

Attendees

<b>AA</b>	Andy Arnold	East Sussex CC	<b>JB</b>	Jonathan Buckwell	Developers East Sussex (DES)
<b>AB</b>	Adam Bryan	South East LEP	<b>JHa</b>	James Harris	East Sussex CC
<b>AC</b>	Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce	<b>JHv</b>	Jo Havers	University of Brighton
<b>AD</b>	Abigail Dombey	Hydrogen Sussex	<b>JM</b>	Clr James MacCleary	Lewes DC
<b>BH</b>	Ben Hook	Rother DC	<b>KFi</b>	Kirsten Firth	Hydrogen Sussex / BHCC
<b>BS</b>	Clr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	<b>KG</b>	Clr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
<b>CB</b>	Clr Christine Bayliss	Rother DC	<b>KT</b>	Katy Thomas	East Sussex CC
<b>CS</b>	Clive Soper	FSB	<b>MC</b>	Matthew Chenery	East Sussex CC
<b>DE</b>	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	<b>ME</b>	Martin Ellis	Recruitment South East
<b>DG</b>	Diana Garnham	Skills East Sussex (SES)	<b>MS</b>	Martin Searle	FSB
<b>DS</b>	David Sheppard	D-RisQ Ltd	<b>NM</b>	Neil Madgwick	UK Power Networks
<b>DT</b>	Clr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC	<b>PSm</b>	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
<b>GP</b>	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	<b>PSp</b>	Peter Sharp	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
<b>HA</b>	Holly Aquilina	East Sussex CC	<b>RD</b>	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
<b>IG</b>	Isabel Garden	Wealden DC	<b>RS</b>	Clr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
<b>IS</b>	Ioni Sullivan	East Sussex CC	<b>SB</b>	Sue Baxter	University of Sussex
<b>JA</b>	Joe Ash	UK Power Networks	<b>SD</b>	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion

Apologies

<b>BP</b>	Brett Pearson	Locate East Sussex	<b>RC</b>	Rebecca Conroy	East Sussex College
<b>CE</b>	Christina Ewbank	ACES	<b>VC</b>	Victoria Conheady	Hastings BC
<b>KFo</b>	Clr Kim Forward	Hastings BC	<b>ZN</b>	Clr Zoe Nicholson	Lewes DC

**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, 6 Dec 2021**

- 2.1. **GP** ran through the actions of the previous meeting and confirmed they were all completed or in-progress. Regarding action 8.5 (University of Brighton's proposed working group to look at future uses of their Eastbourne sites), **JHv** will update TES once the University of Brighton has published its formal decisions on the Eastbourne campus, expected late-Jan/early-Feb 2022.
- 2.2. The minutes were approved by the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising**LEP Review / Levelling Up White Paper

- 3.1. **AB** confirmed that there is still no news on the Government's Levelling Up White Paper, in which the future of LEPs is expected to be clarified. The most recent intelligence suggests that the paper will now be published in the first week of Feb 2022. **AB** reiterated that the continued delay is having an immediate impact on the Secretariat team, as several members will be leaving following the redundancy consultation period.

Climate Emergency Road Map

- 3.2. **GP** confirmed that the final draft Climate Emergency Road Map was endorsed by TES Board members on 21 Jan 2022 via electronic procedure. The Road Map has now been published on the [ESCC website](#).

Charleston Access Road

- 3.3. **GP** referred to an inflammatory and largely inaccurate [tabloid press article](#) published online last month, and picked up by many other media channels, on the allocation of Getting Building Fund (GBF) monies to Charleston Access Road. SELEP has responded to the article with a factual rebuttal, which will be shared with TES members for information.

**[Action: DE to circulate a copy of SELEP's response to the Charleston Access Road press article]**

#### 4. Workshop discussions: climate change infrastructure

##### Hydrogen Sussex

- 4.1. **AD** and **KFi** delivered a presentation on *Hydrogen Sussex*, including an explanation of the different types of hydrogen, how they're generated and their wide variety of uses; the main sector focus of Hydrogen Sussex (transport, maritime, generation and heating) and projects they're already involved in across the southeast region; a summary of projected hydrogen jobs/skills figures taken from the Government's [UK Hydrogen Strategy](#) alongside a summary of the UK Hydrogen Strategy Roadmap; and the next steps for Hydrogen Sussex.

##### UK Power Networks (UKPN)

- 4.2. **NM** and **JA** delivered a presentation on UK Power Networks' plans for "a net zero future", highlighting the key messages from their business plan; the projected take-up of low carbon technologies in our region (including electric vehicles and decarbonised heat); an overview of the current infrastructure across the Southern Power Network (SPN) region; key areas of growth and projects in development or underway; and the areas where they expect to invest to increase network capacity. More information is available online on the [UKPN Business Plan](#) and the forecast [Distribution Future Energy Scenarios](#).

