

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 1 July 2019

**Title:** Greater Brighton Economic Board – Admission of New Member to the Board

**Report of:** Director of Regeneration & Planning

**Cabinet member:** Cllr Joe Miller – Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Growth

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of report:** This report seeks LDC approval for Arun District Council to become a member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (“the Board”).

**Decision type:** Key

**Officer recommendation(s):** (1) To ratify the appointment of Arun District Council to the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) and Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC), subject to formal agreement of Arun District Council.

(2) To note that Arun District Council’s appointment is dependent on all the local authorities represented on the Board approving its appointment.

(3) To agree other proposed changes within the Heads of Terms of the Greater Brighton Economic Board as detailed in paragraph 2.16.

**Reasons for recommendations:** 1. The Greater Brighton Economic Board was founded in April 2014 as part of the Greater Brighton City Region’s City Deal with Government.

2. The Board comprises the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC), on which the local authorities are represented; and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership (GBBP) on which the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership, business, university and further education sectors are situated.

**Contact Officer(s):** Name: Peter Sharp  
Post title: Head of Regeneration  
E-mail: peter.sharp@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk  
Telephone number: 01273 085044

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board comprises a range of local authority, LEP, business and further education stakeholders. The following bodies are members of the Board:
- i. Brighton & Hove City Council
  - ii. Adur District Council
  - iii. Worthing Borough Council
  - iv. Lewes District Council
  - v. Mid Sussex District Council
  - vi. Crawley Borough Council
  - vii. University of Sussex
  - viii. University of Brighton
  - ix. Further Education Representative
  - x. Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership
  - xi. Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
  - xii. Adur & Worthing Business Partnership
  - xiii. Coastal West Sussex Partnership
  - xiv. South Downs National Park Authority
  - xv. Gatwick Airport Ltd.
- 1.2 GBEJC comprises the bodies specified in Paragraph 1.1 (i) to (vi); and GBBP comprises the bodies specified in Paragraph 1.1 (vii) to (xv).
- 1.3 The functions of the board are as follows:
- To make long-term strategic decisions concerning regional economic development and growth
  - To be the external voice to Government and investors regarding the management of devolved powers and funds for regional economic growth
  - To work with national, sub-national and local bodies to support a co-ordinated approach to economic growth across the region
  - To secure funding and investment for the region
  - To ensure delivery of, and provide strategic direction for, major projects and workstreams enabled by City Deal funding and devolution of powers
  - To enable those bodies to whom Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 applied to comply more effectively with their duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development
  - To incur expenditure on matters relating to economic development where funds have been allocated directly to the Board for economic development purposes.
- 1.4 Working in partnership, the Greater Brighton City Region has brought significant benefits to the partner Local Authorities and agencies. Together the partnership has secured around £160m of Growth Deal funding held by the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 1.5 Since the City Deal, LDC has directly received £3.5m of Growth Deal funding towards projects in Lewes and Newhaven, with a further £13.1m of funding benefiting projects across the District.

- 1.6 The Board's success and growing reputation has gained interest across the region, and Crawley Borough Council and Gatwick Airport Ltd joined the partnership in February 2018. Arun District Council requested to join the Board in October 2018.

## **2 Proposal**

### Functional Economic Area

- 2.1 Recent work undertaken by the West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board has recognised that Arun lies within both the Housing Market area and Functional Economic Market area of that part of the coast including all or part of Adur, Worthing, Brighton & Hove, Lewes and Mid Sussex.
- 2.2 Arun is a net exporter of workers to the City Region, as well as forming part of its housing market. Based on 2011 Census data, Arun provides jobs for around 4,500 Greater Brighton residents, whilst 9,000 of Arun's residents were employed across Greater Brighton. Aligning strategy and investment activity would add value.
- 2.3 Arun can add much to the critical mass and economic diversity of the Greater Brighton City Region economy. Arun's economy supports around 55,000 jobs, and the addition of Arun to Greater Brighton would take the City Region's job base (currently c. 475,000) to over half a million, which would be a significant milestone. The current Gross Value Added (GVA) of Greater Brighton is around £23.1bn. Arun's economy currently generates around £2.3bn GVA, which represents a 10% uplift to the current Greater Brighton economy.
- 2.4 In terms of job growth, estimates from Experian indicate that Greater Brighton could grow by around 73,000 jobs over the next 20 years, with growth in Arun being around 5,300 jobs over the same period. If included in Greater Brighton, the projected job growth in Arun would provide an uplift of around 7% to the City Region total.
- 2.5 Arun has a broad economy including representation in a number of high-value sectors such as knowledge-based manufacturing and advanced engineering activities. The greatest uplift to Greater Brighton's current GVA would be seen in the agriculture, construction, accommodation & food services and wholesale & retail sectors.
- 2.6 Supporting growth in specialised and highly productive industries is a key objective of the Government's Industrial Strategy. There are a number of advanced engineering / manufacturing firms within Arun, hence Arun's businesses could be well placed to respond.

### Housing Delivery

- 2.7 Arun provides a source of relatively affordable housing that contributes to the functioning of the Greater Brighton economy. ONS statistics show that in 2016 around 1,900 people moved out of Greater Brighton and into Arun, specifically from Worthing and Brighton & Hove. The District has significant potential to increase future capacity for housing and employment space in Greater Brighton.

Current Local Plans for the six Greater Brighton local authorities give a combined figure of around 49,000 new homes to be built up to 2032. Arun's Local Plan – adopted June 2018 – makes provision to deliver 20,000 dwellings over the period. This would increase the City Region's housing delivery by 40%.

