



Build back
stronger,
smarter
and greener

Coast to
Capital



Introduction

The Coast to Capital region has long been the UK economy’s unpolished gem; unprecedented global connections, enviable links into the heart of London - one of the world’s greatest cities - and home to the most entrepreneurial coastal city region in the country.

Despite this, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, growth has not been as high as it could be. The last decade has seen us miss out on £3bn of growth by failing to keep pace with other parts of the affluent South. If we can address this regional inequality, then we believe that Coast to Capital can become the most productive and innovative region in the UK, a significant net contributor to the national economy and the epitome of Global Britain.

COVID-19 is having a dramatic impact on our region, and it makes this task more immediate. 2020 has now become a turning point for our region; a time when significant, focused, long-term investment can not only enable recovery, but drive new value and discovery.

Our plan is to enable our economy to build back **stronger, smarter, greener...**

To build back **stronger**, we will support Crawley with a plan to grow and evolve the UK’s most COVID-19 impacted town into a more economically diverse and dynamic place. Development of new housing, commercial space and an enhanced skills and innovation offer will match the ambition of Global Britain and of a model for sustainable living.

To build back **smarter**, we will build upon the knowledge and innovation community which already exists in Brighton. We aim to expedite investments in knowledge for all, including support for the development of an internationally significant hub for Quantum Technologies, alongside ongoing evolution of our digital and clean growth sectors.

To build back **greener**, we will draw on our talented workforce and local business specialisms, to lead a green recovery across the whole region. We will work toward UK ‘net-zero’ targets on climate change with a twin-track approach: decarbonising the energy supply across homes, transport and industry, while securing and coordinating investment in natural capital to offset emissions.



global connections
via Gatwick airport



links into the
heart of London



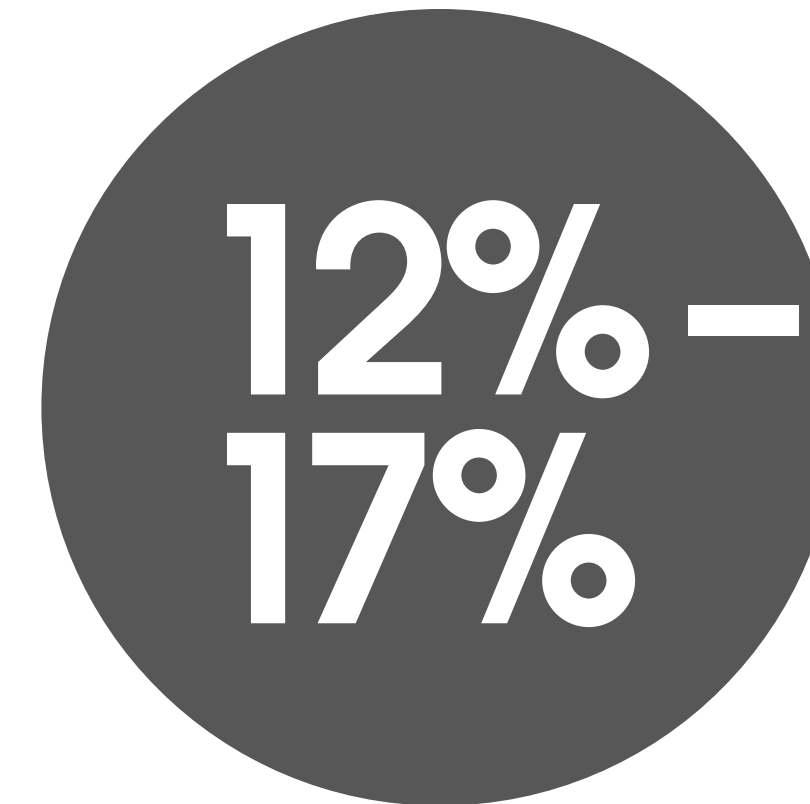
the most
entrepreneurial
coastal city region

A region disproportionately impacted...

Coast to Capital is a region which is likely to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Job losses in Crawley, Worthing and other towns, with small business insolvencies in Brighton & Hove, Redhill and elsewhere have been a growing trend throughout the crisis.

The forecast impacts of the pandemic and lockdown are becoming real and we need to be aware of the scale of the challenge ahead.

