

## **Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Committee: Minutes**

6 March 2019 – At a meeting of the Joint Committee held at 2.00pm at Longley Suite 2, Arora Hotel, Crawley.

Present:

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Name</b>
Adur District Council	Brian Boggis, Executive Member for Regeneration
Arun District Council	Gillian Brown, Leader
Brighton & Hove City Council	Daniel Yates, Leader
Chichester District Council	Peter Wilding, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Crawley Borough Council	Peter Lamb, Leader
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	Clive Smitheram
Horsham District Council	Gordon Lindsay, Cabinet Member for Local Economy
Mid Sussex District Council	Garry Wall, Leader
Mole Valley District Council	Vivienne Michael, Leader
Reigate and Banstead District Council	Mark Brunt, Leader
South Downs National Park Authority	Margaret Paren, Chairman
Tandridge District Council	Martin Fisher, Leader
West Sussex County Council	Louise Goldsmith, Leader
Worthing Borough Council	Kevin Jenkins, Executive Member for Regeneration
Coast to Capital LEP	Tim Wates, Chairman
Coast to Capital LEP	Jonathan Sharrock, Chief Executive
London Borough of Croydon	Carli Foster, Head of Finance (on behalf of Section 151 officer)
London Borough of Croydon	Simon Trevaskis, Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer (Clerk)

## **Item 1: Introduction**

### **Welcome and background**

1. Garry Wall, the Joint Committee Chairman, welcomed the members of the Committee to the meeting highlighting that Local Enterprise Partnerships were the Government's chosen investment vehicle for encouraging economic development and as such it was important for the Joint Committee to be engaged with the process.

### **Apologies**

2. The following apologies were noted for the meeting:
  - Neil Parkin, Leader – Adur District Council
  - Tony Dignam, Leader – Chichester District Council
  - Ray Dawe, Leader – Horsham District Council
  - Tony Newman, Leader – London Borough of Croydon
  - Andy Smith, Leader – Lewes District Council
  - Colin Kemp, Leader – Surrey County Council

### **Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the previous Joint Committee meeting held on 20 June 2018 were presented for the Committee's information.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

3. Members of the Committee were reminded to complete their Declaration of Interest forms for recording.

## **Item 2: Local Industrial Strategy Update**

4. Jonathan Sharrock gave a presentation to the Joint Committee on the preparation of Local Industrial Strategy which was divided into three parts, namely the recent activities of Coast to Capital, the preparation of the Local Industrial Strategy and the next steps in the process.
5. From the section of the presentation focusing on the recent activities of Coast to Capital it was noted that Gatwick 360° had been launched in July 2018 at an event in Brighton, with positive feedback received on the strategy from the Government and Westminster. Of the eight Strategic Priorities identified in the Gatwick 360° document, seven had been aligned with Board Member leads. Activity to identify a Board Member to lead on the unallocated priority. Work streams under these priorities would start to be progressed in the coming months. Progress continued to be made on projects with £300m of investment in the process of being delivered across the Coast to Capital area.
6. From the section of the presentation focusing on the preparation of the Local Industrial Strategy it was noted that Coast to Capital was ahead of many other Local Enterprise Partnerships in the country in being in the position to start preparing their Strategy. The Government had recently announced its Stronger Towns Fund that would allocate funding of £1billion across the country, although it was not anticipated that the Coast to Capital region would receive any significant funding. The Strategy needed to have a focus on the productivity story in the region and early feedback from the Government had

been encouraging.

7. From the section of the presentation focusing on the next steps of the process it was noted there was a need to align the eight priorities set out by Gatwick 360° with the five priorities in the Local Industrial Strategy. It was envisaged that a draft of the Local Industrial Strategy would be prepared by the end of the summer for consultation, with the aim being that the final version would be delivered by the end of 2019. In the coming months Coast to Capital would be leaving their current premises in Horsham for a new office in Three Bridges, which would operate as a focal point for the delivery of the Strategy.
8. The Committee made the a number of comments, including the following:
  - The Committee were supportive of the process and recognised the importance of the Local Industrial Strategy for the region.
  - It was highlighted that it would be important to keep local authorities informed of key documents and events. It was confirmed that Coast to Capital worked with local authority Chief Executives, Economic Development Officers and Leaders, but it was a constant challenge to ensure that the right audience was being targeted. Members of the Committee acknowledged that it was important for them to ensure that they were being regularly briefed by their respective Chief Executives.
  - There was a need for Leaders to understand what the Local Industrial Strategy would mean for the area to be able to manage any political implications arising. It would be important for the LEP to work with Leaders to ensure that could convey a consistent message to local MPs.
  - It was noted that the ports in Shoreham and Newhaven had not been included in the initial work for the Local Industrial Strategy, but it was possible that they could become important for trade in the region depending on the outcome of Brexit.
  - It was agreed that it would be a challenge to balance the range of issues across the region, which varied significantly between the areas covered by the Gatwick corridor to those on the south coast.
  - It was questioned how the recent boundary changes to the LEP would be managed. In response it was confirmed that going forward Croydon would become part of the London LEP and Lewes would become part of the South East LEP. Coast to Capital would continue to work with both authorities during the two year transition period as there was still a lot of alignment with Croydon through the Gatwick Corridor and Lewes through investment in Newhaven.
  - The potential impact of Brexit was questioned, with it advised that discussions were taking place about a pipeline of projects should funding become available. Information on the potential impact upon the regional economy was also being fed into Government.
  - It was noted that improved rail links along the North Downs to Gatwick would bring significant economic benefits for the region and as such it was questioned what Coast to Capital could do to influence decision making on public transport. It was advised that Coast to Capital were able to feed into the Transport for the South East Board, whose current plan took into account the future growth for the area.

