Break-out Seminar 2

Government Matters



Steve Skelton

Strategic Lead for Strategy and Policy

Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority

What will the new powers, funding and influence of the Strategic Authority mean for Manor Royal?

Sussex & Brighton | Strategic Authority

Manor Royal's next chapter

Shaping prosperity across Sussex and Brighton

Covering...

Introduction to the Strategic Authority

What the evidence suggests about Manor Royal

The Prosperity Strategy and how to get involved

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Stronger together at Sussex level

- West Sussex County, East Sussex County and Brighton & Hove City Councils have come together to form the **Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority (SBSA)**
- It is a new body that will provide regional coordination over issues better undertaken at scale, such as transport, housing, infrastructure, jobs, public safety and the environment
- It will give Sussex a strong, unified voice at a national and international level
- It will work to unlock funding and investment from government and the private sector
- Strategic authorities are led by a Board of constituent councils and partners. Sussex will have a Mayor elected in 2028



So, what does the SBSA do?

A Strategic Authority looks at the ‘big picture’ for the area.

It doesn’t deliver resident services.

The SBSA has powers and functions that cover nine core competencies:

1. Transport & Local Infrastructure
2. Skills & Employment Support
3. Housing & Strategic Planning
4. Economic Development & Regeneration
5. Environment & Climate Change
6. Health, Wellbeing & Public Service Reform (PSR)
7. Public Safety
8. Culture
9. Rural Affairs & Coastal Communities

Who makes up the Board?

East Sussex County, West Sussex County and Brighton & Hove City Councils are our constituent authorities – so two senior Members sit on the Board making decisions on funding and priorities.

East Sussex County Council



Cllr Andy Woolley

Co-Vice Chair of the SBSA

Leader of East Sussex County Council



Cllr Peter Morley

Board Member of the SBSA

Deputy Leader of East Sussex County Council

Brighton & Hove City Council



Cllr Bella Sankey

Chair of the SBSA

Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council



Cllr Jacob Taylor

Board Member of the SBSA

Deputy Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council

West Sussex County Council



Cllr Jay Mercer

Co-Vice Chair of the SBSA

Leader of West Sussex County Council



Cllr Nicholas Russell

Board Member of the SBSA

Cabinet Member of West Sussex County Council

Who are SBSA officer team?



Mark Rogers

Interim Chief Executive

Statutory Officer (Head of Paid Service)



Helen Newark

Executive Assistant to the Interim Chief Executive



Jodie Townsend

Interim Strategic Lead for Governance, Legal and Compliance
Statutory Officer (Monitoring Officer)



Amanda Mays

Interim Strategic Lead for Organisation Design and Development



Debbie Simpson

Interim Strategic Lead for Finance

Statutory Officer (Section 73)



Steve Skelton

Interim Strategic Lead for Policy, Strategy and Investment



Rebecca Newby

Interim Strategic Lead for PMO



Siobhan Bassford

Interim Strategic Lead for Communications & Engagement



Sephanie Foster

Interim Joint Chief of Staff

Our strategic framework



Devolution in Sussex

Spring 2026

SBSA established

Membership confirmed

First meeting of the Authority

Summer 2026

Governance established

First AGM

Formal confirmation of post-election board membership

“Rewiring the state”

Business Board established

2027

Work continues to develop processes and framework for SBSA especially:

- Prosperity Strategy and
- Fire and rescue transfer

April 2028

Mayoral elections

May 2028

Mayor elected and joins constituent councils leading SBSA

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Manor Royal powers our regional economy

Over 600 businesses and 30,000 jobs beside a major international gateway.

A major centre for engineering, technology and global business.

At the heart of Gatwick's supply chains and growth opportunities.

A strong BID gives businesses a shared voice.

Manor Royal should help shape the region's future.

Source: Phase 1 Foundational Evidence Pack (July 2026); Q1 Regional System and Q2 Growth Opportunities reports (Oct 2026); Manor Royal BID Annual Report 2025/26 and BID Survey 2026; Manor Royal BID, The Place.



Phase 1 asset map. Manor Royal is the named business district beside Gatwick.