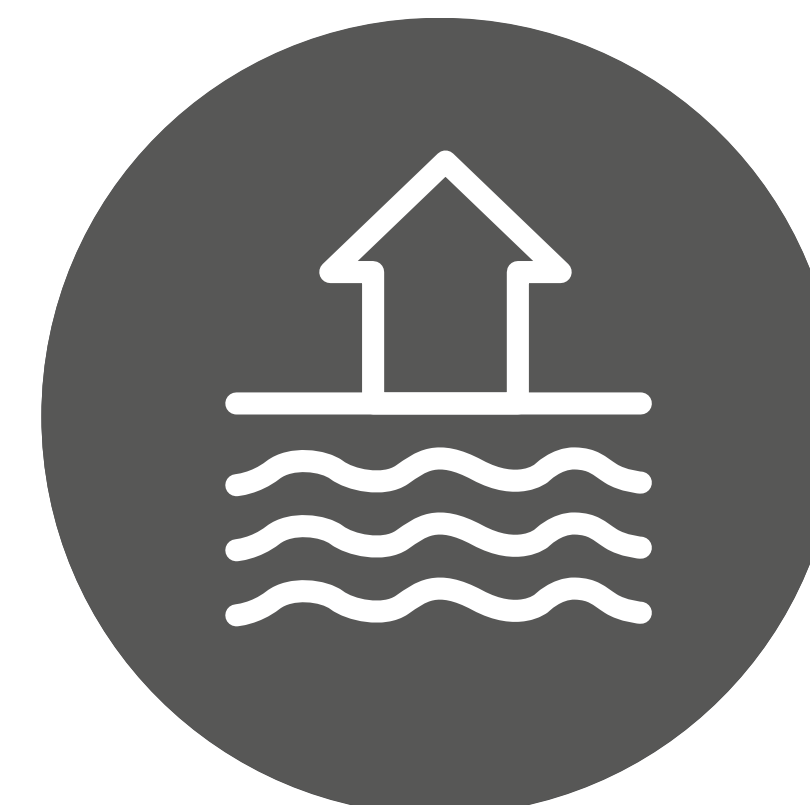
- Regional economic output could drop between 12% and 17% in 2020 according to estimates;
- In the next year GVA output in the Gatwick Diamond area could drop by 13%;
- Crawley has the highest employment vulnerability of any town or city in the UK; 80% of the town's jobs are impacted or vulnerable;
- Local authorities of Tandridge and Chichester are vulnerable due to their high percentages of self-employment; self-employed people were more likely to see their income fall during lockdown compared to employees;
- Brighton & Hove is in the top 25 towns and cities in the UK for insolvencies since the start of the lockdown;
- Two thirds of businesses in the UK have made use of the government's job retention scheme;
- Half of all coastal towns in the UK are classified as being in the 'highest risk' group for exposure to COVID-19, with Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and Selsey among these;
- One in ten of the region's population still do not have regular access to the internet and are more isolated from information and new working practices.



**estimated
economic output
drop in 2020**



**of Crawley jobs
are impacted or
vulnerable**



**half of all coastal
towns are in the
'highest risk' group**

...but we placed to recover

Whilst the region is hard hit, our recent evidence base shows that with support and investment, our towns and cities are well placed to recover and re-orientate our economy, creating fundamental change and long term growth.

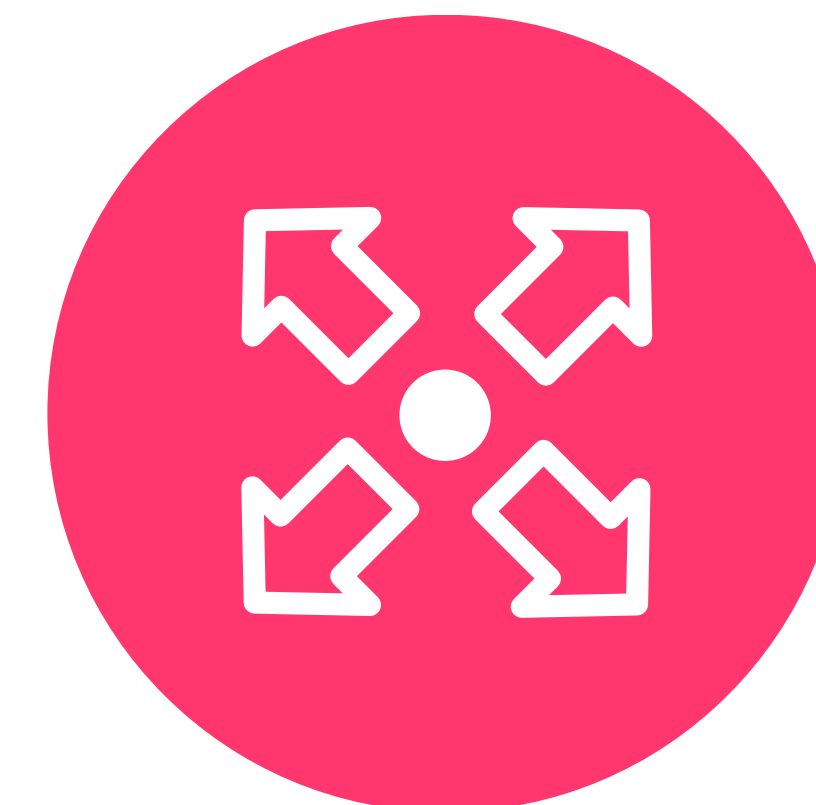
- Although growth has been constrained, our economy is one of the largest UK Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area economies, worth £58 billion in 2019;
- We have a highly talented and qualified population, with half of our residents qualified to degree level or above;
- We have increasing business growth and specialisation in important sectors including the digital and green economy;
- We remain globally connected, with deep physical and commercial links to London;
- Brighton & Hove and Crawley have historically high start-up rates, with an entrepreneurial agility in Brighton which can underpin our recovery;
- We have unmet demand for space in our key growth locations;
- We have outstanding natural capital and quality of environment;
- We have a history of innovation, despite previous under investment in R&D;
- Strong regional representation by the LEP will bring business leadership to bear and attract significant inward investment to the region.



