## CWS & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board

 Monday 18th April 2016

The Council Chamber

The Shoreham Centre,
Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5WU

Minutes

**Attendees**

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| Cllr Ricky Bower | Arun District Council | Karl Roberts | Arun District Council |
| Cllr Susan Taylor | Chichester DC | Andrew Frost | CDC |
| Cllr Bryan Turner | Worthing Borough Council | James Appleton | A&W Councils |
|  |  | Chris Lyon | Horsham DC |
| Cllr Andrew MacNaughton | Mid Sussex DC | Claire Tester | Mid Sussex District Council |
| Cllr Gill Mitchell | Brighton & Hove City Council | Liz Hobden | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Cllr John Obrian | West Sussex County Council | Lucy Seymour-Boundary | WSCC |
| Cllr Tom Jones | Lewes District Council | Ed Sheath | Lewes District Council |
| Lucy Howard | South Downs National Park Authority | Caroline Wood | Coastal West Sussex Partnership |
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**Apologies**

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| Tim Slaney  | SDNP | Neville Harrison | SDNP |
| Cllr Pat Beresford | Adur District Council | Cllr Claire Vickers | Horsham DC  |
| Darryl Hemmings | West Sussex County Council | Ian Moody | Adur and Worthing Councils |  |
|  **Guests** |
| Catriona Riddell | Planning Consultant |  |  |

**Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Bryan Turner welcomed the group and introductions were made.

*Minutes and Matters Arising:*

Signing the refreshed LSS – the LSS had now been approved by each Authority – a final document was at the meeting so that it could be signed during or after the meeting.

*Transport Investment across the area – Peter Phillips, Highways England*

Peter gave a very frank and candid update on the work of HE which was gearing up to Route Strategy 2 - 2020-2025 which would consider where future transport investment was needed.

There was considerable discussion about the investment and options for the A27 across the whole area which, after the discussion concluded, agreed that the Board should write a letter from the Chairman of the CWS & GB Strategic Planning Board to the Secretary of State raising concerns about the following:

* Chichester (budget, disruption, options available to consider)
* Arundel (timetabling for consultation)
* Worthing (budget, disruption, options)
* East of Lewes

**Action:**

* KR to draft a letter which would then be circulated for comments before being sent to SoS - attached

*Growth Plans*

This agenda item has been postponed until a future meeting date because the presenter was poorly

**Action**

* Revisit for the October meeting

*Local Strategic Statement – future options*

KR introduced the item and explained that Members didn’t need to make decisions at the meeting but to consider the implications and consult within each Authority hoping to reach a decision about how to progress at the next meeting in July 16.

Catriona presented her paper which explored the options for reviewing the LSS

There were a number of concerns expressed, particularly around the timescales and how that would align with Local Plans. Additionally, there was some support for a non statutory approach rather anything more formalised. Concern was also raised about how the geography of the Board and how that linked to any of the Devolution Proposals that were being developed.

Equally, there was concern about holding a workshop with CE’s and Leaders as although a workshop could deliver a single message, until there was agreement to the message and how actions could be taken forward then a workshop would be premature.

Agreed next steps:

* KR and LH to produce some questions that would be shared across the Planning Officer Group to determine if a workshop was the right approach at this stage. This outputs of those conversations should be considered at the next Planning Officer meeting on the 4th July
* Chichester DC agreed to scope out the evidence requirements that may be necessary to underpin the next LSS
* For KR to meet with East Sussex CC to better understand their position on strategic planning.
* For the item to be fully considered at the July Board meeting

Catriona was thanked for her work and support during the refresh of the LSS as her current commission had now concluded.

**Future Meeting Dates**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 18th July 2016 | 2.00pm – 4.00pm | The Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham |
| 17th October 2016 | 2.00pm – 4.00pm | The Gordon Room, Worthing Town Hall |

*Draft text for Secretary of State regarding transport investment into the A27*

I have been asked as Chairman of the Coastal West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board to write to you to express the Board’s strong views regarding the emerging A27 improvements. By way of background, the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board is comprised of all Lead Members for Planning in the authorities of Chichester, Horsham, Mid Sussex, Arun, Worthing, Adur, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove and Lewes, as well as the South Downs National Park Authority. The Board leads in ensuring that the strategic planning function across this significant region is exercised in a co-ordinated and productive manner. This includes planning for long-term strategically important issues for the region, which includes housing and employment growth and the strategic infrastructure that is required to support this and aid in the region fulfilling its significant potential.

The A27 is the main arterial route along the coast and as such it is important that it works effectively for the benefit of both the local and national economy. Unlike other parts of the country there isn’t really an acceptable alternative route for users to use at times of congestion. Consequently, it is vital that bottlenecks are addressed quickly and with a sufficient level of investment to provide capacity for future growth. I am sure you would agree there would be little point in making investment, enduring the pain of any disruption during the works, only to end up with a solution which doesn’t deliver any real benefits and is immediately out of date.

There are four specific areas which the Board is concerned with which I set out below.

Firstly, the Board is very disappointed that the public consultation promised for the Chichester improvements is yet to appear. The Board understands that any off-line options either to the south or north have been dropped, although exactly why this should be remains unclear. The board would question how any public consultation can be both legally sound and robust if options are added and/or removed without a transparent assessment.

This leaves only the on-line solutions. Again, the Board would be very concerned if funds made available were insufficient to ensure that any options put forward for the 6 online junctions were not those that delivered the most benefits. Furthermore, on-line solutions will inevitably bring major disruption which will be very bad for the economy in the region. It is particularly going to be very difficult for communities and businesses that don’t have an alternative option to using the A27 at Chichester. The Board would therefore ask you to ensure that the options taken to public consultation should have an appropriate amount of future proofing.

Secondly, as far as the Arundel improvements are concerned the Board is again concerned that public consultation on the options again appears to be slipping back. The Government has put a lot of pressure on Councils to deliver up to date local plans. It is very difficult for Council’s to do that if they don’t know what and when key pieces of infrastructure will be delivered. The Board would urge you to ensure that public consultation takes place at the earliest opportunity in 2016.

Thirdly, regarding the possible improvements at Worthing, the Board’s concerns are very similar to those expressed in respect of Chichester. The Board recognises that there are many challenges to be faced here. That is why solutions need to be bold and not timid, and the public need to be given the ability to express a view on a number of options which are funded sufficiently in order to deliver real benefits.

Fourthly, the Board whilst being supportive of the current planned investment on the A27 east of Lewes, would encourage continued dialogue with local authorities in the area in order to ensure that emerging growth plans are factored into longer term strategies for this key route in the east of the county. Any short-term investment plans should not compromise any potential longer-term plans for this route.

Finally, I apologise for the length of the letter but the points made are very important. If the local economy is to grow as it can do then the level of investment in our strategic road network should be commensurate with our nations ambitions. The Board fears that to do anything else would be a poor use of public funds and hamper the growth that we know can be unlocked with the right investment.