

Devolution Update Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

197

22nd July 2026



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Devolution Update

- **Milestones and Key Achievements**
- **Inaugural Board Meeting and AGM**
- **SBSA Governance**
- **SBSA Budget**
- **Prosperity Strategy**
- **Functional Transition**
- **Priorities for Brighton and Hove City Council**

Milestones



Key Achievements

Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority (SBSA) established and vested.

Secured new investment for the region including:

A long-term investment fund totalling **£1.14 billion**

£30.4 million released over the next two years before mayoral elections, enabling early investment

£9.0 million in capacity funding over four years to support the establishment and operation of the new authority.

Agreement to pre-mayoral governance arrangements to provide leadership and stability.

Strategic Framework agreed to guide development of regional Prosperity Strategy and early investment.

SBSA Inaugural Board Meeting and AGM

The Inaugural SBSA Board meeting took place in Brighton Town Hall on 15th April 2026.

Following elections in East Sussex and West Sussex on 7th May 2026, the SBSA held it's AGM on the 1st July 2026. Decision have been taken in the following areas:

- Appointment of Board Members
- Approach to the Pre-Mayoral Period and the Appointment of the Chair and the Vice-Chair(s)
- 2026/27 Budget
- Strategic Framework plan for Prosperity Strategy
- Functional transition arrangements
- Pay and Grading Framework
- The appointment of statutory officers
- A Constitution and Local Assurance Framework

SBSA Governance Arrangements

Pre-mayoral governance

- Sets out collective leadership approach and principles for the period before the election of the Mayor and provides arrangements for the transition to full Mayoral governance.

Chairing

- Rotating Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr Sankey has been appointed as first Chair. The Leaders of East Sussex and West Sussex have been appointed as the first Vice Chairs.

Lead Members

- Lead Members will be appointed to provide leadership for key SBSA priorities.

Constitution

- Explains who can make decisions, how meetings will work, how transparency will be maintained, and the standards SBSA must follow.

Regulatory Committees

- Audit and Governance and Overview and Scrutiny committees establish to provide scrutiny and support accountability.

SBSA Budget

Guaranteed 30-year £1.14 billion Investment Fund – 50/50 revenue and capital.

2026/27 budget agreed including:

Total revenue budget of £32 million and a total capital budget of £87,917 million for 2026/27. Composed of Capacity Funding, Investment Funding and transport and Growth Hub grant funding.

- Transport grant funding passported to constituent authorities for 2026/27.
- Funding for small number of Shared Prosperity Fund projects and additional funding for Growth Hubs.

Development of Medium-Term Financial Plan will be considered alongside the budget setting process for 2027/28.

Prosperity Strategy

A new Prosperity Strategy will set out a vision for inclusive growth, identify challenges and opportunities, the priority outcomes across all the areas of competence, and the initial actions needed to deliver them.

Key milestones:

- **April 2026:** High level Strategic Framework agreed by Board.
- **May 2026:** Foundational evidence base commissioned.
- **July 2026:** Board agreed Prosperity Strategy framework
- **Summer 2026:** Engagement and drafting
- **October 2026:** Draft agreed by Board
- **Autumn/Winter 2026:** Consultation.
- **Early 2027:** Final draft agreed by Board.

Strategic framework for the Authority



Functional Transition

The creation of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority represents a significant change in how strategic functions are exercised across Sussex and Brighton:

- **March 2027:** Fire & Rescue Services transition to Strategic Authority Governance
- **Spring 2027:** Growth Hubs transition to SBSA
- **September: 2027:** SBSA becomes responsible for Adult Skills Fund
- **May 2028:** SBSA becomes solely responsible as Local Transport Authority for the region
- **May 2028:** Anticipated date for transition of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner to SBSA following election of Mayor

Phased approach to ensure the safe and timely transition of key functions:

1. **Establishing the System** – establishing governance arrangements and gathering baseline data.
2. **Aligning and strengthening** – aligning existing programmes and partnerships, strengthening coordination and regional planning, and developing common governance and assurance processes.
3. **Operating as a Connected System** – embedding mature functions, fully implementing governance and funding arrangements and operating as a system leader.

Priorities for BHCC

Continue to work with partners to build and develop the new Authority to ensure it has the **capabilities, resources and governance arrangements** to deliver for the people of Sussex and Brighton.

Support the **development of the Prosperity Strategy** to ensure it reflects the strengths, challenges and opportunities for Brighton and Hove and the wider region.

Work with partners to make the case for **strategic investment** that drives growth and benefits residents and businesses within the city and across the region.

Ensure the **transition of key functions** and responsibilities happens in a safe and timely way.

Work with partners to **build awareness** of the role and purpose of the Strategic Authority amongst residents and communities.