



Greater Brighton Economic Board

28 January 2025
10.00am

Meeting Room 209/10, Marine Workshops, Newhaven, BN9 0ER

AGENDA

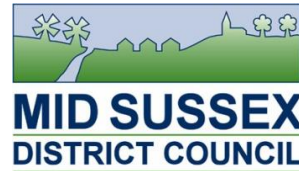
Members:	Councillors: Sankey (Chair), Cox, Eggleston, Jones, Nicholson, Gardner and Lury Business Partners: Tim Slaney, Prof Rusi Jaspal, Prof. Debbie Keeling, Dean Orgill, Dan Power and Andrew Swayne
Contact:	Francis Mitchell Democratic Services Officer 01273 294183 Francis.Mitchell@brighton-hove.gov.uk



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS



Lewes District Council



University of Brighton



University of Sussex



Chichester
College
Group

AGENDA

PART ONE

Page

12 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.

13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 10

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16.10.2024.

14 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

15 ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER TO THE BOARD

11 - 26

16 SUSSEX ENERGY UPDATE

27 - 32

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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 - Monday, 20 January 2025

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10am 16 OCTOBER 2024

QEII MEETING ROOM, THE SHOREHAM CENTRE

MINUTES

Present:

Councillors: Bella Sankey (Chair), Sophie Cox, Jeremy Gardner, Ty Goddard, Francis Mitchell, Natasha Bridge, Andy Hill, Rachael Harding, Peter Sharp Catherine Howe, Sophie Cox, Jess Gibbons, Andrew Swayne, Debbie Keeley, Dean Orgill, Carl Roberts, Martin Lewry, Amy Galea, Sue Bannister, Ian Fitzpatrick,

PART ONE

6 – Procedural Business

Apologies: Zoe Nicholson, Michael Jones, Robert Eggleston

a) **Declaration of Substitutes**

There were no substitutes

b) **Declarations of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

c) **Exclusion of press and public**

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

7 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

7.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as correct record.

8 – Chair's Communications

8.1 Councillor Sankey shared the following communications:

8.2 Our board launched the Sussex energy mission in July. It was so positive to see so many organizations from right across Sussex at that event, which, obviously came straight after our board meeting of July, and committing their support to our ambition for Sussex to be energy neutral by 2040.

8.3 The paper presented to the board today outlines the progress made since that launch and sets out the next steps required to take this really crucial program of

work forward, and I look forward to discussing it further this morning.

- 8.4 Also, on our agenda today, NHS Sussex ICB are one of the many wider stakeholders that have helped shape our Sussex energy mission so far. However, whilst their support and commitment to this work will continue, the ICB are keen to more formally support the work of this board. To that end they wrote to me in my capacity as chair to request that they become a formal member of the business partnership. The paper for consideration today sets out the rationale for the ICB joining the board and Amy Galea and Dominic Emmet are here to present to us later on this morning.
- 8.5 The paper on devolution sets out what has occurred in the devolution space since we last met in July. I think it's fair to say that broad consensus is that in line with other areas that have already had a devolution settlement in this country, The government's renewed commitments to devolution presents an opportunity for our region. We all understand and agree that there is a need to move forwards, or risk being left behind. The initial conversations that have taken place across Sussex are about how best to explore that opportunity. There is an understanding that we need to know more from government around their vision for devolution in England, and so we're very much looking forward to seeing a revised framework for devolution and a movement towards the devolution bill and hopefully we'll see more information from government before the end of this year.
- 8.6 In July, the board agreed to contribute towards the costs of the living coast biosphere developing its new ten-year strategy and applying to UNESCO for redesignation for 2024-34. The living coast has been in existence since 2014, and every 10 years UNESCO requires biospheres to take stock of the work that has been delivered, consult all local stakeholders to shape in future strategy and apply for official renewal of the designation. Associated with redesignation includes consultancy fees and activities such as research, stakeholder engagement and communications. Biospheres receive no funding from UNESCO or national government, so this funding for the crucial work was sought from our partner bodies and other strategic stakeholders.
- 8.7 The final papers, including the forward looking 10-year plan was submitted last month in accordance with the hard deadline set by UNESCO, and we optimistically await the outcome, which is due in early 2025.
- 8.8 One final note from me before we get going and that is about the fact that our board support team have been working with colleagues in the department for business and trade to arrange a two-day visit for this region for their tech investment team. The tech investment team work with overseas investors to attract inward investment into the UK. This visit is scheduled for the 6th and 7th of

November, and I believe it's a great opportunity for us to showcase why this region is such a fantastic place for businesses, particularly tech businesses. The tech team's key technology of interest include AI, quantum, cyber security, semiconductors and telecoms, and the agenda for the visit in November has been framed accordingly. The first day will be hosted by the University of Sussex, it will feature lab tours and introductions to a number of emerging technologies, including quantum. Colleagues working in the wider technology ecosystem will be using case studies to highlight the importance of the support mechanisms and wider networks in our area. There will then be a networking session where the tech team will be able to engage with business in the AI sector, and on the second day, the team will be visiting businesses in Shoreham and Littlehampton. I believe this is a really exciting opportunity for the members of this board to demonstrate to government and indeed foreign investors, the opportunities that exist in our region and how we are very much open for business. So, I really look forward to working with colleagues more on that project.

