



Greater Brighton Economic Board

**16 October 2024
10.00am**

QEll meeting room, The Shoreham Centre

AGENDA

Members:	Councillors: Sankey (Chair), Cox, Eggleston, Jones, Nicholson, Gardner and Lury Business Partners: Tim Slaney, Prof Rusi Jaspal, Prof. Debbie Keeling, Dean Orgill, Dan Power and Andrew Swayne
Contact:	Francis Mitchell Democratic Services 01273 294183 Francis.Mitchell@brighton-hove.gov.uk



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS



ARUN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Brighton & Hove
City Council



Crawley
Borough Council



Lewes District Council



MID SUSSEX
DISTRICT COUNCIL



ADUR & WORTHING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP



South Downs
National Park Authority



University of Brighton



University of Sussex



Chichester
College
Group

AGENDA

PART ONE

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6 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(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.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 8

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 2024

8 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Francis Mitchell (01273 294183, email Francis.Mitchell@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Tuesday, 8 October 2024

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

9.30am 16 JULY 2024

LEARNING SUITE, CRAWLEY CAMPUS, COLLEGE RD, CRAWLEY RH10 1NR

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Eggleston, Gardner, Jones, Lury, Nicholson and Sankey

Business Partners: Prof: Debbie Keeling, Tim Slaney, Andrew Swayne, Prof: Rusi Jaspal (Substitute), Ian Fitzpatrick (Substitute), Ian Dury

PART ONE

1 RATIFICATION OF CHAIR

- 1.1 Dr Catherine Howe (Chief Executive Officer: Adur District & Worthing Borough Councils) welcomed the board to the meeting and requested the ratification of the new Chair.
- 1.2 Councillor Bella Sankey (Leader of Brighton and Hove City Council) was agreed as the new chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

2 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

Paul Riley (Team Leader: Adur District & Worthing Borough Councils) attended as a substitute.

(b) Declaration of Interests

There were none for this meeting.

(c) Exclusion of press and public

There were no Part Two items, therefore the press and public were not excluded.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 Congratulations to Beccy on her election to MP. It's a pleasure to take on the Chair of Greater Brighton Economic Board, especially at this exciting time of Sussex Energy launching and a new government coming into power.
- 3.2 On behalf of the Board, I would like to say a big thank you to Debra Humphris from the University of Brighton for her valuable contributions to the Greater Brighton Economic Board since 2014.

- 3.3 I would like to welcome Jeremy Gardner, Martin Lury and Sophie Cox to their first Board meeting. Jeremy will be representing Adur District Council; Martin will be representing Arun District Council and Sophie representing Worthing Borough Council.
- 3.4 I'd also like to warmly welcome Amy Galea, Chief Integration and Primary Care Officer from NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board as an observer today. Greater Brighton Economic Boards needs a wide variety of partners. The Integrated Care Board is a major part of our regional strategic infrastructure and economy so it's great to have them here and interested.
- 3.5 I'd also like to welcome a new attendee today, Cllr Ty Goddard, Cabinet Adviser in Brighton and Hove on Economic Development and Regional Partnership.
- 3.6 I have had the benefit of 121 conversations with most board members over the past few weeks and I want to thank partners for making time for this. In particular we focused on the direction we want to take the Board in. From many conversations with leaders and non-political Board members there is a great appetite for making the most of the unrealised potential of the Board to sharpen our focus, objectives and ambition and to collaborate to increase the attraction of investing in our region.
- 3.7 Greater Brighton was formed 10 years ago as part of the City Deal agreement with an aim to promote and create the conditions for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Ten years on, we're in a time of huge democratic change, where there has been a fundamental shift in the politics underpinning our County and with a new national government kickstarting a new era with a clear and explicit ambition to boost economic growth and achieve energy independence and sustainability, which opens an opportunity for Greater Brighton to play a pivotal role.
- 3.8 Today political leaders will have received a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner, which includes this crucial paragraph: *"We continue to believe that new devolution settlements should be tailored to sensible economic geographies so that local leaders can act at the scale needed to effectively deploy their powers. In the majority of cases that will require local authorities to come together in new combined or combined county authorities. I encourage you to begin discussions with your neighbouring authorities on this basis."*
- 3.9 The Kings Speech tomorrow – will also set out clear ambitions for greater devolution of powers across the Country. Because we are a coalition of the willing, with extensive economic and business experience across local authority boundaries, we are well placed to be involved in discussions about opportunities 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. We want to be part of this conversation and capitalise on the region's potential.
- 3.10 Sussex Energy is unique because it's a mission for the entire Sussex region, not held back by boundaries. Sussex has the size and scale to be able to attract investors, tackle systemic issues and to work with the government and national players like UK Power Networks. We're doing the right thing at the right time.

