

Thursday 18 October 2018, 5.00-7.00pm

Village Hotel, Forstal Road, Maidstone, ME14 3AQ

AGENDA

	Approx time	Page
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence	5.00	-
2. Declaration of Interests	5.05	-
3. Minutes of previous meeting, matters arising & action tracker. Matters arising will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback from the inaugural Kent Corridor Advisory Group• Recording of meetings• Nominating a SME Representative	5.10	2 & 12
4. Good Food Growth Campaign	5.20	<i>Presentation & report on page 15</i>
5. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Review	5.30	<i>Presentation & report on page 19</i>
6. Garden Communities: Proposals seeking endorsement from KMEP and SELEP	6.30	<i>Presentation & report on page 23</i>
7. AOB	6.45	-
For information items: A. KMEP and SELEP future meeting dates		29

ITEM 3A

Date: 18 October 2018

Subject: **DRAFT MINUTES** of a meeting of the Kent & Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) held at the Hilton Hotel, Maidstone on 24 September 2018.

Attendees:

KMEP Board Members

Geoff Miles (Chair | The Maidstone Studios)
Paul Barrett (C4B Business & Barretts Motors)
Bob Bayford (Thanet District Council)
James Beatton (Cripps LLP)
Andrew Bowles (Swale Borough Council)
Paul Carter (Kent County Council)
Rodney Chambers (Medway Council)
Miranda Chapman (Pillory Barn Design Ltd)
Gerry Clarkson (Ashford Borough Council)
Simon Cook (Canterbury City Council)
Martin Cox (Maidstone Borough Council)
Sarah Dance (Sarah Dance Associates)
Richard Finn (Richard Finn Ltd)
Peter Fleming (Sevenoaks District Council)

Jo James (Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce)
Jeremy Kite (Dartford Borough Council)
Andrew Metcalf (Maxim PR)
David Monk (Folkestone & Hythe District Council)
Keith Morris (Dover District Council)
Tracey Moore (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council alternate)
Jon Reagan (Hugh Lowe Farms Ltd & Weald Granary Ltd)
Paul Thomas (Dev. Land Services Ltd)
David Turner (Gravesham Borough Council)
Prof. Rama Thirunamachandran (Canterbury Christ Church University)
Paul Winter (Wire Belt Company Limited)

Observers & Presenters in attendance

Allan Baillie (KCC), Kevin Burbridge (GBC), Lee Burchill (KCC), Prof. Mario Caccamo (NIAB EMR), David Candlin (TWBC), Nicholas Churchill (CCC), Joel Cook (KCC), Barbara Cooper (KCC), William Cornall (MBC), Helen Dyer (MC), Sunny Ee (MC), John Foster (MBC), Stephen Gasche (KCC), Graham Hammond (FHDC), Richard Hicks (MC), Madeline Homer (TDC), Alan Jarrett (MC), Tracey Kerly (ABC), Rhiannon Mort (SELEP), Matthew Norwell (TGKP), Sarah Nurden (KMEP), Andrew Osborne (ABC), Katie Pettit (KCC), Joe Ratcliffe (KCC), David Smith (KCC), Andrew Stirling (SDC), Jeremy Whittaker (TMBC), Mike Whiting (KCC), Emma Wiggins (SBC).

Apologies:

KMEP Board Members

Gavin Cleary (Locate in Kent), Simon Cook (Mid Kent College), Nick Fenton (Hodson Developments & Kent Developers' Group), Nicolas Heslop (Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council), Douglas Horner (Kent Ambassador), David Jukes (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council), and Jane Ollis (IOD).

Item 1 – Welcome, introduction and apologies.

- 1.1 Mr Geoff Miles (the KMEP Chairman) welcomed attendees to the meeting, and accepted the apologies as listed above.

Item 2 – Declarations of interest

- 2.1 Prof. Rama Thirunamachandran declared an interest: Canterbury Christ Church University has submitted a joint bid with the University of Kent seeking LGF funding for the Kent and Medway Medical School. This is covered under item 5 of the agenda.
- 2.2 Andrew Metcalf declared an interest: His company provides PR support to NIAB EMR, which has submitted a bid seeking LGF funding (item 5 of the agenda).
- 2.3 Rodney Chambers declared he is a trustee of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, but does not have a disclosable pecuniary interest. The Trust has submitted a bid seeking LGF funding (item 5 of the agenda).
- 2.4 Miranda Chapman declared that her company provides PR support for ‘Ashford For’ and Otterpool Park. ‘Ashford For’ is Ashford Borough Council’s inward investment website.
- 2.5 Jon Reagan declared an interest: His wife is a trustee of East Malling Research (EMR). EMR is a co-promoter of the NIAB EMR project, which has submitted a bid seeking LGF funding (item 5 of the agenda).
- 2.6 No other declarations of interest were received.

Item 3 – Minutes of previous meeting, matters arising and action tracker

- 3.1 Graham Hammond attended KMEP on 16 July 2018 as an observer. With this addition, the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman accordingly.
- 3.2 Sarah Nurden (the KMEP Strategic Programme Manager) advised KMEP that Highways England is seeking local partners, that wish to sit on a Kent Corridor Stakeholders’ Group. This Group will meet Highways England on a monthly basis. At the meetings, local stakeholders will be asked by Highways England to provide their feedback on issues relating to HE’s road network. The KMEP Strategic Programme Manager has volunteered to sit on the group, and will ensure that information is shared at future KMEP meetings and via email, so KMEP’s views can be fed into the process.

Item 4 – Strengthened LEPs: The LEP Review

- 4.1 Sarah Nurden (KMEP Strategic Programme Manager), Rhiannon Mort (South East LEP Capital Programme Manager), and David Smith (Director of Economic Development at Kent County Council) gave a presentation to the board. The key comments included:
 - The context for the LEP Review includes the publication of two National Audit Office reports on LEPs, and subsequent Public Accounts Committee hearings. The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has been tasked with dealing with shortcomings on LEP accountability, transparency, and delivery.

- Other pieces of context are the 2019 Spending Review, the launch of Local Industrial Strategies, and the future distribution of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (which will be routed through future LEP arrangements). Civil servants have advised the KMEP Strategic Programme Manager that a consultation on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will take place before the end of 2018.
- On 24 July 18, the Government issued a report entitled '*Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*'. This sets out a series of reforms to LEP governance and asks LEPs to come forward with proposals for geographies that best reflect their functional economic area.
- The reforms (which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strengthened-local-enterprise-partnerships>) include LEPs moving to a maximum board size of 20 people, and for two-thirds of the board to be private sector representatives. LEPs are also asked to adopt a separate legal personality.
- The timetable for adopting the reforms was shared: LEPs must inform the Government by 28 September on their preferred geographical boundary. By 31 October 18, LEPs must submit a detailed implementation plan.
- SELEP is calling additional board meetings to discuss each response before it is submitted to Government. The preferred LEP geography response will be discussed at the SELEP Strategic Board on 28 September 2018; the detailed implementation plan will be discussed at a SELEP Strategic Board on 25 October 2018.
- David Smith explained that the LEP Review had received Ministerial sign-off, with Ministers (including Jake Berry MP) committed to delivering the reforms. He explained that the Government has designed the LEP Review timeline to align with Brexit and the withdrawal of EU funding.
- Sarah Nurden described the engagement process that she had undertaken with local Kent and Medway stakeholders to understand their preferences on LEP geography.
- This feedback had shown that KMEP Board Members and local partners feel governance and geography are intrinsically linked. The overwhelming preference is to retain SELEP's current geography subject to SELEP retaining its current model of governance (i.e. retaining current private-public ratio and the federated board model). If the governance cannot be retained, KMEP board members had fed back that they would welcome a more localised LEP that reflects the true functional economic area.

