

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. The purpose of this report is to seek ratification by the Council, in its capacity as a constituent member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB), of Arun District Council's membership of the GBEB.

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, Crawley Borough Council, Lewes District Council, and Worthing District Council. On 26 March 2019, the Board resolved to invite Arun District 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 Arun District Council to the Greater Brighton Economic Board**
 - **agree other changes to the Greater Brighton Economic Board Heads of Terms to allow a sitting chair to be re-elected, and to require Board meetings to take place in different parts of the City Region.**
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Background

4. In March 2014, the Council agreed to the establishment of the 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 were Adur District Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, Lewes District Council, Mid Sussex District Council and Worthing District Council. Crawley Borough Council was invited to join GBEB at the Board's meeting on 25 April 2017. That decision was thereafter formally ratified by each of the local authority members, with Crawley's membership agreed by the Board at its meeting on 6 February 2018.

Role of the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee

6. The Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC) 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 Arun District 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.

Contribution of Arun District Council to the City Region

8. Arun District Council can add significantly 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 to over half a million, which would be a significant milestone. It would also increase the population of the City Region to more than one million. The current Gross Value Added (GVA) of Greater Brighton is around £23.1bn. Arun's economy currently generates around £2.3bn GVA, which would represent a 10 per cent uplift to the current Greater Brighton Economy.
9. Arun has a broad-based economy including representation in a number of high-value sectors including knowledge-based manufacturing and advanced engineering activities. The greatest uplift to Greater Brighton's current GVA would be seen in the agriculture, construction, accommodation and food services and wholesale and retail sectors.

Policy Context

10. The Council's refreshed Economic Development Strategy, launched in Summer 2018, sets out a vision for the District as a vibrant and attractive place for businesses and people to grow and succeed. Close partnership working will be key to the delivery of the Strategy and to the realisation of that vision. 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.

Heads of Terms

11. The current Heads of Terms for GBEB were agreed at the Board's meeting on 6 February 2018. The Heads of Terms are available and can be accessed at: <https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mqChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=8120> (item 28, 'Operational Arrangements 2019/20', appendix 1).
12. There are a number of changes to the Heads of Terms that the Board agreed on 26 March 2019. These are as follows:
 - I. Change to 5.1 (Membership) to reflect the recommendation in paragraph 3 above 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).

These also need to be ratified by each Member of the Board.

Other Options Considered

13. The Council could refuse to agree to the inclusion of Arun District 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

14. 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 2019/20, Mid Sussex's contribution was £23,121. There is no suggestion that this will increase as a result of Arun District Council becoming a member.

Risk Management Implications

15. None.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

16. No implications.

Background Papers

Report to Council on the Establishment of and Governance Arrangements for the Greater Brighton City Deal (March 2014):

<http://midsussex.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?Committeed=139&Meeti nglId=703&DF=26%2f03%2f2014&Ver=2>

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

<http://midsussex.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?Committeeld=139&MeetingId=734&DF=01%2f11%2f2017&Ver=2>

Heads of Terms for Greater Brighton Economic Board

<https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=8120>