



#### Attendees

<b>BH</b> Ben Hook	East Sussex CC	<b>NHa</b> Nigel Hannam	Wealden DC
<b>CE</b> Christina Ewbank	ACES	<b>PC</b> Cllr Peter Chowney	Hastings BC
<b>CS</b> Clive Soper	FSB	<b>PS</b> Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
<b>DE</b> Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	<b>RD</b> Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
<b>DS</b> Dan Shelley	Sussex Coast College	<b>RG</b> Richard Garland	Gradient Consultants
<b>GP</b> Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	<b>RM</b> Rhiannon Mort	SELEP
<b>IF</b> Ian Fitzpatrick	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC	<b>RS</b> Cllr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
<b>JH</b> James Harris	East Sussex CC	<b>SB</b> Sue Baxter	University of Brighton
<b>JW</b> Jon Wheeler	East Sussex CC	<b>SD</b> Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
<b>KG</b> Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC	<b>SH</b> Simon Hubbard	Hastings BC
<b>LR</b> Lisa Rawlinson	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC	<b>SM</b> Stefania Manco	East Sussex CC
<b>ME</b> Martin Ellis	Recruitment SE	<b>TL</b> Tony Leonard	Rother DC

#### Apologies

<b>AB</b> Adam Bryan	SELEP	<b>DG</b> Derek Godfrey	Ellis Builders
<b>AS</b> Cllr Andy Smith	Lewes DC	<b>DT</b> Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC
<b>BS</b> Cllr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	<b>MS</b> Martin Searle	FSB
<b>CC</b> Clive Cooke	Sussex Coast College	<b>NHu</b> Nazeya Hussain	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
<b>CM</b> Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother DC	<b>PJ</b> Philip Johnson	Locate East Sussex

### 1. Welcome & introductions

- 1.1. **GP** welcomed the attendees and delivered the apologies; round table introductions were made.
- 1.2. **GP** asked for any additional interests not already held on record and for any specific conflicts of interest with today's agenda items; **RG** declared an interest in Sovereign Harbour in Eastbourne.

### 2. Review of previous minutes (29 Jan 2018)

- 2.1. **GP** ran through the actions of the previous TES minutes. Action 3.5, to liaise with the universities on shaping up key ideas moving forward, is still ongoing; all other actions were completed.
- 2.2. The previous TES minutes were approved by the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

### 3. Recent developments

- 3.1. **RD** gave a brief update on the SELEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The ambitions and priorities of the SEP were established prior to the last Strategic Board meeting in Dec 2018. It was agreed that the SEP will be a 'visionary' document rather than a bidding document, and as such the Secretariat has commissioned consultants *Thinking Place* to facilitate the development of the vision narrative. The first consultants' meeting took place last month, with the second meeting rescheduled (due to snow) to 27 Mar 2018 – ESCC officers will be in attendance.
- 3.2. Next steps will involve the instruction of SEP document design work in Apr/May with a first-draft to be presented to the Strategic Board at a stand-alone review meeting for sign-off in May 2018; approval of the final-draft SEP will take place at the Jun 2018 Strategic Board meeting. Further stakeholder engagement will take place throughout this time between now and the end of Jun.

**[Action: GP to invite Georgina Button to a SEP stakeholder engagement session at the next TES Workshop on 30 Apr 2018]**

- 3.3. **GP** provided an update on SELEP's Annual Conversation with Government and the subsequent 'deep dive' that took place. The Annual Conversation with MHCLG took place in Dec 2017; given how favourably the meeting went, the SELEP Secretariat was shocked when it received a letter from MHCLG's Cities & Local Growth Unit (CLog) on 26 Feb 2018 containing a moderated view of the Annual Conversation, suggesting that SELEP's governance arrangements were 'inadequate', a rating that SELEP strongly refuted. This led to a deep dive audit taking place on 7 & 8 Mar 2018, in which **KG**, **GP** and senior ESCC colleagues all participated. The deep dive was actually a largely positive experience that enabled us to rebalance some of the views of the original letter; the official outcome is yet to be received but the initial feedback from the audit team in their wrap-up was exceptionally positive.