**one of the largest
LEP economies in
the country**



**our residents
qualified to degree
level or above**



**globally connected
with commercial
links to London**

Build back stronger

Build back stronger.

Crawley and Gatwick: A centre for global growth

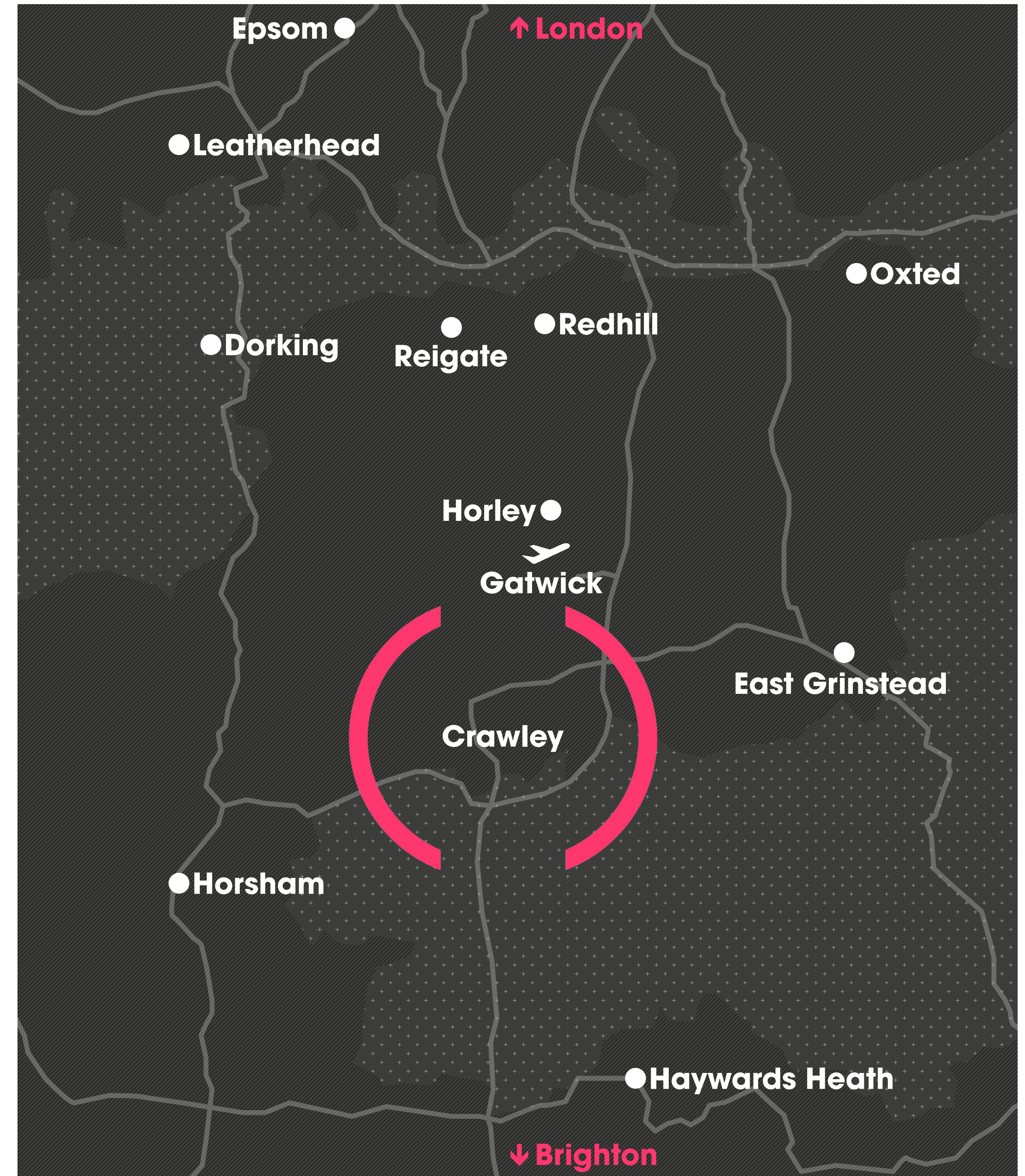
With 80% of the town's jobs potentially at risk from COVID-19, Crawley needs a bold approach to its future, to become a national hub for innovation and diversify its economy. This means building on the foundations of sector specialisation and productivity that already stem from the presence of Gatwick airport, but also rebuilding its economy in a way which is **stronger, more diverse and more resilient**.

