Greater Brighton Economic Board

16 July 2024
9.30am

Learning Suite, Crawley Campus, College Rd, Crawley RH10 1NR

AGENDA

Members:	**Councillors:** Eggleston, Gardner, Jones, Lury, Nicholson and Sankey **Business Partners**: Prof. Debra Humphris, Prof. Debbie Keeling, Dean Orgill, Dan Power, Tim Slaney and Andrew Swayne

Contact:	**John Peel** Democratic Services Officer 01273 291058 john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

AGENDA

PART ONE **Page**

(a) Declaration of Substitutes: Where Members of the Board are unable to attend a meeting, a designated substitute for that Member may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.

(b) Declarations of Interest:

(a) Disclosable pecuniary interests not registered on the register of interests;
(b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
(c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare
(i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
(ii) the nature of the interest; and
(iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public: To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: *Any item appearing in Part Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.*

A list and description of the exempt categories is available from the Secretary to the Board.

5	**OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS 202425 AND ANNUAL REPORT**	**19 - 78**

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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact John Peel (01273 291058, email john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Monday, 8 July 2024

The Date of the next meeting is 22 October 2024

Greater Brighton Economic Board

Subject:		**Sussex Energy Mission**	
Date of Meeting:		**16 July 2024**	
Report of:		**Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board**	
Contact Officer:	**Name:**	**Andy Hill**	**Tel: 01273 291873**
	Email:	**andy.hill@brighton-hove.gov.uk**	
LA(s) affected:		**All**	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board ("the Board") was established in 2014 as the governance structure to oversee the Greater Brighton City Region Deal with Government. Over the last decade the principal role of the Board has been to co-ordinate development and investment activity across the City Region, and to help create an environment to nurture sustainable economic growth.

1.2 To that end the Board has been successful, as it has helped to secure over £160m in Local Growth Funds (LGF) through several funding rounds between 2014-2019. This funding has supported over 30 projects across the City Region ranging from flood defences in Shoreham and Newhaven, new buildings at the University of Brighton and Chichester College Group, and transport infrastructure improvements in Burgess Hill and Worthing.

1.3 However, ten years on from its inception and with the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) recently ceasing to exist as a LEP, there is a strong sense from Board members that there is a pressing need for the Board to fill the strategic void and assume a stronger leadership role across the sub-region. There is also an opportunity for the Board to coalesce around a single point of focus and use its convening powers and influence to drive transformational change across the region.

1.4 This is a launch of a mission, an invitation for people to join together to get behind an objective, with a detailed work plan to follow. The Mission Statement at Appendix 1 sets out the ambition that the Board has for the City Region and wider Sussex region to achieve net zero energy status by 2040. Note, this target year is specific to Sussex Energy and partner organisations might have their own targets which will be independent.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Board agrees that it will assume a strong leadership and convening role, across Greater Brighton, and wider Sussex region, and to coalesce around a focal ambition.

2.2 That the Board agrees that achieving net zero energy status by 2040 will be this overarching aspiration for the region over the next 15 years. Net zero energy status means the total amount of energy used by our community on an annual basis is equal to the amount of zero-carbon energy created within the community.

2.3 That the Board members will use their networks and influence to promote the Sussex Energy work and encourage collaboration.

2.4 That whilst achieving net zero energy status by 2040 will be the flagship ambition the Board agrees that resource permitting, other current and future strands of important work will continue.

2.5 That the Board agrees to set aside £50,000 of initial funding from the 2024/25 budget and also commit at least a further £50,000 in 2025/26.

2.6 That as a first step towards achieving this ambition, four working groups be convened which will draw upon expertise from Board members and wider stakeholders and new partners. The groups will cover the following four themes:

i. Energy Efficiency & Transition
ii. Local Energy Infrastructure
iii. Key Proposition Development, Success Measurement & Funding Strategy
iv. Developing Jobs & Skills

3. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

3.1 The Board has been successful at unlocking investment since its inception in 2014. However, in 2018, there was agreement from Board members that for Greater Brighton to reach its full potential there was a need for the Board to be more ambitious, more strategic and more proactive in terms of its aspiration and the level of associated activity. It was decided that the Board should develop a set of Five-Year Strategic Priorities, which would set the vision for Greater Brighton over the period 2019-2023, and these were agreed in January 2019.

3.2 The political and economic context has shifted considerably through the last decade, particularly over the last five years since those Five-Year Priorities were agreed; a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic and the worst cost-of-living crisis in recent memory, against the backdrops of levelling up and a climate emergency, mean the world is a very different place to what it was in 2019. The Board's 2014 inception seems a very long time ago.

3.3 It has been known for some time that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) would cease to exist at 31 March 2024 and that the discharge of LEP functions e.g. Growth Hubs would be transferred over to upper tier local authorities. Discussions with Government around how and where those functions would be hosted has been complicated in this area; the Coast to Capital geography covers the whole of West Sussex, East Surrey and the city of Brighton & Hove. Whilst there has been some delay to the integration of LEP functions, it offers an opportunity for the Board could be well-placed to move into the strategic gap that has been created.

3.4 Through the autumn and winter the Board held two informal sessions where, against the context of the LEP ceasing to exist and the current economic and political climate, the strategic direction of the Board was discussed. At the first meeting colleagues from the Department Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) were in attendance. The view from DLUHC was that compared to other geographies this region did lack strategic leadership, a single clear voice and a clear ambition and that there was an opportunity for a regional body to assume that role. The Sussex Energy ambition will also help define a wider economic vision for the region.

Work Linked to Sussex Energy

3.5 The Board's programme of work covers a number of key areas and agreeing ambitious Energy and Water Plans in 2019 were the Board's first step on the path towards sustainability, resilience, security, and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. This was soon followed by adoption of the GB10 Pledges on the environment and since then sustainability has become increasingly prominent through the Board's work. This includes establishing a Greater Brighton Task Force to ensure the city-region's homes and buildings are fit for a zero-carbon future. This work is being overseen by Lewes District Council, and the research study led by the University of Brighton.

3.6 Worthing Borough Council have recently unveiled an ambitious £500 million project to decarbonise heating across the entire town by 2050. Partnering with Hemiko, who will finance, execute, and manage a district heat network. This initiative is projected to reduce heating emissions by around 90%. The initial phases of the project will focus on connecting large public sector buildings, estimated to save over 3,000 tonnes of annual CO_2 emissions and create approximately 40 local jobs.

3.7 Hemiko have also been working alongside Crawley Borough Council to provide operation and maintenance services to Crawley's first district heat network. In its first phase, which is now complete, the heat network supplies heat and hot water to 130 residential units, the new Town Hall, and The Create Building. It will also serve the proposed residential development on the former Town Hall site. The carbon savings are equivalent to removing over 260,000 driving miles from the road each year.

3.8 Hydrogen Sussex, born out of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel in 2021, is the body supporting and facilitating the hydrogen economy across Sussex. Hydrogen Sussex quickly built a significant network of key stakeholders across local and central government and the private sector and has been engaging other stakeholders including regional MPs to enhance support and understanding of the region's hydrogen ambitions. Hydrogen Sussex also led on the development of a regional hydrogen strategy and investment proposition, which the Board supported financially and approved in 2023. This all puts the region very much at the forefront of a hydrogen fuel revolution and there is a great opportunity for the creation of high-skilled, green-collar jobs in this region.

3.9 Lewes District Council together with the Newhaven Enterprise Zone is developing an investment plan that will enable the Newhaven business sector to become net zero-carbon by 2030. Reaching net zero by 2030 will enable the Newhaven Enterprise Zone and surrounding enterprises to gain a competitive advantage and become environmental leaders at a regional and national level. Net zero solutions will primarily be greener, cheaper energy in commercial buildings and vehicles and will lay the foundation for the residential sector. A key technology solution will be solar PV.

3.10 Michelmersh is working on the world's first 100% hydrogen-fired clay bricks, HyBrick^{TM} in Mid Sussex. It is a global flagship physical study to replace natural gas with green electrolytic hydrogen in brick manufacturing. Phase 1 of the project will demonstrate the viability of fuel switching and will see hydrogen used in the clay brick production process. The project aims to inspire radical change across the sector and present opportunities and evidence-based research to support manufacturers on their journey to heavily decarbonise the production processes. To develop this, Michelmersh worked alongside a panel of expert partners, and after an introduction by Hydrogen Sussex, the consortium includes Limpsfield Combustion, Net Zero Associates, the University of Brighton, Greater South East Net Zero Hub, FT Pipeline Systems, Geopura and Safety Monitors.

3.11 Ricardo is a global strategic environmental and engineering consultancy. Ricardo and partners, Bluebox Energy and Woodtek Engineering, have designed, built and installed a combined heat and power demonstrator plant with a carbon negative footprint in West Sussex. Once operational in summer 2024, their demonstrator plant will showcase climate repairing technology, and demonstrate the effectiveness of community scale, carbon capture technology plus clean energy using sustainably sourced forestry, green or agricultural waste. Their demonstrator will show how the other outputs from the plant: food-grade carbon dioxide and biochar, can support food and drink manufacturers, farmers and commercial growers, concrete manufacturers and biomass specialists in decarbonising their operations.

3.12 The work described above demonstrates that building economic, environmental, and social resilience is a strategic priority for the Board and that Greater Brighton partners and Sussex organisations are ambitious and innovative in striving to achieve carbon reduction targets. Food also fits within these areas of focus. Food system vulnerabilities have been revealed during the covid-19 pandemic and supply chain geopolitical risks, such as the war in Ukraine. Opportunities now exist to improve local supply chains and infrastructure. The Board is in a position to be proactive. In 2021 the Board agreed to support the scoping work for a Greater Brighton Food Plan focussed on promoting sustainable agriculture, building resilience and integrating innovations.

Sussex Energy: Current Use / Supply

3.13 Whilst there is much good work going on across the region, there is a need for a step-change in the level of ambition and activity. Current baseline data suggests that both Greater Brighton and the wider Sussex area are significant net importers of energy. Current energy demand[1] for heating buildings, fuelling vehicles and supplying electricity to homes and businesses totals 15.2 TWh/yr for Greater Brighton and 26.9TWh/yr for Sussex. The current supply of energy from renewable sources is 2.0TWh/yr for both Greater Brighton and Sussex, which is largely the supply from Rampion Phase 1. Looking at demand against supply leaves a shortfall or net import of energy of 13.2TWh/yr for Greater Brighton and 24.9TWh/yr for Sussex. If the region is to transition to net zero-carbon ahead of the UK target[2], and to achieve a level of energy resilience and security, this needs

[1] Energy demand data is 2021 data from https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/total-final-energy-consumption-at-sub-national-level. Breakdown by sector available.
[2] Net Zero Government Initiative: UK roadmap to net zero government emissions (publishing.service.gov.uk)

to be adjusted. The Board can take a leadership role across the Sussex region in addressing the huge differential between demand and supply.

The Grand Challenge

3.14 The Greater Brighton and wider Sussex areas are significant net importers of energy. The challenge is for the area to produce as much energy as it uses by reducing energy demand and increasing supply of zero-carbon energy generated within the region by 2040. For clarity this doesn’t mean that Greater Brighton and Sussex would only use energy produced in the area, it is about levelling the total amount of energy used by our community on an annual basis with the amount of zero-carbon energy created within the community.

Vision

3.15 We imagine transforming our community into a model of sustainability and resilience, where every home, business, and public space thrives on 100% zero-carbon, affordable energy, fostering a healthier environment, robust economy, and equitable society for all.

Mission Statement

3.16 Our mission is to achieve net zero energy status by 2040, where the total amount of energy used by our community on an annual basis is equal to the amount of zero-carbon energy created within the community with local people benefit directly from this energy production thereby significantly reducing our carbon footprint, reducing our reliance on imported energy and contributing to the global fight against climate change.

What is possible?

3.17 There are two approaches that the region will need to follow to improve the balance between energy demand and zero-carbon supply, and the first is to reduce energy demand. For example, heat pumps are three times more efficient than traditional gas and oil-fired boilers and as heat pumps are run completely on electricity, by moving to them we can remove the use of fossil fuels if the electricity powering them is green. Electric vehicles can be up to four times more efficient than those powered by fuel engines, so electrifying heating and transport will help deliver this change. By assuming full replacement of these technologies, annual energy demand can fall to 10.5TWh, though this does not include the effects of growth and behaviour change which will also impact demand.

3.18 The second is to increase zero-carbon energy generation. A second phase of Rampion Wind Farm is under development, which upon completion will increase the region’s annual generation of renewable energy to 5.6TWh, which is around four times the current level of renewable generation. This will be increased by the deployment of other onshore renewables and clean power sources. This could include onshore wind turbines, large scale solar farms, rooftop solar, and conventional power stations fitted with carbon capture. There are also opportunities around the community creation of renewable energy and linking the energy generated to its location.

Next Steps

3.19 The immediate next step would be to convene the four thematic working groups outlined in paragraph 2.6. These working groups would bring together industry experts, stakeholders and new partners to start building a strategic approach to local energy strategy at a Sussex level. There is a strong rationale for doing this - the future for housing, food production, nature, and energy and to support the best possible local energy planning and sub-regional strategic energy planning with UK Power Networks.

3.20 Initially, the working groups will be responsible for conducting a feasibility assessment of their theme to determine the practicality of delivering the Sussex Energy ambition. As part of this they would:

- Review what other regions are doing.
- Learn from best practice.
- Establish baseline measurements and targets.
- Establish a timeline of specific milestones that form the journey to 2040 and demonstrate clear progress towards achieving the 2040 goal.
- Assess viability of potential projects with a full understanding of their lifecycle.
- Build up a pipeline of projects with key performance indicators defined with challenges and gaps identified.
- Engage key stakeholders to tackle common challenges to accelerate project implementation (e.g. UKPN, planning, Asset Management, etc.).

