

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

12 September 2016 at 6.00 pm

Present: - Councillors Hitchins (Chairman), Mrs Madeley (Vice-Chairman), Bence, Bower, Mrs Brown, Mrs Maconachie and D Maconachie.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ambler and Wells.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the government's example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions of the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests, so by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

Where a Member declares a "Prejudicial Interest" this will, in the interests of clarity for the public, be recorded in the Minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

10. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016 were approved by the Subcommittee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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11. PLATFORM – A NEW CREATIVE DIGITAL HUB AT BOGNOR REGIS RAILWAY STATION

The Chairman was pleased to welcome to the meeting Mrs Carolyn Carr and Mrs Anne De Sausmarez from the Economic Growth Team at West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) who were in attendance to give a presentation on the creation of a creative digital hub at Bognor Regis railway station.

Mrs Carr outlined the context and role of the County Council in the development of this project and how an economic review had highlighted the economic challenges for the area. A commitment had been made to help address those challenges through sector based projects and interventions with opportunities for economic growth, and particularly the creative digital sector with a focus on the coast and initially Bognor Regis.

This project fitted in well with the recently approved University of Chichester's Engineering & Digital Technology Park and the new creative technology focus, with the potential to support and grow the community of creative digital businesses (around 7% of all businesses in Bognor Regis). It was also pleasing that Network Rail was supportive and negotiations were underway for the hub to be sited within unused space at the railway station, which would be part of the investment in the station refurbishment to be undertaken by Network Rail.

Members heard that the hub would provide:-

- ✓ Hot desking and collaborative workspace
- ✓ Support for business at all stages of the business lifecycle, with some targeted incubation support for start-ups
- ✓ Networking and collaboration activities
- ✓ Skills development and training events
- ✓ Shared activities and facilities with the University of Chichester Engineering & Digital Technology Park
- ✓ Engagement with local schools, colleges and community groups

Following questions from Members which were responded to at the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to the enthusiasm and innovation of all the people involved in this exciting scheme. He thanked Mrs Carr and Mrs De Sausmarez for their interesting presentation.

12. POTENTIAL BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Toyubur Rahman, Bognor Regis Town Centre Manager, to the meeting as he was in attendance to inform Members of the detail of process for Bognor Regis Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID).

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Mr Rahman introduced the item by first explaining what a BID was, namely that it was “an arrangement whereby businesses get together, decide what additional improvements they want to make, how they are going to manage and deliver those improvements and what it will cost them. This all goes into a business plan which is then voted on by all those who would have to pay. The BID can last for a maximum of 5 years and must be able to demonstrate how it has benefited businesses which have funded it.” He then went on to highlight the advantages of the Bognor Regis BID as providing:

- A strong town centre business voice
- 5 years of funding security
- Time to plan properly
- More control by the levy paying members
- Every business contributes
- Chance to think big and do things differently chance to access more funding opportunities

He was pleased to advise that the funding for the development of the BID was being done in partnership with the District Council, Bognor Regis Chamber of Commerce, Bognor Regis Traders Association, the Town Council, Butlins and the University of Chichester.

The Town Centre Manager also provided the detail of legislation, role of the local authority, possible levy charges, potential BID area breakdown, the next steps in the process and the key dates leading up to a ballot in April/June 2017 and, if that ballot was successful, the launch of the BID in June/September 2017.

Following a question and answer session, the Chairman thanked Mr Rahman for a very interesting and informative presentation.

13. WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO REGENERATE BOGNOR REGIS

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Greg Ockwell from West Sussex County Council's Growth Team who was in attendance to advise Members of the work that was being undertaken to support the Bognor Regis Growth Programme.

Mr Ockwell was able to inform the Subcommittee that growth opportunities for the town encompassed

- Town Centre and seafront Regeneration potentially providing up to 200 homes and student accommodation; 4,000 sqm of employment space and between 100 and 400 jobs
- Enterprise Bognor Regis providing 108,500 sqm of employment space potentially providing 4,133 jobs.
- Public Realm improvement in the Town Centre
- Links to the University of Chichester growth and Bognor Bold Idea.

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He confirmed that WSCC resource and funds would only be allocated where there was a clear understanding of how investment would support the delivery of growth outcomes. In Bognor Regis, WSCC investment could support wider investment to maintain a growth programme primarily relating to the delivery of the opportunities identified in developing Bognor Regis Investment Prospectus to achieve town regeneration. Work would be undertaken with Arun District Council officers to identify a clear delivery plan that would secure growth outcomes across Bognor around December 2016; strategic planning to be undertaken to prioritise support for progression of Arun's Local Plan; and a potential revenue contribution of £30k from the Strategic Economic Plan's reserve to support development of Bognor Regis Investment Prospectus.

The Chairman welcomed the close working that was taking place between the District and the County Council and further comment was made that a lot of work had gone into the Arun Place Plan so it was pleasing to see that both Councils were moving in the same direction and that a new, positive relationship was being developed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ockwell for a very interesting and informative presentation.

14. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

The Subcommittee received and noted the Bognor Regis Regeneration Position Statement.

(The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.)