We need to learn to see Gatwick airport for what it is: a large-scale **integrated transport hub** which has the same potential as any of the new HS2 destinations for economic transformation. This will require an appropriate growth vehicle to create the vision and attract public and private investment to deliver the infrastructure that the region needs to support development. To do this, we must promote the untapped potential of Crawley and the towns around it, to leverage the airport and make a full contribution to the future economy of Global Britain.

Building on work underway towards a Crawley Town Deal, there is potential to link together communities from Horley to Horsham and expand upon the existing business base at the Manor Royal Business District. New development would be at the forefront of prosperous urban design, providing **new homes, commercial space and leisure**. Directing investment into existing places will create the capacity and momentum needed to underpin the story of the place for the next 50 years and beyond.

With £8.6 million provisionally allocated from the Government's Getting Building Fund, we are focussing efforts with partners in the public and private sector to create a **world-class innovation centre within Crawley**, in the heart of Manor Royal. This will foster a **new innovation ecosystem**, next to Gatwick, bringing small and large enterprise together, fuelling skills and aspirations within the local population and across our region. It will also draw further private investment and business to Crawley.

Evolving Crawley will need significant local political vision and early infrastructure investment, whilst early intervention will expedite delivery and private investment. The complexity of planning and land ownership will require new structures, alongside new incentives for business, enabling the creation of the **UK's next commercial hub**.



Build back smarter

Build back smarter.

Brighton & Hove: A knowledge city

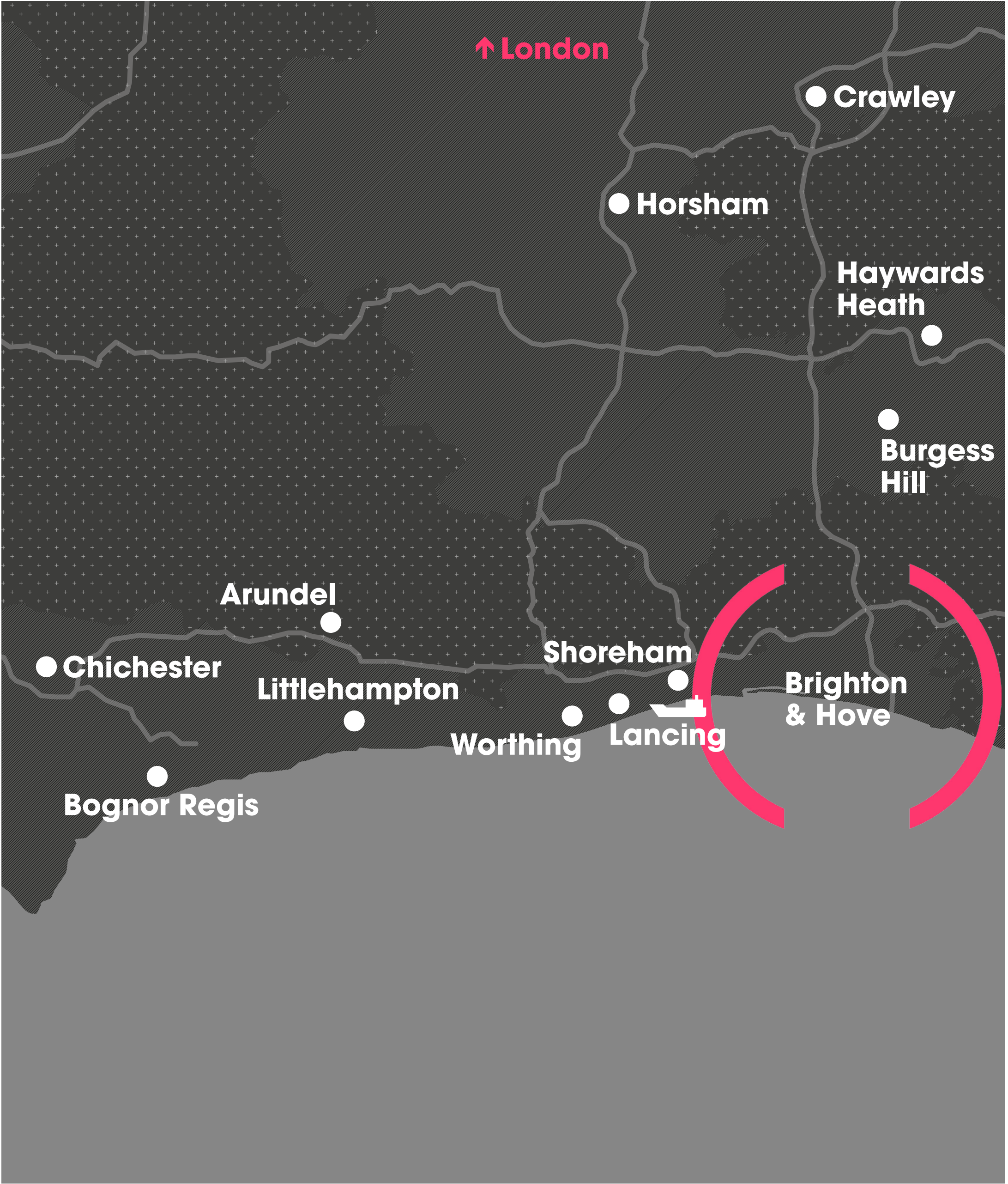
Brighton & Hove is arguably the most successful coastal city in the UK and is a global intellectual gateway. It is our region's only major city and the main driver of the knowledge economy within the Greater Brighton and wider Coast to Capital regions. **Creative, disruptive and collaborative** ways of working are embraced to respond to global challenges and economic opportunities. The city has led the way in **delivering innovation** by providing entrepreneurs with access to new digital technology.