The working groups will engage experts currently carrying out research/projects that can contribute to the mission to agree a shared purpose. By framing this ongoing work together as a group, it will highlight how it builds towards a shared vision, and that will help to attract investment from Government and the private sector. The mission statement at Appendix 1 outlines in greater detail the purpose and areas of focus of each of the proposed groups.

3.21 The pipeline of projects to deliver the Sussex Energy ambition is expected to be numerous and varied, with projects falling into one of the following three categories:

a) Community and place-based solutions (e.g. energy installations, retrofitting, etc. organised by community group, co-operative, council, etc.)
b) Scaled solutions (e.g. energy solution requiring deep collaboration by multiple partners, e.g. heat network).
c) Strategic system interventions (e.g. tackling common challenges to help accelerate the launch of solutions).

To assure the delivery capability of Sussex Energy, funding would be sought for a Programme Management Office functionality to provide support, make connections and portray the full picture.

3.22 The £50,000 recommended to be set aside as initial funding from the 2024/25 budget (see paragraph 2.5) will be invested with a priority of securing additional funding that will allow the development of an investment vehicle and framework for Sussex Energy.

3.23 Encouraging collaboration and providing strategic leadership at a Sussex level, will help establish vital shared capacity to unlock key strategic models at scale such as urban district heat networks, net zero industrial clusters, social housing decarbonisation, low carbon villages etc. Organising this way is likely to attract external funding support through bids to government and investment funds.

3.24 Throughout this mission a core consideration will be the role the mission has in economic development via skills, procurement and partnering.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

4.1 The Board could take a more passive approach and essentially carry on the status quo. However, as highlighted throughout this report, there is a clear opportunity, and this has been flagged by Government, for the Board to take a step forward in its ambition and provide the strong strategic leadership across the Greater Brighton region and wider Sussex area that is currently missing. Adopting a flagship ambition like Sussex Energy, which Board members, wider stakeholders and partners can coalesce around, will allow focused conversations with Government around the kind of levers and interventions required to make the ambition a reality.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION:

5.1 In developing the Sussex Energy ambition discussions were had with Government and other partners including members of the Greater Brighton Sustainable Infrastructure Group. Consultation requirements will be different for each emerging workstream and will need to be considered within each of the projects/programmes.

6. CONCLUSION:

6.1 The Board is asked to agree the recommendations 2.1-2.6, which will effectively mean that the Board agrees to publicly outline the Sussex Energy ambition and sets out the next steps to progressing the proposal, starting with convening the four thematic working groups identified.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 A total of £100,000 will be set aside from the Greater Brighton Economic Board Operational Budget to support the working groups in delivering the net zero energy status by 2045. A total £50,000 of initial funding will be met from the 2024/25 Operational Budget and a further £50,000 will be committed in 2025/26 to assist with delivering and securing additional funding for the development of an investment vehicle and framework for Sussex Energy

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant
Date: 02/06/2024

Legal Implications:

7.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert
Date: 04/07/2024

Equalities Implications:

7.3 Projects and programmes arising will seek to ensure that the benefits are shared across the City Region. In addition, one of the ongoing aims of the work is to address inequalities by looking at how, for example, access to energy can be made will help to tackle fuel poverty.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 The driving force behind Sussex Energy and workstreams within it, is to reduce carbon emissions and accelerate the journey to net zero, which will help protect the environment, enhance natural capital, limit the affects of climate change, and build resilience in key infrastructure and the supply of energy. This is the foundation of all work under the Sussex Energy umbrella, and this sustainability focus will also cascade into other workstreams.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Sussex Energy Mission Statement

GBEB Net Zero Energy Mission, July 2024

Based on discussions at the Greater Brighton Economic board, the Board have decided to use their convening power in order to focus on a single grand challenge. This is not to say that other work the Board has done is not important or valued but more a reflection of the unique opportunity that GBEB has to convene public sector, academic and business to address one of the most pressing aspects of the climate emergency in a way which also brings significant economic and social opportunities and benefits.

The Board invites all members of our community - residents, businesses, institutions, and organisations - to join us in this ambitious journey. Together, we can transform our communities, creating a legacy that will benefit generations to come.

Grand Challenge

The Greater Brighton and wider Sussex areas are significant net importers of energy. The challenge is for the area to produce as much energy as it uses by reducing energy demand and increasing supply of zero-carbon energy generated within the region by 2040.

Vision

We imagine transforming our community into a model of sustainability and resilience, where every home, business, and public space thrives on 100% zero-carbon, affordable energy, fostering a healthier environment, robust economy, and equitable society for all.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to achieve net zero energy status by 2040, where the total amount of energy used by our community on an annual basis is equal to the amount of zero-carbon energy created within the community, thereby significantly reducing our carbon footprint, increasing energy security by reducing our reliance on imported energy, and contributing to the global fight against climate change.

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Organising around our Mission

Project categories

There are a lot of existing ongoing projects (e.g. heat networks in Worthing and Crawley, housing retrofitting in Lewes, battery storage in West Sussex, rooftop solar in Brighton, etc) that align with the Sussex Energy mission. When presented together as one story and connected to the bigger picture (e.g. strategic energy planning, their value, skills, jobs, economy, impact, etc) they demonstrate that Sussex is making headway in the energy sector and it makes a compelling case to Government. These existing projects will fall into the first 2 project categories below. The 3rd category will focus on initiatives to accelerate the work, tackling any blockers or bottlenecks.

a) Community and place-based solutions (e.g. energy installations, retrofitting, etc. organised by community group, co-operative, council, etc.)

b) Scaled solutions (e.g. energy solutions requiring deep collaboration by multiple partners, e.g. heat networks).

c) Strategic system interventions (e.g. tackling common challenges to help accelerate the launch of solutions).

The four working groups allows focus on themes that progress the Sussex Energy mission. Each working group would kick off by articulating the problem specific to their theme, defining the objectives, scanning the market/other regions for best practice and performing a viability assessment of potential projects to achieve the objectives, understanding their full lifecycle, key performance indicators, challenges and gaps. Then engaging key stakeholders to tackle common challenges to accelerate project implementation.

Working group	Goal	Notes
Energy efficiency solutions	Energy Efficiency: Retrofit and upgrade all residential, commercial, and public buildings to achieve maximum energy efficiency, reducing overall energy demand by 50% by 2030, and reducing fuel poverty.	This builds on work already being led by community energy groups and Lewes DC.
Local, Zero Carbon Energy Infrastructure	Zero Carbon Energy: Transition to 100% zero-carbon energy sources for electricity, heating, and transportation by 2040, leveraging solar, wind, hydro, and other sustainable technologies. Modernise the grid to support these new technologies. Implement strategic system interventions to help accelerate zero carbon energy production solutions launch.	This continues work started in the Sustainable infrastructure working group and builds on the work of the community energy groups, Hydrogen Sussex and the Worthing Heat Network project.

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Key Proposition Development, Success Measurement & Funding Strategy	Develop a pipeline of projects and funding models to secure funding and investments to support energy transition projects, including grants, public-private partnerships, and community-based financing models to ensure local people benefit directly from this energy production. For each project the success measures and targets would be defined and tracked against.	This is a new function which would be established collaboratively to underpin the work.
Developing Jobs and Skills	Economic Transformation: Create new economic opportunities through the green economy, including high-quality jobs in renewable energy, green building, and sustainable agriculture, fostering prosperity and equity across the community.	This connects to the skills work already being undertaken following the dissolution of the LEP

Strategic Pillars

There are four areas which underpin the mission and will need to support the working groups to provide the right operating conditions for them to make progress.

Pillar	Purpose	Notes
Policy and Governance	Work together to implement supportive policies, regulations, and incentives that encourage energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and green investment.	This could be the focus of the Local, Zero Carbon Energy Infrastructure working group as it looks to create a favourable policy context and understand system blockers
Communication and network building	Collaboration and Partnerships: Foster strong partnerships between government, private sector, academia, and civil society to leverage collective expertise, resources, and innovation. Community Engagement and Participation: Engage the entire community in the mission through education, outreach, and participatory projects, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the transition to net zero energy.	This would be delivered by the GBEB comms function and BHCC secretariat and the Board members

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Innovation and Technology	Foster a culture of innovation that supports the development and implementation of cutting-edge technologies and practices in energy storage, smart grids, and sustainable transportation.	This is an overall responsibility of GBEB
Data and reporting	This is a mission which needs clarity around our approach to measurement and also needs to build on the measurement work already in place for each GBEB partner. A starting point for this would be to create a shared baseline based on pre-existing research and agree with each working group progress measures for each goal.	This would need a working group to be set up made up of carbon leads across the partnership

Why a mission-based approach?

Adopting a mission-based approach to creating a local net zero energy solution is a strategic choice that harnesses the power of setting a bold, unified, ambitious, long-term objective to catalyse wide-ranging innovation, collaboration, and investment towards a sustainable future. It is designed to be adaptable and scalable, reflecting the unique needs, resources, and aspirations of the community. It serves as a rallying call for collective, joined-up action, emphasising the importance of inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation in achieving the net zero energy goal.

This approach, inspired by the work of thinkers like Mariana Mazzucato, emphasises the role of proactive, visionary public policy in tackling grand societal challenges such as climate change. It leverages the strengths and resources of the entire community, including government, businesses, academia, and civil society, aligning them towards a common goal.

By framing the transition to net zero energy as a mission, it not only sets a clear, ambitious target but also inspires a sense of purpose and urgency across the community. This strategy fosters an environment where innovation can thrive, driving the development and adoption of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency measures, and sustainable practices.

Moreover, a mission-oriented approach facilitates the integration of economic, social, and environmental objectives, ensuring that the move towards net zero energy contributes to broader goals of economic resilience, social equity, and environmental stewardship. It positions the community not just as a passive responder to global challenges but as an active leader in creating a sustainable, resilient future.

In essence, adopting a mission-based approach provides a comprehensive, inclusive, and dynamic framework for achieving a local net zero energy solution, turning ambitious vision into actionable reality.

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Mobilisation approach?

	Working groups	Strategic Pillars
July - October	Identification and scoping of potential projects	Identification of challenges for project acceleration Comms / participation to start work of network building by testing the grand challenge and gathering feedback
July 2024	Public launch with invitation to participate	
July - September	Recruit and set up timetable of meetings Explore grand challenge feasibility and propose mission refinements	Governance working group to decide approach to policy work
July – October	Development work to identify problem spaces and opportunities	Policy work to identify where shared approaches have greatest impact
November - January		Share research on policy and funding space
Nov - Feb	Development of a pipeline of fundable projects ready to go with an investor prospectus that bridges public / private finance options Public pledge and plan for community action	

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GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD	Agenda Item 5

Subject:		**Greater Brighton Economic Board Operational Arrangements for 2024/25**	
Date of Meeting:		**16 July 2024**	
Report of:		**Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board**	
Contact Officer:	**Name:**	**Andy Hill**	**Tel: 01273 291873**
	Email:	**andy.hill@brighton-hove.gov.uk**	
LA(s) affected:		**All**	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1.1 This report outlines the preparatory steps needed to support the operational aspects of the Greater Brighton Economic Board ("the Board") in 2024/25.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

2.1 Agree and secure the budgetary contributions sought to fund the cost of running the Board and delivering its workplan in 2024/25.

2.2 Note that Brighton & Hove City Council shall continue to act as Lead Authority for the Board in 2024/25.

2.3 Approves the 2023/24 Annual Report and Board members submit the report to their respective organisations.

2.4 That the Board notes the content of the One Public Estate Programme's 2023/24 Annual Report.

2.5 Agree the new Heads of Terms (HOTs) shown in Appendix 1, which reflect changes to the Board's membership.

3. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

3.1 The budget to support the running costs of the Board in 2023/24 was £255,121 which included a carry-forward of £49,671 from 2022/23. The budgeted underspend at 31 March 2024 (the actual carry-forward of non-committed funds) was £94,772. This figure includes the allocated contingency (£10,000) and Scrutiny (£2,000) funds, which are required to be included in the budget, but as in previous years were not needed to be called upon. A breakdown of the 2023/24 forecast, budgetary contributions and spend is attached as Appendix 2.

3.2 The £94,772 remaining budget in 2023/24 has been rolled-over into 2024/25. This means that for 2024/25 there is a total budget of £292,252 (including contingency) for the cost of running the Board and the delivery of its work-plan (see table below).

3.3 Given that there is a carry-forward of around £95k from 2023/24, in a bid to ensure that costs for contributing member organisations are kept to an acceptable level, sought contributions will not increase in 2024/25.

3.4 In line with sections 12 and 13 of the HoTs, Brighton & Hove City Council is seeking the following contributions from the Board's member organisations:

Organisation	2024/25 Contribution
South Downs National Park Authority	£7,970.00
University of Sussex	£7,970.00
University of Brighton	£7,970.00
Chichester College Group	£7,970.00
Adur District Council	£10,000.00
Arun District Council	£24,700.00
Brighton & Hove City Council	£52,200.00
Crawley Borough Council	£20,750.00
Lewes District Council	£15,200.00
Mid Sussex District Council	£24,750.00
Worthing Borough Council	£18,000.00
Total 2024/25 Contributions	**£197,480.00**
Carry-forward from 2023/24	**£94,772.00**
Total Budget for 2024/25	**£292,252.00**

3.5 Appendix 3 outlines the approach used in 2024/25 to determine the contributions that are being sought.

3.6 The budget to support the running costs of the Board in 2024/25 totals £183,549, leaving £108,703 for the 2024/25 workplan, which as in previous years should include £10,000 of contingency funding to be set aside.