4.2 The KMEP Board Members were asked for their comments on both the future LEP geography and on the governance reforms. The comments included:

- Paul Carter gave background to the formation of the LEP in 2010. Local partners had put forward a proposal reflecting the functional economic market area, which is Kent and Medway. The Government had asked Kent and Medway to join with Essex, and then with East Sussex, with the Secretary of State promising additional benefits if this happened. Partners worked sensibly and intelligently together to make such a large partnership work. The partnership is working better than ever before, and this is due to the LEP working through a federated board structure. If the Government withdraws the ability to operate a LEP through a federated structure, the Kent and Medway Local Authority Leaders have agreed that a Kent and Medway LEP should be pursued. Applying the Government's governance reforms to SELEP would make the current partnership unworkable.

- David Smith said he understands that the Higher Education representative is counted as a private sector board member, and the Further Education representative is counted as a public sector board member.
- Rhiannon Mort commented that the federated board, called Team East Sussex, has expressed its preference to retain SELEP's geography.
- Simon Cook questioned the rationale for pushing back to retain SELEP with its current governance if the Government has already said the new reforms are red lines.
- Jeremy Kite queried the enthusiasm of businesses to take on more exposure. His preference was to explain to Government that SELEP is opposed to the reforms, especially the change in the public-private membership ratio.
- Richard Finn commented that few business representatives would be willing to take on additional legal exposure as part of their voluntary role on the LEP. He felt moving the membership from a position of parity to two-thirds business representatives did not fit well with the concept of partnership. Business representatives welcomed the constructive input of council leaders at LEP and federated board meetings, and he referred to the detailed knowledge, expertise, and resources that council leaders contribute to the partnership.
- Douglas Horner had submitted a written comment stating that the extra bureaucratic processes involved in establishing and running a company will require resource. He would welcome knowing where the extra resources would come from. In terms of the LEP geography, SELEP is not a functional market economic area, however SELEP is an area facing similar economic issues and challenges. The area therefore benefits from the working partnership that has been developed.
- Peter Fleming stated that councils are committed to the partnership, however the diminished membership from local authorities may result in councils walking away from the partnership and withdrawing their resources. He felt that the Government is not familiar with the federated board model. He mentioned if KMEP does not propose a Kent and Medway option now, that option could be lost entirely.
- Geoff Miles relayed his conversation with Stephen Jones at the end of August. Stephen Jones (Director of the Cities and Local Growth Unit) had stated that SELEP was in a strong position in terms of geography.
- Gerry Clarkson agreed that the ideal scenario is to retain SELEP's governance and geography, as SELEP has worked well. However, if the status quo is not possible, then KMEP should consider the alternative option. He commented that Kent and Medway have the size and scale to justify its existence as a LEP, as shown by the delivery of the LGF programme.
- Andrew Bowles echoed the concerns that had been raised regarding the diminished representation from local authorities in the new LEP arrangements. Local authorities could disengage from the partnership if they cannot act as a partner around the table.
- Simon Cook and Andrew Bowles both referred to the democratic mandate of council leaders, and how they are held to account by the public, both through the election cycle, but also through correspondence with members of the public. A question for the business community is are they willing to take on that public engagement role.
- Richard Finn commented that it may be better to request a Kent and Medway LEP in the September response to Government to show the strong support for this approach.

- Paul Carter commented that local authorities are responsible for the co-ordination of funding and, in most projects, are accountable for delivery from inception to completion taking on considerable risks. Councils help bring together multi-agency partners and funding packages from multiple sources. This includes significant LGF investment, but also S106/CIL contributions, investment from other government agencies and councils' own capital borrowing to provide essentially-needed gap funding. In many cases, the council take responsibility for cost overruns for unforeseen circumstances beyond their control. The future success of LEPs is dependent on a continued, strong relationship between central government, local government and the business community. The representation of local authorities on LEP boards needs to continue.
- Rodney Chambers requested that SELEP is very clear in the geography response that agreeing to SELEP's geography does not indicate that the governance changes will be accepted as a compromise. Geography and governance are intrinsically linked.
- Geoff Miles explained that the SELEP Chairman was clear with Stephen Jones that the governance reforms would not work for SELEP. The questions had been put to the Government on the fairness of asking businesses to be the majority decision-makers, but local authorities are required to cover any cost overruns. Geoff Miles concluded by saying how other LEPs are interested in hearing how the federated board model works, with a view to potentially implementing it in their own areas.
- Paul Barrett said the business community does not support the proposed governance reforms because it places too much responsibility and risk on business leaders.
- Sarah Dance commented that businesses do not have the mandate from the public to make decision on their behalf. The partnership with local authorities is needed to retain this mandate.
- Gerry Clarkson commented that the Treasury may support the LEP Review as it may reduce expenditure (as the Government expects fewer LEPs).

4.3 The debate was brought to a close. KMEP voted on their preferred geography. The outcome of the vote was KMEP's preference is to retain the SELEP geography and current governance. If the government does not allow the current SELEP governance to continue, this will trigger KMEP requesting a Kent and Medway LEP as its preferred geography.

4.4 The KMEP Board Members also voted in favour of holding an additional KMEP meeting in October to discuss the detailed implementation plan.

4.5 Finally, it was resolved that a letter be sent to the SELEP Chairman, and copied to the appropriate Secretaries of State, setting out the views of the board. This letter is to be sent to all KMEP members for them to sign.

Item 5 – Developing a SELEP pipeline of projects: The LGF3b process

5.1 Sarah Nurden (KMEP Strategic Programme Manager) advised the board members that SELEP had issued a new open call for projects that are seeking capital grant funding. In response to this call for projects, 45 expressions of interest (with a combined value of circa £115m) were received. The KMEP Board is asked to select projects, up to a combined value of £47.2m, to

proceed to stage 2. For those projects that KMEP selects, the applicant will be asked to write a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) by 26 October 18, and to submit it to SELEP and Steer.

