

Subject:	Towards a Greater Brighton Local Industrial Strategy - Greater Brighton City Region Workshop		
Date of Meeting:	7 November 2017		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
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LA(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 On the 25th April 2017 the Greater Brighton Economic Board gave approval to the Greater Brighton response to the Government's Industrial Strategy. Following this submission, officers from Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) engaged with Central Government officials from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) about a City Region focused workshop into the issues, challenges and economic opportunities in the Greater Brighton City Region.
- 1.2 These and subsequent discussions resulted in a two day Greater Brighton City Region Workshop "Charrette" which was held on Thursday 28 September – Friday 29 September. This report and Outcomes Report (to follow as Appendix 1), provide a review of the two day Charrette, and recommended next steps.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board note the report and approves the recommended next steps in terms of future working with Central Government.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On the 23 January 2017, Government published its Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper and invited comments. On the 13th April 2017 the Greater Brighton response to the Green Paper was submitted to Government.
- 3.2 The Greater Brighton submission highlighted the need for ongoing investment in the South East region due to its strategically important role in the UK both in terms of its fiscal contribution to the exchequer and in the opportunities that it creates for increased economic activity. The term Southern Accelerator was coined within the document as an overarching vision for the region within which other structures, strategies and bids would sit. The Southern Accelerator is

similar to that of the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands engine in helping to frame future investment for growth.

- 3.3 Greater Brighton's response to the Green Paper also highlighted the importance of place. If the government's Industrial Strategy is to succeed in supporting growth up and down the country, then place should be the over-arching framework on which the strategy is based – and city regions like Greater Brighton are where the pillars of the strategy will come together.
- 3.4 In April 2017 the Executive Director for Economy Environment & Culture at BHCC met with officials from BEIS and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLoG) to explore opportunities for joint working as part of their work on the Industrial Strategy and with a particular focus on economic growth in the context of place.
- 3.5 The initial areas of focus that Government wanted to consider were:-
 - City Ambassadors & City Halls for Business (see previous report to the Board)
 - Housing Growth Corridor
 - Digital Growth
 - University Driven Growth
 - Creative Digital Growth
 - Skills
- 3.6 BEIS and DCLG were keen to take forward this work through a series of intensive workshop sessions to explore these themes drawing on the knowledge and expertise of senior leaders, government officials and businesses. The aim was to agree areas of focus that would be of interest to government in taking forward the Industrial Strategy and which may lead to shared investment.
- 3.7 Sam Beckett, Director General of International, Growth and Analysis at BEIS, and Simon Ridley, Director General of Decentralisation and Growth at DCLG both wanted to attend the first of these interactions, and it was decided that this would take the form of a 2-day workshop (Charrette) over 28-29 September.
- 3.8 Working closely with colleagues from BEIS, officers from BHCC developed a programme that was aligned to the areas of interest and responsibility of Sam Beckett and Simon Ridley, the two most senior Central Government officials attending the Charrette.
- 3.9 From the original list in 3.5, the decision was to focus on two main themes; *Housing Delivery & Infrastructure* (28 September) and *Knowledge Intensive & Creative Digital Growth* (29 September).

- 3.10 Workshop 1 focused upon Housing Delivery and Infrastructure and explored the potential components of a Housing Deal for Greater Brighton. The workshop was held at the Ricardo Centenary Innovation Centre. Infrastructure indisputably has a role to play in supporting economic growth. To support the ongoing success of Greater Brighton, policy needs to facilitate investment in housing and commercial space in conjunction with improvements to infrastructure. The workshop provided an overview of the housing initiatives taking place across the City Region to accelerate housing delivery and tackle the housing affordability crisis.
- 3.11 Workshop 2 focused upon Local Industrial Strategies and how Greater Brighton can grow the knowledge intensive economy and creative digital cluster. This included a visit to the University of Brighton's new Advanced Engineering Building and demonstrations from start-up digital businesses in Brighton's Digital Catapult. The workshop provided an overview of the growth of the digital cluster in Brighton, the challenges and opportunities for the cluster and explored how digital technologies can support further growth.
- 3.12 On each day of the Charrette, the first part of the day was used for setting the scene, including presentations and tours of places in Greater Brighton relevant to that theme. The second part of each day was set aside for facilitated and interactive workshop sessions. The final programme is contained within the Charrette Brochure (Appendix 2)
- 3.13 During the planning phase thought was given to the possible components of Housing and Creative Digital & IT (CDIT) Cluster deals and these have formed the basis of opening the dialogue with Central Government on how they can help the Greater Brighton City Region accelerate housing delivery and support the rapidly growing CDIT sector. Five components for each were identified, and these are outlined on page 2 of the infographic handout (Appendix 3).

Next Steps

- 3.14 The Charrette Outcomes Report brings together the main themes from several key pieces of work; the feedback from the Charrette workshop sessions, the Greater Brighton Devolution Prospectus and the Greater Brighton response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper. The result is that we have been able to frame the possible components of a Housing & Infrastructure Deal, a CDIT Cluster Deal, and more widely a Greater Brighton Local Industrial Strategy, which also brings in elements on skills and trade & export.
- 3.15 Following approval from the Board on the key asks there will be discussions with Board Partners around formulating the main offers. Parallel conversations with Central Government will help to refine both the asks and offers, and we will work with Central Government and the Coast-to-Capital LEP towards developing a Local Industrial Strategy for Greater Brighton.
- 3.16 Progress on these negotiations will be regularly reported back to this Board. Any final outcome/deal or other decisions would be presented to this Board for approval.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 On 31 January 2017 the Greater Board received a report on the work undertaken to update the Greater Brighton Devolution Bid. However, the pace at which new devolution deals are agreed has slowed dramatically since the initial agreements were made and it is evident from the emerging Industrial Strategy that government is considering new ways to engage with local government in delivering economic growth.
- 4.2 The Charrette forms part of the refocused engagement between central and local government which aims to identify particular areas of need where Government intervention will have the greatest impact.
- 4.3 The aim of the Charrette was to reach a shared understanding of the opportunities and issues for delivering a Greater Brighton Local Industrial Strategy, and to help identify the priority areas for future collaborative working, including identifying the components for a Housing Deal for Greater Brighton and a deal reflecting the City Region's sector strengths and Creative Digital Cluster.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Charrette programme was developed through a process of consultation with key agencies and businesses across the City Region, and this will also be the same for any subsequent events. Delivering the two-day programme required the support and active involvement of many of the Greater Brighton Economic Board Partners and the local business community.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Board is asked to note the report and approves the recommended next steps in terms of future working with Central Government.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Funding was set aside from the Greater Brighton Operational Budget and contributions from members to support the City Region Workshop. The 2017/18 Greater Brighton operational Budget and contributions from members were reported to this Board on 25 April 2017.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen, Principal Accountant *Date: 17/10/17*

Legal Implications:

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

Lawyer Consulted: Alice Rowland, Head of Commercial Law *Date: 18/10/17*

Equalities Implications:

7.3 None

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 None

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Charrette Outcomes Report (copy to follow)
2. Charrette Brochure
3. Charrette Infographic Handout

Background Documents

1. None