- 3.11 Within a week of being in office, the new government have made several announcements that demonstrate that Sussex Energy can lead the country in delivering a green energy revolution. For example, they have lifted the onshore wind ban, launched a new Mission Control tasked with turbocharging the UK to clean power by 2030 and launched a national wealth fund to support delivery of big infrastructure projects across the UK. These are important opportunities, and our County must be ready to collaborate with the new Government to ensure our region can capitalise on the benefits.
- 3.12 Today we'll be covering just 2 items in the Board meeting – Our Operational Arrangements and Sussex Energy. We have swapped these items around compared to the published agenda to improve the flow.
- 3.13 As part of the Operational Arrangements updates, we are proposing to remove a voting member of the Board from Brighton & Hove City Council. This has been proposed by me because I believe that it's important to come to the table as a partnership of equals and for each local authority to be able to speak with one voice. It is additionally being proposed that Cllr Ty Goddard, Regional Partnerships and Economic Growth Cabinet Advisor from Brighton & Hove attends as a non-voting member. I have asked Ty to support the Board's objectives particularly when deepening our regional partnership working.
- 3.14 Directly after this Board meeting, we'll be welcoming another 40 or so people to join us for the Sussex Energy launch and would appreciate your presence in the meeting.

4 SUSSEX ENERGY MISSION

- 4.1 Catherine Howe (Chief Executive: Adur District & Worthing Borough Councils) introduced the report to the board.
- 4.2 The chair invited the board to vote on the report.
- Vote
- 4.3 A vote was taken, and the board agreed the recommendations unanimously.

Resolved:

- 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

5 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS 2024-25 AND ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1 Natasha Bridge (Business Manager: Greater Brighton Economic Board) introduced the report to the board.
- 4.2 The chair invited the board to vote on the report.
- Vote
- 4.3 A vote was taken, and the board agreed the recommendations unanimously.

Resolved:

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.

Subject:	Sussex Energy Update		
Date of Meeting:	16 October 2024		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Natasha Bridge	Tel: 07808 572262
	Email:	Natasha.Bridge@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 On 16th July 2024 the Greater Brighton Economic Board (“the Board”) supported the launch of the Sussex Energy mission.
- 1.2 This report gives a Sussex Energy update, 3 months on from the launch of the mission.

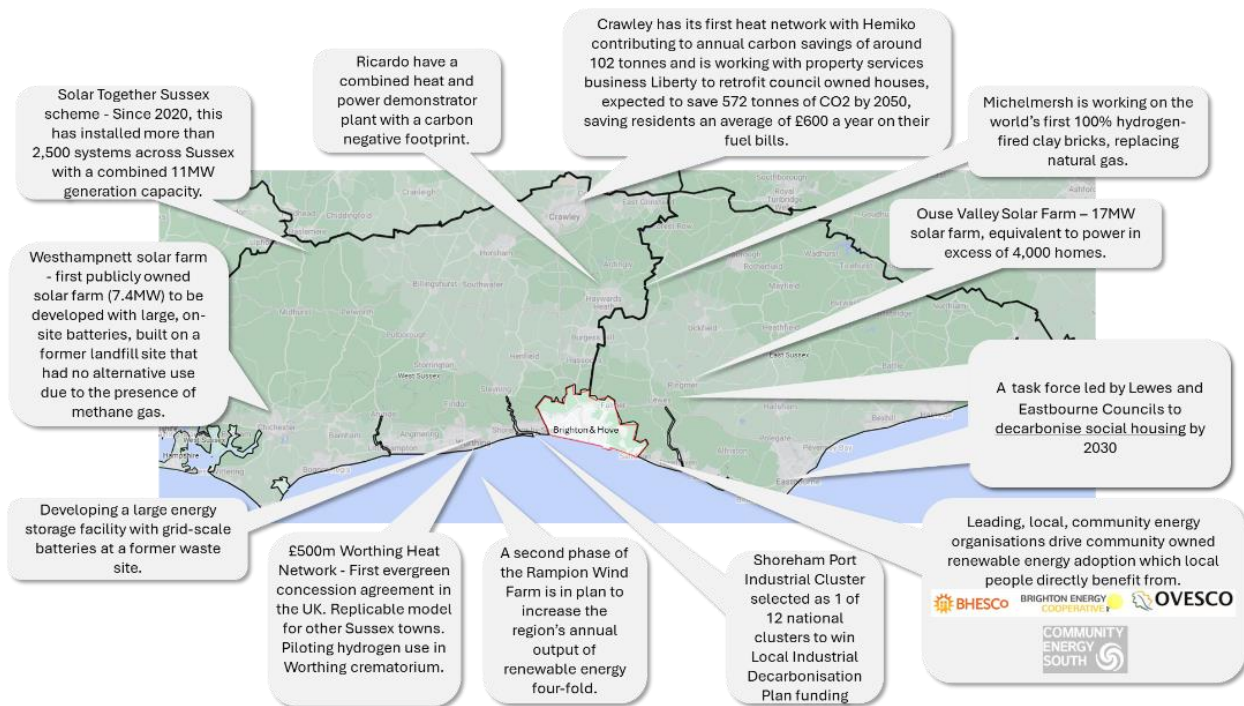
2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the progress on Sussex Energy since the launch.
- 2.2 That the Board supports the next steps needed to take Sussex Energy forward: Formalising a network of collaborators and working with them to prepare a bid for funding to build capacity.
- 2.3 That the Board agrees to receive a further update on Sussex Energy at the March 2025 Board meeting.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Sussex Energy aims to achieve net zero energy status by 2040. This ambitious goal seeks to ensure that our community's energy use equals the amount of zero-carbon energy generated locally, thereby enhancing energy security, driving down energy bills and addressing urgent climate concerns, at the same time as driving economic growth.
- 3.2 The current energy demand for Sussex is 14 times more than the current supply from renewable sources, with a gap of ~25 TWh/yr. Assuming Rampion 2 goes ahead and that new, more energy efficient technologies are adopted, this gap decreases to ~5 TWh/yr. To give an idea of the scale of this metric, it equates to ~770 large turbines. Local community energy organisations estimate to fulfil ~1% of this gap with their pipeline.

