

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET ON 16 NOVEMBER 2020

**SUBJECT: THE GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD DRAFT COVID-19 SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY PLAN**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive

**DATE:** 4 November 2020

**EXTN:** 37600

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Corporate Support

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** This report updates Cabinet on the Greater Brighton Economic Board draft Covid-19 Sustainable Recovery Plan and the Council's support for the 10 Pledges to the Environment.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Cabinet is requested to:

- (1) Note the Greater Brighton Economic Board Sustainable Recovery Plan and Arun District Council's commitment to this.

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 Arun District Council is a member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board and both the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council attend regular Board meetings and individual Chief Executive and Leader meetings. At a Board meeting on 19 October 2020, a presentation was made of the GBEB Draft Covid-19 Sustainable Recovery Plan.
- 1.2 Attached in **Appendix A** is the report from the GBEB to the 19 October 2020 meeting.
- 1.3 As mentioned in the GBEB report, Covid-19 has, and will continue to, impact the region's economy significantly
- 1.4 It is crucial to understand the short-medium term impacts of the pandemic, but also consider how longer-term structural changes in the economy will impact on the City Region. The Board and its recovery plan must be agile and be able to adapt to sudden changes in government response and /or the possibility of local lockdown scenarios.

- 1.5 In May 2020, the Greater Brighton Economic Board commissioned Hatch to undertake an impact assessment to understand the challenges based on the intelligence available and the composition of the local economy. This report uses these findings to recommend a series of strategic interventions for the region to tackle the issues and optimise opportunities. This is done against the backdrop of the Board's Five-Year Strategic Priorities, which were agreed in January 2019.
- 1.6 The impact assessment for the region highlighted six main impacts. These findings are; a rise in unemployment, closure of local businesses and significant challenges in four main sectors; Creative, Arts and Culture, Education, the Visitor Economy and Transport. The following sections of the recovery plan will look at these in more detail and are aligned to the Board's Strategic Priority Themes; International, Creative, Connected, Talented and Resilient.
- 1.7 The Greater Brighton Economic Board will continue to make the strongest possible case for Government investment into the City Region. The Board will also look to influence the development of the Government's policy to ensure that Government adopts mechanisms for boosting economic recovery that will benefit the Greater Brighton economy. The Board approved its Five Year Strategic Priorities in January 2019, with the vision for the region to have a growing, modern economy that is international, creative, connected, talented and resilient. The GBEB report highlights the priorities and actions under each priority and confirms the support that the Board (which includes Arun District Council) have given to each of these areas.
- 1.8 The Board will consider the opportunities provided by new Government programmes and new funding streams; recognise national calls for a 'greener, fairer and more resilient' recovery and use this to frame recovery actions making reference to Government narrative on 'levelling-up'.
- 1.9 The GBEB received a presentation at its meeting on 19 October 2020 which confirms the support of the Board for the 10 Pledges to the Environment. This presentation will be shown to Cabinet today. The 10 pledges, supported by the Leader of the Council at the recent Board meeting, are:
  1. **Kelp:** backing a scheme to introduce a carbon capturing kelp forest off the Sussex coast.
  2. **Water Recycling:** partnering projects to introduce recycled water into new homes.
  3. **Zero Emission Fleets:** committing to phasing out diesel cars, refuse trucks and vans
  4. **EV Charging Points:** supporting a huge increase in electric vehicle charging points.
  5. **Rewilding:** supporting an increase in natural landscapes and rain garden projects
  6. **Home Visits:** supporting Southern Water's 50,000 water and energy efficiency home visits

	<div>7. <b>Low Carbon Heating:</b> rolling out schemes to replace oil home heating with electric and other low carbon fuels</div> <div>8. <b>Public Buildings:</b> reducing energy use by 50 per cent by 2030</div> <div>9. <b>Innovation:</b> establishing an Innovation Forum to share latest research and best practice</div> <div>10. <b>Lobby:</b> using Greater Brighton’s powerful voice to lobby government for investment</div>	
1.10	The GBEB and its partners work fully support the need to work collaboratively on the recommendations and actions outlined in the Sustainable Recovery Plan.	
1.11	<div>The Covid-19 pandemic and the need for recovery means Greater Brighton can no longer operate on a business as usual footing in terms of communications activity. There is great instability and government uncertainty. It is likely that there will be large-scale unemployment and many previously thriving sectors will continue to struggle. In addition, looking forward, Brexit and the Devolution White Paper will also impact on residents and businesses, as well as the identity of the region moving forward. Whilst work will continue on site visits and case studies, social media channels including the website, press releases and publications in trade press, utilising GBEB ‘experts’, the Greater Brighton communications function is advocating a shift in emphasis for the coming year with 12 months of work focussed on four broad themes:</div> <div><div>• Economic Recovery (including green recovery)</div><div>• Resources for our growing economy</div><div>• Infrastructure for our growing economy</div><div>• Skills for our growing economy.</div></div>	
1.12	The GBEB Comms team have developed an enhanced communications plan for 2020/21.	
<b>2. PROPOSAL(S):</b>		
(1)	Cabinet is requested to note the Greater Brighton Economic Board Sustainable Recovery Plan and Arun District Council’s commitment to this.	
<b>3. OPTIONS:</b>		
i)	To note this report and the Council’s commitment to the Greater Brighton Economic Board Sustainable Recovery Plan; or	
ii)	To request further information and defer this report.	
<b>4. CONSULTATION:</b>		
Has consultation been undertaken with:		
Relevant Town/Parish Council	YES	NO
Relevant District Ward Councillors		X
		X

Other groups/persons (please specify) - Cabinet	✓	
<b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial		X
Legal		X
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		X
Sustainability		X
Asset Management/Property/Land		X
Technology		X
Other (please explain)		
<b>6. IMPLICATIONS:</b>  6.1 Arun District Council and the District as a whole is facing significant financial and economic challenges due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. By supporting the work of such a significant partner as the Greater Brighton Economic Board, we can ensure that the whole area has a prosperous and sustainable future with strong commitment from many influencers.		

<b>7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:</b>  For Cabinet to note the Greater Brighton Economic Board Sustainable Recovery Plan and Arun District Council's commitment to this.
<b>8 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DECISION:</b> 14 December 2020 – as this is a noting exercise

<b>8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>  GBEB presentation - 10 Pledges to the Environment: <a href="https://greaterbrighton.com/gb10/">https://greaterbrighton.com/gb10/</a> .
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