- 5.2 To assist the board members, SELEP asked Steers to complete a high-level assessment of the expressions of interest. The KMEP Strategic Programme Manager presented the high-level results of Steers' assessment to the board members. She clarified that the Steers' categorisation is for guidance purposes only; the decision-making at stage 1 rests with the KMEP Board. In addition, the high-level assessments were based on expressions of interest (EOI), not detailed SOBCs; As more information becomes available to Steers in stage 2, each project's categorisation may change.
- 5.3 The SELEP Investment Panel will then prioritise the projects when they meet on 7 December 2018.
- 5.4 The KMEP Chairman explained that he had asked for a recommendation to be added to the board paper, which reads *"KMEP is asked to agree the principle that Local Growth Fund (LGF) existing schemes seeking a change in scope are prioritised ahead of new funding requests, in order to safeguard the investment made to date and to prevent abortive costs. This principle would then be put forward to the SELEP Strategic Board on 28 September for consideration"*.
- 5.5 The Chairman explained that KMEP and the South East LEP have already completed the prioritisation process for existing LGF schemes; these existing schemes have been deemed to be high priority, and money has been ringfenced to them. Consequently, promoters have spent money on making arrangements for the projects to commence. If these projects now do not continue, there are likely to be some abortive costs, and the Chairman felt that this would not be the most prudent use of taxpayers' money. This proposal was put to the KMEP board, and the recommendation was agreed by vote.
- 5.6 KMEP then discussed the Expressions of Interest. Steers had assessed c. £16m of projects as 'strong', and a further c. £15m of projects as 'good'. A further c. £14m-£17m of schemes are existing schemes. KMEP board members agreed that these projects should be asked to proceed to stage 2.
- 5.7 Board members then discussed the schemes assessed as 'adequate' by Steers. KMEP board members voiced their support for four of the 'adequate' schemes that delivered high outputs (in terms of jobs, houses, and learners). The KMEP board recognised that if these four schemes are asked to proceed to stage 2, KMEP would exceed the £47.2m threshold set by SELEP.
- 5.8 Simon Cook asked if it would be possible for the promoters of these four adequate schemes with high outputs to undertake the work on writing a Strategic Outline Business Case and submitting it to SELEP for evaluation. The promoters would be made aware that they were proceeding at their own risk given Steers' 'adequate' assessment, however the promoters could then choose whether they want to use their staff's time to continue.
- 5.9 As this decision to exceed the SELEP threshold was not within the gift of KMEP, the question was directed to the SELEP Capital Programme Manager, who agreed that these four adequate projects could also submit a bid, and the £47.2m threshold could be superseded by KMEP.

5.10 The Board therefore resolved that the ‘existing’ schemes, the ‘strong’ schemes, and the ‘good’ schemes and the ‘adequate schemes with high outputs’ should proceed to stage 2. For clarity the schemes selected by KMEP are shown in the table below:

Project name (in alphabetical not priority order)	Organisation/Promoter	Amount of LGF3b requested
A2/A251	Kent County Council	£2,200,000
Betteshanger Sustainable Parks Preventative Health Enterprise Incubation Hub	Hadlow Group	£2,000,000
Calverley Square	Tunbridge Wells BC	£5,000,000
Columbus Avenue Extension	Kent County Council	£7,880,000
Flood Control Across the South East (FloCASE)	Kent County Council	£2,327,500
Gillingham – Britton Farm redevelopment	Medway Council	£1,890,000
Innovating, Creative & Enterprising Lab (iceLab)	University of Kent	£5,290,586
Innovation Park Medway (northern site) – Enabling infrastructure	Medway Council	£2,300,000
Kent and Medway Medical School	University of Kent & Canterbury Christ Church University	£8,000,000
M2 J5 Improvements	Kent County Council	£1,600,000
Maidstone East - Expansion of Station redevelopment	Kent County Council	£641,000
Maidstone East Urban Civic Quarter	Maidstone Borough Council & Kent County Council	£8,000,000
MKC Training services - Scaffolding Training Centre	MKC Training Services Ltd	£375,000
Romney Marsh Employment Hub	Folkestone & Hythe District Council	£2,570,737
Sevenoaks Business Hub	Sevenoaks Town Council	£265,400
State-of-art plant growing facility for modern horticulture	NIAB EMR	£1,840,000
Sturry Link Road	Kent County Council	£4,500,000
Thameside Fire Training Ground	North Kent College	£400,000
Thanet Parkway	Kent County Council	£5,000,000 - £8,000,000
The Coachworks	Ashford Borough Council	£910,800
Wincheap off-slip	Canterbury City Council	£2,000,000
Total value of projects that can proceed to stage 2 assessment		£64.99m to £67.99m

5.11 The KMEP Strategic Programme Manager will write to the promoters to inform them of the outcome.

Item 6 – Crossrail to Ebbsfleet

6.1 Stephen Gasche (Principal Rail Transport Planner at Kent County Council) explained to KMEP that Crossrail to Ebbsfleet (C2E) is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for South East London, Kent and the wider Thames Gateway Kent area to unlock their growth potential. It is a high-impact scheme set to transform the economic geography of the London-North Kent corridor.

6.2 A Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) is being finalised that makes the case for Crossrail to be extended from Abbeywood, so it would terminate at Ebbsfleet instead. This would radically improve the capacity and connectivity on the rail network serving North Kent and

South East London (North Bexley). This in turn will support economic and housing growth across the area with benefits also reaching further into Kent.

- 6.3 The Crossrail project partners wish to present the SOBC to HM Government in October 2018. The SOBC will make the case to Government that, on the basis of the high value for money and positive benefit/cost ratio (BCR) which the C2E project would deliver, the scheme merits Government's backing, in the first instance through funding for a full business case.
- 6.4 KMEP Board members debated the item:
- Simon Cook commented on the absolute need for this infrastructure in North Kent. He recommended that the SOBC robustly explains any assumptions used.
 - Paul Carter explained that the SOBC showed there is a compelling case for delivering the Crossrail extension, and the relatively modest sum required (compared to the HS2 business case) to achieve the significant outputs.
 - Stephen Gasche explained that the extension would be delivered by 2031-32 subject to the Government agreeing to fund the infrastructure.
 - David Turner voiced his strong support for the project.
- 6.5 Paul Thomas reminded KMEP that the South Eastern Rail Franchise results are due shortly. This will reveal if there will be changes to the Maidstone West to Kings Cross service, via Snodland. As the Chairman of the Maidstone Economic Board, he asked KMEP to continue to support the request for the service on this line to continue as well.
- 6.6 Stephen Gasche explained that the project partners would welcome KMEP and SELEP writing letters of support for the Crossrail SOBC. KMEP board members voted, and resolved that the KMEP Chairman should write a letter of support on their behalf to the relevant Ministers in support of the SOBC once it is submitted.

Item 7 – Local Growth Fund Delivery Monitoring Report

- 7.1 Lee Burchill (Kent County Council's LGF Manager) presented the LGF Delivery Monitoring Report. He mentioned that phase 1 of the Leigh Flood Storage Area business case was approved at the most recent SELEP Accountability Board.
- 7.2 Douglas Horner had submitted a written comment requesting that the LGF Managers from Kent and Medway reflect on the format of this report to make it clearer for the public to understand.