Manor Royal in numbers

30,000+
jobs

600+
businesses, 541 of them BID levy payers

9m sq ft
of commercial space on 540 acres

1.1%
BID levy rate

Manor Royal BID, 2026. Jobs and business counts are the BID's own rounded figures.

A broad business base with room to grow

Gatwick and Manor Royal connect aviation with a much wider economy.

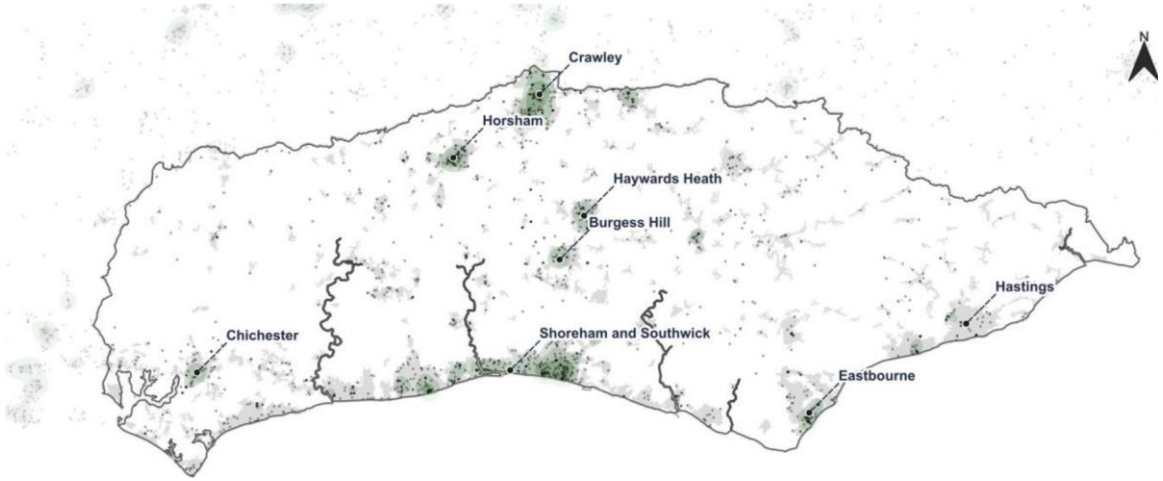
Two thirds of linked firms are in engineering and technical services.

Crawley also has strengths in MedTech and advanced manufacturing.

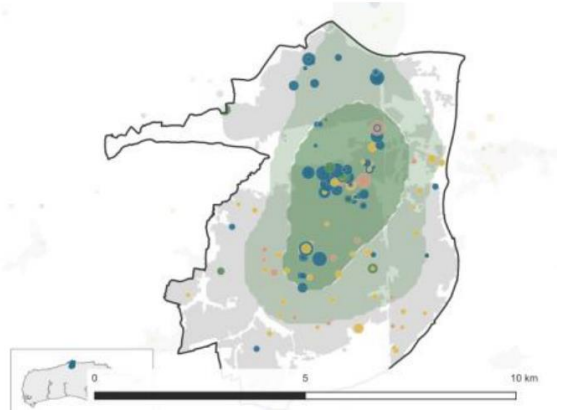
Growth can create opportunities across local supply chains.

Build on the strengths of the whole business base.

Source: Metro Dynamics analysis of The Data City business locations (Sept 2026); ONS BRES 2023; Q2 Growth Opportunities report and Addendum (Oct 2026).



Density zones for Gatwick, aviation and supply chains. Darker green is the core zone, lighter the wider zone.



Crawley and Gatwick close-up: 166 businesses and 6,610 jobs, 61% in the core zone.

