



#### Attendees

<b>AB</b>	Adam Bryan	South East LEP	<b>JW</b>	Jon Wheeler	East Sussex CC
<b>AC</b>	Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce	<b>KG</b>	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
<b>ASh</b>	Cllr Alan Shuttleworth	Eastbourne BC	<b>LR</b>	Lisa Rawlinson	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
<b>ASm</b>	Cllr Andy Smith	Lewes DC	<b>ME</b>	Martin Ellis	Recruitment South East
<b>CM</b>	Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother DC	<b>MS</b>	Martin Searle	FSB
<b>CS</b>	Clive Soper	FSB	<b>PC</b>	Cllr Peter Chowney	Hastings BC
<b>DE</b>	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	<b>PJ</b>	Philip Johnson	Locate East Sussex
<b>GP</b>	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	<b>RD</b>	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
<b>IF</b>	Ian Fitzpatrick	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC	<b>RS</b>	Cllr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
<b>IG</b>	Isabel Garden	Wealden DC	<b>SD</b>	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
<b>IM</b>	Iain McNab	BEIS	<b>SH</b>	Simon Hubbard	Hastings BC
<b>IN</b>	Ian Noble	ACES	<b>TL</b>	Tony Leonard	Rother DC
<b>JH</b>	James Harris	East Sussex CC			

#### Apologies

<b>BS</b>	Cllr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	<b>DT</b>	Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC
<b>CC</b>	Clive Cooke	East Sussex College Group	<b>NH</b>	Nigel Hannam	Wealden DC
<b>CE</b>	Christina Ewbank	ACES	<b>PS</b>	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
<b>DG</b>	Derek Godfrey	Ellis Builders	<b>SB</b>	Sue Baxter	University of Brighton
<b>DS</b>	David Sheppard	D-RisQ Ltd			

*All of the papers and any presentations delivered at the meeting can be viewed on the following page of the ESCC website: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/eastsussex/selep/tesminutes/tes180924](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/eastsussex/selep/tesminutes/tes180924)*

## **1. Welcome & introductions**

- 1.1. **GP** welcomed the attendees and delivered the apologies; introductions were made by the new attendees.
- 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. **GP** read a note sent ahead of the meeting from **DG** reiterating an interest in the Fisherman's Quay project at agenda item 5. No further interests were declared.

## **2. Review of previous minutes (25 Jun 2018)**

- 2.1. **GP** ran through the actions of the previous TES minutes noting that all had been completed.
- 2.2. The minutes were approved by the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **3. LEP Review**

- 3.1. **AB** updated the group on the current situation regarding the LEP Review. Following publication of the government's *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships* document in Jul 2018, all LEPs are required to respond on two points – firstly on the question of geography by 28 Sep and then secondly on the wider transition plans covering all of the proposed changes by 31 Oct 2018. SELEP is now preparing appropriate responses.
- 3.2. The key message from SELEP is that we want **no change to our geography**, and that will be the essence of the first response, to be agreed by the SELEP Strategic Board and submitted this Friday. As established at previous TES meetings, the TES Board is happy with the current geography of SELEP and continues to advocate maintaining the status-quo with the boundaries unchanged.

**[Action: TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board on 28 Sep 2018 to support the first response to the LEP Review on maintaining the current geography with the boundaries unchanged]**

- 3.3. Some of the issues highlighted in the Review will need further discussion ahead of SELEP's second response. Points to be debated include:
  - **Overlaps** – SELEP is very clear that it wishes to retain Lewes DC, which currently straddles the border with C2C LEP; however Lewes, and in particular Newhaven, has benefitted greatly from the relationship with C2C so the idea of drawing them wholly into SELEP is not so clear cut. More discussion with both Lewes DC and C2C LEP is necessary.

- *Incorporation* – this may be something of a red line for Government and so SELEP is currently investigating the options around adopting a different legal personality (possibly looking towards forming a Community Interest Company) but, crucially, in a way that retains the federated model. **KG** commented that the pushback on incorporation is Value for Money.
- *Composition* – TES agreed that the proposals around LEP boards being limited to 20 members and being ‘two-thirds business’ are both entirely inappropriate for SELEP. **RS** commented that the demand of Government on business is too great, with business members already offering a great deal of their time on a purely voluntary basis, time that will become even more precious as we move forward through Brexit. Furthermore, with SELEP covering such a large area, reducing the number of board members would inevitably lead to some areas being underrepresented – most likely Borough and District partners – which is simply not acceptable.

3.4. Consultation with federated boards will continue over the next few weeks ahead of an extraordinary SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 25 Oct 2018 to discuss the technicalities of the second (and final) submission to Government; as such an additional TES meeting is being arranged for 19 Sep 2018.