With two universities and a highly entrepreneurial local workforce, Brighton is a restless creator of ideas and new ways of working, of benefit not only to our region but to the UK as a whole. As the city moves into the next phase of its digital evolution with investments into Innovation Centres and 5G, it is now well placed to be a **national leader in Quantum Computing**, commercialising the ideas from the University of Sussex's world-renowned **Quantum Technology Lab**.

These networks and facilities are now even more critical to support the evolution of the city, providing avenues to work and reskilling in recovery. They also provide the platform for **new tech-driven approaches** to the green economy, which will drive a clean recovery. Our aspiration is that this activity can emerge in Brighton and then be scaled across the Coast to Capital region.

The physical manifestation of our aspiration will be two **new urban innovation districts**. One at the heart of Brighton, with the other adjacent to Hove Station. These will provide much needed lab and commercial space, but will also deepen the human networks which will form the basis of collaboration, innovation and commercialisation.

This activity will need investment in digital and energy infrastructure in and around Brighton & Hove. Fundamental issues of movement and quality of environment will need to be addressed whilst we need early investment to support the human infrastructure of innovation.



Build back greener

Build back greener.

Tackling climate change and increasing natural capital

Our place centred plans to recover and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic support our evolution as a confident and resilient green growth region. We will build upon our innovation potential, industry specialisms and exceptional natural capital to create a new economy; one which balances our aspirations for growth with our responsibility to the environment and contribution toward national climate change targets.

- Champion and support the zero carbon aspirations of Gatwick airport and the recovering aviation industry. Gatwick itself aspires to be an exemplar of green development embracing bio-diversity and the concept of low impact construction.
- Use the expertise of our leading businesses, local authorities and university innovation networks, such as the Green Growth Platform (the South East Regional Hub of Clean Growth UK), to drive new markets for clean energy production and application across transport, homes, commerce and industry.
- Deliver retrofit programmes for homes and buildings at scale, working with local authorities, academics and leading community sector providers in our area. This offers potential for reskilling and employment growth in the green economy and opportunity to address energy inefficiency within the large private rented housing sector in Brighton & Hove. This work is a priority for the whole of the Greater Brighton City Region.
- Create a natural capital investment vehicle to develop a long-term pipeline of biodiversity and carbon offsetting investment opportunities.
- Use innovation specialisms within our economic centres to address the challenges to which our growing rural economy can respond. We will develop and apply automation, digital and low carbon technologies in our niche agriculture and viticulture sectors, as well as capitalising upon West Sussex's growing USP in solar energy and storage.