2 in 3

linked firms are engineering and technical, not aviation

4×

the national share of air transport jobs: 8,070

A workforce that crosses council boundaries

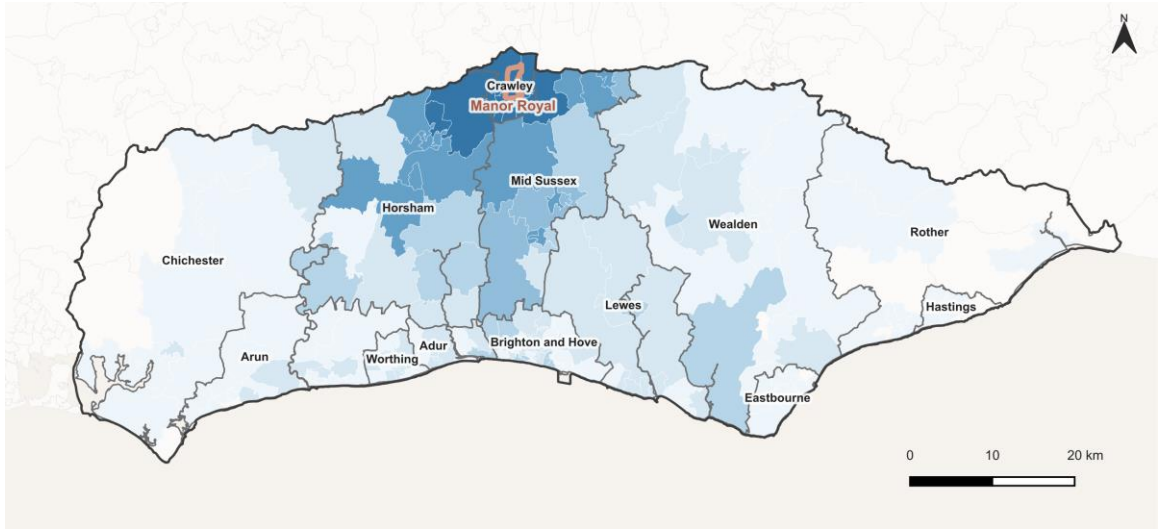
Manor Royal depends on connections across Crawley, Sussex and Surrey.

Crawley and nearby neighbourhoods supply strong commuter flows.

Half of the wider Gatwick Diamond labour market is in Surrey.

Commuter flows from the Sussex coast are much weaker.

Better access to work is a regional opportunity.



Trips a day by home MSOA. Manor Royal MSOA outlined.

Under 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 30 | 30 to 60 | 60 to 150 | 150 and over

1 in 2

of the Gatwick Diamond labour market is in Surrey

Largest

single draw for workers in the region: the airport and Manor Royal

Source: Mobile network home-to-work origin–destination data supplied by Transport for the South East, derived from BT mobile network data for 2024; one-way trips, average Monday to Friday. Manor Royal: Crawley 004 MSOA (Manor Royal and Northgate). Boundaries: ONS Open Geography Portal. Phase 1 Evidence Pack; Q1 Regional System report (Oct 2026).

Strong businesses. Unequal opportunities.

Crawley's jobs strength sits alongside high levels of need.

Some neighbourhoods face high child poverty and low qualifications.

The BID connects businesses with local jobs and training.

Much of the BID's current funding is time-limited.

Connect business growth with local opportunity.

Source: Q3 People and Inclusive Prosperity report (Oct 2026); Phase 1 Foundational Evidence Pack (July 2026); Manor Royal BID Annual Report 2025/26; MRBD Projects Group (Oct 2026).



Crawley: overlapping need by neighbourhood.

Need measures in England's worst 20%

none — all five

Low qualifications, out of work, bad health, disability, child poverty. The darkest areas are in England's worst fifth on all five. Manor Royal marked.

