

This report aims to summarise the key actions and progress being made in delivering the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan, termed *East Sussex Reset*. The plan was officially launched in Sep 2020, with all of the activities of the six 'missions' listed in a detailed Action Plan. TES agreed that progress updates on the Action Plan would be reported quarterly.

To note, across the six missions there are many projects/actions being driven forward by stakeholders, and these projects/actions are interlinked and not just discreet to that specific mission.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the stakeholders/contributors and mission leads for coordinating responses on the progress of the plan and the significant actions taken so far. A copy of the full updated action plan can be viewed on the [ESCC website](#).

Due to the significant level of financial intervention provided to businesses across East Sussex, the report also mentions the small business grants fund which each Borough and District Council has distributed.

Top Headlines:

- **A total of circa £71.65m is being invested into East Sussex as a result of the Economy Recovery Plan**, which is a combination of £39.3m newly secured monies and a further £32.38m aligned from ongoing monies committed OR already secured from external resources to support the survival, reset, recovery and growth of businesses in East Sussex. This is up substantially from the initial £45m investment outlined in Sep 2020, whereby £16m new monies were identified and a further £29m aligned from ongoing monies.
- It's too early to indicate some collective key outputs and outcomes, but where this is possible on individual projects/actions these have been captured in the detailed Action Plan.

Mission 1: Thinking local, acting local

- Toolkit for businesses giving advice and guidance for reopening launched.
- Marketing campaign to 'Help Sussex Buy Local' launched.
- Natural Partnerships CIC managing pan-Sussex food and drink website and business support activities.
- Analysis of what EU Transition will mean for East Sussex fishing ports produced.
- ERDF leads working together pan-SELEP sharing information and experiences, as well as working with MHCLG on flexibilities to ensure funding is responsive to business need.
- Locally identified priorities fed into developing SELEP Covid-19 Business Support Fund.
- Sussex Resilience Forum established a pan-Sussex Tourism and Culture Subgroup.
- Research working group formed to support the development of a revised Inward Investment Strategy.
- ESCC's Social Value Charter is being refreshed and revised to reflect some of the key priorities in the Economy Recovery Plan.

Mission 2: Building skills, creating jobs

- Our HE and FE partners have managed to move swiftly to offering blended learning where required. Colleges offered transition programmes to year 11 students with East Sussex College Group (ESCG) offering 200 course-specific programmes and Plumpton College seeing an increase of 13% across its 16-19 study programme enrolments, adult and HE enrolments. The Careers Hub launched the Employability Passport for East Sussex Year 11s to record their employability skills, in preparation for applications and interviews.
- In East Sussex several intermediaries stepped forward to support the DWP Kickstart programme which enables 18-24s to undertake six months of work, paid by central government but with local employers. Sussex Chamber, Eastbourne Chamber and the FSB are among the list of intermediary bodies facilitating the service for employers and the first young people were referred into work this month by our local JCP Job Coaches.
- The Youth Employability Service (YES) programme has increased the intensity of their support to those Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET), or those at risk of NEET, in direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and as a result their interventions have doubled from 15,000 to 30,000. Colleges have offered a

place to any student, irrespective of their grades, helping us gain an increase in those securing a 'September Guarantee' from 93.7% to 94.3%.

- Library services and YES have worked to provide access to those who are digitally excluded. Libraries are offering 'job pods' for members of the public to use computers to undertake online interviews where they are required, and have secured a small pot of ESF to purchase computers to loan to those who are participating in employment schemes funded through ESF. YES loaned SLN/UniConnect-funded laptops to those of its 3,500 clients who needed access to online learning and support but didn't have the ICT kit to enable them to do so. In addition, SLN/UniConnect have issued some additional laptops to schools and colleges for those in priority wards.
- A series of Sector Based Work Academies (SWAPs) have been delivered as part of the DWP Plan for Jobs programme. Plumpton ran a successful viticulture SWAP, while ESCG has delivered SWAPs in Care, Retail Assistant, Railway Engineering, Customer Service (for Southern Rail) and Construction. The latter was facilitated via the SES Sector Task Group for construction in partnership with Wilmot Dixon.
- ESCG used its Adult Education Budget, having pledged to use £1m, supporting over 1,000 people thus far.
- Sussex Enterprise and Eastbourne Chamber have delivered a wide range of training programmes to SMEs in East Sussex to support recovery and sustainability.
- SCDA, STUK, TWIN, People Matter and other community sector partners continue to deliver programmes to support those furthest from the workplace, such as ESF-funded Skills Support to the Workforce, Skills Support for the Unemployed, Skills Support for Redundancy and the DWP Work and Health Programme.
- HEE are delivering their 'Onboarding' programme, a fast training programme designed to move people who are newly redundant into the care sector.
- ESCC secured an additional £300k ESF funding for the new 'Transform' programme (further matched with £300k) which will support SMEs accessing Apprenticeship funding and provision to enable them to take on apprentices in the wake of Covid-19. The fund uses ESCC Apprenticeship Levy transfer funding as match, and this funding can be transferred to SMEs in key sectors to fully fund Apprenticeship training provision.
- Working with Public Health and Adult Social Care, the Employment and Skills Team has launched a £200k project to address the skills and employment needs of those in supported and temporary housing. The project aims to build the capacity of housing associations and create a network/map of relevant support agencies who can offer appropriate and tailored employability and skills interventions.

