

GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 18 OCTOBER 2016

THE MAIN HALL, HILLCREST CENTRE, BAY VUE ROAD, NEWHAVEN, BN9 9LH

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Humphreys (Chair), Morgan, Parkin, Smith, Theobald, Wall

Business Partners: Peter Davies, Eduardo Hernández, Prof. Humphris, Dean Orgill, John A. Peel, Andrew Swayne

PART ONE

10 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

10a Declarations of substitutes

10.1 Eduardo Hernández was present as substitute for Prof. Davies.

10b Declarations of interests

10.2 Prof. Humphris declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 16 as representative of University of Brighton.

10.3 Eduardo Hernández declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 16 as a representative of the University of Sussex.

10c Exclusion of the press and public

10.4 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.

10.5 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items contained in Part Two of the agenda.

11 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

11.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed and signed as the correct record.

11.2 Councillor Theobald asked if a formal response from the 3SC’s relating to a resolution taken by the Board in April was yet to be received or had been raised.

- 11.3 The Chair stated that whilst he had attended meetings of the 3SC's, the issue had not been discussed and he would ensure to raise the matter at the next opportunity.

12 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 12.1 The Chair provided the following communications:

“As a follow up from an item we considered at our previous meeting, Professors Cowling and Nightingale from the Universities of Brighton and Sussex have commenced work on the development of the City Region’s Smart Specialisation Strategy.

This exciting piece of work will inform our growth strategy by both identify sectors in our local economy that are large and specialised enough to provide a comparative advantage for the City Region and by providing an understanding of the problems faced by the firms in these sectors, as well as what can be done to support their growth. The Professors will report on their findings at our January meeting.

“The Sussex Coast Area Review was completed in April 2016 and we await the report. This is expected shortly and it is anticipated that a presentation, on the recommendations and next steps, will also be made at our January meeting”.

13 UPDATE ON GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- 13.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided a progress update on the Greater Brighton Investment Programme for the period 20 June to 20 September 2016.
- 13.2 Dean Orgill asked if the Board had a targeted PR strategy to convey successes and if not, whether it should consider such.
- 13.3 Geoff Raw stated that projects were regularly reported in the media and the project team used social media platforms to raise awareness of the work of the Board. A review of the effectiveness of the Board’s PR strategy would be possible.
- 13.4 Nick Hibberd stated that Adur & Worthing Councils were the lead authority for communications alongside the Chair of the Board and officers were currently looking at a website presence and brand book.
- 13.5 Prof. Humphris clarified that the Advanced Engineering Centre would be opening in May 2017.
- 13.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the report.

14 UPDATE ON GREATER BRIGHTON DEVOLUTION BID

- 14.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Programme Board that provided an update on progress on the City Region’s bid for Devolution.
- 14.2 Councillor Theobald noted his disappointment that the City Region’s Devolution bid had not progressed further than its current status. Councillor Theobald noted that there

would soon be an announcement on a new runway at either Gatwick or Heathrow and there would be big repercussions for the City Region, especially in terms of transport links if the former was the preferred option.

- 14.3 Prof. Humphris agreed that progress had been slow but that should be seen in the context of the likely diversion of resources following the recent EU referendum. Prof. Humphris asked for more information on the Creative Industries Council.
- 14.4 Nick Hibberd clarified that the Creative Industries Council was proposed in the September 2015 Devolution submission and was an effort to bring together the creative industries to work with central government on new funding streams. Furthermore, the Arts & Creative Industries Commission could be something broadened at Greater Brighton scale in the future. Nick Hibberd added that it had not been possible to recruit to the Policy & Projects Manager position that had impacted upon officer capacity.
- 14.5 Councillor Morgan agreed that there had been an inevitable delay in the Devolution process due to the re-shaping of the Ministerial team under the new Prime Minister. Councillor Morgan noted his disappointment that the new Prime Minister had made clear that the requirement for a directly elected mayor as a condition of devolution deals would remain and that this insistence was in itself a delay to the process. Councillor Morgan expressed his hope that the City Region could make it clear that the City Region, unlike other areas that had successfully negotiated devolution deals was not a metropolitan area and that the Board demonstrated strong partnership working and could operate at pace and therefore, did not require a directly elected mayor.
- 14.6 The Chair stated that the region could instead pitch a City Deal 2 type slightly similar to that proposed by Cornwall and he would be happy to take those discussions forward.
- 14.7 Councillor Theobald agreed that the City Region was comparatively of smaller scale than metropolitan areas that had population levels of closer to 2-3 million people and therefore had no specific purpose for a directly elected mayor.

