

## Coast to Capital Local Industrial Strategy Programme - 2020

### Improve Digital Network Capability - Research Brief

#### Background

Coast to Capital is one of 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships across the UK. Our purpose is to shape regional economic priorities, support businesses and make investments that will drive growth. We are a small organisation with large ambitions for our area. With a total population of two million, our area boasts a strong economy worth £50.7 billion, making us the seventh largest local economy in England in 2016. The Coast to Capital area is a network of economic hubs each with its own distinct sense of identity – West Sussex, Greater Brighton and East Surrey. We also have strategic relationships with London LEAP in Croydon and South East LEAP in Lewes.

In July 2018 we published [Gatwick 360°](#), our new Strategic Economic Plan, which sets out our bold vision for the area by 2030. In it we describe our eight economic priorities to achieve our vision, providing strong local leadership and working to succeed together with our partners. Delivering the pledges we make in Gatwick 360° now forms a distinct programme for the organisation. This programme will help us negotiate a strong future relationship with Government for our area, through our Local Industrial Strategy.

#### Gatwick 360° Strategic Economic Plan – Economic Priorities

Coast to Capital LEP has the ambitious vision to become the most dynamic non-city region in England and to be known around the world as a place to live, to grow and to succeed. To achieve this vision, the Local Enterprise Partnership has identified eight economic priorities to achieve this in our recently launched Gatwick 360° Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The eight identified priorities are as follows:

1. Deliver prosperous urban centres
2. Develop business infrastructure and support
3. Invest in sustainable growth
4. Create skills for the future
5. Pioneer innovation in core strengths
6. Promote better transport and mobility
7. Improve digital network capability
8. Building a strong national and international identity

Coast to Capital works closely with a wide range of partners including our 17 local authorities, 3 universities and 9 colleges, and a broad range of public and private sector organisations.

## Coast to Capital's Local Industrial Strategy

Following the release of the Government's Industrial Strategy (IS) in 2017, each LEP was instructed to produce a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) by March 2020. Each LIS will need to align with the *Five Foundations of Productivity* which are identified in the IS as: Ideas, People, Infrastructure, Place and Business Environment. It will also need to explore the opportunities aligned with the *Four Grand Challenges* also set out in the IS which are Artificial Intelligence, Clean Growth, Mobility and Ageing Society.

In line with this and with the Gatwick 360° Strategic Economic Plan, Coast to Capital is considering the importance of place and is exploring the particular growth opportunities for the Brighton-Gatwick-London corridor, the towns around Gatwick airport, our coastal towns with Brighton as a key driver and our rural area.

At the heart of our growth plans are productivity, sustainability and inclusivity.

### Objectives of the project

In order to build on the commitment in Gatwick 360° to improve digital network capability in Coast to Capital, there is a need to explore in further detail the existing digital infrastructure projects in the area and how we might leverage and enhance those assets. This research will help to develop a coherent and ambitious vision for the area and how we might turn this infrastructure into social and economic value.

More specifically we would expect this project to:

1. Develop our understanding of the existing projects around digital infrastructure being undertaken in the Coast to Capital and neighbouring areas, identify any gaps and look at how we might leverage and enhance those assets, either individually or by combining, to generate additional value. We have done some ground work to identify these existing assets and a summary is attached.
2. Develop a coherent, compelling and ambitious vision that integrates the discreet schemes and approaches happening and being planned into a coherent narrative, one that aligns with the Government's IS and with Gatwick 360° and can inform the Coast to Capital LIS.
3. Focus on and draw out the economic impact to the Coast to Capital area that this proposed approach will deliver ensuring that consideration is given to the ambitions for sustainable and inclusive growth. It will be important to establish a clear appreciation of the layer of activity required to turn infrastructure into value, building on and widening out existing activity such as the Brighton 5G test bed, the Digital Catapult Centre Brighton and various initiatives led by the Universities.

The research should cover the full Coast to Capital geography, but pay particular attention to the place based growth opportunities as set out on page 2:

- the Brighton-Gatwick-London corridor

- the towns around Gatwick airport
- the coastal towns with Brighton as a key driver
- the rural area

### Expected deliverables

Through a combination of desk and field based research we are looking for a final report which addresses the objectives as set out above and delivers a set of prioritised policy and investment recommendations. We would expect the report to be accessible, comprehensible by non-experts and engaging and be a document that we can use to inform the Coast to Capital LIS without the need for significant redrafting.

### Project timetable

We are looking for a fully signed off final report by the end of July 2019. The project proposal should set out the project milestones in more detail.

### Resources that will be provided

Coast to Capital is currently in the process of commissioning several other pieces of research in relation to the LIS evidence base. Where appropriate, interim findings and reports will be shared.

As a minimum, the following will be provided;

- Gatwick 360° Strategic Economic Plan
- Coast to Capital Economic Profile 2017
- Local Industrial Strategy Analysis Evidence Pack
- Coast to Capital EOI to the DCMS Wave 3 Local Full Fibre Fund
- Summary of the existing and proposed Digital Infrastructure projects in the Coast to Capital area
- An introduction to the consultants working on our other research projects

### Reporting arrangements

We would expect a weekly telephone catch up meeting to ensure that the project is on track and within scope.

### Procedures or practices that must be complied with

Any consultancy commissioned to undertake work for Coast to Capital must comply with the corporate governance policies. These policies can be found on the Coast to Capital [website](#).