Enabling
stronger,
smarter
and greener

Enabling stronger, smarter, and greener

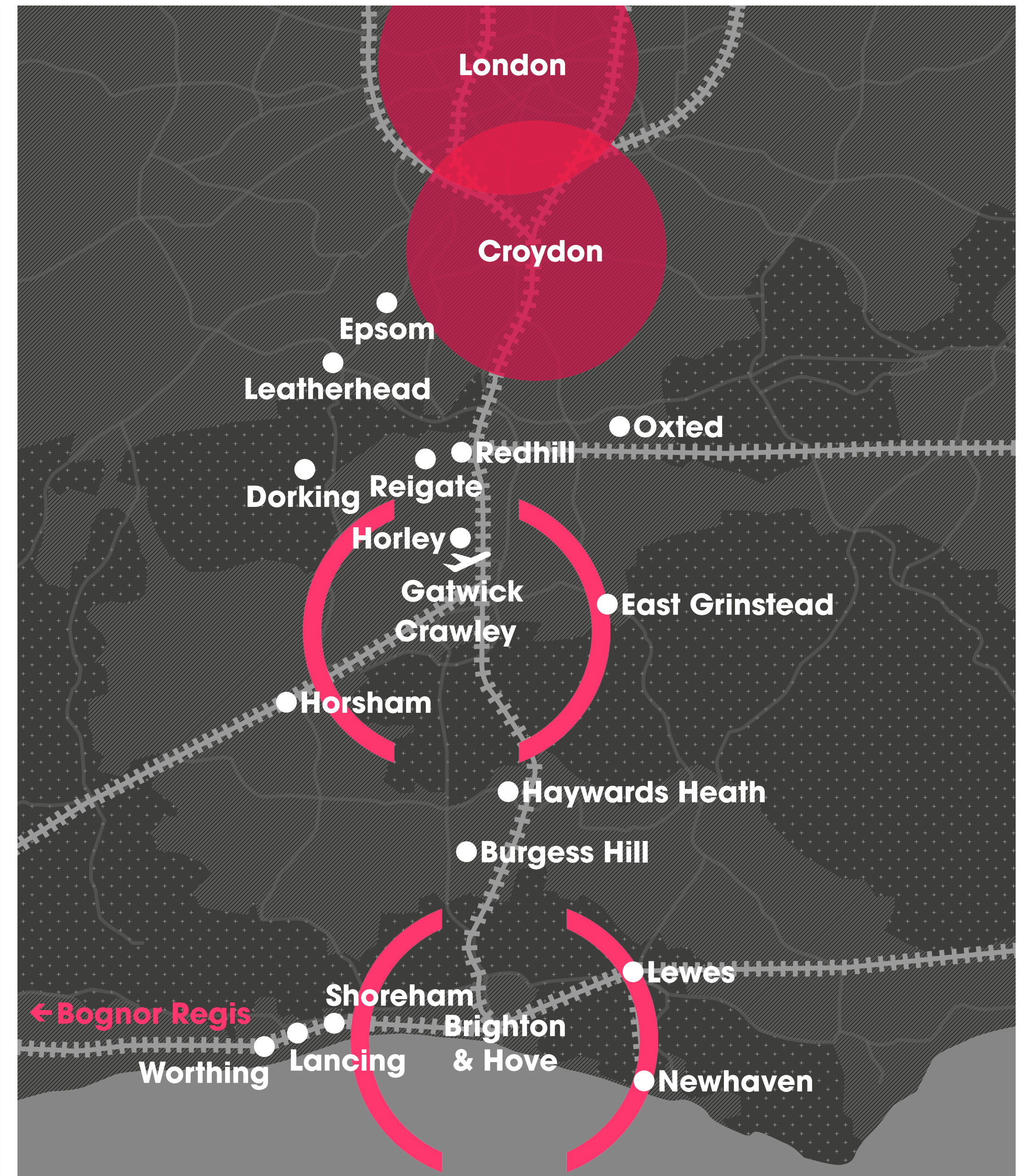
To deliver our bold new approach, we need investment in physical, digital and intellectual infrastructure. This is true across West Sussex and Surrey, as well as our major economic centres of Crawley and Brighton & Hove. And it is essential if we are to adapt and thrive within shifting global social and economic behaviours, changes likely to be compounded by COVID-19 and as we await a successful programme of vaccination.

Critical to our plans is the Brighton Main Line upgrade and specifically the Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme, a major investment to **unblock one of the busiest and most congested rail routes in the country**. This will enable more frequent and reliable services between our economic centres and into London. It will align demand and capacity in the regional rail network and reduce congestion on our roads, supporting shared transport priorities developed by Transport for the South East; it will enable opportunities for development and growth way beyond the railway itself and outside the boundaries of our region.

Coast to Capital will continue to prioritise funding for partners to ensure we have **comprehensive digital infrastructure coverage** that allows businesses in our local communities to respond to new ways of working and access future opportunities, such as those made available through 5G applications.

We look forward to playing a full part in **delivering a plan for regional economic recovery**, working closely with partner organisations across public, private and community sectors. The scale of the challenge requires the participation of all communities and economic sectors in order to allow all parts of our region to meet their economic potential. The profound commitment to diversity and inclusion is one of our region's fundamental strengths.

Our collaboration with partner LEPs has led to the announcement of **Catalyst South** to Government, the start of a regional economy body to complement the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine. Coast to Capital also continues to partner closely with the London Borough of Croydon and the GLA: the growth of Croydon and our region go hand in hand, and it is essential to ensure that our strategic development is aligned.



