



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2020—MARCH 2021



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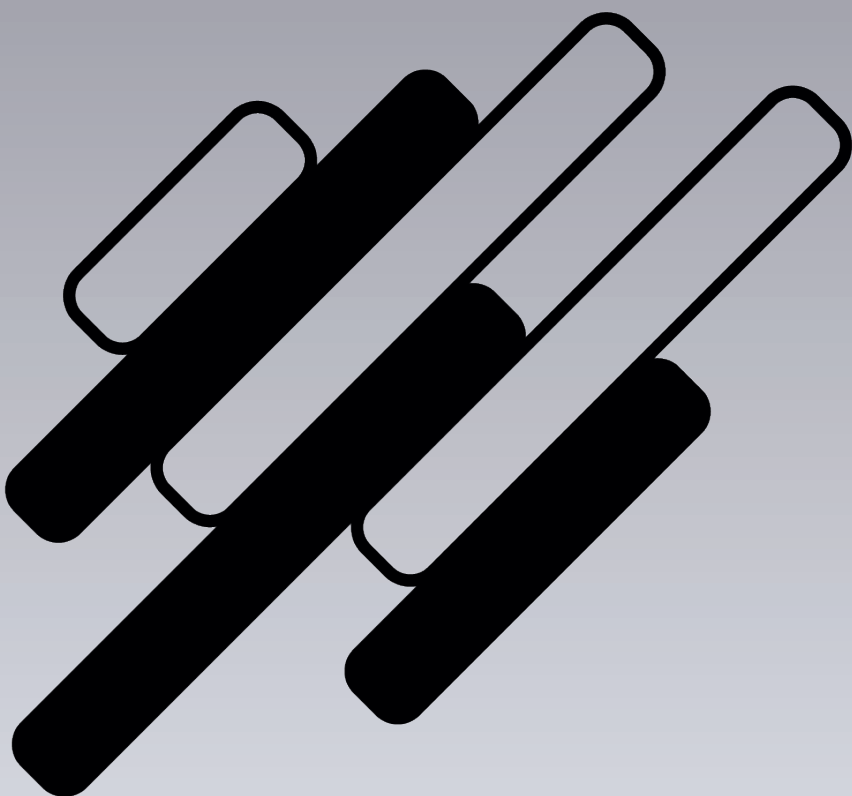
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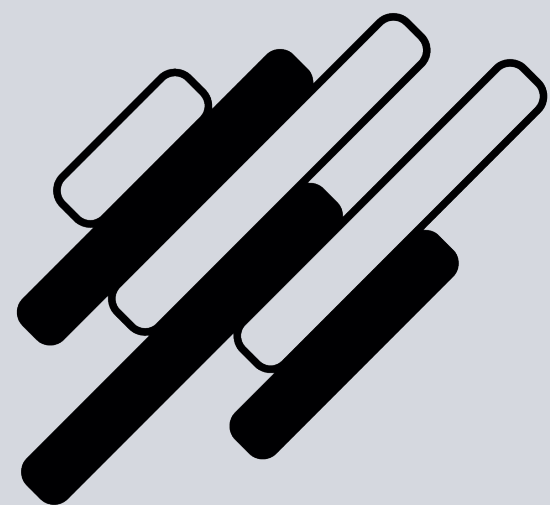
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SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Christian Brodie
CHAIR, SOUTH EAST LEP

“

It was a year like no other. The UK's Brexit deal, the end of the UK-EU transition period and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge to all of us.

While the pandemic remained the most immediate and pressing matter throughout this period, other hugely altering events also took place. Our region has felt the immediate impacts of Brexit, perhaps more than any other. Delays at ports, shortages of drivers and responding to new rules have had a direct impact on our roads, supply chains and communities.

We have also felt the impact of the pandemic. Whatever the economic costs, we must recognise that many have lost their lives and their loved ones. We have all suspended our liberty for the sake of working together – while apart – to combat the spread of this illness. Whatever our partnership has achieved over the past year – and we have achieved a great deal – we must acknowledge these achievements within this context.

These challenges have brought change and uncertainty to businesses and communities across the South East, and I am immensely proud of how our partnership has responded. We have supported local enterprise to survive, and in some cases thrive, through this period.

As well as providing immediate support to businesses at the height of the pandemic, we have also been working hard to help position the South East for success in the long-term – to recover fast and to rebuild a smarter and more sustainable economy, as outlined in our Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy. This key piece of work from the LEP sets out how we will work with our partners to take clear and decisive action in supporting our region's path to recovery.

So much has been achieved in the South East this year. Two new Freeports have been secured for our area, which present new trading and employment opportunities. Our Digital Skills Partnership continues to go from strength to strength, and we have developed a new skills website and repository of information to help businesses and individuals navigate a route to improved digital capability and capacity.

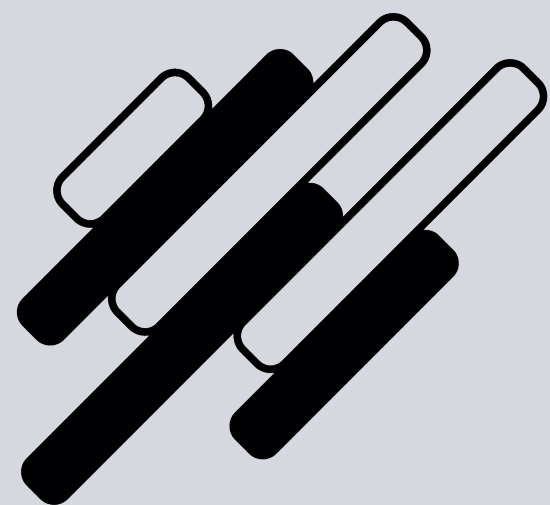
We continue to work closely with our neighbouring areas through our Catalyst South collective, collaborating where this can add value and shape future policy, particularly in meeting the aims of Government to build back better and the levelling up agenda.

