

U9 – Higher Education in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership

Terms of Reference

Vision

Enhancing the U9 group of universities' research and knowledge exchange capacity by seeking collaborations to support the evolving demands of the region.

Background

In response to the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships by the government the nine universities within the SELEP region agreed to meet on a regular basis in order to better understand the role of SELEP, identify funding routes and to work together to develop new collaborations.

The network exists to build regional university capacity by providing a platform to promote the higher education sector across the SELEP region.

The U9 group will be a conduit for other areas of the Institution such as research, skills and employability.

The U9 is made up of nine higher education institutes within the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP):

- University of Kent;
- University of Greenwich;
- University of Essex;
- University of Sussex;
- University of Brighton;
- Anglia Ruskin University;
- Canterbury Christ Church University;
- University for the Creative Arts;
- Writtle University College;

Purpose

- Identify opportunity to share information and mobilise expertise in order to support the region's priorities and those of the individual universities;
- Ensure SELEP are aware of the wide range of innovation and enterprise outputs from the U9 group;
- Support the U9 members to demonstrate their impact on the region by sharing of benchmarking best practice;
- Report on the U9 innovation and enterprise engagement and distil the key messages from the university community to ensure these are fed back to SELEP;
- Be responsive to SELEP consultations and evidence gathering;
- Update on key strategic plans and projects;
- Seek out collaborative funding opportunities;

Role

- The U9 is an informal group.

- Taking key messages back to SELEP and within their own institutions.
- Supporting the delivery of SELEP's Strategic Economic Plan;
- Identifying opportunities and initiatives that will enhance the region's economy;
- Offering challenge where appropriate;
- Kent will provide the Secretariat for the group.

Membership and meetings

Membership is made up of Director level representation from the aforementioned Universities, or their nominee. A representative from SELEP will be invited as an observer on the U9 group.

Meetings will be held on a termly basis and in order to keep informal element to meetings the Agenda will be split to enable informal discussions to take place.

Chair

The U9 is based on a collaborative, shared working and will rotate meetings across the U9 membership. The 'host' for the meetings will Chair the meetings and provide accommodation and catering for the meetings.

Decision-Making

The group will reach agreement on areas for collaboration. The U9 does not have authority to approve, authorise or delegate responsibility to any of the U9 membership.

Key messages arising will feed into the VC representative on the SELEP Board (currently the VC from Essex).

Authority and Execution

These Terms of Reference are a product of the collaborative approach of the U9 group. The Terms serve as a reference for the working of the Group and have no legal substance. A review of these Terms will be undertaken when required and may be amended through joint agreement of the U9 members.