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

15 UPDATE ON EMPLOYER SKILLS TASK FORCE AND APPRENTICESHIP BROKERAGE SERVICE

- 15.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that set progress on proposals for a Greater Brighton Apprenticeship organisation and an update on the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership's (C2C LEP) Enterprise Advisor Network Pilot which helped promote apprenticeships and strategic links between businesses and schools.
- 15.2 Councillor Wall noted that the proposals appeared focussed on one area of the City Region and asked what information had been garnered from other regions on how they work.
- 15.3 Nick Hibberd clarified that the Employer Skills Task Force (ESTF) had been established in July 2015 and had extended invitations to Greater Brighton employers to participate. The ESTF was employer-led with FE employers part of the task force. The proposals did

have a city focus but in a city region context and there were elements such as transport that were wider regional issues. Furthermore, both Northbrook and City College had been consulted as part of the process.

- 15.4 Cheryl Finella added that there had been meetings with businesses from Mid-Sussex, Lewes, Adur & Worthing carried out to establish employer needs with further meeting with businesses in West and East Sussex scheduled.
- 15.5 The Chair noted that the pilot scheme had made tangible success with additional funding secured for a wider roll out of the scheme as detailed at paragraph 3.19. Enterprise Advisors had been working with schools across Mid-Sussex, Lewes, Adur & Worthing and Brighton to great success and it was planned that every school would eventually have an Enterprise Advisor.
- 15.6 Andrew Swayne noted that he was a Governor at Shoreham Academy which was part of the pilot and it had brought huge benefit to the school.
- 15.7 **RESOLVED-** That the Board note the progress that has been made and to endorse the next steps at 3.22 to 3.26 of the report.

16 PRESENTATION ON SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2017

- 16.1 The Board considered a presentation from Andrew Swayne that detailed an overview, benefits and planned delivery schedule of the Science Festival 2017 that would be hosted in Brighton 5-9 September 2017.
- 16.2 Prof. Humphris stated her delight that the Science Festival would be hosted in the City Region. The Festival had significant profile and a successful application had been achieved above very competitive rivals which was a positive message for the city. The Science Festival would not only focus on STEM but all disciplines together and represented a massive opportunity for the City Region.
- 16.3 Eduardo Hernández stated that the Festival had a national profile and the success was a demonstration of the strengths of the City Region.

17 UPDATE ON ONE PUBLIC ESTATE PROGRAMME APPLICATION AND GREATER BRIGHTON STRATEGIC PROPERTY BOARD PROPOSALS

- 17.1. The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided an update on progress in relation to the City Region's application to the National One Public Estate (OPE) Programme, a summary of the City Region's Services and Assets Delivery Plan and an overview of the proposed governance and delivery arrangements for the Greater Brighton OPE Programme.
- 17.2. Councillor Morgan asked for clarification that the Housing & Communities Agency (HCA) would not have a first refusal on government land.
- 17.3. Nick Hibberd clarified that the HCA could not commit to the right of first refusal but were keen to engage with the Strategic Property Board.

- 17.4. The Chair moved a motion to amend the recommendations to reflect the above which was passed.
- 17.5. Dean Orgill stated that he wished to publically endorse the appointment of Peter Davies as the independent business representative on the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board.
- 17.6. John A. Peel noted that the GBEB would be the arbiter in situations where there were competing demands which may represent a challenge.
- 17.7. Councillor Wall noted that observations had been made that the Programme was overly bureaucratic and asked if that was something the Board could deal with.
- 17.8. Nick Hibberd clarified that the issue had been raised with government before the second stage bid had been made and assurance had been received that the Programme would become less onerous. In addition, funding had been set aside for a dedicated programme management resource.
- 17.9. **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board note both the progress made in developing the City Region's Services and Assets Delivery Plan and its contents.
 - 2) That the Board approve the proposed governance and delivery arrangements for the Programme, encompassing the establishment of the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board to provide direction, oversight and accountability and the Greater Brighton Public Sector Property Group, to deliver at an operational level.
 - 3) That the Board approve the Terms of Reference for the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board, attached as Appendix 1 subject to the deletion of the following from section 1.4: "The organisations represented on the Board will have a 'right of first refusal' on the purchase of Government assets (at market rate) that have been earmarked for disposal. Any Government sites that are identified to be surplus and that subsequently transfer to the Homes & Communities Agency will include a housing target".
 - 4) That the Board appoints Peter Davies of the Shoreham Port Authority, also a Coastal West Sussex Board member, as the independent business representative on the Greater Brighton Strategic Property Board.

18 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

- 18.1 **RESOLVED-** That the Part Two appendix remain exempt from disclosure from the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 11.05am