

Gatwick 360^o: Greater Brighton Leading Delivery of the SEP

Background & Context

The first Coast to Capital (C2C) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) was published in March 2014. Since then, there have been significant changes at a local and national level, including the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, a new Industrial Strategy as set out by the Green Paper and White Paper, and changes to the economy of the C2C region.

In order to address these challenges and deliver economic growth between now and 2030, C2C started to develop a new SEP towards the end of 2017. On 6 March 2018, C2C published the new SEP for consultation and invited comments from partners across the C2C geography. The Greater Brighton Economic Board welcomed the opportunity to be engaged in the consultation process and [a formal response to C2C](#) was submitted on 23 March 2018.

On 19 July 2018, C2C formally unveiled its new Economic Strategy, *Gatwick 360^o*. The vision statement in the new SEP is clear and simple; *that by 2030 the regions' towns and cities are known around the world as fantastic places to live, to grow and succeed. The C2C region will become the most dynamic non-city region in England, centred around a highly successful Gatwick Airport.*

The Importance of the SEP: Delivering the Industrial Strategy Locally

In January 2017 The Greater Brighton Economic Board welcomed the publication of Government's Industrial Strategy Green Paper and the renewed emphasis on improving productivity and achieving an economy that works for everyone. In April 2017 Greater Brighton submitted a [comprehensive response to Central Government](#). The response acknowledged the areas where Greater Brighton was in accord with Government thinking, but more importantly clearly articulated where it was felt that Government was not going far enough in its proposals, was not clear in its direction or where there was other reason for concern.

Following a period of review, in November 2017 Central Government then published its Industrial Strategy White Paper; *"Building a Britain fit for the future."* In the new document, Government emphasises that its overriding ambition is to **"to create an economy that boosts productivity and earning power throughout the UK."** The White Paper identifies "Five Foundations" of productivity that are *"the essential attributes of every successful economy"*, and align to Government's vision for a transformed economy:

- 1. Ideas**
the world's most innovative economy
- 2. People**
good jobs and greater earning power for all
- 3. Infrastructure**
a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure

4. Business environment

the best place to start and grow a business

5. Places

Prosperous communities across the UK

In addition to these Five Foundations, the White Paper also sets a number of “Grand Challenges” to put the United Kingdom at the forefront of the industries of the future, and these are summarised below.

1. AI & Data Economy

Putting the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution

2. Future of Mobility

Becoming a world leader in the way people, goods and services move

3. Clean Growth

Maximising the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth

4. Ageing Society

Harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society

Within the Industrial Strategy a clear theme was that whilst the Five Foundations of Productivity and Grand Challenges were relevant across the entirety of the UK, delivering the Industrial Strategy to best effect would need to be done at a local level, via Local Industrial Strategies.

The SEP at a Glance: Eight Economic Priorities

In July 2018, Government published its “Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships” White Paper. In that document Government reinforces the message that the LEPs are expected to play a lead role in developing Local Industrial Strategies. More details will follow after the current LEP review taking place. In the meantime, the SEP provides the foundations for the development of a Local Industrial Strategy, and key areas for growth and prosperity.

Eight key economic priorities are identified as being at the heart of the SEP:

- Develop prosperous urban centres
- Develop business infrastructure and support
- Invest in sustainable growth
- Create skills for the future
- Pioneer innovation in core strengths
- Promote better transport and mobility
- Improve digital network capability
- Build a strong national and international identity

A more detailed action plan to deliver the SEP will be formed later in 2018/19.

With 38 LEPs effectively competing for what funding and other support is available in a post-Brexit economy, it is crucial that Government can see how LEP areas can deliver its Industrial Strategy locally. C2C have been mindful of this and have clearly demonstrated how the eight Economic Priorities will help address the four Grand Challenges described above.

Coast to Capital Economic Priorities	Industrial Strategy Grand Challenges			
	Artificial intelligence	Clean growth	Mobility	Ageing society
Priority 1: Deliver prosperous urban centres	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Priority 2: Develop business infrastructure and support	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority 3: Invest in sustainable growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Priority 4: Create skills for the future	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Priority 5: Pioneer innovation in core strengths	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Priority 6: Promote better transport and mobility	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority 7: Improve digital network capability	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority 8: Build a strong national and international identity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Delivering the SEP at a Greater Brighton Level

Greater Brighton generates around £21.1bn of Coast to Capital's £50bn Gross Value Added (GVA), so around 40% of the LEP area's economic output. It is therefore a key sub-region within the LEP area that will play a leading role in driving future growth and prosperity across the LEP region and wider south east.

