

Gatwick Freeport Bid  
February 2021

# What is a Freeport?

Up to 10 newly defined UK Freeport areas will benefit from simplified customs, tax relief and wider government support.

## Freeport Objectives

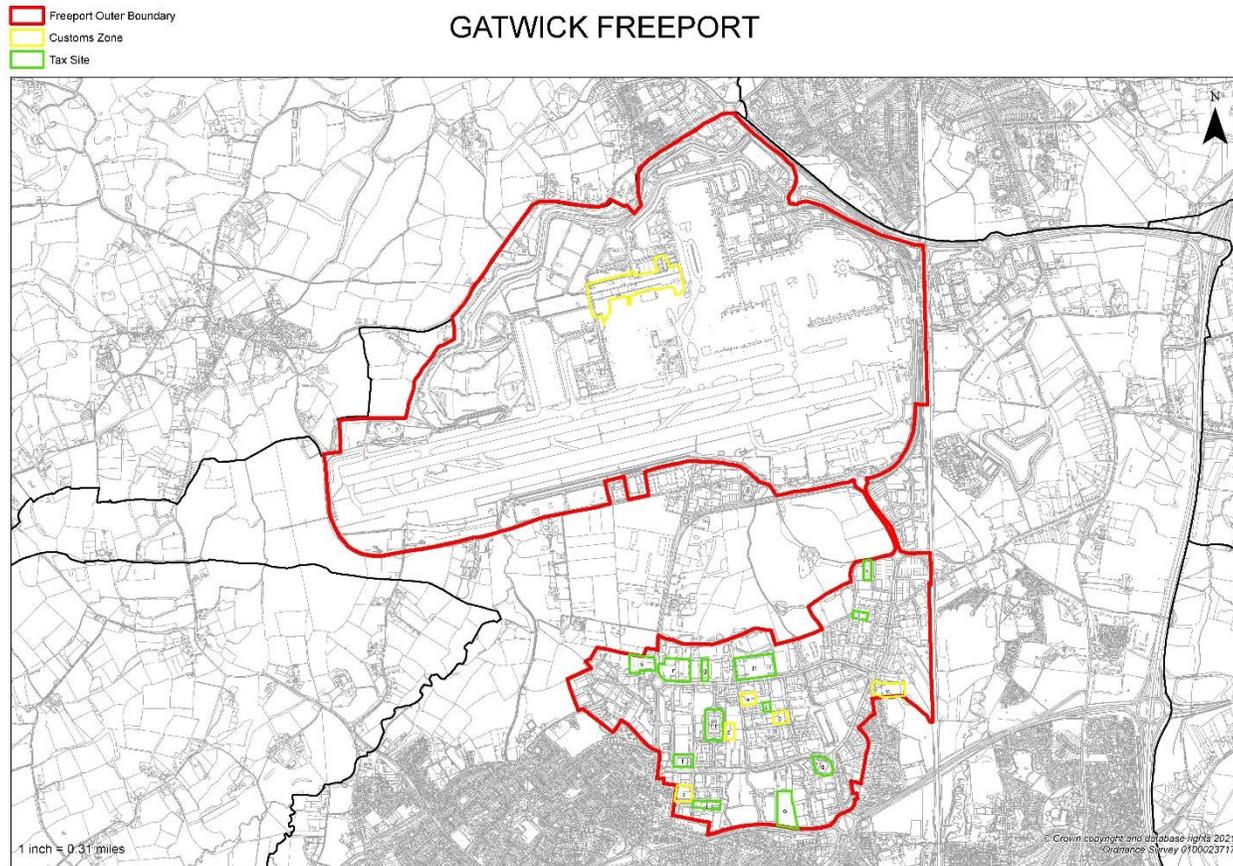
- Establishing national hubs for global trade and investment
- Regeneration and levelling up (the lead policy objective)
- Creating hotbeds for innovation
- And, contribution to Net-Zero

## Freeport Benefits

- ✓ Simplified import procedures and customs exemptions
- ✓ A wide package of tax reliefs for development sites
- ✓ Area based planning measures
- ✓ Government support to promote innovation and international trade

# The proposed Gatwick Freepoint site

An established national centre for high-value industry, offering potential to scale Freepoint ambition at pace.



## Gatwick Airport

The busiest single runway airport in the world, with direct flights (pre COVID-19) to 230 global destinations and 24,000 people employed on site.

## Manor Royal

A 240 hectare business district, one of the largest in the south east, and home to over 600 businesses providing 25% of Crawley's overall employment.

## Business specialism

A national cluster of world leading, high value, high innovation companies...

# World leading brands

The presence of world leading brands in Manor Royal, along with Freeport incentives, will attract strong SME innovation clusters and create more localised product supply chains.



Photo credit: Google Earth

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# An area devastated by COVID-19

The local economy has been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, given its reliance on air travel and related jobs and supply chains.