##### Overall TES discussion points

- 4.3. **ME** queried whether there are other groups similar to Hydrogen Sussex operating in our neighbouring counties. **AD** confirmed there is a Thames Gateway hydrogen group (part of the Thames Estuary Growth Board) and Hydrogen East covering the East Anglia area.
- 4.4. **PSp** commented that as part of their Towns Fund bid for Newhaven, Lewes DC is working with Brighton and Hove Buses on a hydrogen storage project (a hydrogen hub and training facility).
- 4.5. **CS** highlighted the regular groups/stakeholder-engagement mentioned in the Hydrogen Sussex slides, and suggested that he and others on TES would wish to be involved.
- 4.6. **AC** noted Hydrogen Sussex's links with Chichester College on the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) programme, which has direct links to our [Local Skills Improvement Plan \(LSIP\)](#) led by Sussex Chamber of Commerce. Our LSIP has a cross-cutting theme of Green Skills, and hydrogen has been flagged in all of the key sectors that are developing skills plans. Chichester College also sits on our LSIP Board. It would be good to strengthen the links between Hydrogen Sussex and Sussex Chamber of Commerce. **GP** added that East Sussex College is starting a green skills campus in the east of the county, so will no doubt want to be involved as well. **DG** further added that she and the Skills East Sussex (SES) group would be keen to draw on Hydrogen Sussex when looking at net-zero skills plans in SES.
- 4.7. **GP** commented that TES is ready and willing to help Hydrogen Sussex explore the future use of hydrogen in our area and the opportunities/investment it may bring, and invited them to let us know how we can be further involved.
- 4.8. **GP** highlighted the potential impact that UKPN's expansion will have on land use and the environment, and asked whether the physical infrastructure will require new pylons to be constructed. **NM** confirmed that some new additions to the overhead network will be necessary, but most of the new infrastructure will be underground wherever possible.
- 4.9. **BS** queried whether the introduction of domestic heat pumps will truly help to achieve net zero, as so much housing stock is very old and not thermally efficient. **JA** agreed that some old housing stock can only be retrofitted to a certain degree, but for the majority of housing types, as long as there is *some* insulation/thermal efficiency, it will be the best option. There are a number of schemes available to help increase the thermal efficiency of certain housing stock.
- 4.10. **SB** and **JHv** suggested linking-up UKPN with academic colleagues (research experts and careers teams) at both the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton. **HA** added that Skills East Sussex (SES) has a net zero skills working group, which would be a good vehicle for further discussion, and would welcome a conversation about the skills deficit and employment opportunities.
- 4.11. **IG** queried whether UKPN has sufficient contact with each of our local authorities. **NM** advised that their Local Area Planning Team is expanding soon, and they deal directly with local authorities, but it would certainly be useful to have as many contacts as possible. **GP** proposed that each of the senior officers on the call send a list of appropriate contacts (working on green tech, planning colleagues etc) to **DE**, to forward onto **NM** and **JA**.

*[Action: Senior County/Borough/District officers to each send a list of appropriate contacts at their authority to DE, to forward onto NM and JA at UKPN]*

- 4.12. **GP** noted the high level of enthusiasm and interest shown by TES members in both presentations. Therefore, to avoid a barrage of emails being exchanged immediately after the meeting, he suggested that as well as compiling the above local authority contacts, **DE** also coordinate an exchange of overall contact details.

*[Action: DE to circulate the contact details of Hydrogen Sussex and UKPN to TES colleagues; DE to also share the contact details of TES Board members with Hydrogen Sussex and UKPN]*

## **5. TES round table / AOB**

- 5.1. **GP** advised that *Rebecca Conroy*, Principal and CEO of East Sussex College, has agreed to join the TES Board as Further Education representative, following the departure of Dan Shelley earlier this month. **RC** sent her apologies for today's meeting, but is very much looking forward to engaging with TES.
- 5.2. **SB** confirmed that the University of Sussex will announce its new Vice Chancellor later this week. *Professor Sasha Roseneil* will join the university in the summer. Details on the [University of Sussex website](#). **SB** also noted that work has begun on the UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) project led by Sussex Innovation to support the innovation needs of businesses across the county. She'll be happy to report back on progress at a future TES meeting.
- 5.3. **JHv** advised that the University of Brighton's School of Business and Law has received a prestigious national charter award in recognition of its work with local enterprises – the Small Business Charter Award. Details on the [University of Brighton website](#).
- 5.4. **KG** advised that Transport for the South East (TfSE) has been awarded an additional £600k in-year funding from the Government to help support work on decarbonisation, EV charging infrastructure, Bus Back Better and local capacity and capability, demonstrating the Government's confidence in TfSE and its work programme.
- 5.5. **AC** confirmed that the Local Skills improvement Plan (LSIP) will be submitted to Government in Mar 2022. Final consultation sessions/workshops are being held next month, and everyone is encouraged to take part – especially businesses. All of the information is on the [Sussex Chamber website](#). **AC** also highlighted the [British Chambers Trade Manifesto](#), which contains useful information on exporting, customs declarations etc.
- 5.6. **SD** advised that the Bexhill Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair will be held at the De La Warr Pavilion on 25 Mar 2022. Exhibitor registration for businesses and organisations is now open via the [DLWP website](#).
- 5.7. TES members agreed that the timing is right to start reintroducing some face-to-face meetings back into the TES schedule. Therefore, **GP** confirmed that the next TES meeting on 14 Mar 2022 will be held *in person* at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill.

### Summary of actions:

- 3.3 **DE** to circulate a copy of SELEP's response to the Charleston Access Road press article.
- 4.11 Senior County/Borough/District officers to each send a list of appropriate contacts at their authority to **DE**, to forward onto **NM** and **JA** at UKPN.
- 4.12 **DE** to circulate the contact details of Hydrogen Sussex and UKPN to TES colleagues; **DE** to also share the contact details of TES Board members with Hydrogen Sussex and UKPN.