

## GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD GRANT REQUEST

**REPORT OF:** Regeneration and Economy Programme Manager  
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**Wards Affected:** All

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### Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Cabinet Grants Panel's approval to fund the Council's membership of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) for the 2019/20 financial year.

### Summary

2. The application to be considered and the recommendations from the Grants Assessment Group on the level of financial assistance to be awarded to each organisation are detailed as follows:

| Organisation                    | Purpose for which award is sought | Award Requested | Award Suggested |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Greater Brighton Economic Board | Annual contribution               | £23,121.00      | £23,121.00      |
| <b>Total</b>                    |                                   | £23,121.00      | £23,121.00      |

### Recommendations

***Members of the Panel are requested to***

- a) Consider and decide upon the recommendation for the above application, which is described in more detail in the following paragraphs.***

### Background

3. The Greater Brighton City Deal agreement was signed by Government and the Deal's partners, including Mid Sussex District Council, on 11 March 2014. The City Region has some 12 partner organisations of which six are local authorities: Brighton & Hove City Council, Lewes District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Adur District Council, Worthing Borough Council, Crawley Borough Council.
4. The remaining (non-local authority) members comprise: Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), South Downs National Park Authority, University of Sussex, University of Brighton, Greater Brighton Metropolitan College, and Gatwick Airport Ltd.
5. For 2018/19 the Board was chaired by Councillor Gary Wall, Leader of Mid Sussex District Council. For the current financial year (2019/20) it will be chaired by Councillor Daniel Humphreys, Leader of Worthing Borough Council.
6. The City Region represents more than 689,000 residents and over 32,000 businesses. The Economic Board is focused on creating jobs and increasing productivity, by working in partnership to unlock sites and space and to set the right

conditions for the area's businesses to grow. Greater Brighton is also actively working towards a devolution package with the Government. The Economic Board meetings take place quarterly and are attended by the Leader of the District Council and the Chief Executive.

### **Benefits of membership for Mid Sussex District Council**

7. Membership of GBEB delivers economic benefits along with other wider benefits for the Council. In particular, the City Deal will help to deliver the proposed Science and Technology Park which is identified as a Growth Location in the agreement.
8. The City Deal was a key factor in securing the £16.9 million Local Growth Fund (LGF) contribution towards the A2300 corridor improvements. It was also a factor in helping secure a further £14.9m LGF funding to support the delivery of infrastructure improvements that are part of the wider Burgess Hill Strategic Growth Programme.
9. The Council's recent successful bid to secure £90,000 One Public Estate (OPE) funding to support a feasibility study and masterplanning work to develop the Council's land adjacent to Burgess Hill Railway station was submitted as collaborative bid with Greater Brighton Economic Board.
10. The Council has a central role in driving forward the work of the City Region. As noted above, the Board was chaired for last year by Councillor Gary Wall, Leader of Mid Sussex District Council. The Chair's role last year was central in leading the work to develop and agree the GBEB's strategic priorities for the next five years. The Council will continue to take a lead role in influencing GBEB and contributing to the delivery of those priorities throughout this year and beyond.

### **Funding arrangements**

11. Funding arrangements for 2019/20 were considered by the Greater Brighton Economic Board at its meeting on 26 March 2019. Total costs for 2018/19 are planned to be £241,039.00.
12. This includes the salaries of a full time Business Manager, a part-time Business Manager and a part-time Project Support Officer, together with other legal, financial and administrative costs. It also includes £67,976 to deliver the City Region's work plan. The suggested work-plan for 2019/20 is currently being drafted and will comprise projects based on the priorities outlined in the Five Year Strategic Priorities document shared at the Board's meeting on 29 January 2019.
13. The business partnership members of GBEB together contribute a total of £45,600 towards the 2019/20 running costs. A further £58,139.00 is carried over from 2018/19. The remaining £137,300.00 is contributed by the local authority members. The contributions sought from each of the unitary, district and borough councils have been calculated based on the size of their respective working age populations. Mid Sussex accounts for 16.84 per cent of the City Region's working age population, which using the methodology described above gives a contribution of £23,121.00 for the Council.

### **How does the project meet the Council's aims?**

14. Supporting economic vitality is a key objective of the Mid Sussex Sustainable Communities Strategy. This was taken forward in the Council's Economic Development Strategy, which was refreshed last year and formally adopted by Council at its meeting on 25 April 2018.

15. The Strategy sets out the vision for how Mid Sussex should develop between now and 2031 in order to ensure a thriving and sustainable economy. The Strategy features a detailed Action Plan to be updated every five years which sets out the specific activities that we will undertake and the outcomes those actions will deliver. The delivery of the Strategy is a highly collaborative enterprise with extensive involvement of partners at local, county, and regional level.
16. In particular, the actions and outcomes to promote Mid Sussex as a place for national and international investment feature the Greater Brighton Economic Board as a key delivery partner.
17. Sustainable Economic Growth is a corporate priority for the Council. That was reflected in the Council's decision to invest in a new Regeneration and Economy team at the start of 2018. Since then that team has provided dedicated staffing resource to drive forward the delivery of the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan. That team has also provided the resource for deeper and closer engagement with the Greater Brighton Economic Board, ensuring that the Council's priorities are strongly influence the City Region's priorities.
18. The District Plan, which was adopted by the Council in March 2018, contains policies to support the District's economic growth generally and also specific proposals for the Science and Technology Park and other employment spaces that form part of the Burgess Hill Strategic Growth Programme.

### **Financial Implications**

19. For 2018/19, the GBEB membership was funded from the Community and Economic Development Grants fund. Funding from that source is not available for 2019/20, as that grant fund has been reduced for the current year. However, the Economic Development budget has been increased for 2019/20, and so it is therefore proposed to fund the GBEB subscription from that budget. The activities of GBEB are more directly linked to economic development, and so the Economic Development budget represents a more appropriately aligned source of funding.

### **Risk Management Implications**

20. None.

### **Equality implications**

21. None.

### **Legal Implications**

22. None.

### **Further information and contact details**

For further information please contact:

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