3.3 Sussex Energy is a current priority of the Board. The Board is using its convening powers and influence to drive transformational change through this mission across the region. Sussex has a strong record of energy work, some of it is highlighted in the visual below:



3.4 The launch event was held on 16th July 2024 at Crawley College. This was a success with over 60 attendees from over 35 organisations. There was positive press coverage of the event (see this [news article](#)) and 3.6k views of the agenda on an X post.

3.5 In early August, a meeting was held to discuss funding and capacity for Sussex Energy with the conversation progressing in September. Some of the key messages to come from the discussion:

- i. The importance of identifying and securing **diverse funding sources** i.e. public sector, private investment, community ownership, explore monetising energy solutions.
- ii. **Procurement** can be used to shape the market and develop supply chains by aggregating demand for bulk procurement. Sussex Energy should explore leveraging existing procurement frameworks.
- iii. The Board is hosting and incubating the Sussex Energy collaboration. **Core capacity** requirements:
 - a. Structure:
 - i. Network of collaborators: Partners playing active role to contribute to the Sussex Energy mission meet regularly to share challenges and shape direction.
 - ii. Core team (need funding to establish this): Kick start the work by accelerating a bid pipeline and provide expertise to fuel projects. E.g. data analysis, project assembly, proposition development, bid writing, building relationships, reviewing challenges to current projects to try and ease them, collate information about existing energy work and engage with local

leadership / MPs to socialise this with government / investors, spatial mapping (including where / when energy demand is) to identify where potential solutions would be beneficial, reviewing local area energy plans, etc.

- iii. Working groups: Groups of experts focused on different themes (energy production, energy reduction, skills and jobs) to provide expertise to steer Sussex Energy. Members of the network of collaborators and core team would link into each of the working groups.

3.6 Awareness and relationships are being built to support Sussex Energy. For example:

- i. **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero:** Initial engagement highlighting the region's track record in energy innovation and opportunities for growth.
- ii. **West Sussex County Council:** Initial conversations being held with intent to identify areas of commonalities, areas of focus and to explore the business case for partnering.
- iii. **NHS Sussex:** The Sussex Energy mission dovetails with the 'Net Zero' National Health Service targets and they are keen to explore collaborative solutions to advance their goals. They are also interested in becoming a Board member which would strengthen this working relationship.
- iv. **Rampion:** Held initial discussions with key members of the Rampion team. Depending on time commitments they will be able to support as Subject Matter Experts (e.g. engineering expertise, working with system operators).
- v. **Community Energy Organisations:** In addition to the umbrella community Energy organisation (Community Energy South) being involved in meetings, establishing working relationships with local, community energy organisations.
- vi. **Local Authorities:** Establishing contacts with key teams in local authorities to lay the foundation for successful future working.
- vii. **External Organisations** with useful resources / support / channels E.g. UKPN Net Zero Team, UK100.

3.7 Next steps:

- i. October – November 2024: Formalise a regular meeting of Sussex Energy network of collaborators.
- ii. October – November 2024: Develop bid with key collaborators for funding to build capacity to fuel a pipeline of projects with funding / expertise.
 - a. A government funded Investment Readiness Fund is in development (not yet launched) with grants for development/design work, but not for Capital projects. This is being seen as a potential fund to target to pay for the additional capacity. After the budget announcement there is an expectation that more funding would become available to bid for which would hopefully provide other options.
 - b. The Sussex Energy network of collaborators would help shape this bid.
 - c. Sussex Energy would be targeting £250k to fund:
 - 1. Technical expertise: Familiar with designing/implementing energy solutions.

