

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

2.00pm 13 FEBRUARY 2015

CONFERENCE SUITE, TRIANGLE LEISURE CENTRE, BURGESS HILL

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor J Kitcat (Chair), Councillor Beresford, Councillor Blackman, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor G Theobald

**Business Partners:** Chris Baker, Ian Carter, Peter Davies, John A. Peel, Dean Orgill

### PART ONE

#### 26 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 26a Declarations of substitutes

26.1 Councillor Beresford was present as substitute for Councillor Parkin.

26.2 Chris Baker was present as substitute for Prof. Crampton.

26.3 Ian Carter was present as substitute for Prof. Davies.

##### 26b Declarations of interests

26.4 There were none.

##### 26c Exclusion of the press and public

26.5 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.

26.6 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items contained in part two of the agenda.

#### 27 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND ANY ACTIONS

26.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2014 be approved and signed as the correct record.

- 26.2 As a matter arising, Councillor Theobald asked for an update on Brighton City College.
- 26.3 Nick Hibberd clarified that the development was still progressing, the establishment of a Project Board was underway and that the business case had been approved by the LEP.
- 26.4 John A. Peel updated Board Members that the next round of the Growth Deal had seen £17m awarded for improvements to the A2300, £10m toward a new station at Gatwick Airport (irrespective of any decision on a new airport), £8m toward a technology centre in Burgess Hill and a further £4m for smaller projects in east Surrey.

## 28 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 28.1 The Chair provided the following communication:

*The Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £35.8m invested in the Coast to Capital area between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £202.4m of funding committed by the Government on July 2014.*

*The additional proposed projects include improvements to the A2300 Burgess Hill Link Road relieving congestion and unlocking up to 3,000 new homes and 5,000 jobs.*

*Other projects that have received funding include the redevelopment of the railway station at Gatwick Airport, a projects in Oxted, Caterham, Leatherhead and Epsom.*

*The Launch of the Digital Catapult, Brighton will be on the evening of the 12th March and all members of the Greater Brighton Economic Board will be invited to join the Coast to Capital LEP and the National Digital Catapult for the Launch event. The Digital Catapult Centre Brighton will be located in the city of Brighton & Hove and will work across the whole Coast to Capital region which includes West Sussex, the Gatwick Diamond, Croydon, Lewes and Brighton & Hove.*

*The Digital Catapult Centre Brighton will provide a place where start-ups and small businesses in the creative and technology sectors can develop and showcase their digital ideas and products. They will also be able to use it to connect and collaborate with larger businesses, universities and public sector organisations. The centre will also be connected to two additional centres planned for Bradford and Sunderland, and also with the Digital Catapult Centre London.*

*Projects undertaken at the Centre will be led by Coast to Capital LEP in collaboration with the core delivery partners - the University of Brighton and Wired Sussex. They will focus specifically on encouraging innovation and value from real-time and location-based data (the Internet of Place). Other project partners include American Express, Brighton & Hove City Council and Gatwick Airport.*

## 29 PRESENTATION - UNDERSTANDING THE GREATER BRIGHTON CITY REGION ECONOMY

- 29.1 The Board considered a presentation from Nathaniel Litchfield & Partners requested to provide an evidenced based review of the city region economy, city region housing

market, city region transport system. The presentation included analysis of shared themes and suggestions of next steps based on the findings. The presentation would be followed by a formal report presented to a future meeting.

- 29.2 Councillor Theobald commended the achievement in bringing five authorities to work together as a Board and stated it the importance of a linked up approach in decision making going forward.
- 29.3 Councillor Blackman asked if there was any information available on average travel times for people commuting to work via cycle and those travelling by bus.
- 29.4 The representatives from Nathaniel Litchfield & Partners clarified that whilst there were many contributing factors and no clear data, their study appeared to indicate that people travelling to work by bicycle had an average journey time of thirty minutes and those travelling by bus an average journey time of forty to forty five minutes.
- 29.5 The Chair stated that he believed the Greater Brighton region was in a unique position in terms of the composition of its authorities and diverse geography and was an opportunity to be pressed.
- 29.6 Representatives from Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners commented that the next step would be to produce a draft report that would be circulated to all partners for comment with the final report submitted to an upcoming meeting.
- 29.7 **RESOLVED-** That the presentation be noted.

### **30 UPDATE ON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

- 29.1 The Board considered a report that provided a progress update on the Greater Brighton Investment Programme that was progressing to time, budget and quality with no major issues to report.
- 29.2 Councillor Theobald enquired to progress made on the development at Circus Street.
- 29.3 Nick Hibberd clarified that work was on track with demolition scheduled before the summer and construction beginning at the end of the summer.
- 29.4 **RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

### **31 NEXT STEPS FOR OUR VIBRANT CITY REGION ECONOMY**

- 25.1 The Board considered a report that proposed the next steps for the Greater Brighton Economic Board that were focused on developing the City Region's long-term economic priorities and goals, exploring options for new delivery models for services relating to economic development and growth and ensuring that the City Region partners continued to have the capacity to deliver.
- 25.2 The Chair stated that whilst he acknowledged the issue was one of sensitivity and a difficult topic, he was of the view that the City Region would be presented with the

opportunities to make bids for devolution and now was the time to undertake the work to ensure the region was in the best position it could be when that came about.

