



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.

### LEP Network directorship

I am honoured to have been nominated by the LEPs across the South to represent them on the LEP Network Management Board as Chair of the Southern LEP grouping, a position I will hold for the next two years representing SELEP, Coast to Capital, Enterprise M3, Hertfordshire LEP, Solent and Thames Valley Berkshire.

One of my first orders of business is to work alongside the Board to help create a truly unique and impactful identity for the Southern LEP grouping, uniting us an area of outstanding innovation and business ethos.

There is strength in diversity, and the variety of the businesses that are thriving across a range of industries in the South is testament to our position in the wider UK economy. As a region, we will continue to be forward-thinking and united to play to our greatest strengths.

### New SELEP Deputy Chair

I am delighted for Sarah to be joining me as Deputy Chair on the South East LEP Strategic Board. Her networks, knowledge and experience of various projects and organisations across our patch makes her the ideal candidate for this role, which will aid me in broadening our horizons across the South East and ensuring that our all-important relationships with stakeholders are maintained and improved.

Sarah's diverse experience and existing knowledge of the LEP, its Boards and its operations will enable a fast tracked start and help with our focus of improving productivity and delivering high growth across the South East LEP area, and I am sure the rest of the Strategic Board – along with our partners on our three Federated Boards – are keen to work with Sarah and draw from her vast knowledge of the creative industry in the South East.

**Chris Brodie, Chair**

## SELEP welcomes business and creative arts ambassador as new Deputy Chair

SELEP is excited to name Sarah Dance as its new Deputy Chair, to be a key voice for the LEP in terms of investment and business growth in the South East LEP area.

Sarah brings valuable experience and extensive networks to the LEP and has a strong track record of delivering projects and investment into the area. She is the current co-Chair of SELEP's South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN) and has sat on SELEP's Federated Board for Kent and Medway – the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP).



New SELEP Deputy Chair Sarah Dance said:

*"This is an exciting new challenge for me, one I am very much looking forward to embracing. The South East is a thriving hub for business, with a real entrepreneurial spirit. It's a region with huge potential to flourish for generations to come."*

*"With key developments for the area on the horizon, I hope that I can bring a fresh perspective to help ensure these projects will benefit local communities and boost the South East's long-term sustainability."*

**READ MORE:** [southeastlep.com/news](https://southeastlep.com/news)

## Encouraging experts into FE teaching with new campaign



Following the successful launch of SELEP's **Teaching for Growth** project last year, the new **Become a Lecturer** campaign and website has launched to provide industry experts across the SELEP patch

with a wealth of information on how to make use of their skills in a teaching environment by becoming a lecturer, tutor or assessor in Further Education, with a selection of videos also available to watch.

Across the SELEP area, there is particular demand for lecturers in **Engineering, Construction, Digital Technologies**, plus **Health and Care** professions. The new website highlights current vacancies and supplies further information on the roles and benefits of FE lecturers.

The Teaching for Growth campaign delivers bursaries of up to £4,000 each, to contribute to teacher training costs in priority sectors. Targets have already been exceeded, with more than 70 bursaries already secured in total across the SELEP area.

**FIND OUT MORE:** [southeastlep.com/opportunities/become-a-lecturer](https://southeastlep.com/opportunities/become-a-lecturer)

## BEST in show: Growth Hub to host local business event



The Business Essex, Southend and Thurrock (BEST) Growth Hub – part of SELEP's South East Business Hub (SEBH) – will be returning to Chelmsford's Hylands House for the fourth year to host the BEST Growth Hub Business

Show 2020 as part of its commitment to help strengthen the Essex business community.

Taking place on 27th February, the free event will see more than 50 exhibitors taking part to share their expertise. SELEP's Skills team will be holding a workshop at the show alongside Essex County Council, The Careers & Enterprise Company, and the Federation of Small Businesses, to provide advice to employers.

**FIND OUT MORE:** [bit.ly/2swZSR3](https://bit.ly/2swZSR3)

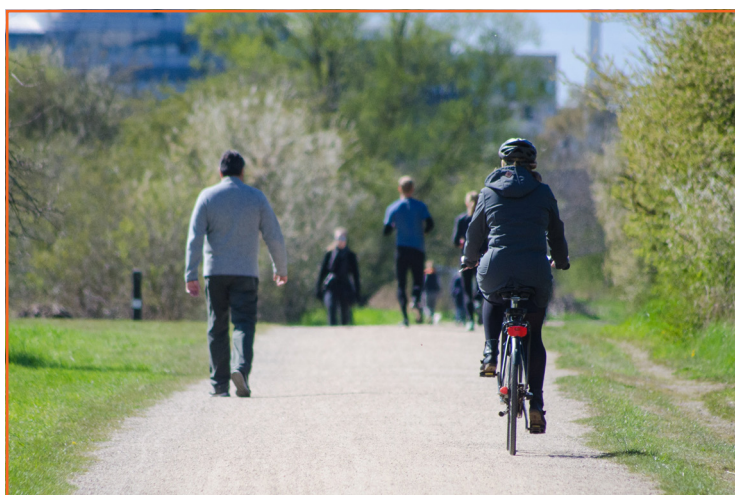
## Project unites art organisations across South East coast

England's Creative Coast, an organisation led by Turner Contemporary and Visit Kent and supported by SELEP, is set to launch its new **Waterfronts** projects, which connects seven new outdoor artworks by leading contemporary artists across the South East coast.

England's  
**CREATIVE  
COAST**

The commissioned series will launch on the 16th April and run until the 8th November 2020. The project will highlight the vast stretch of coast across the SELEP patch, as well as connecting arts organisations and galleries in the South East including Creative Folkestone, Hastings Contemporary and Metal in Southend-on-Sea.

The partnership will also see the launch of the world's first art GeoTour, which uses geocaching to create a GPS-enabled 'treasure hunt' for visitors to search for hidden containers in the seven locations.



## New funding call for Wheels to Work and Training project

A new £1.5m European Social Fund call has been issued for projects that are aimed at helping unemployed or inactive residents – including those aged 15-24 – in the SELEP area who do not have any way of travelling to/from employment or training.

The **Wheels to Work and Training programme** is designed to help combat the barrier seen in parts of the SELEP area that inhibits residents' abilities to take up employment or training opportunities due to a lack of direct public transport links. The funding has been issued in response to SELEP's Skills Strategy, which highlighted the difficulties faced by some of the South East's residents in travelling to work.

The **South East LEP Skills Strategy 2018-2023** outlined the demand for skills in the SELEP area, with around 180,000 people in the patch having no qualifications, while close to 42,000 people are claiming out-of-work benefits. The nature of the SELEP area, which includes a high number of coastal and rural communities, means that access to training and employment remains limited for some.

**READ MORE:** [southeastlep.com/news](https://southeastlep.com/news)



Birling Gap, 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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