2. Economic expertise: Experienced at making projects economically attractive (e.g. with commercial models, awareness of funding, etc) to build the right kind of growth.
3. Community energy organisation expertise: Someone from a community energy organisation who is familiar with their work, the challenges, contacts etc.
- d. The £50k from GBEB agreed in July 2024 would be included in the bid to strengthen it.
- e. The extra capacity would be doing the following sorts of tasks:
 1. Bid writing (to provide funding for Sussex Energy projects).
 2. Data analysis
 3. Engage key stakeholders to tackle common challenges to accelerate project implementation (e.g. UKPN, planning, etc.).
 4. Develop a project assessment framework (to assess the various existing projects/opportunities to identify which would be most beneficial for Sussex Energy to support).
 5. Project assembly
 6. Project delivery
- iii. When there is visibility of the timeline of funding opportunities, a Sussex Energy roadmap can be developed.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Board could provide funding directly for projects, but the impact would be far less than incubating collaborative working to attract funding into the region for energy solutions, culminating in the implementation of scaled solutions which could make a large impact to the UK net zero goals. The new Government has highlighted decarbonisation of energy as a priority with aims to transition to a zero-carbon electricity system by 2030, create 650,000 new jobs by 2030 through investment in clean energy and infrastructure and install thousands of clean power projects which local people directly benefit from. This direction confirms the right approach is an ambitious goal.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Community engagement is an important principle to Sussex Energy. The approach will vary depending on the proposed energy solution, from consulting the community, offering community ownership options to enabling communities to implement their own solutions. Community engagement options will be different for each working group / project but will be considered and prioritised.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Board is asked to agree the recommendations 2.1-2.3, which will mean the work to operationalise Sussex Energy will continue.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. From the July 2024 Sussex Energy report, a total of £100,000 was agreed to be set aside from the Greater Brighton Economic Board Operational Budget to support the working groups in delivering the net zero energy status by 2040. £50,000 of initial funding would be met from the 2024/25 Operational Budget. The current ambition is to include this in a funding bid to strengthen it. A further £50,000 is committed in 2025/26.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Haley Woollard, Head of Finance, Planning & Reporting
Date: 04/10/24*

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

*Lawyer Consulted: Siobhan Fry, Head of Legal, Commercial
Date: 08/10/24*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Sussex Energy is aiming ensure that the benefits of the transition to net zero energy will be shared across the City Region, whilst addressing fuel poverty.

Sustainability Implications

- 7.4 The driving force behind Sussex Energy is to reduce carbon emissions and accelerate the journey to net zero, which will help protect the environment, enhance natural capital, limit the effects 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.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Subject:	NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board – Invitation to join the Greater Brighton Economic Board		
Date of Meeting:	16 October 2024		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Andy Hill	Tel: 01273 291873
	Email:	Andy.Hill@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board (“the Board”) was established in 2014 as part of the Greater Brighton City Region Deal with Government.
- 1.2 The Board comprises the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (“GBEJC”), on which the local authorities are represented; and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership (“GBBP”), on which the business, university and further education sectors, and South Downs National Park Authority are represented. Meetings of the Board comprise concurrent meetings of GBEJC and GBBP.
- 1.3 The Integrated Care System that covers Sussex (NHS Sussex) is responsible for healthcare for 1.7 million people across Sussex. It employs 50,000 staff with the largest components being the 20,000 employees at University Hospitals Sussex and 8,000 at East Sussex Healthcare. The NHS in Sussex has an asset base that covers 236 GP Practices, 9 acute sites, and around 14 other sites. The NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) has 850 employees, and commissions the services for NHS Sussex health care providers. It currently has contracts with 267 individual providers making the organisation a big driver of economic growth in the area, both with the number of people it employs and the amount it spends on procurement within the region. The ICB has expressed an interest in becoming a formal member of the Board, which would broaden the geographical reach of the Board to all of Sussex.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board agrees to formally invite the NHS Sussex ICB to become a constituent member of the Board, joining the GBBP subject to both their agreement and formal ratification from the Board’s member organisations.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The following bodies are the current members of the Board:
 - i. Adur District Council
 - ii. Arun District Council

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

- 3.2 The GBEJC comprises the bodies specified in paragraphs 3.1(i) to (vii); and GBBP comprises the bodies specified in paragraphs 3.1(viii) to (xiii).
- 3.3 Board membership has been extended twice since the Board's inception; Crawley Borough Council and Arun District Council joined the GBEJC in February 2018 and in October 2019 respectively.
- 3.4 The NHS Sussex ICB attended the Board meeting as observers on 16 July 2024 and have written a letter to the Chair formally requesting to join the Board.
- 3.5 When considering the request by Crawley to join the Board in 2018, it was agreed that the Board should adopt a fair and consistent approach to organisations that express an interest in joining, and for proposed new members consideration would need to be given to the following five questions;
- i. Does the organisation buy into the Board's agreed vision and priorities?
 - ii. Do they share economic characteristics and represent the Greater Brighton functional economic area?
 - iii. Do they add capacity to help the Board deliver on its agreed vision and priorities?
 - iv. Will they add to the Board's reputation, in terms of legitimacy, standing and reach?
 - v. Are they going to actively participate and commit resource to supporting the Board and deliver the work programme?

