

<b>Coast to Capital Board Meeting No. 34</b> <b>11 May 2017</b>	<b>Item No.</b> <b>34.02 B</b>
Report Title: <b>Chief Executive Report</b>	
Report by: <b>Jonathan Sharrock</b>	

### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to consider the items raised in this paper.

### **Corporate update**

We have appointed a new Head of Corporate and Communications: Katie Nurcombe, who will be joining us from Build UK. Katie's appointment completes the Executive Team and will put us in a good position to deliver our business plan for next year.

We will be developing a job description for a new position to support delivery of our mandate on regeneration, business space and housing.

### **Communications and stakeholder engagement**

We have begun a series of briefing sessions across the region to advance our goals in relation to investment in the Brighton Mainline. Briefing meeting with businesses in Croydon took place on 4 May, with meetings in Gatwick and Brighton to follow. After the election, there will be a meeting with regional MPs and other political stakeholders (this had been scheduled for 26 April but was cancelled because of the election). This work is being supported by Gatwick Airport and Network Rail and allows us to build understanding and support for regional rail investment priorities.

We have begun engagement with Highways England and Ministers around the need for investment in the M23 Northern section. Correspondence is attached – we will be meeting senior Highways England officers shortly.

The Department for International Trade has asked us to host an event with landowners, developers and local authorities in the region in order to identify sites suitable for inclusion in their investment opportunities prospectus for the south of England. This event is being organised for the summer.

The annual LEP conference took place on 27 March. Sajid Javid gave the keynote address and outlined the work that he is doing on the role of LEPs in relation to post-EU regional funding. He made particular reference to the work of Coast to Capital in relation to housing. There was also a significant focus on the Enterprise Adviser network, with further reference to our commitment to this project and specifically our work supporting young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. At a separate meeting of the South East LEPs, we engaged with the GLA on the preparation of the new London Plan – this will be followed up with further discussions in June.

## **Projects Pillar**

Following feedback at the last Board meeting a number of changes have been made to this dashboard:

- a) Incorporating of the value of risks.
- b) All projects now scored for risk based upon a standard frequency and likelihood scoring system, with some examples attached.

Since the last Board meeting the year end growth deal spend position has been finalised with the minimal need to release flexibility funding. Further details are set out within a specific strategy paper included on this Board agenda.

We have also been advised by Government of their Growth Deal 3 allocation of funding for 2017/18. Our request was for £8m out of the £66m award, as delivery bodies had advised that when aggregated together total in year spend would not exceed this. Despite this profile Government has chosen to release £15.8m to us this financial year with the permission to use flexibility release to delivery bodies in order to absorb any difference between achievable spend and the requirement to draw down all funding.

Recruitment of an additional project manager of a higher level of seniority to existing team members has been commenced in order to increase our capacity and client duties.

Due to staff changes at our accountable body discussions have commenced which are aimed at improving value for money with the services that they provide including the possible tendering out of the service in line with our procurement policy.

## **Services Pillar**

The Service Pillar includes three key areas including the Business Navigator Growth Hub, the Enterprise Adviser Network and international trade. A Service Pillar Committee meeting is due to be held on held on 8 June 2017.

The Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) works to connect senior, local business leaders with senior leaders in local schools helping to motivate and inspire young people, to make a major impact on their future career prospects. The dashboard highlights that 56 schools have been recruited and matched with 50 Enterprise Advisers. The Enterprise Coordinators are starting to engage with business leaders in Croydon and East Surrey and would welcome introductions from Board Members. The Careers and Enterprise Company have confirmed grant funding up to August 2018. The Coast to Capital Board has previously agreed to match fund the CEC funding until this date.

Inward investment activity has increased significantly since the last Board meeting. For the last financial year 41 projects successes have been identified projecting 1,669 jobs. Following a very quiet period immediately post EU referendum period there have been a number of projects that have been identified by the Department for International Trade (DIT) in the last month or two. 49% of investments are from Europe, Africa or the Middle East. 58% of FDI successes have been expansions or new project with the remainder being mergers and acquisitions. Only 34% of projects have been classified as good or high quality investments.

A new Norwegian flight to Singapore has been announced and Coast to Capital proposed to support a trade visit to Singapore towards the end of the year. We are working with DIT to hold an event related to promoting strategic investments in the Coast to Capital area in early summer.

Since the last Board meeting the highly regarded Business Navigator Growth Hub Service has supported a further 297 businesses with 43% of businesses taking up at least one service that they were signposted to. 67% of businesses supported since the last Board meeting were new Growth Hub clients. In the last quarter we have measured customer satisfaction levels which show the average customer satisfaction score of 4 out of 5 which is higher than in the previous period.

We have established three Business Adviser roles within the Business Navigator team to allow for a greater level of direct support provided to businesses this financial year. This enhanced support will be focussed on scale up businesses.

At the last Board meeting it was identified that we had not captured details of our clients' current and proposed levels of international trade activity. This was also reflected in the chart of business support needs. An exercise was undertaken to review with clients their current and proposed international trade activity and as a direct result we identified 6% of businesses with international trade business support needs.

## **Strategy and Policy Pillar**

The Strategy and Policy dashboard remains structurally unchanged, updated to show progress. There is a detailed briefing note for each of the priority projects. An ESIF dashboard has been added to provide further detail on progress in delivering our obligations around EU structural funds.

We are developing an Economic Overview dashboard which will highlight indicators (such as unemployment rate/GVA) relevant to economic growth in the region. This will need to be developed further in line with our revised SEP. The challenge is for us to identify and track the key economic indicators in a way which informs and supports our analysis of output, productivity and economic performance in the region. One of the challenges is the varying frequency of updates for this data, which will affect our ability to provide regular updates to the Board. The first version of the dashboard is attached.

The Strategy and Policy team is now fully resourced having recruited a highly experienced Strategy and Policy Manager, from the National Housing Federation. She will take up post later in May.

The Strategy and Policy Committee has met for a second time and has contributed to the development of these papers. The Committee brings together senior leaders from Unitary and County authorities in the region to challenge our work and ensure consistency with the strategic work of local authorities in the region. The Committee has endorsed the dashboard for this work and also contributed to finalising the industrial strategy response.

We will provide an overview and project plan for work to review the SEP at the next Board meeting, in July.