47%+
child poverty in Crawley's western estates

2.3×
Crawley's output per head against income per head

87%
of Manor Royal businesses back their BID

55%
of the BID's income is time-limited

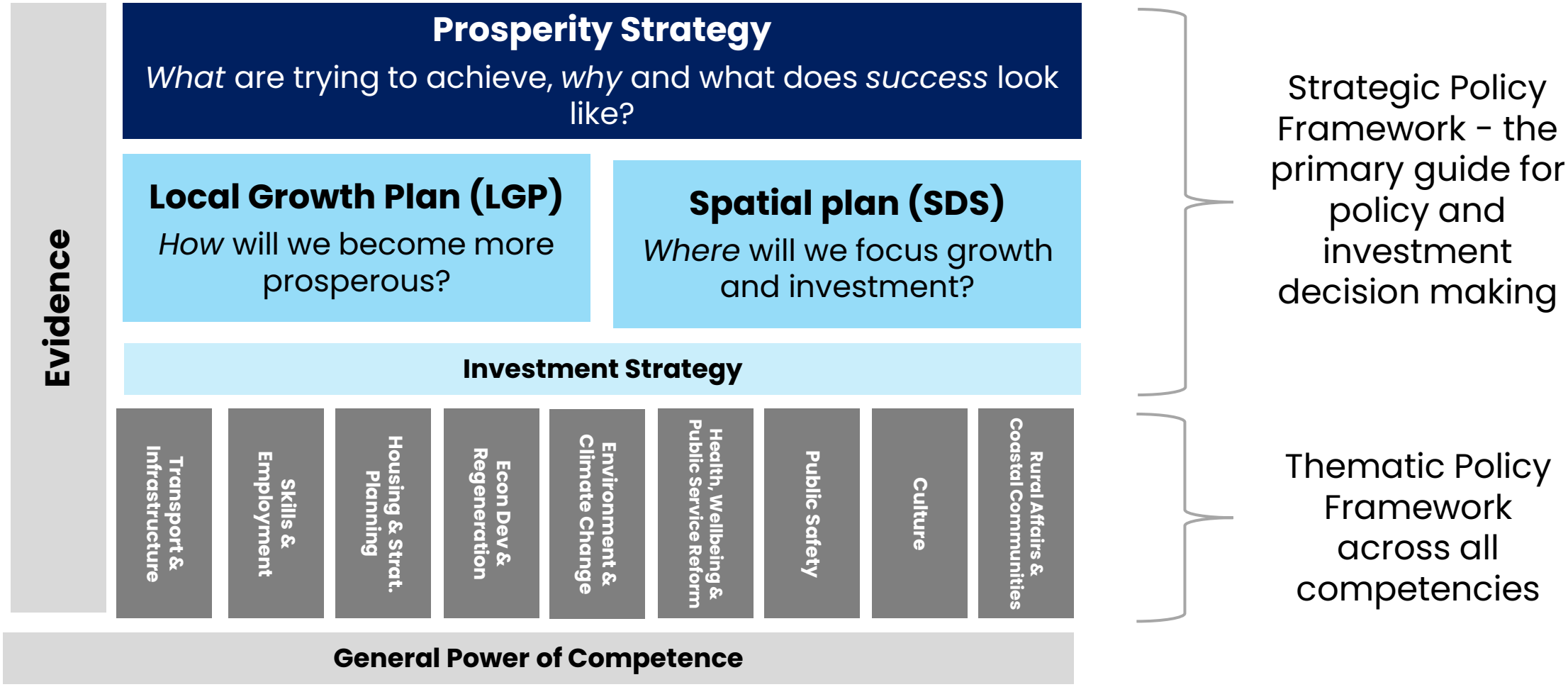
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Strategic Framework



Prosperity Strategy

Sussex & Brighton | Strategic Authority

WHAT	WHY	WHO	HOW	WHEN
• A strategy that will set the overarching aims and objectives of the SBSA.	• So we know what we mean by a better Sussex and Brighton.	• As many voices and views as we can accommodate within the resource and time we have.	• Through a broad collaborative process over several stages, and by building on existing work across Sussex.	• In draft by early November and agreed by the end of the financial year / ahead of the pre-election period.


