

<b>Meeting:</b>	Coast to Capital Board Meeting no. 44
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 3 April 2019
<b>Report Title:</b>	Local Industrial Strategy Update
<b>Report by:</b>	Kirsten Trussell
<b>Item No:</b>	3
<b>Part:</b>	A

**Recommendation:**

The Board is asked to note the early work to begin negotiation of the Local Industrial Strategy.

**1. Context**

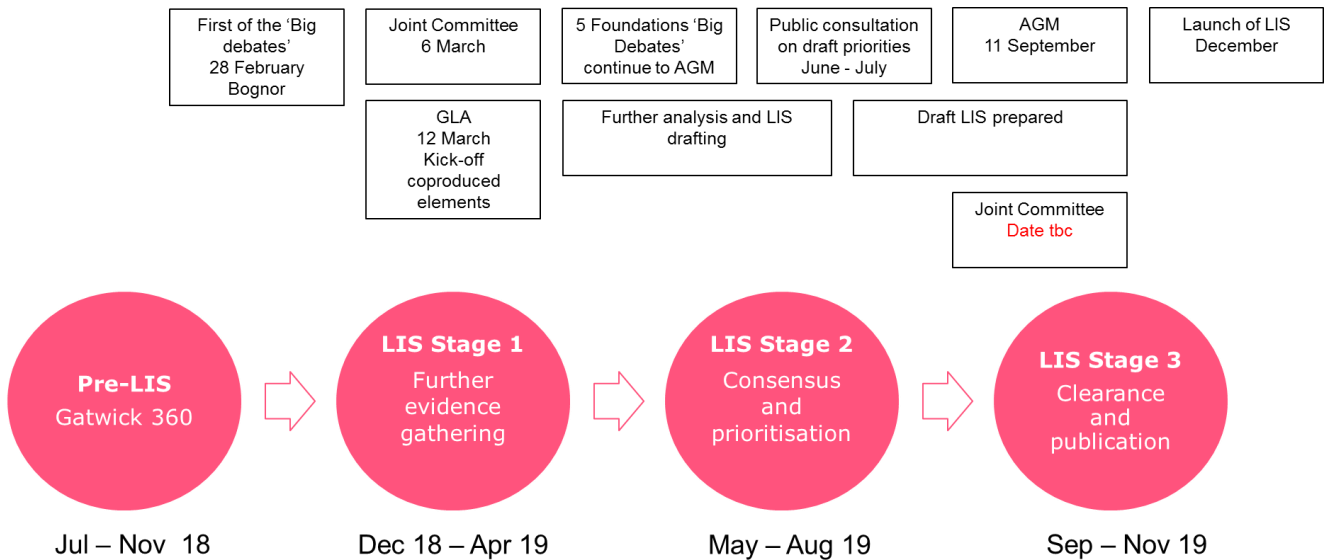
Coast to Capital is included in the third and final wave of negotiations with Government. There were a total of 12 LEPs in the first two Waves (the initial 'trailblazers' and Wave 2) with all remaining 26 LEPs in Wave 3. The aim is for all LISs to be agreed by the end of the 2019/20 financial year (April 2020).

There have been a number of key milestones with our Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) since the last Board meeting, described below. Progress against the eight priorities in Gatwick 360° is summarised in Annex A of this report.

**2. Government negotiation**

First discussions with Government (Cities and Local Growth Unit) on developing the LIS took place in early March. We have timetabled a monthly meeting with a view to completing the Strategy by the end of the calendar year.

The timeline for producing the LIS is shown below. Negotiations with Government will be ongoing over this period. As well as the regular meetings with CLGU we will engage in discussions with Other Governments Departments (OGDs). Final analytical checking of the LIS evidence base and priorities will be undertaken before senior officials discuss the LIS ahead of sign-off.



There is good recognition of the importance of Gatwick 360°, and Government are pleased to continue discussions on the basis of the 8 priorities for regional investment set out there. These map well onto their own language of “Five Foundations of Productivity” within the national industrial strategy.

It is clear that the conclusions of the Local Industrial Strategies will focus on specific geographical products, which allow Ministers to understand the unique offer that our region can make to national productivity. It is particularly important to frame these in a way which makes the most of the unique and distinct identities and challenges presented by our region. We are currently thinking of advancing four separate *products* into which can incorporate the outcomes of work on our 8 priorities:

1. Identification of a Gatwick to London growth corridor, confirming the importance of the airport for the national economy, the growth potential of Croydon and the need for infrastructure investment along the corridor as a greater national priority.

In line with our agreement with the London LEP, we have begun discussions with the GLA on coordinating our LISs to deliver this. This was a very productive meeting, sharing our work to date and agreeing to a collaborative and iterative process of LIS development between us. The Gatwick corridor is one of four identified by the GLA; alongside the Thames Estuary, links to Oxford and Cambridge, and the Stansted corridor.

2. The development of the towns around Gatwick airport, based on understanding the goals of local plans in the seven Districts and Boroughs within the Gatwick Diamond. This anticipates the potential for a significant increase in economic output in this area, with a reduced requirement for commuting to London and long-term investment in infrastructure. The potential for further growth at Gatwick airport would support this model.

3. The growth of our coastal communities, which offer a unique opportunity to Government because of the economic success of Brighton and the coast’s proximity to Gatwick. Recognising the historic disadvantages some of coast towns continue to face, we believe our region offers opportunities for Government investment in brownfield site development, housing delivery and the promotion of social mobility.

4. The need for investment and attention into our rural areas, and the opportunities they offer for a different type of economic development based on recreation, aspirational environmental standards, unique businesses and a strong health and well-being agenda.

We should be aware that each of these offers the potential for collaboration with other LEPs and that Government is encouraging us to do this. As well as our partnership with the GLA and Croydon, which helps to distinguish us from other LEPs in the South East; we have the potential to collaborate with SELEP and Solent LEP on coastal communities, and with others on the development of our Shire economy.

We discussed our programme management approach to delivering Gatwick 360 and the LIS, which will include development of the evidence base to help identify the right interventions for our eight priorities in each of the four areas. It was agreed that there will be regular meetings between Coast to Capital and CLGU throughout the LIS negotiation.

### **3. Stakeholder engagement**

A highly successful stakeholder event took place on 28 February at the recently launched Engineering & Digital Tech Park at the University of Chichester. The event provided an opportunity to share progress on the Gatwick 360 strategy since its launch and the development of our Local Industrial Strategy. It also focused on Priority 1 – Delivering Prosperous Urban Centres which was discussed by a high profile panel of experts.

Starting in May, we are planning on holding a short series of monthly 'Big Debates' in the lead up to our AGM in September, to support the development of our LIS. This will be themed around the Government's Industrial Strategy five foundations of productivity (Ideas, People, Infrastructure, Business Environment and Places). Our Gatwick 360 priorities will be grouped under these themes. The February stakeholder event covered Places and it is likely that the next event will discuss People including skills.

At the Joint Committee Meeting on 6 March Jonathan Sharrock gave an overview of developments with the LIS. He explained our excellent start and developing approach to places in the Coast to Capital area, which received the full support of members. A letter to Joint Committee members has issued in March which confirms the importance of working closely with them to develop this work. (See Chief Executive Report).

### **4. Conclusion**

Work on Gatwick 360° continues to progress well and we remain on course to develop our Local Industrial Strategy by the end of the calendar year, in time for the deadline for all LEPs of March 2020.

### **5. Next Steps**

Our programme of work will continue, including recruitment of additional capacity to implement the programme, produce the evidence base and undertake stakeholder engagement. A further update will be brought to the next Board meeting on 10 July.

## **6. Diversity Statement**

Board Sponsors for each of the Gatwick 360° priorities have been selected to reflect the professional and personal diversity of Board Members.

## **7. Legal Statement**

A legal position has not been provided on this paper. The Accountable Body oversees and is involved in approval of funding and resource allocations to deliver the LIS.

### **Annexes:**

Annex A – Update on Gatwick 360° delivery programme.