

**CONFIRMED**

**Coastal Communities Working Group**

 **for the South East Local Enterprise Partnership**

**Terms of Reference**

**June 2020**

**Introduction**

The South East coastline is an important contributor to the SELEP area economy, but there are significant gaps in economic performance when its constituent parts are compared with inland local authority areas. Coastal communities face particular challenges in terms of exclusion/deprivation, core economic performance and productivity, and a persistent lack of investment.

The Coastal Communities Economic Prospectus, ‘Boosting Coastal Productivity’, articulates these challenges and sets out a clear plan to stimulate growth and level up coastal communities, where huge development and investment opportunities exist. The coastal partnership of local authorities and SELEP, which produced the prospectus, are well placed to implement the identified actions and close the economic gap between the South East coastline and its inland neighbours.

**Aim**

***Our aim is to level up our coastal communities and close the economic performance gap with the rest of the South East.***

**Objectives**

* Agree and implement the Implementation/Action Plan which has been articulated in the Coastal Communities Economic Prospectus.
* To provide a strategic and coordinated approach the economic growth activities and interventions across SELEP coastal communities.
* Bring together all parties (including coastal agencies, MHCLG, BEIS, coastal communities’ representatives, businesses and federated area representatives) to drive economic development and promote the findings and actions set out in the Coastal Communities Economic Prospectus.
* To support wider coastal growth ambitions, with SELEP to provide support and advocacy to areas with growth/regeneration plans; helping to link coastal areas to the regional economy.
* Review and identify any funding and bidding opportunities for strategic action, based on Government and SELEP priorities.
* To seek to utilise the SELEP Sector Support Fund in a way that is appropriate and relevant to the Group’s aim.
* Provide input and feedback into SELEP strategies – including the emerging Local Industrial Strategy.
* Promote best practice and information.
* To update and advise the SELEP Strategic Board, Federated Areas, and key stakeholders on progress and issues.
* Look across LEP boundaries at plans and proposals, particularly of neighbouring LEPs, and their impact in preparing for growth in coastal communities.
* Act as an advocate for the coast both locally and nationally.
* Facilitate conversations on infrastructure related to the coast.
* Review and identify pertinent research.
* Work to support the economic recovery form the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Influence policy at Whitehall, ensuring the coastal agenda is appropriately considered and represented.

**Operation**

Members of the group will:

* Attend each meeting, or if unable to attend, endeavour to send a representative;
* Inform the organisation they represent of progress made by the Working Group and consult them on any key issues and recommendations;
* Treat any information received and discussed with sensitivity and where appropriate in confidence;
* The group will act in accordance with the business practices of SELEP;
* Members agreeing to undertake actions will liaise with the wider group membership where necessary and provide feedback on progress.

**Membership**

The Working Group will have a fixed membership comprising:

* Chair and Vice Chair
* Local Authority Officers from across the coastal areas.
* Business and industry representation
* Links to other relevant SELEP Working Groups (Skills, Housing, Rural, Social Enterprise, SECEN, U9)

Chair: TBC

Vice Chair: TBC

External individuals or groups may be invited to meetings as an when is deemed necessary by the working group members.

Local MPs will be engaged regularly by the membership.

**Meeting Arrangements**

* The group will meet bi-monthly (subject to change as deemed necessary or review).
* Meetings will be held in a central location or via video conferencing facilities e.g. Microsoft Teams, Zoom;
* Actions will be agreed by the CCWG will be reviewed at each meeting;
* The agenda will be circulated in advance of each meeting to ensure appropriate representation a minimum of 5 working days prior.

**Support**

* SELEP will offer support in administrative duties, and advice or endorsement of projects undertaken by the CCWG.

**Terms of Reference to be reviewed June 2021**