This methodology was also employed with regards Arun District Council's request to join in 2019.

- 3.7 The Board is asked to extend its membership; formally inviting the NHS Sussex ICB to become a constituent member of the GBBP. This is subject to the approval of NHS Sussex ICB. It would also trigger a variance in the Board's Heads of Terms (see Appendix 1) that will require the formal ratification of all Joint Committee members.
- 3.8 Some points for consideration are summarised below;

Does the organisation buy into the Board's agreed vision and priorities?

- 3.8.1 Inclusive growth is a priority for the Board. Whilst it is acknowledged that Sussex is a relatively affluent region based on many economic metrics, there exist pockets of significant deprivation, particularly along the coast. People living in deprived circumstances may experience poor quality housing, low incomes, a lack of access to good food and places to exercise, and a sense of social isolation. These factors often have a negative influence on people's health choices and outcomes, with smoking, alcohol misuse, obesity and poor mental health more likely. This, in turn, increases the risk of them developing long term conditions which reduces their life expectancy, and this can also place demand on health and social care services.
- 3.8.2 NHS Sussex has identified that 75% of deaths and disability across Sussex are influenced by health inequalities. The links between inequality, health, productivity and inclusive growth are clear – a healthy population is more productive and able to enjoy the benefits associated with growth. By working closely with NHS Sussex ICB and wider health partners, the Board can better address the challenge associated with health inequality and create the conditions where more residents can benefit from inclusive growth.
- 3.8.3 Air Pollution has been identified as the largest single environmental risk factor in the UK; it is associated with 28,000-36,000 premature deaths annually, and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in society. Estimates of the costs of air pollution impacts to human health in the UK are in the region of £20 billion per year. With around 4-5% of the country's carbon emissions and an increasing burden on the health of communities from climate change, the NHS has an essential role to play in meeting the Net Zero targets set under the 2008 Climate Change Act.
- 3.8.4 Delivering a "Net Zero" National Health Service sets out two targets for the NHS;
- Net zero by 2040 for directly controlled emissions (NHS Carbon Footprint), with an 80% reduction by 2028-32.
 - Net zero by 2045 for the emissions the NHS can influence but not directly control (NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), with an 80% reduction by 2036-39.
- 3.8.5 The Health and Social Care Act 2022 places duties on NHS England (NHSE), and all Trusts, Foundation Trusts, and Integrated Care Boards to contribute towards these emissions reductions, climate adaptation and wider environmental targets. Decarbonising buildings is a key component of the net zero transition, with 10% of the NHS's carbon footprint coming from building energy. Grid decarbonisation has contributed towards reduced emissions for the NHS, but NHS organisations must urgently take action to improve building fabric, optimise heating and lighting efficiency and replace existing fossil fuel heating systems.
- 3.8.6 The Board has recently agreed to use its convening powers and influence to drive transformational change across the region in the form of Sussex Energy, a mission for Sussex to achieve net zero energy status by 2040. This ambitious goal seeks to ensure that our community's energy use equals the zero-carbon energy generated locally, thereby enhancing energy security, driving down energy bills and addressing urgent climate concerns, at the same time as driving economic growth.

3.8.7 The Sussex Energy mission dovetails with the 'Net Zero' National Health Service targets. NHS Sussex has a high energy consuming infrastructure, across the whole region, making them a key anchor partner for scaled energy solutions.

Do they share economic characteristics and represent the Greater Brighton functional economic area?

3.8.8 As outlined in 3.8.6 above, the Sussex Energy Mission, launched by the Board in July, will require the Board to engage with stakeholders and develop partnerships across the Sussex region, so having NHS Sussex ICB as a Board member with a Sussex wide footprint will help build these relationships. The broadening of the membership to one with a wider geography is relevant and timely.

3.8.9 Furthermore, in line with the new Government's ambitions around devolution, discussions have been taking place around what a sensible devolution geography looks like in this region. Devolution is a collaborative process, and any credible move towards a devolution settlement would need to involve regional stakeholders and influencers such as NHS Sussex.

Will they add to the Board's reputation, in terms of legitimacy, standing and reach?

3.8.10 The inclusion of NHS Sussex ICB would be an asset to the Board. The ICB is a major economic actor in Sussex. It allocates a £3.6bn annual NHS budget, commissions services for the 1.7 million people across Sussex and supports the delivery of the system's five-year health and care strategy: Improving Lives Together. In its capacity as commissioner of NHS services, the ICB is able to work with wider NHS partners across Sussex e.g. the NHS Trusts, Health & Wellbeing Boards, Primary Care Networks etc.

