GATWICK REGION
AIRPORT ECONOMIC ZONE

The Connected Choice for Economic Growth

The **Gatwick Region Airport Economic Zone (AEZ)** is the UK's first aviation-powered economic zone, established to unlock the collective potential of the region by leveraging the strategic role of **London Gatwick**. It brings together public and private sector partners to champion long-term, sustainable economic growth, position the region as a globally competitive destination, and create opportunities for all who live and work in the area.

At the heart of the AEZ's purpose is a commitment to showcasing the Gatwick Region as a connected global gateway for **business, investment, trade, and tourism**. The airport is more than a transport hub—it is a powerful economic catalyst that fuels growth across a diverse and dynamic region.

The AEZ's aim is to promote the area with one unified voice, advocating for investment and innovation, fostering the creation of high-quality jobs, and ensuring economic resilience. By aligning local ambitions with national and global opportunities, the AEZ will support a diverse, resilient and thriving economy to add value in the long-term.

Strategic Importance

The launch of the AEZ comes at a pivotal time, **as national policy increasingly favours place-based economic planning**. London Gatwick's position at the centre of one of the UK's most economically significant corridors offers a unique opportunity to shape a new model of collaborative, airport-powered regional growth.

The region surrounding Gatwick is already home to internationally recognised industry clusters, including **aerospace, clean energy, life sciences, creative industries, and advanced manufacturing.** With strong transport connections, world-class educational institutions, and access to international markets, the AEZ is ideally placed to drive innovation and investment.

Purpose and Ambition

The AEZ will support the growth of a **resilient, inclusive, and future-ready regional economy,** using Gatwick's status as a key international gateway to unlock further potential. Central to this will be a strategy that promotes the region as a place to live, work, invest, and visit—backed by collaboration across legislative and administrative boundaries to achieve shared goals.

The AEZ will advocate on behalf of the region to national government and global investors, including building strong links with the **Office for Investment** to encourage foreign direct investment. It will actively seek opportunities to secure **mobile international capital** and expand on the solid foundation of existing economic development efforts.

Governance and Taskforce

To guide this ambitious programme, a dedicated **AEZ taskforce** has been established. It comprises senior economic development and business leaders from across **West Sussex, East Sussex, Brighton & Hove, Surrey, Kent, and the London Borough of Croydon.** This taskforce is responsible for shaping the zone's identity and structure—including its geographic footprint, the formation of a governing board, and the appointment of an independent chair.

Funding for the initial set up and implementation stage is being provided by London Gatwick. Future funding options for the AEZ will be considered as part of the taskforce and board's remit. The AEZ model is designed to be agile, inclusive, and collaborative.This business-led partnership will ensure that voices from across private and public sector organisations contribute to a shared vision of regional prosperity.

Geographic Scope and Flexibility

The Gatwick Region AEZ will primarily cover the six core areas represented by the taskforce but has been designed with flexible boundaries. This allows the zone to respond to emerging opportunities and incorporate neighbouring areas as economic conditions evolve.

It reflects best-practice models seen internationally (such as Fairfax NOVA in the United States), where Airport Economic Zones act as **branded, coordinated regional growth engines** anchored around strategic infrastructure.

Economic Impact and Future Potential

London Gatwick already contributes **76,500 jobs** and **£5.5 billion** annually to the **UK economy**. The AEZ will build on this impact by unlocking new **trade and tourism opportunities**, attracting further **investment**, and supporting a diverse range of **businesses and industries** across the region.

By coordinating strategy, amplifying regional assets, and speaking with one voice, the AEZ aims to position the Gatwick Region as a **national powerhouse and international investment destination.** This is a long-term commitment to prosperity—one that aligns infrastructure, innovation, skills, and sustainability to benefit current and future generations.

LONDON GATWICK

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