

Subject:	Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel Update		
Date of Meeting:	28 January 2020		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 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. To that end the Greater Brighton Economic Board “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 generate risk that the City Region will not be able to deliver secure, resilient, sustainable and affordable energy and water to nearly 950,000 residents.
- 1.2 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 Humphreys, Regional Director Environment Agency, and Geoff Raw, CEO Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 1.3 The Panel must report progress back to the Board. This paper does that, and is just a progress update prior to bringing the final plans to the April Board meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the update provided by the Chair of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel and recognises the work undertaken to date.
- 2.2 That the Board requests the final recommendations from the Water and Energy plans be presented in April 2020.
- 2.3 That the Board notes the planned communications activity which will be focused on the Greater Brighton 10 pledges highlighting the delivery of five water and five energy projects.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 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 was secured that would support the delivery of the Energy Plan, which has meant that the Energy Plan and Water Plans have evolved as 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.
- 3.2 Officer working groups were 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.
- 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.

The panel has met three times since its inception and provides a sounding board for progress on both plans as well as providing conceptual ideas for the related communications activity which is paramount to the success of the plans moving forward.

Energy Plan

- 3.4 The Strategic aims and objectives agreed by the working group were documented in the report that was presented to the Board in January 2019.
- 3.5 The original Vision for the Greater Brighton Energy Plan was that:
- “By 2050 Greater Brighton will have a resilient, zero carbon and smart energy system that enables and supports a sustainable and healthy economy, environment and society across the City Region”*
- 3.6 Since starting work on the Energy Plan, most of the Greater Brighton local authorities have declared a climate emergency with varying deadlines and scopes, which the Energy Plan will help to address.
- 3.7 In June 2019, Buro Happold were appointed to develop the Energy Plan following a competitive tendering process.

- 3.8 The main objective given to Buro Happold was to provide a clear analysis of the economic opportunities and challenges provided by energy across the Greater Brighton area, covering power, heat and transport. Buro Happold have reviewed existing and previous Energy Plans, analysed an indicative pipeline of potential energy projects, with a more detailed look at solar and storage opportunities, and held three workshops to identify delivery models.
- 3.9 A summary of key points of the Energy Plan is attached. It is based on the 2018 Tri-LEP Energy Strategy and its 5 themes of:
- Renewable energy generation
 - Low carbon heating
 - Transport revolution
 - Energy saving and efficiency
 - Smart energy systems
- 3.10 The Energy Plan is built on extensive GIS mapping which captures much information about the geography, energy use and potential projects across the sub-region.
- 3.11 The Energy Plan includes a Solar Road-Map, a useful document which will help to accelerate the use of solar energy, identifying new technologies, methods and potential locations for deployment. The Solar Road-Map forms part of Brighton & Hove City Council's contribution to the SOLARISE Interreg project which has part-funded the Energy Plan.
- 3.12 Stakeholder engagement has been very successful and broad. It has included workshops on low carbon transport, low carbon heating and energy transition in rural communities. Many colleagues from all sectors including Gatwick Airport, universities, community energy groups, land agents, gas and electric companies, Southern Water, electric vehicle infrastructure companies, Shoreham Port, Ricardo, as well as Greater Brighton local authority officers, have contributed their expertise and their plans for energy projects. Further engagement has also taken place with the University of Sussex on its work on innovation in digital energy services. The draft Energy Plan report has received extensive comments which are still being integrated.
- 3.13 The Energy Plan aims to be practical and focused on delivery. It includes:
- An outline of renewable energy technologies, their applicability in the Greater Brighton area, an assessment of constraints and benefits, and readiness for implementation, and a list of project opportunities
 - Models for ownership, delivery and funding which have been proven successful and could be utilised elsewhere
 - Local case studies which demonstrate innovation in deployment and use of renewable / low-carbon energy and integration of different types of energy within a project.
- 3.14 The Energy Plan identifies a number of proposals to accelerate the delivery of energy projects that will boost resilience and security and at the same time reduce carbon emissions. These will be further developed for the final launch of the plan but include an Energy Investment Company to attract grant funding and

external investment, and to reinvest profits from projects, with the aim of realising pipeline energy projects, expanding the successful partnerships with community energy companies which are such a notable feature of our City Region.

