

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

GREATER  
BRIGHTON

# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD MEMBERS

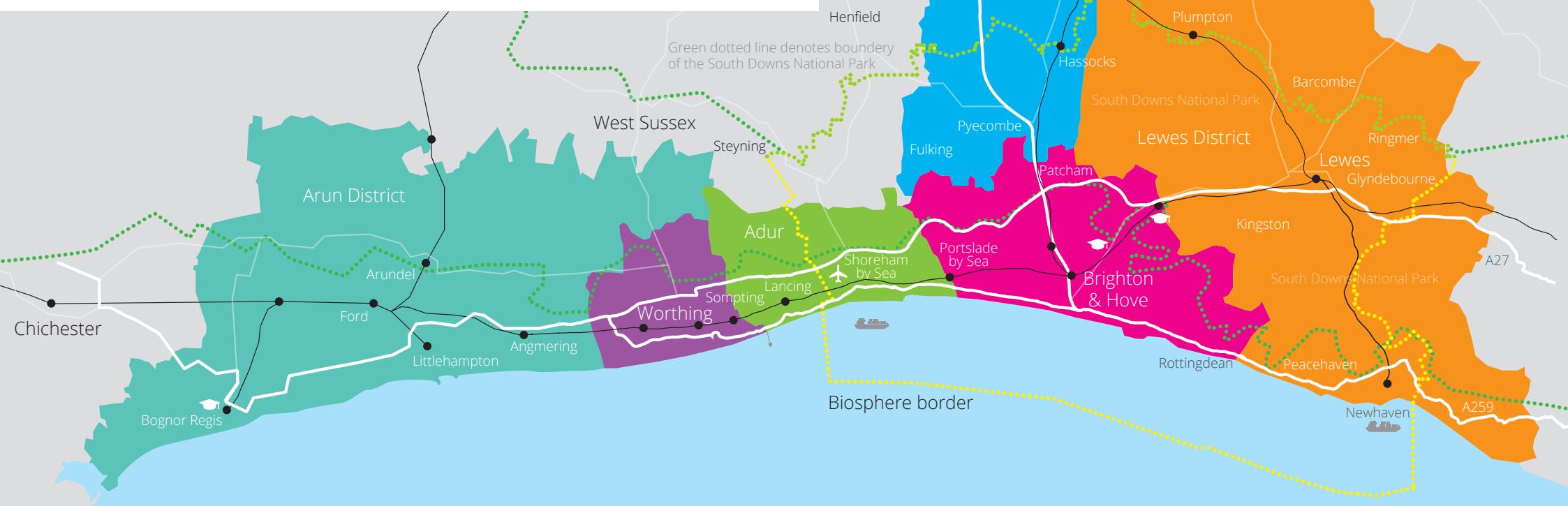
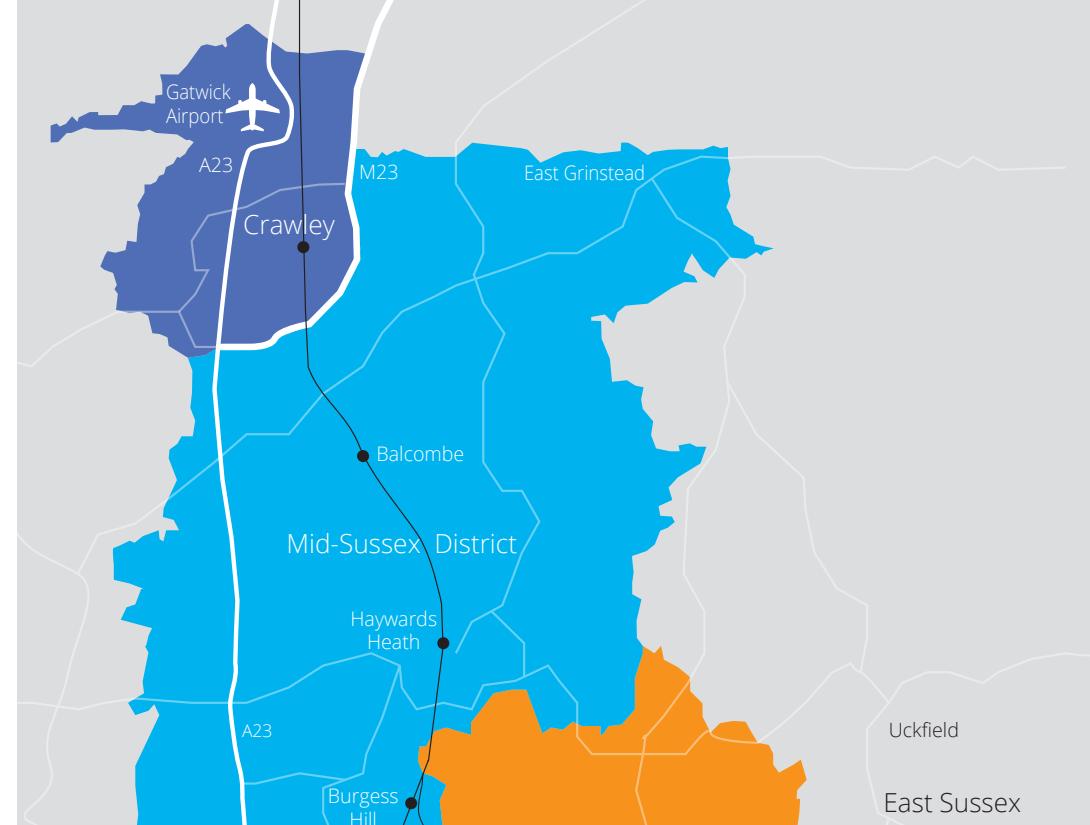
## LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Adur District Council
- Arun District Council
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Crawley Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- Worthing Borough Council

## BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

- Adur & Worthing Business Partnership
- Brighton & Hove Economic Growth Board
- NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- University of Brighton
- University of Sussex
- Chichester College Group
- South Downs National Park Authority

Greater Brighton is all about recognising that the economy knows no boundaries. The whole really is greater than the sum of the parts.



# FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board, to introduce this year's Annual Report. Sussex and Brighton has been selected as one of only six regions to be in the Government's **Devolution Priority Programme** and work is progressing at pace to deliver a Mayoral Combined County Authority by May 2026. Devolved powers will enable investment to be directed where it matters most—reflecting local priorities and delivering better outcomes for our citizens, businesses and the wider economy. The Board will leverage its influence and standing to ensure that Greater Brighton and Sussex as a whole seize every opportunity this historic moment affords.

**Keeping up the momentum**, our Board continues to grow in stature and impact. This year we welcomed NHS Sussex to our membership, and Sussex Chamber of Commerce has requested to join—solidifying our status as a crucial, collaborative forum where the public and private sectors can work together in a solutions-focused space. We have commissioned a study to identify and prioritise the highest-value economic opportunities arising from devolution, and we remain firmly on the front foot throughout this transition, helping to shape policy and direct resources.

Our commitment to the **Sussex Energy** mission—to achieve energy neutrality by 2040—remains our key priority. It now has a dedicated partner group with representation across Sussex and across sectors, a roadmap to 2040, and a focused 2025 action plan. In the year ahead we will launch the Sussex Energy Forum, bringing together practitioners from across the region to accelerate low-carbon energy projects and ensure that, as powers devolve, we speak with one coordinated voice on environment and climate change.

**Engaging Central Government** has been another strategic focus. The Department for Business & Trade's visit to Greater Brighton showcased our thriving tech ecosystem—from technology providers headquartered in the region valued at \$1 billion to record breaking quantum computing start-ups. Sussex's reputation as a leader in **Industries of the Future** is stronger than ever. Our quantum computing sector has delivered groundbreaking modular architectures and world-class training programmes, while spin-outs such as Universal Quantum have raised over £100 million in funding. Follow-up discussions with ministers and officials, to get support to unlock critical sites and explore opportunities in quantum and beyond, have begun. Leading on from the first visit, together with the University of Sussex, we hosted central Government tours of the Sussex Centre for Quantum Technologies lab.

Looking forward, the Board stands ready to maximise the benefits of devolution, to deepen collaboration across sectors, and to champion Sussex on the national and global stage. I would like to thank my fellow Board members, our partners and every stakeholder whose dedication and ingenuity power our progress.

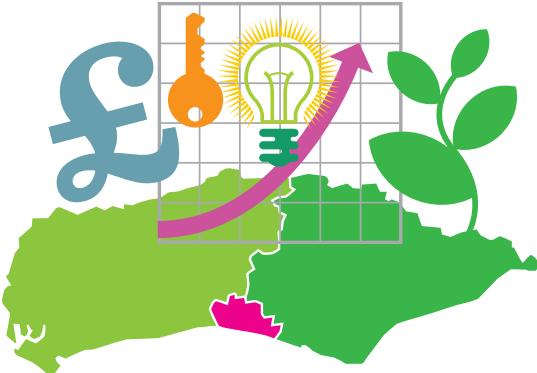


*Bella Sankey*

Cllr Bella Sankey

Chair of Greater Brighton Economic Board  
Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council

# GREATER BRIGHTON HIGHLIGHTS 2024/25



## DEVOLUTION HAS LANDED

- Sussex and Brighton to be one of the first areas granted devolved powers under new framework
- Devolved powers to support targeted investment based on local need and priorities
- Better outcomes for region's citizens, businesses and the wider economy
- Board will use its influence and standing to maximise opportunity for Greater Brighton residents and businesses



## KEEPING UP THE MOMENTUM

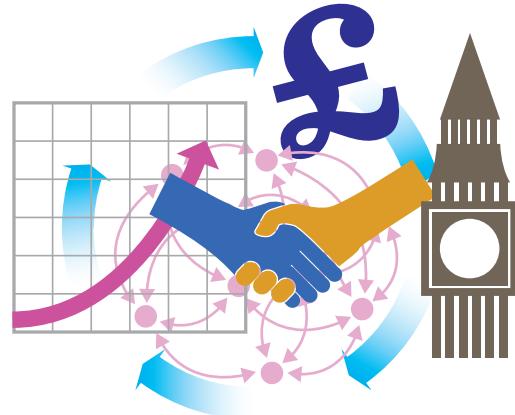
- Board growing in status; NHS Sussex joined and Sussex Chamber to follow
- Board will be pro-active and on front-foot through transition
- Continue to be a crucial, collaborative, safe space for public sector and business
- Commissioning a study to understand the devolution priority opportunities