- 3.4. A paper will go to this week's SELEP Strategic Board meeting with recommendations around board democracy to further tighten up some of our processes, including SELEP oversight of federal board recruitment, terms of reference for an investment panel, standardised calls for projects, and a single prioritised list of projects for reallocating underspend (different to the current process where funds stay within the local area). **TES members agreed to approve these recommendations.**

*[Action: TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 16 Mar 2018 are advised to approve the recommendations on governance / assurance framework]*

#### **4. Wealden Local Plan / Ashdown Forest**

- 4.1. **NHa** gave some background to Wealden DC's monitoring of nitrogen deposition across the Ashdown Forest and their subsequent work with Natural England (NE) to work out how to address it. Advice has now been received from NE confirming a 'likely significant effect' on the Ashdown Forest Special Area of Conservation. Further work is required under the Habitats Regulations in the form of an Appropriate Assessment, to be conducted by Wealden DC as a 'Competent Authority' under the Habitats Regulations. The updated Wealden Local Plan will now be considered by full council at the end of Jun 2018 (revised from Apr 2018).

- 4.2. The group discussed the various planning applications that are currently being held up, with developments being affected in neighbouring authorities as well as Wealden, and inward investment potentially being prevented. **CE** commented that ACES is very concerned that the situation is holding back growth, affecting our case for A27 dualling – which in turn would actually take traffic away from the forest. **KG** advised that some of the local councils are planning to jointly write to Wealden DC on this issue, highlighting some of the economic impacts. **GP** asked the group to consider whether TES should send a similar letter – **this was agreed.**

*[Action: GP to write to Wealden DC on behalf of TES to express the collective views and concerns of the group in regard to the Ashdown Forest and Wealden DC's current course of action]*

- 4.3. **CS** queried whether the NE report is in the public domain; **NHa** advised that there are still some outstanding questions that need to be clarified, after which he'll share it.

*[Action: NHa to circulate the report from Natural England once the outstanding queries have been clarified and it can be released into the public domain]*

#### **5. SELEP Social Enterprise Working Group**

- 5.1. **PS** provided an update on this new SELEP working group, the first meeting of which has already taken place. **PS** has been pushing SELEP to raise the profile of social enterprises for the past two years, so it's very pleasing to see the new working group being formed with significant expertise in social businesses and a real determination to drive forward with a clear set of actions (such as linking to the Growth Hub and developing supply chain opportunities). **PS** has been appointed Chair of the new working group, providing immediate strong links with East Sussex and TES.

#### **6. Developers East Sussex**

- 6.1. **DE** advised that the Developers East Sussex (DES) subgroup will shortly become self-funding through a subscription-based membership; DES has engaged the services of Let's Do Business group (LDBG) to sign up potential members to full or associate membership. DES meetings have continued to attract good attendance; the next meeting on 10 Apr 2018 will feature a presentation from Mark Farmer, author of the government-commissioned 'Modernise or Die' report.

- 6.2. **DS** asked if he could attend the next DES meeting on behalf of the new East Sussex College Group to engage with the sector on what the colleges are doing to address the skills gap.

*[Action: DE to liaise with DG on the upcoming DES meeting to try to work DS and the East Sussex College Group into the agenda]*

- 6.3. **BH** updated the group on the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). Last month the successful 'Marginal Viability' schemes were announced, including four in East Sussex – Bedfordwell Road in Eastbourne, Combe Valley Sports Village in Hastings, North Street Quarter in Lewes and Blackfriars in Battle –

totalling £16.7m of HIF investment. **LR**, **SH** and **TL** each gave a brief explanation of their schemes along with an update on progress.

- 6.4. Regarding ESCC's £32m HIF 'Forward Funding' bid (focusing on interventions in the Wealden area) **BH** advised that the Expressions of Interest will be shortlisted, after which local authorities will be asked to submit final business cases during the summer. Successful bids are expected to be announced by Oct 2018.

## 7. Infrastructure update

- 7.1. **JW** referred to a full briefing circulated beforehand, highlighting some of the main points on High Speed Rail, the South Eastern rail franchise, investment in Brighton Mainline resilience, the A27 East of Lewes Study for an offline dual carriageway, and other key road highlights on the A21, A259, the Major Road Network (MRN) and Transport for the South East (TfSE).
- 7.2. **RG** commented that from a business perspective the lack of infrastructure is causing stagnation in towns across the coast as they can't bid for contracts further afield, with opportunities stunted by being unable to connect to London, one of the biggest cities in the world.

