



LONDON GATWICK



A Gatwick Region Airport Economic Zone

Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) is leading a collaborative approach to the creation of an Airport Economic Zone (AEZ) which will support a thriving, resilient and sustainable economy in its surrounding sub-region. GAL is forming an independent taskforce which will create a roadmap for the development of an AEZ for the Gatwick region. The Gatwick Region Airport Economic Zone (*working title*) will be a collaborative public-private sector partnership focused on building an economic identity for the region to enable it to be promoted through one single unified regional voice.

A Gatwick Region AEZ will aim:

To achieve long-term, sustained economic development across a region surrounding the airport which will benefit the people and businesses in its connected communities as well as the wider UK economy.

What will the Gatwick Region AEZ achieve?

The Gatwick Region AEZ will leverage London Gatwick's position as a regional economic anchor to foster long-term, sustainable economic growth and inward investment across a region surrounding the airport in order to achieve:

- Promotion of the region as a place to do business, work, live and invest
- Collaboration across existing legislative boundaries for common goals and collective gain
- Advocate and promote regional inward investment, including foreign direct investment, assisted by strong links to the Department for Business and Trade
- Speak with a unified voice to national Government and other key legislative bodies to harness and utilise local and national political power
- Explore opportunities for the zone to secure mobile international capital
- Build on economic development work already being conducted within the airport region

What will the Gatwick Region AEZ not deliver?

A Gatwick Region AEZ is **NOT** trying to achieve:

- An 'aerotropolis,' or to develop an economic region reliant on the airport and its associated industries
- An airport city model where urban design revolves around the airport
- Crowd out existing businesses through inward investment
- To undermine or duplicate existing economic strategies and development activities already being conducted within the airport region



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What area will the Gatwick Region AEZ cover?

The taskforce will determine the geography of the Gatwick Region AEZ which will be a defined economic region within the six authority areas of West Sussex, East Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Brighton & Hove, and Croydon.

Who will be on the taskforce?

The Gatwick Region AEZ taskforce, chaired by and including a representative of GAL, will include invited senior economic development leaders from the six authority areas that the Gatwick Region AEZ will sit within, plus key stakeholders.

What will the taskforce do?

The taskforce's role will be to ratify and progress the initiative, including:

- Shaping the brand identity
- Determining the geography of the Gatwick Region AEZ
- Drafting and approving Terms of Reference for the Gatwick Region AEZ
- Define the role and membership of the future Gatwick Region AEZ Board
- Identify high-profile candidates to be considered for the position of an independent Chair to lead the Gatwick Region AEZ Board
- Connect with a diverse range of key stakeholder organisations with influence and interest to engage with as the initiative progresses

When will the AEZ start work?

The intention is to have the taskforce in place by the end of 2024 when it will begin work on determining the remit of the Gatwick Region AEZ with an ambition to appoint its independent Board by the end of 2025.

How is the AEZ being funded?

The AEZ is an initiative within the Regional Promotion theme of the Northern Runway Project's Employment, Skills and Business Strategy (ESBS) and Draft Implementation Plan. Funding for this pilot activity is being provided by GAL, enabling the set-up of the taskforce, the work required to create a recognisable economic identity for the region, and preliminary work on the remit, governance and structure of the AEZ. Future funding options for the AEZ will be considered as part of the taskforce's remit, including options for funding that would be governed through the future Northern Runway Project's ESBS Steering Group.