

Crawley's Local Economy Action Group (LEAG)

9 May 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 letter from CEx made progress to get Network Rail agreement and representation assigned to project board.
- The One Public Estate (OPE) Crawley Town Centre Business Space Growth Plan works is underway by OXIN and their partners, LEAG sub-group involved in stakeholder engagement process and final report will be shared with the LEAG
- It was expressed that fantastic progress had been made in driving forward the programme
- Gatwick Road cycle lane expansion was noted that it could cause an issue for road flow of cars and making bus prioritisation efficient e.g. with traffic lights was also discussed, design work discussions are ongoing and these aspects will be considered and noted that some changes in traffic behaviour was properly needed
- More focussed needed to be put on the Gatwick end on the transport infrastructure, a more detailed update is scheduled for the LEAG
- Positive development for Town Centre and Manor Royal to increase activity and footfall,
- Help to convey projects and improvement information is key for new business into Crawley e.g. the current station is not a great first impression
- Concern if Crawley station scheme is delayed, continually seeking assurances from Arora that scheme is progressing, as not viable without LEP funds that has time constraints, some concern that Heathrow interest is a distraction and CEx should continue to keep pressure and partnering arrangement provides leverage also
- County Oak Way consider providing one way system as a cause of congestion increased with impact of retail development, being considered with more detailed plans to come, including looking at journey times and traffic lights
- Town Hall scheme, discussion about arts council implications and ensuring that in delivery it becomes that best that it can be and is fit for purpose, also noted to pass on furniture and features that may is no longer needed
- Crawley College site key aspect of Crawley Town Centre, master planning exercise is underway
- Managing a complex programme like this to deliver is difficult but can be done, continued discussion and debate will help deliver the programme and continued engagement with stakeholders and public will be important to design process, in particular allowing people participate and take ownership of the towns development
- It was noted that the programme and planned investment was spot on and a good example of partnership working, something for partners to be proud of

Actions:

- Consider adding an eastern Gateway [Inform Session](#) on a Saturday to engage people who work Mon-Fri **(MO/DB/CS)**

- Eastern Gateway Consultation open [online](#), closes 31 July 2018, LEAG invited to enter comments and feedback **(All)**
- Involve Arts Council in stakeholder engagement **(PS/CS/MO/PC)**
- Share final Crawley Town Centre Business Space Growth Plan report with LEAG **(LS)**

4. Employment & Skills Update

- Presentation and update on Crawley's Employment and Skills Plan and progress.

Key points discussed included

- Upcoming skills research and interim plan review underway toward end of year
- Consider more activity to support young people with learning difficulties in the plan activity e.g. connecting more with the Potential Diamond Programme
- Thomas Bennett issues and potential closing Sixth Form, concern as they run a good sport coaching programme, in particular engaging young people with lower aspirations
- Possible role of Crawley College to support in this area, with the more creative programmes and work with CTFC
- With a potential reduction in course, it is important to see who and what can fill the gap and develop potential partnering solution
- Be the change, good engagement with year nines, enough student coming through but programme could be extended with more company support and mentors, also consider how the relationship can be maintained and sustained after programme completion
- Employ Crawley has made a good start, consider how to develop offer for mature and older people and continue developing links with C CVS e.g. on volunteering activity

Actions:

- Share final Skills Research and Draft Interim Plan review with LEAG once available **(LS/SK)**

5. University of Sussex Update

- Presentation update and activity overview on University of Sussex (UoS)

Key points discussed included

- UoS Senior Leadership changes bringing forward new strategic direction and new strategic framework, desire to be more engaged in the region
- Digital activity includes 5G testbed, providing a test centre for the Digital Catapult at Brighton & Hove Stadium as well as a street in Brighton
- Business School Logistics and Distribution strand is a collaborative area of opportunity, including mentorship programme and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, GDB has established group, with an invited UoS rep looking at e.g. cargo development at Gatwick
- Students tend to move out of area, but Crawley and wider area needs work ready students, more engagement with SMEs could be done to support GVA and local employment growth
- UoS new become a Degree Apprenticeship approved provider
- International student numbers tend to come from China (8%), Hong Kong and Taiwan, from Europe they are from Greece, Italy and Germany
- Research activity much in Life Sciences field, new Bio centre underway
- SINC very interested in having a presence in Crawley, seen as a natural area to expand activity
- Industrial research partnerships e.g. long standing collaboration with AMEX, but could do a lot more,

Actions:

- Sussex Impact Day on 19 June share invitation with LEAG **(EH/LS)**
- Dr Hugh Aldridge leading on understanding engagement and research partnership in area, LEAG members wanting to connect and find out more to contact EH **(All)**.

6. Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan

- Update on emerging LEP Strategic

Key points discussed included

- Former around 8 Pillars, linking to National Industrial Strategy
- Next steps to develop a local Industrial Strategy in parallel to the SEP to leverage funding and review governance arrangement
- Partner support is key and appreciated, focussing on one message, one goal
- Size of funding pot from Government, will go for as much as possible , but need a good pitch, not all will be funded and pot will never be big enough
- Difficult decision to be made, but presentation must be efficient
- Competitive edge, supporting the region which is held back by transport infrastructure, which is key to growth
- South East work, but not all areas are doing well, evidence of affects from depleted services
- Local industrial strategy referenced to the SEP and Government is working with and consulting with all LEP, including C2C, C2C encouraged to push engagement to set optimal case for support and be ready when calls are opened
- Economic growth in wider region is not yet clear, particular when considering housing

Actions:

- Circulate briefing paper with meeting notes **(LS)**
- Further and final comments on plan, send to Kirsten Trussell ASAP **(All)**
-

7. AOB

- STEM in the Park 12 May
- Run Gatwick 13 May
- [Small Business Grants](#) fund confirmed for 2018, rolling pot
- Small Independent Retail Programme underway, proposals being evaluated
- LEAG membership, continue to develop, in particular seeking Tech and School representation (LS/CM)

Next Meetings

- 18 July, 10 October 2018 @ Arora Hotel, from 8:30 to 11:00 am.
- LEAG Subgroup meeting 20 June, concerning stakeholder engagement for consultants Town Centre Business Space Growth Plan works