

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 15 OCTOBER 2019

RICARDO CENTENARY INNOVATION CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, WEST SUSSEX,  
BN43 5FG

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors Humphreys (Chair) Ash-Edwards, Lamb, Mac Cafferty, Parkin, Platts and Walsh

**Business Partners:** Alison Addy, Trevor Beattie, Prof. Dean, Nick Juba, Claire Mason, Dean Orgill, Henry Powell, Andrew Swayne

### PART ONE

#### 10 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 10a Declarations of substitutes

10.1 Prof. Dean was present as substitute for Prof. Humphris.

##### 10b Declarations of interests

10.2 There were none.

##### 10c Exclusion of the press and public

10.3 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.

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

#### 11 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

11.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as the correct record.

#### 12 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

12.1 The Chair provided the following communications:

“I would like to welcome Claire Mason who is attending as a Board member for the first time representing Coast to Capital LEP. We look forward to working with you as the Greater Brighton Partnership moves forward.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, the District Planning Committee at Mid Sussex gave its approval for outline planning permission for the Northern Arc. This will start 15 years of building work, which includes 3,000 homes, extra care housing, a four-hectare business park, two primary schools and a secondary school, and 82 hectares of green space. Key to delivering the much-needed homes is implementation of essential infrastructure, and Homes England are planning on investing around £41m in vital infrastructure over the next 3 years to unlock the Northern Arc site.

Last week Transport for the South East (TfSE) launched its transport strategy which sets out its vision for the region until 2050. It's crucial to see that some of the city region's key transport issues are acknowledged, including the Brighton Mainline, and developing initiatives to address these challenges will be a priority in the Strategy. TfSE are consulting with partners, businesses and residents across the South East to get their views on the draft strategy from now until 10th January 2020. The Greater Brighton Officer Team will be contacting Board members to discuss providing a response on behalf of the Board and we would look to making the strongest possible case for much needed interventions in our transport network so that we can deliver a sustainable, healthy, accessible, safe and integrated transport offer for the City Region.

I, along with colleagues from the South Downs National Park, visited Ridgeview Wine Estate on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Ridgeview are key players within Greater Brighton's rural economy and export their wines globally. They are very proud of their part in the wider food, drink, tourism and hospitality sectors within the Greater Brighton region and their place within the South Downs National Park. Their CEO talked to us about their contribution to investment in the area and their excitement about the future of tourism across Greater Brighton.

I will also be opening the South Downs National Park Rural Economy Conference on 17 October and look forward to hearing more about the challenges and opportunities faced by that sector of our economy.

At the end of August, I sent letters to the new Secretaries of State for International Trade, Business, Energy and the Industrial Strategy, Transport, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government to outline the Board's vision for the region and invite them to visit to see for themselves the great work we are doing to increase productivity and growth.

The Greater Brighton Comms Team have published and circulated the Greater Brighton Experts Guide. Thanks to all partners who agreed to help to raise the profile of the Board and the region as a whole”.

### **13 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD – ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER TO THE BOARD**

- 13.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Office Programme Board that sought approval that Arun District Council joins the GBEJC subject to agreement

from Full Council at Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council. The report was supplemented by a presentation by Arun District Council providing an overview and information on the region.

- 13.2 Henry Powell noted that Arun District Council was within the CWS area and expressed support for the proposed magenta bypass route that would promote business growth by approximately 8%, something that was very much needed in the area.
- 13.3 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked for the ways in which Arun could help the Greater Brighton region in delivering the housing requirement desperately needed.
- 13.4 Councillor Walsh clarified that Arun accounted for a sizable amount of the allocation of housing delivery in the CWS area and had more empty space than some of the other areas along the coast. Councillor Walsh added that the allocation was in its Local Plan and therefore, Arun would make every effort to deliver that amount.
- 13.5 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That subject to agreement from Full Council at Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council, the Board officially approves that Arun District Council joins the GBEJC.
  - 2) That the Board agree to amend the Board's Heads of Terms at Appendix 1.

#### **14 GREATER BRIGHTON DIGITAL STRATEGY**

- 14.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the draft Greater Brighton Digital Strategy. Connectivity had been identified as a priority in the Board's Five Year Strategic Plan and activation of full-fibre infrastructure across the City Region had been identified as the key project within that.
- 14.2 Andrew Swayne stated that the report did not set a concrete plan, timeline and there was no mention of regular updates to the Board. Andrew Swayne observed that there were opportunities to interlink the Strategy with the work of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel, One Public Estate programme and Transport for the South East.
- 14.3 Paul Brewer clarified that the report was focussed on developing understanding of the issue and there was a separate development process underway. This understanding concerned what the issues were, how they would be resourced and when each stage would start.
- 14.4 Dean Orgill stated that the proposals were a good example of what the Board could deliver, and it was important to have a strategy in place to map out and co-ordinate the process.
- 14.5 Trevor Beattie stated that there were good ideas in the report however, there had to be caution to not over promise and under deliver. Trevor Beattie stated that clarity on the pilot process would be useful as well as clarity on any actions that could be undertaken now. Furthermore, the SDNPA collaborate with planned work on rural connectivity.