Through all of this, we remain committed to the Net Zero agenda. This has been and will remain a driving force in our work. Changes will have to be made – the way we live will evolve, and businesses will no doubt experience some teething problems as they adapt – but this change is good and the responsibility sits with us all as a collective.

As a partnership, we have adapted too, new technologies and ways of working. We have moved our business online and exploited new opportunities for digital and remote working – whether through our digital Board meetings; our Zoom sessions with businesses, MPs and other partners; and our role in staging major online events and conferences.

I am, of course, delighted that we are now seeing opportunities to meet again in person, and to speak face-to-face. But I am proud that, in a year when lockdowns and travel restrictions kept so many of us apart, members of SELEP achieved so much by working together.

”



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“

The South East LEP is a varied region of market towns, small cities, coastal communities and villages. This makes us diverse, with a plethora of strengths not seen elsewhere in the country and an economy underpinned by an entrepreneurial spirit.

Despite the diversity we see in our area, our economy still has some shared challenges. The past year has brought new trading relationships with the EU, greater demand for digital capabilities and an acceleration of existing trends such as restructuring our high street and retail sectors. But the pandemic in particular has also brought with it a greater appreciation of our local communities, green space and the way we work. These trends bring their own challenges and opportunities for us all as a collective.

As we mark ten years of SELEP—and our first year as a limited company—it is only fitting to reflect on the unparalleled success of our Growth Deal, which is soon coming to an end. We have invested £500 million in the South East, contributing to our region’s infrastructure, housing developments, garden communities and high streets and more. Our skills agenda, coupled with our Digital Skills Partnership, has made huge strides in expanding the opportunities available for students and job seekers alike, as well as bolstering the digital capabilities of our businesses and residents.

In 2020, we secured a further £85 million from the Getting Building Fund for projects that would stimulate growth in areas or sectors most impacted by COVID-19, and that could progress at pace. It is immensely gratifying to see these projects already coming to fruition, creating new jobs and opportunities.

Our Growth Hub supported almost 6,000 businesses in 2020-21, offering reassurance and solutions to businesses during a period when many were unsure of their financial future. Since its inception, the South East Business Hub has provided support to around 13,000 businesses. The proportion of that figure that has come from the last year shows just how vital this service was—and still is—to businesses at a time when life, and our futures, felt chaotic and uncertain.

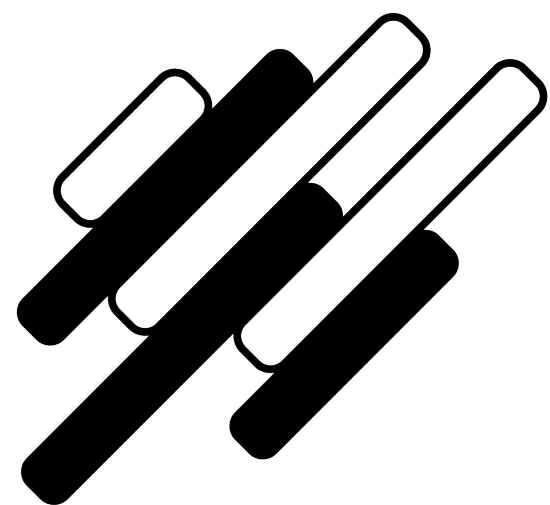
Working with our Growth Hub during the pandemic, we developed surveys, intelligence gathering and regular news bulletins to communicate clearly to the business community at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing them with the tools and information they needed to stay up to date with the countless schemes, rules and guidance being released throughout the year.

It is important to reflect and recognise the achievements that our strong partnership has enabled. We developed our own £4.5 million COVID-19 Recovery Funds programme, offering business and skills support for those affected by the pandemic, and our Sector Support Fund has provided valuable insight and evidence to help us make our economy better with important projects making a real difference, including the Buy Local South East scheme and Clean Growth South East.

I want to thank all partners for their dedication and commitment to working together for the wider goal of growing our region’s economy, especially during such trying times. As always, there is more to do as we transition towards a new economy and together, we will do all we can to ensure that the South East plays the fullest possible role.



”
Adam Bryan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SOUTH EAST LEP



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
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LOCAL GROWTH FUND



£578.9m
TOTAL VALUE OF LOCAL
GROWTH FUND PROGRAMME

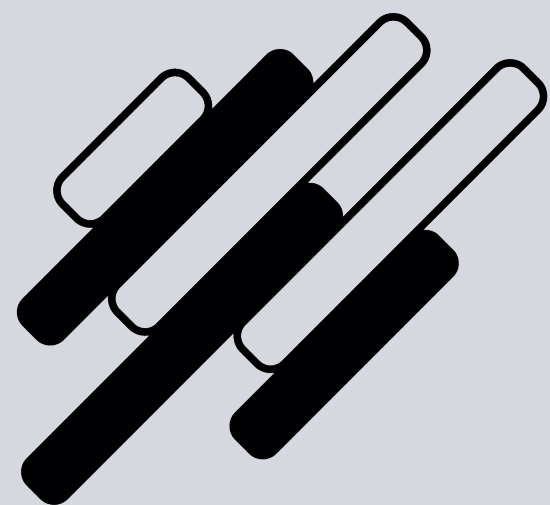
106
TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCAL
GROWTH FUND PROJECTS

2020/21 marked the final year of the LGF programme, with all £578.9m LGF having been fully committed to projects across the SELEP area.

Whilst the delivery of some of the larger and more complex projects will continue, almost all of the LGF has now been transferred across the local authority partners for the completion of the 106 projects included in the programme.