Our asks

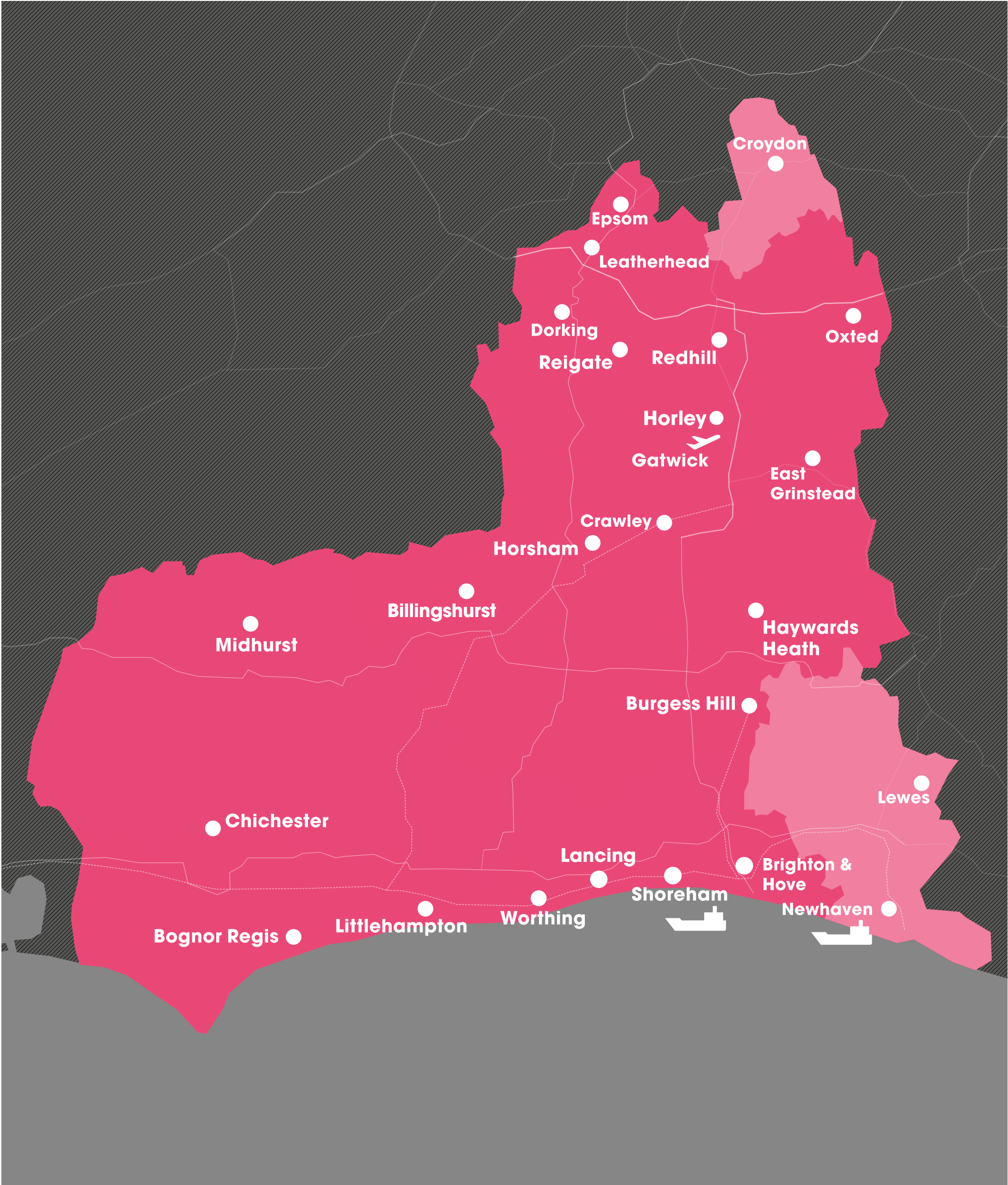
Our asks

Our initial testing of these proposals reveals the potential to lever significant national and international private investment to support new development and infrastructure in the Coast to Capital region, with backing from Government.

Building on the solid foundations of our allocated Getting Building Fund projects, we have identified a further – more significant – series of interventions toward economic recovery that will help to unlock the potential of our region.

We are in a position to develop a business case for all of these projects. These would lead in most cases to infrastructure investment in our region and in others skills development and job opportunities – in many cases both. We would like to discuss Government support in order to allow these cases to be developed:

-  Establish a **development vehicle for Crawley and the surrounding towns** to take forward a vision for coordinated growth around Gatwick airport that will complement the Town Deal and Town Investment Plan
-  Give an appropriate priority to **infrastructure development** around Gatwick to support a sustainable pattern of growth in Crawley and other towns around the airport
-  Create and run a new, industry led **innovation centre** to drive business growth, aspiration and the creation of high quality jobs in Crawley
-  Deliver a **Quantum equity investment fund** to support commercialisation of ideas from the Quantum Technology Lab and create two new urban innovation districts in Brighton & Hove
-  Accelerate and scale our pilot project to become a leader in **natural capital investment and bio-diversity net gain**



Our asks



Tackle carbon emissions through delivery of our **South2East local energy strategy**, working with local authorities and as a member of the **Greater South East Energy Hub**



