

Briefing Notes on Bognor Regeneration Board Meeting 22nd July 2019 Butlin's Conference Centre

1. Presentation Kirsten Trussel, Head of Policy & Strategy Coast to Capital (C2C) LEP

Kirsten updated the Board that C2C's area had been changed to exclude Croydon, now under the London LEP & Lewes under the South East LEP. Kirsten then went onto explain the work being undertaken to generate the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). This is a requirement from government for the 38 LEP's to focus on productivity and rebalance the economy. The LIS will build on the C2C Strategic Economic Plan 'Gatwick 360'.

The government's requirement is to describe the 5 Foundations of Productivity in detail for the C2C area and to prioritise which areas of private sector innovation and investment C2C will excel in, using the 'Grand Challenges' of artificial intelligence and data, ageing society, clean growth and future of mobility. The 5 Foundations of Productivity are defined as:

- Ideas: the world's most innovative economy
- People: good jobs and greater earning power for all
- Infrastructure: a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure
- Business Environment: the best place to start and grow a business
- Places: prosperous communities across the UK.

C2C have commissioned strands of research to further develop the evidence base
Timescales: by the end of September further consultation at the C2C AGM, commissioning further research, engaging with stakeholders at the end of November on the draft LIS with sign off by government and publication in March 2020.

A Q&A session followed covering transport, urban centre prioritisation, and digital connectivity.

2. BID Update – Paul Wells Chairman

Paul distributed the latest BID newsletter and reported that Easter activities went well, the warden service is proving popular and there is generally more engagement from businesses. BID is working closely with the ADC anti-social behaviour team with regard to rough sleepers. Footfall is slightly up on last year which is ahead of the trend in the south east. The market programme is attracting new stalls but there is work to enhance their general appearance.

A full time Bid Co-ordinator has been appointed with a part time administrator position to be interviewed in August bringing the staff to a full complement.

3. Saltbox Planning Application

This was presented and supported by the Board at the June Development Control Committee. The decision was deferred due to concern around drainage on the site as the Environment Agency has reset flood plain levels. It is hoped that the application is resubmitted in September.

4. Town Centre Regeneration

ADC reported that their new administration has decided not to go ahead with the proposed Pavilion Park development. Three new options will be put forward for consultation in the autumn all of which will retain the sunken gardens and exclude any residential development or the possible health centre site.

A number of members expressed their disappointment at this decision which they believed was retrograde and against the wishes of local businesses as there were real advantages in the scheme bringing people from the seafront into a broadened town centre area. Cllr. Oppler responded that the new administration believe it is the right decision reflecting public opinion on the previous scheme which did nothing for regeneration.

The Board's interim chairman, Raof Daud, commented that the Board would like to see schemes delivered in line with the Town Centre Masterplan which remains relevant. He

recognised that the Board would have to wait to see what schemes are to be brought forward, but said the lack of progress on the masterplan has brought a high degree of frustration.

Paul Wells, Bid Chairman, commented that the Regis Centre regeneration could take many more years therefore consideration should be given to improving the Place St Maur which needs an urgent uplift as it is a key link between the seafront and town centre. Cllr Erskine, Bognor Regis Town Council, expressed a similar view and he hoped any changes would be in line with public opinion.

5. Appointment of the Board's Chairman and Vice Chairman

The meeting appointed Raof Daud from Dicentra Developments as Chairman and Cllr Francis Oppler, Deputy Leader of ADC as Vice Chairman. They have been appointed for a two year period.

Raof Daud congratulated Cllr Oppler on his appointment and looks forward to continuing the successful public private partnership that the Board represents with the same ethos and offer, engaging with the new administration and wider interested parties around the Board's previously identified priorities.

6. AOB

ADC Economic Strategy

The second workshop was held for stakeholders in May and council members discussed the evidence base and draft in June. Priorities will be shared when these have been agreed by ADC