## ENERGISING SUSSEX

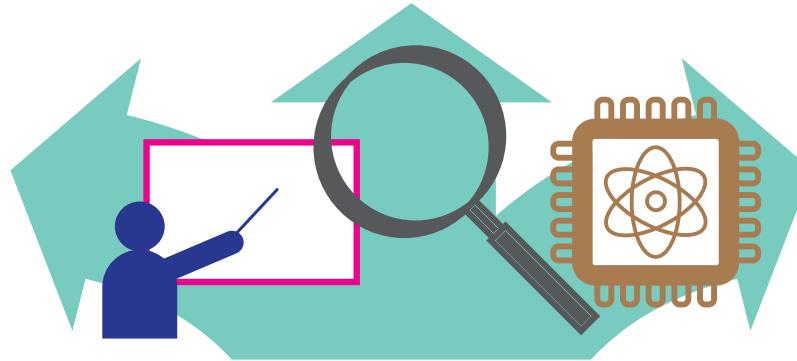
- Sussex Energy mission to achieve energy neutrality by 2040 leverages regional collaboration to tackle climate change, improve energy security, and drive economic prosperity.
- Sussex Energy Partner Group has been established, a roadmap to 2040 and 2025 action plan has been developed and work on aligning Environment and Climate Change devolution plans is in progress.
- Sussex Energy Forum is launching, bringing together practitioners from across the region to accelerate low-carbon energy projects in Sussex.

# GREATER BRIGHTON HIGHLIGHTS 2024/25



## ENGAGING CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- The Department for Business & Trade visit to Greater Brighton showcased the thriving tech sector.
- Technology providers valued at \$1 billion, record breaking quantum computing start ups, growth infrastructure and strong, supportive ecosystem.
- Follow-ups with government departments to unlock critical sites and explore growth opportunities.



## INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE

- Sussex is a global leader in quantum computing research.
- Groundbreaking achievements including a powerful new modular quantum computing architecture, exceptional training programmes and a thriving sector ecosystem, including Universal Quantum, a spin out who has raised over £100 million in funding.
- Board facilitated central government visits to the Sussex Centre for Quantum Technologies lab.

# PREPARING FOR DEVOLUTION

## DEVOLUTION FOR ALL

In December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper, setting out its ambition for devolution to all areas of England and inviting applications from areas to join the Devolution Priority Programme. In early February Sussex and Brighton was confirmed as one of six regions to be accepted on to the Programme. Being on the Priority Programme means that Sussex and Brighton will be working to the most ambitious timetable for devolution, including the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) over the next 10 months and the first Mayoral elections expected in May 2026.

## A NEW DEVOLUTION FRAMEWORK

The English Devolution Bill will create a statutory requirement for all Mayoral Strategic Authorities to produce a Local Growth Plan which sets out a long-term

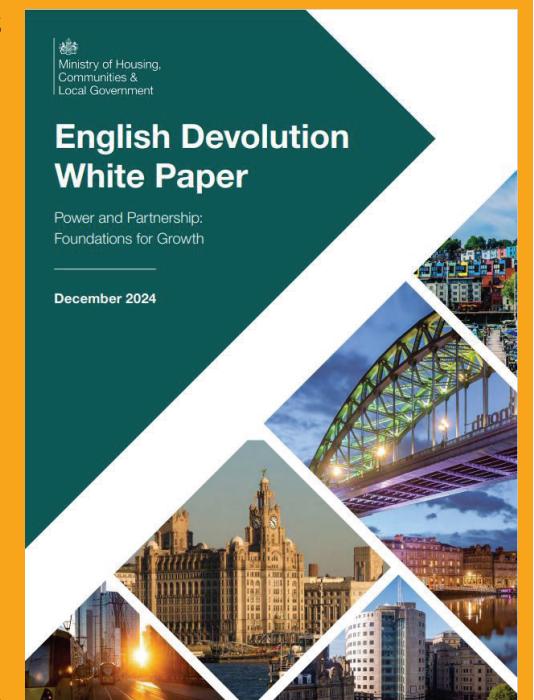
vision for growth in their region over the next decade and a roadmap for how this can be achieved.

Strategic Authorities will have a defined list of 'Areas of Competence', set out in law. These are designed to strengthen, not detract from, the functions and roles of other public bodies, such as NHS England, Environment Agency or Local Authorities. Proposed Areas of Competence are;

- Transport & local infrastructure
- Skills & employment support
- Housing & strategic planning
- Economic development & regeneration
- Environment & climate change
- Health, wellbeing & public service reform
- Public safety

Devolution unlocks funding and powers that would provide certainty, allowing a locality to plan spend more strategically, over a long period. This would support targeted investment based on local need and priorities that will result in the best return for a region's citizens, businesses and the wider economy.

Established Mayoral Authorities will receive a consolidated budget (Integrated Settlement) covering housing, regeneration, local growth, transport, skills, retrofit and employment support rather than individual funding pots, with less reporting requirements back into Government.



