



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

NEWS BULLETIN

Your Local Enterprise Partnership, working for you



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.

Chris Brodie, Chair

New Lower Thames Crossing consultation launches

A new, eight-week consultation for the Lower Thames Crossing has launched. Running until the 25th March, this new round will give businesses and residents the opportunity to look at and provide their input on changes made to the design of the project before Highways England submits its Development Consent Order application later this year.



SELEP would encourage business leaders to have their say on the project. A number of events are being held across Kent and Essex in the coming weeks to provide a forum for local discussion on the environmental and community impacts of the project.

FIND OUT MORE:

highwaysengland.co.uk/lower-thames-crossing-consultation2020



Ready 2020 campaign to boost business resilience in the South

A new campaign has launched to help small and medium-sized businesses in the South East prepare for change, as the UK's departure from the European Union is confirmed.

SELEP has partnered with Greater London Authority and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership to launch **Ready 2020**, a collaborative effort designed to support smaller companies across the three LEP areas as they face a changing business environment.

Through its Growth Hub, South East Business Hub, SELEP will offer advice and support aimed to boost the resilience of SMEs, encouraging companies to think about how to manage the risks and pursue the opportunities they will encounter in the coming year.



READ MORE:

southeastlep.com/news



Colchester Institute opens LGF-backed state-of-the-art campus

Colchester Institute held the official opening of its new Braintree campus – which was backed by SELEP through a £5m contribution from the Local Growth Fund – following the completion of the final building, the Learning and Technology Centre.

Attendees were able to tour the new 1,800sq m facility, which complements the STEM Innovation Centre that opened on the campus in June 2017.

Minister for Local Growth, Rt Hon Jake Berry MP, said:

"We are committed to boosting economic growth across the whole of the UK and ensuring every community has the support and investment it needs to grow and flourish."

"This is a great project, supported by a £5m investment from the Local Growth Fund, will help up to 800 people get the skills they need to secure great jobs in the manufacturing, construction and health sectors over the next three years."

"Levelling up is about creating opportunity and boosting prosperity, and this project shows it in action."

READ MORE: southeastlep.com/news



SELEP Garden Communities receive almost £2m in funding

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) has welcomed the news that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) is investing £8m in Garden Communities across England, with **£1.86m going towards communities in the SELEP area to support 81,000 new homes.**

MHCLG is providing £6m nationally to help new locally led garden towns and villages progress plans to deliver 211,500 new homes, while a further £1.9m will be given to councils in England to support new neighbourhood plans, allowing communities to have a say on the types of homes built.

In the SELEP area, 'Harlow & Gilston', near Harlow and 'Otterpool Park', Folkestone, are each to receive £580,000 for the building of 24,000 and 10,000 homes, respectively. 'North Essex' Colchester, Tendring & Braintree is receiving £550,000 for 43,000 homes while Dunton Hills, Brentwood will receive £150,000 for 4,000 homes. The funding will be used for preparing environmental assessments of the Garden Community sites, as well as using the latest design techniques to develop areas that people will be proud to live in.

READ MORE: southeastlep.com/news

Mentoring Advisor appointed for the South East

SELEP has welcomed The Growth Company's newest appointment, Tom Harrington, who has been named Mentoring Advisor for London and the South East region and will be responsible for matching SMEs in the area with skilled mentors who will provide guidance on business growth and resilience.



In his new role, Tom will be heading up the London and South East regions for Be the Business's Mentoring for Growth programme, in collaboration with The Growth Company. The national mentoring programme aims to bridge the productivity gap within UK SMEs by creating year-long mentor partnerships that provide experienced support to SMEs in the form of mentors from leading businesses.

Tom will be working alongside SELEP's South East Business Hub – which comprises Business East Sussex, BEST Growth Hub, and Kent & Medway Growth Hub – to encourage SMEs across the SELEP patch to take advantage of the programme, which will allow them to glean business knowledge from senior-level mentors from multinationals.

READ MORE: southeastlep.com/news

SELEP addresses productivity and skills at Kent Business Summit

Over 400 business leaders, local authority representatives and academic experts recently attended the Kent Business Summit 2020, which took place at the University of Kent on the 10th January 2020 and focused on sustainable economic growth for the county.



The issue of business productivity and improving outputs was a key topic addressed by SELEP CEO Adam Bryan at the event. The issue of the technical skills gap in both education and employment was the focus of discussion with businesses for SELEP Skills lead, Louise Aitken.

Deadline for rural funding

The deadline for Expressions of Interest for the new round of the £35m EAFRD Growth Programme National Reserve Fund – which aims to boost rural productivity and create local jobs – is **Sunday 16th February 2020.**

The new calls will be in the three themes of **Business Development, Food Processing** and **Rural Tourism Infrastructure.**

FIND OUT MORE:

southeastlep.com/opportunities/rdpe-growth-programme



**Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs**



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



THE SELEP AREA

- ESSEX
- 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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