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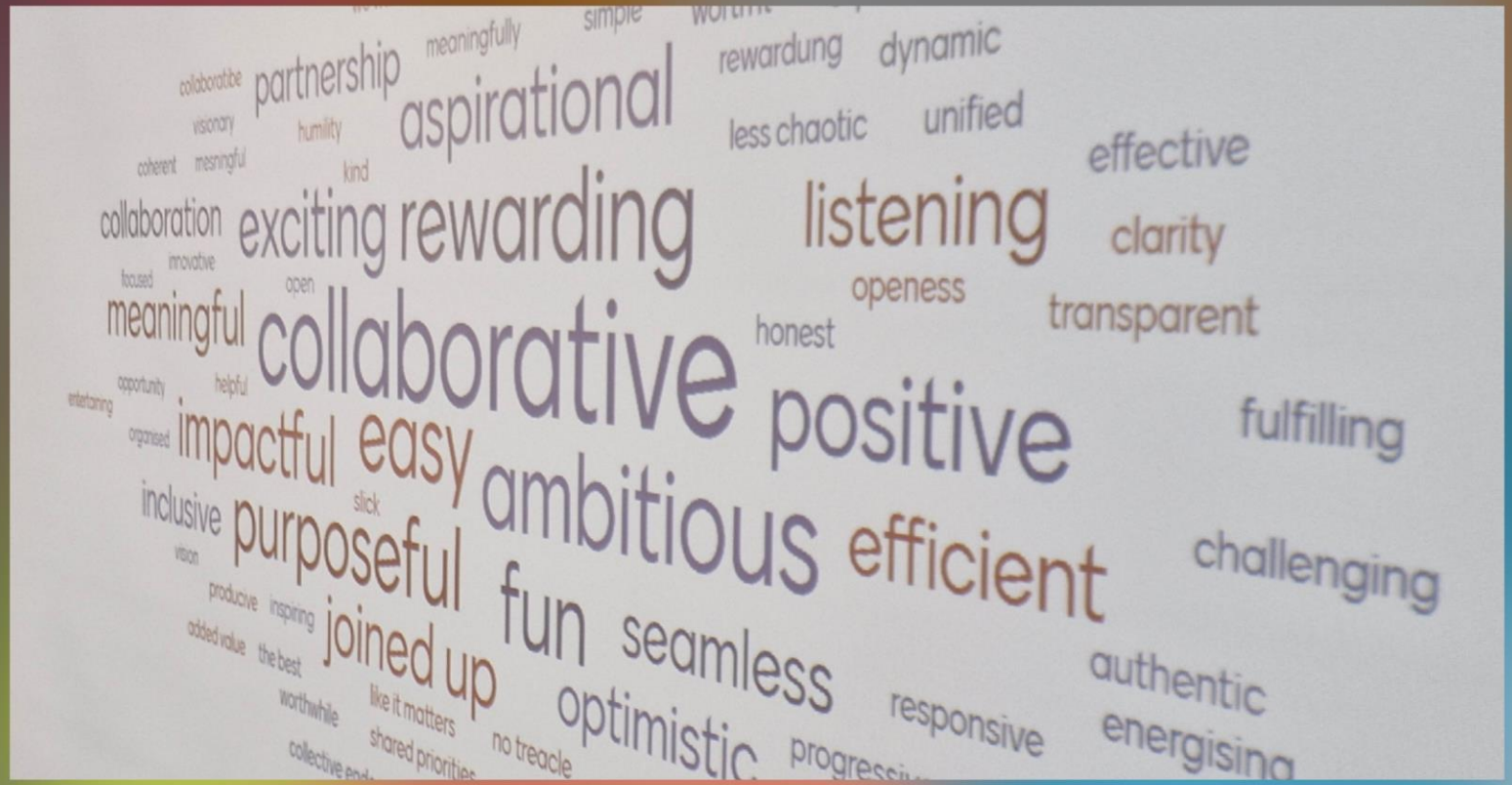

NOW
WATCH OUT FOR A PLANNING VACUUM AND
DRAFT
LOCAL
PLAN
Spalding
Adult skills funding
Provision (19+ post-
mirak assessment)




