

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 5 December 2024

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

Report of: Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning

Cabinet member: Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for finance, assets and community wealth building

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: This report seeks LDC approval for the NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to become a member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (“the Board”)

Decision type: Non-key decision

Officer recommendation(s):

- (1) To ratify the appointment of NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) and Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC), subject to formal agreement of NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board.
- (2) To note that NHS Sussex’s Integrated Care Board 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.

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 business, university and further education sectors are situated.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Greater Brighton Economic Board comprises a range of local authority, business and further education stakeholders. The following bodies are members of the Board:
- i. Adur District Council
 - ii. Arun District Council
 - iii. Brighton & Hove City Council
 - iv. Crawley Borough Council
 - v. Lewes District Council
 - vi. Mid-Sussex District Council
 - vii. Worthing Borough Council
 - viii. Adur & Worthing Business Partnership
 - ix. Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
 - x. Chichester College Group
 - xi. University of Brighton
 - xii. University of Sussex
 - xiii. South Downs National Park Authority
- 1.2 The GBEJC comprises the bodies specified in Paragraph 1.1 (i) to (vii) and the GBBP comprises the bodies specified in Paragraph 1.1 (viii) to (xiii).
- 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 that was 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 Board membership has been extended twice since the Board's inception; Crawley Borough Council and Arun District Council joined the GBEJC in February 2018 and in October 2019 respectively.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The Integrated Care System that covers Sussex (NHS Sussex) is responsible for healthcare for 1.7 million people across Sussex. It employs 50,000 staff with the largest components being the 20,000 employees at University Hospitals Sussex and 8,000 at East Sussex Healthcare. The NHS in Sussex has an asset base that covers 236 GP Practices, 9 acute sites, and around 14 other sites. The NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) has 850 employees, and commissions the services for NHS Sussex health care providers. It currently has contracts with 267 individual providers making the organisation a big driver of economic growth in the area, both with the number of people it employs and the amount it spends on procurement within the region. The ICB has expressed an interest in becoming a formal member of the Board, which would broaden the geographical reach of the Board to all of Sussex.
- 2.2 The NHS Sussex ICB attended the Board meeting as observers on 16 July 2024 and have written a letter to the Chair formally requesting to join the Board.
- 2.3 When considering the request by Crawley to join the Greater Brighton Economic Board in 2018, it was agreed that the Board should adopt a fair and consistent approach to organisations that express an interest in joining, and for proposed new members, consideration would need to be given to the following five questions;
 - i. Does the organisation buy into the Board's agreed vision and priorities?
 - ii. Do they share economic characteristics and represent the Greater Brighton functional economic area?
 - iii. Will they add to the Board's reputation, in terms of legitimacy, standing and reach?
 - iv. Are they going to actively participate and commit resources to support the Board and deliver the work programme?
 - v. Do they add capacity to help the Board deliver on its agreed vision and priorities?

This methodology was also employed with regards to Arun District Council's request to join in 2019.

- 2.4 At a meeting of the GBEB on 16th October 2024, the Board was asked to extend its membership and formally invite NHS Sussex ICB to become a constituent member of the GBBP. This is subject to the approval of NHS Sussex ICB. It would also

trigger a variation to the Board's Heads of Terms that will require the formal ratification of all Joint Committee members. Please refer to Appendix 1.

2.5 Some points for consideration are summarised below:

Does the organisation buy into the Board's agreed vision and priorities?

Inclusive growth is a priority for the Board. Whilst it is acknowledged that Sussex is a relatively affluent region based on many economic metrics, there exist pockets of significant deprivation, particularly along the coast. People living in deprived circumstances may experience poor quality housing, low incomes, a lack of access to good food and places to exercise, and a sense of social isolation. These factors often have a negative influence on people's health choices and outcomes, with smoking, alcohol misuse, obesity and poor mental health more likely. This, in turn, increases the risk of them developing long term conditions which reduces their life expectancy, and this can also place demand on health and social care services.

NHS Sussex has identified that 75% of deaths and disability across Sussex are influenced by health inequalities. The links between inequality, health, productivity and inclusive growth are clear – a healthy population is more productive and able to enjoy the benefits associated with growth. By working closely with NHS Sussex ICB and wider health partners, the Board can better address the challenge associated with health inequality and create the conditions where more residents can benefit from inclusive growth.

Air Pollution has been identified as the largest single environmental risk factor in the UK; it is associated with 28,000-36,000 premature deaths annually, and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in society. Estimates of the costs of air pollution impacts to human health in the UK are in the region of £20 billion per year. With around 4-5% of the country's carbon emissions and an increasing burden on the health of communities from climate change, the NHS has an essential role to play in meeting the Net Zero targets set under the 2008 Climate Change Act.

Delivering a "Net Zero" National Health Service sets out two targets for the NHS:

- Net zero by 2040 for directly controlled emissions (NHS Carbon Footprint), with an 80% reduction by 2028-32.
- Net zero by 2045 for the emissions the NHS can influence but not directly control (NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), with an 80% reduction by 2036-39.

The Health and Social Care Act 2022 places duties on NHS England (NHSE), and all Trusts, Foundation Trusts, and Integrated Care Boards to contribute towards these emissions reductions, climate adaptation and wider environmental targets. Decarbonising buildings is a key component of the net zero transition, with 10% of the NHS's carbon footprint coming from building energy. Grid decarbonisation has contributed towards reduced emissions for the NHS, but NHS organisations must urgently take action to improve building fabric, optimise heating and lighting efficiency and replace existing fossil fuel heating systems.

