

Strategy and Policy Committee

Thursday 22 June 2017, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Coast to Capital, Horsham Training Centre, Hurst Road, Horsham, RH12 2DN

Members:

Jonathan Sharrock	Coast to Capital (Chair)	JS
Kirsten Trussell	Coast to Capital	KT
Catherine Ryder	Coast to Capital	CR
Shifa Mustafa	Croydon Borough Council	SM
Nathan Elvery	West Sussex County Council	NE
Kevin Lloyd	Surrey County Council	KL
Alison Young	Brighton and Hove City Council	AY

Present:

Jamie Watson	Coast to Capital	JW
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Apologies:

Nick Hibberd	Brighton and Hove City Council	NH
Trevor Pugh	Surrey County Council	TP

1. Welcomes and Introductions

- 1.1. Welcomes and introductions from JS
- 1.2. Kevin Lloyd is substituting for Trevor Pugh
- 1.3. Alison Young is substituting for Nick Hibberd

2. Action points

- 2.1. JS noted which actions were completed, two remained unfinished.
- 2.2. Committee dates had not been sent out as the meeting plan for the year has not yet been finalised. What dates are available are included at the end of these minutes. Further committee dates will be planned as part of an upcoming Board planning meeting.
- 2.3. A process for sharing Coast to Capital board papers via a secure portal on the Coast to Capital website is now in place. Committee members were asked to nominate an individual from their organisation to be given access these files.
- 2.4. JS updated with news on Southern Rail, issues are expected to calm down relative to previous actions and Southern have had a strong recruitment drive to reduce disruption in the future.

Action: Committee members to nominate an individual to access the secure portal.

3. Strategic Economic Plan

- 3.1. KT updated on the plan for developing a new Strategic Economic Plan, noting a lot has changed since 2014 when the last SEP was written.

- 3.1.1. Coast to Capital is taking this opportunity to talk to partners, stakeholders and the Government about the opportunities and challenges facing the region, how we will respond to them, and what we need from the Government.
 - 3.1.2. It follows on from the Coast to Capital Industrial Strategy response which set out seven key themes to focus on and helped to shape the Coast to Capital Business Plan 2017/18.
 - 3.1.3. The SEP will be delivered in house, however expert knowledge and advice will be sought where required.
 - 3.1.4. It was discussed and agreed that the SEP will be a key tool for engaging with the Government about the needs and offer of the region and it should have real impact when it lands on the Secretary of State's desk.
 - 3.1.5. A task group will be set up to develop a vision for the region, which will be chaired by JS and include members from varied backgrounds. A request was made of committee members to suggest names of potential visionary thinkers, possibly with a lobbying or political background, and probably from the area.
 - 3.1.5.1. The group suggested that someone from outside the region could also provide a challenge to the issues of the region and that testing various hypotheses about the economy and region would be a good starting point to work up a vision.
 - 3.1.5.2. JS agreed to look at the process for the vision group, including who the visionary thinker might be, testing the vision as it evolves, and identifying the key drivers of economy before deciding on the vision.
- 3.2. JS noted that the challenge of the SEP is to make the region stand out as there is a lot of competition from other cities and regions, particularly in the north. The SEP needs to define the region, its assets, challenges, and opportunities and how to take advantage of the diverse economy Coast to Capital represents.
- 3.2.1. There was agreement that the document needs to be clear in what it wants to achieve with a clear message to the Government about what investment we need and how we will deliver it.
 - 3.2.2. There was agreement that the SEP needs to focus on the most pressing and relevant issues as it cannot cover everything.
 - 3.2.3. There was agreement that the SEP needs to be locally owned and have local buy in, clearly identifying the characteristics of the area and how any interventions will relate to those.
 - 3.2.4. KL noted that we should refer to 'involving partners' rather than 'engaging stakeholders' as this would help ensure buy-in.
 - 3.2.5. JS agreed with comments that the importance of Local Authorities should be reflected and noted that part of this process will involve bringing in other voices outside of local government, such as the region's largest employers who will have clear ideas about the need of the region.
- 3.3. There was a discussion about the importance of involving districts and boroughs in the SEP development process.
- 3.3.1. NE can engage with the districts and boroughs for West Sussex.

3.3.2.KL said that Surrey does not have as formalised an arrangement as West Sussex and suggested it would be helpful to have district voices in the mix.

3.3.3.JS agreed we would consider how best to involve districts, but highlighted the Partnership Board would be a key mechanism for involving all local authorities and other partners so we get a cross-sector discussion going.

