

Coast to Capital Strategy and Policy Committee

Thursday 26 October 2017, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

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

Members:

Jonathan Sharrock (Chair)	JS	Coast to Capital
Nick Hibberd	NH	Brighton and Hove City Council
Kevin Lloyd	KL	Surrey County Council
Stephen Tate	ST	Croydon Borough Council
Lee Harris	LH	West Sussex County Council

Present:

Jamie Watson	JW	Coast to Capital
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Apologies:

Kirsten Trussell	KT	Coast to Capital
Shifa Mustafa	SM	Croydon Borough Council
Trevor Pugh	TP	Surrey County Council

1. Welcomes and Introductions

- 1.1. JS welcomed the committee and accepted apologies from those unable to attend.

2. Actions from previous meeting

- 2.1. Action notes from the previous meeting had been completed.

Action: JW to confirm who has access to the Board Portal.

3. Updates

- 3.1. JS provided an update about the recent LEP Network Conference which included an update on the Government's Industrial Strategy which has changed to five themes and remains focused on productivity. A key message was that local Industrial Strategies will be intrinsic to the process.
 - 3.1.1. JS also noted there were strong messages from DWP about the importance of Universal Credit and getting everyone into work and from DfE around Institutes of Technology, ensuring employers and the education work together to address skills needs, and boosting innovation through universities.
- 3.2. JS provided an update on the recent release of the Mary Ney review of LEPs Assurance Frameworks and noted Coast to Capital are in a strong position to respond to any actions resulting from the recommendations.

4. Strategic Economic Plan

- 4.1. JW presented the Coast to Capital Economic Profile 2017 to discuss the findings and any potential additional areas for research or additional data sources to consider.

- 4.1.1. All agreed with the findings noting the issues raised were similar across the area.
- 4.1.2. NH asked how we could achieve greater granularity in the data to better understand how markets work and in particular trade and export data, noting that it was a difficult issue to overcome. Also suggested potential for qualitative research into key issues, however noting it would be expensive to conduct.
- 4.1.3. LH asked if there could be more work on business stock around growth and digital connectivity.
- 4.1.4. KL suggested a potential focus for a bespoke piece of research would be a commercial market study to better understand what space is where, its quality, and what is required.
- 4.2. JS provided an update on the SEP process since the last meeting, explaining how the Coast to Capital Board had taken up an ambitious approach to the SEP.
- 4.3. JS asked the committee members if the five issues identified in the Coast to Capital SEP were the right ones to focus on.
 - 4.3.1. The committee members agreed that the five issues were the correct ones and that there was sufficient scope for local plans to fit into them in ways that would support local interventions.
 - 4.3.2. There was discussion about what the challenges mean for the area. A separate note has been compiled to capture the key details.
- 4.4. JS outlined the next steps of the SEP development. A draft SEP would be taken to the Coast to Capital Board Meeting on 16 November for discussion.