



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

South East LEP *2023/24 and beyond*

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Recap on White Paper

- Levelling Up White Paper positively acknowledged the role and impact of LEPs
- The letter subsequently received on 31 March indicated the role that LEPs should play to support implementation of new devolution arrangements
 - Embed a strong business voice in local institutions
 - Undertake strategic economic planning
 - Deliver functions on behalf of Government departments (including Growth Hub)

Short term secured

- We await further guidance from Government on their expectations for 23/24. Delivery Plan was due in late November but this deadline is likely to change
- SELEP's existing funding will support the team's reduced operation until March 2024
- Growth Hub funding runs only until March 2023

Wider context: National LEP picture

- LEP Network are actively seeking two-year settlement for LEPs in areas which have not been prioritised for an early devolution transition
- Some areas are currently transitioning, others recognise that new devolution mechanisms are years away and are planning for longer term. One LEP has £4m+ in revenue reserves
- Some LEPs are pursuing consultancy-style revenue raising activities to support their operation

When is change needed?

- There is a tendency to 'jump to structure' and assume that institutional change is the answer
- Continuance is important at the moment. Solutions like the Growth Hub are a vital support to business
- Until SELEP is invited to take part in discussions around implementing the White Paper, we should maintain our joined up working and ensure that representing the voice of business is our key driver

Strategic planning and intelligence

Action	Impact
✓ Production and publication of quarterly key indicator data packs to provide a shared understanding of the data and intelligence that support regional strategic priorities	✓ Utilised by SELEP and partners to inform planning and monitor key economic metrics
✓ Production and publication of topical reports to provides a shared deeper understanding of key topics/issues	✓ Reports such as South East Levelling Up Index, Coastal Community Health, Creative High Streets have been utilised to inform policy, decision making and action
✓ Provision of data and evidence to support investment decisions and funding applications	✓ SELEP support for South East consortium to bid for the DCMS £18m Create Growth fund for creative businesses
✓ Publication of the SAP Skills Report, refreshed evidence base and support to LSIPs, as required by DfE, to deliver a comprehensive understanding of labour market & skills needs	✓ Utilised by the education and skills sector, LAs, LSIPs, as well as strategic developments e.g. major projects, to inform planning, spend and activity

Communicating, collaborating and convening the business voice

<i>Action</i>	<i>Impact</i>
✓ Progressing South East Major Projects Group discussions on collaboration for supply chain development and decarbonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launch of the MPG Supply Chain Community Platform ✓ Agreement to explore common approaches to procurement, measurement and skills for decarbonisation
✓ Revitalisation of the SELEP Skills Advisory Panel to drive regional activity and support local skills priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A focus on deeper understanding of sector skills needs to support and target regional activity and provide added value to LSIPs. ✓ LSIP leads represented on SAP
✓ Continued work to accelerate housing delivery across the region and influence policy through the Housing and Development Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exceeded housing target set for March 2021 with 110,100 net new homes ✓ Regular engagement with Whitehall departments and Ministers
✓ Continued close working with Lower Thames Crossing via MPG, LTC Working Groups and on specific strands of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Informing the LTC now published skills and employment strategy, benefits planning and consultations

Action	Impact
✓ Delivering/administering the capital programme	✓ Delivery of a £700m programme
✓ Delivery and evaluation of the COVID-19 Recovery Fund programme	✓ 1139 business supported; 271 business support and economy grants totalling £594k ✓ 1100 enrolments to skills programmes; 190 trained and into jobs; 236 further trained
✓ Delivery of the Growth Hub business support service	✓ 831 businesses supported through 1,459 interactions in the last quarter; continued impact of a unique model
✓ Publication of the South East Major Projects Group action plan for skills and employment	✓ Agreed commitment to work together and with the sector to support local employment ✓ Priority to undertake research and develop a solutions proposal to address our technical tutor shortage
✓ Supporting the development of Freeport East	✓ Providing extensive economic analysis and modelling support for the FBC and responding to Government queries
✓ Supporting the development of Thames Freeport	✓ Informing the development of the Freeports skills strategy and plan

- Exploring Coastal Inward Investment activities
- Voice of business - 'This is the South East Economy' state of the region report
- Next round of Growing Places Fund
- Furthering the work of the MPG on skills, decarbonisation and supply chain
- Further developing the Strategy Network to support planning and stimulation of new regional investment



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