

Subject:	Greater Brighton Covid-19 Recovery Project Pipeline		
Date of Meeting:	14 July 2020		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
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LA's affected:	All		

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 7, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the information detailed in the report were dependent upon the announcements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday 8 July 2020

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 On 10 June 2020, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), wrote to local authority leaders and chief executives, city mayors and the Chairs of England's Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The focus of the letter was around how MHCLG could help LEPs to stimulate post-crisis economic recovery at a local level.
- 1.2 Timescales were tight, as Coast-to-Capital (C2C) were asked to co-ordinate a response on behalf of the local authorities within its geography and reply to MHCLG by 18 June 2020. C2C wrote to regional stakeholders and invited them to forward projects that met the priority criteria outlined in paragraph 3.2 below.
- 1.3 Ten new projects from within Greater Brighton were shortlisted as a priority, and these are listed in section 3.4 below.
- 1.4 The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) under which geography Lewes District sits, conducted a similar exercise. Lewes DC submitted a response to SELEP in accordance with its timetable, and SELEP shortlisted three projects from Lewes in its reply back to MHCLG. These are listed in paragraph 3.5.
- 1.5 At this time MHCLG has not made a commitment to accelerate or offer new funding. The focus of the recent exercise is on how existing funding sources could be used as well as whether local growth funding for future years can be brought forward to support projects at this critical time for the recovery of the UK economy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board acknowledges the importance of the shortlisted projects outlined in paragraph 3.4 and 3.5 and supports these projects going forwards.
- 2.2 That these new projects be added to the Greater Brighton Project Pipeline.
- 2.3 That the Board also agrees that the projects in Appendix 1 should also be added to the pipeline of Greater Brighton projects.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 C2C has an ambitious local growth programme, but the Covid-19 crisis has created a significant challenge associated with delivering the capital programme this year. Part of the support offered by the Secretary of State in his letter, was around how acceleration of Departmental funds could be used to support the delivery of capital projects in order to stimulate the economy over the next 18 months. LEPs were invited to come forward with ideas for accelerating existing Government funded capital projects, to generate new activity within 18 months, to help create jobs and raise overall demand in the economy.
- 3.2 MHCLG were also willing to consider exceptional, additional shovel-ready capital projects which can be delivered within 18 months. Any new proposals would need to meet value for money standards agreed through local assurance frameworks. Longer-running projects with a funding tail beyond 2022 would be out of scope. Any new projects must deliver on two overarching objectives – driving up economic growth and jobs and supporting green recovery – and would primarily enable:
 - town and city centre modernisation through targeted infrastructure investments unleashing their longer-term economic potential;
 - investment in physical connectivity to improve the functioning of the local economy;
 - investment in innovation ecosystems including through improvements to research and development facilities driving up business productivity;
 - improvements to human capital;
 - improving digital connectivity, in order to support economic performance, particularly in more isolated areas.
- 3.3 C2C received over 100 project proposals. These were prioritised, and in its response to MHCLG requested an initial investment of £40m to deliver interventions in terms of driving innovation, skills development and green growth across the LEP region.
- 3.4 The ten projects from within Greater Brighton shortlisted are as follows;
 1. The Crawley Innovation Centre – Crawley
 2. Rural Connectivity Programme - Sussex Heartlands Digital Spine – Mid Sussex
 3. Rural Connectivity Programme - Brighton Link – Mid Sussex
 4. Research & Innovation Fibre Ring – Brighton & Hove
 5. Manor Royal Facilities & Public Realm Upgrades – Crawley
 6. Hydrogen Engine Development Facility – Adur & Worthing

7. Boosting Capacity for Horticultural Skills – Brighton & Hove
8. The ReManuFactory – Brighton & Hove
9. Plas St Maur & Esplanade Public Realm Works – Arun
10. Bus Network Review Package – Brighton & Hove

3.5 Lewes DC sits within the geography covered by SELEP. Following the same guidance from MHCLG, SELEP carried out a similar exercise with its local authorities. In its response to MHCLG, SELEP prioritised two projects forwarded by Lewes DC. These are as follows;

1. The Creative Hub – Lewes
2. Public, Maritime & Sustainable Technology Hub - Newhaven

4 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 C2C received over 100 project proposals. Through its evaluation process, 10 projects from across Greater Brighton have been shortlisted as a priority. This clearly demonstrates the importance of these projects to the economic recovery of the C2C region, and therefore to the Greater Brighton region. The Board should therefore support C2C in its request of Government for these projects to receive funding.

4.2 Two projects within Lewes DC have been shortlisted by SELEP as being crucial to the recovery of that region. The Board should also support SELEP in its request of Government for these projects to receive funding.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Board and its constituent members have a key role in taking a lead on the post-Covid economic recovery. Interventions that will stimulate economic growth, and in particular job creation, are a key priority, so it is important that the Board acknowledges the importance of the projects listed in paragraphs 3.4-3.5.

5.2 If funding is awarded for some or all of these projects, the lead authorities and delivery partners will need to take these forward quickly in order to deliver them within the timeframes set out by MHCLG. The Board should act to support these projects when required to.

5.3 Greater Brighton has had a project pipeline since the City Deal was agreed in 2014. As a result of subsequent Local Government Fund (LGF) calls since 2014, the project pipeline has expanded since the signing of the City Deal. However, a number of those projects are complete, and others are well-progressed so it's important that new and emerging projects are added to the pipeline. The 12 projects in paragraphs 3.4-3.5 have been prioritised by C2C and SELEP as being important for the post-Covid recovery and should be added to the Greater Brighton Project Pipeline.

5.4 Over 30 additional projects from across Greater Brighton were submitted to C2C and these are listed in Appendix 1. Whilst these projects were not prioritised by C2C in accordance with the criteria set by MHCLG, they are important for the local economic recovery in the local authorities that submitted them. They too should be added to the Greater Brighton Project Pipeline.

6 FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 A total of 12 projects from the Greater Brighton and Lewes District areas have been shortlisted to the MHCLG for consideration of financial support, these are detailed in paragraphs 3.4 in 3.5 above. Confirmation of any support is awaited from MHCLG and will be reported back at future Boards. A further summary of projects to be added to the pipeline of Greater Brighton projects is attached at Appendix 1.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant
Date: 05/07/20*

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 At this stage there are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

*Lawyer Consulted: Joanne Dougnaglo, Senior Property Lawyer
Date: 03/07/2020*

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 None directly arising from this report. Equalities issues will be addressed on a project-by-project basis.

Sustainability Implications

- 6.4 None directly arising from this report. Sustainability issues will be addressed on a project-by-project basis

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Greater Brighton Additional Pipeline Projects