- 25.3 Councillor Blackman stated that he supported devolution but thorough stakeholder's analysis would certainly be required as a fundamental part of progression to this end.
- 25.4 Councillor Wall stated that the timetable may need to be adjusted as there would naturally be a delay in progress due to the upcoming local elections. Councillor Wall urged that work on the matter not be rushed and that it represented good value for money.
- 25.5 Jenny Rowlands stated that she felt it would be productive for the leaders of each authority to hold discussions on the matter.
- 25.6 The Chair stated that he felt it important that draft proposals be produced in order for that discussion to be facilitated.
- 25.7 Councillor Theobald stated that there need to be a shared vision on the matter as it would be a sensitive issue for some areas.
- 25.8 Nick Hibberd stated that it was intended to pause on the matter ahead of the elections in May. However, there would need to be some informal work undertaken and whilst he was mindful of not rushing proposals, there was a need to press ahead.
- 25.9 Councillor Humphreys welcomed this update for allaying his concerns as he felt there was certainly a need to report after the national and local elections in May.
- 25.10 Dean Orgill asked if business would be requested for input on the matter.
- 25.11 Nick Hibberd stated that there would be no specific engagement on this piece of work as there were no direct implications but that the report would be circulated to partners including the Brighton & Hove Business Partnership.
- 25.12 John A. Peel stated that it was important to establish a way forward but Board Members would have discretion over when the policy proposals would be pitched.
- 25.13 Councillor Blackman asked if a member oversight group would be established.
- 25.14 Geoff Raw stated that this was a helpful selection and consideration could also be given to a meeting between stakeholders, businesses and elected members.
- 25.15 **RESOLVED-** That the Greater Brighton Economic Board:
- (1) Develops, in consultation with stakeholders, the City Region's long-term economic priorities and goals, building on the evidence base relating to the City Region's economy, housing market and transport system that is currently being developed by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP).
  - (2) Develops draft policy proposals for a coherent and sensible devolution proposition for the City Region, which supports the delivery of the long-term economic priorities and

goals and ensures that the Greater Brighton local authorities are best able to collaborate to maximise economic development and regeneration.

- (3) Assesses and recommends options for the most effective delivery model for the services relating to the City Region's economic growth, including the possible identification of additional shared services and the appraisal of different models of service delivery, to ensure that the Greater Brighton partners have the continued capacity to deliver.

## **32 COAST TO CAPITAL EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL & INVESTMENT FUNDS 2014 – 20**

32.1 The Board considered a report that provided an update on European Structural & Investment Fund (ESIF) funding in the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP) area including a summary of the thematic priorities, match funding requirements and likely timescales. The report also provided information on the C2C ESIF Committee and sought a Greater Brighton representative and alternative to be nominated to sit on the Committee. The report was supplemented with a presentation.

32.2 John A. Peel added that the issue was a complex one. Coast to Capital as an area would not be making decisions and instead would make recommendations to central government for endorsement. Furthermore, there would be a very short timeframe to work to as progressed had been significantly delayed by a misunderstanding from the EU regarding the format of LEP's.

32.3 **RESOLVED-** That the Greater Brighton Economic Board:

- (1) Notes the update on the C2C ESIF Programme;
- (2) Agrees the nomination of the Chair of the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership as the Greater Brighton representative on the C2C ESIF Committee;
- (3) Agrees the nomination of the Director of the Shoreham Port Authority as the Greater Brighton alternate on the C2C ESIF Committee, and;
- (4) Agrees to task the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board with continuing to develop a pipeline of ESIF projects, working with partners in Greater Brighton and across the wider C2C LEP area.

## **33 THE BIOSPHERE BOARD AND DEVELOPING THE RURAL ECONOMY**

33.1 The Board considered a report that sought approval for establishing a formal link between the Greater Brighton Economic Board and the Biosphere Board to better integrate environmental and socio-economic objectives for the City Region.

33.2 John A. Peel stated his support for the proposal however; he was concerned that there was an absence of direct input from the farming sector to the Biosphere Partnership.

33.3 Nick Hibberd stated that he would raise this issue with the Partnership.

33.4 **RESOLVED-** That the Greater Brighton Economic Board:

- (1) Notes the importance of designated Biosphere status to the City Region economy and to promoting the sustainable economic growth of the City Region;
- (2) Requests that the proposed transitional shadow Biosphere Board takes forward a programme of work that seeks to maximise the economic benefits of Biosphere status alongside its environmental and social objectives;
- (3) Asks the shadow Biosphere Board to develop a pipeline of projects that support Greater Brighton's sustainable economic growth, and;
- (4) Considers the opportunity that Biosphere status represents in becoming the overarching 'brand identity' for the area; to drive sustainability, economic development (especially tourism), local civic pride, and applied research and development.

**34 SUPER CONNECTED CITIES PROGRAMME: EXTENSION OF BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME**

34.1 The Board considered a report that outlined proposals to extend the boundary of the Broadband Voucher Scheme to incorporate urban areas and business clusters of the Greater Brighton City Region subject to the agreement of Broadband Delivery UK.

34.2 Councillor Wall asked if the proposal would include Haywards Heath and East Grinstead.

34.3 Nick Hibberd stated that the assessment was based on postcodes and these could be put forward.

34.4 Councillor Blackman stated that he had a number of proposals for urban districts and that he would qualify eligibility with Nick Hibberd subsequent to the meeting.

34.5 **RESOLVED-** That the Greater Brighton Economic Board:

- (1) Agrees to the extension of the Broadband Voucher Scheme, to include the urban areas and business clusters of the Greater Brighton City Region, as outlined in Section 3.9 of this report, and;
- (2) Supports Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) in seeking agreement from BDUK to extend the boundary of the Scheme, as part of the wider Greater Brighton Investment Programme, which aims to deliver a vibrant City Region economy.

**35 PART TWO MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

35.1 **RESOLVED-** That the Part Two minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2014 be approved and signed as the correct record.

**36 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS**

- 36.1 **RESOLVED-** That the Part Two minutes of the previous meeting remains exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