THE
Future


focus



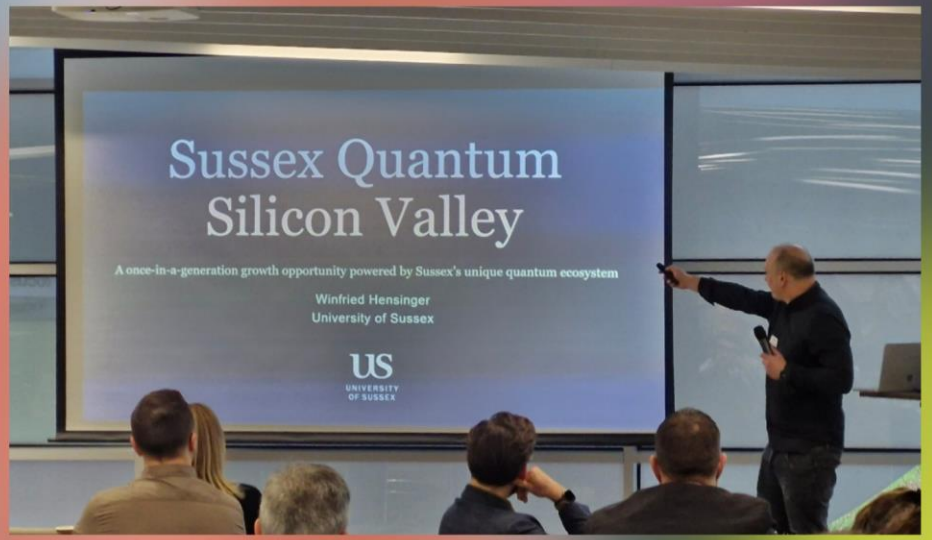

partnership
aspirational
rewarding
listening
collaboration
exciting
meaningful
collaborative
positive
impactful
easy
ambitious
efficient
purposeful
fun
seamless
joined up
optimistic
dynamic
unified
effective
clarity
transparent
fulfilling
challenging
authentic
energising
responsive
inclusive
honest
openness
less chaotic
meaningfully
humility
kind
focused
open
helpful
organised
slick
vision
producive
inspiring
added value
the best
worthwhile
like it matters
shared priorities
no treacle


STORY
Sussex – Has it all !!
Sussex The Best of Everything
Sussex is Great
Weald to the Waves.
What is the offering for those living in the region?
Connectivity, Quantum or Life Sciences
What differentiates us.
Culture Free Thinking
→ Chartism
→ Tom Paine
→ Radical
User Friendly
Clear Concise Audience Focused
Hunt the Good
What Connects us & Gives Identity.
Be Clear About The Audiences & Don't Apologise
Coastal Powerhouse
Use visitor economy as a backdrop to attract people
Sussex as Quantun
People – opportunities
Soft Power.
Innovation?


Our County and Force – A complex landscape






Sussex Quantum Silicon Valley
A once-in-a-generation growth opportunity powered by Sussex's unique quantum ecosystem
Winfried Hensinger
University of Sussex
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Overview of the Strategy

Pathways	Our priorities	What success looks like
Connecting people and places	1. East-west connectivity 2. Joined-up everyday transport 3. Affordable homes and infrastructure	• Dependable, affordable journeys to jobs and services • Homes and employment supported by infrastructure • Greater independence and less isolation for people with limited transport options • Wider benefits from Gatwick, ports and London
Helping every generation build a future here	4. Skills and routes into work 5. Joined-up neighbourhood support	• Clear routes from learning into good work • Opportunities to retrain and progress throughout life • Joined-up support that removes barriers to learning, work and community life
Enriching our living landscape	6. Nature recovery on land and at sea 7. Water and energy infrastructure 8. Cultural partnerships and participation	• Healthier landscapes, rivers and marine habitats • Thriving rural, marine and clean-energy businesses • More people enjoying nature and culture • Development that respects nature and withstands climate change
Backing business across Sussex and Brighton	9. Innovation partnerships 10. Business growth and investment	• More firms investing, innovating and growing locally • Research and creativity generating commercial success • Local firms reaching new markets and supply chains • Secure work and more value retained locally
Our shared foundation **Strong, safe and healthy communities**	11. Community voice and partnership 12. Place-led safety and resilience	• More people participating and influencing decisions • Safe, welcoming places that support health and connection • Communities and businesses better able to withstand, respond to and recover from shocks

How to get involved…

- **Consultation opens 16 Nov – www.haveyoursay.sussexandbrighton-cca.gov.uk**
  - All the information you need will be here 👆
  - Online survey
  - Stakeholder engagement session (like this)
  - Resident engagement groups
- **Apply to join the Sussex and Brighton Business Advisory Board** – the independent business voice on decisions about strategy, investment and business support.
  - Nine places are available through open recruitment, **from 16 Nov**
  - Welcome founders, owners and managers from businesses of every size
  - No previous board experience is needed
  - Apply by **17 January 2027**, or contact kane.tudor@sussexandbrighton-cca.gov.uk for an informal conversation
- **Launch event 23 November at the AMEX Stadium** (there are a few spaces left if you'd like to join us the event ☺ - email sbsaevents@sussexandbrighton-cca.gov.uk)
- Engage through your existing council growth boards, chambers of commerce or the Manor Royal BID