DELIVERY AND OUTCOMES

| | 2020/21 | TOTAL TO DATE (2015/16—2020/21) |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>JOBS</i> | <i>8,895</i> | <i>24,491</i> |
| <i>HOUSES</i> | <i>4,640</i> | <i>25,270</i> |



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

KEY FACTS

LOCATION

*University of Kent at Canterbury and
Canterbury Christ Church University*

PROJECT COMPLETION

Summer 2021

LGF FUNDING

£9m

MATCHED FUNDING

£16.84m

PROJECT OUTPUTS

*The first medical school in Kent providing
lecture theatre, classroom, anatomy and
clinical skills simulation laboratory space
and seminar rooms across the two
university campuses in Canterbury.*

CASE STUDY | LOCAL GROWTH FUND

KENT AND MEDWAY MEDICAL SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

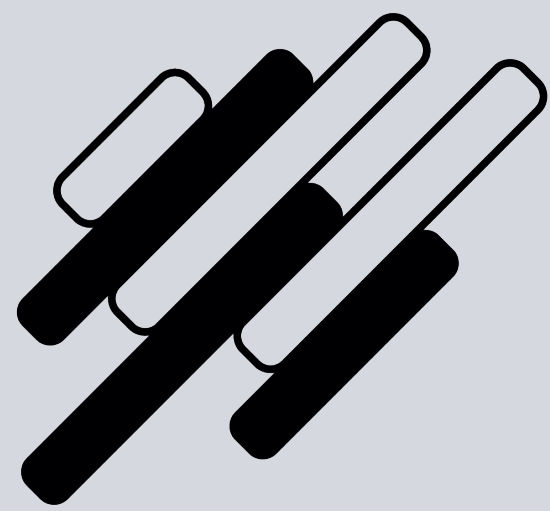
There is an identified need to grow the specialist medical workforce in Kent and Medway. The local health system faces severe workforce challenges, including a 31% vacancy rate among medical staff in mental health, a 21% vacancy rate for consultants in acute and emergency medicine and a ratio of General Practitioners to the population which is substantially below the national average, especially in more disadvantaged parts of the county.

The Kent and Medway Medical School seeks to address the identified workforce challenges via the recruitment and retention of more health professionals in Kent and Medway, through a new curriculum that exposes students to significantly more primary care experience, and by recruiting more widely from all parts of the community to achieve a more diverse and representative workforce.

BENEFITS

- Delivery of Kent and Medway's first medical school, initially supporting 107 undergraduates per year, rising to 214 from 2029/30, and with additional capacity for postgraduate and CPD education;
- Delivery of a new curriculum model to support the Kent and Medway health economy, with much greater exposure to primary care from the start – helping to address the key areas of workforce shortage;
- Recruit more – and more diverse – people into the health service workforce, through an outreach model that will broaden the medical talent pool; and
- Build a new centre for medical knowledge and research.





SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
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CASE STUDY | LOCAL GROWTH FUND

SOUTHEND AIRPORT BUSINESS PARK

BACKGROUND

This is a 55-acre greenfield site adjacent to London Southend Airport and an existing industrial estate, home to a number of aviation supply chain-related businesses.

BENEFITS

The project will support the continued growth of the Airport and its associated activities as a key economic asset and to address the current lack of availability of high-quality employment land and premises in the area.



LOCATION

Southend Airport

PROJECT COMPLETION

Spring 2022

LGF FUNDING

£23.09m

MATCHED FUNDING

£7.98m

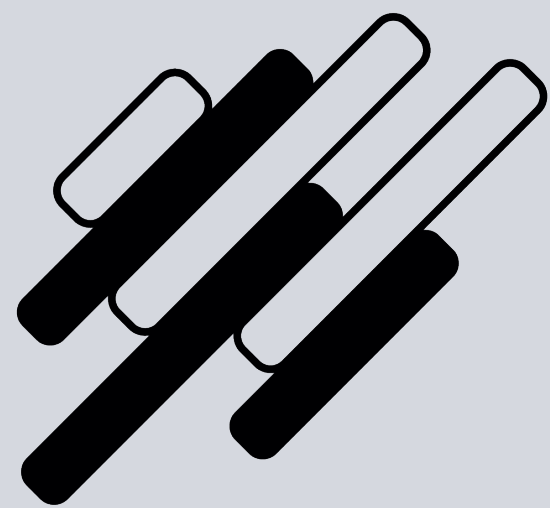
PROJECT OUTPUTS

Phase 1: Included both off-site and on-site infrastructure costs. New rugby club and pitches (including parking and access road).

Phase 2: Included internal road construction, provision of a green spine through the park to support walking and cycling, ground preparation and utilities.

Phase 3: Construction of Innovation Centre (The Launchpad)

**KEY
FACTS**



SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

KEY FACTS

LOCATION
Colchester, Essex

PROJECT COMPLETION
Autumn 2021

LGF FUNDING
£1m

MATCHED FUNDING
£10.1m

PROJECT OUTPUTS

With two auditoria, three rehearsal spaces, meeting rooms and state-of-the-art technical, production and workshop facilities, the Mercury will be a leader in the regional theatre ecology of the UK. The building will also serve as a community hub, providing safe spaces for multiple community groups, people of all faiths, ethnicities, race and backgrounds. With a new café and bar and separate hospitality areas, there will always be something available to the community.

CASE STUDY | LOCAL GROWTH FUND

MERCURY RISING

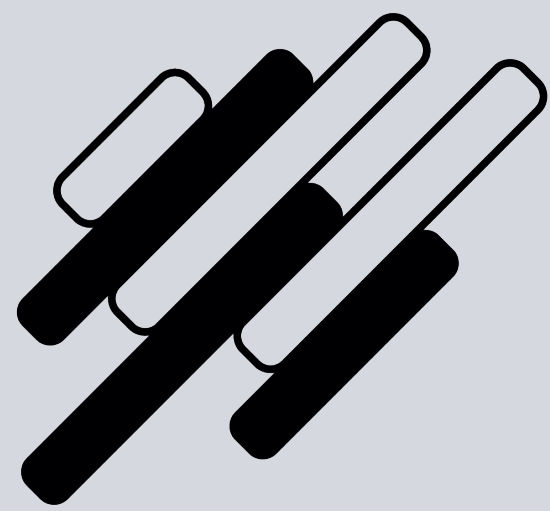
BACKGROUND

The Mercury Theatre has been a professional full producing theatre on its current town centre site since 1972. This investment will be the first investment since its opening. The building will become a world class hub for performing arts, arts education, participation, training and skills development.