Running Costs 2024/25	
Salary costs (including on-costs) and expenses	£127,420.00
Finance support	£8,188.00

Legal support	£11,213.00
Democratic Services support	£4,778.00
Scrutiny (charged £500 (excluding venue) on a 'pay as you go' basis)	£2,000.00
GBEB Communications	£24,950.00
GBEB Annual report, printing and other materials	£3,500.00
Venue hire, hospitality, and refreshments	£500.00
Additional costs e.g. IT, travel	£1,000.00
Total running costs	**£183,549.00**
Work Plan	
• Sussex Energy • Other projects not yet identified	£50,000.00 £48,703.00
Total Work Plan	**£98,703.00**
Contingency	£10,000.00
Grand Total	**£292,252.00**

LEAD AUTHORITY:

3.7 On 18 July 2023, the Board agreed that Brighton & Hove City Council continue to act as Lead Authority for 2023/24. As outlined in section 1.8 of the HoTs, lead authority arrangements are reviewed every two years and therefore this arrangement is maintained in 2024/25.

3.8 In October 2024, each local authority represented on the Board will be invited to submit an expression of interest in fulfilling the role for 2025/26 – 2026/27. The Board shall then instigate a procurement exercise to select the most appropriate authority for that role.

2024/25 BOARD MEETING DATES:

3.9 The Board meeting dates for the new municipal year have been set as follows:

- 16 July 2024
- 22 October 2024
- 28 January 2025
- 25 March 2025

3.10 As in 2023/24, it is proposed that all meetings will commence at 10:00 and meetings will be held at various locations across Greater Brighton.

MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRPERSON:

3.11 The HoTs for the Board are presented in Appendix 1. They have been updated to reflect two changes to the Membership;

- Coast-to-Capital ceased as a Local Enterprise Partnership on 31 March 2024 and therefore the organisation is no longer a member of the Board.
- To be consistent with all other Members, Brighton and Hove City Council will only be represented by one person instead of two.

3.12 Paragraphs 5.1, 5.3 and 5.4 of the HoT have been amended to account for these changes, and the HoTs at Appendix 1 supersede the last revision as agreed by the Board on 18 July 2023.

3.13 The reporting and accountability arrangements for the Board are set out in the Heads of Terms. These arrangements require the Board to submit an annual report to each of its representative bodies.

3.14 As outlined in section 6 of the HoTs, the Chair will be elected annually by the Joint Committee members. The Chair of the Joint Committee shall, by virtue of their democratic mandate, be the Chair of the Board. It is for the Joint Committee to elect the Chair.

3.15 The Chair must be formally appointed at the Board's first meeting in the new municipal year. It is proposed that nominations be sought in advance and that the Democratic Services at Brighton & Hove City Council run this process.

ANNUAL REPORT:

3.16 As outlined in section 4.1 of the HoTs, the Board shall submit an annual report to each of the bodies represented on the Board. The annual report for 2023/24 can be found at Appendix 5.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

4.1 The proposals are in accordance with the governance arrangements agreed by the Board.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION:

5.1 Not applicable.

6. CONCLUSION:

6.1 To ensure that the Board transitions smoothly into the new municipal year, it is important for the Board to agree the new operational agreements and proposed workplan for 2024/25, including the Annual Report and the continuation of existing Lead Authority arrangements.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board assists with delivering economic development across the region. The Board seeks to secure government and private sector funding and investment in order to deliver this economic development. An annual operating budget is agreed with the Board for the forthcoming financial year to enable the Accountable Body to provide legal, financial, communications and administrative support to allow the Board to deliver its work-plan. Annual contributions are made from member authorities to the Accountable Body toward this budget. The contributions from member authorities totalling £197,480 are detailed within paragraph 3.4 of this report. The apportionment of contributions from unitary, district and borough councils are based upon the size of their working age populations and are detailed within Appendix 3. The budget for the financial year 2024/25 will reflect anticipated spend for the work-streams ahead including a provision for contingency. The estimated spend of £292,252 for the year is detailed in paragraph 3.6. The forecast spend for the year also includes a sum for projected work plan of £98,703 plus a contingency of £10,000. A summary of the budget for 2023/24 together with the spend incurred for that financial year is detailed in Appendix 2. A projected underspend of £94,772 was forecast for 2023/24, subject to confirmation of the outturn position of the accounts, and this will be carried forward to support the budget for 2024/25

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen
Date: 8 July 2024

Legal Implications:

7.2 These recommendations are in line with the Heads of Terms and the One Public Estate Memorandum of Understanding. Changes to the Heads of Terms must be varied by a resolution of the Board and approved by each body represented on the Board.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert
Date: 04/07/24

Equalities Implications:

7.3 All bodies on the board have their own policies and commitments to equalities.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 None

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Heads of Terms for Greater Brighton Economic Board
2. 2023/24 Forecast, Contributions and Spend
3. Approach for Calculating 2024/25 Funding Contributions
4. Greater Brighton Economic Board Call-In Protocol
5. Greater Brighton Economic Board Annual Report 2023/24
6. Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme Annual Report 2023/24

Appendix 1: Heads of Terms for Greater Brighton Economic Board (16 July 2024)

1. Establishment, Purpose and Form

1.1. The Greater Brighton Economic Board ("The Board") shall be established from the Commencement Date.

1.2. The over-arching purpose of the board is to bring about sustainable economic development and growth across Greater Brighton ('the City Region'). To achieve this, the principal role of the Board is to co-ordinate economic development activities and investment at the regional level.

1.3. The Board comprises the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee ("GBEJC"), on which the local authorities will be represented; and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership ("GBBP"), on which the business, university and further education sectors will be represented

1.4. Meetings of the Board comprise concurrent meetings of GBEJC and GBBP.

1.5. GBEJC shall be a joint committee appointed by two or more local authorities represented on the Board, in accordance with section 120(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

1.6. The Board may appoint one or more sub-committees.

1.7. For the two years starting with the Commencement Date, the lead authority for the Board shall be Brighton & Hove City Council ("BHCC"), whose functions in that capacity shall include the provision of scrutiny (see paragraph 4.3), management of the call-in and review process (see paragraph 8), and the support detailed in paragraph 12.

1.8. Unless the Board resolves otherwise, before the start of the third year following the Commencement Date, and every two years thereafter, the Board shall review the lead authority arrangements and, subject to paragraph 1.9, invite each of the local authorities represented on the Board to submit an expression of interest in fulfilling the role of lead authority for the subsequent two year period. The Board shall then instigate a procurement exercise to select the most appropriate authority for that role.

1.9. Notwithstanding the appointment of a successor lead authority pursuant to paragraph 1.8, the incumbent lead authority may retain such of their Accountable Body functions as are necessary to enable that local authority to comply with its on-going commitments and liabilities associated with its Accountable Body status.

2. Interpretation

2.1. In these Heads of Terms –

i. ‘Commencement Date’ means 1st April 2014.

ii. ‘City Region’ means the area encompassing the administrative boundaries of BHCC, Adur District Council, Worthing Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Crawley Borough Council and Arun District Council; and ‘regional’ shall be construed accordingly;

iii. ‘economic development’ shall bear its natural meaning but with particular emphasis given to :
- Employment and skills;
- Infrastructure and transport
- Housing;
- Utilisation of property assets;
- Strategic planning;
- Economic growth.

iv. ‘Accountable Body’ means the local authority represented on the Board carrying out the function set out in paragraph 12.2.

3. Functions

3.1. The Functions of the Board are specified in paragraph 3.2 below and may be exercised only in respect of the Region.

3.2. The functions referred to in paragraph 3.1 are as follows:

i. To make long term strategic decisions concerning regional economic development and growth;

ii. To be the external voice to Government and investors regarding the management of devolved powers and funds for regional economic growth;

iii. To work with national, sub-national, regional and local bodies to support a co-ordinated approach to economic growth across the region;

iv. To secure funding and investment for the Region;

v. To ensure delivery of, and provide strategic direction for, major projects and work stream enabled by City Deal funding and devolution of powers;

vi. To enable those bodies to whom section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 applies to comply more effectively with their duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development.

vii. To incur expenditure on matters relating to economic development where funds have been allocated directly to the Board for economic development purposes; and for the avoidance of doubt, no other expenditure shall be incurred unless due authority has been given by each body represented on the Board.

3.3. In discharging its function specified in paragraph 3.2 (Viii) above, the Board shall-

i. (save in exceptional circumstances) seek to invest funding on the basis of-

a Proportionality, by reference to the economically active demographic of each administrative area within the city Region;
b Deliverability;
c Value for money and return on investment / cost benefit ratio; and
d Economic impact to the City Region as a whole.

ii. Delegate implementation of that function to the lead authority, who shall also act as Accountable Body in relation to any matters failing within that function.

4. Reporting and Accountability

4.1. The Board shall submit an annual report to each of the bodies represented on the Board.

4.2. The Greater Brighton Programme Board shall report to the Board and may refer matters to it for consideration and determination.

4.3. The work of the Board is subject to review by an ad hoc join local authority scrutiny panel set up and managed by the lead authority.

5. Membership

5.1. The following bodies shall be members of the Board:

i. Brighton & Hove City Council
ii. Adur District Council
iii. Worthing Borough Council
iv. Lewes District Council
v. Mid-Sussex District Council
vi. Crawley Borough Council
vii. Arun District Council
viii. University of Sussex
ix. University of Brighton
x. Chichester College Group
xi. Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
xii. Adur & Worthing Business Partnership
xiii. South Downs National Park Authority

5.2. GBEJC shall comprise the bodies specified in paragraphs 5.1(i) to (vii); and GBBP shall comprise the bodies specified in paragraphs 5.1(viii) to (xiii).

5.3. Each of the bodies listed in paragraph 5.1 shall be represented at the Board by one person.

5.4. Each local authority member shall be represented at the Board by its elected Leader.

5.5. Each business sector member shall be represented at the Board by the Chairman of that member or by a person nominated by the Board of that member.

5.6. Each university member shall be represented by a Vice Chancellor or Pro Vice-Chancellor of that university or by a person nominated by that university member.

5.7. Each further education member shall be represented by its Principal or the Chair of its Governing Body or by a person nominated by that further education member.

6. Chair

6.1. The Chair of GBEJC shall, by virtue of his/her democratic mandate, be Chair of the Board

6.2. If the Chair of GBEJC is unable to attend a Board meeting, the Board shall elect a substitute from its local authority member representatives provided that no such member representative attending in the capacity of a substitute shall be appointed as Chair of GBEJC / the Board.

6.3. The Chair will be elected annually by members of the GBEJC. Election of the Chair will be conducted through a formal process performed by the Democratic Services Team of the Lead Authority. The elected Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Board in the new municipal year. A Chair may be re-elected but shall not serve as Chair for more than 4 years.

7. Voting

7.1. Each person represents a member of GBEJC, and each person representing a member of the GBBP, shall be entitled to vote at their respective meetings.

7.2. Voting at each of the concurrent meetings of GBEJC and GBBP shall be by show of hands or, at the discretion of the chair, by any other means permitted by law, and voting outcomes reached at those meetings shall be on a simple majority of votes cast.

7.3. Where voting at a meeting of GBEJC results in an equal number of votes cast in favour and against, the Chair of GBEJC shall have a casting vote.

7.4. Where voting at a meeting of GBEJC results in an equal number of votes cast in favour and against, the motion/proposal/recommendation under consideration shall fall in relation of GBBP.

7.5. Where the respective voting outcomes of GBEJC and GBBC are the same, that shall be taken as the agreed Board decision and the Board may pass a resolution accordingly.

7.6. Where the respective voting outcomes of GBEJC and GBBP differ, the Board –

i. May not pass a resolution relating to that matter; and
ii. May refer the matter to the Chief Executive of the lead authority, who may consult with members of the Board or such other persons as are appropriate, with a view to achieving agreement on the matter between GBEJC and GBBP by discussion and negotiation.

7.7. Where, pursuant to paragraph 7.6(ii), agreement is reached the matter at issue shall be remitted to, and voted upon at, the next meeting of the Board.

7.8. Where, pursuant to paragraph 7.6(ii), no agreement is reached the motion/proposal/recommendation at issue shall fall.

8. Review of decision

8.1. Decisions of the Board will be subject to call-in and review in the following circumstances:

i. Where a local authority voted to agree a recommendation at a GBEJC meeting, but the decision of the Board was not to agree the recommendation.

ii. Where a local authority voted against a recommendation at a GBEJC meeting, but the decision of the Board considered that the interests of the body they represent had been significantly prejudiced; or

iii. Where any local authority represented on the Board considered that the interests of the body they represent had been significantly prejudiced; or

iv. Where any local authority represented on the Board considered that the Board had made a decision beyond its scope of authority.

8.2. The procedure for requesting, validation, and implementing a call-in and review is specified in Schedule 1.

8.3. Where a request for call-in is accepted, the Board decision to which it relates shall be stayed pending the outcome of the call-in.

8.4. Following call-in, the panel convened to review a Board decision may refer the decision back to the Board for re-consideration. Following referral, the Board shall, either at its next scheduled meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose, consider the panel’s concerns over the original decision.

8.5. Having considered the panel's concerns, the Board may alter its original decision or re-affirm it. Paragraph 8.1 shall not apply to the Board's follow-up decision. In consequence, the latter decision may be implemented without further delay.

9. Substitution

9.1. Subject to paragraph 9.2, representatives are expected to attend all meetings however, where a representative of a member of the Board is unable to attend a Board meeting, a substitute representative of that member may attend, speak and vote, in their place for that meeting.

9.2. A substitute member must be appointed from a list of approved substitutes submitted by the respective member to the Board at the start of each municipal year.

10. Quorum

10.1. No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Board unless at least one third of all member bodies are present, and both GBEJC and GPBBP are quorate.