- 2.8 The Arun Local Plan proposes a wide range of housing allocations including several large-scale strategic sites which will provide sustained high levels of delivery over the medium to long-term. When considered in the context of the housing trajectories published by the Greater Brighton local authorities to 2026, this indicates that Arun could be contributing about 32% of housing delivery across the City Region by 2022/23.

#### Employment Land Supply

- 2.9 In addition to housing, the Arun Local Plan makes provision for significant capacity for additional employment floorspace, which could supplement the City Region's constrained supply. The Local Plan provides allocations for around 292,000m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace capacity. The most significant allocation is Enterprise Bognor Regis, and this space has started to come forward for development. These allocations would be the largest in Greater Brighton, with the next highest being the proposed 200,000m<sup>2</sup> across strategic employment sites in Burgess Hill, and the 55,000m<sup>2</sup> as part of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone (over a 25-year period).
- 2.10 Commercial property market intelligence indicates that businesses from Greater Brighton, particularly in its coastal areas, that are seeking new accommodation for expansion or upgrading would be likely to consider Arun if there was a lack of suitable floorspace in their districts, particularly as regards larger space requirements. This has recently been demonstrated by the expansion of Rolls Royce in Bognor Regis, away from the company's Goodwood base in Chichester.
- 2.11 Arun is likely to play an increasingly important role in accommodating some of the commercial property needs of Greater Brighton and the A27 corridor in particular.

#### Skills

- 2.12 The University of Chichester (Bognor Regis Campus) has invested over £50m, with direct assistance from Arun District Council, for the new Learning and Resource Centre and the new Tech Park at the Bognor Regis Campus. The Learning Resource Centre will promote STEM courses and bring 1,500 new students to the town.

#### Infrastructure & Other Priorities

- 2.13 The ambition and vision for housing outlined in Paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 require significant infrastructure support. Arun's Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out the requirements, which include the development of a new secondary school and nine primary schools on top of current educational provision. The A27, A259 east-west corridor and A23 north-south corridors are key priorities for Arun.

- 2.14 Arun can actively contribute to the Board's future workplan, particularly where this concerns housing, economic growth, strategic planning and adding new projects to the pipeline for future funding bids to Government and others.
- 2.15 Arun's membership would give additional capacity and capability to deliver sub-regional spatial priorities in a co-ordinated way, building on mechanisms such as the West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board.

#### Heads of Terms

- 2.16 At the GBEB meeting held on 26 March 2019, the Board agreed a number of changes to the Heads of Terms that must be ratified by all member authorities. These are as follows:
- I. Change to 5.1 (Membership) to reflect Recommendation 1 of this report, that Arun District Council be formally invited to join the GBEJC.
  - II. Change to 6.4 (Chair) to reflect the agreed departure from a 1-year fixed-term Chair with the requirement to rotate annually, to allowing a sitting chair to stand for re-election.
  - III. Amendment to 11.1 (Time and Venue of Meetings) to reflect the current practice that Board meetings move around the City Region and do not always take place in the geographical area of the Lead Authority (currently Brighton & Hove City Council).

### **3 Outcome expected and performance management**

- 3.1 That the recommendation that Arun District Council be formally invited to join the GBEJC.

### **4 Consultation**

- 4.1 None required.

### **5 Corporate plan and council policies**

- 5.1 Membership of the Greater Brighton Economic Board contributes to the delivery of the Council's *Growth and Prosperity* objective through ensuring a collective voice representing the Council and its neighbours at national level.
- 5.2 This is reflected in the funding secured via the City Region from Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership, as outlined in Paragraph 1.5.

### **6 Business case and alternative option(s) considered**

- 6.1 The alternative option would be for the membership of the Board to remain as it is currently. However, for the reasons outlined in Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.15, at the meeting of 26 March 2019, the Greater Brighton Economic Board took the decision to extend the membership to incorporate Arun District Council.
- 6.2 On 26 March 2019, the Board also agreed the governance changes outlined in Paragraph 2.16.

## **7 Financial appraisal**

- 7.1 It is proposed that interim contributions are sought from Arun District Council from October 2019, in line with the timetable for their membership. These contributions are based on the current calculations for partner contributions based on the remaining months within the financial year following ratification.
- 7.2 Guidance on how GBEB membership contributions are calculated are contained within Appendix 3.
- 7.3 The recommendations in this report have no direct financial implications for Lewes District Council, as the Council's contribution of £18,000 for 2019/20 will remain unchanged.

## **8 Legal implications**

- 8.1 The GBEJC is a joint committee established pursuant to section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. This Act and The Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 require the constituent authorities of a joint committee to decide the membership of that committee. As a constituent authority, it is therefore necessary for Lewes District Council to adopt recommendation 1 of this report if the Council wishes Arun District Council to become a member of GBEJC.

*Lawyer consulted: 03.06.19*

*Legal ref: 008311-LDC-OD*

## **9 Risk management implications**

- 9.1 I have completed a risk assessment. The changes covered by this report are not significant in terms of risk. No new risks will arise if the recommendations of this report are implemented.

## **10 Equality analysis**

- 10.1 An equalities screening was undertaken on the decision for Lewes District Council to join the Greater Brighton Economic Board (as agreed by Cabinet on 13 February 2014). The addition of a new Member to the Board will not impact further on equalities and so no additional analysis has been undertaken at this stage.

## **11 Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Greater Brighton Economic Board Operational Arrangements 2019/20

## **12 Background papers**

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- None