast 2 Capital LEP's new Strategic Economic Plan, the Climate Ready Clyde initiative from the Scottish Government and the recommendations of the UK National Infrastructure Commission.
- 3.8 After looking at a number of different approaches in use internationally, the Panel has focused on 100 Resilient Cities (100RC). This is due to it being well established and respected, with over 100 major cities from around the world (e.g. New York, Barcelona and Cape Town) in its membership, including many with a multi-local authority structure, similar to Greater Brighton. Furthermore, it is the most wide-ranging and integrated framework - its main themes are Health & Wellbeing; Economy & Society; Infrastructure & Environment; and Leadership & Strategy. Importantly, 100RC also strongly emphasises realising the 'Resilience Dividend' – clearly quantifying the monetary/economic value of increased resilience.
- 3.9 100 RC defines resilience as; *"the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow, no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience."*

By becoming a 100RC member, Greater Brighton would be able to tap into a global resilience network, supporting it to develop and implement a truly holistic resilience strategy that reflects local needs, as well as helping to raise its profile locally, nationally and worldwide. The strategy development would be led by a Greater Brighton Chief Resilience Officer (CRO), a top-level executive advisor to the Greater Brighton leadership, with technical support via 100RC.

- 3.10 Initial discussions confirm that Greater Brighton would be able to apply for sponsored membership, something the US city of Houston has successfully done recently. This would require formal political support and wider stakeholder endorsement.
- 3.11 It is important to stress that the Greater Brighton Energy and Water Plans will stand in their own right, but can also form part of the wider focus on developing an over-arching Greater Brighton resilience strategy - for example, under the 100RC model.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been consultation and engagement with both sets of working group members, and there will be further consultation and engagement to develop to the final Plan documents.
- 4.2 The outline Water and Energy Plan proposals were shared with the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel on 16th January for feedback and are due to be shared with the Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere Board meeting on 12th February.
- 4.3 The Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board have been consulted and will continue to be consulted and updated on progress as and when required.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This update from the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel informs Board Members as to the progress made on the Greater Brighton Water and Energy Plans. Both works-streams are making good progress and are on schedule for completion at the end of 2019.
- 5.2 As well as overseeing development of the Water and Energy Plans, the Infrastructure Panel has also been looking at delivering resilience in a wider sense. This involves taking a more comprehensive, holistic and integrated approach across multiple aspects, rather than concentrating on resilience in the context of a particular sector or sectors.
- 5.3 The Infrastructure Panel seeks support from the Board by approving the next step, which is for Greater Brighton to further explore potentially becoming a 100RC location.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 The work associated with preparing the final Water and Energy Plans will be met from the existing Greater Brighton work-streams budget for 2018/19. A sum of £10,000 has been identified to support these two areas of work.

In addition, funding has also been secured through an Interreg 2 Seas funding bid called SOLARISE which includes a further €40,000 (approximately £35,000) for the development of the Energy Plan, to include specific work on solar, storage

and smart grids in line with the bidding opportunity and relevance to the Greater Brighton city region. This is supplemented by a contribution of up to £14,000 from Brighton & Hove City Council's International and Sustainability Team budget and together with the £5,000 from the Greater Brighton budget contribution provides a total budget of £54,000.

The funding for the Water Plan has supplemented by a valuable contribution from Southern Water (£15,000).

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant
Date: 10/01/19

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 At this stage there are no legal implications arising directly from this report, there may be legal implications of becoming a Resilient City which will be outlined in the next report.

Lawyer Consulted: Joanne Dougnaglo, Senior Property Lawyer
Date: 09/01/19

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 The Water and Energy Plans will seek to ensure that the benefits are shared across the city region. In addition, one of the key aims of both plans is to address inequalities by looking at how access to energy and water can be made affordable for all residents of the city region.

Sustainability Implications

- 6.4 Delivering sustainable growth is a priority for the Board. Growing economic, cultural and demographic constraints within the city region require us to be more resourceful with our amenities. To be able to meet the increased level of demand for energy and water, and benefit from technological change, the city region needs to understand what the associated infrastructure requirements are going to be.