- 14.6 Councillor Platts what guidance would be given to SME's to ensure they were making technological investment at the right time. Councillor Platts also urged positive assistance in the roll out for older people and those with disabilities.
- 14.7 Nick Hibberd agreed that was a key challenge and proposed closer working with the Everything Connects Group in West Sussex to promote inclusion measures.
- 14.8 Councillor Walsh stated that it was key to have buy in from the communications companies on full fibre provision.
- 14.9 Paul Brewer explained that there would be a multi-mode delivery model with public sector involvement necessary to unlock a commercial commitment. This could include the public sector committing its own assets to assist delivery of full fibre. For smaller towns, it would be necessary to work with communities to build access networks to homes and businesses and unlocking commercial investment would be a challenge.
- 14.10 Councillor Ash-Edwards noted that West Sussex County Council had invested £21m of its retained business rates to fund digital investment. Councillor Ash-Edwards noted that commercial investment was unlikely in rural areas therefore, public intervention was likely and required.
- 14.11 Nick Hibberd stated that one challenge would be that a different approach on how to deliver ultra-fast broadband was taken by the many different providers. Nick Hibberd added that it would be useful to join up the various partner strategies.
- 14.12 Councillor Lamb stated that advancements in technology would change the economic landscape and that the priority should be on realising the economic impact of full fibre.
- 14.13 Paul Brewer replied that full fibre was the priority with the Digital Strategy an opportunity to follow on from the roll out. The roll out of full fibre to businesses would ensure that residential areas could also be picked up amongst that and the more widespread full fibre became, so too would 5G which was key to the outcomes the Strategy was seeking.
- 14.14 Councillor Lamb noted that homes were not necessarily located in the same areas as businesses.
- 14.15 Paul Brewer agreed and explained that public sector intervention would be necessary in more remote areas and would benefit sectors such as adult social care and intelligent agriculture.
- 14.16 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board notes the content and research findings of the draft Greater Brighton Digital Strategy (Appendix 1).
  - 2) That the Board notes the list of recommendations put forward in the draft Greater Brighton Digital Strategy and listed in section 5 of this cover paper.

- 3) That the Board approves the Greater Brighton Digital Strategy in its current working format and supports the recommendation of an action plan with responsibilities, timescales and resources allocated appropriately.

## **15 LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

- 15.1 The Board considered a presentation by Jonathan Sharrock that set out the results of the Economic Profile research of the C2C region undertaken, the conclusions of that research and ideas on how that could inform the development of its Local Industrial Strategy.
- 15.2 Nick Hibberd stated that consultation offered the Greater Brighton region to clearly express what it could offer as a city region adding that the draft response would be circulated to the Board and sign off requested via email due to the short timeframe.
- 15.3 Councillor Platts stated her concern for the extreme short of affordable housing in the region and asked if that response could convey a request for additional powers for local authorities to build housing.
- 15.4 Councillor Ash-Edwards stated that the information provided was comprehensive and a logical approach would be to draw priorities from the evidence base.
- 15.5 Andrew Swayne commended the update adding that it was important to focus on an increase in home-based working and home work to meet the objective to reduce the region's carbon footprint.

## **16 GREATER BRIGHTON BUSINESS SURVEY**

- 16.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the results and findings of the Greater Brighton Business Survey and asked for approval for various actions relating to those findings.

### **16.2 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board notes the implications at the end of each section of the report.
- 2) That the Board agrees that the findings and implications should help shape future support to business, including the activity of the Inward Investment Desk, which was agreed at the July meeting, and any other business support initiatives.
- 3) That the Board agrees that where the implications link back to project ideas identified within the Five Year Strategic Priorities, these projects should be worked-up in more detail and proposals prepared around how to take them forward.

## **17 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

- 17.1 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 16 July 2019.

- 17.2 Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that in the past week, the Treasury had increased interest on loans from the Public Works Board and expressed his fear that would affect key projects on both the Investment Programme and One Public Estate Programme. Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that the LGA had estimated the cost of this decision on council's to be £70 million and asked if it was known what impact the decision would have upon the Region.
- 17.3 The Chair noted that the announcement had only been made in the past week and the result of that announcement could be circulated once more information was known.
- 17.4 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1.

**18 GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT**

- 18.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Public Sector Property Group that set out the One Public Estate Programme's 2018/19 Annual Report that would also be submitted to the National OPE Team in the LGA and Cabinet Office as the Partnership's end of year report.
- 18.2 **RESOLVED-** That the Board notes the content of the Programme's 2018/19 Annual Report.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of