

Crawley's Local Economy Action Group (LEAG)

18 July 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. Crawley Growth Programme & Town Centre Regeneration

- Presentation on Crawley Growth Programme update and Town Centre Regeneration Update

Key points discussed included

- Station Gateway positive developments with ongoing engagement and discussions between GTR, Network Rail and Arora Group, particular focus on pedestrian access
- Three Bridges Station is undergoing traffic modelling for 13 weeks, it takes a significant amount of time given its complexity and it needs to be future proof
- Eastern Gateway consultation finishes on 31 July
- Growth impact on housing, skills and inward migration, need to work together to encourage more sustainable live and work patterns
- Housing planning for 1450 units and an estimated further 600 in pipeline
- Estimated 7000 new jobs into the economy associated with the outcomes
- Town Centre Skills Academy designation for Town Centre site with CITB process is receiving positive responses from developers
- Skills situation is important and recruitment a key issue for businesses, who can only rely so much on importing labour
- It is a key aspect of a well-functioning city centre to have access to skills, however also a problem for Manor Royal, upcoming recruitment fairs to encourage local jobs, but the message is that more people are needed to fill the jobs
- Is there a mismatch of the housing offer being built and jobs available
- College being re-vitalised, however there still issues with education and schools, it is hard for employers to communicate with education on future workforce needs
- Sustainable transport and affordable housing overarching in the economic programme being delivered, but this needs more input on upskilling and attracting skilled people
- Skills research being commissioned to identify skills gaps particular in high value jobs, the research is also to open communication between businesses and educational organisation and seek to address the structural issues on skills
- There may well be a gap on skills, however there is also a people gap
- Businesses need to consider being more flexible and forward thinking in their offering, but the working culture is deep rooted in society, bigger companies are responding, but can be difficult for smaller businesses to change
- Are businesses discussing how to get over these issues, there is activity with educational organisation on apprenticeship and STEM skills, however the conversations doesn't seem to be happening at the right levels
- A major skills crisis may be looming e.g. colleges are struggling to secure teachers and lectures is already a big challenge and funding gaps are apparent
- Need to map and bring together schools and businesses, but at the same time need to be mindful of initiative fatigue
- There could be potential for expanding the Employ Crawley in this area, however the Careers Enterprise Network is also in place through C2C to resource in school careers advice with businesses, although needs more communication and marketing

- Pitch and model Crawley as a 21st century 'city' that is flexible with a good work life balance
- Look to promote the trailblazing businesses to champion the agile businesses methods e.g. could Nestle' give a forward thinking insight at future meeting

Actions:

- Plan dedicated LEAG agenda for people and skills (CM/LS)

4. Crawley Inward Investment Programme

- Presentation and update on Crawley's Inward Investment programme.

Key points discussed included

- Important to regularly share the progress of development, investment and opportunities
- All party parliamentary groups (APPG) being established promoting links to other countries, could be interesting to engage some of these (targeted) in the inward investment programme, could potentially request for MP to facilitate introduction
- Crawley not in unique position and opportunity to learn from other towns e.g. Reading and Woking, where workers and businesses have been pulled into the centre

Actions:

- Share newsletter sign up link for LEAG members to sign up (LS/All)
- Investigate APPG relation and promotion opportunities (KG/BS)

5. Gatwick Airport Trade and Investment

- Presentation on [Gatwick's Economic Contribution Through Trade and Investment](#) report published

Key points discussed included

- MP session has been held to highlight success at Gatwick driven by the industry changes and providing new access to global markets and connections for business, important to continue to engage MPs and raise awareness of Gatwick's contribution and opportunities
- Important to communicate the messages about Gatwick airport to Crawley residents, on the benefits, growth and second runway situation so that these are fully understood by local people and awareness is raised
- The 1979 agreement still in place stopping runway expansion will end in 2019, but S106 agreements are currently being renewed
- Heathrow currently has government policy support for a third runway expansion and can continue next stage to submit planning application through the National Infrastructure Planning process
- LEAG encouraged to respond and support Gatwick Station planning application submitted to Crawley BC
- GDB has established a freight industry group to support and encourage growth, as there is capacity at Gatwick to grow this sector, more could be investigated to understand the opportunity and development that could be achieved in this area
- Sussex Chamber trade team finds a 12-14% year on year growth in export among businesses, but business need support and guidance on exporting, it takes time and there are cost involved, useful to link to GDB freight and logistics group
- Currently lots of freight goes from Gatwick area to Heathrow for cargo shipping, however there is capacity in Gatwick through the available belly hold space in passenger planes rather than specific cargo transport planes,

6. AOB

- [Gigabit / Business Vouchers](#) West Sussex scheme underway

- Crawley Developer Breakfast 24 July @ Arora Hotel
- School Careers Fair 25 Sep @ K2
- Crawley's Independent Retail training and Support Programme starts Sep 2018
- Arts Strategy development work underway with funding from art council, consultation with LEAG to follow
- Jeremy's last meeting as GDB CE, his years of contribution was celebrated by LEAG
- [Gatwick Diamond Meet the Buyers](#) being delivered by GDB
- [Crowdfund Crawley](#) launched
- C2C [Gatwick 360](#) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) launch at AGM in Brighton @ Amex - Action to schedule C2C SEP update and local industrial strategy development at future meeting (KT/LS/CM)

Next Meetings

- 7 Nov (was 10 Oct) 2018 @ Arora Hotel, from 8:30 to 11:00 am.