3.4. JS provided assurances that we will involve partners from across the region, covering all different perspectives, throughout the process. This will include key businesses and the universities.

Secretary's note: we are no longer setting up a task group to help develop a vision for the region. Instead we are holding a series of workshops and meetings with partners and stakeholders and seeking input and insight on the vision from across the region.

4. Housing and Regeneration

4.1. JS tabled the housing mandate that the Coast to Capital board agreed in March. JS advised that he has sent a letter to all Local Authority Chief Executives to set out future plans for the regeneration and housing function at Coast to Capital and to explain the support and service on offer.

4.2. JS explained he will talk to Local Authorities in more detail about the role of Coast to Capital in housing over the next few weeks and months.

4.3. JS updated on Government plans for housing and how it will implement its housing white paper recommendations. One focus will be on affordability of housing which will directly affect the Coast to Capital region and potentially unlock funding. JS will update the group when more information is available.

4.3.1.KL asked what money is likely to be available - JS responded that it will not be grant money and government will want to administer where there is most need. JS also noted that infrastructure money will be prioritised for schemes that involve bringing forward housing.

4.4. JS updated on an approach from DiT to work together on bringing FDI to the UK and the South East in particular. The ultimate aim is to build a prospectus of investment opportunities in the South East that can be used when talking to foreign investors.

4.4.1.CR noted that DiT are keen to work with Local Authorities in parallel with this work.

4.5. JS introduced a job advert for the new Head of Regeneration, Housing and Business Space.

4.5.1. There was discussion about the need to be clear about scope of the role and how this person could best add value to current activities.

4.5.2. JS asked for further feedback outside of the meeting and would revise the job ad based on comments from the committee.

Action: CR to share DiT contact with group.

Action: Committee members to provide any further feedback on the housing role.

Action: JS to revise housing role based on feedback.

5. High priority projects

- 5.1. KT provided an update on the European Social Investment Fund (ESIF)
- 5.2. NE provided a brief update on the three Southern Counties devolution proposal, which is on a strategic pause as a result of elections and following Government's shift in focus. Currently exploring options for keeping the structure in place to lobby on regional issues.
- 5.3. AY provided a brief update on the Greater Brighton City Region Workshop taking place on 20-21 July. The workshop is planned to help Government explore how to land the Industrial Strategy in the context of place and will be followed by a 3 month deep dive into the city region.
- 5.4. CR provided an update on Innovation South, the science and innovation audit for the South East, the final draft report for which is currently with Government. Discussions continue to address the next steps and to keep driving the innovation agenda forward in the region.
- 5.5. CR provided an update on the Newhaven Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise Zone launched in April with a public launch happening on the 26 June. Coast to Capital is considering the next steps for the programme, with work streams to take forward the implementation, including employment and skills and how we market the sites to ensure maximum benefit.
- 5.6. KT provided an update on the campaign to ensure the Brighton Main Line receives investment in the next Network Rail control period. Coast to Capital is hosting meetings around the region to raise support for the issue which culminates with a breakfast briefing for MPs in the House of Commons on 18 July.
 - 5.6.1. JS noted that Gatwick Airport has supported the campaign thus far but that it was time to bring in other interested parties to properly fund the campaign.
 - 5.6.2. The committee offered to provide contacts to key employers who would be supportive of the campaign.
- 5.7. KT provided an update on the involvement in the LEP in the Sub-national Transport Body, noting that one of its priorities for RIS 2 is the M23 Northern Section.

Action: KT to send more detail about the breakfast briefing to the committee.

6. Horizon scanning

- 6.1. This discussion was postponed.

7. AOB

- 7.1. JS referenced the papers that had been shared regarding the Projects and Service pillars.
- 7.2. JS noted that the Coast to Capital 2017/18 business plan had now launched.
- 7.3. JS noted that the 13 July Coast to Capital Board meeting would also be the company's AGM.
- 7.4. JS noted that Coast to Capital will be reviewing its governance structures in the summer and the committee members will be asked for feedback on any changes.

8. Actions:

- 8.1. Action: Committee members to nominate an individual to access the secure portal.
- 8.2. Action: CR to share DiT contact with group.
- 8.3. Action: Committee members to provide any further feedback on the housing role.

- 8.4. Action: JS to revise housing role based on feedback.
- 8.5. Action: KT to send more detail about the breakfast briefing to the committee.

Committee Meeting Dates:

Investment Committee – 14 July 2017, then quarterly – final dates to be set

Audit Committee – February, June, October – final dates to be set

Projects Committee – meeting quarterly – final dates to be set