

Subject:	Response to Industrial Strategy White Paper		
Date of Meeting:	6 February 2018		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
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FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 On the 23 January 2017, Government published its Building Our Industrial Strategy Green Paper and invited comments.
- 1.2 The Greater Brighton Economic Board ('the Board') welcomed the opportunity to respond and work with Government, to both help shape its modern Industrial Strategy and to support the delivery of this at a City Region scale.
- 1.3 On 17 April the Board submitted its Consultation Response to Government in line with the set deadline.
- 1.4 On 27 November, following review after the consultation period, Government published its Industrial Strategy White Paper, "Building a Britain Fit for the Future".
- 1.5 This purpose of the Report on the Industrial White Paper, which can be found at Appendix one, is to brief the Board on the main themes arising from the White Paper, and the resulting challenges and opportunities that it creates for the City Region.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board note the contents of the Report on the Industrial Strategy White Paper.
- 2.2 That the Board notes how the Industrial White Paper will shape future discussions and interactions with Government as Greater Brighton works towards developing a Housing and Growth Deal.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The purpose of the Green Paper was to build an Industrial Strategy that addressed the long-term challenges to the UK economy. Government stated that the main aims were to improve living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country. The document proposed ten 'pillars' that Government saw as the factors that drive economic growth.

3.2 In the Industrial Strategy White Paper the key aims and objectives have remained largely the same; boosting productivity and earning power throughout the United Kingdom, and to quote the Prime Minister “to make our United Kingdom a country that truly works for everyone.”

3.3 However, instead of ten ‘pillars’ that would drive growth the White Paper identifies “Five Foundations” of productivity that are “the essential attributes of every successful economy”, and align to Government’s vision for a transformed economy. The Five Foundations are;

1. Ideas
2. People
3. Infrastructure
4. Business Environment
5. Places

3.4 In addition to the Five Foundations, the White Paper also sets out four “Grand Challenges” to put the United Kingdom at the forefront of the industries of the future, and these are;

1. AI & Data Economy
2. Future of Mobility
3. Clean Growth
4. Ageing Society

3.5 The White paper then sets out a number of policies and directives which Government will draw upon to help it to achieve its ambitions.

3.6 The Green Paper and several Government funding announcements throughout 2017, demonstrated Government’s continuing use of and investment in the "Northern Powerhouse" and "Midlands Engine". The theme of supporting combined mayoral authorities continues in the White Paper, with the announcement that £850m of the £1.7bn allocated to the new Transforming Cities Fund will head straight to the six combined authorities with an elected mayor. This leaves only half of the £1.7bn to be allocated across the rest of the country.

3.7 Further powers to be extended to the combined mayoral authorities include devolving the adult education budget from 2019. Greater Brighton has effective and accountable governance structures in place, and would argue that similar devolved powers should be extended to the City Region. With a devolved budget our regions’ adult education providers will be able to work with the business community and other partners, to ensure that the City Region has the optimal supply of skilled labour.

4. **ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

4.1 None required

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Many of the proposals outlined in the Industrial Strategy White Paper are welcome and there is some clear alignment between Government thinking and the aims and objectives of Greater Brighton. Particularly welcome are some of the changes to have occurred between the publication of the Green Paper and the White Paper, and our response to the Green Paper seems to have had some influence.
- 5.2 The City Region's plans for investment and economic growth are ambitious. Recent work to engage with Government resulted in the two-day Greater Brighton City Region Charrette at the end of September 2017. The key themes covered by the Charrette were Housing & Infrastructure and supporting the Region's expanding CDIT Sector, and following discussions over the two days a number of high level asks were developed. Additional asks around skills, university funding and international trade were incorporated in the Charrette Report that was presented to the Board on 7 November 2017, and the Board supported the conclusions and recommendations made in that report.
- 5.3 Government have been in touch to ask us to open further discussions and start to move forward. Early discussions will follow the recommendations in the Charrette Report and will sit very much within the context of the Industrial Strategy White Paper. We will return in April with more detail on what we can propose to Government.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications resulting from the Industrial Strategy White Paper. The Strategy provides detail of Government investment and funding confirmed in the Autumn Statement that supports the "Five Foundations". Greater Brighton may have the opportunity to bid for areas of this new investment to support delivery of key objectives.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen

Date: 16/1/18

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. As proposals are developed, the implications of, for example, devolved powers, will be considered.

Lawyer Consulted: Alice Rowland

Date: 17/1/18

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 None.

Sustainability Implications:

- 6.4 Greater Brighton has requested a long term framework of policy and incentives, to ensure that the low carbon transition is investable.
- 6.5 The City Region asks that the integration of affordable, secure and low carbon energy infrastructure and resource efficient building practices is continued.
- 6.6 Greater Brighton would like Government, upon exiting the European Union, to retain environmental ambition and effective regulation.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 6.7 None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

- 1. Report on Industrial Strategy White Paper