



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

SELEP backs University of Essex Parkside project with £5m funding allocation

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) has awarded the University of Essex a £5 million funding package from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) for Phase 3 of the Parkside Office Village project at its Knowledge Gateway research and technology park.

This latest phase will extend the highly successful Parkside Office Village to offer more space for businesses wanting to co-locate at the University's Colchester Campus as an anchor tenant.

One of the purposes of the project is to help retain highly skilled workers within the local economy who would otherwise move away from the area after graduation. There are currently 25 businesses located at Parkside Office Village, collectively employing 270 people, 34 of whom are graduates or students of the University of Essex.

Overall, the £10.5 million project is expected to deliver up to 300 jobs by 2022.

READ MORE: southeastlep.com/news



SELEP pays visit to LGF-backed Mercury Rising project ahead of theatre re-opening

As the reopening of Colchester's Mercury Theatre moves ever closer, representatives from major funders and local and national government were invited to take a tour of the site to see progress, including local MP Will Quince and SELEP Vice Chair for Essex George Kieffer.

The £9.8 million project will see three new rehearsal and studio spaces, a fully refurbished main auditorium, new front of house facilities including a larger more welcoming café & bar space, more toilets and vastly improved accessibility across the entire building. There will also be a designated space for the support of emerging creative businesses in the South East region.

The project is funded by SELEP through the Local Growth Fund, Arts Council England, Essex County Council, Colchester Borough Council, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), private trusts and foundations and the generosity of the local community.

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Applications open for Community Grants of up to £20k in South East

Grants of up to £20,000 are available across Essex, Southend, Kent and Medway to third sector organisations of any size, and small organisations from other sectors, to help those furthest from the job market improve their skills and/or get into work or training.

CTXK – an organisation dedicated to transforming the lives of young people and adults across the South – is calling for applications for the latest round of the South East LEP Community Grants programme, which is part-funded by the European Social Fund.

FIND OUT MORE: ctxk.org/community-grants





Call for projects to transform Thames Estuary into cultural hub

Creative Estuary – a partnership of public sector and cultural organisations – has called for projects to submit bids to become one of four 'lead partners' for Estuary 2020, the month-long festival of visual art, literature and film taking place later this year.

Creative Estuary has four £15,000 awards, one for each festival hub which will be located in Shoeburyness, Southend and Pitsea, Basildon in South Essex, and Gravesham and Chatham Intra in North Kent.

The organisation said it wants to work with emerging producers, curators, artists/creative practitioners and organisations to create work that reflects marginalised, hidden or forgotten peoples, activities, locations and histories.

FIND OUT MORE:

southeastlep.com/opportunities/creative-estuary-commissions

New SELEP Deputy Chair to speak at upcoming conferences



SELEP's new Deputy Chair, Sarah Dance, is set to give talks at the upcoming Westminster Policy Forum and Thames Estuary Development Conference, taking place on the 30th March and 1st April, respectively.

The Westminster Policy Forum will cover the next steps for growth in the Thames Estuary, touching on the subjects of infrastructure and governance as well as linking to Local

Industrial Strategies, which Sarah will be discussing in her talk.

At the Thames Estuary Development Conference, Sarah will give a talk on the ambitions of the Thames Estuary Production Corridor and how these challenges and opportunities can be met.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WESTMINSTER POLICY FORUM:

policyforumforlondon.co.uk

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE THAMES ESTUARY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE:

built-environment-networking.com/event/thames-estuary-development-conference

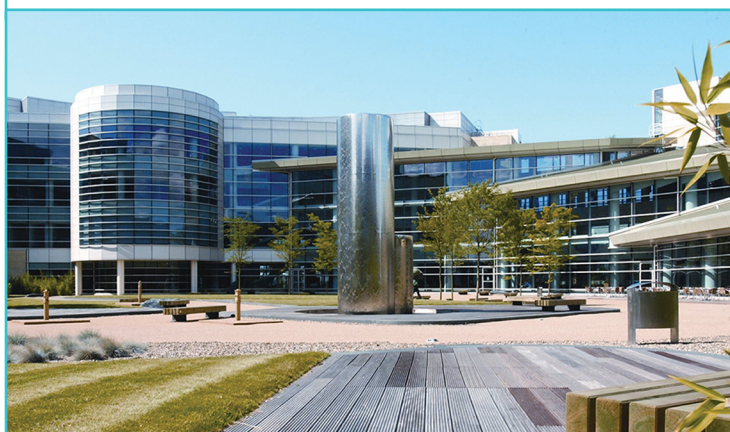
Kent's Discovery Park becomes Life Sciences Opportunity Zone

Discovery Park, the life sciences park based in Sandwich, Kent, has been recognised by the Government's Office for Life Sciences as a Life Sciences Opportunity Zone (LSOZ) alongside five other locations nationally, lending credence to the park's growth potential, particularly in advanced manufacturing, digital and artificial intelligence within healthcare.

The new LSOZ status will help Discovery Park attract investment, deliver jobs, drive economic growth and deliver improved health services, as well as be a part of developing a regional life sciences cluster. Government officials will work with Discovery Park to attract investment from national and international businesses.

The news comes as the Government announces a £10 million investment, which is designed to attract the world's top scientists, researchers and mathematicians, and will go hand-in-hand with a new visa route for overseas scientists and researchers that has come into law.

READ 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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