

Background

Private sector business representatives on the four federated boards and on the SELEP Strategic Board are all subject to a two-year review of their tenures. The current two-year tenures of Team East Sussex Board and SELEP Strategic Board members are all due to expire at the end of Feb 2022.

The standard process for the appointment (or reappointment) of federated board members is to conduct a fully open and transparent recruitment process. The federated boards then put forward nominated business members to sit on the SELEP Strategic Board as SELEP Ltd Directors.

However, with the ongoing LEP Review causing so much uncertainty around the future of LEPs, the consensus among all federated boards is that it would be inappropriate to attempt a full recruitment process at this time. Consequently, SELEP intends to offer 'exemptions' to its recruitment policy, as per the Government exemptions permitted to LEPs during this period, to allow current terms to be extended without the need to undertake a full recruitment process.

Team East Sussex membership

At its last meeting on 27 Sep 2021, TES Board members agreed to delay the open recruitment process and extend all current TES members' tenures for **up to a year**, to the end of Feb 2023.

TES will continue to monitor the ongoing situation regarding the LEP Review over the coming months, and may choose, at the discretion of the TES Chair, to bring that time limit forward and undertake recruitment *before* the end of the year's extension. Otherwise, the TES recruitment process will go ahead during Q3/Q4 of 2022/23, such that the next two-year tenures begin on 1 Mar 2023.

SELEP Strategic Board membership

TES has four positions on the SELEP Strategic Board, made up of the Leader of the County Council (Councillor Keith Glazier) and three business representatives put forward by the TES Board (Graham Peters, Ana Christie and Clive Soper), all of whom are SELEP Ltd Directors.

For the three nominated business representatives, TES now needs to choose whether to reappoint its existing members for a further term, or put forward alternative TES business members as new SELEP Directors.

On this occasion, with the exemptions to the recruitment process mentioned above, *new* Directors may be appointed without an open recruitment process *for a maximum term of 12 months*. Existing Directors may still be reappointed *for a term of up to 2 years* (the total maximum of 6 years still applies).

TES Board members are therefore asked to choose one of the following options:

1. Reappoint Graham Peters, Ana Christie and Clive Soper as SELEP Directors for another full two-year term (Mar 2022 to end-of-Feb 2024).
2. Reappoint Graham Peters, Ana Christie and Clive Soper as SELEP Directors, *but for up to 12 months only*, aligned to the above TES tenures (so that when TES eventually conducts its recruitment process during 2022, the TES Board can then revisit this matter and can either ask Graham, Ana and Clive to continue their SELEP tenures to their full two-year terms, or nominate new SELEP Directors).
3. Nominate up to three alternative TES business members to become SELEP Directors *for up to 12 months* (Mar 2022 to end-of-Feb 2023), again aligned to the above TES tenures.

Given the current level of uncertainty and our wish to maintain as much of a 'business as usual' operation as possible, the *recommended* course of action is to choose **Option 2**.

SELEP Co-opted Directors

The five co-opted Directors of SELEP Ltd have a tenure of just one year. The HE, FE and Social Enterprise co-opted members are nominated by the U9 Working Group, the Skills Working Group and the Social Enterprise Working Group respectively. The process for the two local authority co-opted members involves the SELEP Strategic Board discussing which two of the three shire areas should be invited to put forward a representative, aligned with the agreed priorities for the year.

Last year, given the potential impact of Brexit on our region and the activities around Freeports, the SELEP Secretariat recommended that the Borough/District representatives come from councils “most likely to be hit hardest by these changes”, implying they would *again* be drawn from the Essex and Kent shire areas.

TES conceded the possibility of having a Borough/District member from East Sussex, on the condition that the Strategic Board commits to having a co-opted member from the East Sussex shire area in 2022/23 (and also the following year of 2023/24 if the agreed priorities for the year allow). It is therefore anticipated that the Secretariat will, at the upcoming SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 10 Dec 2021, recommend drawing a co-opted Borough/District representative from East Sussex.

Borough and District Council members of the TES Board are asked to consider whether they would like to become a co-opted SELEP Ltd Director, to sit on the SELEP Strategic Board for the year 2022/23. The TES Board then needs to choose who, if anyone, they select to put forward to the SELEP Strategic Board as their nominated representative for the co-opted position.

TES Board members are therefore asked to choose one of the following options:

1. Confirm that a single Borough/District member of TES will be put forward as our nominated co-opted representative on the SELEP Strategic Board for the year 2022/23.
2. Choose not to nominate a Borough/District member from East Sussex, and instead recommend that SELEP extends the tenure of the two current local authority co-opted members from Kent and Essex by up to 12 months (utilising the above-mentioned exemptions to the recruitment policy).

Assuming we do have Borough and District members that wish to be nominated, the *recommended* course of action is to choose **Option 1**, after which the TES Board will then need to agree the process by which that representative will be selected (with due consideration given to SELEP’s agreed priorities and work programme for the year ahead).