

Crawley LEAG meeting – 9 May 2018

Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan

1. Our Approach

In line with guidance from Government on the preparatory work needed in advance of Local Industrial Strategies, the new Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for 2018-2030 will set out a shorter, more strategic and more focused vision for our region than the 2014 document. It will make clear that the LEP's role is one of leadership and of bringing investment into the region.

2. The Consultation

We have completed a consultation on the priorities for the SEP. It brought 58 responses from stakeholders across the region. We are pleased by the level of engagement from business and the general diversity of respondents. The best responses included some good evidence and strong arguments on specific points which have led to material changes in the strategic approach of the SEP.

3. The Document

At circa 45 pages we believe it is the right length, the right structure, describes our area well and sets out the evidence clearly. We are working closely with our Board and partners to get the vision to the right level and ensuring that the priorities clearly address what we set out as our vision.

Based on consultation responses we have restructured the document to align closer with the Government's Industrial Strategy and included an analysis of the growing industrial sub-sectors in the region which will form the basis of our future prosperity.

We have identified **eight priorities for growth** by engaging closely with our local partners. In some cases, specific projects can already be identified against the priorities - where clear business cases are already being developed to deliver what our area needs. In other cases, further work is needed to develop these proposals. Where this is the case, we will initiate this work with partners in our area, in the wider South East, and by looking at best practice elsewhere.

Much of this work requires us to engage with the Government about the future of investment in the Coast to Capital area. We look forward to doing this through the negotiation of a Local Industrial Strategy.

4. Timescale for Delivery

We will publish the SEP in the summer, at our AGM scheduled for 19 July. This will allow us to spend some time in May working with partners to identify the right actions needed to deliver these priorities, as well as to build consent for our approach. All of this will be essential if we are to start negotiations with Government on our Local Industrial Strategy in the right way – i.e. by producing comprehensive analysis and having full consent across business, local government and education for our approach.

5. Local Industrial Strategies

Running in parallel to the development of our SEP is a review of LEPs at a national level to ensure that they have excellent governance in place and are in a strong position to lead on the development of Local Industrial Strategies. We are beginning cross-departmental engagement at a senior level to ensure we are best placed to get the full attention of Government and will be working with our Local Authority partners to leverage support from our local MPs. We anticipate beginning a formal conversation with Government in the autumn.

Please contact Kirsten Trussell, Head of Strategy and Policy at Coast to Capital, if you have any questions.

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