As a forward thinking and outward looking City Region, Greater Brighton has a set of priorities and outline projects closely linked to the eight Economic Priorities identified in the SEP, and can therefore address the Governments' Grand Challenges at a local level.

I. Develop prosperous urban centres

We will identify a shortlist of towns and localities with ambitions for transformational development and economic growth, prioritising funding for them.

It should be emphasised that partners across Greater Brighton have demonstrated a commitment to delivering housing in their urban centres and continue to lead on the new models of housing delivery.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority:

- In July 2018 Homes England announced that it had acquired the 176 hectare Northern Arc site in Burgess Hill, the agency's most significant intervention to date. As land owner for the whole site, Homes England will submit an outline planning application later this year and bring forward early release of the first phases of new homes alongside investing in strategic infrastructure to unlock the site for development. This intervention will accelerate the delivery of around 3,000 new homes, and represents a clear vote of confidence in the City Region.
- There will be further discussions with Homes England about how we can unlock other significant housing sites in the city region, which have stalled for a number of years due to complicated ownership and planning situations. This would unlock thousands of new homes.
- Greater Brighton Partners have secured over £48m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, which will unlock sites and accelerate the delivery of nearly 6,000 homes across the City Region.
- City Region local authorities are taking a lead on delivering new affordable homes, either directly or through joint ventures such as the Living Wage JV that will deliver 1,000 new homes in Brighton & Hove, 500 of which will be affordable to people on the Living Wage.
- The Greater Brighton One Public Estate Programme is driving the release of public sector land to deliver space for new homes in developed areas. There are currently 9 active projects across the City Region.

Further Opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- Establish a priority list of urban centres within Greater Brighton that are ready to deliver sustainable growth and drive prosperity across the region.
- Proactively identifying future opportunities to meet Government housing targets
- Work with Coast-to-Capital on developing relevant business cases for Government
- Exploring innovation in housing supply including expanding the housing options in terms of size/layout of new homes and construction techniques.

II. Develop business infrastructure and support

We will seek funding to develop high quality business space so that productive businesses can flourish here and bring better paid jobs to the area.

The Board fully supports the need for more business space in the region and Greater Brighton partners are working to develop new business space and new approaches to attracting inward investment.

While we fully endorse the need to support the development of medium sized and growth businesses we would not wish to see a correlating reduction in support for start-up businesses particularly as some of the growth within the Creative Digital & IT (CDIT) Sector has been through start-up and fledgling businesses. The loss of commercial space to housing development is also a challenge that Greater Brighton partners are working hard to address.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority

- We are delivering a significant investment programme of major projects that will deliver new employment and business space across the city region. This includes the £500m Brighton Waterfront development, the Newhaven Enterprise Zone and the employment space planned in Burgess Hill, including the new Science & Technology Park, which would be the first in the LEP region and the first in West Sussex.

Further opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- Establish a baseline of business space availability so that we understand the challenge around developing new business space, and the upcoming Greater Brighton Business Survey will be able to feed into this.
- Identify new sites for high quality business space and work with Coast-to-Capital, developers and other partners to bring these forward.
- Prioritise the scale-up potential of small businesses through the development of a coordinated approach to support and promotion.

III. Invest in sustainable growth

We will be the partner of choice for investment in environmental capital, supporting the delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan. We will prioritise development of regional strategies for energy, waste, water and low emission vehicles so that ours is a truly sustainable economy.

Planning for growth requires City Region partners to be more resourceful with our amenities, so the Board fully supports the drive towards delivering clean and sustainable growth, and for enhancing our natural capital.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority

- Greater Brighton Partners have been actively involved in the development of the Tri-LEP Energy Strategy, which is due to be published imminently.
- We are preparing our own energy and water plans to ensure the City Region sustainably meets its growth needs and has the correct infrastructure to do so. The Energy and Water plans will outline a number of projects to take forward, some of which may require government funding. These plans should be ready in 2019.
- An Expert Infrastructure Panel has been established to oversee the development of the Energy and Water Plans. Chaired by Ian McAulay of Southern Water, the Infrastructure Panel brings together key strategic stakeholders from the private sector, local and central government.
- City Region partners, led by Brighton & Hove City Council, manage the 'Living Coast' UNESCO Biosphere, which brings worldwide recognition of our natural capital.
- The University of Brighton's Green Growth Platform has brought together a flourishing and growing network of 950 organisations, and they form the foundations of a thriving, green economy in our region. Greater Brighton will support the University of Brighton and its network of organisations to develop and commercialise the next generation of environmental, low carbon products and services. There are significant opportunities to make strategic linkages between the work of the Green Growth Platform and other low carbon/green sector initiatives across the wider region.