9 – GBEB Sussex Energy Update

- 9.1 Natasha Bridge introduced the report to the board.
- 9.2 Andrew Swayne commended the foundations of the report and drew attention to additional challenges faced by the private and privately owned housing sectors. Andrew Swayne stated that they had been in conversation with Sussex Bay regarding carbon emissions from ports in the County.
- 9.3 Sophie Cox outlined the importance of including stakeholders that are not yet directly involved with the initiative.
- 9.4 The chair invited the board to vote on the report.

Vote

- 9.5 A vote was taken, and the board agreed the recommendations unanimously.

Resolved:

- 2.1 That the Board noted the progress on Sussex Energy since the launch.
- 2.2 That the Board supported 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 agreed to receive a further update on Sussex Energy at the March 2025 Board meeting.

10 – Admission of new member to the board

10.1 Andrew Hill introduced the report to the board.

10.2 Amy Galea of the ICB outlined the role of the ICB, highlighting a commitment to improve outcomes of the population's health, tackling inequalities, enhancing productivity & value for money, and supporting social and economic development.

10.3 Members of the board welcomed the ICB and stated their beliefs that the ICB would form a core component of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

10.4 The chair invited the board to vote on the report.

Vote

10.5 A vote was taken, and the board agreed the recommendations unanimously.

Resolved:

2.1 That the Board agreed 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.

11 - Devolution

11.1 Andrew Hill introduced the report to the board.

11.2 Members of the board welcomed the report, expressed enthusiasm for devolution in Sussex and suggested areas of specific focus including travel and road improvements on the A27. There was broad consensus of a pan-Sussex devolution deal, rather than merging with other counties.

11.3 The chair invited the board to vote on the report.

Vote

11.4 A vote was taken, and the board agreed the recommendations unanimously.

Resolved:

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.

Subject:	Admission of New Member to the Board		
Date of Meeting:	28 January 2025		
Report of:	Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Andy Hill	Tel: 07833 483293
	Email:	andy.hill@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
LA(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 On 11 July 2024, NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) wrote a letter to the Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board ("the Board") formally requesting to join the Board.
- 1.2 At the Greater Brighton Economic Board Meeting on 16 October 2024, a decision was agreed that NHS Sussex ICB should become a constituent member of the Board, joining the Greater Brighton Business Partnership (GBBP), subject to formal ratification from the Joint Committee members; Adur District Council, Arun District Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, Crawley Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Mid Sussex District Council and Worthing Borough Council.
- 1.3 Local authority Board Members have taken an individual decision to ratify NHS Sussex ICB joining the GBBP. Full details of these decisions can be found in Background Documents.
- 1.4 At Brighton & Hove City Council the decision to ratify NHS Sussex ICB's membership of the Board is tabled for Cabinet on Thursday 23 January, which is after the publication date for this paper. Likewise a decision will be taken by Crawley Borough Council on 22 January.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That subject to agreement from Crawley Borough Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, the Board officially approves that NHS Sussex ICB joins the GBBP.
- 2.2 That subject to recommendation 2.1 the Board agree to amend the Board's Heads of Terms at Appendix 1.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board was founded in April 2014 as part of the Greater Brighton City Region's City Deal with Government.

- 3.2 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 compromise concurrent meetings of GBEJC and GBBP.
- 3.3 The following bodies are 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
- 3.4 GBEJC comprises the bodies specified in paragraphs 3.3(i) to (vii); and GBBP comprises the bodies specified in paragraphs 3.3(viii) to (xii).
- 3.5 In July NHS Sussex ICB wrote a letter to the Chair formally requesting to join the Board and attended the Board meeting on 16 July as observers.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Extending the membership of the Board triggers a variance in the Board’s Heads of Terms that requires the formal ratification of all Joint Committee members. Each member needs to individually ratify the membership of proposed new members in accordance with their own internal committee processes.
- 3.8 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? Will they add to the Board’s reputation, in terms of legitimacy, standing and reach?
 - iv. 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. All of these questions were answered positively in the [paper ratifying the extension of its membership and formally inviting the NHS Sussex ICB to become a constituent member of the GBBP](#). This paper was considered by GBEB on 16 October 2024.