Mission 3: Fast-forwarding business

- 31 organisations have received a total of £6.5m Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Cultural Recovery Funds; 8 organisations have received £1,029,400 Heritage England Fund Cultural Recovery Funds.
- 'We Made That' have been commissioned to undertake the SELEP's South East Creative Economy Network - Open Workspace programme with a Creative Peer challenge group and a Planning Peer Challenge Group in place to act as a check and challenge on the programme.
- £200k SELEP Sector Support Funding secured to support Sussex Modern (£50k secured directly for East Sussex), Visit Kent and Visit Essex to develop winter campaigns and a spring relaunch. Visit Kent also to deliver business support programme.
- Several Buy Local, Stay Local campaign launched and promotional material and websites enhanced.
- South East Creatives (SEC) extended to May 2021, continuing to offer a grants programme.
- £125k Everyday Creativity project generating employment opportunities for freelancers.
- The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) has established a pan-Sussex Tourism and Culture Subgroup. Initial actions will be to commission collation of existing national and local research to assess the current visitor economy. A Pan-Sussex webinar programme continues to be delivered over the winter period to support Visitor Economy businesses, providing the foundation for attracting investment and prioritising effort.

Mission 4: Better places, fuller lives

- All D&Bs working with ESCC have rolled out streamlined processes for considering pavement licences, enhanced and simplified their planning advice services to business and publicly supported flexible enforcement of planning regulations to enable the initial restart and also the new lockdown.

- All D&Bs have begun work on new and reviewed local plans, working in a coordinated approach to the collection of evidence particularly around the housing and employment sectors, and working with ESCC who are also considering new county-wide transport modelling to support the development of our local plans and the delivery of infrastructure.
- Developers East Sussex (DES) continues its effective exchange with MHCLG Ministers and officials to ensure the continued support for the development sector and to provide a constructive feedback mechanism on the challenges impacting the sector's ability to deliver homes at the rate required.

Mission 5: Cleaner energy, greener transport

- Secured a further £1.82m for Emergency Active Travel Fund tranche 2 measures (tranche 1 secured £500k).
- Third freight-only crossing to be provided from early Jan 2021 between Newhaven and Dieppe.
- In Oct 2020 the Newhaven/Dieppe ferry was one of nine routes serving eight ports in the country to receive a government freight contract aimed at increasing the country's import and export capacity during the Brexit transition period. The route will receive part of the £77.6m national contract with Brittany Ferries, DFDS, P&O and Stena thereby securing its future.
- Grant funding of £908K secured for fuel poverty programme and £2.5m for LoCASE-2 business support.
- ESCC's own local transport capital programme continues to deliver, providing new sustainable transport measures worth over £8m over next 2 years mainly from LGF projects in Hastings and Eastbourne.

Mission 6: The future is digital

- ESCC invested £500k 'topping up' up the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity Voucher Scheme by £1,000 for businesses and residents. Vouchers are now worth £4,500 per business and £2,500 per resident. E-Sussex superfast broadband roll out continues across the county with contract 3 investment from BDUK and ESCC with over 97%+ coverage.
- Successful European Social Fund (ESF) bid won to provide digital devices and connectivity to ESF participants in East Sussex on a loan basis. The bid was to purchase 40 digital devices and data connectivity to participants who need the device to access job vacancies, health services and other online services.
- The Youth Employability Service took delivery of 125 Google Chromebooks from funding provided by the Sussex Learning Network. These are to help NEETs access online job vacancies and employability support.

Grants distributed through Borough & District Councils

- Local authorities in East Sussex distributed over £126.8m to 10,756 businesses through both the Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund (RHLGF). Both schemes closed on 30 Aug 2020. See table below.
- Our current business count is 23,135 (ONS, 2020), so from this we can estimate that 46.49% of our businesses received a grant of £10,000 under these grant schemes.
- Further details will be provided on the two new types of business relief available over the Nov 2020 lockdown period, termed Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRS) and Additional Restrictions Grant.

Local Authority	Businesses identified as 'in scope'	Initial allocation	No of grant payments made to businesses	Value of payments (£)	% of in-scope businesses paid	% of allocation used
Eastbourne BC	1,729	£22,608,000	1,481	£18,680,000	85.66%	82.63%
Hastings BC	1,969	£27,782,000	1,740	£20,235,000	88.37%	72.83%
Lewes DC	2,183	£25,884,000	1,780	£21,685,000	81.54%	83.78%
Rother DC	2,577	£33,814,000	2,194	£24,985,000	85.14%	73.89%
Wealden DC	4,667	£47,942,000	3,561	£41,265,000	76.30%	86.07%
East Sussex Total	13,125	£158,030,000	10,756	£126,850,000	81.95%	80.27%

Figures taken from the [Gov.UK website](https://www.gov.uk), updated 30 Sep 2020 (funds closed 30 Aug 2020 but figures may still be slightly out if unreported). The additional discretionary grants distributed alongside the SBGF and RHLGF are not included in the above.