Item 8 - Changes to LGF project allocations within Medway's LGF Programme

- 8.1 Helen Dyer (Medway Council's LGF Manager) explained that:
- Medway Council was awarded £9m of Local Growth Funding (LGF) for the Strood town centre improvements project. The aim of the project is to deliver journey time and accessibility enhancements to the town centre, which will mitigate the existing congestion issues that act as a barrier to growth. The project will also offer public realm improvements, and will provide an improved environment for both pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Medway Council was awarded £4m of LGF for the Chatham town centre improvements project. The aim of the project is to deliver public realm and accessibility improvements,

which will facilitate improved access from the train station to large areas of employment, retail and education in the town centre and beyond.

- As work has progressed onsite it has become apparent that it will not be possible to deliver all the improvements envisaged in Chatham town centre within the original project allocation. Additional funding will be required to facilitate delivery of all the proposed works.
- Following completion of the detailed design and costing for the Strood town centre project, it was identified that the full LGF allocation was not required in order to deliver the project in its entirety. Medway Council therefore intends to reallocate £200,000 to the Chatham town centre project, in order to facilitate delivery of the remaining works. All the outcomes stated within the Strood town centre Business Case will still be achieved.

8.2 KMEP resolved to note and endorse the change in scope for the two projects. The change in project scope is within the 10% threshold allowed within the SELEP Assurance Framework. The change will therefore be reported to SELEP Accountability Board in November 2018 for information purposes, rather than for a decision.

Item 9 - A289 Four Elms roundabout to Medway Tunnel – Project update

9.1 Sunny Ee presented a paper on the A289 Four Elms roundabout to Medway Tunnel project. His comments included:

- Medway Council was awarded £11.1m of LGF to deliver improvements to the A289 between Four Elms roundabout and the Medway Tunnel.
- Since the LGF Business Case was submitted, Medway Council submitted an Expression of Interest to receive £170m of Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF), which was successful. Now a business case is being prepared for submission in March 2019, with a funding decision expected in May 2019.
- Medway Council is eager to align the current A289 LGF project with the proposed HIF interventions. This will allow the LGF works to be delivered as part of a holistic scheme which will have the budget and scope to add value to the current proposals and will facilitate delivery of significantly wider benefits than the existing LGF project, whilst still delivering the journey time benefits stated within the LGF Business Case.
- Medway Council therefore wishes to request a two-year extension to the A289 LGF programme from the Government.
- Delivering one holistic scheme rather than progressing with sequential delivery programmes will reduce the period of disruption experienced by the local community.

9.2 KMEP Board Members discussed the proposal. Local Authority leaders commented that local communities dislike seeing new infrastructure constructed, only for it to be dug up again for more changes to be made after a short period of time. Sunny Ee clarified that, if the LGF scheme and HIF scheme were delivered sequentially and not concurrently, this would be required.

9.3 The KMEP Board therefore voted to endorse the proposal by Medway Council to seek an extension to the A289 LGF programme from the Government.

Item 10 - Sector Support Fund: Good Food Growth Campaign

- 10.1 Sarah Nurden explained that the SELEP Rural working group wishes to seek the endorsement of KMEP for its Good Food Growth Campaign. Jon Reagan sought clarification on how the bid linked to the existing work of Produced in Kent. Douglas Horner had also submitted a written request for the bid to link more to the local economic strengths, such as the soft fruit sector. As the bid writer was not in the room to answer the question or amend the bid, it was agreed that the matter be deferred to the next KMEP meeting.

ITEM 3B

Date: 18 October 2018

Subject: Action Tracker and Progress Update

The table below provides a brief update on matters previously discussed by the Board, central government policy and consultation announcements, and give notices about forthcoming events.

Topic	Progress update
SELEP meeting	The next SELEP Strategic Board meeting will take place on 25 October at 10am at High House Production Park.
Highways England Engagement	Lower Thames Crossing Project Director Tim Jones will come and present at the KMEP meeting on Monday 26 November 2018. In addition, Peter Radford or Deborah Lawrence from Highways England will attend to represent the wider Kent Corridor Coordination work.
MP meeting	MPs' offices were canvassed over summer for a date when the local MPs could attend a KMEP Business Summit. The majority indicated they could attend on 26 October. However, as the date drew closer, the numbers of MPs now able to attend on this date has reduced to 3. With the limited representation by the MPs, the KMEP Chairman has decided it would be prudent to cancel the summit on Friday 26 October.
Recent government announcements that could be of interest include:	<p>Transport Secretary gives seal of approval to £140m Liverpool Lime Street upgrade (15 Oct) https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-gives-seal-of-approval-to-multi-million-pound-liverpool-lime-street-upgrade</p> <p>Climate experts will advise the government on whether the UK should set a date for a net zero emissions target (15 Oct) https://www.gov.uk/government/news/climate-experts-asked-for-advice-on-net-zero-target</p> <p>Majority of new-build houses to be sold as freehold and new leases to be capped at just £10 (14 Oct) https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-secretary-signals-end-to-unfair-leasehold-practices</p> <p>£30 million commitment to help farmers boost productivity (12 Oct) https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-commitment-to-help-farmers-boost-productivity</p> <p>Department for Transport publishes (Brexit) no deal planning information (12 Oct) https://www.gov.uk/government/news/department-for-transport-publishes-no-deal-planning-information</p>

Public asked for views on the digital economy (12 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-asked-for-views-on-the-digital-economy>

FE providers benefit from scheme to boost teaching workforce (12 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fe-providers-benefit-from-scheme-to-boost-teaching-workforce>

Booming business in Culham (Oxfordshire) means expansion for Science Centre (11 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/booming-business-in-culham-means-expansion-for-science-centre>

Rail Review (11 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/rail-review>

Signs of the future: new technology testbed on the A2 and M2 in Kent (11 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/signs-of-the-future-new-technology-testbed-on-the-a2-and-m2-in-kent>

HS2 launches public consultations on plans to extend the railway north (11 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hs2-launches-public-consultations-on-plans-to-extend-the-railway-north>

PM launches series of measures to tackle barriers facing ethnic minorities in the workplace (11 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-series-of-measures-to-tackle-barriers-facing-ethnic-minorities-in-the-workplace>

James Brokenshire launches £20m fund to help homeless into private rented homes (10 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-launches-20m-fund-to-help-homeless-into-private-rented-homes>

Andy Haldane, Chief Economist of the Bank of England, has been appointed as the Chair of the Industrial Strategy Council (8 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chair-of-new-industrial-strategy-council-appointed>

UK Space Agency backs campaign to inspire girls (8 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-space-agency-backs-campaign-to-inspire-girls--2>

Northern Powerhouse minister Jake Berry has unveiled the first brand new trains set to transform journeys across the north, as part of a £500 million investment for Northern Rail passengers (5 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-new-trains-in-500-million-northern-investment-unveiled-by-northern-powerhouse-minister>