- 3.9 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 region, both with the number of people it employs and the amount it spends on procurement. 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.
- 3.10 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 An alternative would be for the membership to remain as it is currently, but for the reasons outlined above and in the paper reviewed by the Board on 16 October, the decision was made to extend the membership to NHS Sussex ICB.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Board was consulted on the request from NHS Sussex ICB to join the Board and took the decision to invite the NHS Sussex ICB to join the Board in July 2024.. The governance committees of constituent Board members have been consulted given the required change to the Heads of Terms as outlined in this report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Board is asked to approve that NHS Sussex ICB joins the GBBP. This is subject to formal agreement from Crawley Borough Council and Brighton & Hove City Council.

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 Corporate Finance & Deputy Chief Finance Officer
Date: 17/01/25

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:*
17/01/25

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.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Revised Heads of Terms for Greater Brighton Economic Board

Background Documents:

1. Ratification Decision by Adur District Council
2. Ratification Decision by Arun District Council
3. Ratification Decision by Brighton & Hove City Council
4. Ratification Decision by Crawley Borough Council
5. Ratification Decision by Lewes District Council
6. Ratification Decision by Mid Sussex District Council
7. Ratification Decision by Worthing Borough Council

Appendix 1: Heads of Terms for Greater Brighton Economic Board (October 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 falling 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
- xiv. NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board

- 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 (xiv).

- 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:	Sussex Energy Update
Date of Meeting:	28 January 2025
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Economic Board
Contact Officer:	Name: Natasha Bridge
	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 An update was provided in the October Board meeting highlighting the progress made since the launch event.
- 1.3 This report gives a further Sussex Energy update setting out the work undertaken since October and the next steps in developing the mission.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the progress on Sussex Energy. The key update is a Core Network of sustainability experts has been established (including representatives from the 3 upper tier authorities) to steer Sussex Energy.
- 2.2 That the Board notes this is a Sussex wide initiative, dependent on building good working relationships against a politically sensitive backdrop of devolution conversations.
- 2.3 That the Board supports the next steps needed to take Sussex Energy forward as set out in section 3.10.
- 2.4 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 This is a Sussex wide mission. There are existing Sussex wide, energy related, working relationships run by a mix of organisations (e.g. Sussex Solar Together, Hydrogen Sussex) connecting sub-groups of the energy sector. Similarly, there are also groups within geographies of Sussex (e.g. East Sussex County Council Climate Group, West Sussex Affordable Energy Partnership). These connections are a good foundation for Sussex Energy to build on. Knowledge of the existing collaboration structures and ongoing work needs to be kept in mind to avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of individual's time and effort. Sussex Energy working relationships are being built with individuals buying into the benefits of collaboration, and networks are being designed, in parallel with devolution conversations, making for a politically sensitive environment. The impact is that it takes time to build these relationships in a step-by-step manner.
- 3.3 For Sussex Energy to be successful, it is important it is co-created with organisations who are playing an active role in low carbon energy work. This will give the mission the best chance of being effective, prioritising the most needed outcomes, leveraging (and avoiding duplication of) the work of other projects / organisations and increase commitment to the mission. To enable this strong foundation for the mission, the focus has been on building a network of experts. A core network has been established to shape Sussex Energy. A Sussex Energy Forum is being proposed to be set up to engage a wider network.

Core Network

- 3.4 The first step to forming this has been engaging the sustainability leads within a core network of Local Authorities (including the 3 Sussex upper tier authorities). Meetings have been held in the last few months to establish this core group and distil the benefits of collaborating on Sussex Energy, and a regular meeting series is now in place involving sustainability individuals from other organisations too, including NHS Sussex and the Greater South East Net Zero Hub. At a high level the benefits of collaborating are:
- i. Sharing knowledge, experience and templates:
 - a. Leveraging best practice and solutions to save effort.
 - b. Using the power of the hive mind.
 - ii. Sharing solutions and services:
 - a. Sharing expert resources, benefitting from split cost and cross pollination of knowledge.
 - iii. Being greater than the sum of our parts:
 - a. Having one voice for external organisations to increase efficiency and problem-solving power.
 - b. Uniting on policies at scale to drive change.
 - iv. Using economies of scale to accelerate the energy transition:
 - a. Aggregating demand for products to both negotiate a better price for everyone.
 - b. Aggregating demand for a skill (e.g. a pipeline of retrofitting work) to attract / develop specialists due to the certainty a pipeline provides.
 - v. Developing scaled, collaborative solutions to transform the energy transition:
 - a. Generating interest of central government / private investors for funding and support by making the area known for it's energy work, for being joined up and successful at de-risking energy projects.

- b. Assessing the region strategically for where the best areas are for renewable energy, considering existing plans.
- 3.5 This group will expand to include other key organisations whilst keeping small enough to maintain momentum and enable sharing to effectively work together to steer the Sussex Energy programme development, helping to unlock opportunities and identify opportunities for scaling up and attracting funding.