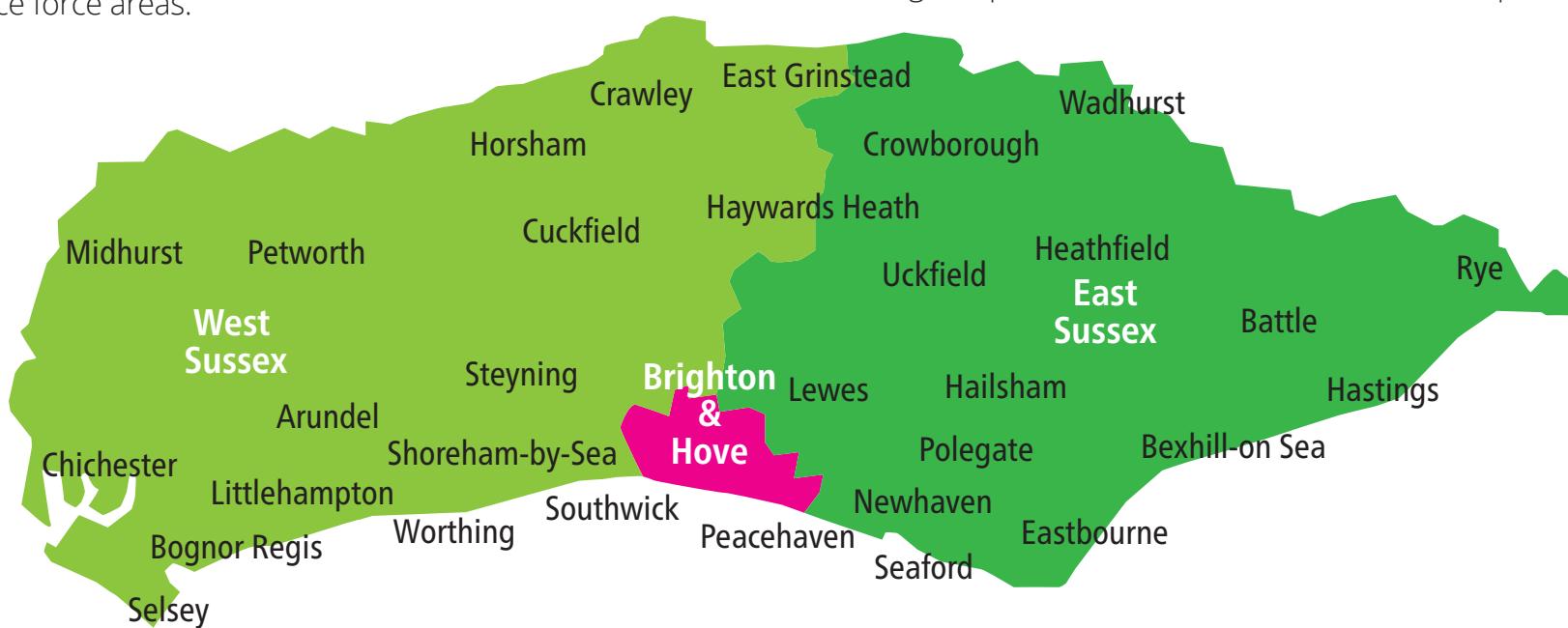
# PREPARING FOR DEVOLUTION

## WHY SUSSEX AND BRIGHTON?

**Completing the map** a recent **publication from the Institute for Government - ([bit.ly/4mTQ7CS](https://bit.ly/4mTQ7CS))** expressed the view that there is significant economic and social benefit to gain from a "Historic Sussex" devolution deal, which would bring together East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The argument put forward by the authors is that it achieves significant scale with a population of 1.7 million people and an economy of £48.7bn. It also reflects the economic geography of the region, in terms of the key travel to work and travel to learn commuter flows. On identity grounds it would align to earlier historic county boundaries, and it would also align well to both NHS Integrated Care Board and police force areas.

Sussex and Brighton is connected to Europe and beyond by major international gateways including the UK's second largest airport and the ports of Shoreham and Newhaven. The region hosts three leading universities and the unique quality of life offer includes a beautiful coastline, the South Downs National Park, the Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere and several other areas of outstanding natural beauty. The area has so much to offer.

However, whilst the region boasts high levels of economic prosperity based on some economic metrics, these can mask the true picture. The most recent figures published for Gross value added (GVA) per head see the



# PREPARING FOR DEVOLUTION

Sussex and Brighton region (£23,452), as lagging behind the wider southeast (£29,415) and England (£28,096). There exist significant regional disparities, with multiple pockets of deprivation and unmet potential.

There are well-established transport links, including major roads the A23 and A27, and rail connections like the Brighton Mainline, which are crucial for regional connectivity. However, there is scope for improvement, particularly in reducing congestion and improving public transport frequency to reduce commute times and further environmental objectives. The region would benefit from investment in transport infrastructure, particularly across east-west corridors such as the A27-M27/West Coastway Line and A259/East Coastway Line. These challenges in connectivity hinder inclusive growth. Enhancing transport links would improve connectivity between coastal towns, support business growth, and widen access to job opportunities.

Devolving powers to Sussex and Brighton presents an opportunity to reshape local governance and drive significant economic and social benefits for the region. By working together to shape a unified devolution agreement, Sussex and Brighton stands to gain enhanced financial resources, improved infrastructure, and greater strategic control. By uniting efforts on a Local Growth Plan, housing, skills, and health, devolution can spark innovation, create better jobs and deliver more responsive and integrated public services.



# GREATER BRIGHTON; PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

## A UNIQUE SPACE FOR COLLABORATION

Since its inception in 2014, the Greater Brighton Economic Board has championed collaborative working across the sub-region, established a wide range of partnerships and networks, and provided strategic leadership around key issues - the launch of the Sussex Energy Mission in July 2024 is a recent example. It is a unique space where Districts, Boroughs, businesses, further and higher education institutions across East and West Sussex and

Brighton & Hove work collaboratively and openly. The Board boasts over a decade of experience and expertise in regional governance structures and sustainable economic prosperity and is therefore well placed to support Government as work to establish a Strategic Authority progresses.



