

## **Consultation Response**

Coast to Capital is consulting on its new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). Extensive engagement has taken place with experts to develop the SEP and further feedback from our partners and stakeholders will ensure we are in as strong a position as possible to develop a Local Industrial Strategy with Government, which will drive investment in our area.

The SEP is currently split into two parts for the consultation; firstly the summary of the opportunities, and secondly the priorities identified to exploit these opportunities. The SEP Slide Pack and SEP Consultation Document can be found in the resources section on the right hand side of the [consultation page on our website](#).

The consultation will close on 23 March 2018.

Send your response to [sep@coast2capital.org.uk](mailto:sep@coast2capital.org.uk)

Please provide your contact details, we may wish to follow up specific comments or suggestions for further evidence and clarification.

Under 'Organisation' please indicate if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of your organisation or a wider group.

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In this section please refer to the Strategic Economic Plan Slide Pack. The Slide Pack sets out a summary of the analysis of the challenges to growth facing the region and identifies the unique opportunities where the region has the expertise and comparative advantage to take a national leadership role in driving economic growth.

<b>Strategic Economic Plan Slide Pack</b>
Q: Has the region been described in the best way possible?
A: We believe so.
Q: Are the unique opportunities for the region set out credibly and confidently?
A: We believe so.
Q: Is there any further evidence we should consider that will support these arguments?
A: We are aware of indices which suggest that Brighton in particular is an above-average economic performer and compares favourably to many other provincial cities eg 15 <sup>th</sup> in size of population but 7 <sup>th</sup> for GDP per capita. The 'Southern Powerhouse' is not just London.

In this section please refer to the Strategic Economic Plan Consultation Document. This document outlines ten ambitious regional priorities which we have identified through analysis of the five unique opportunities set out in our Strategic Economic Plan. Against each priority we have set out what we want to achieve by 2030 (our goals), and how we aim to deliver these goals.

Please reference which priority or action you are referring to when answering the questions.

<b>Strategic Economic Plan Consultation Document</b>	
Q: Do you agree with the ten priorities?	A: Yes, although we only speak of what we know, which concerns Priority 1: Investment in regional transport infrastructure.
Q: Do you agree with the goals that we have set out against each priority?	A: Yes, although we only speak of what we know.
Q: Do you have any other suggestions as to how we might achieve these goals?	A: Add a further sub-heading to How we aim to deliver these goals which addresses the LEP's ambitions for the new, post-GTR, rail franchise due from September 2021 and cover most of the SEP period, and whose initial processes are due to start in November 2019. EG: "To ensure that the specification for the next rail franchise from 2021 requires it to become the most-improved and high-performing passenger rail service in the South East which frequent and occasional travellers alike are pleased to use and proud to recommend."

Please use this comment box for any additional comments you wish to make.

Additional Comments: We are pleased to be members of the Brighton Mainline Alliance; a higher-performing transport infrastructure is a vital pillar of a higher-performing economic infrastructure and more productive and prosperous people.