

THE NEXT 12+ MONTHS (TO AUGUST 2026):

The below is the focus for the second twelve months of this plan, as we seek to drive the city's economy forward, better articulate why Brighton & Hove is a place to invest and celebrate our city, whilst building greater wealth for our communities.

Achievements:

There is much positive activity already taking place that needs to be supported to continue delivering for our residents and businesses and to work towards the development of a fairer, greener and more productive economy. Some of the city's key achievements during the 1st year of this Economic Plan are:

- Established a Brighton & Hove Growth Hub - single point of contact for advice on scaling and growing businesses.
- Successfully ran the first cohort of the Scale Up Brighton & Hove programme, providing 32 businesses with free training to support them to scale up and grow their businesses within the city
- A further 48 businesses signed up to the Brighton & Hove Living Wage campaign during 2024
- Created the Brighton & Hove Growth Board to better embed the business voice in council thinking and policymaking
- Supported the development of the Sussex Strategy for Growth as a lead partner in the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) with a new Advisory Board now in place.

Year 2 Actions:

As such, these actions are centred on activities that can have positive, tangible, and immediate impacts on the prosperity of our businesses and communities today, whilst not losing sight of the ambitions set out in the accompanying Plan for growth and the opportunities offered through devolution and local government reform. This is our ongoing work programme and focus for the next year.

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Action	Timescale	Owner	Delivery Partner(s)	Target Outcome(s)	Resourcing / Funding	Mission(s) Alignment
Deliver UK Shared Prosperity funded projects in the city to benefit our communities	By April 2026	BHCC Economic Development	BHCC departments (Employment & Skills; Culture & Events; Public Health; Regeneration)	Monitoring/overseeing the implementation of projects across the council which support the government's foremost Mission to kickstart economic growth, promote opportunities and pride in place.	UKSPF funding (central Government)	Cross-cutting across all missions
Deliver the 'Evolve' conference – an inclusive event welcoming attendees from various backgrounds to explore how technology can drive purposeful progress	July 2025	Silicon Brighton	Brighton Tech Cluster	An event attended by tech professionals and start-ups, students, investors, educators and business leaders to help connect and grow the city's digital economy	Private funding secured through sponsorship and exhibitors	Capitalise on our digital comparative advantage
Maintain and develop the Brighton & Hove Growth Hub to provide digital resources for businesses seeking to scale and grow	To at least March 2026 (subject to future devolution)	BHCC Economic Development	BIPC Sussex	A more comprehensive and localised business support service	DBT Growth Hub funding (subject to agreements)	Capitalise on our digital comparative advantage
Maintain and develop the Brighton & Hove Living Wage campaign	March 2026	Brighton Chamber of Commerce	BHCC Economic Development	At least 25 businesses signed up to Living	Existing BHCC funding	Build community involvement as a response to

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to support local residents to be paid a living wage				Wage campaign each quarter		poverty and economic inequality
Commence bi-monthly business surgeries focused on engaging with black and racially minoritised business owners	December 2025	BHCC Economic Development	BIPC Sussex	Black and racially minoritised business owners feel empowered to grow their businesses	Existing BHCC funding	Build community involvement as a response to poverty and economic inequality
Build on existing food economy activity to seek to decrease food poverty and provide opportunities for local people to engage	March 2026	Brighton & Hove Food Partnership	BHCC Economic Development; BHCC Anti-Poverty Steering Group; Third Sector Commission	A more preventative, area-based food hub model with streamlined referral routes and wraparound support services	Existing funding secured through CVS and cost-of-living related work	Build community involvement as a response to poverty and economic inequality
Embed the Circular Economy Action Plan including community wealth-building principles across the city	Ongoing	BHCC Economic Development	Circular City stakeholders	Establish Brighton & Hove as a leader in embedding principles of the circular economy	TBC – project dependent	Decarbonise and create a more regenerative economy
Build upon the Sussex Energy Forum as a vehicle to engage with wider partners to support the region's decarbonisation	March 2026	Greater Brighton Economic Board	Sussex Energy partners	Develop a clear package of low-carbon energy interventions that support the ambitions of Sussex Energy – a regional collaboration aiming to achieve energy neutrality by 2040.	Initial scoping funding from GBEB	Decarbonise and create a more regenerative economy and Thrive within a city region with a clear economic identity