Create a **Greater Brighton hydrogen hub** to accelerate public and private sector investment in hydrogen production and uptake, particularly as an alternative transport fuel source



Commit to address the Croydon Bottleneck by progressing enabling works for the **Brighton Mainline upgrade** and provide access to the 5G capability of the planned **full fibre infrastructure** down the line



Support road investment in the Coast to Capital region through delivery of **Transport for the South East priority routes**, including the M23/A23, A27, A24 and new east west connections at Gatwick airport



Deliver our **digital infrastructure** pipeline of projects, aligning skills provision with industry specialisms to create new jobs



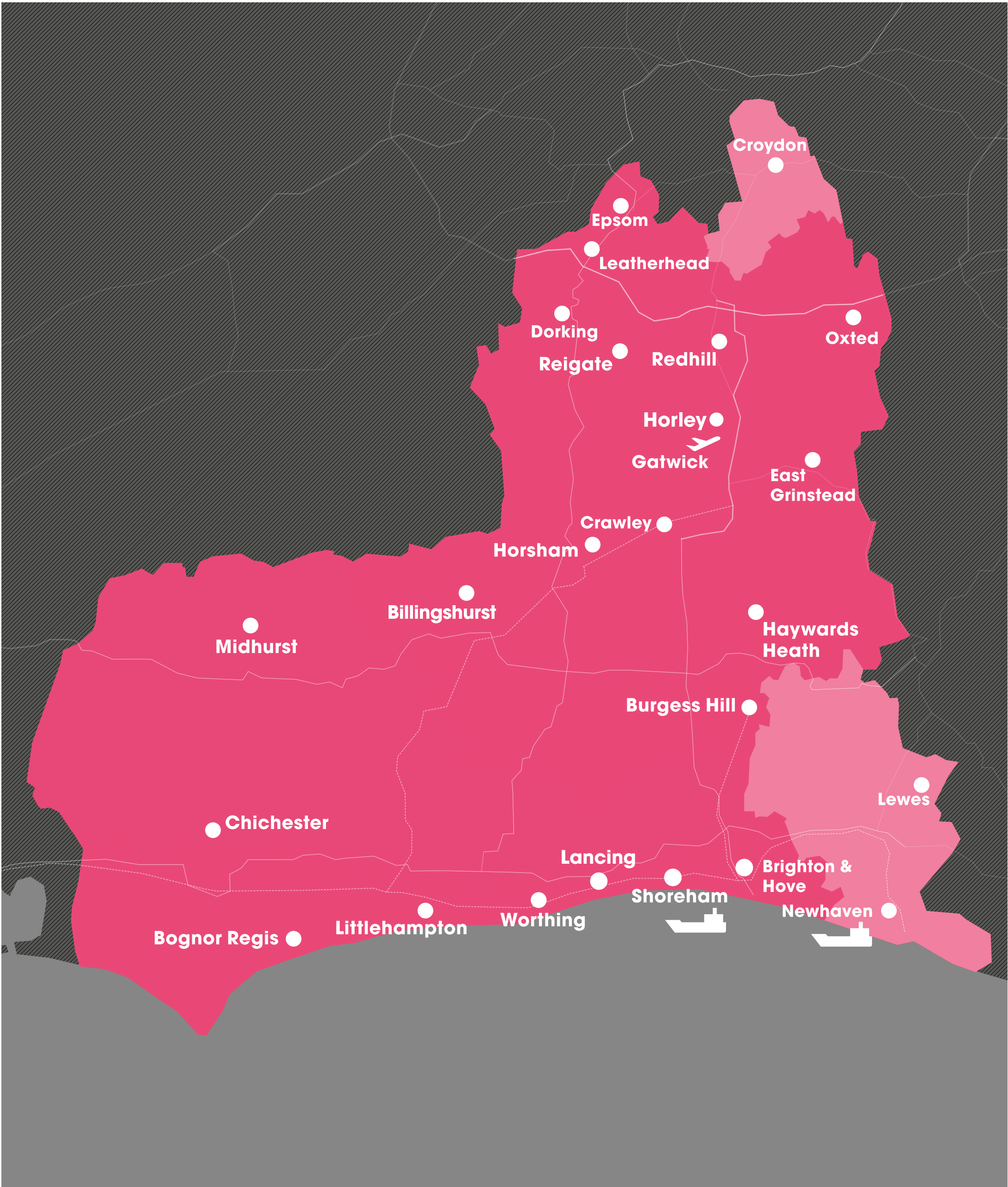
Explore the global potential of the **tourism, wine and horticulture sectors** in order to broaden the base of our economic recovery and turbo charge our region's natural strengths



Maximise the profile and success of our region as a destination for **overseas investment**, in line with the UK's changing global trading relationships



Deliver our Skills 360° Board's **Skills Action Plan**, which will be published in September 2020



More information

For further information about Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership and the economic impacts of COVID-19 within the region please visit www.coast2capital.org.uk

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