**South East Social Enterprise Network (SESEN)**

**(Working Group to SELEP)**

**11th March 2020**

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| Welcome & Apologies | Attendees: Penny Shimmin, Alex Riley, Andrew Brady, Caroline Reynolds, Dawn Dublin, Emily Vermont, Eric Hodges, Neil Woodbridge, Billy Masters, Kate Bull, Paul Rideout, Kirsty Hawkins, Dave Hinton.Apologies received from: Keith Harrison, Petrina Mayson, Roy Laming, Mark Kass, Suzanne Lowe.The Chair, Penny Shimmin, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance and apologies were noted as per above.The notes of the previous meeting were agreed. |
| Review Terms of Reference | The Terms of Reference has been amended slightly to include a new recruitment policy for working group members.**The revised Terms of Reference was agreed.** |
| Social Enterprise Prospectus Implementation Plan | This item focussed on the key emerging items from the Implementation Plan that the working group will prioritise in the financial year 2020-21 and will form the Action Plan.Business Support* Influencing SEBB2 tenders:
* Working out who is best placed to influence this. Action: Caroline will ask the SEBB2 programme manager what this group could do to influence the process moving forward.
* Kirsty will ask colleagues about lessons learned from SEBB1 as it relates to social enterprises.
* Action: For ALL involved in SEBB1 to share their learning on what was done previously. Coordinate this information through Alex/MS Teams.
* Action: Caroline will circulate a report produced by East Sussex which markets SEBB grants to social enterprises.
* Networking:
* This point relates to understanding what information we have on social enterprises and what works. Make this information available in a coordinated way.
* Action: The small group that are populating the launch events spreadsheet should meet to better understand key lessons from these events.
* Town Deals:
* Any individual involved in an existing Town Deal board should make the wider Social Enterprise Working Group aware.
* Action: Penny will draft a note about the importance of social enterprises being represented on these Town Deal boards and this can be shared via working group members on existing boards or via the LEP representative. At its core, this message will focus on the prospectus as it has been endorsed by SELEP as a priority.
* Action: Alex will put a list of the Town Deals in the SELEP geography on the MS Teams page.

Procurement and Commissioning* Contacting key public sector partners across SELEP and determining their approach to social value.
* Some of the CCGs are reconfiguring and its an opportunity to influence as well as understand the process.
* Action: Paul Rideout will get a list of who the public sector partners are and who has been contacted.
* Large infrastructure projects are currently coming through and Kate Bull has been asked to influence and act as a critical friend on some of these projects. Action: Kate to feed this information to Paul.
* Getting involved in supply chains will be a good way to influence the wide process. Action: Eric will feed this information to Paul.

Investment/Funding* A short-term priority is to map the current landscape of social enterprises across the SELEP geography and put this on the website.
* A long-term ambition is to look at potentially establishing a Social Investment Fund:
* This fund could target SELEP-specific issues for social enterprises.
* The potential demand for a social investment fund was questioned and it was noted that there is a more important first task about understanding the market needs and gaps in provision. A more pertinent task would be about helping social enterprises to be more investment ready as existing funds a facing difficult in attracting drawdown.
* The group agreed that this should be less about the creation of a fund and more about identifying how social investment could work more effectively in the SELEP area.
* Action: Emily and Paul will re-draft this paper, taking on board the comments from the working group, and recirculate.
* London Growth Hub is heavily engaged with its social enterprises and is also engaging with small enterprises that are more socially led. Action: SELEP to engage with the London LEP and Growth Hub to understand best practice in terms of engaging with social enterprises/socially led businesses.

Promoting social enterprise* The group noted that this was primarily about continuing to track existing work such as the Launch Events spreadsheet and should be an ongoing and crosscutting action for all working group members.

Social Impact* The group suggested having a further conversation about social impact and how this links to the wider social value piece.
* Action: For the group to signpost to any research that focuses on existing work linked to social impact measures.
* It was also noted that it would be useful for this group to have a benchmark/something to measure progress against. This is important as we need clarity of impact when we deliver the annual update to the Strategic Board.

Action: Alex to write up Action Plan reflecting the points made above. |
| Launch Events | A plea to all working group members to make sure the Launch Events spreadsheet is updated with all relevant information.Suggested the working group start thinking about an annual event focussed on the prospectus, this gives us ample time to pipeline work and get commitment from partners.Action: Alex to add a column to the Launch Events spreadsheet which focuses on what was achieved/impact. |
| Growth Hub Website | Action: For ALL to feedback any key points/information you would like to see on a Social Enterprise page which is planned for the new Growth Hub website.Initial suggestions were to signpost to the prospectus document and link to national organisations e.g. SEUK. |
| Local Industrial Strategy | Alex Riley updated the group on the current status of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). It was originally intended that the LIS would be published by the end of March 2020, but this deadline has been extended and will likely be towards the end of the year.Following feedback from the working group, the most recent iteration of the LIS had a number of references to social enterprise, where none existed previously.  |
| AOB | The Skills Advisory Panel is planning a major conference at HereEast, Kirsty will feedback that the working group is interested in being engaged on this and getting involved.It was noted that there has been further engagement with DCMS and they recognise the South East as being particularly pro-social enterprise. |

**Actions (All to be completed in advance of the next Social Enterprise Working Group meeting):**

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| **What** | **Who** | **Outcome** |
| Caroline will ask the SEBB2 programme manager what this group could do to influence the process moving forward. | Caroline Reynolds |  |
| For ALL involved in SEBB1 to share their learning on what was done previously. Coordinate this information through Alex/MS Teams. | ALL |  |
| Caroline will circulate a report, via Alex, produced by East Sussex which markets SEBB grants to social enterprises. | Caroline Reynolds, Alex Riley |  |
| The small group that are populating the launch events spreadsheet should meet to better understand key lessons from these events. | ALL involved in population Launch Events spreadsheet |  |
| Penny will draft a note about the importance of social enterprises being represented on these Town Deal boards and this can be shared via working group members on existing boards or via the LEP representative. At its core, this message will focus on the prospectus as it has been endorsed by SELEP as a priority.Send to leads of Town Deals. | Penny ShimminAlex Riley |  |
| Alex will put a list of the Town Deals in the SELEP geography on the MS Teams page. | Alex Riley |  |
| Paul Rideout will get a list of who the public sector partners are and who has been contacted. | Paul Rideout |  |
| Kate to feed information on engagement with large infrastructure projects to Paul. | Kate Bull |  |
| Eric will feed this information on supply chain engagement to Paul. | Eric Hodges |  |
| Emily and Paul will re-draft the social investment fund paper, taking on board the comments from the working group, and will recirculate this.  | Emily Vermont, Paul Rideout |  |
| SELEP to engage with the London LEP and Growth Hub to understand best practice in terms of engaging with social enterprises/socially led businesses. | Alex Riley |  |
| For the group to signpost to any research that focuses on existing work linked to social impact measures. | ALL |  |
| Alex to write up Action Plan reflecting the points made above. | Alex Riley |  |
| Alex to add a column to the Launch Events spreadsheet which focuses on what was achieved/impact. | Alex Riley |  |
| For ALL to feedback any key points/information you would like to see on a Social Enterprise page which is planned for the new Growth Hub website. | ALL |  |