

Attendees

ACh	Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce	JW	Jon Wheeler	East Sussex CC
ACo	Alex Colbran	East Sussex CC	KG	Clr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
BHk	Ben Hook	Rother DC	KT	Katy Thomas	East Sussex CC
BS	Clr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	LR	Lisa Rawlinson	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
CB	Clr Christine Bayliss	Rother DC	ME	Martin Ellis	Recruitment South East
CE	Christina Ewbank	ACES	MS	Martin Searle	FSB
CS	Clive Soper	FSB	PJ	Philip Johnson	Locate East Sussex
DShep	David Sheppard	D-RisQ Ltd	PSm	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
DShel	Daniel Shelley	East Sussex College	RD	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
DG	Diana Garnham	Skills East Sussex	RM	Rhiannon Mort	SELEP
GP	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	RS	Clr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
HA	Holly Aquilina	East Sussex CC	SB	Sue Baxter	University of Sussex
IG	Isabel Garden	Wealden DC	SD	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
JHi	Joe Hill	Towner Eastbourne	SH	Clr Stephen Holt	Eastbourne BC
JHr	James Harris	East Sussex CC	SS	Sally Staples	East Sussex CC
JM	Clr James MacCleary	Lewes DC	VC	Victoria Conheady	Hastings BC

Apologies

BHr	Brian Horton	Developers East Sussex (DES)	JB	Jonathan Buckwell	Developers East Sussex (DES)
DE	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	JHv	Jo Havers	University of Brighton
DT	Clr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC	KF	Clr Kim Forward	Hastings BC
HB	Hannah Brookshaw	Hastings BC	MT	Michael Turner	Environment East Sussex (EES)
IF	Ian Fitzpatrick	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC	PSp	Peter Sharp	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
IS	Ioni Sullivan	East Sussex CC	ZN	Clr Zoe Nicholson	Lewes DC

All of the papers and any presentations delivered at the meeting can be viewed on the following page of the ESCC website: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/eastsussex/selep/tesminutes/tes210315

1. Welcome & introductions

- 1.1 **GP** welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through the apologies.
- 1.2 **GP** asked the group for any specific conflicts of interest with today's agenda items and for any additional interests not already held on record; no interests were declared.

2. Previous TES minutes, 25 Jan 2021

- 2.1 **GP** ran through the actions of the previous TES meeting and noted that all had been completed.
- 2.2 The minutes were approved by the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 **RD** and **JW** introduced a summary of headlines from the 2021 Budget and provided a short presentation on both the newly introduced UK Community Renewal Fund (£220m) and the Levelling Up Fund (£4bn). TES board members raised several clarification questions which were addressed by ESCC officers based on the current prospectus information. The full guidance/technical note for lead authorities and applicants, and the application form will be released over coming week(s). See Appendix 1 on Govt methodology applied to LUF determining priority and other places.
- 3.2 Work is underway to develop a webpage for the Community Renewal Fund providing the relevant information for potential applicants.
- 3.3 **GP** highlighted a third new fund that has become available – [the Community Ownership Fund](#) (£150m) that can provide up to £250k match funding for local communities to purchase community assets.
- 3.4 **GP** also commented on the recent government announcements that they will be working with LEPs and the LEP Network nationally on the future role of LEPs, noting that this will be an evolution in the role of the partnerships rather than their end. A short paper will be brought to either the Jun or Sep 2021 TES meeting reflecting any updates from government.

- 3.5 **ACh** shared an [update of the Budget outcomes from the Sussex Chamber of Commerce](#).
- 3.6 **CE** provided an update on the East Sussex Visitor Survey and agreed to share a copy of the report when available.