£10 million Industrial Strategy funding has been awarded to a new creative industries centre (in Surrey), which will build UK skills in immersive tech (4 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-centre-for-immersive-storytelling-will-help-uk-industry-excel>

Ending late payments to small businesses (4 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ending-late-payments-to-small-businesses>

Government announces new generation of council housing: Borrowing restrictions removed to enable councils to deliver new homes. (3 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-new-generation-of-council-housing>

New measures to support homebuyers, build more homes, improve building

safety and create a Commonwealth Games legacy (1 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-new-housing-measures>

£5m Youth Performance Partnerships to boost performing arts: Five Youth Performance Partnerships will be created to bring arts organisations and schools together (1 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5m-youth-performance-partnerships-to-boost-performing-arts>

Package of measures unveiled to boost apprenticeships (1 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/package-of-measures-unveiled-to-boost-apprenticeships>

Government support to boost skills and prosperity (1 Oct)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-support-to-boost-skills-and-prosperity>

PM announces ten cities shortlisted for major transport funding across England: The shortlist of ten city regions marks the next stage of the £1.7 billion Transforming Cities Fund (27 Sept)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-ten-cities-shortlisted-for-major-transport-funding-across-england>

UK businesses can get a grant to work with a university or research organisation and highly-qualified graduate on a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (27 Sept)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/benefit-from-a-business-academic-partnership-apply-for-funding>

Commuters travelling through the Midlands are set to benefit from a new multi-million-pound route linking the M54 to the M6 (27 Sept)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-route-set-to-cut-commuter-journey-times>

UK energy statistics: statistical press release - September 2018
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-energy-statistics-statistical-press-release-september-2018>

Business leaders and academics join forces with government to make manufacturing 'smarter' (27 Sept)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/leading-business-leaders-and-academics-join-forces-with-government-to-make-manufacturing-smarter>

Gove calls for 30 per cent of world's oceans to be protected by 2030 (24 Sept)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gove-calls-for-30-per-cent-of-worlds-oceans-to-be-protected-by-2030>

Marking 12 months of the new Tonbridge to Pembury bypass (24 Sept)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/marking-12-months-of-the-new-tonbridge-to-pembury-bypass>

ITEM 4

Date: 18 October 2018

Subject: Good Food Growth Campaign

Report author: On behalf of the SELEP Rural Sector Working Group

Summary & Background

Each year, the South East LEP invites SELEP working groups to bid for a share of the SELEP Sector Support Fund (SSF). A criterion for SSF bids is that the proposal is endorsed by one of SELEP's federated boards.

This paper describes a bid that is seeking KMEP's endorsement.

1. Introduction & background information

- 1.1 Each year, SELEP invites its working groups to bid for a share of the SELEP Sector Support Fund (SSF). The SELEP working groups are:
- Business Support (Growth Hub)
 - Coastal Communities
 - Enterprise Zones
 - Housing
 - Rural
 - Skills Advisory Group
 - Social Enterprise
 - South East Creative Economy Network
 - Tourism
 - U9 (University working group)
- 1.2 The SELEP Sector Support Fund provides revenue funding. The total amount available per year is usually set at £500k, however, £629k is available in 18/19 (because the SELEP Strategic Board has decided to roll over the underspend from 17/18 into 18/19).
- 1.3 SELEP has set the following criteria for the Sector Support Fund:
- The project is pan-LEP in scope
 - The project will drive forward economic growth
 - The project is consistent with Strategic Economic Plan priorities
 - The project has at least 30% match-funding
 - The project provides value for money

- The project meets legal requirements
- The project has the support of at least one federated board
- The project value is between £5k and £200k?
- The project requires one-off spend and time-limited (Business as usual projects will not be funded using this money).

2. Projects that have been allocated Sector Support Funding

2.1 To date, the SELEP Strategic Board has allocated Sector Support Funding to these projects:

Financial year	Project	Project Description	Promoter	Amount of SSF allocated
17/18	Cultural Coasting	Culture Coasting is an immersive visitor experience driven by world class art.	Tourism & SECEN working groups	£50k per year for 3 years (£150k in total)
17/18	Gourmet Garden Trails <i>(Project renamed from Colours and Flavours).</i>	This project sees the creation of a bespoke online and mobile planning tool and service that will give a unique database of beautiful gardens, high quality boutique hotels and B&Bs, and food and drink venues and experiences.	Tourism working group	£60k for one year
17/18	North Kent Enterprise Zone – Rochester Airport	This funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cost of commissioning expert consultancy support to progress the Local Development Order for the NKEZ Rochester Airport Technology Park • an added-value package to increase the impact of the NKEZ marketing activity, and • the evaluation of the NKEZ. 	Enterprise Zone working group	£161k
18/19	Future Proof: Accelerating Delivery of High-Quality Development across the LEP	Using case study development sites in Dover (Connaught Barracks) and Thanet (Haine Road), the intention is to develop a new financial product which can be applied to other development sites across SELEP in order to help accelerate the delivery of residential development and overcome barriers to the delivery of new homes.	Housing and Development working group	£110k

18/19	Kent Medical Campus Enterprise Zone	The SSF grant will contribute towards covering the cost of anticipated total design stage costs of £260,000 for the development of an Innovation Centre on Kent Medical Campus Enterprise Zone.	Enterprise Zone working group	£156k
18/19	Planning and prioritising future skills, training and business support	SSF will fund a comprehensive skills evaluation to formulate recommendations for targeting future skills delivery across each Federated Area, setting out priorities for the main rural sectors: a) Agriculture b) Food and drink -production and manufacture c) Horticulture production – vegetable crops, fruit and viticulture	Rural working group	£96k
TOTAL allocated to date (since SSF established in June 2017)				£733k

3. The Good Food Growth Campaign

3.1 A further project is seeking funding.

3.2 SELEP's Rural working group is requesting £60,400 of Sector Support Fund grant for its 'Good Food Growth Campaign'. This project will support growers, processors, retailers, food businesses and new entrants through three main activities:

- **Supporting supply chain development** – The SELEP rural group proposes that a series of three 'Meet the Buyer' business-to-business events are held. These 'Meet the Buyer' events will provide details to rural businesses on how they can improve their chances of success when they are bidding for contracts. At these events, the local businesses can hear from buyers about their procurement processes and what they want from suppliers. Furthermore they will be able to find out about the latest procurement news and trends, and gain information on any support available from organisations such as Produced in Kent.
- **Networking** - Four food and drink conferences will be delivered (three county-based followed by an over-arching LEP wide conference). These will include key speakers focussing on business development, start-ups, branding, product development, new markets, accessing buyers/suppliers, etc. Business to business networking, access to food champions, and opportunities for producers/retailers to exhibit will be integral elements. LEP-wide conference will act as focal point to share knowledge, expertise and lesson learnt.
- **Strategic scoping study of agri-food related opportunities post Brexit** – The third strand will to be commission some consultancy work to set out emerging rural priorities as a result of the Brexit transition period. The work is to result in headline recommendations

to ensure SELEP's rural strategy provides clear strategic direction, especially for food productivity and the associated supply chain network, and by identifying impactful areas for future SELEP investment.