Further opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- Work with Coast-to-Capital to deliver recommended projects that come out of the forthcoming Energy South2East strategy.
- Seek support from Coast-to-Capital in delivering outcomes that are recommended by the Greater Brighton Water and Energy Plans, and explore how lessons and best practice can be shared across the wider LEP region.

IV. Create skills for the future

We will seek funding for training opportunities and high quality training facilities to make sure the adult workforce has the skills for future business needs.

The skills landscape is complex and ever changing. We welcome the SEP proposals to consult and engage partners in helping to address the complexities so that there is support for learning and skills progression, and a simplified process through which businesses can access skilled workers.

Key activities within the SEP include establishing an Employment and Skills Board and a Local Digital Skills Partnership. The Board would like further consultation to take place with

partners and stakeholders to ensure that these new structures compliment rather than undermine or duplicate existing partnerships. It's important to link these to existing structures and existing sub regional skills and employment plans.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority

- Greater Brighton is consulting on a Skills and Employment Plan for the City Region. Key objectives will be to establish a consensus on the common challenges, opportunities and priorities across the City Region, whilst ensuring coordination with other activity in this space and reducing duplication across this priority.

Further opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- The Greater Brighton education sector will be represented on the LEP's Employment and Skills Board.
- Support Coast-to-Capital as it develops a picture of the skills needed for our economy, and understand the capital investment needed to support their delivery.
- With an established CDIT sector, and a strong university and FE offering, Greater Brighton is well placed to support Coast-to-Capital establish a successful Local Digital Skills Partnership.

V. Pioneer innovation in core strengths

We will establish a stronger university presence across our area; particularly to bring new university focus on business innovation in high growth areas such as the Gatwick Diamond and Croydon.

In terms of investing in science, research and innovation, the Board would like to see stronger alignment of university research incentives with place based economic development. This will help to accelerate economic growth and can also help the City Region to find solutions to big societal challenges. Greater Brighton is a partner in Innovation South and welcomes the support of the LEP for its delivery. The Innovation South Audit focused on a number of core themes that looked at five enabling technologies: Digital; Quantum; Photonics; Cyber and Big Data Analytics applied across four sectors; Connected Digital; Advanced Engineering; Bio-Science, and; Marine/Maritime. All of these are existing regional strengths that are potentially global in profile.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority

- The City Region hosts two world-class universities, with strong specialisms in knowledge based innovation. This includes quantum computing as a specialism at the University of Sussex, and advanced automotive engineering at the University of Brighton. Greater Brighton supports the universities through the Greater Brighton Investment Programme, which included supporting the Advanced Engineering Centre at the University of Brighton and the Sussex Innovation Centre.
- Many of the projects in the Greater Brighton Investment Programme are aimed at creating the space for knowledge based innovation, and the incubation space to commercialise that innovation.
- Greater Brighton partners have taken an active role in developing the Innovation South bid to the Strength in Places Fund, which was submitted in July 2017.

Further opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- Brighton's New England House hosts the Digital Catapult, a focal point for the Creative Digital & IT (CDIT) sector in the City Region. It hosts the only 5G testbed outside of a university setting, and with further expansion the Digital Catapult can support the growth of 5G connectivity and immersive technologies.

VI. Promote better transport and mobility

We will lead lobbying for investment in a state of the art digital railway through investment in the Brighton Mainline and Crossrail 2. We will actively support the creation of Transport for the South East to bring further funds to roads and railways across our area.

The Board strongly welcomes the priority of investing in transport infrastructure in the region and supports the planning of infrastructure more effectively with local growth priorities. There needs to be a strong focus on the strategic economic links within the LEP Region, – especially north-south, the M23/Brighton Mainline corridor, and east-west, the A27/A259/Coast-way corridor.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority

- A Transforming Cities Fund bid was submitted at a City Region level for the coast-way corridor between Newhaven and Worthing. Although unsuccessful, the evidence base can be built upon for further funding opportunities.
- In February 2018 Greater Brighton joined the Brighton Mainline Alliance to support the LEP-led campaign to bring much needed investments and upgrades to the line, in particular the Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme.

