



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee
14 January 2025

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected: All

Greater Brighton Economic Board - Membership for NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Report by the Assistant Director for Place & Economy

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1. This report provides the Joint Strategic Committee with an overview of the benefits Adur and Worthing have gained from the Councils' membership of the Greater Brighton Economic Board, this includes:

- securing funding through the Local Growth Fund;
- advocating for local infrastructure issues at regional and national level;
- promoting economic development as part of the Greater Brighton region.

1.2. To further strengthen the Board's position as a voice for economic development across the Greater Brighton region (advocating at local, regional, national and international level) this report also seeks approval from the Joint Strategic Committee that NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) are confirmed as members of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** The Joint Strategic Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and the ongoing benefits gained from Membership of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.
- 2.2.** To authorise the proposed additional member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board, being NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB);
- 2.3.** To acknowledge and approve the required consequential amendments to the Greater Brighton Economic Board's Head of Terms (Attachment A) relating to NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) becoming a member
- 2.4.** To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to the Constitutions to reflect the new membership and changes to the Heads of Terms after they have been formally approved by all the constituent authorities.
- 2.5.** To note that these changes to the membership and Heads of Terms are dependent on the decision of all the local authorities represented on the Joint Committee agreeing that the new member be appointed.

3. Context

- 3.1.** The [Greater Brighton Economic Board](#) was founded in April 2014 as part of the Greater Brighton City Region's City Deal proposal to the Government.
- 3.2.** The Board comprises the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee ("GBEJC"), on which the local authorities are represented; and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership ("GBBP"), on which the business, university and further education sectors, and South Downs National Park Authority are represented. Meetings of the Board comprise concurrent meetings of GBEJC and GBBP.
- 3.3.** The following bodies are members of the Board:
 - i. Adur District Council
 - ii. Arun District Council

- iii. Brighton & Hove City Council
- iv. Crawley Borough Council
- v. Lewes District Council
- vi. Mid Sussex District Council
- vii. Worthing Borough Council
- viii. Adur & Worthing Business Partnership
- ix. Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
- x. Chichester College Group
- xi. University of Brighton
- xii. University of Sussex
- xiii. South Downs National Park Authority

3.4. Board membership has been extended twice since the Board's inception; Crawley Borough Council and Arun District Council joined the GBEJC in February 2018 and in October 2019 respectively.

3.5. The functions of the Board are as follows:

- To make long term strategic decisions concerning regional economic development and growth;
- To be the external voice to Government and investors regarding the management of devolved powers and funds for regional economic growth;
- To work with national, sub-national and local bodies to support a coordinated approach to economic growth across the region;
- To secure funding and investment for the region;
- To ensure delivery of, and provide strategic direction for, major projects and work stream enabled by City Deal funding;
- To enable those bodies to whom section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 applies to comply more effectively with their duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development;

- To incur expenditure on matters relating to economic development where funds have been allocated directly to the Board for economic development purposes.
- 3.6.** Benefits of Adur & Worthing Councils being members of the Greater Brighton Economic Board include:
- 3.7.** Working in partnership, the Greater Brighton City Region has brought significant benefits to the partner Local Authorities and agencies. Together the partnership has secured approximately £150 million of Growth Deal funding.
- 3.8.** Of this sum Adur and Worthing secured £27.5 million to support projects such as:
- Adur Tidal Walls (£6 million)
 - Union Place (£2.4 million)
 - Teville Gate (£3.3 million)
 - Decoy Farm (£4.84 million)
 - New Monks Farm and Airport Business Estate (£5.7 million)
 - Western Harbour Arm, Shoreham (£3.5 million)
 - Adur Civic Centre (£1.7 million)
- 3.9.** Working in partnership, Greater Brighton has also provided a platform to highlight local issues at a regional and national level. For example, the Board has taken action to highlight the importance of rail infrastructure to the City Region, in particular upgrades to the Brighton Main Line.
- 3.10.** Providing opportunities to promote the Adur and Worthing economies to a national audience, most recently as part of a regional conference held with senior Government Officials to identify opportunities for increased economic reach and awareness of the region.