## 8. East Sussex Growth Programme

- 8.1. **BH** ran through some of the highlights and successes from 2017/18 through the various funding programmes. He also commented that some of the 'unsuccessful' schemes were able to bid for other sources of funding (e.g. through C2C LEP) thanks to East Sussex maintaining an active and up-to-date Project Pipeline.
- 8.2. **DE** referred to the TES Action Plan for the SELEP Assurance Framework, which had been updated following various changes to SELEP's governance arrangements as a result of the Mary Ney review. The TES Terms of Reference (ToR) had also been updated, for TES approval; however, with further recommendations likely to come out of the recent deep dive audit, the TES ToR will need to be reviewed again. **DE** agreed to hold back until SELEP discussions/recommendations have taken place and then make the appropriate changes to the TES ToR, for electronic approval by TES.

*[Action: DE to make further changes to the TES Terms of Reference following the deep dive audit, for electronic approval by TES ahead of the next full TES meeting in Jun 2018]*

## 9. SELEP Strategic Board meeting (16 Mar 2018)

- 9.1. **RM** ran through the agenda items coming up at the Strategic Board meeting. The main item will be the deep dive audit and any recommendations coming out of the formal feedback (if received), but will also include Growth Hub funding being confirmed and a Capital Programme update with recommendations for underspend to be agreed.
- 9.2. There is also an additional paper on possible 'interim arrangements' should Chris Brodie choose not to extend his tenure as SELEP Chair. **RM** explained that one of the immediate outcomes of the 'inadequate' rating from the Annual Conversation was the Chair considering his position as potentially untenable; he has since reconsidered this and is now very likely to remain, so the paper may well be withdrawn. **GP** urged all TES members attending the Strategic Board meeting to please show their fullest support for Chris Brodie on behalf of TES.

*[Action: TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 16 Mar 2018 to give their support to Chris Brodie remaining as SELEP Chair]*

## 10. Additional updates & stakeholder reports

- 10.1. **RD** highlighted some of the main points from the stakeholder reports, including Business East Sussex (BES) Growth Hub funding being secured, the South East Business Boost (SEBB) programme generating 50-60 grants, an upcoming Health & Social Care meeting for the Skills East Sussex (SES) group, and ERDF funding being secured for the SECCADS project.

## 11. TES round table / AOB

- 11.1. **DS** advised that the merger of Sussex Downs and Sussex Coast Colleges will go ahead as planned on 29 Mar 2018. Structure and governance arrangements for the new 'East Sussex College Group' (ESCG) are all in place; headquarters will be in Eastbourne and the Executive Team has been fully recruited, including **DS** and **CC**, with everyone to be in post by the first week of May. Henry Ball will be Chair of the new ESCG Board.
- 11.2. Some of the next steps will include tendering for a 'branding' exercise to look at each of the four campuses. An ESCG 'vision' is also in development, to ideally be shared with TES in Apr/May.

*[Action: GP to consider adding DS and the new ESCG to the next TES Workshop agenda on 30 Apr 2018]*

### Summary of actions:

- 3.2 **GP** to invite Georgina Button to a SEP stakeholder engagement session at the next TES Workshop on 30 Apr 2018.
- 3.4 TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 16 Mar 2018 are advised to approve the recommendations on governance / assurance framework.
- 4.2 **GP** to write to Wealden DC on behalf of TES to express the collective views and concerns of the group in regard to the Ashdown Forest and Wealden DC's current course of action.
- 4.3 **NHa** to circulate the report from Natural England once the outstanding queries have been clarified and it can be released into the public domain.
- 6.2 **DE** to liaise with **DG** on the upcoming DES meeting to try to work **DS** and the East Sussex College Group into the agenda.
- 8.2 **DE** to make further changes to the TES Terms of Reference following the deep dive audit, for electronic approval by TES ahead of the next full TES meeting in Jun 2018.
- 9.2 TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 16 Mar 2018 to give their support to Chris Brodie remaining as SELEP Chair.
- 11.2 **GP** to consider adding **DS** and the new ESCG to the next TES Workshop agenda on 30 Apr 2018.