- We are exploring, with partners, the possibility of ubiquitous EV charging through a ground breaking project we are looking to partner with the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) on.
- We are developing the Greater Brighton Energy Plan to ensure that the City Region’s energy needs are suited to the transport infrastructure of the future.

Further opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- Align with Coast-to-Capital during the upcoming Network Rail consultation on the proposed Brighton Mainline Upgrades to push for the best possible outcomes for Greater Brighton and wider LEP area.
- Develop a clear set of LEP-wide transport priorities which will form the basis of our argument with Transport for the South East as to why investing in Coast-to-Capital will drive growth across the South East.
- Add Greater Brighton voice to support the growth of Gatwick within its existing footprint.

VII. Improve digital network capability

We will prioritise investment in a new standard of full fibre broadband connectivity between our economic hubs, to make us the first area of the UK with full 21st century fibre infrastructure.

Digital Infrastructure is a priority at a national level, and the Board is encouraged that this is a clearly articulated in the SEP. Coast to Capital recognises the importance of having a world-class digital network capability that can help deliver high productivity gains across all sectors of the economy.

Greater Brighton is starting from a position of relative strength in relation to digital connectivity, but a complacent or do-nothing approach would pose a risk to current and future productivity, growth and prosperity across the City Region. Enhancing the City Regions’ digital capability will provide massive opportunity for digital and “traditional” businesses to utilise new technologies in order to improve efficiencies and reduce costs. For Greater Brighton to remain competitive with other UK city regions, both nationally and internationally, we need to position ourselves as being a leader in digital connectivity.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority:

- Authorities in the City Region have led on successfully developing Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund bids including Adur & Worthing and Mid Sussex.

- Brighton & Hove City Council has developed an outline proposal for a 5G fibre ring to support innovation and growth in digital-tech-creative businesses, connecting them more effectively with the research and skills resources in the city's educational institutions. It will leverage important assets including the 5G Testbed and the Digital Exchange to attract further investment. It will also take advantage of opportunities to deploy new infrastructure at low cost and make use of available government funding.
- To ensure that the City Region's digital infrastructure has adequate capacity for business' and residents' current and future needs, as part of the 2018/19 work-plan the Board approved the development of a Digital Infrastructure Plan to cover the City Region.

Further opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- Support Coast-to-Capital in its bid for Wave 3 funding from the LFFN Challenge Fund
- Add weight to the argument that existing Network Rail assets can be used to support the deployment of full fibre networks so that ultrafast broadband can be delivered to our businesses and homes

VIII. Build a strong national and international identity

We will lead development of a strategy for increasing international and domestic investment in our area, reflecting the business strengths, natural environment and cultural offer.

As well as scoping any gaps in our infrastructure there is an opportunity to build on our strengths as a region that already has international connections in business, education, the visitor economy and our cultural economy. There is an opportunity to develop new approaches to inward investment as part of an 'invest, learn, visit' approach to promoting the City Region.

How Greater Brighton is leading on delivering this priority:

- The Greater Brighton Economic Board has prioritised inward investment and trade and has funded work to take forward this proposal. We are now looking to secure funds to create a dedicated team to work with and on behalf of regional partners and work closely with the Department for International Trade (DiT) and C2C.
- As part of this work a City Region Business Survey will be undertaken towards the end of 2018. This will provide primary data to support the new Inward Investment and Trade Team and similar activities across Greater Brighton.
- We are bringing forward the City Hall for Business project as a focal point for many of these functions that will promote and market the area, as well as a hub at Gatwick for the team to operate from.

Further opportunities for working with Coast to Capital to deliver this priority

- Work with Coast-to-Capital to identify and tackle possible funding and planning barriers to delivery of key business infrastructure
- Support Coast-to-Capital to raise the profile of the LEP area as an inward investment location, through strengthening links with DiT and other partners

Next Steps

There is already much going across the City Region that is and will support delivery of the SEP, and there are clear opportunities where Greater Brighton and Coast-to-Capital can work together to deliver the eight priorities. The Board is currently undertaking the development of a Five Year Strategic Plan, which will help inform the SEP and provide a strong manifesto for private and public investment in the City Region.

We await with interest the outcome of the current exercise to strengthen Local Enterprise Partnerships. Whatever the outcome, we look forward to working with our colleagues at Coast to Capital to achieve our common ambitions through the development of a Local Industrial Strategy.