#### 4. TES & SELEP membership

- 4.1. **DE** ran through the recent TES business member recruitment exercise conducted through the summer, a fully open and competitive process that resulted in the appointment of two new members, **AC** and **DS**, along with the reappointment of the seven existing business members. **DE** also confirmed that **GP** had been reappointed to the role of TES Chair, again through an open process involving all of the business members, in line with the TES Terms of Reference.
- 4.2. **GP** led a discussion on the appointment of TES members to the SELEP Strategic Board (citing the responses received by **DE** to his electronic call asking members to put themselves forward if interested); **GP** proposed **KG**, **DT** and **PC** as the three public-sector members and **AC**, **CS** and **GP** as the three private-sector members for a period of one year – **the TES Board agreed to these appointments**.
- 4.3. **GP** went on to mention the various working groups that TES now wants its business members to be involved in, as per the TES Terms of Reference, including the SELEP working groups and all of the TES subgroups. **GP** asked the business members to give this further consideration, to be addressed outside of this meeting, most likely at the next scheduled TES workshop on 29 Oct 2018.

*[Action: TES business members to consider which SELEP working groups and TES subgroups they would wish to be involved in, for further discussion at the TES workshop on 29 Oct 2018]*

- 4.4. **GP** also raised the subject of appointing a Business Vice Chair to TES, and asked the group to consider whether the ‘optional’ role is necessary. He suggested the decision ought to be delegated to the business members of TES, for discussion/decision at their next Business-Reps meeting – **the TES Board agreed to this proposal**.

*[Action: TES Business members to consider whether the optional role of TES Vice Chair should be instigated, for further discussion/decision at the next Business-Reps meeting]*

#### 5. Funding applications: expressions of interest

- 5.1. **JW** provided an update on **Local Growth Fund Round 3B**, for which East Sussex received 21 Expressions of Interest by the submission deadline of 20 Aug 2018. ESCC assessed all 21 EOIs in conjunction with ‘Steer’, the SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator, and banded them based on Steer’s guidance. Steer advised that only those projects banded as Strong or Good should be recommended to proceed to Stage 2 – **the outcome of the Stage 1 evaluation resulted in 10 East Sussex projects demonstrating suitability to go forward for Stage 2 assessment, with a total LGF ask of £13.27m**. Those 10 project promoters will be supported by ESCC to submit a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for Stage 2 assessment by 26 Oct 2018. Submitted SOBCs will then be evaluated by the ITE by 16 Nov 2018 and presented to the SELEP Investment Panel for consideration and prioritisation at its meeting on 7 Dec 2018.
- 5.2. **TES discussed the full list of projects and approved the recommended 10 projects go forward to the next stage**.

- 5.3. **JW** confirmed that the 11 projects not proceeding any further will be contacted directly by ESCC colleagues and given feedback, as there may still be the potential to include them in our own long-term project pipeline.
- 5.4. **RD** commented that a proposal is supposedly being tabled at a meeting of the Kent & Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) to “support existing LGF projects ahead of the newly submitted ones”, and so it’s possible that this may be suggested by Kent members during this week’s SELEP Strategic Board meeting. TES members agreed that such a proposal is contrary to the government’s recommendations on ‘open and transparent’ funding calls and would be of no benefit to East Sussex.
- [Action: TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board on 28 Sep 2018 to make the case against any proposal to “support existing LGF projects ahead of the newly submitted ones”, if such a proposal is made]*
- 5.5. **RD** provided an update on the **SELEP Sector Support Fund (SSF)**, revenue funding to support the pan-LEP sector based activities of SELEP’s working groups. Each project proposal requires the support of a federated board; of the four submissions currently seeking support, TES has been asked to consider the *Skills for Rural Industries* project led by Plumpton College on behalf of SELEP’s Rural working group. **The TES Board agreed to endorse the Plumpton College SSF submission.**
- 5.6. **MS** commented that most of the bids appear to have a rural focus at the moment so it would be good to see bids involving the coastal communities and the visitor economy. **RD** confirmed that such bids are very much expected.

## 6. Other recent developments

- 6.1. **IG** provided a brief update on the **Wealden Local Plan**, noting that the proposed draft was approved by Full Council on 18 Jul 2018, after which it progressed to the ‘representations’ stage (structured consultation) which will run until 5pm Mon 8 Oct 2018. Anyone can make representations, and guidance on how to submit a comment is given on the Wealden DC website.
- 6.2. The Plan proposes a total of 14,228 dwellings over the plan period of 2013-28; as the numbers are backdated, 7,700 have already been built (or have planning permission etc.) which leaves 6,500 as new permissions. This equates to a housing need of 950 per annum. Development is focussed in the south of the district but also allows for a wider spread than previously to include northern and smaller settlements for more distributed growth. In terms of nitrogen deposition, which the traffic and air quality modelling and ecological analysis identified as having a detrimental impact on the three protected sites, the Plan sets out a package of mitigation measures to include a ‘tariff’ that developers will need to pay. Natural England will be commenting and providing advice on the Plan by 8 Oct 2018, in particular on the Habitats Regulations Assessment. In the meantime WDC has started to process planning applications which have been held due to the Ashdown Forest issues (any approvals are subject to Natural England advice).
- 6.3. Following the representations stage, the next step is submission to the Secretary of State for examination in Dec 2018, then examination in public by the Planning Inspector during 2019.
- 6.4. **CS** queried whether an Executive Summary of the Plan is available; **IG** confirmed that no such summary has been written so agreed to look into whether one could be produced.
- [Action: IG to look into whether an Executive Summary of the Wealden Local Plan can be produced]*
- 6.5. **IG** went on to provide an update on the **Housing Infrastructure Fund** bid for various interventions in the Wealden area (including a new primary school in Hailsham, transport improvements including additional junction capacity in South Wealden, and strategies to mitigate nitrogen deposition on the Ashdown Forest). ESCC and Wealden DC are working with consultants to build an economic case for the bid, which now has the capacity to be increased as the overall funding pot has expanded from £2.1bn to £5bn. As such additional transport infrastructure measures will be incorporated into the increased bid. The full business case will be submitted in Mar 2019.

