

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 7 NOVEMBER 2017

QUEEN ELIZABETH II ROOM, SHOREHAM CENTRE, POND ROAD, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
BN43 5WU

## MINUTES

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

**Business Partners:** Steve Allen, Prof. Davies, Prof. Dean, Dean Orgill, Andrew Swayne, Peter Webb

### PART ONE

#### 11 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 11a Declarations of substitutes

11.1 Prof. Dean was present as substitute for Prof. Humphris.

##### 11b Declarations of interests

11.2 Dean Orgill declared a pecuniary interest in Item 16: Greater Brighton Energy and Water Plan on the basis of vested business interest in relation to the Plan.

##### 11c Exclusion of the press and public

11.4 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.

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

#### 12 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

12.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 July 2017 be approved and signed as the correct record.

#### 13 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

13.1 The Chair provided the following communication:

*“Crawley Borough Council and Gatwick Airport Ltd were invited to join the Greater Brighton Economic Board during the summer. I am pleased that Crawley’s Chief Executive, Natalie Brahma-Pearl, and Alison Addy, Head of Community Engagement at Gatwick, are able to join us today.*

*Crawley Borough Council formally accepted the invitation to join at their Council meeting on 18 October. The Local Authority constituent members now need to ratify Crawley’s membership to the Board, and subject to those individual ratifications, the aim is that both Crawley and Gatwick Airport will be officially welcomed as Board members at our next meeting on 6 February 2018.*

*On 28 September, the Sussex Innovation Centre celebrated its 21st birthday and held an open evening with over 40 of its tenant companies plus additional exhibitors opening their doors to visitors and demonstrating their new technologies and services. Over the past 21 years, many technology companies have started in this Centre and have made a significant contribution to the local economy of the City Region.*

*On 6 October Wired Sussex held its 10-year anniversary party of it becoming an independent organisation. Wired Sussex is a membership organisation for companies and freelancers operating in the digital, media and technology sector in Sussex. Wired Sussex helps its members to create, innovate and grow. They are based at New England House, which is also home to the Digital Catapult and 5G Test Bed, which has received support through LGF funding.*

*The west bank of the Newhaven Flood Alleviation scheme, comprising two earth embankments, a flood gate and several hundred metres of concrete flood wall, was completed in early October 2017. This is a major milestone for the project and provides protection from tidal flooding for 244 residential homes and 88 businesses.*

*From 5-9 September, The British Science Festival came to the City Region for the first time since 1983. Co-hosted by the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, it saw events taking place on both campuses and across the city.*

*The British Science Association have been finalising the evaluation report that is being prepared for the Festival Steering Group. We are grateful for the British Science Association providing the information below ahead of the official release of the report. More than 150 events took place during the course of the five days involving 350 researchers.*

*Over 11,000 tickets were booked, with a total projected audience of 18,000 (lots of the events were informal, without the need to book tickets)*

*The Festival generated over 530 pieces of media coverage – across print, broadcast and online – with an estimated coverage reach of around 308 million.*

*The website this year received a total of 385,188 page views, almost three times that of last year.*

*The Brighton BikeShare scheme launched on 1 September. The network involves 50 docking stations and around 450 bikes. Early uptake figures are very encouraging suggesting it is set to be one of the top-performing bike share scheme in the UK. The first 30 days saw over 9,000 registrations, and an average of 800 journeys on the Bikes per day. In the first 30 days users cycled 50,000 miles – almost a quarter of the way to the moon, or more than twice around the world.*

*I am also pleased to report that a few weeks ago American Express was unveiled as co-sponsor of the scheme. American Express is one of the leading private sector employers in Greater Brighton, and sponsoring the scheme builds on their strong links with the City Region”.*

- 14.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the outcomes and recommended next steps of the two day Greater Brighton City Region Workshop held on 28 September and 29 September 2017.
- 14.2 Councillor Morgan thanked officers for arranging the Workshop and partners from across the region for hosting visits. Councillor Morgan stated that the Workshop would help make a case for investment in the Region and it was essential to move forward with an economic strategy in the coming months.
- 14.3 Andrew Swayne congratulated officers for their excellent work arranging the Workshop and further praised the report and supported efforts to move forward with proposals.
- 14.4 Councillor Wall stated that he had recently attended meetings with the Minister of State for Digital, the Secretary of State for Transport and Ministers from the Department for Education where he had promoted both Mid Sussex and the Greater Brighton Region. Councillor Wall stated that Ministers fully understood the Regions asks and it was important to continue to build relationships.
- 14.5 Councillor Janio stated that the Workshop had been very good and the recommended next steps were expertly reflected in the report. Councillor Janio stated that it was important to move on to specific requests in the near future.
- 14.6 Prof. Davies stated that the Workshop had included many good events and the outcomes reflected that very well. Prof. Davies added that the Universities were keen to support delivering the outcomes and it would be important to be readied for the forthcoming release of the White Paper.
- 14.7 Cath Goodall stated that on behalf of central government, the Workshop had been very useful and very informative. Cath Goodall supplemented that it was important for the Board to work with the LEP on the specifics of its offer to government.
- 14.8 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report and approves the recommended next steps in terms of future working with Central Government.