- 3.3 This project was presented to KMEP on 24 September for the federated board to endorse. Questions seeking further clarification were asked by the KMEP board members, and more information was requested regarding the project's ties to Produced in Kent.
- 3.4 Consequently, a verbal presentation will be given at KMEP on 18 October by Steph Durling (Manager of Produced in Kent) and Stuart Gibbons (representing the SELEP rural working group). After the presentation, there will be an opportunity for KMEP to ask any questions and seek clarification.
- 3.5 The KMEP board will then be asked if it wishes to endorse this bid. If KMEP gives its endorsement, the project will proceed (because the SELEP Strategic Board already gave its approval when it met on 28 September 2018, subject to KMEP endorsing the bid).

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The KMEP Board is asked to consider and endorse the Good Food Growth Campaign bid for Sector Support Funding.

ITEM 5

Date: 18 October 2018

Subject: LEP Review

Report author: Sarah Nurden, KMEP Strategic Programme Manager

Summary

The Government has asked LEPs and local stakeholders to come forward with a detailed implementation plan by 31 October 2018, describing how the LEP will implement the LEP Review's recommendations.

A presentation on the content of the implementation plan will be given by the SELEP Chairman (Chris Brodie) and the SELEP Managing Director (Adam Bryan) at the KMEP meeting on 18 October.

This paper lists the recommendations that the implementation plan must address.

Recommendations

KMEP Board Members are asked to give their views on the information that should be included in the implementation plan.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are a core component of the Government's plan for driving local economic growth. To strengthen the LEPs in preparation for their role in developing Local Industrial Strategies, the Government commenced a review of LEPs in August 2017.
- 1.2 In July 2018, the Government published their report '*Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnership*' (which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strengthened-local-enterprise-partnerships>)
- 1.3 This report sets out the conclusions of the Government's review. They include a series of Government commitments alongside several reforms to leadership, governance, accountability, and financial reporting that the Government will work with LEPs to implement before April 2019.
- 1.4 The immediate actions arising from the LEP Review were two-fold:
 - Firstly, the LEP and local stakeholders were asked to come forward with considered

proposals by the end of 28 September 2018 on geographies which best reflect the functional economic area.

- o Secondly, the LEP is asked to submit a detailed implementation plan to Government by 31 October 2018.

2. The LEP Geography Response

2.1 The geography proposal that SELEP sent to the Government on 28 September can be found in Appendix A.

3. The detailed implementation plan

3.1 The Government has provided a template ‘*implementation plan*’ for LEPs to complete. This template form lists eleven recommendations. For each recommendation, the LEP is asked to:

- a) **Outline how it will respond to the recommendation**
- b) **Indicate the key milestones to address the recommendation, and**
- c) **Indicate any risks or issues that may prevent the LEP from meeting the recommendation.**

3.2 The eleven recommendations are as follows:

#	Recommendation:	Information required in implementation plan (according to the Government):
1	We expect all Local Enterprise Partnerships will follow best practice within the sector and produce an annual delivery plan and end of year report.	<p>Within the implementation plan, the LEP should outline its plans to draft and publish an annual delivery plan by April 2019 and an end of year report at the end of the 2019-20 financial year.</p> <p>Government will work with LEPs to develop qualitative and quantitative measures to report against. As you develop your Local Industrial Strategy, Government expects the delivery plan and end of year report to be linked to the progress of your Local Industrial Strategy. The implementation response should provide a commitment to adopt and report against agreed key performance indicators.</p>
2	Government expects that each Local Enterprise Partnership consults widely and transparently with the business community before appointing a new Chair, and appoints a Deputy Chair.	<p>Within the implementation plan, you should outline your LEP’s draft proposed process for consultation of the business community before appointing a new Chair. LEPs should plan to have this process in place by 28 February 2019.</p>
3	In line with best practice in the private sector, Local Enterprise Partnerships will want to introduce defined term limits for Chairs and Deputy Chairs where these are not currently in place.	<p>Within the implementation plan, you should outline how your LEP plans to introduce defined term limits for Chairs and Deputy Chairs. LEPs should plan to have this process in place by 28 February 2019. LEPs should also plan to have a Deputy Chair in place by 28 February 2019.</p>

4	<p>Government's aspiration is that Local Enterprise Partnerships work towards strengthening the representation from the private sector, increasing representatives from the private sector so that they form at least two thirds of the board, to ensure that each Local Enterprise Partnership can truly be said to be business-led. In order to maintain focused board direction and input, Government will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to establish a maximum permanent board of 20 people, with the option to co-opt an additional five board members with specialist knowledge on a one-year basis.</p>	<p>LEPs must be accountable to their area and representative of the communities they serve. Therefore, within the implementation plan, your LEP should outline any changes you plan to make to the composition of the board to meet the review recommendations. As part of this you should outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how your LEP plans to increase the private sector board membership to 2/3 private sector. • how your LEP will ensure that the board does not exceed a maximum of 20 persons. • arrangements for co-opted members (if applicable). <p>You should outline how your LEP plans to achieve this board composition over time, for example, in phases. LEPs should plan to have implemented any changes needed to board composition by the end of the 2019-2020 financial year.</p>
5	<p>Government expects refreshed Local Enterprise Partnership boards to improve their gender balance and representation of those with protected characteristics. Our aim is for Local Enterprise Partnership boards to have equal representation of men and women by 2023. As a step towards achieving this, we will replicate the target set in the Hampton-Alexander Review for FTSE 350 boards; Local Enterprise Partnerships should aim for a minimum of a third women's representation on their boards by 2020.</p>	<p>Within the implementation plan, your LEP should outline how you will demonstrate the work that you will undertake to encourage board diversity, including enacting any changes in the National Assurance Framework. All LEPs should aspire to achieve gender balanced boards. The implementation plan should include detail on plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to ensure that at least one third of the LEP's appointed board members are women by the end of the 2019-2020 financial year. • Take action to ensure equal representation of men and women on boards by the end of the 2022- 2023 financial year.
6	<p>Local Enterprise Partnerships will need to provide a secretariat independent of local government to support the Chair and board in decision making.</p>	<p>Within the implementation plan, you should outline how your LEP plans to put in place arrangements to ensure that all board members, whether from a public, private or third sector organisation, can access impartial advice and support from the LEP as a collective enterprise. You should outline the timeframe in which your LEP expects to have this secretariat in place.</p>
7	<p>Government will support all Local Enterprise Partnerships to have a legal personality.</p>	<p>Within the implementation plan, you must outline your LEP's plans to adopt a legal personality. All LEPs should plan to adopt a legal personality by April 2019. Government will provide further advice to LEPs on incorporation.</p>

