



SOUTH EAST LEP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

SELEP Deputy Chair and arts industry champion Sarah Dance named new Chair of South East LEP

Arts and creative industry champion Sarah Dance has been named as the new Chair of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, moving into the role from her current position of Deputy Chair and succeeding Christian Brodie, who has been Chair for seven years.



Sarah was named Deputy Chair of the South East LEP in February 2020 and has since become a vital authority and voice within the LEP. She has officially become Chair of SELEP in December 2022 for an initial two-year term.

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The Launchpad welcomes Oxford Innovation Space to help ambitious start-ups and SMEs in Southend



SELEP Chief Executive Adam Bryan recently attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Launchpad at Airport Business Park Southend, providing high quality work-spaces and business support for small and medium enterprises in Southend-on-Sea, Rochford and the surrounding area, with more than 2,300sq m of office and workshop space available.

SELEP contributed more than £23m to the project through the Local Growth Fund.

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Critically acclaimed dance company Jasmin Vardimon unveils new state-of-the-art headquarters in SELEP-funded Javelin Way Development in Ashford, Kent

SELEP Chair Sarah Dance and Chief Executive Adam Bryan recently attended the official opening of the Jasmin Vardimon Company's new, state-of-the-art home in Ashford, Kent as part of the larger Javelin Way development, which was part-funded by SELEP's Getting Building Fund and Growing Places Fund. The critically acclaimed dance company held a series of special events to mark the opening of its new purpose-built headquarters.



In other news...

As part of the funding pot secured for the South East from the **DCMS Create Growth Programme**, UK-registered micro, small and medium enterprises in the creative sector can apply for funding **between £10,000 and £30,000** from **Innovate UK** for innovation projects to grow their business. Applications are open until **8 Feb 2023**. You can [find out more here](#).

SELEP Chair Sarah Dance chaired a panel at the **Thames Estuary Development Conference** in November on the Thames Estuary Production Corridor, hearing from the exciting projects that are part of this unique creative industry corridor. She was joined by the Greater London Authority, Elvis and Kresse, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and Poplar HARCA.

WSX Enterprise, which ran SELEP's **Adapting With Digital** and **Starting and Succeeding in Business** programmes for its **COVID-19 Business Support Fund**, has won a National Enterprise Network award for 2022. WSX took home the award for **Enterprise Support Organisation of the Year – above £750k**.

Recent data compiled by SELEP shows a **record high for new dwellings** in the SELEP area. In 2021/22, **17,793 net new dwellings** were built across the SELEP patch—a **10.2% increase** on the previous year and above the national average. SELEP continues to support housing development groups across the region.

The **Environment Agency** scheme to build a flood embankment and pumping station in Hildenborough has received planning permission from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. This forms part of the larger flood protection scheme, backed by SELEP's **Local Growth Fund**, to increase the capacity of the **Leigh Flood Storage Area** by approximately 25%. [Read more here](#).

As part of Essex County Council's SEND Strategy and Innovation team, **Targeted Employment** has created a guide to help raise awareness of employment and training opportunities for young people with additional needs, and encourage employers to consider inclusion when recruiting for new staff. [Find out more here](#).

SELEP recently held its last **Strategic Board** meeting of the calendar year on the 9th December at the buildings of the Javelin Way Development Project, which has received both Getting Building Funding and a Growing Places Fund loan from the LEP. You can [view the agenda here](#). The next Strategic Board meeting will take place on the **10th February 2023**.

The Essex Chamber of Commerce has launched its new webpage for the **Essex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)**. Alongside **Sussex** and **Kent and Medway**, SELEP is working closely with these LSIPs to identify the skills needs in each area by helping them to utilise the wealth of existing evidence compiled by the LEP through its **skills agenda**.

SELEP's **Economic Recovery and Renewal Quarterly Dashboard** is 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. [Read both here](#).



Latest from the South East Major Projects Group...

The **South East Major Projects Group** held its most recent steering group meeting on the 24th November 2022 at the **Ebbsfleet Development Corporation**. The group discussed project updates and decarbonisation, including hydrogen development with an update from the **Thames Estuary Growth Board**, and nuclear development. You can [view the agenda here](#).

A great step forward for the **Lower Thames Crossing**: the Planning Inspectorate has accepted National Highway's application for a Development Consent Order for detailed examination of the project. [Read more here](#).

Coming up...

The SELEP offices will be closed for the Christmas break from the **26th December to the 2nd January 2023**, resuming normal operations on the 3rd January 2023. If you would like to get in touch with the LEP before the New Year, please do so by the 23rd December 2022.

SELEP will be attending **Freeport East's Parliamentary Reception** on the 10th January at the House of Commons, hosted by **Sir Bernard Jenkin MP**. The event will allow partners to learn more about Freeport East's opportunities for investment, business growth and levelling up.

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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southeastlep.com
hello@southeastlep.com

