

Coast to Capital Board meeting No. 32- 17 November 2016	Ref No. 32.09
Report Title: Chief Executive's Report	
Report by: Jonathan Sharrock	
Recommendation: The Board is asked to consider the content of this paper.	

Corporate issues

Executive Committee discussed the terms of appointment of private sector Board members. The recommendation is to move to a maximum of three terms of three years.

Proposals on restructuring the Company and Board sub-committees, and improving our ways of working and Board reporting are set out elsewhere in the agenda.

A team awayday in early November discussed the implementation of this reorganisation. We are introducing new performance management systems, with a focus on skill development, across the company.

We are planning a Board awayday in the New Year to focus on benchmarking the company against other LEPs and to engage on issues around the renewal of the Strategic Economic Plan.

Pillar 1 - Project delivery

Reports on LGF3 and on the delivery of existing local growth funds are set out elsewhere in the agenda, together with proposals to update the Project assurance framework.

Pillar 2 - Service delivery

We have recruited four new Enterprise Coordinators who will take up post before Christmas. This keeps us on track for delivering our Enterprise Advisor service in 100 schools and colleges across the region over the next two years.

Pillar 3 - Strategy and policy

Airport Expansion Decision

Government has announced its decision to support development of a third runway at Heathrow. The next step will be the publication, in the New Year, of a draft national statement on aviation on which there will be a public consultation – leading to a final decision before the end of 2017. This will include a series of public consultation events in our region. The draft national statement will set out the logic behind the Government decision. Gatwick airport have made clear that they continue to focus on growth of their business and the advantages of building a second runway at Gatwick.

The Gatwick Growth Board, led by Steve Norris and Baroness Tessa Jowell will continue its work through 2017. I had an introductory meeting with them in October and they are very keen to engage the LEP in this work. There is an obvious link to the review of our SEP.

Railways

We have now sent the letter on BML upgrade (final version attached Annex A) to Chris Grayling with a wide range of comments from business and political leaders.

I have sent it to local MPs and made clear that we are happy to support them in any further scrutiny that they wish to carry out on this work.

Network Rail have admitted to errors in their work on the Gatwick station upgrade project which will have impacts on scope and timescale unless the budget can be increased. We are working with NR and Gatwick Airport to try and influence this decision.

The industrial action on Southern continues. There is an opportunity for Government to commit to BML funding in the autumn statement.

Industrial Strategy and Strategic Economic Plan

We expect Government to issue a Green Paper on the industrial strategy at the autumn statement. This is likely to include statements on the importance of innovation and key sectors in driving forward the national economy, as well as the role of Government in helping markets work properly. There will also be a strong regional element - with an explicit recognition that economies face different challenges around the country.

We will initiate a review of SEP as part of our response to this and are scoping that work now.

Communications

Website

The new website is progressing very well. A link to the demo site has been sent to a selection of key stakeholders for their comments and once final checks have been made it will be ready to go live by the Board Meeting.

Social Media

Social media activity is continuing to gain momentum resulting in a steady increase of new followers – we are now up to 2,430 followers (an increase of 189 since July) on twitter. Our top tweet was on Gatwick and was seen by nearly 3,000 users. We are on target to hit 2,500 followers by the end of the year.

Daily Mail

We have received enquiries from the Daily Mail relating to Director remuneration and conflicts of interest on the Board, as well as some of the projects which we have funded. We are responding in line with our assurance framework.

Business 50 update

At the July Board Meeting the concept of Business 50 was agreed. All Board Members were subsequently emailed a copy of the new corporate presentation, a link to Jonathan delivering the speech and an accompanying script to assist them in their upcoming meetings.

At the beginning of September all Board Members were sent an email with a list of three meetings with either a business support organisation or company to meet with. This was accompanied by a draft letter which could be sent to initiate the meeting. We are working with Board Members to help get these meetings set up and are happy to do more as needed.

