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Clem Smith
Crawley Borough Council
Town Hall
The Boulevard
Crawley,
West Sussex. RH10 1UZ

Dear Clem

Crawley City status bid

On behalf of the Manor Royal Business Improvement District (BID), I am writing in support of Crawley's bid for City status.

Since its creation in 2013, the Manor Royal Business Improvement District (BID) is the only organisation with the sole responsibility to promote and improve the Manor Royal Business District as voted for by businesses. It is the UK's largest "industrial" BID.

Manor Royal Business District itself is one of the UK's largest business parks. It is incredibly diverse and successful having originally been designated for industry as part of the Crawley new town project of 1947. Since then, Manor Royal has grown to a size that has far exceeded original expectations and is now the largest business district in the south-east, providing 9,000,000 square feet of commercial floor space and is home to over 600 businesses generating 30,000 jobs.

Economically, and in other ways, Crawley already functions like the city centre of the Gatwick Diamond providing a focal point and hub for business, leisure and employment. Formally recognising this will provide a boost for the town when it most needs it but also provide a focus for the surrounding areas that collectively make up the Gatwick Diamond Sub-Region.

Alongside our highly productive business district we have a professional football club, an international airport, a first-class theatre, superb green space, a popular leisure park, excellent and improving learning facilities, a fantastic sports facility (K2) and a collective ambition for our place and our people that City status could provide a welcome boost to.

The growth of Crawley since its creation as a New Town has exceeded expectations. Perhaps we have now exceeded and outgrown the "town" classification that no longer does justice to what we have become and the plans we have to improve our economic, public and civic life.

For these reasons, we support the Crawley bid for City Status.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Sawyer
Executive Director
Manor Royal Business District Ltd