BENEFITS

- Create world class facilities for artists and audience alike improving the audience experience, thereby increasing future capacity and attracting more visitors;
- Provide a new hub housing 15 new local creative businesses;
- Improve rehearsal and production facilities to support high quality productions locally, regionally, and nationally;
- Increase the contribution to the regional creative economy including skills development, business support for SMEs in the sector and networking opportunities;
- Improve access for disabled people and other marginalised communities;
- Improve the public realm;
- Improve business sustainability;
- Open up new routes for digital presentation and creation;
- Create a safe and welcoming environment for Mercury staff and users; and
- Support the visitor economy and placemaking for Colchester and North Essex.





SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

GETTING BUILDING FUND

£85m VALUE
36 PROJECTS

CASE STUDY | GETTING BUILDING FUND

RIDING SUNBEAMS SOLAR RAILWAYS

BACKGROUND

In the UK and internationally there is an accelerating shift from carbon-based diesel powered rail traction to electrified railways. UK railways use 1% of our electricity. Demand for traction power is rising, as is pressure to decarbonise offering a significant opportunity for low carbon electricity to power the UK's largest energy user.

The Transport Decarbonisation Plan issued by Government, marks the beginning of the development of the policies required to decarbonise transport with the ultimate aim of reaching net zero emissions across the transport network. Within this report it indicates that: 'Network Rail is actively pursuing large-scale carbon reduction activities across its estate and operations through its internal Decarbonisation Programme, aiming to improve energy efficiency, energy management practices and innovate in the areas of renewable energy, energy storage, low carbon design and transitioning the vehicle fleet to electric.'

This project seeks to respond to the decarbonisation challenge through provision of renewable energy to power the local railway network, facilitating significant carbon savings.

BENEFITS

- Establishing the first proven route-to-market for direct-wire power purchase agreements, and the technical and commercial framework to help guide Network Rail's low carbon power procurement trajectory;
- Creating green employment opportunities. Over the 25 year lifetime of the project it is estimated that the solar farm will support 40 jobs;
- Benefiting the region's electricity network resilience and providing capacity enhancement solutions whilst opening up renewable energy capacity for the rail industry;
- Saving of annual carbon per megawatt of around 245t/CO₂e; and
- Stimulating local social and environmental impact through the development of community benefit and options for community investment.



LOCATION

Cuckmere, East Sussex

PROJECT COMPLETION

June 2022

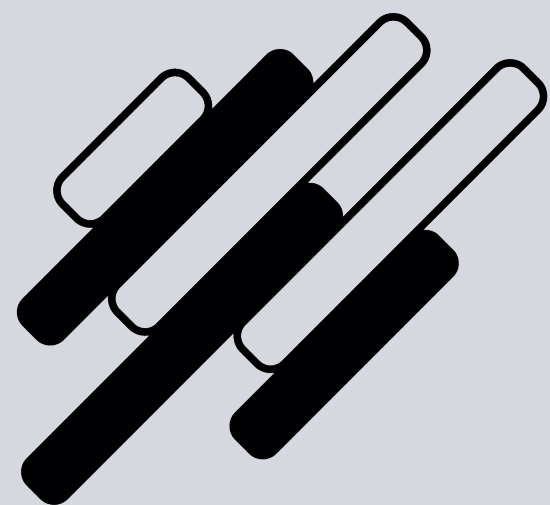
GBF FUNDING

£2.528m

PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project will build and connect the world's first megawatt scale renewable solar energy plant directly powering the direct current railways located in the heart of East Sussex.

The project will be delivered through an innovation collaboration between green technology start-up Riding Sunbeams and Network Rail and will develop the route to market for subsidy free renewable energy generators to directly supply the UK's largest energy user.



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

GROWING PLACES FUND SPEND

£49.2m

MADE AVAILABLE TO SELEP FOR INVESTMENT
AS A RECYCLABLE LOAN SCHEME

£63.3m

TOTAL VALUE OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED
THROUGH GPF INVESTMENT

27

TOTAL NUMBER
OF PROJECTS

2,585

TOTAL JOBS
CREATED

2,109

TOTAL HOUSES
CONSTRUCTED

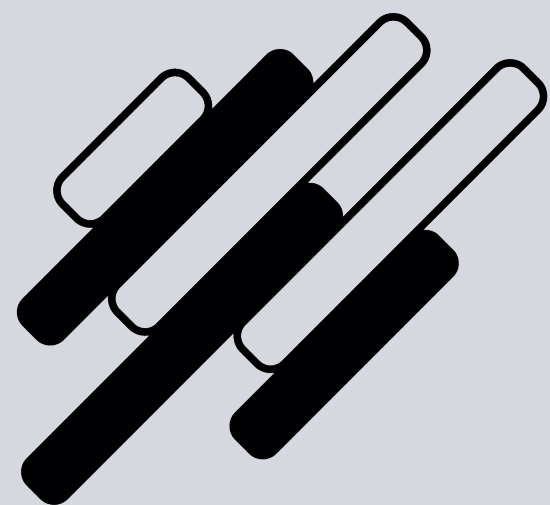
DRAWDOWN IN 2020/21: **£7,725,000**
TO DATE: **£53,896,042**

REPAID IN 2020/21: **£4,595,000**
TO DATE: **£30,636,633**

DELIVERY AND OUTCOMES

| | 2020/21 | TOTAL TO DATE (2015/16—2020/21) |
|---------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| JOBS | 808 | 2,585 |
| HOUSES | 841 | 2,109 |





SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

EASTBOURNE FISHERMAN'S QUAYSIDE

Project aimed at maximising the local economic benefits from fishing activity and building resilience to any future global shocks.