## Our successes so far



Delivering 750,000m<sup>2</sup> employment floor space

Unlocking £2bn in private sector investment



Improving our road network

Creating 24,000 jobs

Over 30 active projects

£48m awarded from Housing Infrastructure Fund

£160m secured in Local Growth Funding (LGF)



# GREATER BRIGHTON; PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

## DELIVERING FOR RESIDENTS

Through the Greater Brighton City Deal Agreement, the Board created the Greater Brighton Investment Programme. Since 2014, over £160m of Local Growth Funding has been secured which has unlocked around £2bn of private sector investment, created 24,000 jobs, built 18,000 homes and delivered 750,000m<sup>2</sup> of employment floor space.

As some of the early projects started in 2015, most reached the delivery phase some time ago. These include the Advanced Engineering Centre at the University of Brighton, flood defences in Newhaven, the Construction Trades Centre at Greater Brighton Metropolitan College, the BTN BikeShare scheme, Plus X, Circus Street and the Adur Tidal Walls flood defences in Shoreham.

The Investment Programme was designed to raise the City Region's productivity, and deliver sustainable economic prosperity by unlocking sites, developing infrastructure and creating space and support for high-value businesses to start-up and grow and thereby reduce reliance on lower-value industries. The Investment Programme contained a number of projects which varied in both their geography and type, including £48m secured through Housing & Infrastructure Fund to unlock 6,000 new homes and in July

2018 Homes England announced that it had purchased 176 hectares in Burgess Hill to unlock the delivery of 3,500 homes at Brookleigh.

While still in its 'infancy', the Board made enormous progress in creating a strong brand that is recognised by Government, investors and key stakeholders. It is a united partnership that has a detailed understanding of its functional economic area (and the barriers and challenges to increased productivity) and has the ability to shape priorities and target interventions across the City Region.

## A GROWING AND EVOLVING BOARD

As well as being noticed by Government, the Board has also grown in standing and reputation at a more local level. Crawley and Arun were not original members of the Board but joined in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

In the summer of 2024 NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board wrote a letter to the Chair formally requesting to join the Board. The Integrated Care System that covers Sussex (NHS Sussex) is responsible for healthcare for 1.7 million people across Sussex. It employs 50,000 staff with the largest components being the 20,000 employees at University Hospitals Sussex and 8,000 at East Sussex Healthcare. The NHS in Sussex has an asset base that covers 236 GP Practices, 9 acute sites, and around 14 other



# GREATER BRIGHTON; PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

sites. The NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) has 850 employees, and commissions the services for NHS Sussex health care providers. It currently has contracts with 267 individual providers making the organisation a big driver of economic growth in the area, both with the number of people it employs and the amount it spends on procurement.

The Board agreed that NHS Sussex ICB should join the Board and at the start of this year they officially became a member. With NHS Sussex as a member, the geographical reach of the Board has been widened to all of Sussex. This is very helpful in the context of a pan-Sussex devolution settlement being agreed.

In addition to NHS Sussex ICB, The Sussex Chamber of Commerce has also requested to join. The Sussex Chamber of Commerce is the largest business member organisation in Sussex. The Chamber champions local businesses, ensuring their voices are heard at regional and national levels. Through advocacy and collaboration with government bodies, industry leaders, and decision-makers, the Chamber helps shape policies that drive growth,

innovation, and a thriving economy. The Chamber also led on the development of the Future Skills Sussex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), which is seen as an exemplar.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Board welcomes the Government recognition of the opportunities available from working at a larger, regional level for strategic initiatives. The formation of a Sussex and Brighton MCCA brings huge opportunity for Greater Brighton and the wider Sussex region.

Sustainable economic prosperity is the main focus of the Board, and the Board has been able to add great value and demonstrate competence in the areas of economic development & regeneration and environment & climate change. Given that the Sussex and Brighton region is on the Devolution Priority Programme, as outlined earlier in the report, it is important that the work of the Board over the next 12 months is framed within the context of devolution so that the Board remains an important, proactive and relevant governance structure through the transition period, and that key strands of work continue

into the future.

To that end, the Board has commissioned an independent study to review the economic opportunities for the region, fully considering the enhanced strategic powers, capability and perspective of a Strategic Mayoral Authority. The main objective of the study is to understand how the powers and capability devolved to the MCCA translate to economic opportunities for the region. There may be some quick wins and low-hanging fruit but the main focus of the analysis will be the medium/longer term opportunities and how they may be realised. The main output of the project will be an evidence-based report which clearly sets out a methodology, an analysis of the key opportunities, to allow prioritisation based on factors such as cost, speed and complexity of implementation, and some strategic next steps/actions to take forward to develop a business case for investment.

# SUSSEX ENERGY: DRIVING US TO NET ZERO

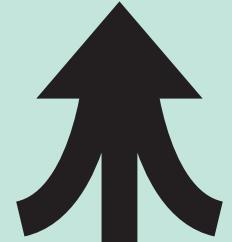


## SUSSEX ENERGY MISSION

In July 2024, Greater Brighton and partners across the region came together to launch the Sussex Energy mission—an ambition for Sussex to increase the amount of zero-carbon energy produced in the region and at the same time reduce the demand for energy, so that the Sussex region achieves energy neutrality by 2040. Sussex Energy expands upon previous initiatives by the Board including the GB10 pledges, Hydrogen Sussex, Energy and Water Plans. This Mission drives numerous strategic goals; it contributes to the net zero carbon goal to address urgent climate concerns, it builds on a strong track record in Sussex of low carbon energy work, it tackles the cost-of-living challenge, improves energy security, drives demand for green skills, drives economic prosperity and advances Government priorities, including the transition to a zero-carbon electricity system by 2030.