10.2. Quorum for GBEJC meetings shall be three member bodies.

10.3. Quorum for GBBP meetings shall be three member bodies.

11. Time and Venue of Meetings

11.1 Ordinary meetings of the Board shall be convened by the lead authority and will rotate around the City Region.

11.2 The Chair of the Board may call a special meeting of the Board at any time, subject to providing members with minimum notice of two working days.

12. Administrative, financial and legal support

12.1 The lead authority shall provide the following support services to the Board:

i. Administrative, as more particularly specified in the Memorandum of Understanding pursuant to paragraph 13;
ii. Financial (including the Accountable body function specified in paragraph 12.2); and
iii. Legal, comprising Monitoring Officer and Proper Officer functions in relation to GBEJC meetings.

12.2 The function of the Accountable Body is to take responsibility for the financial management and administration of external grants and funds provided to the Board, and of financial contributions by each member of the Board, as more particularly specified in the Memorandum of Understanding Pursuant to paragraph 13. In fulfilling its role as Accountable Body, the lead authority shall remain independent of the Board.

12.3 Other members of the Board shall contribute to the reasonable costs incurred by the lead authority in connection with the activities described in paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2, at such time and manner as the Memorandum of Understanding shall specify.

13 Memorandum of Understanding

13.1 Members of the Board may enter into a memorandum of understanding setting out administrative and financial arrangements as between themselves relating to the functioning of the Board.

13.2 The memorandum may, in particular, provide for –

13.2.1 Arrangements as to the financial contributions by each member towards the work of the Board, including:

13.2.1.1 The process by which total financial contributions are calculated;

13.2.1.2 The process for determining the contribution to be paid by each member;

13.2.1.3 The dates on which contribution are payable;

13.2.1.4 How the Accountable Body shall administer and account for such contributions;

13.2.2 Functions of the Accountable Body; and

13.2.3 The terms of reference for the Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board.

14 Review and Variation of Heads of Terms

14.1 The Board shall keep these Heads of Terms under review to ensure that the Board’s purpose is given full effect.

14.2 These Heads of Terms may be varied only on a resolution of the Board to that effect, and subject to the approval of each body represented on the Board.

Appendix 2: 2023/24 Forecast, Contributions and Spend

1. The 2023/24 budget to support the running costs of the Board and the delivery of the workplan totalled £255,131. This was made-up of the 2022/23 roll-over of £49,671 and the contributions as set out in the table below.

South Downs National Park Authority	£7,970
University of Sussex	£7,970
University of Brighton	£7,970
Chichester College Group	£7,970
Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership	£7,970
Adur District Council	£10,100
Arun District Council	£24,695
Brighton & Hove City Council	£52,300
Crawley Borough Council	£20,785
Lewes District Council	£15,170
Mid Sussex District Council	£24,600
Worthing Borough Council	£17,950
Total contributions 2023/24	**£205,450**
Roll-over from 2022/23	**£49,671**
Total budget 2023/24	**£255,121**

2. The 2023/24 budget forecast was as follows:

Salary costs (Including on-costs)	£112,102
Finance support	£7,911
Legal support	£10,834
Communications support	£24,950
Annual Report and other materials	£2,750
Democratic Services support	£4,616
Scrutiny (Charged at £500 on a ‘pay as you go’ basis)	£2,000
Venue hire & refreshments	£500
Additional costs e.g. IT, travel	£1,000
Total Costs*	**£166,663**
Work plan items	**£88,458**
Contingency	£10,000
Grand Total	**£255,121**

*Excluding contingency.

3. The actual 2023/24 spend (including all known commitments as at 31st March 2024) was as follows:

Salary costs (including on-costs)	£66,310
Finance support	£7,911
Legal Support	£10,834
Communications support	£24,940
Annual Report and other design/materials costs	£2,304
Democratic Services support	£4,416
Scrutiny	£0
Venue hire & refreshments	£0

Additional costs e.g. IT, travel, training	£5,534
Total Costs	**£122,249**
Work Plan Items	
Economic Dashboard	£20,000
Greater Brighton Food Plan	£15,000
Creative Industries Strategy	£3,100
Total Workplan Items	**£38,100**
Contingency	**£0**
Grand Total Expenditure	**£160,349**

The budget remaining as at 31st March 2024 is £94,772, which is a significant underspend from 2023/24. This underspend includes the £10,000 Contingency and £2,000 Scrutiny items, which need to be included in the budget, but as in previous years were not needed to be called upon. This leaves an effective underspend of £82,772. The main cause of the underspend is staffing; the Programme Support Officer post was vacant throughout 2023/24 and one of the Business Manager posts was vacant from August 2023. The knock-on effect of a lack of resource was that much of the initiatives budget was also not spent, so this too carries forward into 2024/25.

Appendix 3: Approach for Calculating 2024/25 Funding Contribution

Total Funds sought for 2024/25 = £197,480

Greater Brighton Business Partnership (GBBP):

- Due to their being largely local authority funded, no contributions will be sought from the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership and the Adur & Worthing Business Partnership.
- All remaining Business Partnership members will be charged a 'flat fee' of £7,970 which is the same as in 2023/24.
- The total funds sight from GBBP partners is lower than in 2023/24 as Coast-to-Capital are no longer a member.

Total funds sought from GBBP = £31,880

Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee:

- The contributions sought from the unitary, district and borough councils for 2024/25 total £165,600, the same as for 2023/24.
- Amounts requested from each local authority have been apportioned in relation to the size of their working age populations and are calculated based on the demographic figures from the 2022 ONS estimates. Please see table below and the latest Business and Demographic Overview overleaf

Total funds sought from GBEJC = £165,600

Organisation	% of working age population (ONS 2022)	2024/25 Contribution Calculation
Adur District Council	6.04%	£10,000.00
Arun District Council	14.92%	£24,700.00
Brighton & Hove City Council	31.53%	£52,200.00
Crawley Borough Council	12.53%	£20,750.00
Lewes District Council	9.17%	£15,200.00
Mid Sussex District Council	14.93%	£24,750.00
Worthing Borough Council	10.89%	£18,000.00
Total	**100%**	**£165,600.00**

Greater Brighton Business and Demographic Overview – Updated Table July 2024

	A	B	C	D				
Local authority	**Total population 2022**	**Working age (16-64) population 2022**	**VAT/PAYE Businesses 2023**	**VAT/PAYE Business units 2023**	**Business units per 1,000 working age residents**	**A as % of total Greater Brighton population**	**B as % of total Greater Brighton working age population**	**D as % of business units in Greater Brighton area**
Adur	64,688	38,315	2,350	2,675	69.82	6.49%	6.04%	5.55%
Arun	166,366	94,619	5,600	6,485	68.54	16.70%	14.92%	13.45%
Brighton & Hove	277,965	199,958	14,410	16,605	83.04	27.90%	31.53%	34.44%
Crawley	119,509	79,452	3,545	4,705	59.22	12.00%	12.53%	9.76%
Lewes	100,677	58,154	4,315	4,915	84.52	10.11%	9.17%	10.19%
Mid Sussex	154,930	94,700	7,205	8,180	86.38	15.55%	14.93%	16.97%
Worthing	112,044	69,080	3,905	4,645	67.24	11.25%	10.89%	9.63%
Totals	**996,179**	**634,278**	**41,330**	**48,210**		**100**	**100**	**100**

All data sourced from NOMIS. Primary Data Sources: ONS Population Estimates mid 2022, Inter-Departmental Business Register 2023

Appendix 4: Greater Brighton Economic Board Call-In Protocol

1. Requesting a Call-in

1.1. Call-in is a process via which decisions made by the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) but not yet implemented can be challenged by GBEB members and referred to an independent 'call-in panel' for consideration.

1.2. Any decision made by the GBEB may be called-in up to five working days from the date of the meeting at which the decision was taken.

1.3. Call-in may triggered by any one or more of the constituent members of the GBEB. Such a request shall be made in writing to the Chief Executive of the lead Local Authority (i.e. the Local Authority responsible for GBEB administration at the time of the call-in request) and shall include the reasons for the request and any alternative decisions proposed.

1.4. A request for call-in may be made by any GBEB member local authority:

i. where a local authority voted to agree a recommendation at a GBEJC meeting, but the decision of the Board was against the recommendation;

ii. where a local authority voted against a recommendation at a meeting of the GBEJC but the decision of the Board was to agree the recommendation;

iii. where any local authority represented in the Board considered that the interests of the body they represent had been significantly prejudiced; or

iv. where any local authority represented in the Board considered that the Board had made a decision beyond its scope of authority.

1.5. The Chief Executive may refuse to accept a call-in request which in his/her opinion is frivolous, vexatious or defamatory or where no reason for the decision to be called-in is given.

1.6. Should the request be accepted, the Chief Executive will call-in the decision. This shall have the effect of suspending the decision coming into force and the Chief Executive shall inform the relevant decision makers of the call-in. The Chief Executive shall then call a meeting of the GBEB call-in panel to scrutinise the decision.

1.7. The GBEB call-in panel must meet within seven working days of the Chief Executive accepting the call-in request. Should the call-in committee fail to meet within this period, or meet but not be quorate, then the original decision shall come into force at the expiry of the seven-day period

2. The GBEB Call-in Panel

2.1. The GBEB call-in panel shall include members representing each of the constituent members of the GBEB (i.e. both the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership).

2.2. The GBEB call-in panel could potentially also include co-opted members from other bodies. Any decision on co-option would be made annually by the GBEB.

2.3. Each constituent member of the GBEB shall appoint a member to the GBEB call-in panel. No member of the GBEB call-in panel may also be a member or substitute member on the GBEB – GBEB call-in panel members should be independent of the GBEB to the degree that they have not as individuals been involved in the decision that they are being asked to consider as a call-in.

2.4. The Chair of the GBEB call-in panel shall be appointed annually by the GBEB.

2.5. Appointments to the GBEB call-in panel shall be annual.

2.6. Substitution is permitted on to the GBEB call-in panel. However, no substitute member may be or have been a GBEB member or substitute.

2.7. The GBEB call-in panel shall make decisions on the basis of a majority vote. If the vote is spilt then the panel Chair shall have a casting vote.

2.8. **Quorum.** To be quorate a meeting of the GBEB call-in panel shall require at least one third of members to be in attendance.

2.9. For the purposes of call-in no distinction shall be made between representatives from the members of the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee and representatives from the members of the Greater Brighton Business Partnership: all members of the call-in panel will vote together.

3. Call-in meetings

3.1. The GBEB call-in panel will consider call-in requests at a special call-in meeting. Typically, the call-in panel will hear from:

i. the GBEB member who made the call-in request (where a request has been made by more than one member the Chair of the GBEB call-in panel will decide whether to take representations from all the signatories to the call-in request or to ask the signatories to make a single representation). The member(s) who requested a call-in will explain why they feel the original decision was unsound and will suggest an alternative decision.

ii. the GBEB. The GBEB Chair (or another GBEB member or an officer supporting the GBEB at the request of the GBEB Chair) will explain why the original decision was made and will provide any additional information they feel is germane. Where the GBEB Chair is a signatory to the call-in request, then another GBEB member (or officer supporting the GBEB) shall attend the call-in meeting to represent the GBEB. This representative will be chosen by the Chief Executive of the lead authority, after discussion with GBEB members.

iii. Other organisations, stakeholders or members of the public may be granted the right to make representations to the call-in panel at the discretion of the GBEB call-in panel Chair. However, in general the intention should be to re-examine the decision originally made not to hold a broader enquiry into the decision in question.

3.2. Call-in does not provide for the call-in panel to substitute its own decision for the original GBEB decision, but merely to refer the matter back to the GBEB. The GBEB can only be asked to reconsider any particular decision once.

3.3. In essence the call-in panel is simply tasked with deciding whether the decision in question should be referred back to the GBEB to be reconsidered. Therefore the only substantive decision the GBEB call-in panel can make is whether to refer the decision back to the GBEB or to let the original decision stand.

3.4. In deciding whether to refer a decision back to the GBEB, the call-in panel shall have regard to:

i. Any additional information which may have become available since the original decision was made

ii. The implications of any delay in implementing the original decision

iii. Whether reconsideration is likely to lead to a different decision

iv. The importance of the matter raised and the extent to which it relates to the achievement of the GBEB strategic priorities

v. Whether there is evidence that the decision-making rules in the GBEB constitution have been breached

vi. Whether there is evidence that the GBEB consultation processes have not been followed

vii. Whether the decision taken is not in accordance with a policy previously agreed by the GBEB

viii. Whether there might be an alternative way of dealing with the matter in hand short of referral back to the GBEB

3.5. If having scrutinised the decision, the GBEB call-in panel feels that the decision was seriously flawed, it may refer it back to the GBEB for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.

3.6. Implementation of any decision referred back to the GBEB remains suspended until the GBEB has met to reconsider the matter. However, should the GBEB call-in panel choose not to refer the matter back to the GBEB for reconsideration then implementation may begin immediately following the call-in committee meeting.

3.7. The GBEB shall reconsider any matter referred back to it by the GBEB call-in panel either at its next scheduled meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose. Having considered the concerns expressed by the GBEB call-in panel the GBEB is free to make any decision it chooses *including re-affirming its original decision*.

4. Call-in and urgency

4.1. The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the interests of the GBEB or the general public across the 'Greater Brighton' region. The record of the decision, and notice by which it is made public, shall state if in the opinion of the GBEB the decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in. This is subject to the agreement of the Chief Executive of the lead authority.

4.2. Any decision exempted from call-in for reasons of urgency shall be communicated to the Chair of the GBEB call-in panel by the Chief Executive of the lead authority, together with an explanation as to why the decision has been deemed urgent. The intention is that urgency exceptions are used sparingly and only where there is an overriding reason to do so.