CASE STUDY | GROWING PLACES FUND

EASTBOURNE FISHERMAN'S QUAYSIDE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

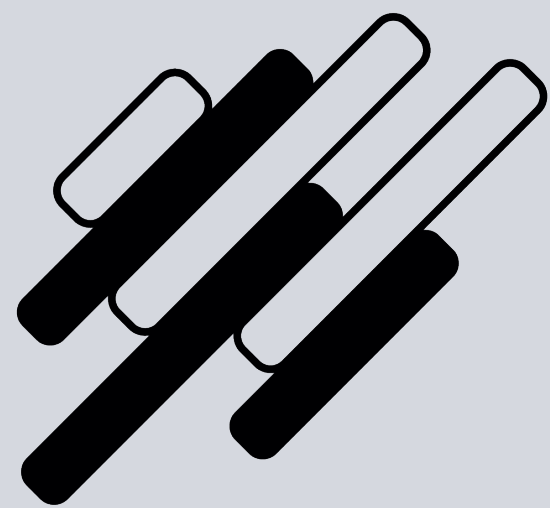
SUMMARY

The Eastbourne Fisherman's Quayside and infrastructure development project, located at Sovereign Harbour in Eastbourne, was awarded **£1.15m GPF** in December 2017 to support the delivery of 270sq m of space to house equipment for ice production, cold storage and processing of fish, alongside an on-site retail unit for wet fish sales. In addition, **£1.44m LGF** was awarded to the project to support delivery of storage and workshop space and a visitor centre on the same site completing the Fisherman's Quay.

Once completed, the Fisherman's Quay will be a vibrant, multi-purpose destination which will combine a sustainable fishing industry for the local area with a heritage visitor destination.

The Eastbourne fishing industry has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to its reliance on the export market. This project seeks to reduce this reliance through re-localising seafood supply chains by linking the fishing fleet with local and regional markets. By establishing a more local supply chain, the fishing industry will become more resilient and less vulnerable to any future global shocks. This will be supported through the delivery of the storage and workshop space and a visitor centre which will help the fishing fleet to survive through diversification of activities and linkages with the tourism sector.

Construction of the building to house equipment for ice production, cold storage and processing of fish, and the onsite retail unit completed in April 2021. It is anticipated that the remaining LGF funded works will be completed by Spring 2022.



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

SECTOR SUPPORT FUND

CASE STUDY | SECTOR SUPPORT FUND

ENERGY AND CLEAN GROWTH MAPPING

BACKGROUND

This 4-stage comprehensive analysis of the Low Carbon, Renewable Energy and Environment Plus (LCREE+) will build on and refresh original work on what was then called the Low Carbon Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector back in 2012. This seeks to support the shared priorities across the SELEP region of clean growth, green economic recovery and transition to a thriving low carbon economy. The ambition will be for the pilot of the Clean Growth Programme and database of mapped sector businesses to inform and link to an effective follow up legacy for synergistic support delivery. The project was originally endorsed back in Autumn 2019 but after a delayed start, planned delivery was caught up further by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BENEFITS

- 6,000 companies added to the CRM;
- 600 companies increasing their GVA;
- 100 jobs created; and
- SELEP local authorities will benefit from the access to an innovative initiative that otherwise they would have had to commission and put their own staff resource into.

LOCATION

Pan-LEP and reporting updates through the Clean Growth Working Group and SELEP Secretariat

PROJECT COMPLETION

*Started June 2020
Due to complete August 2021*

SSF FUNDING

£129,500

MATCHED FUNDING

£55,500

KEY
FACTS



PROJECT OUTPUTS

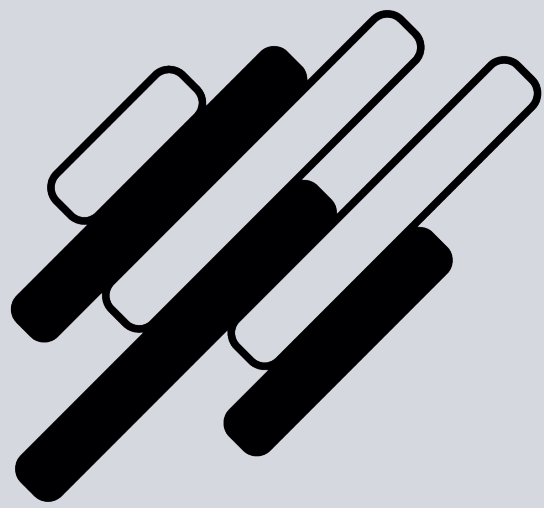
Through this desk-based and business engagement work, companies will be identified throughout the energy and low carbon supply chain and engaged to help inform and pilot a 'Clean Growth' Programme. This will seek to identify and overcome significant barriers and challenges currently restricting economic growth and innovation in key opportunity areas in the sector, such as offshore renewables, green Hydrogen and nuclear. This will not only assess the potential size and scope of the market but identify key gaps and opportunities as well as look to work with commissioners in developing solutions to these challenges. The initial scoping work will also enable a comprehensive and up-to-date Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to be created and used to deliver this targeted programme of interventions, supporting clean growth in this sector.

£2.5m
TOTAL VALUE OF PROGRAMME

21 TOTAL NUMBER
OF PROJECTS

£195,510
SPEND IN 2020/21

£1,105,503
SPEND TO DATE



SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

KEY FACTS

LOCATION

Pan-LEP including Produced in Kent, Natural Partnerships, East Sussex and Rural Community Council of Essex

PROJECT COMPLETION

12-month project running between June 2020 and June 2021

SSF FUNDING
£69,510

MATCHED FUNDING
£29,790

PROJECT OUTPUTS

A regional website and portal to signpost customers to local food and drink businesses showing the SELEP region (www.buylocalfoodanddrink.co.uk), which is a centralised food and drink platform for the area aimed at consumers and businesses looking to buy local in the South East.