Summary: How Greater Brighton is delivering the SEP priorities

Develop prosperous urban centres	Develop business infrastructure & support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Homes England to unlock key Strategic sites e.g. Northern Arc in Burgess Hill Securing HIF Funding to accelerate delivery of 6,000 new homes Innovative approaches to delivering new homes e.g. Living Wage Joint Venture The One Public Estate Programme is driving the release of public sector land to deliver space for new homes in developed areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment programme of major projects to deliver commercial space across the City Region, including Brighton Waterfront, Newhaven Enterprise Zone, and in Burgess Hill the Northern Arc employment space and proposed Science and Technology Park, which would be the first in the LEP area
Invest in sustainable growth	Create Skills for the future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Energy and Water Plans to ensure City Region sustainably meets its growth needs City Region partners manage our world renowned natural capital through the 'Living Coast' UNESCO Biosphere The University of Brighton's Green Growth Platform has brought together a flourishing and growing network of 950 organisations, and they form the foundations of a thriving, green economy in our region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Brighton is developing Skills and Employment Plan for the City Region The Greater Brighton education sector will be represented on the LEP's Employment and Skills Board
Pioneer innovation in core strengths	Promote better transport and mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City Region hosts two world-class universities with specialisms in knowledge based innovation The City Region hosts the Digital Catapult, a focal point for the CDIT sector and home to the only 5G testbed outside of a university Greater Brighton partners have taken an active role in developing the Innovation South bid to the Strength in Places Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Brighton submitted a Transforming Cities Fund bid in June 2018, which could secure £60-£80m of investment Greater Brighton joined the Brighton Mainline Alliance Working with OLEV on a potentially ground-breaking project around EV charging Greater Brighton Energy Plan will help ensure correct infrastructure is in place
Improve digital network capability	Build a strong national & international identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Region partners have successfully secured funding from The LFFN Challenge Fund Brighton & Hove City Council have developed plans for a 5G fibre ring to support the development of next generation technologies Greater Brighton is developing a Digital Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Brighton is looking to secure funds to create an Invest & Trade Team A Business Survey is going to be carried out to provide an evidence base for the Team Bringing forward City Hall for Business to act as a hub and focal point for investment and trade activity for the City Region

Summary: Further Opportunities for working with Coast to Capital

Develop prosperous urban centres	Develop business infrastructure & support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a priority list of urban centres that are ready to deliver sustainable growth and drive prosperity across the region Proactively identify future opportunities to meet Government housing targets Work with Coast-to-Capital on developing relevant business cases for Government Exploring innovation in housing supply in terms of size/layout of new homes and construction techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline of business space availability so that we understand the challenge around developing new business space Identify new sites for high quality business space and work with Coast-to-Capital and developers to bring these forward. Prioritise the scale-up potential of small businesses through the development of a coordinated approach to support
Invest in sustainable growth	Create Skills for the future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Coast-to-Capital to deliver recommended projects that come out of the forthcoming Energy South2East strategy Seek support from Coast-to-Capital in delivering outcomes that are recommended by the Greater Brighton Water and Energy Plans, and explore how lessons and best practice can be shared across the wider LEP region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Coast-to-Capital as it develops a picture of the skills needed for our economy, and understand the capital investment needed to support their delivery Support Coast-to-Capital establish a successful Local Digital Skills Partnership, utilising the established CDIT sector, and a strong university and FE offering
Pioneer innovation in core strengths	Promote better transport and mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brighton's New England House hosts the Digital Catapult, a focal point for the Creative Digital & IT (CDIT) sector in the City Region. It hosts the only 5G testbed outside of a university setting, and with further expansion the Digital Catapult can support the growth of 5G connectivity and immersive technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with Coast-to-Capital during the upcoming Network Rail consultation on the proposed Brighton Mainline upgrades to push for the best possible outcomes Develop a clear set of LEP-wide transport priorities which will form the basis of our argument with Transport for the South East Support the growth of Gatwick within its existing footprint.
Improve digital network capability	Build a strong national & international identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Coast-to-Capital in its bid for Wave 3 funding from the LFFN Challenge Fund Add weight to the argument that existing Network Rail assets can be used to support the deployment of full fibre networks so that ultrafast broadband can be delivered to our businesses and homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Coast-to-Capital to identify and tackle possible funding and planning barriers to delivery of key business infrastructure Support Coast-to-Capital to raise the profile of the LEP area as an inward investment location, through strengthening links with DiT and other partners

