

## GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

10.00am 28 JANUARY 2020

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

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Humphreys (Chair) Ash-Edwards, Lamb, Nicholson, Mac Cafferty, Parkin, Platts and Walsh

**Business Partners:** Trevor Beattie, Prof Humphris, Claire Mason, Dean Orgill and Andrew Swayne

### PART ONE

#### 19 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 19a Declarations of substitutes

19.1 There were none.

##### 19b Declarations of interests

19.2 Andrew Swayne declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 26 as Ricardo were a recipient of Local Growth Funding.

##### 19c Exclusion of the press and public

19.3 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.

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

#### 20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

20.1 Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that he had raised the matter of the Treasury increasing interest levels on loans from the Public Works Board and asked if any more information was now available.

20.2 The Chair stated that officers would follow up on the matter and circulate a note to Board members.

20.3 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as the correct record.

## 21 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

21.1 The Chair provided the following communications:

“Thank you to Board Members for attending the Digital Action Plan Workshop on 6 January. I know for some it was the first day back after the Festive Season, and it was great that we had such a good turnout from Board Members, Officers and other stakeholders. It was crucial that we held the workshop to move forward with our digital ambitions, and we will be discussing the paper arising from that workshop later this morning.

Earlier this month I also had the privilege of attending a tour around Ricardo in Shoreham. This is a business that in just over a century has gone, to a global engineering company with 3000 staff, more than 700 of whom are based here in the heart of the City Region. I want to thank Andrew Swayne, chief executive Dave Shemmans and the team for their time. I was particularly impressed with their commitment to innovation around eco technologies and also the work going on to support the local workforce through apprenticeships and training schemes. I also look forward to the Hybrid Powertrain centre, funding for which was secured through Coast to Capital by Greater Brighton, going live later this year - this will enable the research and development of the next generation of electrified systems and vehicles right here in Greater Brighton.

Our response to the TfSE Strategy Consultation was submitted in line with the 10 January deadline. It clearly outlined the key priorities for the City Region, and our expectations of the Strategy going forwards. We look forward to seeing how the Strategy evolves and we will continue to make the strongest possible case for the interventions we need to ensure that we deliver the sustainable, healthy, accessible, safe and integrated transport system that the City Region needs.

In the autumn the Greater Brighton Comms Team published and circulated the Greater Brighton Experts Guide. Following that, Prof. Adam Tickell produced an article that was published in the Municipal Journal. The article focused on work of the University of Sussex Business School, on social purpose and doing business in a socially responsible way. Against the backdrop of climate change, economic uncertainty and inequality, entrepreneurs and business leaders are increasingly looking beyond the bottom line and acknowledging that there is more to company life than just making money. Examples include businesses ensuring that their supply chains are ethical, reducing waste and embracing the circular economy to reduce their environmental footprint. As policy and decision makers the article was very informative given the aim of this Board is to pursue growth in the City Region that is both responsible and sustainable.

The south-east region is home to 7.5 million people, a figure that will grow by 16% over the next 25 years. That accounts for 12% of the UK population and 13% of the workforce. At £200 billion per annum, our region is the second-highest contributor to the economy after London. However, the amount of public spending per head in the south-

east is, at £8,100, the lowest in the UK—10% lower than the national average and 20% lower than London. Spending per head on local roads and local public transport is lower in the south-east than in any other English region outside London and yet ‘London and the South East’ are perceived by the rest of the country to be flowing with cash. The Board must lobby the government not to lump our region in with London and allocate adequate funding to the South East where it is needed. This is highlighted by our upcoming MJ article on Newhaven’s bid for the #MyTown programme, where 75% of funding is headed to the Midlands and North”.

## 22 GREATER BRIGHTON INFRASTRUCTURE PANEL UPDATE: ENERGY & WATER PLANS

- 22.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Infrastructure Board that provided a progress update on the Greater Brighton Energy & Water Plans. The report was supplemented by a presentation from Ian McAuley, CEO Southern Water.
- 22.2 Andrew Swayne expressed his support for the statements made in the presentation and explained that the key elements of the next stage would be clarity on what projects could be undertaken immediately and what projects required funding to take forward and how that funding could be obtained.
- 22.3 Trevor Beattie stated that the UK Power Network were keen on developing partnerships with local authorities and regional bodies as too were Community Energy England. Trevor Beattie stated that locking their work with that of the Infrastructure Panel was essential.
- 22.4 Councillor Walsh asked what progress was being made in relation to capacity for electric vehicles.
- 22.5 Ian McAuley clarified that the Panel had undertaken a scoping exercise on hydrogen fuel stations. There would be a need to modernise the piping sector.
- 22.6 Councillor Mac Cafferty stated that it was imperative that action on carbon neutrality and sustainability be undertaken by 2030. Councillor Mac Cafferty explained that identification of funding would be key and asked what detail was available on the projects envisaged.
- 22.7 Andrew Swayne clarified that the projects were currently being designed in detail and would be submitted to the Board following stakeholder engagement.
- 22.8 Councillor Nicholson stated that a two part plan was required, the first to create an investment vehicle to attract resources and the second, a plan on what project could be taken on together as local authorities.
- 22.9 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Board notes the update provided by the Chair of the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel and recognises the work undertaken to date.