A SELEP area wide Buy Local Food and Drink marketing campaign focused on local producers, retailers and followed by hospitality and tourism experiences.

Central database for food and drink businesses in the SELEP area.

A series of business recovery support activities for food and drink businesses based on a sector COVID-19 impact and recovery survey.

CASE STUDY | SECTOR SUPPORT FUND

BUY LOCAL SOUTH EAST

BACKGROUND

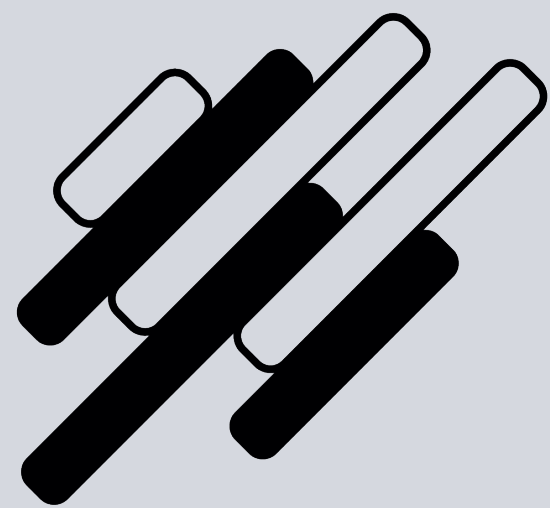
The Food and Drink sector is moving up on the regional government agenda. In past years, food tourism has been growing in the South East, British food (Buy British) – in particular its wine – has become hugely popular in and outside of the UK and customers have grown more environmentally aware, shifting their attention to local and sustainable food.

COVID-19 has brought the role of the food and drink sector in our regional rural economy into sharp focus. The forced shutdown of pubs, restaurants and cafes has had a disastrous effect on the hospitality sector and its supply chain of growers, producers and distributors. This project aims to capitalise on a renewed focus on local buying to support all businesses in the food and drink sector to weather the COVID-19 storm and rebuild a sustainable business in the recovery period.

BENEFITS

- Increased B2C and B2B sales across companies involved in the project;
- New products developed; and
- Additional employment with a target of 30 FTE posts.





SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

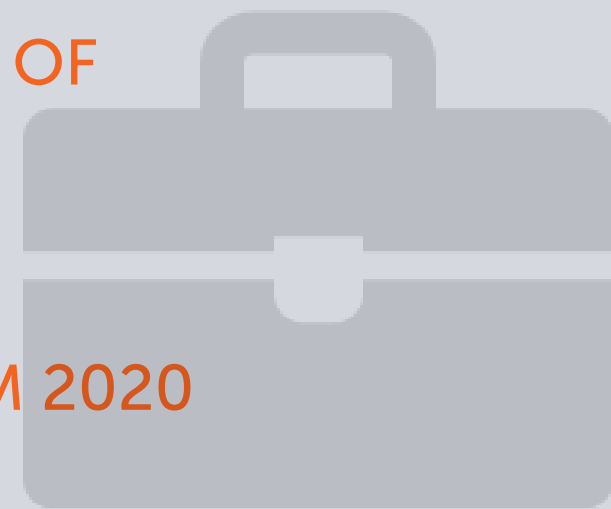
OUR ECONOMY

177,930

BUSINESSES AS OF
MARCH 2021

0.9%
GROWTH FROM 2020

56.4%
THREE-YEAR SURVIVAL RATE
COMPARED WITH ENGLAND'S 51.5%



UNEMPLOYMENT AND CLAIMANTS

4.4% UNEMPLOYMENT AS % OF
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE
POPULATION (MARCH 2021)
COMPARED WITH UK'S 4.9%

CLAIMANT RATE AS % OF
POPULATION AGED 16 TO
64 (SEPTEMBER 2021)
COMPARED WITH UK'S 5% **4.6%**



APPRENTICESHIP STARTS IN
2020/21 ACADEMIC YEAR TO APRIL: **17,730**
APPRENTICESHIP STARTS IN
2019/20 ACADEMIC YEAR: **21,940**

ECONOMICALLY
ACTIVE RESIDENTS

2,155,100

IN 2020

80.6%
OF POPULATION
AGED 16-64

GROSS WEEKLY WAGES
FULL-TIME MEDIAN WAGE IN 2020

WORKPLACE:
£549.60

RESIDENT:
£608.70

COMPARED WITH UK'S £585.50

APPRENTICESHIPS

A POPULATION OF
MORE THAN

4.28 million



6.4%
SHARE OF UK POPULATION

FIVE YEAR GROWTH OF
3.6%
COMPARED WITH THE UK'S 3%

WORKING AGE SKILL LEVELS
OF POPULATION AGED 16-64

37.3% LEVEL 4 QUALIFICATION
AND ABOVE (UK: 43%)

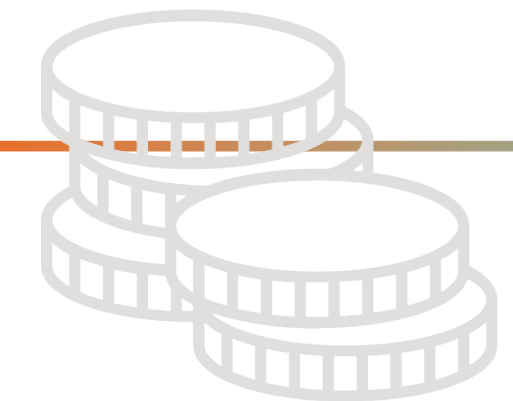
LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATION
AND ABOVE (UK: 78%) **77.1%**

5.8% NO QUALIFICATIONS
(UK: 6.6%)

