

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 26 MARCH 2019

THE PEOPLE'S PENSION STADIUM, WINFIELD WAY, CRAWLEY, RH11 9RX

## MINUTES

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

**Business Partners:** Steve Allen, Trevor Beattie, Chris Coopey, James Dempster, Martyn Howe, Prof. Humphris, Gavin Stewart, Prof Tickell

### PART ONE

#### **25 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

##### **25a Declarations of substitutes**

25.1 Councillor Theobald was present as substitute for Councillor Janio.

25.2 Councillor Giles was present as substitute for Councillor Smith.

25.3 Chris Coopey was present as substitute for Andrew Swayne.

25.4 Gavin Stewart was present as substitute for Dean Orgill.

25.5 James Dempster was present as substitute for Henry Powell.

25.6 Martyn Howe was present as substitute for Nick Juba.

##### **25b Declarations of interests**

25.7 There were none.

##### **25c Exclusion of the press and public**

25.8 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.

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

#### **26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 26.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 January 2019 be approved and signed as the correct record.

## 27 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 27.1 The Chair provided the following Communications:

“On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome Henry Powell. Henry is the new Chair of Coastal West Sussex and replaces Peter Webb who stood down from the Board at the last meeting in January. Unfortunately, Henry can't be with us today and so we welcome Vice Chairman James Dempster in his place on this occasion. We look forward to working with Henry, as the partnership moves into an exciting new phase.

As you will be more than aware the UK is due to leave the European Union on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 3 days from now. The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) is doing a great deal of work to prepare for any local impacts of the national risks and contingencies arising from the UK's exit from the EU, including from a 'No Deal' scenario. The SRF and the partners who make it up are also working closely with the Government, which is making sensible precautions to ensure continuity in areas including healthcare and transport. The SRF is also working with neighbouring resilience forums across the South East.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has launched the business readiness website which includes a tool to enable businesses to find out further information on how to prepare, industry specific information and changes to rules and regulations. More information is available at:  
<https://euexitbusiness.campaign.gov.uk/>

On 22 March the Adur Tidal Walls were officially opened at an event hosted by Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency. Sir James led on the formalities before delegates were taken on a tour to view part of the 7.2km of completed flood defences. This essential infrastructure work will protect over 2,300 residential properties, around 170 commercial properties, and also protect other key infrastructure including the railway, local roads and the airport. It will also unlock strategic sites for the delivery of much-needed new homes and commercial space.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, I opened an extremely interesting event organised by Coastal West Sussex in partnership with Willmott Dixon and held at Ricardo. The 'Prosperity through Innovation' event featured presentations from Savills on the housing trends, from City Fibre on the economic benefits of Full Fibre, from Willmott Dixon on the challenges in the construction industry and how they would like to work with local authorities and LCR property on some successful major regeneration sites. The event closed with a discussion and the audience using 'slido' to ask questions of the panel experts.

The Greater Brighton Economic Board, in partnership with the IMEX Group, is hosting a unique event this Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at the AMEX stadium. This event will explore how we can grow our city region's economy by better defining our distinctive global City narrative in terms of civic innovation and placemaking. The urban development and city branding advisor and Chairman of The Business of Cities, Prof. Greg Clark CBE, will be

joining us to: developing a compelling proposition and identity for our city region, explore civic innovation and the transformation economy, identify locations and business sectors to foster growth and attract talent, better leverage our visitor economy to drive this economic development.

I look forward to seeing you there.

## **28 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20**

28.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that that set out its Operational Arrangements for 2019/20.

28.2 The Chair stated that an anomaly had been identified due to an historic position meaning that the entirety of the Mid Sussex District was not included when calculating the member contributions. The Chair stated that as Leader of Mid Sussex District Council, he intended to rectify that anomaly and therefore proposed that Mid Sussex increase its contribution that would in turn mean that the contributions from partner authorities would decrease.

28.3 Prof Humphris asked whether consideration should be given to the University of Chichester being invited to join the Board on the basis that Arun District Council were likely to join the Board to accurately reflect the new geography. Prof Humphris also enquired as to how an expanded Board would work differently to the LEP.

28.4 Nick Hibberd answered that appointing the relevant business partner alongside Arun District Council would be subject of a later report to the Board.

28.5 The Chair stated that he viewed the Board as having a strong voice with the LEP that in turn gave the LEP a stronger voice with central government. The Chair stated that this was an important matter to monitor to ensure that there was a difference in focus between the Board and the LEP.

28.6 Jonathan Sharrock explained that the LEP boundaries and status with central government was different to that of the GBEB. Furthermore, spending, accountability and transparency matters were also different. Jonathan Sharrock stated that he was entirely confident with the current arrangements although it would be an issue to collectively monitor.