## 7. SELEP Strategic Board meeting (28 Sep 2018)

- 7.1. **AB** quickly ran through some of the other items (not already covered above) going to this week’s SELEP Strategic Board meeting, including:

- *Garden Communities* – a progress update on the development of Ebbsfleet Garden City; SELEP plans to hear from other garden communities from across the LEP to understand what they do and how we can get involved.
- *Strategic Economic Plan* – this is now being driven forward by Ross Gill of SQW. Further consultation sessions with federated boards have taken place through the summer, with Ross Gill leading a TES Engagement Workshop on 20 Sep 2018. SELEP aims to take the final draft SEP to the additional Strategic Board meeting on 25 Oct 2018 for sign-off. **RD** queried the link to Local Industrial Strategies, specifically whether it is SELEP's intention to produce a single pan-LEP Strategy or ask each federated area to create their own, as local areas do not have the resources to produce such a strategy; **AB** stated that SELEP will certainly play a role but at the moment it's unclear what that role will be.
- *Tri-LEP Energy Strategy* – a progress update on the development of the 'South2East Local Energy Strategy & Action Plan'. Jo Simmons has engaged with local federated boards, including TES, and all have provided strong feedback; substantial progress has now been made to develop a more rounded Strategy that has application across the whole tri-LEP geography. The intention is to circulate a draft Strategy in Oct 2018 for consultation, with a view to seeking endorsement from all three LEP Strategic Boards by Jan 2019.
- *Housing* – an update to refresh the Strategic Board on housing activity across the SELEP region, particularly through the Housing & Development Working Group and the Developer groups in the federated areas, including Developers East Sussex (DES).

7.2. **AB** added that the next meeting In Dec 2018 is likely to include the Secretariat's working plan for 2019/20, a further conversation on Garden Communities, Sector Support Fund projects, a mop-up of the LEP Review, any new requirements on governance, and the Energy Strategy sign-off.

## 8. Additional updates & stakeholder reports

8.1. **KG** raised a query on High Speed Rail, asking whether we ought to start thinking about a funding bid for investing in infrastructure; **JW** confirmed that ESCC colleagues will look to put a strategy together over the next year.

8.2. **SD** highlighted the Culture East Sussex report, specifically a bid to the Cultural Development Fund for a proposal, led by Hastings BC and with much support from ESCC, focussing on growing the roles of our Coastal Cultural Trail venues along with a series of pipeline workspace projects across the county. **SD** asked if TES would be willing to provide a letter of support for the bid, **which the TES Board agreed to**.

*[Action: SD to liaise with GP and DE on providing a letter of support for the Cultural Development Fund bid]*

8.3. **SD** also remarked on the EU funding report, commenting on the difficulties in trying to get ERDF/ESF funding even with the support of officers, and made a plea for greater support on the process if possible. **JH** responded that *Jo Simmons* is definitely the person to liaise with as the SELEP Technical Facilitator for European Regional Development Funding.

8.4. **JH** advised that the Newhaven Port Access Road obtained DfT approval a few weeks ago, so construction is now likely to start in Oct 2018.

## 9. TES round table / AOB

9.1. **TL** suggested that, when we eventually get any meaningful information from Government on the subject, it might be a good idea to review and discuss Brexit at a future TES meeting or workshop.

9.2. **GP** confirmed that an additional TES meeting will be arranged for 19 Oct 2018 in order to review SELEP's final response to the LEP Review; the next 'scheduled' TES meeting is a workshop on 29 Oct, so please also keep this diarised for the moment.

## Summary of actions:

3.2 *TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board on 28 Sep 2018 to support the first response to the LEP Review on maintaining the current geography with the boundaries unchanged.*

- 4.3 *TES business members to consider which SELEP working groups and TES subgroups they would wish to be involved in, for further discussion at the TES workshop on 29 Oct 2018.*
- 4.4 *TES Business members to consider whether the optional role of TES Vice Chair should be instigated, for further discussion/decision at the next Business-Reps meeting.*
- 5.4 *TES members attending the SELEP Strategic Board on 28 Sep 2018 to make the case against any proposal to “support existing LGF projects ahead of the newly submitted ones”, if such a proposal is made.*
- 6.4 ***IG** to look into whether an Executive Summary of the Wealden Local Plan can be produced.*
- 8.2 ***SD** to liaise with **GP** and **DE** on providing a letter of support for the Cultural Development Fund bid.*