

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 29 JANUARY 2019

**RICARDO CENTENARY INNOVATION CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, WEST SUSSEX,
BN43 5FG**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Wall (Chair) Humphreys, Janio, Lamb, Parkin, Smith and Yates

Business Partners:

PART ONE

18 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

18a Declarations of substitutes

18.1 Jonathan Sharrock was present as substitute for Steve Allen.

18.2 Gavin Stewart was present substitute for Dean Orgill.

18.3 Lisa Lewis was present as substitute for Alison Addy.

18b Declarations of interests

18.4 There were none.

18c Exclusion of the press and public

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

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

19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

16.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 October 2018 be approved and signed as the correct record.

20 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

20.1 The Chair provided the following communications:

“On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome Professor Adam Tickell. Adam is Vice Chancellor at the University of Sussex and replaces Michael Davies who stood down from the Board in the autumn. We look forward to working with Adam, as the partnership moves into an exciting new phase.

This is going to be Peter Webb’s last Board meeting as he will be stepping down as Coastal West Sussex representative after today. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Peter for his contribution and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting on the 11 December for their time and input. For those not able to attend the meeting, thanks for making time to visit Andy and Clare or for speaking with Chris Paddock. The meeting and other discussions were crucial in us taking a big step forward in developing the Five Year Strategic Priorities for the Board, and the paper that we are going to discuss shortly would not have been possible without all of your contributions.

I am pleased to announce that Mid-Sussex, Adur, Worthing, Crawley and the other West Sussex councils have successfully applied to take part in a new Government pilot scheme. This allows them to reinvest growth in Business Rates to support the local economy. Under the pilot scheme, councils in West Sussex will be able to retain any increase in Business Rates locally, rather than passing it to Central Government. The funding will be held in a joint pool and the aim is for Councils to invest the money in digital infrastructure to support the rollout of Full Fibre connectivity across West Sussex. It is forecast that the additional business rates retained for investment locally could be £19m in 2019/20.

The Burgess Hill Growth Area achieved a significant milestone just before Christmas when the planning application for the whole of the Northern Arc was received. A further injection to the programme was also received from the LEP in the form of £10.9m to support improvements to sustainable transport and the public realm in Burgess Hill. In December BMG Research, in partnership with the Institute of Employment Studies, were awarded the contract to deliver the Greater Brighton Business Survey. The survey represents the first time that the Board has engaged directly with the City Region business community and the aim is to survey 1,500 businesses of all sizes and across all sectors. The outputs and conclusions from the survey will help inform our future thinking in terms of business support and inward investment.

BMG Research will be undertaking the main survey in the early spring, but before that IES are undertaking desk research and stakeholder engagement to establish an evidence baseline and this will help to inform development of the main survey. This work is underway now and IES will be presenting the findings at our next Board meeting on 26 March.

The North Street Quarter development has received confirmation from the planning authority that the pre-commencement planning conditions for phase 1 of the scheme have been met. This is a big step forward in the scheme’s progress as work to prepare the ground for development can now begin. The majority of the phase 1 demolition will take place once a developer has been appointed later in the year”.

21 GREATER BRIGHTON FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

21.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that presented a draft set of priorities and recommendations and proposed changes to

governance arrangements based on consultation with, and feedback from, Board Members.

- 21.2 Councillor Humphreys stated that whilst he supported the majority of the proposals and analysis of the report, he did not believe that the issue of transport was given sufficient priority as one of the biggest considerations of the Greater Brighton region. Furthermore, the Board had to be more aspirational and clear on its requests as a region.
- 21.3 The Chair agreed that the Board needed to deploy a strong voice and express its ambition and he would ask officers to build this in to the Strategic Priorities.
- 21.4 Councillor Lamb stated that transport was one of the biggest constraints for his local authority area adding that he welcomed the focus on social resilience as benefit to communities must be central to the work of the Board. Councillor Lamb explained that his residents were not willing to tolerate increases in air pollution, for example and political buy-in would be achieved by sharing the proceeds of growth.
- 21.5 Trevor Beattie praised officers for the draft adding that the Board should move quickly on the delivery plan and that could be achieved by each member owning area of work and leading on that.
- 21.6 Councillor Yates stated that the report was a good start adding that he was interested to hear the view of C2C and how the report fitted and enhanced their local industrial strategy.
- 21.7 Jonathan Sharrock praised the report that he found to be excellent method of articulating the Board's role. He added that there would be two key workstreams over the next few years: an analysis of data for local authority's and the region and the development of projects and the report was strong on the latter point. Jonathan Sharrock highlighted that the key challenge to the Board was avoiding over-complication at sub-regional level.
- 21.8 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board agrees the recommendations made on page 11 of the Five Year Strategic Priorities paper, which can also be seen in 3.4 below.
 - 2) That the Board agrees to review a more detailed action plan outlining how these priorities will be delivered at the next Board meeting.
 - 3) That the Board agrees the resourcing requirements be further developed and brought forward as part of the annual budget report to the next meeting of the Board.
 - 4) That the Board agrees to review progress against agreed priorities at least annually, and review new governance structures put in place.