- 2) That the Board requests the final recommendations from the Water and Energy plans be presented in April 2020.
- 3) That the Board notes the planned communications activity which will be focused on the Greater Brighton 10 pledges highlighting the delivery of five water and five energy projects.

**23 GREATER BRIGHTON BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMMES – THE BUSINESS HOT HOUSE**

- 23.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided a progress update on the business support programme approved by the Board in 2019/20.
- 23.2 Councillor Platts stated that the business support programme was making a difference and welcomed the progress update. Councillor Platts stated that a one stop shop for business advice and support was a great opportunity and was particularly useful for small businesses in relation to the potential risks and advantages of growth.
- 23.3 Gareth Sear clarified that opportunities for advisory bases in co-working spaces was actively being considered.
- 23.4 Dean Orgill stated that he welcomed the focus upon leadership and management development as this was often an issue not considered in similar schemes.
- 23.5 Claire Mason echoed the comments made by Dean Orgill and C2C were aware that the absence of such initiatives was a problem for business start-ups. Claire Mason added that the proposal was solution based however, it perhaps needed to be problem based to create the demand for access to finance.

**23.6 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board notes the Greater Brighton Business Support programme and will use networks to increase awareness amongst local businesses.
- 2) That the Board agrees that whilst the levels of provision are high it can be difficult for businesses to navigate the complex terrain of providers and access points to receive the support they require. The Board advocates that in the longer term we move towards a system that is simplified through the establishment of a “one-stop-shop” where businesses can see and access all the current opportunities.
- 3) That the Board agrees to lobby government for continued funding into business support programmes once EU funding ceases in 2022.

**24 GREATER BRIGHTON DIGITAL ACTION PLAN**

- 22.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board updated on progress on the Digital Strategy and recommended an action plan to take the Strategy forward.
- 22.2 Councillor Walsh asked if any engagement had been made with the NHS.

22.3 Paul Brewer answered that discussions would likely commence after the roll out of full fibre with a view to innovation in health services.

22.4 Councillor Ash-Edwards stated that it was important to explain the offer to regional business and business that may want to relocate to the region.

**22.5 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Board agrees with the key priorities and projects identified from the workshop outlined in this paper and the Action Plan at Appendix 1. Actions suggested for the Board itself are outlined below.
- 2) That the Board endorse the multimode delivery model for full fibre as outlined in the strategy, recognising the need for different models in different contexts.
- 3) That the Board creates/identifies a group to explore an integrated visitor destination strategy to include digital expert representation.
- 4) That the Board supports the identification of local authority transport leads, and supports a discovery workshop on smart/intelligent transport.
- 5) That the Board requests a workshop on “business and digital” bringing Business Hothouse partners, representatives from economic development teams and digital experts together to explore opportunities to develop the digital offer to businesses in relation to productivity and innovation.
- 6) That the Board request local authority contributions to a mapping exercise for resident/community digital inclusion initiatives across the Greater Brighton for reporting to a future Board meeting.
- 7) That the Board considers how to establish a bid development fund to allow for the creation of “bid-ready” project proposals, potentially through contributions from member authorities. Projects requiring funding are highlighted in the action plan.
- 8) That the Board acknowledges the strategic role being played by the Everything Connects group chaired by Alex Bailey, and notes the extension of an invitation to join for Lewes District Council, delivering representation from all areas.

**25 THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES OF GREATER BRIGHTON**

22.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that updated on research on the Creative Industries in the Greater Brighton region, commissioned by the Board in July 2019.

22.2 Clare Mason asked on any differences in the creative clusters in revenue or employment were considered instead.

22.3 Dr Siepel clarified that that would be the next stage in the research process.

22.4 Prof Humphris that a supplementary area to consider might be skills and talent and how to better connect with what employers were seeking.

**22.5 RESOLVED-**

1) That the Board note the contents of this update report, progress made, uncertainty around national and regional economic policy and comment on the four areas identified by the Arts & Creative Industries (ACIC) Working Group for detailed development and progression.

**26 GREATER BRIGHTON INVESTMENT PROGRAMME – PROGRESS UPDATE**

26.1 The Board considered a report of the Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board that provided an update of the Greater Brighton Investment Programme since the previous meeting.

**26.2 RESOLVED-**

1) That the Board note the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1

The meeting concluded at 12.05pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of