The Board has recently agreed to use its convening powers and influence to drive transformational change across the region in the form of Sussex Energy, a mission for Sussex to achieve net zero energy status by 2040. This ambitious goal seeks to ensure that our community's energy use equals the zero-carbon energy generated locally, thereby enhancing energy security, driving down energy bills and addressing urgent climate concerns, at the same time as driving economic growth.

The Sussex Energy mission dovetails with the 'Net Zero' National Health Service targets. NHS Sussex has a high energy consuming infrastructure, across the whole region, making them a key anchor partner for scaled energy solutions.

Do they share economic characteristics and represent the Greater Brighton functional economic area?

The Sussex Energy Mission, launched by the Board in July 2024, will require the Board to engage with stakeholders and develop partnerships across the Sussex region, so having NHS Sussex ICB as a Board member with a Sussex wide footprint will help build these relationships. The broadening of the membership to one with a wider geography is relevant and timely.

Furthermore, in line with the new Government's ambitions around devolution, discussions have been taking place around what a sensible devolution geography looks like in this region. Devolution is a collaborative process, and any credible move towards a devolution settlement would need to involve regional stakeholders and influencers such as NHS Sussex.

Will they add to the Board's reputation, in terms of legitimacy, standing and reach?

The inclusion of NHS Sussex ICB would be an asset to the Board. The ICB is a major economic actor in Sussex. It allocates a £3.6bn annual NHS budget, commissions services for the 1.7 million people across Sussex and supports the delivery of the system's five-year health and care strategy: Improving Lives Together. In its capacity as commissioner of NHS services, the ICB is able to work with wider NHS partners across Sussex e.g. the NHS Trusts, Health & Wellbeing Boards, Primary Care Networks etc.

NHS Sussex ICB is a statutory member of the Sussex Health and Care System. The Sussex Health and Care Assembly, as a statutory joint committee between the NHS and local government (NHS Sussex, Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council), comes together to formally agree the strategic direction for the health and care system. Its core purpose is to agree the strategic direction and facilitate joint action across a broad alliance of organisations to improve the outcomes, equality of access and patient experience of health and care services for all communities across Sussex. The Assembly has specific responsibility to develop Improving Lives Together, for its whole population using the best available evidence and data, covering health and social care, and addressing health inequalities and the wider determinants which drive these inequalities.

The Sussex wide footprint of an organisation that touches so many people's lives makes NHS Sussex an important influencer with many partnerships which will be instrumental to spread the Board's ambitions.

Are they going to actively participate and commit resources to support the Board and deliver the work programme?

The ICB has an established Care Without Carbon team supporting experts by experience across all NHS organisations. The Team is building a good track record of securing high levels of investment and delivering large scale low carbon energy projects. To further advance its net zero objectives, the NHS Sussex ICB is forming active partnerships with wider public sector partners. The Board provides the NHS with a fantastic opportunity to work alongside public sector partners to actively communicate the importance of the energy mission in improving population health; to build resilience in energy supply by leveraging solar, wind, hydro, and other sustainable technologies; and to work together to support a reduction in the overall public sector estate footprint through better support for local communities. Having a Sussex-wide footprint and a large number of assets provide significant anchor tenant potential and community reach, as in the case of the Worthing Heat Network, where NHS Sussex is a key anchor tenant and is working with Worthing Borough Council and other partners to deliver this transformational work programme.

The NHS Sussex ICB are also supporting work on the emerging City Food Strategy Action Plan 2025-30, which is being developed by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and will feed into the wider Greater Brighton Integrated Food Systems Plan.

Do they add capacity to help the Board deliver on its agreed vision and priorities?

By pulling together the resources of current Board Members, the ICB and wider NHS partners, there will be access to a larger pool of experience and expertise which will extend the range of solutions available. There will be greater leverage of District Network Operators (DNOs) and other suppliers through stronger collective purchasing power. By working together, across a wider geography, there will be opportunities to optimise the use of a vast public sector estate. There is opportunity to take a joined-up approach in engaging local communities to embrace sustainability and create local wealth.

Governance

NHS Sussex ICB attended the July 2024 Board meeting and Sussex Energy Launch as an observer. They have nominated a prospective representative to sit on the Board as well as a deputy and have also nominated a member of the Team to sit on the Programme Board. NHS Sussex ICB have also attended recent Sussex Energy meetings so are already participating in and adding value to the Board's work.

3 Consultation

- 3.1 The governance committees of constituent Board members will be consulted as part of the changes to the Heads of Terms. In addition, the Greater Brighton Economic Board's Business Manager has written to every Local Authority member asking for the changes to the Heads of Terms to be ratified by them. Please refer to Appendix 1.

4 Corporate plan and council policies

- 4.1 For the last four years, the Council has embraced a community wealth building approach to its work, to ensure that local people and the local economy are placed at the centre of how the Council operates and how we work with our partners.
- 4.2 The proposal for NHS Sussex ICB to join the GBE Board will also support LDC's planning policy key strategic objectives under core policy 4 'Encouraging Economic Development and Regeneration'.

5 Financial appraisal

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report have no direct financial implications for Lewes District Council, as the Council's contribution of £15,200 for 2024/25 will remain unchanged.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 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 NHS Sussex ICB to become a member of GBEJC.

Legal input reviewed 29.10.24

Legal ref: 013460-LDC-OD

7 Risk management implications

- 7.1 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.

8 Equality analysis

- 8.1 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. The Council's Community Services Officer has confirmed that the appointment of NHS Sussex ICB to the GBEB will have no impact on staff, service users, residents or visitors and there will be no impact on any service.

9 Environmental sustainability implications

9.1 There are no significant environmental sustainability effects as a result of the recommendations in this report.

10 Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Greater Brighton Economic Board Heads of Terms.

11 Background papers

None.