

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex Strategic Statement – Background Papers Commissioning Proposal</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> July 2014</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Nick Hibberd</b>	<b>Tel: 29-3756</b>
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<b>LA(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

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

- 1.1 The report seeks agreement from the Economic Board to commission the development of a Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex Strategic Statement.
- 1.2 The Strategic Statement will build upon and refresh the Local Strategic Statement that was produced by the Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board in 2013.
- 1.3 It is proposed that three background papers are also commissioned which are specific to the economic geography of the Greater Brighton City Region. The background papers will focus upon the city region economy, the city region housing market, and the city region transport system.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Greater Brighton Economic Board:
  - (1) Agree the proposed scope of the Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex Strategic Statement and City Region background documents focusing upon city region economy, housing market, and transport system
  - (2) Agree that the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board should commission the Strategic Statement as part of a joint commission with the Coast West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board was established in May 2014 with the overarching aim of delivering long term sustainable growth to the Greater Brighton city region. At the first meeting of the board, members asked officers to support the Board to develop a greater understanding of the economic geography of the Greater Brighton City Region.

- 3.2 Achieving long term sustainable growth across the Greater Brighton City Region will depend on addressing the key strategic issues (employment land, housing, transport and other infrastructure) in an integrated way and deliverable way. The Greater Brighton Strategic Statement and background papers will provide an opportunity for key partners to come to a consensus on what 'sustainable growth' means for the area, what the short, medium and long term priorities are, and how these will be delivered. It will provide the strategic basis for future funding bids and support the delivery of the Coast to Capital LEPs Strategic Economic Plan.
- 3.3 An overarching statement reflecting the local authorities' and partners' ambitions around long term sustainable growth will:
- Ensure that work programmes are properly co-ordinated, particularly the work programmes of Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board, with potential to provide opportunities for shared resources and expertise
  - Provide a framework and narrative for integrating and aligning the investment priorities and business plans of both public and private sector bodies.
  - Establish a clear set of priorities for funding opportunities, particularly those delivered through the Coast to Capital LEP (C2C LEP).
  - Provide a mechanism for contributing to and coordinating work on strategic planning and economic activity in the wider area (Coastal West Sussex, C2C LEP).
  - This will become increasingly important if the Greater Brighton authorities and partners are to have a significant influence over the C2C LEP's funding priorities.

#### What is a strategic statement?

- 3.4 There are a number of different models of strategic statement, many of which have their genesis in the regional strategies and were developed to deliver the sub-regional priorities and Multi Agency Agreements (MAAs). They have all taken slightly different approaches and provide different levels of traction on policy-making and delivery (i.e. some are fairly high level statements of common ground whilst others include specific policies to address the key issues). They all have a common remit, however, which is to provide a clear statement around their ambitions for long term sustainable growth and to make their case for investment.
- 3.5 Some good examples include the Strategic Statement developed by the Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board in 2012/13, Gatwick Diamond Local Strategic Statement, the Cambridgeshire/Peterborough Strategic Spatial Framework and PUSH's well developed strategy for delivering growth. The starting point for each of these was agreement around a common vision based on sound economic evidence from which investment and strategic planning priorities could flow.
- 3.6 There are already a number of projects and initiatives underway which will need to be taken into account when developing the Greater Brighton Strategic Statement. These include:
- The Greater Brighton City Deal
  - The Coast to Capital LEP's Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal

- The Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board's Local Strategic Statement 2012 (due for refresh in 2014)

3.7 It is proposed that this work is commissioned jointly with the Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board.

3.8 It is anticipated that the cost of this commission will be £20,000 shared by the Economic Board and Strategic Planning Board. It is anticipated that the Economic board's costs towards the commission could be covered within existing 2014/15 partner contributions due to a current small underspend on the budget.

Proposed scope of Strategic Statement for Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex

3.9 It is proposed that the key outcomes sought through the strategic statement should be:

(1) The development of three background papers which a specific to the Greater Brighton City Region.

- Background Paper 1 – The City Region Economy: What are the distinctive features of the City Region economy and where are the most fruitful areas for public sector intervention and/or market failure imperatives? Seek to unify the city-region vision about direction of travel drawing on economy strategy work to date & business case drivers for public and private sector partners (e.g. council income imperatives; political imperatives; productivity & international competitiveness for local business; drivers for partner agencies such as universities)
- Background Paper 2 – The City Region Housing Market: What are the distinctive features of the City Region housing market; what are the most fruitful areas for public sector intervention and/or market failure imperatives (including the economy and needs of employers/employees). What are the intervention options, implications and tools/resources available to the Economic Board.
- Background Paper 3 - The City Region Transport System: What are the distinctive features of the City Region transport system; what are the most fruitful areas for public sector intervention and/or market failure imperatives (including releasing sites for investment and business growth, corridors (including broadband) for movement of people, goods & services. What are the intervention options, implications and tools/resources available to the Economic Board.