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

GREATER BRIGHTON

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD MEMBERS

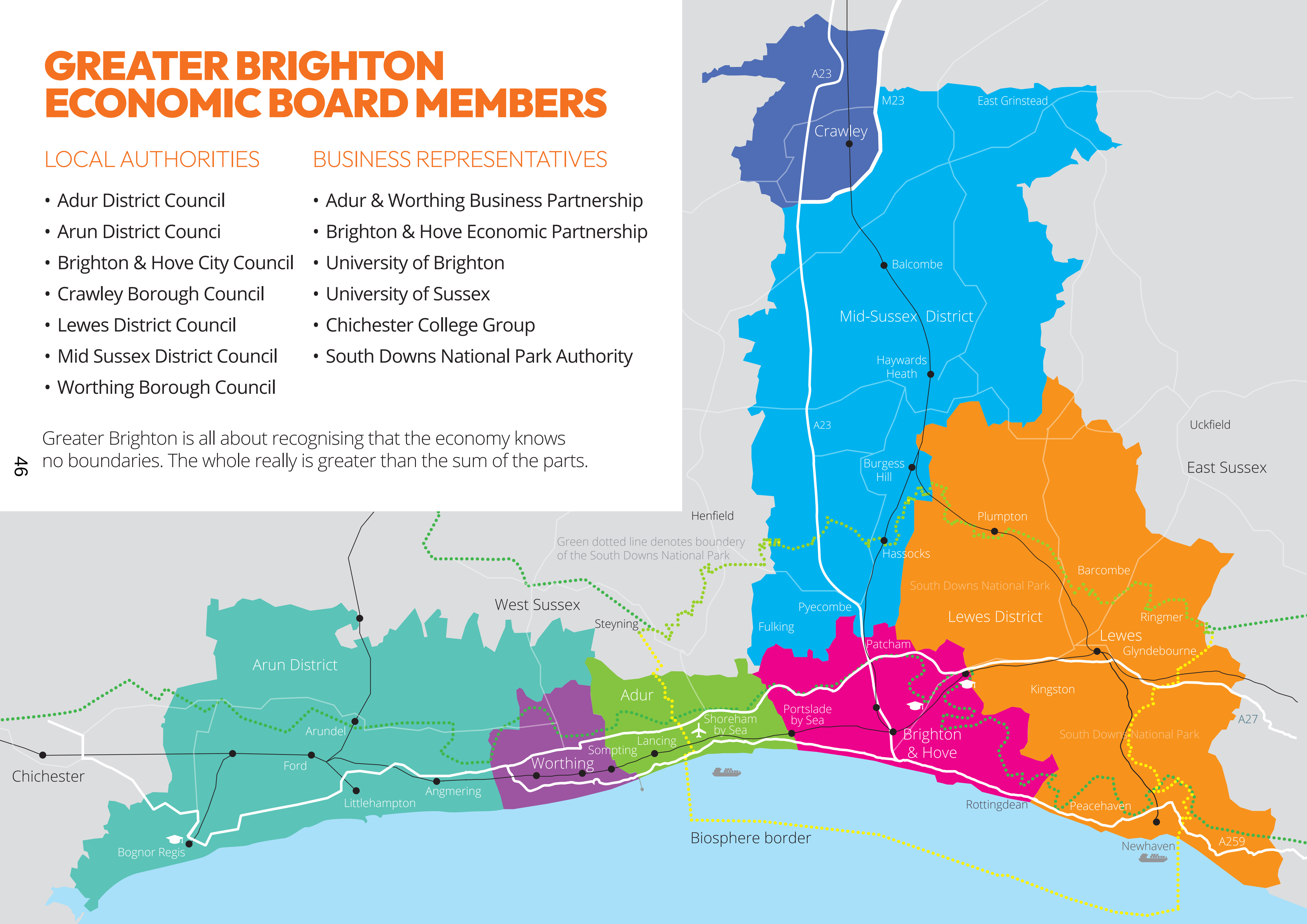
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Adur District Council
- Arun District Counci
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Crawley Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- Worthing Borough Council

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

- Adur & Worthing Business Partnership
- Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
- University of Brighton
- University of Sussex
- Chichester College Group
- South Downs National Park Authority

Greater Brighton is all about recognising that the economy knows no boundaries. The whole really is greater than the sum of the parts.



DEVOLUTION UPDATE

MOMENTUM GROWING

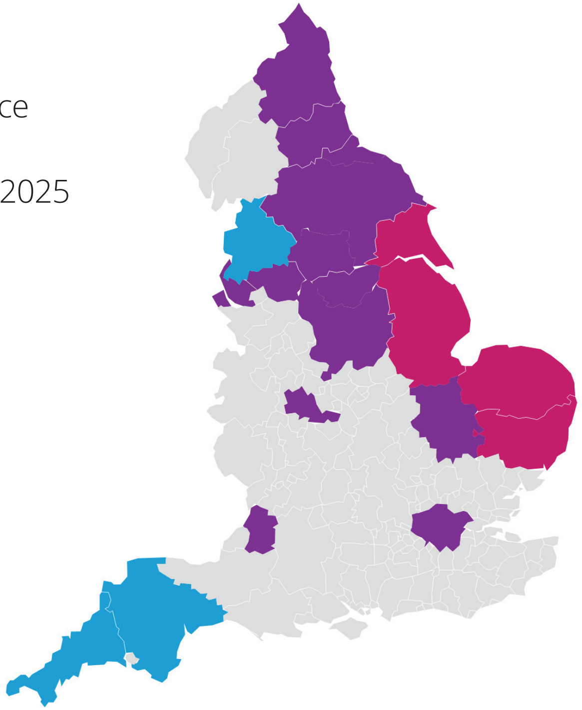
Momentum has been growing on devolution, catalysed by The Levelling Up White Paper published in February 2022 where the government announced they wanted to 'usher in a devolution revolution' and one of the missions stated: 'By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement'.

When the paper was published there were 11 areas in England with devolution deals. As of March 2024, devolution deals had been agreed with 22 areas. In March 2023 the Government published new 'trailblazer' deals, committing a single financial settlement and additional powers. The Labour Party has promised it would 'work to expand devolution further and faster, with local authorities coming together to take on new powers to boost their economies.' The devolution journey is showing no signs of slowing down.

Devolution unlocks funding and powers that would provide certainty, allowing a locality to plan spend more strategically, over a long period. This would support targeted investment based on local need and priorities that will result in the best return for a region's citizens, businesses and the wider economy.

We are currently in a time of political change with four of the seven Greater Brighton local authorities now having a Labour majority (Brighton & Hove, Crawley, Worthing and since the May 2024 elections, Adur) and a General Election in progress. Times of change can create opportunities for boundaries to be crossed and conversations to open exploring deeper collaboration between local authorities.

Coverage of English devolution, 2024



Source: Institute for Government analysis of UK government announcements, including the 2023 autumn statement.

Because Greater Brighton is a coalition of the willing and crosses local authority boundaries, it is well placed to be involved in discussions about the options for deeper collaboration. We can bring relevant people together and highlight insights about how the strengths and achievements of the different councils can complement one another to make the strongest possible case for investment in the region.

SUSSEX ENERGY – ACCELERATING OUR JOURNEY TO A GREENER FUTURE

TAKING THE LEAD – TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The climate crisis has necessitated that all local authorities set ambitious carbon reduction targets. To that end there is already a lot of innovative work going on in the region to reduce energy demand and increase the supply of locally-generated renewable energy.

Worthing Borough Council have recently unveiled an ambitious £500 million project to decarbonise heating across the entire town by 2050, partnering with Hemiko, who will finance, execute, and manage a district heat network. This initiative is projected to reduce heating emissions by around 90%. The initial phases of the project will focus on connecting large public sector buildings, estimated to save over 3,000 tonnes of annual CO^2 emissions and create approximately 40 local jobs.

Hemiko have also been working alongside Crawley Borough Council to provide operation and maintenance services to Crawley's first district heat network. In its first phase, which is now complete, the heat network supplies heat and hot water to 130 residential units, the new Town Hall, and The Create Building. It will also serve the proposed residential development on the former Town Hall site. The carbon savings are equivalent to removing over 260,000 driving miles from the road each year.

Lewes District Council together with the Newhaven Enterprise Zone (NEZ) is developing an investment plan that will enable the Newhaven business sector to become net zero by 2030. Reaching net zero by 2030 will enable the NEZ and surrounding enterprises to gain a competitive advantage and become environmental leaders at a regional and national level. Net zero solutions will primarily be greener, cheaper energy in commercial buildings and vehicles and will lay the foundation for the residential sector. A key technology solution will be solar PV.

Several years ago the Board agreed to establish a Greater Brighton Task Force to ensure the city-region's homes and buildings are fit for a zero-carbon future. This work is being overseen by Lewes District Council, and the research study led by the University of Brighton and the Council's joint venture Clear Futures.

The study looked at the most realistic solutions that could be delivered by 2030, which includes more investment in local green energy and a targeted approach to retrofit. Delivering these solutions though will

SUSSEX ENERGY – ACCELERATING OUR JOURNEY TO A GREENER FUTURE

require a coordinated effort between Local Authorities, central Government, and energy companies, as well as the development of local energy systems.

The Council has already applied the learnings from this work to its own housing stock, using a blend of SHDF and its own funding to deliver a pragmatic programme of works. The summary report can be found at **Decarbonising-our-Housing-Stock-Roadmap-for-2030-zero-carbon**

There is also the work of Hydrogen Sussex, the body supporting and facilitating the hydrogen economy across Sussex. Hydrogen Sussex has quickly built a significant network of key stakeholders across local and central government and the private sector, and has been engaging other stakeholders including regional MPs to enhance support and understanding of the region's hydrogen ambitions. Hydrogen Sussex also led on the development of a regional hydrogen strategy and investment proposition.

A UK Hydrogen Strategy was published in October 2021, together with notice of a Net Zero Hydrogen Fund for 2022, as part of a raft of decarbonisation strategies culminating in the government's Net Zero Strategy in November 2021. Hydrogen will have a critical role in the UK's net zero energy future.

The UK Hydrogen Strategy highlights the potential of public sector funding to leverage private investment in innovation, to unlock commercialisation and create a market for hydrogen. The ambition to produce 5 GigaWatts of hydrogen by 2030 would mean the creation of a thriving new hydrogen industry, which could support over 9,000 high-quality jobs and £900 million of GVA. Government investment in hydrogen to de-risk early projects, could unlock over £4 billion of private sector co-investment by 2030.

Moving quickly to develop a strong UK hydrogen economy by 2030 presents opportunities for investment in projects and associated infrastructure and supply chain companies. With such a critical role to play in enabling the UK hydrogen economy, it is important that a joined up and strategic approach is taken to hydrogen Research and Innovation investment.

SUSSEX ENERGY – ACCELERATING OUR JOURNEY TO A GREENER FUTURE

A STEP CHANGE IN AMBITION

However, despite all the innovative work going on across the region there is no time for complacency. As things currently stand, both Greater Brighton and wider Sussex areas are significant net importers of energy. Current baseline data suggests that the annual energy demand for Sussex is around 16 times more than the current supply from renewable sources. A step-change in terms of ambition and activity is needed to address this imbalance. If the region is to transition to net zero carbon in accord with organisational targets, and to achieve a level of energy resilience, there needs to be a levelling of demand and renewable supply. The Board can take a leadership role across the Sussex region in addressing the huge differential that we are experiencing now.

In July 2024 the Board will launch a mission for the City Region and wider Sussex region to achieve net zero energy status by 2040, **where the total amount of energy used by our community on an annual basis is equal to the amount of renewable energy created within the community**. This will address one of the most pressing aspects of the climate emergency and bring about significant economic and social opportunities and benefits.

By unifying around the Sussex Energy mission and pointing everyone in the same direction, we can help to join up dots to accelerate work and provide momentum. Conversations with a variety of stakeholders have shown that this mission energises and resonates with people and having a single clear voice and a clear ambition will lay the foundations for stronger regional engagement with central government.

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

WHY ARE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IMPORTANT TO US?

The Creative Industries are a defined industrial category for a range of economic activities that are concerned with the generation and commercialisation of creative ideas, knowledge and information.

This includes the music industry, the games sector, film & television, software programming, publishing, architecture, fashion, design, marketing services, and the performing arts.

The Creative Industries are a success story for the United Kingdom. Over the past decade they have grown at 1.5 times the rate of the wider economy. They currently contribute over £108bn per annum to the UK economy. That makes them bigger than the UK's life sciences, automobile and aeronautical sectors combined.

Across Greater Brighton and wider West Sussex county area, there are over 10,000 registered businesses that fall under the banner of Creative Industries, employing nearly 55,000 people. In addition there are around 21,000 creative freelancers in the region.

There is significant cross-party recognition of the economic importance of the creative industries sector in supporting national economic recovery and growth.

OUR REGION: STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Research conducted when preparing the strategy identified five key Creative Industry strengths on which to build:

1. **Our Assets:** A powerful array of distributed assets and resources that, if harnessed, can accelerate Creative Industry growth.
2. **Our Talent:** An educated creative workforce and a region that is attractive to talent.
3. **Our Entrepreneurs:** Significant entrepreneurial and start-up activity.
4. **Our Innovation:** Proven innovative ability in integrating creative practices and technological innovation, and in commercialising the outputs.
5. **Our Clusters**: Strong music, screen (TV / games), and performance sub-sectors that are distributed across the region.

There are internationally award-winning individuals who work as creatives in the commercial side of the creative industries across games, TV, film and design. The experience within the talent pool is phenomenal.

A vision for the creative industries needs to reflect and articulate how this freelance workforce can support a growing larger business ecology. One of the most significant challenges faced by local authorities and stakeholders is how to structure investment in the sector in a way which makes working capital available to support, encourage and develop those successful creative behaviours, rather than requiring security for those investments. If successful, this will:

- Ratchet up the knowledge intensity and innovation of individual creative entrepreneurs and microbusinesses.
- Seed the development of more dynamic clusters and supply chains.
- Provide a spur to productivity, employment and business growth in the process.