3.8.11 NHS Sussex ICB is a statutory member of the Sussex Health and Care System. The Sussex Health and Care Assembly, as a statutory joint committee between the NHS and local government (NHS Sussex, Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council), comes together to formally agree the strategic direction for the health and care system. Its core purpose is to agree the strategic direction and facilitate joint action across a broad alliance of organisations to improve the outcomes, equality of access and patient experience of health and care services for all communities across Sussex. The Assembly has specific responsibility to develop Improving Lives Together, for its whole population using the best available evidence and data, covering health and social care, and addressing health inequalities and the wider determinants which drive these inequalities.

3.8.12 The Sussex wide footprint of an organisation that touches so many people's lives makes NHS Sussex an important influencer with many partnerships which will be instrumental to spread the Board's ambitions.

Are they going to actively participate and commit resource to supporting the Board and deliver the work programme?

3.8.13 The ICB has an established Care Without Carbon team supporting experts by experience across all NHS organisations. The Team is building a good track record

of securing high levels of investment and delivering large scale low carbon energy projects. To further advance its net zero objectives, the NHS Sussex ICB is forming active partnerships with wider public sector partners. The Board provides the NHS with a fantastic opportunity to work alongside public sector partners to actively communicate the importance of the energy mission in improving population health; to build resilience in energy supply by leveraging solar, wind, hydro, and other sustainable technologies; and to work together to support a reduction in the overall public sector estate footprint through better support for local communities. Having a Sussex-wide footprint and a large number of assets provide significant anchor tenant potential and community reach, as in the case of the Worthing Heat Network, where NHS Sussex is a key anchor tenant and is working with Worthing Borough Council and other partners to deliver this transformational work programme.

3.8.14 The NHS Sussex ICB are also supporting work on the emerging City Food Strategy Action Plan 2025-30, which is being developed by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and will feed into the wider Greater Brighton Integrated Food Systems Plan.

Do they add capacity to help the Board deliver on its agreed vision and priorities?

3.8.15 By pulling together the resources of current Board Members, the ICB and wider NHS partners, there will be access to a larger pool of experience and expertise which will extend the range of solutions available. There will be greater leverage of DNOs and other suppliers through stronger collective purchasing power. By working together, across a wider geography, there will be opportunities to optimise the use of a vast public sector estate. There is opportunity to take a joined-up approach in engaging local communities to embrace sustainability and create local wealth.

Governance

3.8.16 NHS Sussex ICB attended the July Board meeting and Sussex Energy Launch as an observer. They have nominated a prospective representative to sit on the Board as well as a deputy and have also nominated a member of the Team to sit on the Programme Board. NHS Sussex ICB have also attended recent Sussex Energy meetings so are already participating in and adding value to the Board's work.

4 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 The alternative would be for the membership to remain as it is currently, but for the reasons outlined in 3.8.1-3.8.16, the recommendation is that NHS Sussex ICB should be formally invited to join the Board.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 The governance committees of constituent Board members will be consulted as part of the changes to Heads of Terms.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Board is asked to note the benefits of NHS Sussex ICB joining the Board and accordingly approve the extension in membership; formally inviting the ICB to become a constituent member of the Business Partnership. Changing the Board's membership will trigger a variance in the Board's Heads of Terms that will require the formal ratification of all Joint Committee members.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 In joining the Greater Brighton Economic Board, NHS Sussex ICB will be required to make a budgetary contribution towards operational costs in line with other Business Partners as agreed within the Operational Arrangements 2024/25 at the Board meeting on 16 July 2024.

Finance Officer Consulted: Haley Woollard, Head of Finance, Planning & Reporting

Date: 08/10/24

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The legal implications in relation to the recommendations are contained within the body of this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Siobhan Fry, Head of Legal, Commercial

Date: 08/10/24

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The NHS Sussex ICB and wider NHS organisations are committed to reducing health inequalities. By working closely with NHS Sussex ICB and wider health partners, the Board can better address the challenge associated with health inequality and create the conditions where more residents can benefit from inclusive growth.

Sustainability Implications

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications directly related to this report. However, both the Board and NHS Sussex ICB have ambitious targets associated with net zero, and this will be a strong feature of the future work programme.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Greater Brighton Economic Board Heads of Terms

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 joint 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.