## 15 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD 2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT

- 15.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set out the achievements made in 2016/17 and the key areas of focus for the medium to long-term.
- 15.2 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board approves the 2016/17 Annual Report.
  - 2) That the Board agrees to submit the 2016/17 Annual Report to each of the bodies represented on the Board.

## 16 GREATER BRIGHTON ENERGY AND WATER PLAN

- 16.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that sought approval to proceed with development of an Energy and Water Plan for the Greater Brighton region.
- 16.2 Councillor Parkin noted that delivery would be co-ordinated with the Biosphere Board however; some of the Board's membership was not included in the Biosphere region.
- 16.3 Nick Hibberd replied that the benefit in having the Biosphere Board as a partner in the project was the expertise of their Board Members in the planning and delivery of the energy and water plans. Southern Water were particularly keen to support work to produce a plan and the Chair of the Infrastructure Panel was also a member of the Biosphere Board. Nick Hibberd added that the production of an Energy and Water Plan linked in with the outcomes of the City Region Workshop and the Board's links to the LEP were highly important in development of the respective Plans. In addition, there was a need as a City Region to understand electric and energy needs and develop to a wider level.
- 16.4 Councillor Humphries stated his uncertainty regarding the role of Southern Water and queried whether it would be appropriate to appoint an independent consultant with relevant expertise and knowledge to review the respective Plans.
- 16.5 Nick Hibberd agreed that it was important to ensure there was no direct conflict of interest and there may be a need to appoint an independent support and that was part of the reason behind the bid for INTEREG funding.
- 16.6 Prof. Dean asked if was intended to involve the universities in production and development of the plans particularly the Sussex Energy Group whose work was world-renowned.
- 16.7 Nick Hibberd replied that whilst there was not yet a full specification developed, the input of the universities and Sussex Energy Group would be very welcome.
- 16.8 Councillor Wall stated that the contribution from the universities would be welcome and they both should have a role to play.
- 16.9 Andrew Swayne concurred with Councillor Wall adding that there needed to be a balance of people and organisations involved.
- 16.10 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board approves the development of Greater Brighton Energy and Water Plans.
  - 2) That the Board approves the delivery and governance proposals set out in paragraphs 3.16 to 3.20.

## **17 PROGRESS UPDATE ON GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

- 17.1 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 on 18 July 2017. The report also provided an update on the Local

Growth Fund (LGF) in relation to both the allocations made as part of round 3 of the Growth Deal and the progress of projects financed from unallocated Growth Deal round 1 and 2 funds.

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

## **18 GREATER BRIGHTON INWARD INVESTMENT STRATEGY UPDATE**

18.1 The Board considered a presentation from Barney Cringle of Regeneris Consulting that set out the results of initial studies undertaken into the regional economy.

18.2 Councillor Morgan noted that recent research undertaken demonstrated a significant boost to the economy of cities and towns that had a football team competing in the Premier League. Furthermore, there was worldwide television exposure that could be a boost to trade and tourism. Councillor Morgan stated that it may be beneficial to undertake similar research in a year's time assessing the impact of Brighton & Hove Albion's recent promotion to the Premier League.

18.3 Dean Orgill stated that the key themes of the study was the need for a stronger regional identity, the need for increased partnership between public and private sectors and also the need for the private sector to help deliver economic plans rather than present a series of asks to civic leaders.

18.4 Councillor Janio stated that it would be useful to receive a series of actions that could be delivered quickly and cheaply once the final study outcomes were known.

## **19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

19.1 Councillor Wall stated that it would be useful to receive a report from Crawley Borough Council as a means of updating the Board Members of their activities linked to their formal appointment as a Board Member. In addition, Councillor Wall stated that he was unsure about the definition of 'Southern Accelerator' and its suitability to continue to be used.

19.2 The Chair stated that an update report from Crawley Borough Council was a very useful suggestion and a report should be submitted to the next meeting. In reference to the Southern Accelerator title, Nick Hibberd stated that it was used as branding for the City Region however; more thought could be given to how it was being used and alternative options and an update brought to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.40am

