

The Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership (BHEP) is a group of over 60 individuals, drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors who come together to support the economic prosperity of the city and wider city region.

The Brighton and Hove Economy is worth an estimated £9.1bn. The membership of the economic partnership aims to reflect that via the job creators and the wealth creators in the city.

BHEP works with the city council to create the Economic Strategy for Brighton & Hove, acting as a 'critical friend' and supporting the strategic direction the city has taken for over the last 23 years.

The work of the partnership is overseen by a board of directors, elected from the wider group and given devolved responsibility to carry forward its work.

The Articles and Memos for the BHEP are clear in that the group exists to support sustainable economic growth. In that regard, the BHEP is only interested in the empirical outcomes of any development, such as economic impact, job growth and skills development. The partnership does not take a view on architectural merit or wider social impact for example.

This is particularly important in terms of the Brighton & Hove Tourism context. With an estimated increase of 13m passengers at the end of the forecast period of the Northern Runway development, which is equivalent to about a 20% uplift over the baseline, we foresee a significant uptick in visitor spend, supporting our tourism and heritage assets, as well as the hotel, restaurant and retail sectors in the city.

Visit Britain estimates the average spend of inbound visitors to the UK as £848 per person which equates to an economic boost to B&H of over £110m if just 1% of this uplift was realised to visit the city. The BHEP, along with Tourism leaders would be keen to work with Gatwick to capitalise on this uplift via joint marketing and PR initiatives, focussing on 'original place of booking' campaigns in high value added international markets, in order to facilitate and increase visits southbound to B&H as well as throughout East and West Sussex as opposed to purely London bound visits.

The Northern Runway Economic Impact Assessment report asserts that the airport will meet future passenger demand by serving around 75 million passengers a year by the late 2030s. The same metric as observed above would mean if just 1% of these passengers came to Brighton & Hove, the city would see a total of £630m of local spend. Providing job stability in an increasingly volatile hospitality sector and allowing business owners to upskill and recruit more staff. Helping Brighton & Hove to become a regional beacon of excellence within the tourism industry.

The BHEP acknowledges and supports the wider regional economic benefits, namely the economic footprint of £889m in gross value added (GVA), creating 10,900 additional jobs in 2038 outlined in development papers, including:

- economic activity on site at the airport (direct footprint of £284m GVA and 3,200 jobs);
- economic activity of the supply chain of firms on site (indirect footprint of £118m GVA and 1,500 jobs);

- economic activity of firms choosing to be located near the airport for the business opportunities that it presents (catalytic footprint of £487m GVA and 6,200 jobs)

BHEP is also focussed on supporting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) both within the city and wider Greater Brighton city region. We support the added value impact in FDI to be worth £4.7bn to £6.6bn to the UK economy over the 60-year assessment period.

To conclude, the BHEP supports sustainable growth at Gatwick airport, which will in turn have a significant impact on skills development in the region as well as supporting supply chains, employment, importing, exporting as well as foreign direct investment and BHEP supports the mitigations outlined in the development documents (such as the Jet Zero consultation) that aim to deliver that sustainable growth.

Gavin Stewart

Executive Director

Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership

