Sussex & Brighton | Strategic Authority

Many places, one shared future

The Sussex and Brighton Prosperity Strategy

Executive summary

Draft for consultation

A thriving future for Sussex

Prosperity means that people, places, the economy and nature are resilient and thrive together, now and in the future.

Across Sussex, universities, creative businesses and festivals support jobs and cultural life. Gatwick and our working ports connect firms to overseas markets. The South Downs, High Weald and the coast support farming, fishing and tourism and give people places to be active.

Our draft Prosperity Strategy sets out how we could build on these strengths so more people can find good work, afford to stay close to family and take part in local life.

High housing costs can push people further from work and family. Unreliable journeys can put a shift or a college course out of reach. Poor health and isolation can limit opportunities even in places that seem prosperous. As our population ages and flooding, drought and heat put more pressure on homes and services, the choices we make now will shape how well our communities adapt.

Our shared priorities

The draft sets out 12 priorities across 4 pathways, underpinned by strong, safe and healthy communities.

Connecting people and places

We propose to make east-west journeys faster and more dependable, focusing on the A27 corridor and A259 coastal route and considering road, rail and bus options together. Better links between buses and trains, safer routes for walking, cycling and using a wheelchair or mobility aid, and more flexible services could make everyday trips easier and more affordable. We propose to plan more affordable homes, including homes for social rent, alongside transport, water, energy, schools and health services. We also want existing homes to be warmer, safer and easier to adapt as people's needs change.

Helping every generation build a future here

We want more young people, including care leavers and those with special educational needs and disabilities, to have clear routes into work through careers advice, work experience and apprenticeships. Adults should have more chances to retrain and progress. With councils, the NHS and community organisations, we propose to explore how neighbourhood services can offer earlier, joined-up help with health, housing, learning and work. That could help people return to work after illness or stay independent in later life.

Enriching our living landscape

We propose to restore habitats on land and at sea, working with the farmers, growers and fishing communities whose livelihoods depend on healthy landscapes and waters. Planning for reliable water supplies and clean energy alongside development could meet the needs of new homes and growing firms while respecting environmental limits. We also want venues, festivals and local artists to work together so more people can take part in cultural life.

Strong, safe and healthy communities

All four pathways depend on people feeling safe, finding trusted support and being able to take part in local life. We propose to give community organisations a stronger voice in decisions about their areas. We want councils, public health teams, police, fire and rescue services and local groups to work together to prevent harm and make public spaces safer. We also want neighbourhoods, businesses and essential services to be better prepared for disruption and able to recover when it happens.

Backing business across Sussex and Brighton

We want universities and businesses to work together so research in fields such as quantum technology can lead to new products and skilled local jobs. We propose to make it easier for firms, especially smaller businesses, to find advice, finance and suitable premises. That could help them invest, adopt new technology, reach new customers and win work through supply chains linked to Gatwick, our ports and other major employers.











How we'll put the strategy into practice

Devolution gives the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority more scope to make decisions locally and use government funding to act on shared priorities. It will lead where it has responsibility and bring partners together where decisions cross council boundaries. Councils retain their local planning and housing duties.

Future plans will set out where investment could strengthen the economy, how homes, jobs and infrastructure can fit together, and which transport improvements to prioritise. Public funding can help bring projects forward and attract private investment that delivers public benefit. We'll look for opportunities to connect more communities to established centres of employment and support renewal in places where investment has been harder to secure. Decisions about specific projects, funding and timing will depend on these plans, available resources and agreement with delivery partners.



Have your say

Tell us whether the draft strategy's priorities reflect what matters to you. What would make the biggest difference where you live or work? What could we improve, and what have we missed? We also welcome ideas for partnership, investment and delivery.

Anyone who lives in, works in or visits Sussex is welcome to respond. You can take part without reading the full strategy.

The consultation runs from 16 November 2026 to 11:59pm on 18 January 2027.

Respond online

www.haveyoursay.sussexandbrighton-cca.gov.uk/ps/consultation

For an alternative format or to discuss your feedback, email **consultations@sussexandbrighton-cca.gov.uk**

We'll use your feedback alongside further evidence to refine the strategy and the supporting Policy Prospectus, and explain how responses shaped them. A Delivery Plan and an Outcomes Framework will accompany the final strategy.