

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 19 JULY 2016

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, SHIP STREET, BRIGHTON

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors Humphreys (Chair), Morgan, Smith, Theobald and Wall

**Business Partners:** Peter Davies, Sue Dare, Prof. Humphris, Amanda Menahem, Dean Orgill, Andrew Swayne

### PART ONE

#### **1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

1.1 Alex Bailey read the following statement:

*“At its meeting on 19 April 2016, the Board agreed to a number of recommendations as to its Operating Principles, one being the process by which the Chair of the Board would be nominated for the 2016/17 term. Since the previous meeting, a confidential nomination and voting process was undertaken in accordance with that agreement Councillor Humphreys was nominated by fellow Board Members to the role of Chair of the Board for the 2016/17 municipal year”*

1.2 The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Humphreys as Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board for the 2015/16 municipal year.

1.3 The Chair thanked Board Members for their support for his appointment and his predecessor Councillor Parkin for his chairmanship in the 2015/16 year.

#### **2 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

##### **2a Declarations of substitutes**

2.1 Mike Herd was present as substitute for Prof. Davies.

2.2 Amanda Menahem was present as substitute for John A. Peel

##### **2b Declarations of interests**

2.3 There were none.

##### **2c Exclusion of the press and public**

2.4 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the Act”), the Board considered whether the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business on the grounds that it is likely in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during it, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act.

2.5 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded.

### **3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 April 2016 be approved and signed as the correct record.

3.2 As a matter arising, Councillor Theobald referred to paragraph 34.33 and enquired whether a response had been received to the Board’s letter to the 3SC’s.

3.3 Nick Hibberd stated that the matter was addressed in Item 6 of the meeting agenda and for the purpose of clarity, he would cover the issue at that point.

3.4 On behalf of Andrew Swayne, Alex Bailey asked if any update was available on the funding announcement detailed in paragraph 34.6 and if any further progress had been made on the City College campus redevelopment.

3.5 Phillip Carr stated there had been a delay due to the focus of central government being directed towards the implications of the recent European Union referendum result but he expected an announcement would be made in the near future.

3.6 In relation to the City College campus redevelopment, Sue Dare stated that an Area Review report would be published in the next week however, no update on the Growth Fund would be announced in the short-term due to the current political situation.

### **4 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

4.1 The Chair provided the following communication:

*“I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome Robert Cottrill to his first meeting of the Board.*

*I’d also like to welcome Karl Roberts the Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration from Arun Council to the meeting as observer”*

### **5 2015/16 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

5.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the achievements made in 2015/16 and the key areas of focus for the medium to long-term.

5.2 Amanda Menahem stated that she had found the wording on page 2 of the Annual Report overly negative toward existing traditional and coastal industries and that she

had concerns regarding the response leaders in those industries may have when the Report was published in the public domain.

- 5.3 Dean Orgill stated that he shared that view and noted the initiatives taken by C2C and the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership to support those sectors.
- 5.4 Peter Davies stated that page 5 of the Annual Report listed projects but did not provide detail on those projects and some had been omitted. Furthermore, there was an absence of the rationale behind why certain areas of the city region were being supported.
- 5.5 In reference to page 2 of the document, Nick Hibberd stated that the wording did appear unintentionally negative and adjustments would be made to the text to emphasise the need for diversification in the economy and the need to attract high value sectors to the region as well as support existing sectors. Nick Hibberd added that some projects had not been covered in the report as they had been detailed in the previous Annual Report and the emphasis of this document was what had been progressed through 2015/16.
- 5.6 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board approve the 2015/16 Annual Report.
  - 2) That the Board agree to the submission of the 2015/16 Annual Report to their respective organisations.

## **6 PROGRESS UPDATE ON GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, LOCAL GROWTH FUND ROUND 3 AND THE CITY REGION'S BID FOR DEVOLUTION**

- 6.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided an update on progress in relation to the Greater Brighton Investment Programme, Coast to Capital's Call for Growth Projects and the City Region's bid for devolution. The report covered the period between 20 April and 20 June 2016.
- 6.2 In relation to the query raised by Councillor Theobald at Item 3, Nick Hibberd clarified that whilst there had been no direct contact from the 3SC regarding the resolution taken by the Board in April, there had been much increased engagement with the 3SC at officer level, the Greater Brighton Region and 3SC had recently held a joint meeting with the Department for Transport (DfT) in relation to transport infrastructure and he had personally attended meetings of the 3SC Board and a member of the 3SC now attended GBEB Officer Programme Board meetings.
- 6.3 Sue Dare stated that she welcomed the appointment of Sarah Williams as the lead for the Skills strand and adding that she would welcome a specific update on skills relating to the Devolution bid.
- 6.4 Councillor Theobald noted that he would have welcomed a more formal response from the 3SC to the resolution taken by the Board in April. Councillor Theobald noted that the increasing possibility of a second runway at Gatwick Airport would have significant implications on transport in the City Region.

6.5 The Chair stated that he had attended a meeting of the 3SC the previous week and had neglected to raise the issue of a formal response but would do so in the near future.

6.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report.

## **7 ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME APPLICATION**

7.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided an overview of the One Public Estate Programme and its application process for membership and sought Board approval to enter into the next stage of the application process.

7.2 Andrew Swayne welcomed the report and provided his support in applying to a exciting programme that lined up with the objectives of the GBEB. Andrew extended his congratulations to colleagues for progressing the application so quickly and at short notice and asked if delegated authority would be provided to the Chief Executive for Brighton & Hove City Council.

7.3 Nick Hibberd stated that he would circulate the bid although the timescales for input ahead of submission were very tight. Nick Hibberd clarified that the bid would be signed off by himself, the Section 105 Officer, Alex Bailey and Councillor Humphreys in his capacity as Chair of the Board.

7.4 Councillor Morgan extended his support to apply for a programme that would deliver a joined up approach to public services in neighbourhoods and communities. Councillor Morgan added that it provided an opportunity to develop housing stock and infrastructure and help provide a much more efficient service.

### **7.5 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board give retrospective approval to the Greater Brighton OPE Expression of Interest.
- 2) That the Board nominate Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) to act as the lead authority; to be the main point of contact for the partnership in completing the final Service and Assets Delivery Plan and to be responsible for co-ordinating the activity delivered by the intended OPE partnership.
- 3) That the Board permit BHCC to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the OPE programme, which agrees funding for the next stage of the application process and commits to producing a final detailed Service and Assets Delivery Plan by 29 July 2016.
- 4) That the Board agree that £25,000 of the £50,000 capacity funding awarded for this stage of the application process be used to appoint a full-time consultant to establish the Greater Brighton Property Board and produce the City Region's final detailed Service and Assets Delivery Plan within the required timescale.

## **8 UPDATE ON SMART SPECIALISATION & INNOVATION STRATEGY**

- 8.1 The Board considered a presentation from Prof. Nightingale (University of Sussex) and Prof. Cowling (University of Brighton) that set out the Smart Specialisation approach and presented data specific to the Greater Brighton economic area as a case for how the approach may benefit the region.
- 8.2 Geoff Raw welcomed the work carried out that he had found very helpful and informative and asked the presenters whether they had a view about how the approach could apply to the City Region and what could be learned from other areas.
- 8.3 Prof. Cowling stated that the findings indicated the industries and people attracted to an area that in turn created a high value and high growth economy often desired a place rich in cultural attractions, a range of amenities and were content with a high rate of tax in return for good local services. The clear way that the public sector could invest would be to create the environment to attract such industries and people. Prof. Cowling added that the high value of property in the region, specifically in Brighton & Hove, would be a likely hindrance.
- 8.4 Mike Herd asked if any conclusions could be made from the analysis and research on the impact of Gatwick Airport in the City Region.
- 8.5 Prof. Nightingale replied that Gatwick Airport would form a later part of research but on the basis of anecdotal evidence, the key issue would be based upon how air transport services innovate and the specific impact of IT services to the wider economy.
- 8.6 Amanda Menahem asked if the key factors that attracted talent to a particular region would be identified in the final report.
- 8.7 Prof. Cowling confirmed that it would and these could be summarised as cheap housing, good schools, excellent transport networks, high standard of healthcare and diversity in the economy.
- 8.8 Councillor Smith asked if there were any immediate lessons Board Members could take away and adapt at local and regional level.
- 8.9 Prof. Nightingale stated that the key to Smart Specialisation was methodical planning and evaluation, in particular knowing when to stop a specific project if it was no longer effective and when to continue projects.
- 8.10 Geoff Raw stated that he believed a key aspect of public services moving forward would be the ability to unlock private sector investment as it was unlikely there would be an improvement to public spending and financial outlook.
- 8.11 Prof. Humphris stated that there were straightforward issues that could be implemented to support SME's and universities could help drive improvements in Smart Specialisation, education and health.
- 8.12 **RESOLVED-** That the presentation be noted.

## 9 STEMFEST AND BIG BANG

- 9.1 The Board considered a presentation from Caroline Wood that provided detail on the recently held Coastal STEMfest event. STEMfest was an event put together as an opportunity to enthuse and inspire young people to take STEM subjects at school and was attended by 750 young people aged between 11-14 years, teachers, 13 schools from across coastal West Sussex with 21 business and partner exhibitors.
- 9.2 Andrew Swayne stated that a key focus of the event was to encourage children of primary school age to be interested in STEM subjects. The first had gone very well and he welcomed the wider programme proposed in the long-term with a focus on outcomes.
- 9.3 Prof. Humphris stated that research demonstrated that an effective strategy would be to engage with young females. Prof. Humphris relayed that it was hoped that Brighton & Hove would host the British Science Festival in 2017 that would represent a huge boost for the city.
- 9.4 **RESOLVED-** That the presentation be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.40am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of