4. Introducing NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB)

- 4.1.** In July NHS Sussex ICB wrote a letter to the GBEB Chair formally requesting to join the Board and attended the Board meeting on 16 July as observers.

- 4.2.** The Integrated Care System that covers Sussex (NHS Sussex) is responsible for healthcare for 1.7 million people across Sussex. It employs 50,000 staff with the largest components being the 20,000 employees at University Hospitals Sussex and 8,000 at East Sussex Healthcare. The NHS in Sussex has an asset base that covers 236 GP Practices, 9 acute sites, and around 14 other sites. The NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) has 850 employees, and commissions the services for NHS Sussex health care providers. It currently has contracts with 267 individual providers making the organisation a big driver of economic growth in the area, both with the number of people it employs and the amount it spends on procurement. The ICB has expressed an interest in becoming a formal member of the Board, which would broaden the geographical reach of the Board to all of Sussex.
- 4.3.** When considering the request by Crawley to join the Board in 2018, it was agreed that the Board should adopt a fair and consistent approach to organisations that express an interest in joining, and for proposed new members consideration would need to be given to the following five questions;
- i. Does the organisation buy into the Board's agreed vision and priorities?
 - ii. Do they share economic characteristics and represent the Greater Brighton functional economic area?
 - iii. Do they add capacity to help the Board deliver on its agreed vision and priorities?
 - iv. Will they add to the Board's reputation, in terms of legitimacy, standing and reach?
 - v. Are they going to actively participate and commit resource to supporting the Board and deliver the work programme?

This methodology was also employed with regards Arun District Council's request to join in 2019.

- 4.4.** The Board has agreed to extend its membership, formally inviting the NHS Sussex ICB to become a constituent member of the GBBP. A change in membership triggers a variance in the Board's Heads of Terms that requires the formal ratification of all Joint Committee members. Some points for consideration are summarised below

Does the organisation buy into the Board's agreed vision and priorities?

- 4.5.** Inclusive growth is a priority for the Board. We know that whilst Sussex is a relatively affluent region based on many economic metrics, there

exists pockets of significant deprivation, particularly along the coast. People living in deprived circumstances may experience poor quality housing, low incomes, a lack of access to good food and places to exercise, and a sense of social isolation. These factors often have a negative influence on people's health choices and outcomes, with smoking, alcohol misuse, obesity and poor mental health more likely. This, in turn, increases the risk of them developing long term conditions which reduces their life expectancy, and this can also place demand on health and social care services.

- 4.6.** NHS Sussex has identified that 75% of deaths and disability across Sussex are influenced by health inequalities. The links between inequality, health, productivity and inclusive growth are clear – a healthy population is more productive and able to enjoy the benefits associated with growth. By working closely with NHS Sussex ICB and wider health partners, the GBEB Board can better address the challenge associated with health inequality and create the conditions where more residents can benefit from inclusive growth.
- 4.7.** Air Pollution has been identified as the largest single environmental risk factor in the UK; it is associated with 28,000-36,000 premature deaths annually, and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in society. Estimates of the costs of air pollution impacts to human health in the UK are in the region of £20 billion per year. With around 4-5% of the country's carbon emissions and an increasing burden on the health of communities from climate change, the NHS has an essential role to play in meeting the Net Zero targets set under the 2008 Climate Change Act.
- 4.8.** Delivering a “Net Zero” National Health Service sets out two targets for the NHS;
 - Net zero by 2040 for directly controlled emissions (NHS Carbon Footprint), with an 80% reduction by 2028-32.
 - Net zero by 2045 for the emissions the NHS can influence but not directly control (NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), with an 80% reduction by 2036-39.
- 4.9.** The Health and Social Care Act 2022 places duties on NHS England (NHSE), and all Trusts, Foundation Trusts, and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to contribute towards these emissions reductions, climate adaptation and wider environmental targets. Decarbonising buildings is a key component of the net zero transition, with 10% of the NHS's carbon footprint coming from building energy. Grid decarbonisation has

contributed towards reduced emissions for the NHS, but NHS organisations must urgently take action to improve building fabric, optimise heating and lighting efficiency and replace existing fossil fuel heating systems.