Subject:	Devolution		
Date of Meeting:	16 October 2024		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Andy Hill	Tel: 01273 291873
	Email:	Andy.Hill@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 The Labour Government has set a clear ambition for devolution to reach every part of the country to support local growth. It is expected that the Government will publish a Devolution white paper later in the autumn setting out a revised Devolution Framework, including new powers and flexibilities available, and the kind of services that could be devolved in a devolution settlement. This will be followed next year by primary legislation in the form of a Devolution Bill.
- 1.2 The Government wants to avoid the situation where some areas are left as “devolution deserts”, so in July the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government invited local leaders to submit a devolution expression of interest (EOI) by end of September. This invitation from Government presents an opportunity for regions to gain greater control over economic, social and environmental outcomes for their residents, enabling tailored solutions that meet local needs more effectively than the current centralised system.
- 1.3 The Government’s continued view is that new devolution settlements should be tailored to sensible economic geographies so that local leaders can act at the scale needed to effectively deploy their powers. To that end discussions have gone on across Sussex between local authorities. Discussions in East Sussex have predominantly been led by East Sussex County with Districts and Boroughs in their County footprint; with a similar approach in West Sussex. Brighton and Hove is in a slightly different position from the Counties as the City population size is below the threshold for a single authority deal. Brighton and Hove have looked at the data and evidence base for sensible economic geographies across the region and engaged in discussions across Sussex local authorities (Districts, Boroughs and Counties) around what a sensible devolution footprint looks like in this region. These discussions have shaped the EOI submitted by Brighton & Hove City Council (Appendix 1) and letter to the Secretary of State (Appendix 2).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the EOI that has been submitted to Government by Brighton & Hove City Council.

- 2.2 That the Board notes that East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council have also submitted EOIs to the Secretary of State.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Sussex is home to 1,705,800 residents and 74,000 PAYE/VAT-registered businesses. It is connected to Europe and beyond by major international gateways including the UK's second largest airport and the ports of Shoreham and Newhaven. Sussex hosts three leading universities and the unique quality of life offer includes a beautiful coastline, the South Downs National Park and several other areas of outstanding natural beauty. The area has so much to offer but has not yet reached its potential.
- 3.2 Whilst the region boasts high levels of economic prosperity based on some economic metrics, these can mask the true picture. The most recent figures published for Gross value added (GVA) per head see the Sussex region (£23,452), as lagging behind the wider southeast (£29,415) and England (£28,096). There exist significant regional disparities, with multiple pockets of deprivation and unmet potential.
- 3.3 There are well-established transport links, including major roads the A23 and A27, and rail connections like the Brighton Mainline, which are crucial for regional connectivity. However, there is scope for improvement, particularly in reducing congestion and improving public transport frequency to reduce commute times and further environmental objectives. The region would benefit from investment in transport infrastructure, particularly across east-west corridors such as the A27-M27/West Coastway Line and A259/East Coastway Line. These challenges in connectivity hinder inclusive growth. Enhancing transport links would improve connectivity between coastal towns, support business growth, and widen access to job opportunities.
- 3.4 The above indicates a strong potential case for devolution so that local leaders are empowered to drive transformational change in their communities. Devolution can transform the known challenges into opportunities, enhancing collaboration to generate inclusive growth. By uniting efforts on growth, housing, skills, and health, devolution can spark innovation, boost productivity, create better jobs, improve services and address deep-seated inequalities.
- 3.5 A recent publication from the Institute for Government expressed the view that there is significant economic and social benefit to gain from a "Historic Sussex" devolution deal, which would bring together East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The argument put forward by the authors is that it achieves significant scale with a population of 1.7 million people and an economy of £48.7bn. It also reflects the economic geography of the region, in terms of the key travel to work and travel to learn commuter flows. On identity grounds it would align to earlier historic county boundaries, and it would also align well to both NHS Integrated Care Board and police force areas. The report acknowledges the established geographies and existing partnerships in East and West Sussex, and both County Councils have submitted their own EOIs to the Secretary of State based on those recognised geographies. We also know previously that consideration has been given to whether East Sussex should look to Kent and whether West Sussex should look to Surrey.

- 3.6 There is a need for local authorities and wider partners to work together to build a consensus around a devolution proposal that would deliver the maximum benefits for the residents of the region. The region presents a diverse business base, significant growth potential, and a strong case for investment, in areas such as skills, transport and housing, to enable the benefits of growth to be more inclusive. By working collaboratively with Government partners to explore these options further, a devolution settlement can be developed that maximises local autonomy, accountability, and impact.

4 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 There is the option to “do nothing”, in terms of progressing devolution, but the Government is clear in that it wants all regions to engage with them on local devolution ambitions with a view of agreeing a devolution deal. Without a devolution deal the region is likely to be left behind.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Devolution is a collaborative process, it requires join up and partnership across local government and clear citizen engagement. Any approach will require engagement with our public sector institutions including the NHS, Police and Fire Authorities, and our strategic businesses, further and higher education providers and other key local organisations, at the earliest opportunity, inviting them to inform and shape the process.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Devolving powers to local regions presents an opportunity to drive significant economic and social benefits. By collaborating across local government institutions, wider public sector organisations, and strategic business partners to shape a devolution deal, the region stands to gain enhanced financial resources, improved infrastructure, greater strategic control, and the ability to deliver more responsive and integrated public services.
- 6.2 Understanding the optimal geography and governance arrangements for any devolution agreement requires further detail on the powers, responsibilities, and resources that Government intends to devolve. This is likely to become clearer when Government publishes the revised Devolution Framework.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any future financial implications that arise as a result of any progression of discussions regarding devolution will be assessed and reported back to future board meetings.

