

Growth Plan Foreword

West Sussex offers a significant growth opportunity. Gross Value Added (GVA) is currently below the South East average and we are determined to increase it.

A number of partners are already investing significantly in West Sussex:

- The LEP have secured Local Growth Fund (LGF) of in excess of £100M for improvements in West Sussex
- West Sussex County Council has a Capital Programme in excess of £130M per annum that will be focussed on delivering growth

Delivery of housing and employment space offers the opportunity to raise revenue that can support additional capital investment resulting in improved GVA performance

However, current relationships are complex – a range of stakeholders and services, sometimes with competing objectives and access to capital funding that will be insufficient to meet all aspirations.

To maximise the value of investment, the County Council, working with partners, is developing Place Plans and a West Sussex Growth Plan (Figure 1).

The objective of the Place Plans is to clearly identify the growth offer from each District and Borough. The Plan will identify the opportunities, through supporting growth in Horsham, to:

- Raise GVA per head in West Sussex
- Deliver planned housing growth and the infrastructure required to facilitate it
- Deliver proposals that attract high value jobs to West Sussex
- Support the development of a high calibre workforce
- Make West Sussex a place people want to live, throughout their lives
- Exploit the natural and cultural resources of the County
- Support young people to get the best possible start in life objective
- Support West Sussex residents to be independent in later life
- Support work with strategic partners including Surrey County Council, East Sussex County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership

The Plan will identify an investment and delivery plan for higher GVA, jobs, homes and employment space.

Each Place Plan will be considered alongside Place Plans for each of the Districts and Boroughs. The Place Plans will:

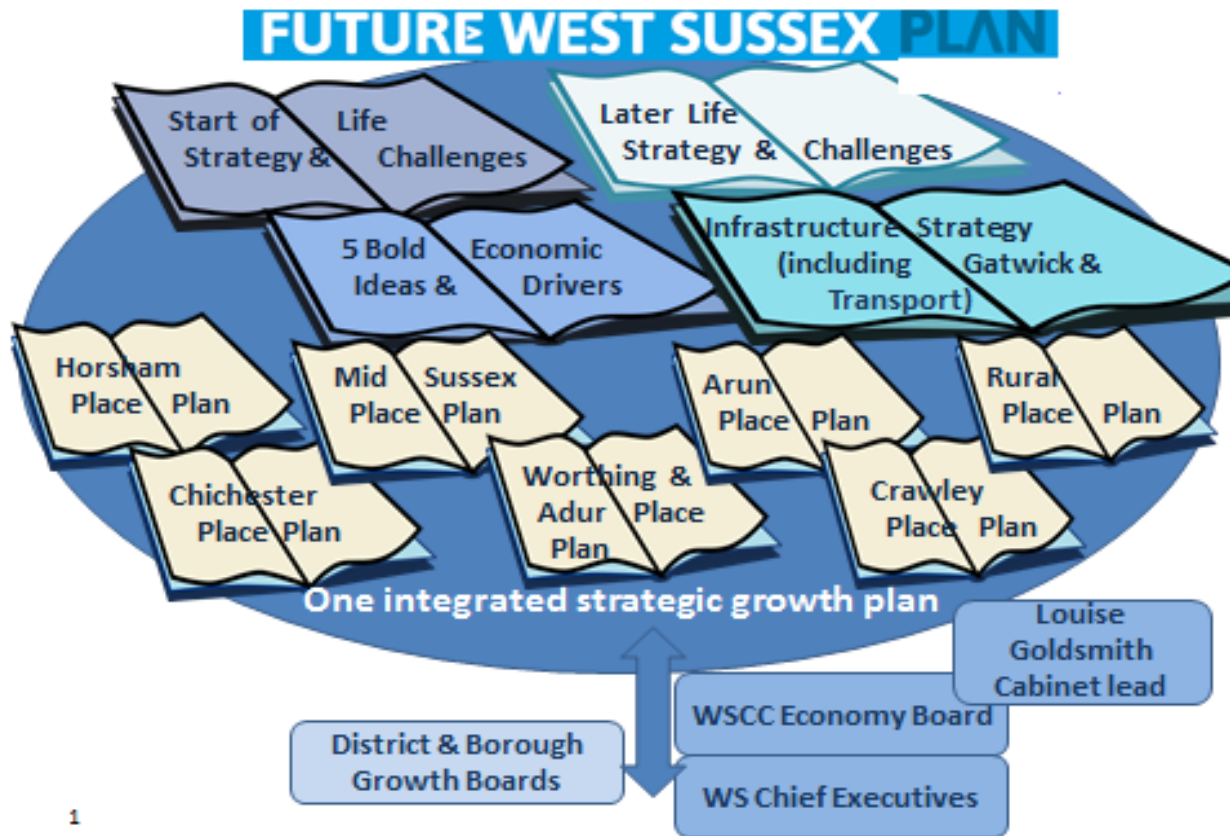
- Be developed with the Districts and Boroughs – Growth Boards have been established to support their development.
- Build on a clear understanding of current and future demographics
- Build on existing Local Plans
- Identify stakeholders and their engagement in the development of proposals
- Identify key places, buildings and services
- Identify key infrastructure requirements
- Identify planned and potential investment opportunities
- Identify Local Authority service proposals that will reduce infrastructure requirements
- Prioritise key issues
- Support the development of business cases to support investment proposals

The West Sussex Growth Plan will:

- Amalgamate the Place Plans to develop a clear West Sussex Investment and Delivery Plan (enabling strategic investment decisions to be made that ensure that best return is achieved against investment)
- Ensure that cross county issues are addressed – e.g. strategic road, rail, transport, skills, utilities, NHS, SDNP
- Identify cross authority / stakeholder funding opportunities, priorities and proposals
- Provide a clear lobbying tool that can support funding

Neither the Place Plan nor the Growth Plan will have status as a statutory planning document. However both will, building from the statutory Local Plan, support key investment decision making for WSCC and partners.

Figure 1



1