- 4.10.** The GBEB Board has recently agreed to use its convening powers and influence to drive transformational change across the region in the form of Sussex Energy, a mission for Sussex to achieve net zero energy status by 2040. This ambitious goal seeks to ensure that our community's energy use equals the zero-carbon energy generated locally, thereby enhancing energy security, driving down energy bills and addressing urgent climate concerns, at the same time as driving economic growth.
- 4.11.** The Sussex Energy mission dovetails with the 'Net Zero' National Health Service targets. NHS Sussex has a high energy consuming infrastructure, across the whole region, making them a key anchor partner for scaled energy solutions.

Do they share economic characteristics and represent the Greater Brighton functional economic area?

- 4.12.** As outlined above, the Sussex Energy Mission, launched by the GBEB Board in July '24, will require the Board to engage with stakeholders and develop partnerships across the Sussex region, so having NHS Sussex ICB as a Board member with a Sussex wide footprint will help build these relationships. The broadening of the membership to one with a wider geography is relevant and timely.
- 4.13.** Furthermore, in line with the new Government's ambitions around devolution, discussions have been taking place around what a sensible devolution geography looks like in this region. One of those possibilities is for devolution at a Sussex wide footprint and if there is agreement to explore this further, credible discussions would need to involve regional stakeholders and influencers such as NHS Sussex ICB.

Will they add to the Board's reputation, in terms of legitimacy, standing and reach?

- 4.14.** The inclusion of NHS Sussex ICB would be an asset to the Board. The ICB is a major economic actor in Sussex. It allocates a £3.6bn annual NHS budget, commissions services for the 1.7 million people across Sussex and supports the delivery of the system's five-year health and care strategy: Improving Lives Together. In its capacity as

commissioner of NHS services, the ICB is able to work with wider NHS partners across Sussex e.g. the NHS Trusts, Health & Wellbeing Boards, Primary Care Networks etc.

- 4.15.** NHS Sussex ICB is a statutory member of the Sussex Health and Care System. The Sussex Health and Care Assembly, as a statutory joint committee between the NHS and local government (NHS Sussex, Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council), comes together to formally agree the strategic direction for the health and care system. Its core purpose is to agree the strategic direction and facilitate joint action across a broad alliance of organisations to improve the outcomes, equality of access and patient experience of health and care services for all communities across Sussex. The Assembly has specific responsibility to develop the Integrated Care Strategy – Improving Lives Together, for its whole population using the best available evidence and data, covering health and social care, and addressing health inequalities and the wider determinants which drive these inequalities.
- 4.16.** The Sussex wide footprint of an organisation that touches so many people's lives makes NHS Sussex an important influencer with many partnerships which will be instrumental to spread GBEB's ambitions.
- 4.17.** NHS Sussex has identified that 75% of deaths and disability across Sussex are influenced by health inequalities, this is why we are using population health management to address and deliver improvements against six priority areas.

Are they going to actively participate and commit resources to supporting the Board and deliver the work programme?

- 4.18.** The ICB has an established Care Without Carbon team supporting experts by experience across all NHS organisations. The Team is building a good track record of securing high levels of investment and delivering large scale low carbon energy projects. To further advance its net zero objectives, the NHS Sussex ICB is forming active partnerships with wider public sector partners. The Board provides the NHS with a fantastic opportunity to work alongside public sector partners to actively communicate the importance of the energy mission in improving population health; to build resilience in energy supply by leveraging solar, wind, hydro, and other sustainable technologies; and to work together to support a reduction in the overall public sector estate footprint through better support for local communities. Having a

Sussex-wide footprint and a large number of assets provide significant anchor tenant potential and community reach, as in the case of the Worthing Heat Network, where NHS Sussex is a key anchor tenant and is working with Worthing Borough Council and other partners to deliver this transformational work programme.

- 4.19.** The NHS Sussex ICB are also supporting work on the emerging City Food Strategy Action Plan 2025-30, which is being developed by Brighton & Hove City Council and will feed into the wider Greater Brighton Integrated Food Systems Plan.

