

Crawley's Local Economy Action Group (LEAG)

31 Jan 2018 – Notes and actions

Presentations, papers and LEAG information can be found on: www.crawley.gov.uk/leag

1. Arrival

- Attendance list circulated separately

2. Notes and action updates

- Previous [notes and actions](#) reviewed.

3. LEAG Chair Election, Terms of Reference and Membership

- Chris Maidment appointed as chair for a further two year term, Cllr Peter Smith continues as Vice-Chair
- Terms of Reference agreed
- Continue to develop membership where there are representation or sectors gaps e.g. banking, professional service forum, third sector, health, tech, developer and school representation.

Action:

- LEAG members to consider and suggest new candidates for the LEAG to LS **(ALL)**

4. Crawley Growth Programme

- Presentation on Crawley Growth Programme update, LEAG has a new agreed stakeholder governance role in the programme.

Key points discussed included

- Queensway planning application approved, works due to commence Jan 2019
- Town hall planning application submitted
- Discussion around business space and different type requirement for micro and SMEs
- Discussion around appropriate residential to complement commercial development, ensuring that the offer is aligned and quality of supporting infrastructure
- Crawley has more jobs than people, with 19,000 out commuters and 43,000 in commuters, this adds pressure on infrastructure
- Discussion around issue areas for commuter cycling and walking routes e.g. route connection at City Place, cycling forum lobbying and site owners need to be engaged to improve path quality at 'cold' spots to connect the investment points
- Lowfield Heath businesses are perhaps somewhat feeling neglected in the investment activity and engagement
- Scheduling of infrastructure investment projects should take into consideration impact and need of the economy e.g. minimise disruptions
- Crawley College residential site proposal about to sign S106 to be progressed
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) infrastructure needs identified at £130m, but CIL value only at £7m to deliver key prioritised projects. Key projects ring fenced being; Bewbush Medical Centre, Three Bridges station and London Road Junction. WSCC negotiating S106/CIL for education.
- Discussion about capacity in health system not meeting needs, but difficult to get the required investment to bring forward.
- A secondary school is required, but site and investment not yet identified
- Station and rail line developments are key infrastructure needs to transform from the functional to the vision. These are complex projects to manage and keep on track and requires backing from network rail. Crucial dialogue underway with Network rail. Consider engagement from LEP to support and keeping momentum.

Actions:

- Future agenda items, update on Gatwick Interchange project and Crawley Economic, Employment and Commuter trends **(LS)**
- CBC have supported the Brighton Mainline lobbying by the LEP, other LEAG members to consider supporting campaign by submitting Logo to LEP **(All)**
- Consider co-ordinated letter from the LEAG to Network Rail in support for the station and mainline schemes, if helpful for securing progress **(LS/CS/CM/JT)**

5. Manor Royal Bid 2

- Presentation on the Manor Royal BID 2 campaign and process and overview of key Economic Impact Study findings

Key points discussed included

- 1st Feb launch event and ballot process starting for businesses to vote for a second BID term
- Before the BID businesses were embarrassed about the state of the estate and reluctant to bring visitors
- Transport study cost £20k, resulted in £400K worth of WSCC improvements
- The Business District has been transformed during BID1 and it would be a great shame if not renewed. LEAG expressed the transformation was a testament and credit to the people working on the BID.

Actions:

- Share Economic Impact Study report with LEAG **(SS/LS)**

6. AOB

- CBC Centre for Cities, Cities Outlook 2018 published
- Employ Crawley Jobs Fair on 5 Mar
- Crawley Stemfest launch on 26 April
- Business Support event at Crawley Library on 20 Feb and Grant Thornton on 22 Feb
- CBC attending Sitematch on 8 Feb
- Southern Timetable changes underway Oct 18 / Feb19

Next Meetings

- 25 April, 18 July, 10 October 2018 @ Arora Hotel, from 8:30 to 11:00 am.
- LEAG Subgroup meeting on 13 Feb, reviewing Town Centre Business Space Growth Plan brief