



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.

SELEP and partners round off year with recruitment drive

The South East LEP and its Federated Boards have kicked off recruitment drives to bring on new Board Members and expertise,



with the LEP beginning its search for a new Deputy Chair for its Strategic Board, to sit alongside Chair Christian Brodie.

The Deputy Chair is a new role for the LEP's Strategic Board.

Once applications have closed for the position on the 5th January 2020, Brodie will sit on the Selection Panel alongside current Vice Chair George Kieffer; Board Member Angela O'Donoghue, who is Principal of South Essex College and will be representing Further Education; and Board Member Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council as representative for Local Authorities.

Federated Board Opportunity South Essex (OSE) is also on the hunt for a new Chair, Deputy Chair and Business Board Member, and the Kent & Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) is seeking to recruit new Board Members. The new members will form a refreshed Strategic Board for SELEP from March 2020.

FIND OUT MORE: southeastlep.com/opportunities/jobs

SELEP backs Kent and Medway's first medical school with £4m

The South East LEP has agreed to provide the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University with £4m of Local Growth Fund capital for the Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS), which is being delivered as a joint venture between the two universities.

The South East LEP Accountability Board made the decision at its latest meeting on the 15th November 2019, after the LEP's Investment Panel identified the project as a priority.

When complete, KMMS will be the first medical school in Kent and Medway, providing a centre in the region for medical education and research to develop the area's health workforce, and address the growing need for medical professionals in the area due to rapid housing and population growth.

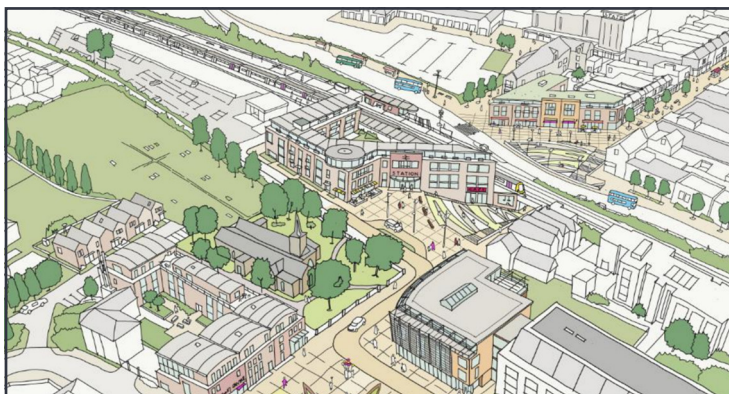
FIND OUT MORE: southeastlep.com/news



University of Kent building design



CCCU building design



£7.1m step forward for underpass to improve high street footfall

The South East LEP will provide £7.1m from the Local Growth Fund to the Grays South project, which forms part of Phase 2 of the Grays South Regeneration Area (GSRA) Scheme, designed to boost footfall in the town centre by addressing the issues caused to pedestrian flow in the town centre by the level crossing currently in place.

The railway line – which bisects the town of Grays and acts as a barrier to pedestrian movements between Grays South and the town centre to the north – has resulted in low pedestrian flow along the southern part of Grays High Street.

The GSRA Scheme has been designed to contribute towards generating additional footfall within the town centre as well as support the development of an evening economy. The LEP previously agreed to supply £3.7m from the LGF to support the capital development costs of the project.

FIND OUT MORE: southeastlep.com/news

New national call for RDPE Growth Programme

The Rural Payments Agency and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have launched the EAFRD Growth Programme National Reserve Fund to run a new round of national calls for Expressions of Interest.

The new calls will be in the three themes of **Business Development**, **Food Processing** and **Rural Tourism Infrastructure**. This is a £35m national fund to boost rural productivity and create local jobs. For this funding round of the Growth Programme, the threshold for minimum grants has come down from £35,000 to £20,000, meaning that more small or micro-businesses can be eligible for a grant for their projects. The deadline for all Expressions of Interest is Sunday 16th February 2020.



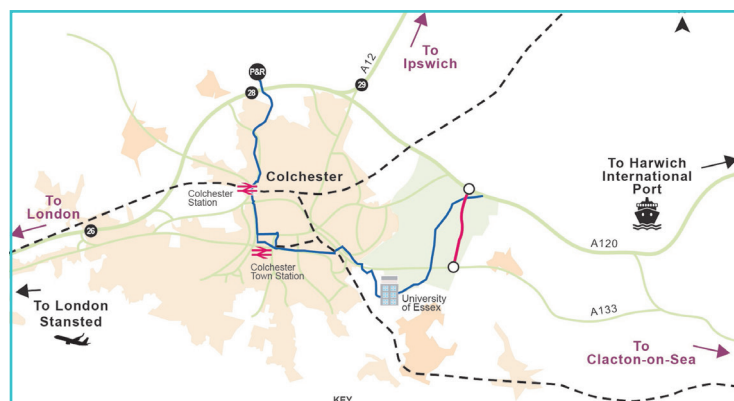
**Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs**



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

FIND OUT MORE:

southeastlep.com/opportunities/rdpe-growth-programme



Consultation opens for HIF plans to better connect Colchester

A new consultation has been launched on the options for the A120/A133 Link Road and Rapid Transit System (RTS) in Colchester, which received £99.9m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) in August as part of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community bid, which was backed by SELEP.

The project will deliver a new single carriageway link road and further infrastructure to unlock up to 7,500 homes in the east of Colchester. The infrastructure plans will make it easier for traffic to flow on to strategic roads such as the A120 and A12, therefore reducing the reliance on more local roads of drivers heading into Colchester from Tendring and easing congestion by diverting drivers who typically use Colchester as a thoroughfare.

The consultation – running until the 16th December 2019 – looks at high-level route alignment options for both the Link Road and RTS schemes ahead of more detailed design. Essex Highways is supporting the consultation with a series of public drop-in events across Essex, with technical specialists on hand to answer questions.

FIND OUT MORE: southeastlep.com/news



Google teams up with SELEP for Digital Garage events

The Digital Skills Partnership for SELEP has partnered with Google to hold seven Google Digital Garage events across the SELEP area, namely in **Basildon, Braintree, Ebbsfleet, Thurrock, Medway, the Isle of Sheppey** and **East Sussex College**.

The Google Digital Garage is one of Google's flagship investment programmes in the UK, where anyone can come and learn free digital skills through a range of courses or 1:1 sessions. Businesses and residents will have the opportunity to work with Google trainers to develop their digital skills. The events were initially announced by Michaela Neild, External Affairs Manager at Google UK, at the South East LEP's Digital Skills Partnership launch event earlier this year as part of the internet giant's support for the local partnership.

Topics covered during the workshops will include building a CV and cover letter; building a personal brand; writing for social media, including dealing with customer comments and complaints; and Google's own #IamRemarkable series, which encourages attendees to realise their own achievements in their lives and careers.

FIND OUT MORE: southeastlep.com/news



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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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