4. SELEP funding programmes

- 4.1 **RD, JW** and **RM** provided an update on the SELEP funding programmes:
- 4.2 Getting Building Fund (GBF): East Sussex has secured £11m in funding over eight projects. Currently most are in the early stages of their projects with the final contracts being completed on a couple. SELEP is currently pushing government for assurance on the second year of GBF funding, though they do not anticipate this being an issue.
- 4.3 GBF Reserve pipeline list: The allocation of £1m of returned GBF funding is being agreed at the SELEP Strategic Board on 19 Mar 2021. Based on the current listing, the Charleston Access Road submission is in the top 2 projects. The meeting will also agree a reserve list for any future potential returned GBF funds.
- 4.4 Local Growth Fund (LGF): An additional £1.49m LGF Covid-Response funding has been secured for the Plumpton College 'Skills and business support for rural businesses post Brexit' project, and £360,000 additional LGF for Phases 2 and 3 of the 'Eastbourne Fishermen Quayside and infrastructure development' project.
- 4.5 Bexhill Enterprise Park North: SCS is currently awaiting the outcome of the planning inspectorate meeting held in Jan 2021. It was agreed at last week's SELEP Accountability Board meeting (12 Mar 2021) that funding for the project will be held by ESCC pending the outcome of the decision.
- 4.6 Queensway Gateway Road: An update report was taken to the SELEP Accountability Board on 12 Mar 2021 noting the latest progress on the scheme and actions being taken around: firstly the temporary solution update; secondly land negotiations and the progress of the potential Compulsory Purchase Order; and thirdly outline timescales. Details of the full report can be found here: [SELEP Accountability Board 12.03.21 Agenda Pack](#).
 - 1. Firstly, on the 'implementation of the temporary scheme', this has moved forward and is being progressed to enable vehicles to access the A21 in the short term, subject to HE and ESCC technical approval on the transport modelling that has been undertaken and is now being assessed, along with the necessary traffic regulation orders being approved. The expectation is the temporary scheme is in place late summer.
 - 2. Secondly on the matter around 'land negotiations and progress of the potential CPO', there remains three main parcels of land which need to be acquired before the permanent solution can be delivered. These are: Bartletts Land; Sainsburys Land; and Beauharrow Road. ESCC has clearly indicated to SCS that their preference is for SCS to continue to pursue acquiring the necessary land for the permanent connection by negotiation. However, if (and only if) it becomes clear that all efforts to secure the necessary land through negotiation have been exhausted, then the County Council will, as a last resort, consider the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) of this land.
 - 3. Thirdly in terms of 'timescales for completing the scheme and spend', at this stage it is not possible to give a definite timeline for the completion of the final phase of the permanent solution as it is dependent upon the outcome of the ongoing land acquisition negotiations. The best-case scenario can be achieved if SCS is able to secure the necessary land through negotiations from all of the relevant landowners. If this can be achieved, then SCS has indicated that the construction works to complete the permanent connection would commence in summer 2021. Based on this best-case scenario, the Project could complete in Jan 2022. However, if the land cannot be secured through negotiation, and a CPO process is deemed necessary, then the construction start and completion could be delayed by anywhere between 6 and 18 months. In terms of Local Growth Fund spend (at Feb 2021), the Project has defrayed £9.63m from its £10m LGF grant, with outstanding claims being currently processed.

- 4.7 Growing Places Fund (GPF) loan monies: We have received funding approval for £1.75m loan to Rother DC for the delivery of 'Barnhorn Green Commercial and Health Development' project. Moreover, across SELEP there are scheduled repayments from other GPF projects in this financial year, which will then be able to be reallocated to support projects currently on the GPF pipeline.
- 4.8 Sector Support Fund (SSF): The Accelerating Nature-Based Climate Solutions project (value £135,000) is being recommended for funding approval at the SELEP Strategic Board on 19 Mar 2021. The carbon offsetting project is led by ESCC and received TES endorsement electronically in Feb 2021. Subject to approval there will be approximately £126,000 SSF funding left.
- 4.9 Covid-19 support fund – tenders for both the Business Support and Skills funding available have been received and are currently being assessed. Once the outcome of the lot winners are known ESCC will inform TES.

5. Skills in Further Education

- 5.1 **DShel** gave a short presentation on the publication of the 'Skills for Jobs' White Paper in Jan 2021 and its potential local impact and opportunities for the skills sector.
- 5.2 The need to continue working in partnership with a coordinated approach was identified as key to solving the skills issue.
- 5.3 **GP** highlighted the FE Sussex led meeting which was held on 8 Mar 2021, where initial conversations on the proposals in the white paper were discussed looking at areas to be explored in a potential pan Sussex approach, hopefully building upon the success of existing groups and networks such as Skills East Sussex.

6. Culture East Sussex (CES)

- 6.1 **SS** presented an update of the work that CES has undertaken to help the culture and visitor economy in East Sussex to meet the challenges posed by Covid-19 and support its recovery.
- 6.2 **SD** and **JHi** thanked **SS** and CES on behalf of the creative industries in East Sussex for the support that has been offered during the pandemic. To highlight the impact of the pandemic both explained that the Towner in Eastbourne would usually welcome 180,000 visitors and the De La Warr in Bexhill 420,000 per year but in 2020 this was at 20-25% of the total, a reflection of the national average.
- 6.3 The impact of holding over bookings from 2020 to 2021 on both the visitor and tourism sectors was noted with both sectors needing to deliver on bookings that have already been paid for.
- 6.4 The range of support as explained in the accompanying paper was highlighted as a significant success in providing some support to the sector. It was acknowledged that there is still a lot of work on the recovery to do but TES, ESCC, the districts and boroughs were all thanked for their ongoing support.
- 6.5 A video celebrating Towner's award for Art Fund Museum of the Year was shared, and is available here: [Art Fund 2020 - Towner](#). **SS** also highlighted the websites for [Sussex Modern](#), [South East Creatives](#), [Visit Britain's Covid-19 support for tourism and event businesses](#), and [ESCC grants and funding](#).