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Relative to other regions, Brighton & Hove and Coastal West Sussex demonstrates a lack of specialist physical infrastructure; but more important, it means that the region is lacking in the 'soft' infrastructure to support collaboration, investment in skills and the perception amongst local people that creative industries represent a viable and worthwhile career choice.

Our goal is to realise the potential that this region clearly has to become home to a world-class Creative Industries sector.

OUR VISION: PUTTING TALENT FIRST

Ultimately, value in the Creative Industries is generated by individual creativity and imagination, and the skills and knowledge required to turn it into something with value.

A core strength of our region is its creative talent – both homegrown and those that are attracted here from elsewhere.

But whilst talented people are everywhere across our region, the opportunities for them to succeed are not. Certain social groups are underrepresented in our Creative Industries and the sector is the poorer for that.

That needs to change. We will embrace a simple but ambitious vision for our region, to make it...

The best place in the UK for anyone, whatever their background, to build a fulfilling career in the Creative Industries.

We call this **Putting Talent First.**

To achieve this goal, Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex needs to commit to 3 clear targets:

1. That everyone in our region gets a chance to understand and experience the opportunities in the Creative Industries.
2. That anyone in our region can access the training needed to start and grow a career in the Creative Industries.
3. That we support our creative entrepreneurs to build successful businesses and organisations.

The region already possesses much in terms of the organisations and infrastructure that we need, and has strength in key growth sub-sectors. We can go far by leveraging them more effectively and developing activity to strategically connect and enhance them.

We will work with our regional economic geography, not against it. This means enhancing our two existing creative corridors, empowering stakeholder communities at a local level, and connecting up those working in the same industry sub-sectors.

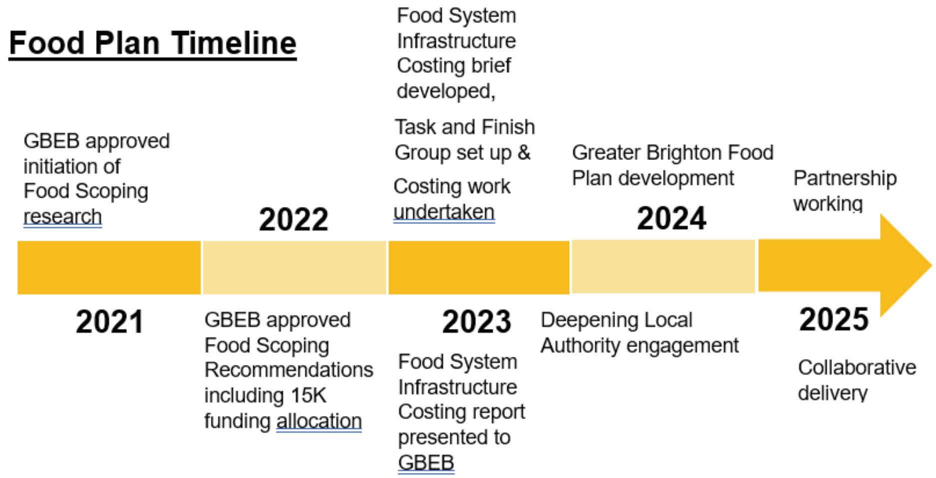
This is a strategy that is relevant, ambitious and achievable. It can secure local and national buy-in from both industry and government.

Deliver on it and Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex can re-energise our Creative industries, release this region's real creative potential and build a world-class economic powerhouse.

IS FOOD YOUR BUSINESS? COLLABORATING ON THE FOOD PLAN

A LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY

Work continues to develop an ambitious Food Plan to transform the city region's food system and lead the way in the development of a local food economy. All Local Authority areas are at different stages in food system transformation. Coordinated economic development activities and investment planned at city region level are required to deliver Government Food Strategy objectives and meet health, nature and climate commitments. We are already lucky to have strong existing business, education and food partnerships covering the breadth of the city region food system and local authority areas, with the creative potential to make the Greater Brighton Food Plan a real success.



Local Authorities are able to use the Food Scoping report, Food Scoping recommendations and Food System Infrastructure costing report to identify and consider local delivery. As directed by the board, deeper local authority engagement is well underway to align work with strategic local objectives and collaborate to attract targeted investment. We are now starting to see developer interest in the food system infrastructure plans.

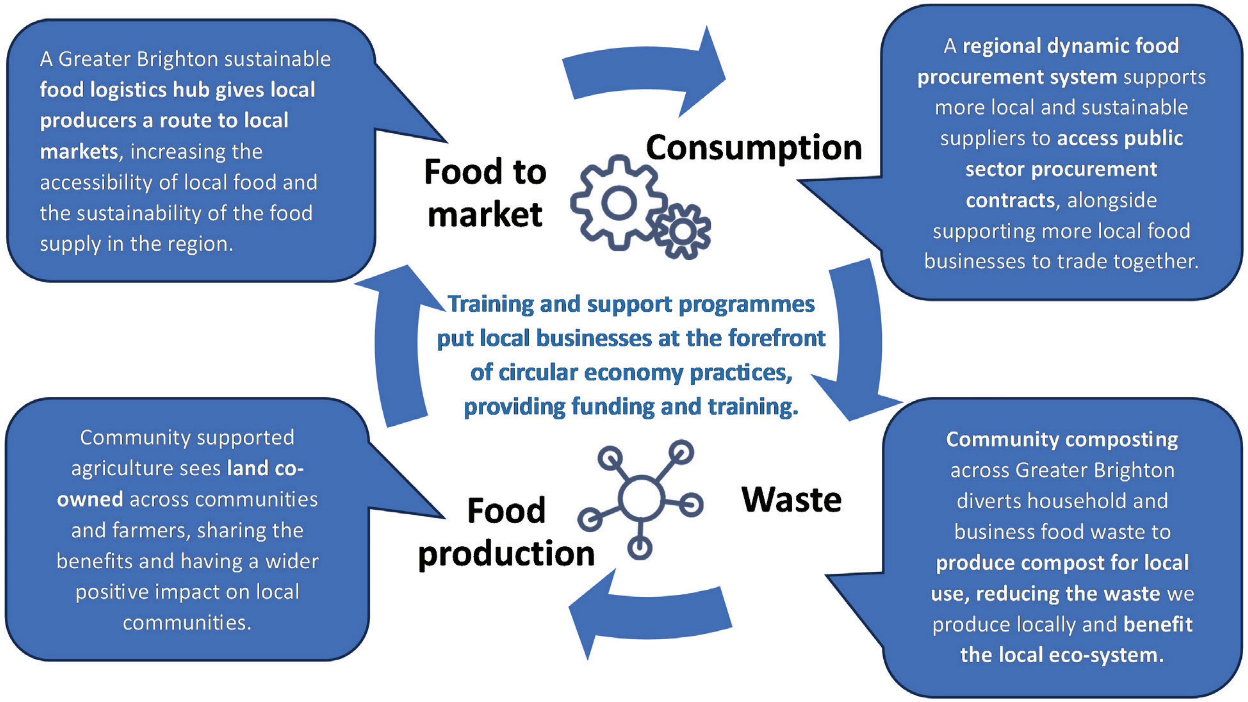
SUMMARY OF FOOD SCOPING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mechanism to co-ordinate action i.e. set up task and finish group
- £15K for infrastructure, business support and training investment plan
- A call to action and active communication of food system innovations

IS FOOD YOUR BUSINESS? COLLABORATING ON THE FOOD PLAN

FIVE KEY PROJECTS

Our Business, Education and Local Authority Economic Development Teams are now starting to work together to develop the Plan and highlight the investment needed across the City Region to make this exciting project a reality. A Task and Finish Group including University of Brighton, SDNPA, Plumpton College, University of Sussex, Food Partnership, International and Local Authority representatives meets quarterly at Plumpton College's Agri-Food Centre to ensure activities are co-ordinated. With a focus on local supply chains and growth areas, five key projects have been identified for collaboration and investment:



BENEFITS

The key projects are all about utilising the city region's strengths for local food production at scale and investing in food system assets. They will contribute to the social resilience of Greater Brighton communities and the wellbeing of residents, alongside wider economic and environmental impacts. Growth opportunities have also been identified for smaller projects (quick wins) that may move quickly into the implementation phase, depending on local capacity and resourcing.

IS FOOD YOUR BUSINESS? COLLABORATING ON THE FOOD PLAN

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

Education leads are helping ensure projects clearly articulate priorities and align the right interventions to deliver government food strategy. **University of Brighton** research and practice around the continuous Productive Urban Landscape (CPUL) design concept continues to progress and examine intrinsic links with supportive food governance. The South Coast Sustainability Research System (SCSRS), **University of Sussex**, is building a network to learn more about local experiences and knowledge and skills to balance competing interests such as food security and biodiversity. It looks at how we can work collaboratively to scale sustainability actions using place-based knowledge and networks. The University of Sussex also hosted the 'Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Research and Evidence Review' showcasing relevant research.

Sussex Food Partnerships continues to meet and provide a supportive network. Good Food East Sussex is convened by the four East Sussex Local Food Partnerships, East Sussex County Council and supported by Food Matters. It is a network of local organisations and individuals coming together to build a food system that works for people, economy and environment. (See directory of suppliers and buyers of food and drink produced or processed locally through independent local business).

Attendees at the **West Sussex Economy Group* (includes Arun, Crawley, Mid Sussex, Worthing District Council and SDNPA)** said that the food scoping and costing work resonated with the group with regards to Cost-of-Living work and West Sussex Climate Action. Discussions followed on how to get industry involved in food supply chain work e.g. skilled processors, college groups, hospitality sector, West Sussex Growers Association etc to be able to collaborate better on productivity, net zero and innovation. The group are thinking ahead to issues businesses will face in the future e.g. freshwater shortages, skills and labour shortages, transition to a circular economy, climate change, carbon literacy and carbon footprint of food.

The **Agri-Food Centre** at **Plumpton College** hosted a Baker's Roundtable. Local bakeries, industry professionals and colleagues gathered to network, share best practice and collectively promote this industry and actions made on sustainability and equality, diversity & inclusion. Plumpton College was announced as 'Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care Apprenticeship Provider of the Year' at the FE Week & AELP Apprenticeship Awards 2024. **Brinsbury College** produced a report identifying specific skills priorities for the future. The findings clearly evidence the shortage of skills that are essential to a prosperous and sustainable commercial horticulture sector. The skills shortages fit under three broad categories: technical skills, business skills and soft skills.

The **SDNPA delivery budget for the FiPL programme** in the South Downs National Park has now been fully allocated for the year 2024/2025. The **Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)** programme is part of Defra's Agricultural Transition Plan to help farmers and land managers in the country's protected landscapes as we transition from the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy to a new agricultural support system.

THE LIVING COAST - CONSERVING OUR UNIQUE NATURAL CAPITAL

THE UNESCO BIOSPHERE

The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere is a 390km^2 stretch of the Greater Brighton geography, running from the Adur to the Ouse rivers including the South Downs, coast and sea with the city of Brighton & Hove at its heart. The Biosphere boundary is detailed on the regional map on page 2.

The UK's only urban UNESCO Biosphere it is both a spatial designation recognising the international importance of our natural environment and a diverse partnership, encompassing national, regional, private and public sector and community organisations. Brighton & Hove City Council leads The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere partnership which also includes Lewes District Council and Adur & Worthing Borough Council. Biospheres are sites of excellence for sustainable development for people and nature with 3 objectives:

1. Conservation of nature and culture;
2. Sustainable socio-economic development;
3. Education and research.

THE LIVING COAST

unesco Biosphere Reserve

BENEFITS

The benefits of The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere include bringing together a diverse partnership for cross sector knowledge sharing; enabling local to global links through our regional, national and international UNESCO networks and connections; project delivery for dedicated, funded projects and being a transversal communications vehicle for our partnership and wider, relevant local, regional, national and international initiatives.

Our project delivery, both uniquely as The Living Coast Biosphere and supported by our partners, focuses on the 3 Biosphere objectives detailed above. Our current projects in delivery include Greening the Cities, bringing the Downs into the Towns creating new areas of wildflower planting in urban environments to enhance biodiversity and health & wellbeing – part of the landscape scale Changing Chalk project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund; The Sustainable Management of Urban Aquifers, delivering research and education on water quality and nature based solutions tackling flooding – funded by UNESCO and the ABDRN Charitable Foundation; Our City, Our World and Our School, Our World environmental education programmes for primary and secondary school pupils – funded by Brighton & Hove City Council, Southern Water, the Environment Agency, South Downs National Park and Let's Go Zero; and The Living Coast Artist Residency programme supporting local early career artists creatively exploring and communicating human / nature connections – funded by Fabrica Gallery, University of Sussex and University of Brighton and supported by ONCA Gallery.

THE LIVING COAST - CONSERVING OUR UNIQUE NATURAL CAPITAL

COLLABORATION

Greater Brighton Economic Board has always worked closely with The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere – for example during the development of the GBEB Energy & Water Plans – and last year financially supported the Biosphere in their Periodic Review and development of a new 10-year strategic plan. UNESCO requires all its Biosphere designations to undertake a 10-year Periodic Review to monitor conditions within the Biosphere and ensure that the criteria of this prestigious international designation are still being met.

Thanks to the support of GBEB and other funding partners including Lewes District Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, The Living Coast were able to utilise consultants to support the review process and undertake a large stakeholder engagement exercise to inform both the review and the development of the new strategic plan for 2024 - 2034. GBEB have also provided a letter of support for the renewal of the UNESCO Biosphere designation, alongside multiple organisations from across The Living Coast Biosphere Partnership.