- Although it was noted that the Gatwick 360° document supported the use of the emergency runway at the airport to increase its capacity, it was highlighted that it may be difficult to lobby for more funding without the large scale growth that would be promoted by a second runway. It was politically difficult to manage these competing tensions and would be challenging for local politicians to coordinate this to ensure that a consistent message was communicated.

### **Item 3: District Council Board Representation**

9. Jonathan Sharrock introduced the report to the Committee which was asking them to ratify the Board decision to introduce an additional District Council Director to the Board and to extend Councillor Garry Wall's term as the District Council Director by three months to align the District Council appointment process with the coast to Capital Articles.
10. The Joint Committee Chair, Councillor Garry Wall reminded members that additional borough and district representation on the Board was something that many of the Committee had been lobbying for and as such it was to be welcomed. It would also help to improve communication amongst members of the Joint Committee moving forward.
11. Jonathan Sharrock confirmed to the Joint Committee that the composition of the LEP Board's was set out in the Government's Assurance Framework, which capped the maximum Board membership at 20 members and also made it a requirement that two thirds of the membership should be appointed from the business community. This left 6 spaces for local authority representatives in the region, two County Council reps, two Unitary Council reps and now two District and Borough representatives. It was proposed that the two District Council Board members would represent the two separate geographical areas within the region, namely the area around Gatwick and the Coastal strip.
12. Although the extra district and borough representation on the Board was welcomed, a number of the Joint Committee raised concern that they still felt underrepresented on the Board and questioned how they would be able to keep informed about the activities of the Board. It was agreed that it may be necessary for the Joint Committee to meet more frequently to ensure that members were kept informed. Although it was acknowledged that this could be achieved informally or through existing sub-regional groups, as well as formal Joint Committee meetings.
13. In response to a question about why the London Borough of Croydon still had a place on the Board given that it was no longer a member of the Coast to Capital LEP, it was highlighted that there was still a two year transition period for both Croydon and Lewes.
14. A member of the Joint Committee highlighted that he had been told he was not allowed to attend a previous Board meeting as an observer and questioned why this was the case. It was agreed that Joint Committee members attending Board meetings as observers would be included on the agenda for the next Board meeting to clarify the position on this. It was also agreed that a letter would be drafted from the Joint Committee requesting clarification on access to the Board.

15. It was noted that Mole Valley District Council was missing from the list of District and Borough Councils in the report.
16. The next steps would be to appoint the two Board representatives, which would take place after the local elections in May 2019.
17. The Chairman put forward the recommendations as set out in the report, which were voted upon. (12 voted for, 1 against and 1 abstention).
  
18. Resolved – That the Committee:-
  - i. Ratifies the Coast to Capital Board decision to introduce an additional District Council Director to the Board.
  - ii. Approves the extension of Councillor Wall's term as District Council representative by three months to August 2019 to align the District Council appointment process with the Coast to Capital Articles.

**Item 4: Close:**

**Terms of Reference**

19. Jonathan Sharrock introduced an updated set of Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee, which were set out in the agenda. The Terms of Reference had been updated to comply with the guidelines set out by the Assurance Framework.
20. It was noted that the Chair of the Joint Committee would be elected at the first meeting following the local council elections in May 2019.

**AOB**

21. None

**Future Meetings**

22. It was advised that the date for the next meeting of the Joint Committee had not yet been finalised, but it was likely to be at the end of the summer.
23. It was agreed that it would be useful to align the meetings of the Joint Committee with those of the Board, to allow Committee Members further opportunity to feed into these meetings. As there was a Board meeting scheduled for October 2019, holding a meeting at the end of the summer would fit into this timeline.
24. The meeting ended at 4.10pm