Do they add capacity to help the Board deliver on its agreed vision and priorities?

- 4.20.** By pulling together the resources of current Board Members, the ICB and wider NHS partners, there will be access to a larger pool of experience and expertise which will extend the range of solutions available. There will be greater leverage of DNOs and other suppliers through stronger collective purchasing power. By working together, across a wider geography, there will be opportunities to optimise the use of a vast public sector estate. There is opportunity to take a joined-up approach in engaging local communities to embrace sustainability and create local wealth.
- 4.21.** Furthermore, NHS Sussex ICB attended the July Board meeting and Sussex Energy Launch as an observer. They have nominated a prospective representative to sit on the Board as well as a deputy and have also nominated a member of the Team to sit on the Programme Board. NHS Sussex ICB have also attended recent Sussex Energy meetings so are already participating in and adding value to the Board's work.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1.** This report has been developed following advice from Greater Brighton Business Partners based in Brighton & Hove City Council as lead authority for the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee.
- 5.2.** Any media engagement of the expansion of the Board's membership will be coordinated by the Greater Brighton Communications team.
- 5.3.** The Board was consulted on the request from NHS Sussex ICB to join the Board and took the decision to extend the membership. The

governance committees of constituent Board members are being consulted given the required change to the Heads of Terms.

- 5.4. The Joint Strategic Committee is asked to note the benefits of NHS Sussex ICB joining the Board and accordingly approve the extension in membership by agreeing the change to the Board's Heads of Terms.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Constituent members make annual contributions toward the operational costs of the Greater Brighton Economic Board. These operational costs include running costs such as employees, legal, finance, administrative and democratic services support. The contribution also supports specific work plans which are reported to this board throughout the year. The member's contributions are based upon the organisation's percentage of working population.
- 6.2. Budgets for the contributions from Adur and Worthing Councils for 2024/25 are included within the Councils' budget (Adur £10,000 and Worthing £18,000).
- 6.3. In joining the Greater Brighton Economic Board, NHS Sussex ICB will be required to make a budgetary contribution towards operational costs in line with other Business Partners as agreed within the Operational Arrangements 2024/25 at the Board meeting on 16 July 2024.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. The GBEJC is a joint committee established pursuant to section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Local Government Act 1972 and The Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions (England) Regulations 2012 requires the constituent authorities of a joint committee to decide the membership of that committee. The constituent authorities can make the decision that NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) can become a constituent member of the Board.
- 7.2. s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation
- 7.3. Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure

continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

- 7.4** s1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 confers power on the Council to enter into a contract for the provision of making available assets or services for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the Council.

Background Papers

- [Greater Brighton Heads of Terms](#) (BHCC Council Paper, July 2024)
- [Greater Brighton Economic Board Operational Arrangements 2024/25](#) (BHCC Council Paper, July 2024)

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

- The Greater Brighton Economic Board represents the economic development interest of the City Region. Officers and elected members' representation ensures that the local interests of Adur and Worthing are reflected and considered in the deliberations and activities of the Board and the promotion of Greater Brighton.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

- With the NHS Sussex ICB joining the GBEB Board, this will allow the 'health voice' into the economic conversation and, as outlined in the paper, a clearer connection and resemblance between inclusive economic growth and health inequalities, which have a social and personal outcome.

2.2 Equality Issues

- The NHS Sussex ICB and wider NHS organisations are committed to reducing health inequalities. By working closely with NHS Sussex ICB and wider health partners, the Board can better address the challenge associated with health inequality and create the conditions where more residents can benefit from inclusive growth.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- Matter considered and no issues identified

2.4 Human Rights Issues

- Matter considered and no issues identified

3. Environmental

- There are no sustainability implications directly related to this report. However, both the Board and NHS Sussex ICB have ambitious targets associated with net zero, and this will be a strong feature of the future work programme.

4. Governance

- Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council are governance partners of the Greater Economic Board and have been since inception. Both Leaders attend the Board meetings, supported by the Chief Executive and / or a senior officer.