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO
THE ECONOMY (GVA) IS

£98.9 billion

A YEAR
AS OF 2019



5%
OF UK GVA

FIVE YEAR REAL GROWTH OF
11%
COMPARED WITH THE UK'S 8.6%

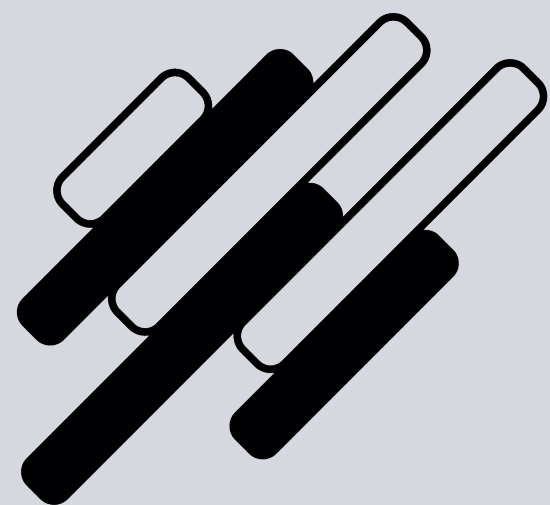
CORONAVIRUS GRANTS AND LOANS

GRANTS PAID: **288,991** | VALUE OF GRANTS:
£1,533M

LOCAL AUTHORITY CORONAVIRUS GRANT
PAYMENTS TO SMEs (UP TO 29 AUGUST 2021)

LOANS PAID: **114,347** | VALUE OF LOANS:
£4,873.8M

CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS INTERRUPTION
AND BOUNCE BACK LOAN SCHEMES (UP TO
31 MARCH 2021)



SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

The SELEP Growth Hub is part of Government funded network of 38 Hubs, with one in each LEP area. It is a fully funded, impartial service for businesses and entrepreneurs across the South East area, helping business leaders achieve their growth ambitions.

The SELEP Growth Hub operates under the umbrella of South East Business Hub with three very distinctive delivery arms: Business Essex, Southend and Thurrock (BEST) Growth Hub, Kent & Medway Growth Hub and Business East Sussex Growth Hub.

2020-21 was a very different year for Growth Hubs as a result of pandemic and the shift of focus to light touch, high volume business support. It is more critical than ever that businesses are readily able to access the support they need, in some cases to assess and pivot their business model, access new skills and training, increase innovation and technology adoption and improve resilience and competitiveness.

Thanks to additional funding received for EU transition business readiness and strengthening of the Growth Hub service, the Growth Hubs have been able to expand their business navigators' teams as well as procure additional specialist support to help businesses through the transition period following the EU Exit.



BUSINESS SUPPORT

Supporting the most enterprising economy in England

SOUTH EAST BUSINESS HUB in numbers

SERVICE

6,021

businesses helped last year

34,000

unique visitors to the Growth Hub website

IMPACT

75%

satisfied with the quality of Growth Hub's service

79%

likely to recommend the Growth Hub

3,726

referrals were made to other provisions such as mentoring, skills and training, finance and funding, R&D and innovation and import and export



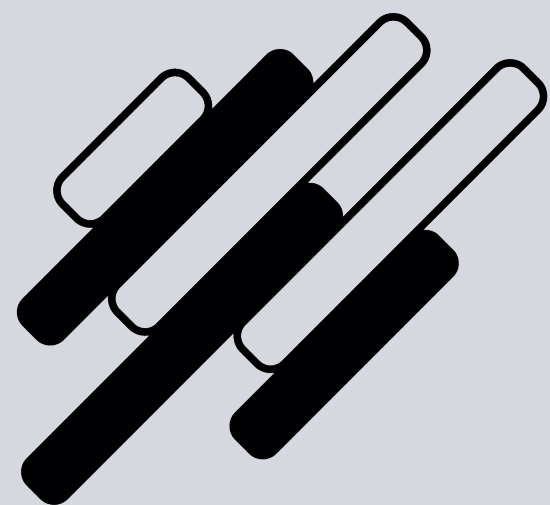
BEST
FOR BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
Business Essex, Southend and Thurrock



Business
East Sussex
Supporting better business



KENT & MEDWAY
Growth Hub
Your gateway to business growth



SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Essex County Council (ECC) is the Accountable body for SELEP; in this capacity it manages all financial transactions on behalf of SELEP, including receipt and payments of grants, overseeing contract management with suppliers and ensures that the Partnership has sufficient cash flow.

The SELEP Board agrees an annual operational spend each year which covers the running costs of the LEP's Executive Team and Boards, including staff salaries, office expenses, publicity and marketing, and professional fees.

The operational spend is funded through core funding from the MHCLG, match funding contributions from partners and interest received on cash balances invested by the Accountable Body on behalf of SELEP. Any surplus or deficit held at the end of the financial year is managed through the operational reserve.

OPERATIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2020/21

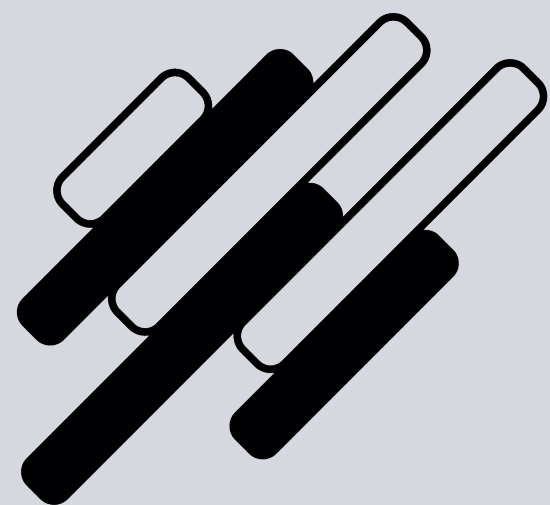
| SELEP OPERATIONAL INCOME 2020/21 | £000's |
|--|----------------|
| REVENUE GRANT FUNDING | (2,298) |
| COVID-19 GRANT FUNDING | (7) |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM PARTNERS | (300) |
| INTEREST RECEIVABLE ON CAPITAL BALANCES | (233) |
| TOTAL INCOME | (2,839) |
| SELEP OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE 2020/21 | £000's |
| STAFFING | 1,380 |
| MEETINGS AND ADMIN COSTS | 29 |
| CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR ALLOWANCE WITH ON-COSTS | 39 |
| CONSULTANCY AND PROJECT WORK | 318 |
| GRANTS TO THIRD PARTIES | 1,426 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 3,193 |
| NET INCOME TRANSFERRED FROM THE OPERATIONAL RESERVE | 354 |