(2) An agreed approach to the 'Investment Delivery Framework' focusing on strategic infrastructure, employment, housing and land priorities.

(3) A commitment from key partners of the Greater Brighton Economic Board to align their business priorities and develop the Greater Brighton Investment Programme to support to support the Strategic Statement

- (4) The Strategic Statement will set out a high level agreement around a common set of shared priorities aimed at supporting long term sustainable growth. This will help the local authorities map out spatially specific 'strategic' priorities across Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex and ensure that investment is being focused in these areas. It will also provide a basis to manage/coordinate funding mechanisms.
  - (5) This process should also tease out and highlight any discrepancies between investment and strategic planning and investment priorities which would need to be addressed through the development of LSS and, in the longer term, through the development of a robust Strategic Planning and Investment Delivery Programme
  - (6) It is important that the Strategic Statement is clear, concise and outcome focused if it is to be used in a meaningful way. Although it should be fairly aspirational, it must also be deliverable.
  - (7) Partners that commit to the statement should highlight how they will contribute to meeting the objectives and how their work programmes/business plans reflect this.
- 3.10 The intention that this commission should not take away from individual organisations own responsibilities but to provide a framework to coordinate work programmes and develop business plans with a common purpose around the economic development and spatial issues that impact across the Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex area. It is about having an agreed set of priorities which will make it easier to deliver sustainable development and attract investment to the area.

#### *Governance and Stakeholder involvement*

- 3.11 Given the need to refresh the existing local strategic statement, it is proposed that the Strategic Planning Board (through the officer Planning Group) will lead on Stage 1 of its production, with the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board working closely to ensure that the planning and investment work programmes dovetail. Appropriate reporting processes should be put in place to ensure that the leadership of each local authority is engaged in its production and are informed of progress.
- 3.12 Opportunities for the Greater Brighton Economic Board and Coastal West Sussex Partnership to engage in the production of the Strategic Statement should be provided throughout the process, including consultation with other strategic planning processes such as East Sussex Strategic Planning Group and Gatwick Diamond.
- 3.13 Other key partners, particularly neighbouring authorities (outside Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex), the Coast to Capital LEP, and the Homes & Communities Agency should be given opportunities to engage at key stages of the preparation process and any subsequent reviews.

- 3.14 Project management arrangements and any additional external support needed to develop this work should be agreed at an early stage to ensure that adequate resources are provided.

#### Provisional Timetable

July – September 2014:

- Greater Brighton Economic Board agree scope of Strategic Statement (July 14)
- Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board agree the scope of the Strategic Statement (Sept 14)
- Commission consultants (Oct 14)
- Engagement Workshops (Nov / Dec 14)
- Draft statement to Officer Programme Board (Jan 15)
- Draft statement of Greater Brighton Economic Board (27<sup>th</sup> Jan 15)

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The development of a Strategic Statement will provide the economic board with a set of agreed overarching objectives to deliver long term sustainable growth in across Greater Brighton and an agreed approach to the investment delivery focusing on strategic infrastructure, housing, employment and land priorities.
- 4.2 By commissioning the working jointly with the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board there is an opportunity to pool resources and capacity and achieve economic of scale.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Greater Brighton Strategic Statement will provide the strategic basis for future funding bids and support the delivery of the Coast to Capital LEPs Strategic Economic Plan. Future funding bids will be subject to individual business plans being prepared and tested.

The cost of this commission will be met from the existing budget of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen*

*Date: 17/07/14*

##### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 As referred to in paragraph 3.13, the Officer Programme Board will need to consider the appropriate procurement and resources implications, including use of Framework Arrangements where appropriate.

*Lawyer Consulted:*

*Bob Bruce*

*Date: 17/07/14*

Equalities Implications:

5.3 No equalities implications have been identified at this stage of the process.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 The aim of the strategic statement is to provide the economic board with a set of agreed overarching objectives to deliver long term sustainable growth in across Greater Brighton

Any Other Significant Implications:

5.5 None

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1 None

**Background Documents**

1. Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan
2. Greater Brighton Economic Board Investment Programme Brief