8	Local Enterprise Partnerships will want to identify a single Accountable Body within in each area that is responsible for all Local Enterprise Partnership funding.	Within the implementation plan, you must outline how your LEP plans to adopt a single Accountable Body within each area that is responsible for all Local Enterprise Partnership funding. You should outline the timeframes in which the LEP expects to have this arrangement in place. The plan should also include details about the transition of any funding arrangements. LEPs should have a single Accountable Body in place by Spring 2020 .
9	As legal entities, all Local Enterprise Partnerships will be required to hold an annual general meeting. We will set an expectation that these are open to the public and businesses to attend and properly promoted.	Within the implementation plan, your LEP must commit to hold an annual general meeting; open to the public to attend. Your LEP should hold its first/next public Annual General Meeting in the 2019-20 financial year . To ensure that all businesses in an area have equal access to their Local Enterprise Partnership, we will not permit any Local Enterprise Partnership to operate on a paid-membership basis.
10	We will expect all Local Enterprise Partnerships to set out exactly who is accountable for spending decisions, appointments, and overall governance locally.	Within the implementation plan, you should outline how your LEP plans to review the responsibilities of the Chair, Board, Director, and Accountable Body and discuss plans to outline these responsibilities in a revised Local Assurance Framework. These arrangements should be put in place for the 2019-20 financial year .
11	The Government will support Local Enterprise Partnerships to set out how they will ensure external scrutiny and expert oversight , including participating in relevant local authority scrutiny panel enquiries to ensure effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions.	Within the implementation plan, you should outline how your LEP plans to discuss and agree scrutiny and oversight processes with the LEP's Accountable Body Section 151 Officer. LEPs and S151 Officers should refer to forthcoming guidance from CIPFA on the role of the S151 Officer.

3.3 Finally, the Government is making some additional funding available to the LEPs (of up to £200k) to implement the recommendations. Each LEP is being asked to provide an itemisation of the additional costs they expect to incur. This itemisation needs to be submitted by 31 October 2018.

4. Recommendation

4.1 KMEP Board Members are asked to give their views on the information that should be included in the implementation plan, following a presentation that will be given by the SELEP Chairman (Chris Brodie) and the SELEP Managing Director (Adam Bryan).

ITEM 6

Date: 18 October 2018

Subject: Garden Communities Prospectus: Proposals seeking endorsement from KMEP and SELEP

Report authors:

- Sarah Nurden, KMEP Strategic Programme Manager
 - Jeremy Whittaker, Economic Regeneration Officer, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
 - Alan Best, Principal Planning Officer, Swale Borough Council
-

Summary:

The Government has invited bids for ambitious, locally supported, proposals for new garden communities at scale. In return for tailored assistance to help design and deliver the vision for these places, the Government expects local areas to deliver significant housing and economic growth. The expressions of interest from interested parties are due to be submitted onto the Government portal by 9 November 2018.

KMEP and SELEP have been approached by three district councils that would welcome a letter of support for their expression of interest. This paper provides high-level detail about the opportunity and about the schemes. More information will be presented at the KMEP meeting on 18 October.

Recommendation:

The KMEP Board is asked to formally support the submissions.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Government published the [Garden Communities Prospectus](#) on 15 August 2018, inviting local authorities and private sector partners to come forward and explain how the Government can assist in delivering the vision for new garden communities. Subject to meeting certain eligibility criteria, Expressions of Interest can be made up to the closing date of 9 November 2018.

2. Summary of the Prospectus

2.1 The prospectus aims to encourage bids for ambitious, locally supported, proposals for new garden communities at scale. In return for tailored assistance to help design and deliver the

vision for these places, the Government expects local areas to deliver significant housing and economic growth.

- 2.2 While the prospectus does not set out a single template for what a successful garden community might look like, there are assessment criteria which are summarised as follows:
- i. Scale: New Garden Towns of 10,000 or more homes or Garden Villages of between 1,500-10,000 new homes.
 - ii. Where a garden community is proposed to take the form of a transformational development to an existing settlement, it will have to meet the criteria set out in the prospectus and in addition, highlight the transformational outcomes for the settlement as a whole.
 - iii. Strategic Fit: Proposals should offer opportunities for significant long term housing and economic growth in a local area, and demonstrate how the garden community fits with the housing need for the housing market area. Priority will be given to proposals which respond to housing need in high demand areas.
 - iv. Locally-Led: Proposals should have the backing of local authorities including county councils in two tier areas, and have the support of Local Enterprise Partnerships. Proposals should set out how the local community is being engaged and involved.
 - v. Garden community qualities: Proposals should demonstrate that they are based on high quality place making, led by a clear vision and development principles.
 - vi. Deliverability and viability: Proposals should include credible initial consideration of delivery models and timescales; infrastructure requirements; opportunities to capture land value; access to finance and private sector investment.
 - vii. Delivery timescales and accelerated delivery: Proposals that offer a strong prospect of early delivery will be prioritised.
- 2.3 If successful the assistance that would be available from Government, includes a tailored package of support that includes resource funding, expert delivery advice from Homes England and cross-government brokerage to resolve barriers to delivery.

3. The involvement of KMEP and the SELEP

- 3.1 Some district councils in Kent are considering submitting an expression of interest to establish a garden community. These district councils have been in touch with SELEP and KMEP to request a letter of support to accompany their bid.
- 3.2 At the last SELEP Strategic Board, it was agreed that the SELEP Chairman would write a letter of support for each bid as long as the local federated board supported the proposal.
- 3.3 The purpose of this paper is to notify the KMEP board members that there are three proposals that KMEP is aware of seeking support. These proposals originate from:
 - a) Ashford Borough Council
 - b) Swale Borough Council
 - c) Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

4. Proposal from Ashford BC

- 1.5 Ashford Borough Council is looking to submit a bid around the Chilmington Green development, and would welcome a letter of support from KMEP and SELEP for this bid. Information will be presented at the board meeting on 18 October regarding this bid.

2 Proposal from Swale BC

- 2.1 Swale Borough Council is reviewing its 2017 Local Plan. In order to address the challenges of higher housing numbers and potential transport constraints, principally around the A2, the Council has begun a process to determine whether new garden communities may be part of its future development strategy moving forward. To assist this, the Council published a Garden Communities Prospectus in May 2018 to determine the appetite from the development industry to bring forward ambitious proposals.
- 2.2 In the Prospectus, the Council set out its own design principles with the expectation that all new schemes should meet their own infrastructure requirements as well as addressing garden community principles. As part of the bidding process four schemes were submitted totaling some 21,000 new homes, although the overall numbers required to support a potential future development scenario would not require all the schemes to be allocated. It is however likely that moving forward on such a development scenario a number of the sites would support Swale's future growth over several successive plan periods.
- 2.3 The Council is currently assessing the submissions and a decision will be taken on whether to move forward with new communities as a principle in January 2019. In the meantime the Council's bid is likely to be around support for its process in the first instance, seeking specialised officer input, with a second stage likely to involve more specialised skills and support as the Council moves forward in selecting schemes as part of the Local Plan process. Swale Borough Council has asked KMEP to give its broad support for this process and bid.
- 2.4 Emma Wiggins of Swale Borough Council will provide a short presentation on the bid to KMEP on 18 October 2018.

