

SOUTH EAST LEP NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

SELEP Annual Conference highlights importance of collaboration, confidence and partnerships in supporting South East businesses

Mark Goldstone, Head of Regional Policy at CBI, has stated that what businesses need to adapt to our evolving economy is "clarity, certainty and confidence" during his keynote address at the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's Annual Conference and AGM for 2021-22, both of which were held on the morning of 7 October 2022.



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SECEN consortium wins bid for share of £18 million Create Growth fund to support creative businesses



Following a competitive process, a consortium of partners working on behalf of the South East Creative, Cultural and Digital sector has secured one of only six awards to regional partnerships across the UK to deliver the Create Growth Programme.

The Create Growth Programme is a Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) initiative to support high-growth potential creative businesses outside of London to become investment ready.

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Levelling Up Minister attends Grand Opening Ceremony held at North Kent College for state-of-the-art Performing Arts and Digital Creative Centre

A round of applause followed the ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling at North Kent College, Dartford where the official opening of their Performing Arts and Digital Creative Centre took place on Tuesday 11th October. The state-of-the-art project was the largest value project in the Getting Building Fund programme and contains 2,836 sq m of educational floorspace. SELEP awarded £12.3m to the project at North Kent College, recognising the importance of the sector to the local economy.



SELEP Deputy Chair Sarah Dance attended the event alongside Kent County Council leader Roger Gough, North Kent College Chief Executive David Gleed, and Minister for Levelling Up Dehenna Davison MP.

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In other news...

- Applications for [SELEP's new Chair](#) have now closed. In 2023, SELEP will welcome its new Chair following seven very successful years with Christian Brodie at the helm. The successful applicant will be a senior business leader with strong connections to the SELEP area and a passion for business growth and attracting investment to help the area, its businesses and people to thrive.
- [Skills East Sussex](#) is inviting local businesses and employers to complete a survey that will help to inform future training, careers advice and employment support initiatives in the county. Running until 2nd December, you can [fill out the survey here](#).
- SELEP's latest [Economic Recovery and Renewal Quarterly Dashboard](#) is now available to view in the [Data and Intelligence Centre](#) on the SELEP website. Our [Levelling Up Index](#) (published September 2022) is also available to view and download, assessing good access to high quality jobs and highlighting the need to level up across our coastal and Thames estuary communities. [Read both here](#).
- SELEP continues to work with organisations such as [Innovate UK](#) to promote opportunities that may be of interest to our partners and wider stakeholders, helping to support business growth and innovation. If you are interested in understanding what is available through the sector [Knowledge Transfer Network](#), visit ktn-uk.org, and for wider funding opportunities, such as the Net Zero Living Pioneer Place, which is open through November, [click here to find out more](#).



Latest from the South East Major Projects Group...

- National Highways has announced a digital Carbon Academy as part of a new strategy to give local people and businesses work and training on the Lower Thames Crossing. The project's new [Skills, Education and Employment Strategy](#) sets out how National Highways will help local communities. [Find out more here](#).
- Ebbsfleet Development Corporation has launched a [social value framework](#) to help maximise the positive impact for local people across North Kent. Organisations working with EDC can assist in delivering the social value ambition, demonstrating a clear plan as to how they can help make a positive impact for local community members. [Find out more here](#).

Coming up...

- STEM Learning, a member of SELEP's [Skills Advisory Panel](#), is co-hosting [Green Careers Week](#) from the 7th-12th November. This event is designed to raise aspiration, support diversity, challenge stereotypes, and promote real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference, including through some of SELEP's major infrastructure projects. [Find out more here](#).
- SELEP Chief Executive Adam Bryan will be speaking at the [Kent and Medway Business Summit](#) at the University of Kent's Canterbury Campus on the 13th January 2023, giving a presentation that explores the [changing economic conditions in the South East](#) and details how businesses can flourish in the current environment. [Find out more here](#).

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