

8. EXTENSION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

REPORT OF: Assistant Chief Executive, Judy Holmes
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No

Purpose of the Report

1. A report was presented to Cabinet on the 16th October 2017, explaining the wish of Crawley Borough Council to join the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) and the requirement for constituent members to approve the extension of membership. The Cabinet agreed to recommend that Council, in its capacity as a constituent member of GBEB, approve Crawley Borough Council membership.

Summary

2. Mid Sussex District Council is a constituent member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board along with Adur District Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, Lewes District Council and Worthing District Council. On 25th April 2017, the Board resolved to invite Crawley Borough Council to become a constituent member. This decision requires ratification by all existing members.

Recommendations

3. **The Council are recommended to approve the membership of Crawley Borough Council to the Greater Brighton Economic Board.**
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Background

4. In March 2014, the Council agreed to the establishment of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) as the governing mechanism for delivery of the Greater Brighton City Deal. The Board comprises the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (on which local authorities will be represented) and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership (on which Coast to Capital, business and education sectors will be represented).
5. The original local authority members of GBEB are Adur District Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, Lewes District Council, Mid Sussex District Council and Worthing District Council. Crawley Borough Council expressed a wish to join GBEB and consequently GBEB resolved to invite them to become a constituent member.
6. The Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee is a joint committee established pursuant to section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Local Government Act 1972 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. Therefore Crawley Borough Council's membership of GBEB requires ratification by all current local authority members.

7. 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 (in particular the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership) 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 work stream enabled by City Deal funding and devolution of powers;
 - To enable those bodies to whom section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 applies 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.
8. The inclusion of Crawley Borough Council will be beneficial to GBEB by:
- Strengthening strategic linkages between Crawley and the southern parts of the City region
 - Enhancing the case to Government for investment in the M23/A23 corridor by creating a stronger, more coherent, lobby group
 - Helping with the development of a more proactive Inward Investment and Trade Strategy through the inclusion of Gatwick
 - Broadening the scope of GBEB by creating a balance of economic power across the region.

Policy Context

9. The current refresh of the Council's Economic Development Strategy that is underway has highlighted the importance of working in partnership, where possible, to deliver key economic benefits. A strengthened GBEB will work in the District's favour, particularly in lobbying for the delivery of infrastructure improvements and the promotion of inward investment.

Other Options Considered

10. The Council could refuse to agree to the inclusion of Crawley Borough Council as a member of GBEB. This would be controversial and could destabilise the partnership and no other constituent member is contemplating such a course of action.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications for the Council as a result of this decision. Operational costs of GBEB are apportioned to member authorities according to the size of their working age populations. For 2017/18, Mid Sussex's contribution was £11,234 – the lowest contribution amongst member authorities. There is no suggestion that this will increase as a result of Crawley Borough Council becoming a member and it could potentially decrease with another authority sharing the burden.

Risk Management Implications

12. There is a risk that the inclusion of an additional member could weaken the influence of Mid Sussex. This is unlikely to crystallise given the existing good relationships with GBEB and its constituent members.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

13. No implications.

Background Papers

Report to Council on Governance Arrangements for Greater Brighton City Deal (March 2014)

Report to Cabinet on the extension of the Greater Brighton Economic Board to include Crawley Borough Council (October 2017)