

Coast to Capital

Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Committee: Draft Minutes

23 January 2020 – At a meeting of the Joint Committee held at 5.30pm at Vancouver Room, Sandman Signature Hotel – London Gatwick, Crawley.

Present:

Authority	Name
Adur District Council	Brian Boggis, Executive Member for Regeneration
Chichester District Council	Adrian Moss, Leader of the Opposition
Mid Sussex District Council	Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Leader
Mole Valley District Council	Clayton Wellman, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy
Reigate and Banstead District Council	Mark Brunt, Leader
South Downs National Park Authority	Ian Phillips, Vice-Chairman
West Sussex County Council	Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources
Worthing Borough Council	Kevin Jenkins, Executive Member for Regeneration
Coast to Capital LEP	Tim Wates, Chairman
Coast to Capital LEP	Jonathan Sharrock, Chief Executive
Coast to Capital LEP	Katie Nurcombe, Head of Corporate Affairs
Coast to Capital LEP	Kirsten Trussell, Head of Strategy and Policy
London Borough of Croydon	Kate Edwards, 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. Councillor Mark Brunt welcomed the members of the Joint Committee to the meeting, highlighting that it was an opportunity for them to fine tune the arrangements for their future meetings to ensure they were led by the local authorities.

Apologies

2. The following apologies were noted for the meeting:
 - James Walsh, Leader – Arun District Council
 - Nancy Platts, Leader – Brighton & Hove City Council
 - Clive Smitheram – Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
 - Ray Dawe, Leader – Horsham District Council
 - Tony Newman, Leader – London Borough of Croydon
 - Zoe Nicholson, Leader – Lewes District Council
 - Colin Kemp, Leader – Surrey County Council
 - Tony Elias, Leader – Tandridge District Council

Appointment of Joint Committee Chair & Vice-Chair

3. The Committee agreed to endorse the appointment of Councillor Mark Brunt as Chair and Councillor Daniel Humphreys as Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee. As the meeting was not fully quorate, it was agreed that these appointments would be confirmed via email after the meeting.

Minutes of the last Meeting

4. The minutes of the previous Joint Committee meeting held on 6 March 2019 were presented for the Committee's information.

Conflicts of Interest

5. The Chair read out the standard Conflicts of Interest statement. No conflicts were recorded in relation to the meeting. Members of the Committee were reminded of the need for them to complete their Declaration of Interest form.

Item 2: Introduction to the LEP

6. Tim Wates, the Chair of the Coast to Capital LEP, provided the Committee with an overview of the structure of the LEP. The importance of the Joint Committee in providing democratic oversight of the work of the LEP was highlighted.
7. It was noted that the Chair would come to the end of his term as Chair of the Coast to Capital LEP in July 2020. As such a robust recruitment process had been launched to identify the right candidate to be his successor.

Item 3: Local Industrial Strategy Update

8. Jonathan Sharrock delivered a presentation to the Joint Committee on the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which included an update on the journey to date and the next steps in the process.

9. It was confirmed that a comprehensive evidence base for the LIS, informed by over 80 meetings, had been submitted to the Government. Early feedback from the Government suggested that the evidence provided met the requirements of the process and in many instances was considered to be best in class.
10. The evidence indicated a number of strengths for the LEP area including strong creative and digital sectors and the aeronautical industry presence in the Manor Royal Business Park. Potential weaknesses identified included a skills shortage to support the growth of specialist industries in the region, which was exacerbated by the lack of a strong university presence.
11. The next step in the process would be making the case for funding, with a need to make as big an impact as possible upon the national debate. This was likely to be a challenging process with the Government's initial emphasis after the General Election in December focusing on the north of the country. However, due to the existing work already completed to produce the evidence base, Coast to Capital was in a strong position with a number of projects ready to move forward should funding become available.
12. The Committee made a number of comments, including the following:
 - The Committee recognised the importance of the Local Industrial Strategy for the region and agreed it was essential for all local authorities to be engaged in the process, as a consistent approach would be more likely to succeed in delivering funding for the region rather than one in which different local authorities competed against each other.
 - As it was highlighted that upgrading the Redhill to Reading train line would bring significant benefit to the region it was confirmed that the projects identified in the LIS would be focussed across the region and not solely along the vertical Croydon, Gatwick and Brighton corridor.
 - It was confirmed that the strand in the LIS on the horticultural and viticultural economy had been included following discussions on how to promote the rural economy of the region.
 - The importance of any future Gatwick expansion to the wider economy of the region was noted. The need to ensure that the digital infrastructure was of a sufficient level to be able to support economic growth was also crucial for the region.
 - It was agreed that the delivery of infrastructure improvements could often prove difficult to deliver and as such it was welcomed that there was a variety of projects across the different work strands in the LIS ready to proceed as funding became available.

Item 4: District Council Board Representation

13. The Joint Committee Chair, Councillor Mark Brunt, introduced the item, explaining to the Committee that it was an opportunity to give consideration to how local authorities engaged with the LEP.
14. As the importance of speaking with one voice had previously been highlighted, it was agreed that it was essential for all local authorities to be engaged with the

Joint Committee. The Chair agreed that he, along with the Vice-Chair, would make contact with those local authorities not in attendance at the meeting to understand why and encourage future engagement.

15. The Committee also agreed that their ability to engage with the LEP would be improved if their meetings were aligned to those of the Board. This would mean holding four meetings per year prior to Board meetings, allowing the Joint Committee to feed their comments into the Board. It was agreed that prior to the date and time of the next Joint Committee meeting being set the local authorities would be contacted to identify the best time for the majority of the members to meet.

Item 4: Close:

AOB

16. None

Future Meetings

17. It was advised that the date for the next meeting of the Joint Committee had not yet been finalised, but it would be aligned with the next meeting of the Board.
18. The meeting ended at 7.15pm

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment as necessary at the next Committee meeting.

Circulated to attendees by email on 21 February 2020