3 Proposal from Tonbridge & Malling BC - Borough Green Gardens Local Plan Strategic Site (Policy LP27)

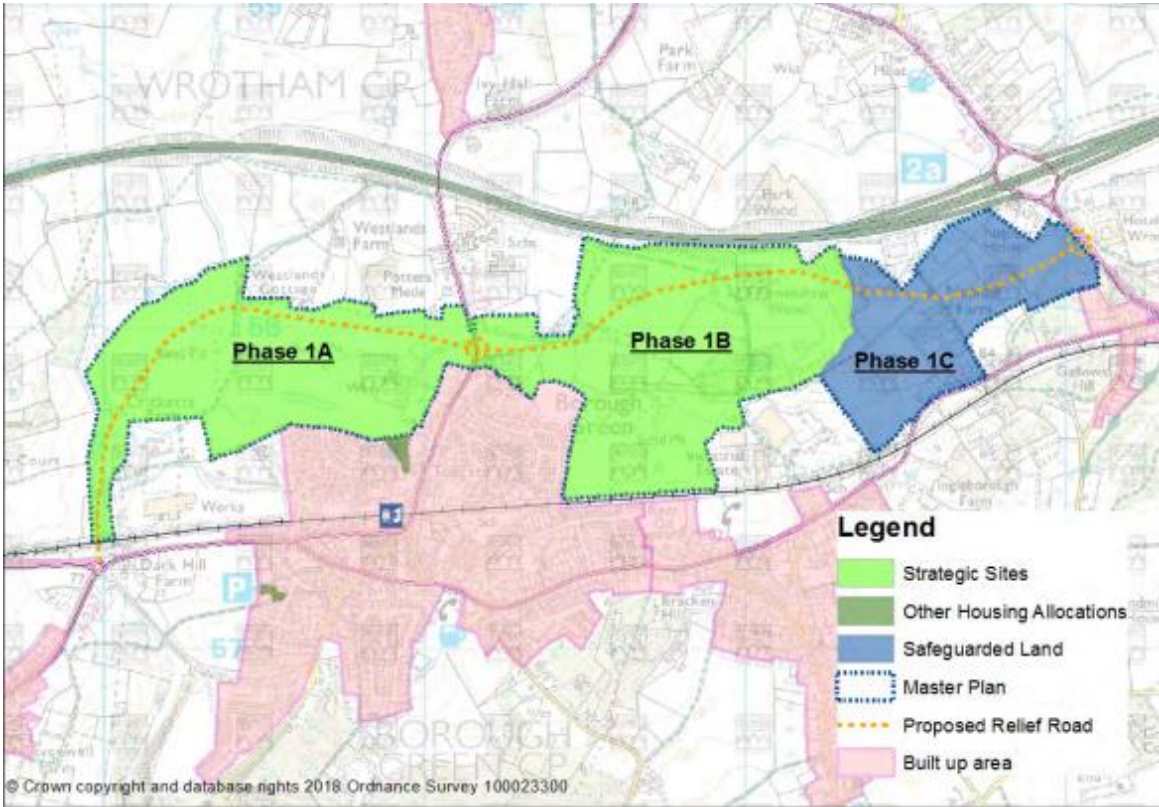
- 3.1 The proposed strategic development site at Borough Green is an allocation in the emerging Local Plan which could provide up to 3000 dwellings. The site meets many of the eligibility criteria for making a bid for assistance. It is important to acknowledge that the deliverability of the site is not dependant on a successful bid, but tailored assistance towards masterplanning and ensuring the early delivery of the relief road would be welcomed.
- 3.2 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is currently undertaking regulation 19 consultation on its draft Local Plan, and expects to submit this to the Planning Inspectorate in the New Year. The Local Plan sets out a number of strategic sites, the largest of which is an extension to Borough Green, which is located within the Sevenoaks/Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells Housing Market Area. The 150 hectare site is located within the Green Belt, the majority of which comprises either operational or exhausted mineral quarries and is therefore brownfield land.

- 3.3 The site is allocated for a mixed-use development comprising 3,000 homes, a relief road for the existing settlement, 2 hectares of employment land, 2 primary schools, community and neighbourhood hubs, local shops, publicly accessible open space, healthcare provision and good connectivity to the adjacent existing settlement. As the Borough Green Gardens name suggests, the site has been promoted on garden city principles.
- 3.4 As illustrated in Appendix 1, the site is phased with 1,720 homes expected to be delivered over the Local Plan period (up to 2031) with the remainder being delivered by 2038. The 1,720 homes represents over a quarter of the total supply from the housing allocations in the Local Plan, and it is the only site within the plan that is of sufficient scale to meet the Garden Communities criteria.
- 3.5 Although the Borough Green Gardens strategic site included in the Local Plan can be delivered without any additional assistance, the importance of the early delivery of the relief road and other important infrastructure has been emphasised throughout the plan-making process. Much of the work necessary for making an Expression of Interest has been prepared as part of the Local Plan process. Early discussions with the promoters of the site and Kent County Council suggest that there would be support for making a submission.
- 3.6 If a bid were to be successful, the funding and technical assistance that the Government could provide in facilitating the early delivery of infrastructure and progression of detailed masterplanning would be welcomed.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 The KMEP Board is asked to formally support the submission of a Garden Communities Expression of Interest from:
- a) Ashford Borough Council
 - b) Swale Borough Council
 - c) Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
- 7.2 If endorsement is given, the KMEP Chairman will write a letter of support on behalf of the board.

Appendix 1 (Relates to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council proposal):



**FOR INFORMATION ONLY PAPERS
KMEP 18th October 2018**

FOR INFORMATION ITEM A

Subject: Future Meeting Dates for KMEP and SELEP

KMEP Board Meeting Dates

The next Kent & Medway Economic Partnership meeting date is:

- Mon 26 November 2018
- Mon 28 January 2019
- Mon 25 March 2019

The meeting will be held at the Village Hotel, Maidstone, and start at 5pm and finish at 7pm.

SELEP Strategic Board Meeting Dates

The SELEP Strategic Board meeting dates are:

- Thursday 25 October 2018
- Friday 7 December 2018
- Friday 22 March 2019
- Friday 28 June 2019
- Friday 4 October 2019
- Friday 6 December 2019
- Friday 20 March 2020

All meetings will be held at High House Production Park and start at 10am.

SELEP Accountability Board Meeting Dates

The future SELEP Accountable Board meeting dates are:

- Friday 16 November 2018
- Friday 15 February 2019

All meetings will be held at High House Production Park and start at 10am.