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Complete techno-economic feasibility study for a Solar farm	January 2026	BHCC Net Zero	Mott Macdonald	Feasibility established. Business models explored, including: - possibility of providing renewable electricity to nearby local businesses via private wire - community ownership	Existing BHCC funding	Decarbonise and create a more regenerative economy
The Get Sussex Working Plan is developed and progress is made in delivering the implementation plan	September 2025	BHCC Skills and Employment	ESCC; WSCC	Endorsed by the 3 councils and submitted to the Department for Work and Pensions	Funding for development only provided by the Department for Work and Pensions	Build a stronger and more inclusive labour market
Successfully secure funding to continue the Youth Employment Hub which supports young people 18-24 who are unemployed and in the intensive work regime	October 2025	BHCC Skills and Employment	Job Centre/DWP	300 programme starts 25/26.100 employment outcomes	Department for Work and Pensions	Build a stronger and more inclusive labour market
Deliver Skills Bootcamps, to provide opportunities for unemployed people and those in work to gain a Level 3 + qualification in a sector relevant to skills in Brighton, that will improve their career pathway	By March 2026	BHCC Skills and Employment	BHCC and colleges and training providers who have secured contracts to deliver	1,011 participants 80% of learners complete the course (March 26)	Department for Education	Build a stronger and more inclusive labour market

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Connect to Work Programme – supported employment programme is launched in Brighton and Hove £4.7M grant	October 2025 to March 2030	BHCC Skills and Employment		96 Participants supported by March 2026	Department for Work and Pensions	Build a stronger and more inclusive labour market
Develop a ShopLocal campaign to promote & encourage spend with local independent businesses	December 2025	BHCC Economic Development	BHCC Communications; Brilliant Brighton BID, Brighton Chamber	Increased spending retained within local economy	Existing BHCC funding	Celebrate our city and welcome investment
Explore and develop an inward investment offer to attract new employers to the city	May 2026	BHCC Economic Development	Brighton & Hove Growth Board; Growth Hub	New employers attracted to relocate and invest in Brighton & Hove	Funding to be identified	Celebrate our city and welcome investment
Promote key regeneration sites and development opportunities to enhance Brighton & Hove	May 2026	BHCC Economic Development	BHCC Regeneration; Growth Board; Seafront Development Board	Interest generated in development opportunities through attendance at UKREiiF and targeted promotions	LEP Transition funding (initially) with further funding to be identified	Celebrate our city and welcome investment
Enhance our Business Improvement District (to maximise the benefits of the BID for our high street and city centre)	New BID term to commence by July 2026	Brilliant Brighton BID	BHCC Economic Development; BHCC Revenues & Benefits; VisitBrighton	An enhanced BID offer supporting city centre vitality	Existing BID and BHCC funding	Celebrate our city and welcome investment
Implement recommendations of Visual Arts Analysis to develop new opportunities for visual arts organisations and artists	By March 2026	BHCC Culture, Creative and Arts	BHCC Economic Development; B&H Cultural Alliance	Increased profile of visual arts sector in the city, including direct public art commissioning opportunities	Funding to be finalised, but likely to include exploration of S106 opportunities	A world-leading creative destination worthy of the UK's best small city
Start delivery of short-term priorities	By August 2026	VisitBrighton	eco	Raise the profile of Brighton & Sussex	Existing BHCC funding	A world-leading creative

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identified in the Sussex Visitor Economy Strategy for Growth				among target visitor markets and grow the value of tourism		destination worthy of the UK's best small city
Develop a Sussex-wide Civic University Agreement to bring together a coalition of partners for knowledge exchange	March 2026	University of Sussex; University of Brighton; University of Chichester	BHCC; WSCC; ESCC; Business representative organisations	A further developed civic function for universities integrating teaching, learning, skills and engagement	TBC	Build new knowledge partnerships to benefit all of our communities
Commence the development of a Local Growth Plan for Sussex & Brighton in line with the requirements of a Mayoral County Combined Authority	May 2026	BHCC; ESCC; WSCC	MHCLG	Identification of the key growth opportunities for the region.	TBC	Thrive within a city region with a clear economic identity
Commission a study of the region's potential economic opportunities to inform future strategic decision-making at MCCA level	March 2026	Greater Brighton Economic Board	BHCC Economic Development; Lewes District Council; Adur & Worthing Councils; Shoreham Port	A cohesive feasibility study setting out the opportunities to develop the regional economy and identify investable propositions / clear asks of Government	GBEB funding	Thrive within a city region with a clear economic identity

FUTURE ACTIVITY (YEAR 3 AND BEYOND)

The remaining 'Areas of Activity' set out in the Economic Plan are ambitions to support the continued growth of the city's economy, as well as aiding the transition to a new economy that helps to address existing structural issues within Brighton & Hove. These broad areas will be further refined through annual reviews of the action plan, agreed and assigned to key delivery partners, and undertaken as resources allow.

In some cases, the establishment of the Sussex and Brighton Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) may lead on delivery of some aspirations within this plan. This will be continually reviewed and updated over the next twelve months as plans for the MCCA are developed and implemented.