

**Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP**

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities  
and Local Government  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

**Date:** 07 DEC 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

In the Government's review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), you challenged us to resolve boundary overlaps at a local level.

We fully understand the importance of providing clarity to Government and taxpayers on LEP geography. This will ensure that investments in local areas through the development of Local Industrial Strategies represent good value for money for the public purse.

We are pleased to let you know that Coast to Capital LEP and London's LEP, LEAP, working very closely with Croydon Council, have reached agreement on our future collaboration in relation to Croydon. We attach a summary of our discussions, which are agreed by both parties.

Our agreement will ensure close collaboration between both LEPs in relation to the development of the London to Gatwick corridor. It will allow both LEPs to work exceptionally closely with Croydon, reinforcing its status as a critical focal point for growth on that corridor. We will develop our Local Industrial Strategies in close collaboration with each other, ensuring that strategic priorities – particularly on transport, digital infrastructure and the need for new university capacity – are properly addressed.

We will design and implement new arrangements to ensure transparent delivery of this approach. The LEP boundary will be redrawn to confirm that Croydon is part of LEAP. The Croydon business community will be represented on the LEAP Board. Coast to Capital will continue to develop an exceptionally close relationship with Croydon business and political leaders, including on our Board, as our main partners in London linking us into the wider London LEAP. We believe that this approach will deliver the best platform for strong economic growth in Croydon, and properly link the vibrant economy along the corridor from Gatwick airport to London. We aim to make our region an exemplary partner to Government in delivery of the aims of the Modern Industrial Strategy.

We commend this approach to you and hope that it may provide a model for other parts of the country where areas of such significant economic importance as Croydon are covered by overlaps between LEPs.

We look forward to working closely with you and your officials in delivering this work, and in actively supporting the development of Local Industrial Strategies.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London  
Chair of the London Economic Action Partnership



**Timothy Wates**  
Chair of Coast 2 Capital LEP

Att.

Cc: Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister for London

## **Summary of discussions between Coast to Capital LEP, London LEAP and London Borough of Croydon**

- A. The Gatwick Airport to Croydon corridor (“the corridor”) is a key area of economic development for both LEAP and C2C. The Mayor of London’s draft London Plan identifies it as a priority area for London’s economic growth and it is central to C2C’s strategy for economic growth, Gatwick 360.
- B. LEAP and C2C are committed to working in collaborative partnership to deliver economic growth for the corridor, particularly on transport, digital and university facilities.
- C. LEAP and C2C are clear that Government requires there to be no geographical overlaps between LEPs. LEAP and C2C agree that, as a London Borough, LB Croydon must remain in LEAP and it must therefore leave C2C on a date to be agreed with Government.
- D. LEAP and C2C will propose a two-year transitional arrangement to Government for C2C to see through its Growth Deal commitments in LB Croydon. This will not delay the adoption of the new geographical arrangements, which in turn will enable the development of a Local Industrial Strategy for each area.
- E. LEAP and C2C are each committed to developing their individual Local Industrial Strategy in collaboration with the other, sharing knowledge and analysis to develop complementary evidence-based content for the corridor. LEAP will include an evidence-based appendix on the Gatwick to Victoria corridor in its Local Industrial Strategy, focussing on transport, digital and higher education.
- F. LEAP and C2C will design and implement a governance arrangement to ensure the transparent delivery of the collaborative approach outlined above and that any LEP decisions concerning the corridor are made in full view of both LEPs. In the interest of efficiency and to avoid duplication, it is proposed that a prominent member of the Croydon business sector shall sit on both LEAP and C2C boards. This member would be appointed to LEAP as part of the recruitment process for four additional LEAP Business Members following the December LEAP Board meeting (subject to final Mayoral decision). LEAP and C2C are agreed that continued close collaboration and partnership with business and political leaders in LB Croydon will be essential for C2C’s future engagement in the delivery of its work.
- G. LB Croydon has been the accountable body of C2C since 2017 and this arrangement is working very well. C2C will work with Government to consider its accountable body arrangement moving forward.