7. SELEP Strategic Board, 19 Mar 2021

- 7.1 **RM** ran through the [agenda for the meeting](#).
- 7.2 **RM** highlighted the need to appoint Co-opted Directors as part of the articles of association that state this needs to be done annually. From a SELEP and East Sussex perspective, it is recommended that **PS** continue as a Co-opted Director for another year as Social Enterprise representative.

8. Additional updates & stakeholder reports

- 8.1 **GP** invited attendees to peruse the additional update reports, drawing particular attention to the Economic Recovery Plan and its achievements across all 6 missions.
- 8.2 **RD** highlighted the Stronger Towns Fund applications from Hastings BC and Lewes DC and noted that the new Port Infrastructure Funding received for Newhaven Port will complement and link into the recently completed Newhaven Port Access Road supporting freight movements and opening up commercial land.
- 8.3 The [Business East Sussex website](#) was highlighted as a key resource for any information on the business support available to local businesses as they plan to reopen again.
- 8.4 **CB** raised the gender imbalance of furlough and the wider impacts of the pandemic and queried what support was available from ESCC in terms of childcare facilities. **KG** noted that childcare was mainly provided by independent providers, so ESCC will continue to work with them where required to assess what additional support and services are needed.

9. TES round table / AOB

- 9.1 **BS** highlighted the [WDC Covid-19 reset and recovery programme](#) that links in with the wider ESCC work.
- 9.2 **PJ** noted that the [Flimwell Park](#) development is now operational and starting to be occupied. Locate East Sussex is working with Rother DC on the Beeching Road location, and has held productive meetings with the new owners of the former site of Debenhams in Hastings.
- 9.3 **SB** highlighted that they are working on how to take forward stable remote working and exploring the use of remote working hubs.

- 10. **Meeting finished. The next scheduled meeting is a TES workshop planned for Monday 19th April 2021 at 3pm. The next main TES meeting is 3pm Tuesday 22nd June 2021.**

Appendix 1: Levelling Up Fund – Prioritisation of Places Methodology summary

The index for prioritising places in relation to the Levelling Up Fund was developed in accordance with the core principles that:

- any metrics used should be chosen in support of targeting places in need of the following, in line with the objectives of the fund:
 - economic recovery and growth (indicator 1)
 - improved transport connectivity (indicator 2)
 - regeneration (indicator 3)
- any data used should be publicly available, so that the calculations behind the index rankings are fully transparent.

Various metrics were identified under the three indicators. Values were indexed to allow for consistent comparison of values across indicators in different units. The smallest value in the dataset was set to 0 and the largest value set to 100. All other values were allocated a score between 0 and 100 based on their relative distance from the minimum and maximum dataset values.

The composite index score was then calculated for each eligible LA by taking an average of the index scores, weighed according to the weights for each indicator and metrics within these indicators as set out in the table below:

Target metric	Indicator	Indicator weight (Target metric weight)
Indicator 1: Need for economic recovery and growth		50%
Productivity	Natural log of GVA per hour worked	(33.3%)
Unemployment	Estimates of unemployment rate in the 16+ population	(33.3%)
Skills	Proportion of the 16-64 population without NVQ qualifications	(33.3%)

Indicator 2: Need for improved transport connectivity		25%
Journey time to employment by car	Average journey time to the nearest employment centre of at least 5,000 jobs when traveling by car	(75.2%)
Journey time to employment by public transport	Average journey time to the nearest employment centre of at least 5,000 jobs when traveling by public transport	(21.2%)
Journey time to employment by cycle	Average journey time to the nearest employment centre of at least 5,000 jobs when traveling by cycle	(3.5%)

Indicator 3: Need for regeneration		25%
Commercial vacancy rate	Proportion of retail, industrial, office and leisure units that are vacant	(75%)
Dwellings vacancy rate	Proportion of dwellings chargeable for council tax that are classed as long-term empty (empty for more than 6 months)	(25%)

The results from this indexation, has resulted in Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes and Rother being identified as Category 1 areas (areas with highest levels of identified need) and Wealden identified as Category 2.

Information taken from the Levelling Up Fund: Prioritisation of Places methodology note:

[Levelling Up Fund: Prioritisation of places methodology note - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92111/levelling-up-fund-prioritisation-of-places-methodology-note.pdf)