Finance Officer Consulted: Haley Woollard, Head of Finance, Planning & Reporting
Date: 08/10/24

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no direct legal implications for submitting an EOI.
Lawyer Consulted: Siobhan Fry, Head of Legal, Commercial
Date: 7/10/24

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report. However, any potential devolution agreement will have reducing inequality as one of its aims, and greater local control will mean that policies can be shaped to address inequalities.

Sustainability Implications

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Devolution EOI submitted by Brighton & Hove City Council

Appendix 2: Supporting letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Background Documents:

[Completing the map: How the government can extend devolution to the whole of England, Institute For Government, September 2024.](#)

Devolution Deal EOI

Preferred Geography (Upper-tier local authorities in the area)	<p>We have and continue to engage widely with Local Authorities across Sussex and want to work with them going forward on a shared vision for devolution.</p> <p>Our preferred geography is Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex. We believe this footprint would meet the ambitions of devolution: a sizeable and sensible economic geography with a cohesive identity.</p> <p>Devolution discussions must also include key partners in Sussex Police, East and West Sussex Fire Authorities, our three Universities (Brighton, Sussex and Chichester), Sussex ICS and the diverse range of strategic businesses forming the functional economic areas of Sussex. We know that convening these stakeholders and partners will be key to a successful devolution solution for Sussex.</p>
Initial Preference on Mayoral/Non-mayoral devolution	<p>We recognise that the current levels of devolution and governance models are subject to change pending the publication of the government’s new framework.</p> <p>We are open to discussions on evolving these models to better fit local needs and priorities, ensuring that any new arrangements are effective, inclusive, and tailored to the unique context of Brighton & Hove and the wider Sussex region, while ensuring strong devolution of power and authority to drive economic growth across Sussex.</p> <p>We look forward to working collaboratively with government partners to explore these options further and develop a devolution deal that maximises local autonomy, accountability, and impact.</p>
Contact Details (Political and officer level)	<p>Bella Sankey Leader Brighton and Hove City Council Tel: 07720165691 Email: bella.sankey@brighton-hove.gov.uk</p> <p>Alex Voce Strategic Advisor to the Leader & Cabinet Brighton & Hove City Council Tel: 07591 988 226 Email: alex.voce@brighton-hove.gov.uk</p>

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
By Email: psangelarayner@communities.gov.uk

Date: 30 September 2024
Phone: 0720 165691
E-mail: bella.sankey@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter and invitation to submit an expression of interest in a devolution deal. I am delighted to be responding on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council and with the support of a number of councils across Sussex, who are co-signatories of this letter.

Sussex has so much potential. We are proudly home to a beautiful coastline and national park, three leading universities, a Premier League football team and international gateways including the UK's second largest airport in Gatwick, and the ports of Shoreham and Newhaven. The total population of Sussex is 1,705,800 and as a region we welcome over 60 million visitors each year. We have so much to offer but have not yet reached our potential.

Despite our relative prosperity, there are significant regional disparities, with pockets of deprivation and unmet potential. Devolution has the potential to turn these challenges into opportunities, and support collaboration to drive economic and social benefits. We are therefore excited by the government's commitment to go further with devolution and recognise the real opportunity this presents for us to deliver change for our residents.

As you will see from the enclosed Expression of Interest, at this stage we remain open to the preferred geography of devolution for Sussex and are committed to working together as more details emerge from government. For now, we indicate our strong support in the principle of a devolution deal for Sussex and look forward to opening discussions with government on evolving a model to better fit local needs and priorities, ensuring that any new arrangements are effective, inclusive, and tailored to the unique context of Sussex.

We are keen that our approach to devolution will be resident-led, and we will be engaging residents, businesses and local organisations, at the earliest opportunity, inviting them to inform and shape the process.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you to explore these options further and develop a devolution deal that maximizes local autonomy, accountability, and impact.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Bella Sankey
Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council
Councillor for Wish Ward



Councillor Martin Boffey
Leader of Horsham District Council
Councillor for Trafalgar Ward



Councillor Sophie Cox
Leader of Worthing Borough Council
Labour Councillor for Castle Ward



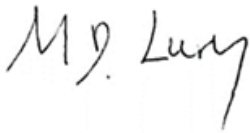
Councillor Robert Eggleston
Leader Mid Sussex District Council
Member for Meeds & Hammonds Ward – Burgess Hill



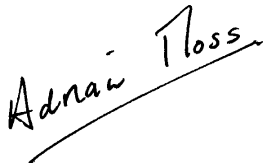
Councillor Jeremy Gardner
Leader of Adur District Council
Councillor for St Mary's Ward



Councillor Michael Jones
Leader of Crawley Borough Council
Councillor for Bewbush & North Broadfield Ward



Councillor Martin Lury
Leader of Arun District Council
Councillor for Bersted Ward



Councillor Adrian Moss
Leader of the Chichester District Council
Councillor Harbour Villages Ward