FINANCIAL POSITION

FUNDING SUMMARY AS AT 31st MARCH 2021

| CAPITAL GRANTS (£000's) | OPENING BALANCE | FUNDING RECEIVED | FUNDING APPLIED | CLOSING BALANCE |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| LOCAL GROWTH FUND | 41,412 | 78,512 | (114,778) | 5,146 |
| LOCAL GROWTH FUND (RETAINED SCHEMES) | 26,651 | 7,100 | (25,352) | 8,399 |
| GROWING PLACES FUND (LOAN FUND) | 20,947 | 4,595 | (8,725) | 16,817 |
| GETTING BUILDING FUND | 0 | 42,500 | (42,500) | 0 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL GRANTS | 89,010 | 132,707 | (191,355) | 30,362 |
| REVENUE GRANTS (£000's) | OPENING BALANCE | FUNDING RECEIVED | FUNDING APPLIED | CLOSING BALANCE |
| GROWING PLACES FUND / SECTOR SUPPORT FUND | 1,577 | 1,000 | (196) | 2,381 |
| GROWTH HUB - CORE FUNDING GRANT | 0 | 656 | (656) | 0 |
| GROWTH HUB - CORE FUNDING SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT | 0 | 234 | (234) | 0 |
| GROWTH HUB - PEER NETWORK GRANT | 0 | 160 | (160) | 0 |
| BREXIT READINESS FUNDING | 44 | 0 | (44) | 0 |
| EU TRANSITION | 0 | 204 | (204) | 0 |
| ERDF LEGACY FUNDS | 0 | 350 | 0 | 350 |
| SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL (SAP) GRANT | 44 | 75 | (119) | 0 |
| LOCAL DIGITAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP CATALYST GRANT | 108 | 0 | (71) | 37 |
| DELIVERING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE | 37 | 76 | (112) | 1 |
| CAREERS ENTERPRISE COMPANY (CEC) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 |
| ENERGY STRATEGY GRANT | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| DEVELOPING HIGH STREETS | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| CORE FUNDING | 0 | 625 | (602) | 23 |
| TOTAL REVENUE GRANTS | 1,817 | 3,390 | (2,398) | 2,808 |
| SELEP CREDITORS | 69 | 0 | 215 | 284 |
| SELEP SHORT TERM DEBTORS | 0 | 0 | (60) | (60) |
| SELEP COVID-19 RESERVES * | 4,400 | 100 | (7) | 4,493 |
| SELEP OPERATIONAL RESERVES | 1,326 | 0 | (354) | 972 |
| TOTAL FUNDING AT 31 MARCH 2021 | 96,622 | 136,197 | (193,959) | 38,860 |

* The COVID-19 Reserves were established to ring-fence this funding to deliver these schemes.



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

OUR FUTURE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY CHAIR



Sarah Dance
DEPUTY CHAIR, SOUTH EAST LEP

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As we move away from the worst of the pandemic, the economy is in a period of change and adjustment.

As the focus falls to recovery, we start to think where the opportunities lie and where further change will be needed. Undoubtedly the challenges facing business include finding and keeping the right people, access to supply chains and associated costs and importantly the net-zero agenda among others. The role of the LEP continues to be in understanding the needs of business and helping to plan, setting the direction and encouraging investment in ways which help our businesses and communities to thrive.

SELEP recently launched its Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy, which sets out how we, with our partners, will work together for a **faster, smarter** and more **sustainable economic recovery**. This work is underpinned by four strategic priorities that influence all that we do: at the forefront, **supporting our businesses** to make them resilient, profitable and primed for growth; ensuring that the South East remains **the gateway to the rest of the world** by recognising the importance of our logistics industry, our ports, railways and airports; creating **attractive and sustainable** local economies with green housing standards and the means for our residents to enjoy meaningful, well-balanced lives; and finally, supporting our **coastal communities** and truly taking advantage of the large and diverse stretch of coast we enjoy in the South East.

Through our Skills Advisory Panel and Digital Skills Partnership, we are continuing to listen to what businesses need and ensure the skills provision meets local requirements. Our virtual careers fair in Autumn 2021 will further embed this and hopefully be the stepping stone for new careers for young people and those looking to retrain.

We are working across the LEP in supporting the net-zero agenda which cuts across all aspects of economic growth and represents a growing sector in its own right. The South East is well placed to play its part with our natural assets and entrepreneurial spirit; we have a responsibility to create sustainable, balanced places to live and work.

We have furthered our aim to become a more inclusive and diverse LEP. I will soon be leading on our new Diversity Group to ensure that our work is pioneered by a wide, cross-section of the wonderfully diverse communities that we serve and support in the South East. Diversity is one aspect which gives us such a thriving creative and cultural industry. These were some of the hardest-hit sectors during the pandemic, as well as tourism and hospitality and it will take time to rebuild. Our Revi-VE – South East Visitor Economy Fund – part of our COVID-19 Recovery Funds package – was created to help deliver long-term resilience and adaptation to a post-COVID world for the visitor economy and we will actively seek other ways to support these sectors in the coming years.

Our joint project with Arts Council England, **Developing Cultural and Creative Offers in High Streets**, focuses on communities of the future. We are exploring how cultural and creative organisations can be embedded in our high streets to prompt regeneration and growth, and the outcome of this study will inform future work.

I am immensely proud of the work we at the LEP have achieved, and the plans we have for the South East already in play. While the future of LEPs may be uncertain at this time, our many achievements, which we have fulfilled with our dedicated network of partners, have already created a legacy that will remain for years to come.

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