Sussex Energy Forum

- 3.6 There has been engagement with a wider group of sustainability experts from all Sussex Local Authorities (e.g. contacts working on climate, social housing, council owned buildings, etc.), Universities, Community Energy Organisations, South Downs National Park Authority, businesses, etc. to make them aware of Sussex Energy, keep them updated on the progress and understand their perspectives and challenges.
- 3.7 To build this wider network, a Sussex Energy forum is proposed to allow ongoing engagement in a regular session as a way to showcase what different organisations are working on, discuss challenges, best practice and connect with external speakers to cross pollinate learning. This will enable input to the Sussex Energy programme development, ensuring that relevant activities are collated at the same time as building relationships and knowledge. This is inspired by the successful [Sussex Nature Partnership](#) which runs something similar and has been received positively.

3.8 Other Progress since October 2024

- i. A register of energy experience is being established with organisations filling in information about what they're working on currently, in the past and future ambitions and what skills/experience the individuals have. This will be used to a) help the network to connect effectively with the expertise they need and b) to identify working groups with expertise in different themes (energy production, energy use reduction, skills and jobs) for the core network to work with on programme development.
- ii. A meeting was organised by [Community Energy South](#) between community energy organisations and a Deputy Director from Great British Energy and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). The objective was to better understand how to scale up the work of community energy organisations (through GB Energy's Local Power Plan) by talking through the challenges of the sector. For example:
 - a. Co-ordination, leadership and direction needed to scale up community energy work.
 - b. Multi-year funding needed to give certainty to community energy work.
 - c. Landlords are not incentivised to make energy changes to their buildings because they do not benefit, the tenants do. This applies both to commercial landlords and the private rented sector where fuel poverty in low energy rated properties is an issue.
 - d. Community energy organisations need introductions and promotion. People don't know they exist / are dubious whether their offer is genuine because they are used to energy companies trying to make a huge profit so are looking for the hidden catch.

- e. Local authority procurement frameworks cause an administrative barrier to community energy organisation work.
 - f. The local authority discussion recognised that if organisations work independently, there is a limit on what can be done to decarbonise energy, but working together (for example through Sussex Energy) allows the ambition to be scaled up.
 - iii. An email newsletter has been created to maintain engagement with a broad cross-section of local authorities and other organisations of relevance (approx. 200 people). The first of these newsletters was issued in December 2024.
 - iv. Greater Brighton Officers presented at a [Brighton Chamber of Commerce event](#) on 15 January to increase awareness of the Sussex Energy mission, alongside the Head of Net Zero from Brighton & Hove City Council presenting the city council's recent [decarbonisation pathway](#) work.
- 3.9 The focus of Sussex Energy will continue with an emphasis on developing the network and the sharing culture. This will help to cement pan-Sussex working in the energy space and lay the groundwork to deepen partnerships. For the work requiring deeper partnerships, a key team will be needed to drive forward the programme – Technical expertise, economic expertise and community energy organisation expertise needed to do feasibility work, project selection/development, baselining, etc. This will require external funding to establish. The key team will need the support of working groups of experts so these would be set up around the same time.
- 3.10 Next steps:
- Sussex Energy Core Network & Forum**
- i. Jan – March 2025: Establish regular core network meetings.
 - ii. March – May 2025: Plan Sussex Energy forum schedule with proposed speakers, audience, resource sharing, etc.
 - iii. June – August 2025: Launch Sussex Energy forum to allow wider network to build relationships and share knowledge / expertise / challenges.
 - iv. Sept - Nov 2025: Establish working groups.
- Delivery**
- v. March – June 2025: Identify 'quick win' priorities to start Sussex Energy momentum, medium term and long-term priorities. Start progressing delivery of 'quick win' priorities, dependent on capacity, skills and an enabling political environment.
 - vi. June – Aug 2025: Confirm capacity and skills required for delivery of the priorities and identify funding to target.

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 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.

- 4.2 The Government's energy ambition confirms the right approach is an ambitious goal that the Sussex Energy mission aligns strongly with.
- 4.3 The Greater South East Net Zero Hub work with public sector organisations and their stakeholders to support the development and financing of local net zero projects to increase the number, scale and quality of projects. They will be part of the Sussex Energy Core Network and will support to progress Sussex Energy e.g. with their expertise and sector knowledge. However, they have limited resource and are covering large regions so are unable to deliver the scale or geographical focus of collaboration needed for Sussex Energy.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Community engagement is an important principle to Sussex Energy. The creation of the Sussex Energy email newsletter is an important step to building engagement across our communities.
- 5.2 The ongoing 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 2.1-2.4, 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. A further £50,000 committed in 2025/26.

Finance Officer Consulted: Haley Woollard, BHCC Head of Corporate Finance & Deputy Chief Finance Officer
Date: 17/01/25

Legal Implications:

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

Lawyer Consulted: Siobhan Fry
Date: 17/01/25

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