Water Plan

3.15 As in 3.4, the strategic aims and objectives of the Water Plan were agreed at the January 2019 Board meeting.

3.16 The Water Plan builds on work around the water environment that's already in progress across a number of organisations to set out a range of opportunities to address ongoing challenges in new, innovative ways, yielding much increased benefits for the local area, compared to current, 'conventional' approaches. The plan's overall vision is as follows:

“By 2040, Greater Brighton will enjoy a resilient, integrated water environment, underpinning sustainable growth, with a popular appreciation of the fundamental role water plays in supporting daily life.”

3.17 A range of strategic objectives sit under this ambition including the below:

- By 2040, drive down average daily water use to below 100 litres per person across Greater Brighton – it is currently around 130 litres
- 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 and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Drive and support water efficient forward planning and policy development across the region
- Develop and implement a collection of water-related projects that demonstrate best practice locally, nationally and internationally
- Identify/develop funding and delivery mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the projects
- Ensure the Greater Brighton region is open to water-related innovation

3.18 The Infrastructure Panel has worked to bring professional knowledge and insights to guide, influence and steer development of the Greater Brighton Water Plan. The detailed work on these documents has been progressed by a separate Water Working Group.

3.19 Importantly, the Water Plan takes account of a wide range of relevant factors, including the following:

- Examples of best practice, particularly for water sustainability, from around the world
- The goals and approach set out in the Government's Clean Growth Strategy, its Industrial Strategy and its 25-year Environment Plan
- The various recommendations published by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC)
- The Strategic Economic Plan to 2030 produced by Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership

- Existing plans (e.g. Southern Water/South East Water)
- Aligning with the objectives of the UNESCO designated Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere (see thelivingcoast.org.uk) and the Biosphere's Management Strategy and other adopted environmental frameworks of the surrounding area.

3.20 The Water Plan covers the first five years of the journey to realising the vision for 2040, forming the foundation of a more detailed schedule for delivering the plan's key outputs, which include establishing a community investment bond and implementing an enhanced home visits programme, integrating water/energy efficiency support for residents as well as a programme to protect the groundwater and chalk aquifer through the delivery of the Chalk Management Partnership (ChaMP) 2020-2025 and securing investment for groundwater protection across Greater Brighton through the Natural Capital Investment Strategy.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

4.1 There has been consultation and engagement with both sets of working group members, and for the energy plan in particular, wider stakeholders as outlined in 3.12.

4.2 The outline Water and Energy Plan proposals were shared with the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel on 9 December 2019 for feedback and are due to be shared with the Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere Board meeting on 12 February 2020.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY

4.4 Communication on both the ambitions of the Board and the potential projects arising from the Energy and Water plans is crucial to gain support to help facilitate delivery. The Greater Brighton Communications Team are preparing a communications plan that focuses on the Greater Brighton Ten Pledges – five energy and five water plan projects which are priorities for the Board to meet the objectives set out in the plans.

4.5 Board members will be asked to sign the 'pledge' at the Board meeting in April committing to supporting the 10 projects through to delivery. There will also be a promotional video and a series of press releases to support the launch of the plans.

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 work-streams are making good progress and are on schedule for completion and presentation of the final documents at the Board meeting in April 2020.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. A total of £10,000 (£5,000 for each plan) was identified in the 2018/19 Operational Arrangements Budget to support the final Water and Energy Plans. The Water and Energy Plans will explore future funding contributions which may include grants and external contributions.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant

Date: 06/01/2020

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 None.

Lawyer Consulted: Joanne Dougnaglo, Senior Property Lawyer

Date: 15/01/2020

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 Greater Brighton residents.

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.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None