The launch brought together local authorities, public bodies, higher education institutes, businesses, and community organisations in a shared commitment to tackle one of the most urgent challenges of our time: how we generate and use energy. The strength of Sussex Energy is boosting regional collaboration on net zero. This collaboration allows:

	<p><b>Efficiencies</b> to be gained from spreading best practice, sharing knowledge, experience and future endeavours.</p>		<p>Us to be <b>greater than the sum of our parts</b>. We can unite on policy to drive regional change and speak with one voice to provide the bigger picture of the energy work in Sussex and attract investment.</p>		<p>Benefits from <b>economies of scale</b>. Aggregating demand will put us in a more powerful position to negotiate pricing or to build a pipeline of work giving certainty to build skills and attract suppliers.</p>
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# SUSSEX ENERGY: DRIVING US TO NET ZERO



Since the launch, a dedicated Sussex Energy Partner Group has formed to drive the mission forward. This group is working collaboratively across boundaries to shape a better energy future, sharing knowledge and coordinating efforts at a scale never seen before in Sussex.

Over the past year, the mission has laid strong foundations. A roadmap to 2040 has been developed, setting out the long-term vision for decarbonising energy in Sussex. Alongside this, a focused 2025 action plan outlines the workstreams to focus on this year.

## LOOKING AHEAD

There's lots more to come. In July 2025, the mission will host its first **Sussex Energy Forum**, bringing together a network of Sussex sustainability practitioners to strengthen their connections to accelerate low carbon energy work in Sussex and help to guide the direction of Sussex Energy. Work is underway to understand from people working in net zero in the region, what the challenges are impacting progress of low carbon energy work that could be tackled through the power of collaboration. This will ensure the future direction of Sussex Energy is targeted and effective.

At the same time, a **communications campaign** is being explored to raise awareness and build support across Sussex.

Crucially, the mission will be looking to explore opportunities for partners to collaborate on large-scale energy generation and energy efficiency programmes, unlocking the power of regional cooperation to drive meaningful change.

Sussex and Brighton is on the Devolution Priority Programme (as outlined earlier in the report). One of the areas of competence where devolved regions will have a mandate to provide strategic level coordination is Environment and Climate Change. Under Sussex Energy, officers from Local Authorities across Sussex and Brighton are working together to learn from other, comparable regions that have gone through the devolution process and to align on what the priorities, challenges and opportunities are for Environment and Climate Change for devolution in Sussex and Brighton. Presenting a unified view will make a smoother transition and helps the region prepare to capitalise on this unique opportunity.

The Sussex Energy mission is more than just a plan—it's a movement, and one that puts local people and places at the heart of the transition to a net zero future.

# OUR THRIVING TECH SECTOR

## DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS & TRADE LEARN WHY GREATER BRIGHTON IS A GREAT PLACE FOR TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES

In November 2024, more than 60 people attended the Department for Business & Trade (DBT), Technology Investment Team visit to the Greater Brighton region, including 10 senior officers from DBT. The Tech Investment Team work with international technology companies to set up and grow their presence in the UK. Their visit aimed to understand and convey why Greater Brighton is an ideal location for technology businesses.



The Greater Brighton Economic Board and DBT officers

The University of Sussex hosted the first day, featuring a series of speakers and a visit to the Quantum lab at the Sussex Centre for Quantum Technologies (SCQT). The second day focused on visiting various businesses in the region.

## SO WHY IS GREATER BRIGHTON A GREAT PLACE FOR TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES?

### Proven Success:

Greater Brighton is a leading base for businesses in the professional, scientific, and technical activities sector, with international employers such as American Express, Roche Diagnostics, Doosan, and Tokyo Electron. The visit showcased some of these flourishing businesses:

- Ralph Gilbert, CEO, led a tour of Focus Group Shoreham Headquarters, a tech provider recently valued at \$1 billion. Mark Bullen, MD, showcased GB Electronics, an advanced manufacturing firm, one of the growth-driving sectors identified in Invest 2035.
- Professor Winfried Hensinger, Director of SCQT and Cofounder, Chairman, and Chief Scientist of Universal Quantum, highlighted the region's leadership in quantum computing. The region has launched a doctoral training centre and successful spin outs, such as Universal Quantum which secured a €67M contract from the German Space Agency.

# OUR THRIVING TECH SECTOR



**Focus Group Headquarters visit**



**GB Electronics visit**



**Quantum Lab**

## **Growth Infrastructure:**

Greater Brighton boasts the largest business district in Southeast England with Manor Royal providing 9,000,000 square feet of commercial floor space and home to over 600 businesses generating 30,000 jobs. The region has higher proportions of premises with 5G, fibre, and gigabit-capable connectivity than the UK average. During the visit, the following elements of the local growth infrastructure was explored:

- Kathryn Hall, Mid Sussex Council's Chief Executive, presented an overview of Burgess Hill's Science and Technology Park, a 48 hectare site with 100,000sqm of employment floorspace unlocking more than 5,000 new jobs, which is under development within a larger growth area delivering 3,500 new homes, roads and sustainable travel infrastructure. This emphasised the significant growth being delivered in Greater Brighton, alongside local facilities, services and its gigabit connectivity.