## **28.7 RESOLVED-**

- 1) Agree and secure the budgetary contributions, as amended, sought to fund the cost of running the Board and delivering its workplan in 2019/20;
- 2) Note the proposed workplan outlined in the Five Year Strategic Priorities and Project paper and agree that a detailed workplan should be presented at the next Board meeting in July alongside the investment pipeline of projects;
- 3) Note that Brighton & Hove City Council shall continue to act as Lead Authority for the Board in 2019/20;

- 4) Agree the process set out at sections 3.16 to 3.18 by which the Chair of the Board shall be nominated for 2019/20;
- 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) Agree to the proposed changes to the Boards Heads of Terms as outlined in 3.9
- 9) Note the proposal under agenda item 6 that Arun District Council is formally invited to become a constituent member of the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC), subject to the agreement and formal ratification from the Board's member organisations and note this would result in further changes to the Heads of Terms.
- 10) Agree to extend the contracts of the Greater Brighton Support Team (1 FTE Business Manager, 0.5 FTE Business Manager and 0.5 FTE Programme Support Officer) by 3 years, as they are due to expire in May 2020, and agree to increase the hours of the 0.5 FTE Business Manager to 0.65 FTC to deliver the workplan and further development of the Five Year Plan.
- 11) Agree to extend the current communications contract with the Adur & Worthing Communications Team by another year with an update on the first year's activities provided at the July 2019 Board Meeting.

## **29 GREATER BRIGHTON BUSINESS SURVEY**

- 29.1 The Board considered a report that provided an update on the progress on the Greater Brighton business survey and outlined the proposed next steps for agreement. The report was supplemented by a presentation to the Board.
- 29.2 Councillor Theobald asked how many businesses had been interviewed.
- 29.3 Tony Wilson answered that at this stage, twenty interviews had been undertaken with stakeholders and membership bodies such as the Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce. There would be 1000 interviews undertaken as part of the second stage.
- 29.4 Prof Tickell stated that he had found the report interesting and noted that the universities generated £400m worth of trade per annum and were a key aspect of trade and inward investment.
- 29.5 Matt Williams clarified that the survey did cover universities as businesses in their own right however, the current focus of the report was with stakeholders with the final report addressing the business base within the region and the range of economic activities.

- 29.6 Alex Bailey stated that the region did not currently have data on inward investment and asked methods as to how to attract that.
- 29.7 Tony Wilson replied that the final report would propose what was required for a trade mission and the recommended next steps. He added that the survey was, to a point, an opportunity for challenge and to link that to the inward investment strategy.
- 29.8 Alex Bailey stated that the region had a vibrant creative industry and he hoped that element would be considered fully.
- 29.9 Tony Wilson stated that space constraint was one of the challenges of the region and was an opportunity to focus on sectors that did not necessarily require space such as the creative industry.
- 29.10 Councillor Giles stated that available housing was a severe constraint on the region and he believed it would be difficult to create significant economic growth unless that was resolved.
- 29.11 Tony Wilson stated that housing was a very important issue for the region and one that would be addressed in the final survey.
- 29.12 The Chair stated that the improvement of transport links was a key aspect in overcoming regional housing pressures.
- 29.13 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board notes the contents of the report
  - 2) That the Board agrees to proceed to stage 2 of the project which is the main business survey
  - 3) That the Board promotes business engagement in the survey.

### **30 ARUN MEMBERSHIP**

- 30.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that so approval to formally invite Arun District Council to become a constituent member of the Board subject to both their agreement and formal ratification from the Board's member organisations.
- 30.2 Councillor Theobald stated that he supported the representation from Arun to join the Board that made sense for the region on a geographical basis.
- 30.3 Councillor Humphreys stated that the Board were correct to apply a test for the proposed expansion and he was delighted that Arun would join the Board as a missing part of the region.
- 30.4 Councillor Parkin stated his support adding that Arun would add to the region's economic strength.

- 30.5 Councillor Lamb welcomed the proposal that would bolster the region.
- 30.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Board agrees to formally invite Arun District Council to become a constituent member of the Board, joining the GBEJC subject to both their agreement and formal ratification from the Board's member organisations.

### 31 INVESTMENT PLAN

- 31.1 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 of 29 January 2019.
- 31.2 In relation to the Sussex Biomedical Centre, Prof Tickell advised that the University had been unable to draw down funding and there would be a change in plans given the financial challenges currently faced by all universities.
- 31.3 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1.

### 32 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 32.1 The Chair noted that it was his final meeting and stated that it had been a privileged position to represent the Board. The Chair stated that he had picked up the good work undertaken by those who had been in the role previously and sought continued improvement. The Chair stated that one of his ambitions had been to ensure that the Board had a greater understanding of its purpose and role and it was in a strong position for the future. The Chair stated that there would be challenges ahead for the Board and its respective commitment would ensure the region could thrive and prosper and expressed his best wishes to the incumbent Chair.

The meeting concluded at 11.35am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of