



Letter from South East LEP Chair Christian Brodie:

Welcome to the South East LEP's fortnightly news bulletin, created to keep you up to date with what we have been doing to help the Government deliver on its growth agenda and support our businesses and communities across **East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock**. We will be sharing updates of the hard work and great things happening across the region to enable you to pass on the key growth messages for your area when speaking with your constituents and others.

Medway wins £170m from HIF

MHCLG has awarded Medway Council £170m for major infrastructure developments on the Hoo Peninsula from its £5.5bn Housing Infrastructure Fund.

Medway Council's winning bid, which was supported by the South East LEP, focused on significantly improving road and rail connections in and around the peninsula to ensure that the necessary infrastructure could be put in place before preparing plans to develop 10,600 homes on the Hoo Peninsula.



Around £85.7m of the funds will be used to make vital road improvements to Medway's roads, including the A228 and A289 as well as a new relief road to ease congestion, while £14.35m will be used to provide investment to country parks on the peninsula to benefit local wildlife.

£38.1m for key junction in Swale

A further £38.1m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund has been given to Kent County Council for key transport improvements for the A2/A249 junction in the Swale Borough to support long-term housing delivery for thousands of planned new homes.

Up to £175m economic boost for towns

Seven towns in the South East LEP area have been given the chance to bid for up to £25m each from the £3.6bn Towns Fund pot. **Colchester, Grays, Harlow, Hastings, Margate, Newhaven and Tilbury** have been named in the list of 101



Colchester, Essex © Jerzy Kociatkiewicz

towns that could benefit if they make strong bids that will create jobs, support local business and diversify their economies.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is using the fund to unlock economic growth in towns. The chosen areas have been granted capacity funding to support their Town Deal proposals and the South East LEP will play a key role by sitting on the Town Deal boards that must be created.

READ MORE: southeastlep.com/up-to-175-million-economic-boost-for-struggling-towns-in-the-south-east



New Skills Panel created to drive change for employers

A newly created employer-led panel of notable representatives from the South East will pool their knowledge and expertise on skills and labour market needs to help plan for future skills and deliver results with employers at the forefront.

The South East LEP launched its Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) to strengthen the link between public and private sector employers, local authorities, colleges, providers, universities and the voluntary sector, headed up by Chair Colette Bailey.

Bailey, a SELEP board member, is the CEO and Artistic Director of Metal, an organisation that transforms buildings of historic significance from empty or derelict spaces into vibrant cultural community hubs. Other business members joining the drive include representatives from **Stansted Airport, DP World, EDF, Berry Gardens, Morgan Sindall, HSBC, Hilton Group, Screen South and Social Enterprise Kent**.

FIND OUT MORE:

southeastlep.com/our-delivery/skills-advisory-panel

DSP Steering Group sets out key priorities



The South East LEP's Digital Skills Partnership held its first Steering Group meeting at STEM Learning in London to identify and set out the five key priorities for the Local Digital Skills Partnership.

Joint chairs Alison Parmar, Development Manager at the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), and Melissa Hanna-Brown, Technology and Innovation Lead at Pfizer, were joined by Louise Aitken, South East LEP Skills Lead; James Wilkinson, DSP Coordinator; Poulomi Solanki, Policy Adviser for Digital Skills and Inclusion at DCMS; and partners from Google and Huawei, college and university representatives, businesses, the voluntary sector and organisations such as The Prince's Trust.

The LDSP's five priorities comprise:

- Residents at risk of/experiencing digital (and social) exclusion
- Support to schools to ensure students leave with the digital skills required for the world of work
- Ensuring alignment of local educational offer and industry need
- Support to SMEs to ensure staff are responsive to developing need and technologies
- Establishing a single, clear Digital Skills Prospectus for the region

READ MORE: southeastlep.com/selep-digital-skills-partnership-steering-group-holds-first-meeting-to-set-out-local-priorities



SELEP backs Stansted Meet the Buyers networking event

The South East LEP showed its support for the local economy by exhibiting at the Stansted Meet the Buyers event, which provided a forum for local businesses to present their services to more than 35 major first tier contractors who form part of London Stansted Airport's supply chains.

Zoe Gordon, Business Engagement and Communications Manager at the South East LEP, gave a presentation to attendees about the LEP, its current priorities and its ongoing support for the airport and surrounding area.

The LEP also arranged two major speakers for the forum. Andrea Collins, Managing Director of The Export Department, gave a talk on empowering SMEs to expand overseas that looked into export and international trade beyond Brexit.

David Manning, Tunnels Director at Highways England for Lower Thames Crossing, also gave a talk detailing the Lower Thames Crossing project, namely the development, consultation, timelines, and — particularly for the businesses present — highlighting upcoming procurement and supply chain opportunities.

Thames Estuary Envoy welcomed to spearhead growth

Kate Willard, Director of Partnership Development with Stobart Group, has been appointed as the new Estuary Envoy by Thurrock Council on behalf of all Estuary partners. In her new role, Willard will act as the Chair of the Thames Estuary Growth, which is set to receive £1m in government funding to drive economic growth plans in the area.

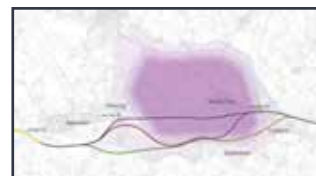


Kate Willard

"I am honoured and proud to have been appointed Chair and am much looking forward to starting this journey and to delivering and reporting on our successes," Willard said.

Public consultation opens for A12 widening project

Highways England has launched a consultation period for its A12 (Chelmsford to A120) widening project, lanes between junction 19 (Boreham interchange) and junction 25 (Marks Tey interchange).



The public consultation will cover four new possible routes between junctions 23 and 25. Highways England is holding eight public drop-in events in Chelmsford, Witham, Colchester and Hatfield Peverel across November to support the consultation. To find out more, head to southeastlep.com/have-your-say-on-a12-widening-project



THE SELEP AREA

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- SOUTH ESSEX
- KENT & MEDWAY
- EAST SUSSEX

Follow us and be part of the journey:

SMARTER, FASTER, TOGETHER

We have included links where you can find more details on some of these updates. If you have any queries or would like specific details, please get in touch:

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