- A panel of speakers was hosted from the comprehensive ecosystem supporting technology businesses to establish and grow in the region - including business networks (Grace Prior, Co-Founder of Silicon Brighton), business support and flexible space providers (Mat Hunter, Co-CEO of Plus X innovation and Nigel Lambe, CEO of Sussex Innovation Centre), and higher education institutions (Paul Rolfe, Director of Sussex & Surrey Institute of Technology, Chichester College Group and Professor Thar Baker Shamsa, Associate Dean (Research & Knowledge Exchange, University of Brighton)).

- The DBT team highlighted that 91% of potential GVA (over £320m) for the South East Foreign Direct Investment pipeline comes from Data Centre projects. Complimenting this, a Q&A session on data centres featured Matt Bagwell, CMO from Deep Green, and Peter Hutchinson, Data Centre Campus Manager from Digital Realty, shedding more light on the sector's opportunities and challenges.

# OUR THRIVING TECH SECTOR



**Technology ecosystem panel**

## Academic Excellence:

Home to three universities and a forward-thinking Further Education sector that fosters creativity and innovation. The region boasts one of the highest proportions of startups per capita in the UK (5,025 business births in the region in 2022 vs a UK average of 4,951) and a strong job market in creative industries with the sector job count increasing by 30% from 2015 to 2022 in Brighton & Hove, a higher rate than jobs across the economy as a whole.

## Quality of Life

Greater Brighton attracts and retains talent with its draw of outstanding natural beauty, the sea, a UNESCO biosphere and a vibrant cultural scene.



**Data centre Q&A**

## Connectivity

The region's prime location includes proximity to London, a direct rail link to Cambridge, maritime links to European ports, Gatwick Airport's extensive destinations and a leading EV charging network.

As a result of the visit there were subsequent follow ups with government departments to help realise the growth potential of the quantum sector in the region and Burgess Hill Science and Technology Park. The DBT officers were impressed by the visit and provided the following feedback:

"I've been doing these local area familiarisation tours for over 10 years, and I don't think we've ever met with such a large or wide array of local partners and stakeholders. It was a great opportunity for us to meet with senior representatives of the universities, key research leads, business support organisations and local authorities (including political leaders and Chief Executives) etc." Representative from the DBT Tech Investment team

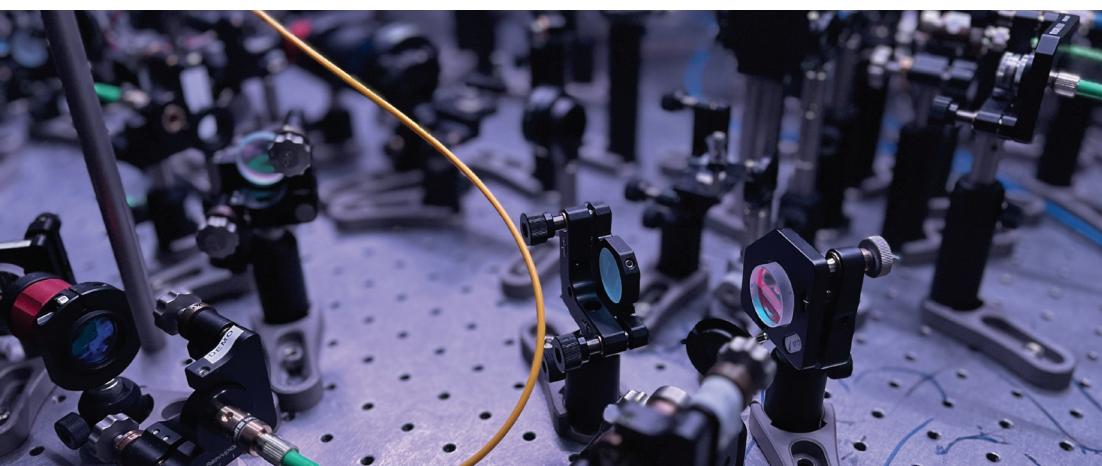
# TECH IN FOCUS: QUANTUM COMPUTING

## SUSSEX 'QUANTUM SILICON VALLEY' OF THE UK

Sussex is a global leader in quantum computing research and with sustained government funding and strategic support to realise the growth potential of the sector, it could emerge as the United Kingdom's "Quantum Silicon Valley," underpinned by world-class research, pioneering education programmes and a flourishing industrial ecosystem.

## WORLD-LEADING MODULAR QUANTUM RESEARCH

Under the leadership of Professor Winfried Hensinger, Director of the Sussex Centre for Quantum Technologies (SCQT) and co-founder and chair of Universal Quantum, researchers at SCQT have achieved breakthroughs that vault them ahead of long-standing competitors, including a powerful new modular quantum computing architecture. This modular quantum computing approach will facilitate the construction of quantum computers capable of solving important industry problems as a world first.



## EXCEPTIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

**To cultivate the next generation of quantum experts, Sussex offers:**

- A four-year undergraduate degree in Quantum Technology.
- The UK's first distance-learning Quantum Technology degree, widening access.
- A Quantum Technology Doctoral Training Centre, supporting PhD research at the cutting edge.
- These programmes ensure a steady pipeline of skilled engineers and scientists for the coming quantum revolution.