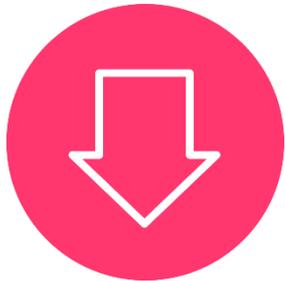
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Predictions show that aviation is likely to take **up to 5 years to recover to pre-pandemic levels**

## Gatwick Airport

- Gatwick grew its passenger volume by an average of 12% every year since 2011/12, the fastest growing major airport in the UK.
- Gatwick served just 10.1 million passengers in 2020 compared to nearly 47 million passengers in 2019.



Crawley is expected to see a **42 per cent drop in overall economic output as a result of the COVID-19 crisis – a loss of over £2.5 billion per annum**

## Crawley Economy

- There is a significant threat of mass redundancies in the town – 18% of the workforce work in aviation, with many thousands having already lost or in the process of losing their jobs.
- Crawley has been placed in the top ten of towns and cities in the England in need of levelling up.



# Investment in recovery and renewal

£17.5m of requested Freeport seed capital would fund enabling works to boost inward investment and business productivity within Manor Royal.

- **Transport** investment to better connect Manor Royal as a whole and the complementary functions of the Freeport, including customs zones, tax sites and the airport.
- **Innovation** investment to provide commercial space and facilities for hi-tech micro-enterprises and anchor SMEs that will create the “innovation hotbed”.
- **Land assembly and site remediation** at identified customs and tax sites that will attract business investment and allow Freeport outputs to be delivered at pace.
- **Public realm** improvements to create an attractive, world class business environment for a premier business district and international trading hub.

# Beneficial for business and local communities

The Freeport would help stimulate a new era of productivity and prosperity in Manor Royal and the wider area.



**Major growth in international trade**



**New manufacturing capacity on tax/customs sites**



**Volume of imports entering the Freeport on an inverted tariff basis**



**Major uplift in investment and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**



**Major uplift in business base / economic output and increased business competitiveness**



**1,000,000 sq. ft. of new commercial space**



**10,000 direct new jobs in Manor Royal**



**Manor Royal Investment Programme delivered**



**Dramatically increased innovation funding, spend and activity**



**Increased economic productivity in Freeport and wider economic area**

# Tackling climate impact

Help deliver UK Net Zero ambitions by reducing carbon emissions, increasing carbon offsetting and incentivising behaviour change across communities and industry

- Gatwick has committed to reach **net zero carbon for airport operations** and for aircraft emissions by 2050.
- A **£150 million upgrade to Gatwick Airport railway station**, currently under construction
- 'Re-Energise Manor Royal' will provide **secure, affordable and low-carbon energy** from renewable sources.
- Manor Royal is home to leading **innovators and disruptors** in clean energy generation and adoption
- Go Ahead Group and RBS Clean Mobility are creating **low carbon travel options at Manor Royal**



Photo credit: [Metrobus](#)

# Raising local aspiration and opportunity



Provide greater opportunities for higher paid work in Manor Royal, with targeted and connected skills pathways for local residents.

Delivering key skills initiatives increase education, skills and training take-up and qualifications in Crawley:

- Institute of Technology bid and sector focus (if successful)
- Crawley Innovation Centre
- Invest in skills' Crawley programme
- Skills 360° Board's Skills Action Plan, reflecting businesses' skills priorities in the region
- The Skills 360° Board is the employment and skills board for the Coast to Capital area

# Supporting complementary investment

The case for the Gatwick Freeport is supported by a series of related public and private sector plans and investments, which demonstrate the wider opportunity of the proposals.

- Gatwick airport is planning to bring the **existing northern runway** into routine use for departures, subject to planning consent.
- Network Rail is carrying out works to double the capacity of **Gatwick Airport railway station**.
- Highways England has recently completed a **smart motorway upgrade** of the M23.
- Metrobus are soon to launch a new fleet of **hydrogen buses** in Crawley.
- West Sussex County Council are investing over £4m in a **Converged Fibre Connectivity Programme**.
- The Crawley **Town Investment Plan**, will provide critical infrastructure investment in the town.
- Public and private partners are leading the development of an **Innovation Centre** with £8.6m of Getting Building Fund.
- Chichester College Group (CCG) is leading a consortium bid for an **Institute of Technology**.
- Homes England are developing plans for **significant additional housing** at the West of Ifield strategic development site on the edge of Crawley.

# Gatwick Freeport Key Messages

- Freeports will benefit from generous tax reliefs, simplified customs procedures and wider government support.
- The Crawley area's economy has been devastated by COVID-19 and its direct impact on air travel and supply chains.
- Growth within Gatwick Freeport will build on existing clusters of international commercial specialism in Manor Royal Business District.
- Productivity will be boosted by investment in enabling infrastructure, using £17.5m seed capital.
- Proposals will help drive UK Net Zero ambitions through reductions in carbon emissions, an increase in carbon offsetting and behavior change.
- Greater opportunities for higher paid work will be created in Manor Royal, with targeted and connected skills pathways for local residents into those jobs.
- The case for the Gatwick Freeport complements a series of major public and private infrastructure investments in the area.

The Gatwick Freeport Bid was produced in collaboration by:

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