The Living Coast will be submitting the finalised Periodic Review and request for redesignation as a UNESCO Biosphere to UNESCO in Summer 2024. We expect to receive the outcome of our application by September 2025. To learn more about our UNESCO Biosphere please visit **www.thelivingcoast.org.uk**

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

LINKS AND RESOURCES

WWW.GREATERBRIGHTON.COM

LINKS TO INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND OPE PROGRAMME

GREATER BRIGHTON

GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER BRIGHTON

THE NATIONAL ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – OVERVIEW

THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED ONE PUBLIC ESTATE IN 2013.

One Public Estate is an established national programme working with more than 300 councils and is delivered in partnership by the Local Government Association and Office of Government Property within the Cabinet Office.

To date it has supported over 800 projects, spanning 98 per cent of English councils, 12 government departments and hundreds of public sector stakeholders, helping transform local communities and public services right across the country.

One Public Estate aims to get more from the collective public sector estate – whether that's unlocking surplus sites for new housing and jobs, enabling more joined-up public services for local communities, or creating further opportunities for local authorities and public sector partners to reduce running costs and generate income to deliver savings for the taxpayer.

In 2017, the national programme expanded its partnership to include the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities' (then the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) new Land Release Fund. The Land Release Fund aims to accelerate the release of local authority-owned land for housing to help increase the public sector contribution to land supply innovation in housebuilding.

THREE CORE OBJECTIVES:

1. **Economic growth – through the creation of new homes and jobs**
2. **Delivering more integrated, customer focused services – with property as an enabler**
3. **Generating efficiencies – through capital receipts and reduced running costs**

BROWNFIELD LAND RELEASE FUND (BLRF)

The delivery of new homes across England is a national priority for central government. Local government is equally committed to supporting housing development. Local authorities have established more than 150 housing development companies, demonstrating that local government is taking an increasingly hands-on role in developing their local area.

Since 2017, OPE has partnered with MHCLG/DLUHC to deliver the Land Release Fund (LRF). The LRF has accelerated the release of local authority-owned land for housing to help increase the public sector contribution to land supply and innovation in housebuilding. The LRF currently supports 69 local authority projects which are on track to release land for more than 6,000 homes. Successful projects from a second application round are due to be announced shortly.

The LRF is a unique programme. It targets small sites where viability issues have prevented the release of local authority-owned land for housing delivery. Previous rounds have shown LRF-funded projects can deliver at pace by bridging viability gaps to accelerate the release of land for housing.

The BLRF will support the release of local authority-owned brownfield land for housing, and in addition, the fund will also seek to support self and custom-build projects on both brownfield and greenfield sites.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – Overview

The local programme was established in November 2016, under the leadership of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

It brings together representatives from the participating local authorities, health commissioner and provider trusts, emergency services and education to work on property-focused initiatives through sharing and collaboration including with central government.

The local programme recognises the importance of public sector bodies, as major landowners and as anchor institutions, in making the best use of the city region's limited land supply to help build the economic, social, and environmental resilience of the region.

In 2020 the Greater Brighton Economic Board agreed 10 ambitious Environmental Pledges to tackle climate change and move the City Region towards net zero. Were appropriate, the local programme will look to support the realisation of these pledges by considering the sustainability and resilience implications associated with maximising the potential of the One Public Estate.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – Partnership

The local programme aims to facilitate closer cooperation and coordination between member organisations and key stakeholders. This is supported by two partnership boards:

GREATER BRIGHTON PUBLIC SECTOR PROPERTY GROUP: established in October 2016, the Group comprises representatives from the region's participating local authorities, the health sector, emergency services and education, as well as from the national and West and East Sussex County Council One Public Estate programmes. The Group meets quarterly and is responsible for providing oversight of and support to the programme's projects, as well as for identifying new One Public Estate opportunities. It also provides a forum to engage public sector landowners in the delivery of key initiatives and themes relating to asset management and use and the built environment.

GREATER BRIGHTON HOUSING & GROWTH SITES WORKING GROUP: formed in November 2019, the Group brings together all Greater Brighton local authorities and Homes England to focus specifically on housing and regeneration, covering supply and delivery, funding and investment, policy and standards, and programmes and initiatives. The Group meets quarterly to share learning and best practice, provide peer support and review, and identify and progress opportunities for collaboration and joint work.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – Project Portfolio

Locally led partnerships of public sector bodies can bid for funding from the national programme to repurpose underutilised or surplus public estate for housing, regeneration, and other locally determined uses.

In 2023/24, the local programme was awarded £794,885 in additional funding to support a Land Release Fund project Knoll House, Brighton; Prince Charles Close, Southwick (this award was subsequently declined); South Street, Lancing.

The total funding awarded to the local programme now stands at £7.1M, supporting a portfolio 37 funded projects. This comprises:

£1,347,500 in **ONE PUBLIC ESTATE** revenue funding to support the development of 12 projects that are being led by various public sector bodies. The funding is being used for a range of activities, including feasibility, viability, master planning, business case development and project management support, to provide the evidence base needed to make robust asset management decisions. It is currently expected that these projects will facilitate the delivery of circa 1,000 new homes, £46min capital receipts, £7.5m in reduced running costs, 5,035 new jobs (including construction), and 29,000sqm of employment floorspace (excluding uses previously defined as D1). One Public Estate projects are by nature embryonic and the local programme's projects are at varying stages of development. These forecast outputs will likely change as business cases are completed and as schemes are developed and approved.

£5.76M in **LAND RELEASE FUND** capital funding to enable to delivery of 24 projects (one of which has also received One Public Estate funding) creating circa 500 new homes on local authority-owned land. The funding is being used for small-scale land remediation and infrastructure works. It is enabling the viability of these projects by filling the funding gaps caused by abnormal development costs and scheme specific complexities. The Land Release Fund projects form part of:

The Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme – Project Portfolio

- Adur & Worthing Council's **DEVELOPING PATHWAYS TO AFFORDABLE HOMES,** a four-year programme that will deliver at least 250 affordable homes by 2025. To date, Adur District Council has secured £973,000 in Land Release Fund funding to support 7 projects to provide 76 new homes on council-owned land – 100 % of which will be affordable. The projects are being delivered as part of the councils' Affordable Homes Delivery programme.

- Brighton & Hove City Council's **NEW HOMES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD'S** programme that is building much-needed new rented council homes on council-owned land. New Homes for Neighbourhoods forms part of the council's package of **actions** to provide more housing in the city. Since 2015 New Homes for Neighbourhoods has delivered 269 homes across 14 projects, and it has a further pipeline of sites set to provide c.500 homes. Brighton & Hove City Council has secured £4,114,387 in Land Release Fund funding to date, to support the delivery of 11 projects providing 417 new homes – two of which have already been successfully completed.

- A pipeline of small sites owned by Brighton & Hove City Council being redeveloped by **BUNKER HOUSING COOPERATIVE,** a self-build housing co-operative for low-income families and individuals in the city, for affordable housing in perpetuity. The council will dispose of the sites by long lease to Bunker Housing Cooperative, subject to their securing funding and obtaining planning consent for each scheme The homes will be available to households meeting the council's allocations criteria and/or on Homemove, the council's housing register, via membership of the cooperative and the rents will be well below the city's market rate. To date, Bunker Housing Cooperative in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council has secured £139,875.37 in Land Release Fund funding to support 4 projects that will deliver 13 new homes. Two of these sites are no longer coming forward following planning applications and local area consultations and in 2023 another one of the sites is not coming forward due to ongoing viability issues. Dunster Garage site is however progressing.

The Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme – Project Portfolio

The local programme is required to submit triannual reports to the national programme, showing the progress of each of the 36 funded projects against their project plans and highlighting any issues and risks. As the programme matures, we have successfully completed 4 of the housing projects and we have begun a comprehensive review of all of the funded projects to assess their ongoing viability and efficiency. This will be reported in the next annual report.

One Public Estate Projects:

1. Worthing Integrated Care Centre, Worthing;
2. Preston Circus Fire Station, Brighton;
3. Preston Barracks Primary Care Centre, Brighton;
4. Moulsecoomb Housing & Community Hub, Brighton;
5. Brighton General Hospital, Brighton;
6. Springman House, Lewes;
7. Hove Station Quarter, Hove;
8. Patcham Court Farm, Brighton;
9. North Street Quarter, Lewes;
10. Burgess Hill Station Quarter, Burgess Hill;
11. Morley Street/Ivory Place, Brighton;
12. Future of Public Sector Office (strategic).

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – One Public Estate Case Studies

NSQ – aka Phoenix
Project Title: North Street Quarter & Springman House
Delivery Body: Lewes & Eastbourne Council
Funding Award: £240,000 – OPE 4 and 6

This project has evolved from its initial conception into one of the most prominent regional development opportunities. One year after proposals were announced for the transformation of a 7.9-hectare brownfield site the ambitious development at North Street Quarter in Lewes was granted planning permission in February 2024 (subject to approval of final highways matters).

The project is led by Human Nature, a Lewes based company, in partnership with the council and one of the core fundamentals of the design is to prioritise people over cars. The Phoenix will be a walkable, multi-use development on a former industrial site in Lewes, within the South Downs National Park. The mixed-income, multi-tenure development will provide 685 homes (with 30% affordable – made up of 154 homes at local housing allowance levels and the remainder as First Homes), creating a place to start out in life and a place to stay. When complete, it will be the UK's largest timber-structure neighbourhood, and a blueprint for sustainable placemaking and social impact that can be deployed at scale.

Human Nature is working with some of the UK's leading architects, landscape designers and engineers plus local businesses and foundations to create breakthrough models in sustainable placemaking, prioritising social value and impact. The Phoenix was master-planned by Human Nature's in-house design team, regenerative design agency Periscope, and Kathryn Firth, director of master-planning and urban design at Arup.

An emphasis on building connections and enabling interaction in shared spaces and facilities runs through the design of the Phoenix. In addition to 685 highly energy-efficient homes powered by renewable energy, the new neighbourhood includes public squares and gardens, dedicated community buildings (including a low-cost canteen) and a site-long river walk.

A co-mobility hub will incorporate electric-car share, car hire and car club, electric bike service and a shuttle-bus facility – enabling a shift away from reliance on private vehicle ownership and creating safe streets for walking, cycling and wheeling.

In Parcel 1, the first homes designed in detail (by Ash Sakula Architects) are interwoven with play areas, communal garden plots and a shared cycle store intended to facilitate interaction and promote a culture of shared living. Designed in collaboration with Periscope, a central courtyard gives residents a place to sit, pause, talk and play and incorporates a rain garden providing protection against flooding – features which will be found across the Phoenix.

In the wider plan, climate-progressive innovations include a data-driven renewable energy system set to enable10–20% reductions in residents' energy bills (part of Human Nature's goal of 'radical affordability'), on-site recycling, waste-management and composting facilities, and an urban-farming and community-gardening strategy.

THE EXISTING INDUSTRIAL SITE

Collaboration, connection and community

The Phoenix team have worked closely with thousands of local residents, three dedicated community working groups and more than 60 businesses and stakeholder organisations to evolve the project in response to community needs.

Since the initial planning application was submitted in early 2023, there have been three rounds of consultation, resulting in a number of refinements to the initial plan including the relocation of the proposed neighbourhood Health Centre to a more accessible site in a future phase.

At the planning committee on 15 February 2024, members voted for a resolution to grant planning permission, subject to section 106 agreements and resolution of outstanding issues with National Highways.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – One Public Estate Case Studies

Project Title: **Bunker Housing – Dunster Close Garage Site**
Delivery Body: **Brighton & Hove City Council**
Funding Award: **£22,137 - Land Release Fund SCB, LRF Phase 3**

BUNKER HOUSING COOPERATIVE, BRIGHTON.
Brighton & Hove continues to experience a housing crisis with little space to build new homes and soaring rents and house prices. It is increasingly difficult for young families to afford to live in the city and the council has committed to provide genuinely affordable homes to retain a more balanced demographic. Smaller sites that the council have chosen not to develop themselves due to economies of scale were made available to community-led housing groups to build self-build homes for affordable rent.

Bunker Housing Co-operative is a self-build housing co-operative, defined as individuals or a group that finance, codesign and commission the homes from a SME builder rather than purchasing a finished product from a developer. The Bunker families formed the co-operative and worked on the council's community led housing pilot scheme to develop their first two houses on a former garage site. The small (0.029 ha) site at Dunster Close in Brighton is another former garage block identified as part of a review of small sites owned by the Council's Housing Revenue Account which is being developed by Bunker for two family houses for rent.

Bunker have applied for Registered Provider (RP) status which will enable them to obtain funding from the Homes England Affordable Homes Programme for these homes and is necessary to address the affordability issue of the projected rents. Whilst the registration process is lengthy and will delay commencement of the main construction contract until January 2025, RP status gives both the council and coop members confidence that the organisation is financially viable, properly governed and provides decent, well-managed homes at rents within Local Housing Allowance levels. The council is also supporting the development with a deferred payment lease, along with the BRLF/SCB allocation for enabling works, and it is hoped that the new homes will be ready for occupation by the end of 2025.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – Land Release Fund Case Studies

Project Title: **Knoll House, Brighton**
Delivery Body: **Brighton & Hove City Council**
Funding Award: **£526,400– BLRF2-2**

The development of Knoll House will demolish a vacant decommissioned care facility which is no longer fit for purpose and deliver a new facility of 28 high quality supported living apartments. A refurbishment of the existing building was considered, but it would not deliver the council's requirements for numbers of apartments, wheelchair accessibility, or energy efficiency. For this project to be viable, an allocation of £526,000 BLRF2 was needed to unlock the site. The funding is being used to demolish the existing building, remove asbestos, and upgrade a substation to provide sufficient capacity for the new apartments. Some of the new homes will be specifically for people aged between 18-25, and two of the new apartments will be designed for bariatric clients. Residents of the new apartments require support to maximise their independence ranging between 10 and 63 hours per week. The funding was awarded in August 2023 allowing for an immediate start on preparatory works and demolition is underway. Construction is due to begin in July 2024 and the completed apartments will be ready for occupation in February 2026.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – Land Release Fund Case Studies

Project Title: **Victoria Road, Worthing**
Delivery Body: **Adur & Worthing Councils**
Funding Award: **£104,349.00 – BLRF2-1**

This scheme is being delivered on a Council-owned site which was formerly leased by Worthing's Air Cadet HQ but has been vacant for a number of years. The award of £104,349 in October 2022 allowed the project to be brought forward and funded the demolition works, asbestos removal and enhanced groundworks.