## THRIVING SPIN-OUT INDUSTRY

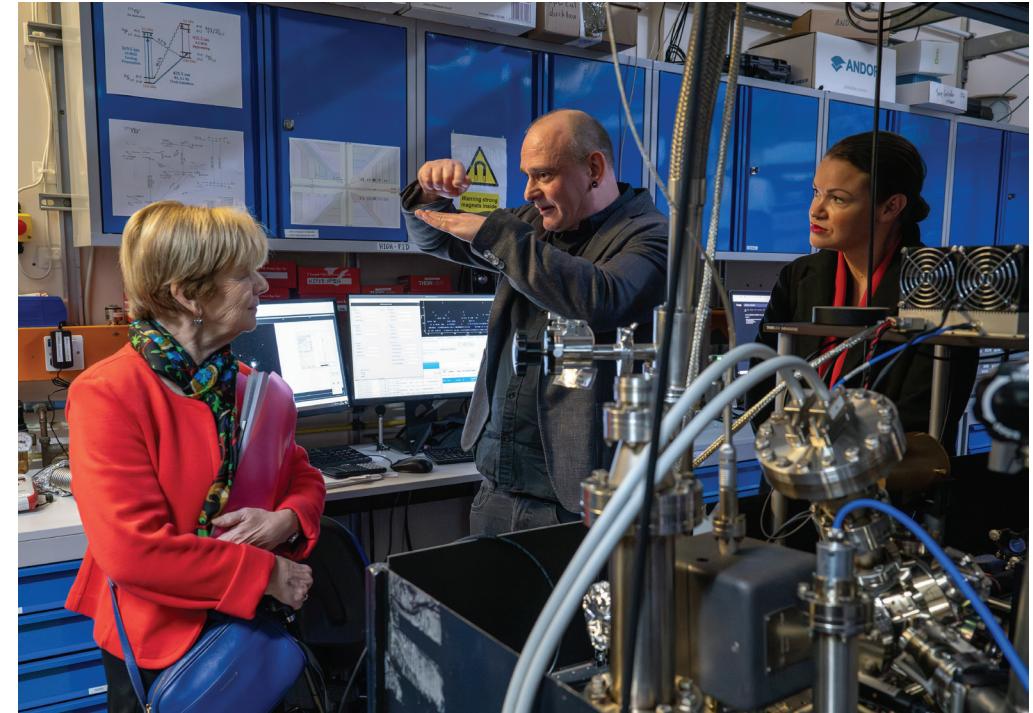
**Sussex's industrial cluster includes:**

- Universal Quantum, the SCQT spin-out that has secured over £100 million in funding, including a €67 million contract with the German Space Agency and investment from In-Q-Tel, underlining its strategic role in national security and advanced computing. Bloomberg named it one of the UK's Top 25 Startups in 2023.
- Edwards Vacuum in Burgess Hill and K.J. Lesker in Hastings, supplying critical microchip and vacuum-equipment technologies.
- A growing digital and software sector, providing expertise in algorithms, cloud services and cybersecurity.

# TECH IN FOCUS: QUANTUM COMPUTING

## GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

This year, in partnership with the University of Sussex, Greater Brighton has been instrumental in organising two governmental visits to the quantum lab at SCQT, reinforced with letters sent to ministers, to help promote our region's strength in this sector. In February 2025 Baroness Jones of Whitchurch, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Future Digital Economy and Online Safety at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology toured the lab. This followed a visit from the Department for Business and Trade in November 2024. Reflecting on her visit, Baroness Jones said: "Supporting innovation hubs like this one will help British researchers to continue making breakthroughs in emerging technologies that could improve everything from health diagnostics to cyber security, boosting our economy and improving daily lives. The work on quantum here at the University of Sussex is a great example of how world-leading research is evolving into successful spin-out companies, creating jobs and attracting investment right across the UK, delivering on our Plan for Change."



**Reflecting on this vision, Cllr Bella Sankey, Chair of the Greater Brighton Economic Board, said:**

"The Greater Brighton Economic Board recognises the immense potential of the quantum computing sector in the region to drive innovation and economic growth in the area. We are committed to supporting it, enabling our region to help the UK capitalise on its research excellence and foster a world-class quantum computing industry."

# TECH IN FOCUS: QUANTUM COMPUTING

## ECONOMIC IMPACT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT



An Oxford Economics report forecasts that quantum computing could support 148,000 jobs across the UK by 2055 and add up to £12.9 billion to GDP by the same year, with productivity gains up to 8 percent. Based on these findings, at £128,000 GVA per worker, Universal Quantum alone contributes over £11.5 million to the local economy, before accounting for spill-over effects from other firms and future expansion.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As mentioned earlier in the report, the Greater Brighton Economic Board has commissioned an independent study to review the economic opportunities for the region, including the quantum computing sector. The study will fully consider the enhanced strategic powers, capability and perspective of a Strategic Mayoral Authority, to explore how the powers and capability devolved to the MCCA translate to economic opportunities for the region.

With strong government backing—highlighted by a recent £121 million UK quantum investment package—Sussex is exceptionally well-placed to harness its record-breaking research, industry-leading training and dynamic spin-out ecosystem, cementing its status as the nation's Quantum Silicon Valley.



# GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

LINKS AND RESOURCES

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