22 GREATER BRIGHTON INFRASTRUCTURE PANEL UPDATE

- 22.1 The Board considered a report that provided an update on the work of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel established in 2018 and sought approval for the Board to explore potentially becoming a 100RC member location.
- 22.2 Councillor Janio noted that the area was highly stretched for water reserves and demand and asked when this was likely to end.
- 22.3 Ian McAulay replied that the development of infrastructure was key and through collective action, a resolution could be found in five years' time.
- 22.4 Natalie Brahma-Pearl stated that there would be implications upon water resource as a result of growth and fundamental change was required to the industry in addition to investment or development of treatment facilities.
- 22.5 Councillor Lamb agreed adding that Crawley was now above its planned population capacity and required investment in infrastructure.
- 22.6 Ian McAuley requested that Crawley Borough Council make their case to government adding that he found it perplexing that water efficiency was not currently a requirement of planning development. Ian McAuley supplemented that there was a specific need for optimal investment and future proofing.
- 22.7 Trevor Beattie welcomed the presentation adding that the technology was available to make a change and the future of farming would be fundamental to water supply and reserves.
- 22.8 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board notes the update provided by the Chair of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel.
 - 2) That the Board approves the next step, which is for Greater Brighton to further explore potentially becoming a 100RC member location, as outlined in point 1.8.
 - 3) That the Board requests a further update on recommendations for the Board from the Water and Energy plans once completed with the likely date being January 2020.

23 GATWICK MASTERPLAN UPDATE

- 23.1 The Board received a presentation from Lisa Lewis of Gatwick Airport Ltd providing an update on the Gatwick Airport Masterplan.
- 23.2 The Chair welcomed the presentation as the growth of Gatwick Airport would have an important impact across the region and it was interesting to hear the proposals to mitigate effects.
- 23.3 Andrew Swayne asked what measures were being take into improve transport links to Gatwick Airport and whether there would be investment in the railway station.

- 23.4 Lisa Lewis explained that a scoping exercise was being undertaken to expand the railway station and work was underway on the widening and improvement of the M23. Baseline information had also been gathered on the future growth and how that would relate to the local transport network and the routes staff and commuters would take.
- 23.5 Councillor Lamb stated that the expansion of the station would only mitigate existing growth and in his view, additional and significant investment was required to address further growth. In addition, Councillor Lamb stated that additional expansion of the airport should not come at a cost to the quality of life to those in the Crawley area.
- 23.6 Lisa Lewis replied that Gatwick Airport were committed to putting the right infrastructure in place and Gatwick would meet the cost of that infrastructure and were keenly aware to mitigate any environmental impact.
- 23.7 Councillor Janio stated that east to west connectivity would also be an important matter and asked if any detail on that issue was available.
- 23.8 Lisa Lewis clarified that that would be an issue reviewed in the long-term.

24 GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 24.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided a progress update on the Greater Brighton Investment Programme since the previous meeting of 16 October 2018.
- 24.2 In relation to Monks Farm, Councillor Parkin stated that planning permission had been granted and had now been with the Secretary of State for over 100 days pending a decision to call in. Councillor Parkin stated that the Monks Farm was of great economic value and was key to unlocking development at Shoreham Airport and the delay was too long. Councillor Parkin asked that the Board write to the Secretary of State on the matter asking for an expedition of the issue.
- 24.3 The Chair stated that he supported writing to the Secretary of State in principle however, the issue was a planning matter and advice would need to be sought from the relevant team on whether that was the correct process.
- 24.4 Councillor Smith stated that the purpose of the Board was to lobby the interests of the Region and he strongly supported the request from Councillor Parkin.
- 24.5 The Chair stated that ahead of making a decision on writing to the Secretary of State, officers should be involved on the appropriate course of action as he didn't want to unintentionally hinder the process.
- 24.6 The Board agreed with the suggestion of the Chair.
- 24.7 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1

The meeting concluded at 11.45am