The development has been designed by ECE Architects and will be Worthing Borough Council's first Passivhaus housing scheme delivered under its Emergency and Temporary Housing Programme. Passivhaus is a highly sustainable form of design and construction that delivers "net zero" homes which will help the Council achieve its Climate Change objectives and targets.
The development comprises 11 one and two bedroom flats which have been deliberately designed to maximise solar gain through appropriate orientation of the building and consequently won't need central heating. When completed, the flats will be well insulated, resulting in lower energy bills for tenants and promoting good health and wellbeing.

The project has progressed and in 2023, the demolition works were completed ahead of the procurement of the Main Works Programme which is currently scheduled to be awarded to a Contractor in late Summer 2024.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – Wider Project Highlights

ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL SMALL SITES PROGRAMME This programme is redeveloping small sites in council ownership, most of which are blocks of garages, to deliver much-needed affordable housing in an area with over 700 households on the housing waiting list

1. ST GILES CLOSE
2. GARDNER ROAD
3. SYLVAN ROAD
4. WILMOT ROAD
5. DANIEL CLOSE
6. GRAVELLY CRESCENT

Land Release Fund funding is supporting the council to deliver 6 of these sites. The sites comprise out-of-date garages, some in a serious state of dilapidation and many used for storage as they are too small for modern cars. The sites are underutilised and uninviting and are subject to antisocial behaviour, including fly-tipping. The programme will regenerate these sites, creating 33 new council homes for rent and improved landscaping for wider public use.

Bespoke plans for each of the sites have been produced and, following online public consultation on the initial proposals in summer 2020, refined by architects to also consider site surveys and feedback from planning officers.

The proposals vary from site to site and are for a range of 2 and 3-bedroom homes and 1 and 2-bedroom flats and bungalows, with some suitable for people with mobility problems to meet a range of housing needs.

In autumn 2021 planning permission was secured for 4 sites – St Giles Close, Gardner Road, Sylvan Road, and Wilmot Road. All of these are now well underway with construction work and completions due in 2024. Planning permission has been granted for Daniel Close and Gravelly Crescent and work will get underway on these sites in 2024.

The new homes will achieve high standards of sustainability. A 'fabric first' approach will ensure that the homes will be very well insulated, and they will also be heated by energy efficient air source heat pumps. Solar panels will be fitted where possible to generate power and help to offset energy bills for future residents.

The Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme – Wider Project Highlights

THE ASHCROFT SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME is located on Kingston Lane in Shoreham By Sea. The site consists of a main block of 21 flats (including bedsits and 2-bed flats) and 8 bungalows and has offered sheltered housing to Council tenants since 1982. In January 2020 all residents were decanted from the main building due to fire safety concerns, and the block has remained entirely unoccupied since. The outdated state and layout of the building and the costs required to update and maintain it suggest that the building is at the end of its useful life and is now considered moribund by Adur District Council. The Council modelled options for refurbishment and redevelopment and consulted with residents.

In March 2021, a preferred option was agreed which consists of knocking the block down and constructing a new block of 43 units with modern assistive technology and flexible care packages, providing for residents with a wide range of needs in accessible, modern accommodation with attractive communal areas. The scheme has got the backing of local members and the Executive Member for Housing, and the Council's Affordable Housing Delivery Group and Sheltered Housing Team. The need to demolish the main block currently rendered the scheme unviable, so alternative support was sought to enable the scheme to be brought forward. Provision of BLRF funding addressed this challenge to enable the project to move forward, delivering much needed purpose-built accommodation provided at social rent levels for elderly people.

As a result of the scheme, 44 (up from the original 43) social housing units will come forward, releasing other desperately-needed homes for general needs accommodation, and in combination, house a significant proportion of the 756 households currently on the Council's housing register (158 of which are older households and would qualify for accommodation at Ashcroft). The scheme was awarded £407,000 for demolition and other costs, under Phase 3 BLRF. Demolition has now completed in readiness for start of construction.

The Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme – Wider Project Highlights

HOVE STATION AREA MASTERPLAN, HOVE

This project sees Brighton & Hove City Council facilitating the redevelopment of the Conway Street Industrial Estate, an eight-and-a-half-acre area on the east side of Hove Station. It is made up of numerous sites in multiple ownerships, including the council and Network Rail, all at varying stages of development. The overall built environment and public realm is uninspiring, and the many underutilised spaces and large areas of surface car parking provide significant transformational opportunities, for a vibrant mixed-use high-density redevelopment in this inner-urban area of Hove. The area forms a Strategic Allocation for a minimum of 12,000sqm of office and business floorspace and 200 residential units within the wider Hove Station Development Area (DA6), as defined in the adopted City Plan Part 1. The project has now delivered a masterplan for the area, in the form of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), to provide a positive and coherent framework to manage future development and regeneration. The SPD was adopted in September 2021, following Committee approval. The partnership are reviewing the way forward with this project since the disengagement from the MOU of the key stakeholder Network Rail. Due to changes in Network Rail's priorities and their subsequent decision not to progress on the site, we continue to evaluate alternative options to bring the scheme forward in a way that deliver maximum benefit.

FUTURE OF PUBLIC SECTOR OFFICE, STRATEGIC

COVID-19 had a dramatic impact on the way that public sector staff worked. Much work was undertaken and continues to influence the ways of working for Greater Brighton and SPACES OPE partners. This resulted in a considerable streamlining of estate resources and the work reached a level of development where the team felt confident to close out the project. This was completed in Q3 2023.

PRESTON CIRCUS FIRE STATION, BRIGHTON

This project sees East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service refurbishing their busiest Community Fire Station, originally built in 1938, to create modern fit-for-purpose facilities that will include individual sleeping accommodation as well as creating new commercial space to let preferably to public sector partners. Works began in March 2024 to refurbish the Fire Sation. The project focuses on reordering the internal spaces and circulation to reduce the risk of contamination for the crews, to provide them with on station individual sleeping accommodation and to provide a new community room. The Preston Circus crews remain operational having temporarily decanted to Dyke Road. They will be back at Preston Circus by the end of the year upon completion of the project.

The Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme – Wider Project Highlights

MOULSECOOMB HOUSING AND COMMUNITY HUB

This project is regenerating an underutilised four-and-a-half-acre site in Moulsecoomb to deliver a £70 million scheme comprising 212 council homes, a new community hub and a range of open spaces and outdoor facilities. The new hub will improve the services and facilities available for residents of Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, among the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. It will bring together GP and community health services, a pharmacy, Moulsecoomb Library, and adult learning classrooms under one roof, alongside hireable community rooms and a community café. Proposals also include a new centre for youth services within the hub, with a separate entrance. Basing these organisations in the same building will enable them to work better together and provide residents with a single purpose-built facility from which to access a range of key services. It also releases a number of sites to build much-needed new affordable homes, which are being delivered by the council's New Homes for Neighbourhood's Programme and forms part of the council's package of actions to provide more housing in the city.

The proposals are for a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4-bed homes, as well as several fully accessible homes to meet a range of housing needs. The homes will be let through the council's Homemove register, which currently has a waiting list of approximately 7,000 households.

The redevelopment will also create new open spaces and outdoor facilities, including a plaza comprising seating and play equipment, pocket parks and small-sided 3G pitches and a skate park, as well as wider public realm improvements. Following resident consultation in 2020/21, the council has been working with project partners to refine the proposals that now place the hub in the heart of the wider development to improve visibility and accessibility.

In November and December 2021 councillors authorised a budget of £2.1 million to finalise and submit a planning application for the project, which was made in early March 2022. Planning permission was granted in early 2023. In order to deal with the challenge financial viability due to increased inflation, a change in procurement route was approved at committee in March 2024. This allows the Council to reach a more competitive market enhancing value for money and shifts much of the risk to the contractor.

The tender will be issued during summer 2024, with a contractor scheduled to be appointed by the end of the year, starting on site in January 2025.

PRESTON BARRACKS PRIMARY CARE FACILITY, BRIGHTON

This project sees Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group working with project partners to secure the delivery of a new medical facility as part of the wider Preston Barracks regeneration scheme. The new medical facility will help to meet the future healthcare need of the area – where population growth is anticipated to be the highest of any area of the city, creating major demand for additional general practice services that are already extremely stretched. Construction of the new medical facility (as part of the residential development) is now well underway, scheduled for handover at end-July 2022 and immediately followed by an 8-month fit-out programme to allow for occupation in March 2023. Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group has identified two practices to expand into the new medical facility, increasing patient capacity from 11,000 to 16,000 (a 45% increase) creating broader and better access to health and care for the local community. Both practices provided their formal commitment to occupying the new facility in March 2019. The process of assigning the lease to the practices has been delayed due to project delays caused by cost inflation. The partnership is committed to delivering the planned scheme with occupation in 2025.

PATCHAM COURT FARM, BRIGHTON

This project sees Brighton & Hove City Council, the asset owner, facilitating the redevelopment of a vacant three-and-a-half-acre site formerly part of the wider landholding of Patcham Court but becoming physically divided from its associated farmland in the late 1980s/ early 1990s following the development of the A27 bypass. The site has not been developed since that time, despite numerous attempts to bring it forward. The council is now at an advanced stage of negotiations with its preferred partner, the Royal Mail Group. Royal Mail have undertaken consultation with stakeholders and local residents in advance of submitting a full planning application and have revised the location to the site access to mitigate the impact on the local road network and on surrounding properties in response to concerns expressed by residents. Royal Mail have a Planning Performance Agreement in place and have submitted a full planning application. The relocation and consolidation of the existing Royal Mail sorting office services unlocks two significant development sites In Brighton and Hove with the potential to deliver an indicative 177 residential units and 3000sqm of office space. The council is currently working with Hyde Housing Association as part of its Homes for Brighton and Hove Joint Venture (JV) partnership who have progressed initial design and planning pre-app advice on the sites and have made an offer for the Hove site, however progress is paused until the planning application is determined.

The Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme – Wider Project Highlights

BURGESS HILL STATION

This project seeks to regenerate a 3.65 ha (9 acre site) in and around Burgess Hill railway station, encompassing the current train station, former sidings and station yard, station car park, adjacent car park, allotment site and recreation area/playground. The land parcels are in the ownership of both the council and Network Rail.

The main station building dates to 1877 and is outdated with poor accessibility. The wider redevelopment area is largely unappealing, makes inefficient use of public sector land and performs poorly as both a gateway to the town and as a public transport interchange. This project aims to comprehensively redevelop the brownfield site, to deliver up to 400 new homes, ancillary commercial space, enhanced and accessible station infrastructure, and public realm improvements. The project will require the relocation of the allotments site to an alternative location. The intention is to maintain the current levels of parking, through the provision of a new multi-storey facility, and to retain and upgrade the recreation and play space. The scheme would create clearly defined, safer, high-quality public spaces in a way that respects the area's historic character. The project would bring wider economic benefits, complementing the planned regeneration and growth of the town centre and nearby Brookleigh development. Specialist property and design advisors were commissioned in late-2019 to prepare a mixed-used development scheme and programme for the combined property assets.

A preferred scheme was identified and a detailed development appraisal completed in summer 2020. Following the pandemic and ongoing inflation pressures the project became stuck and was consequently awarded One Public Estate "top-up" funding in March 2021, enabling the consultant team to be reengaged. The council and Network Rail signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2021, agreeing to collaborate on all aspects of project planning and delivery and demonstrating continued commitment to this joint endeavour. The consultant team delivered its draft report in November 2021. This contains 4 options, all of which face viability challenges. Project partners have considered ways to address the dual challenges of the viability and land assembly. The project viability report was updated in February 2024 which confirmed that the viability issues remain. The partners, as part of a review of procurement and delivery options, are also examining the opportunity to use the existing 'Blocwork' Joint Venture organisation. The scheme is scheduled to progress to the submission stage and public examination in late 2024/early 2025.

Land Release Funding with a plan to bid in 2024. Public sector partners working together to take a more strategic approach to asset management has demonstrable benefits, in terms of supporting the region's economic, social, and environmental productivity priorities.

THE GREATER BRIGHTON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME – Next Steps

Public sector partners working together to take a more strategic approach to asset management has demonstrable benefits, in terms of supporting the region's economic, social, and environmental productivity priorities.

THE LOCAL PROGRAMME WILL CONTINUE TO FACILITATE SUCH COLLABORATION BY:

- Supporting the progression of the existing project portfolio, through to successful completion.
- Building knowledge of partners' and government departments' new and emerging asset management strategies, wherever possible supporting plans and identifying opportunities.
- Maintaining existing and building new relationships within and beyond the partnership, to identify new collaboration possibilities – including exploring the potential for more strategic projects and/or activities.
- Identifying a pipeline of future projects and bidding for new funding, as and when call open.
- Keeping abreast of wider initiatives and activities impacting asset management, use and the built environment – ranging from Circular Economy to Social Value and the Integrated Care Partnership – and fostering learning and links across the partnership to support implementation.
- Review the overall programme to ensure that benefits and delivery are on track and in line with current objectives.
- Co-ordinate and refine BLRF bids to optimise opportunities to win funding in competitive calls for submission.