

Attendees:

AB	Adam Bryan	South East LEP	KTu	Kane Tudor	East Sussex CC
AC	Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce	LR	Lisa Rawlinson	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
AT	Alison Turner	FSB	MC	Matthew Chenery	East Sussex CC
BP	Brett Pearson	Locate East Sussex	ME	Martin Ellis	Recruitment South East
CE	Christina Ewbank	ACES	NW	Nichola Watters	Wealden DC
CS	Clive Soper	Hailsham & District Chamber	PB	Clr Paul Barnett	Hastings BC
DE	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	RD	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
DH	Donna Harfield	East Sussex College	RE	Rachel Evans	East Sussex CC
GP	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	RS	Clr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
JHa	James Harris	East Sussex CC	SD	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
JHv	Jo Havers	University of Brighton	SS	Sally Staples	East Sussex CC
KBl	Kim Bloxham	East Sussex CC	TW	Thomas Wolfenden	University of Sussex
KBu	Kimberley Bulgin	East Sussex CC	VG	Vera Gajic	East Sussex CC
KTh	Katy Thomas	East Sussex CC			

Apologies:

AN	Clr Ann Newton	Wealden DC	KG	Clr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
CB	Clr Christine Bayliss	Rother DC	PS	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
DG	Diana Garnham	Skills East Sussex (SES)	SB	Sue Baxter	University of Sussex
DS	David Sheppard	D-RisQ Ltd	ZN	Clr Zoe Nicholson	Lewes DC
DT	Clr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC			

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. **GP** welcomed everyone to the TES Board meeting. **DE** 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, 17 October 2022

- 2.1. **GP** confirmed that all of the previous actions had been completed or were to be covered on today's agenda.
- 2.2. For action 4.2, **GP** noted that the Local Transport Plan consultation closes later this week on 9 December 2022. All TES colleagues, particularly businesses, are encouraged to respond.

Action: DE to recirculate the link to the Local Transport Plan consultation; all TES colleagues are encouraged to respond to the consultation by the deadline of 9 December 2022.

- 2.3. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Economic Insight Analysis

- 3.1. **KTu** delivered presentation on the work being undertaken by ESCC's Economic Development team to collect and analyse key economic data across the county. He provided headlines and analysis in regard to two of the primary challenges to economic growth in East Sussex, productivity and innovation, with regional/national comparators, growth over time and sectoral comparisons.
- 3.2. **PB** commented that he is eager to see data analysis at district level in due course, and noted that a lack of business premises is a likely contributor to the prevention of growth, which **GP** firmly agreed with. **CE** added that transport infrastructure is also a key influencer in productivity.
- 3.3. **KTh** noted that it has been more than eight years since we last conducted a detailed analysis of economic indicators, so it's very timely to do so now. Today's presentation is a snapshot, and the intention is to publish the full findings and final documents in Spring next year. This work looking at economic indicators will form part of a suite of other documents, such as the Local Transport Plan, to paint the full picture of East Sussex.

4. Census 2021 data

- 4.1. **KBl** delivered a presentation highlighting some of the key data released thus far from Government on the Census 2021, which is being published in a series of tranches during 2022 and 2023. Publications

have included data on demography, migration and veterans, with the most recent release providing headlines on population, ethnicity, national identity, language and religion. Briefings are published on the [East Sussex in Figures website](#).

- 4.2. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) lists its release plans for further data on the [ONS website](#). Data to be released in the coming months will include labour market and travel to work, housing, sexual orientation and gender identity, education, health, disability and unpaid care.

5. The future of TES / business member recruitment

- 5.1. **DE** presented a paper which provided an update on the discussions held at the last TES meeting on the continuing function of TES and whether any changes ought to be made. The feedback provided by TES colleagues indicated that the roles and responsibilities of TES and the configuration of the TES Board are largely appropriate, with the only suggested change being a slight reduction in the number of meetings. Based on this feedback, an updated version of the TES Terms of Reference has been drafted and shared.
- 5.2. The paper also provided clarification on the tenures of TES business members and suggested that TES proceed with its business member recruitment exercise in the new year, having previously delayed the process by twelve months due to the uncertainty caused by last year's LEP Review.
- 5.3. As recommended in the paper, **GP** proposed that (i) the number of scheduled TES workshops be reduced from four per annum to "two per annum, if required"; (ii) the TES workshops be repurposed as 'information sharing' meetings, to be used for regular reporting from the subgroups and for informative presentations on specific topics; (iii) the updated draft TES Terms of Reference be approved; and (iv) TES proceed with the business member recruitment exercise during January and February 2023. **The TES Board approved these proposals.**

Decisions:

(i) The TES Board agreed to reduce the number of scheduled TES workshops from four per annum to "two per annum, if required".

(ii) The TES Board agreed to repurpose the TES workshops as 'information sharing' meetings, to be used for regular reporting from the subgroups and for informative presentations on specific topics.

(iii) The TES Board approved the updated draft TES Terms of Reference (version 3.2).

(iv) The TES Board agreed to proceed with the business member recruitment exercise during January and February 2023.

- 5.4. **DE** will initiate the recruitment process in the new year so that the two-year tenures of business members can (re)start from 1 March 2023. Existing business members who wish to continue serving on the TES Board will not be required to resubmit an application form, but will be asked simply to confirm via email their intention to be reappointed. Following the business member recruitment exercise, the TES Board will need to (re)appoint its Chair and Deputy Chair, and also (re)appoint its representatives on the SELEP Strategic Board as SELEP Ltd Directors. This will be discussed at the February 2023 TES Board meeting, with decisions to be made (by electronic procedure if necessary) during February/March 2023.

6. Culture and Tourism

- 6.1. **SS** presented a report summarising the County Council's work in the area of Culture and Tourism covering the period April 2021 to November 2022, and provided examples of standout achievements across the two sectors. Highlights included allocating £205,000 to support the tourism sector between 2021/22 and 2023/24; investing in the governance refresh of Culture East Sussex (CES); supporting the development of the Sussex Visitor Economy Initiative (SVEI); and appointing a Culture and Tourism Project Coordinator to manage growth in this area of work. It was also noted that Towner Eastbourne has secured hosting the Turner Prize in 2023, which is a huge boost for the county.
- 6.2. **SD** delivered a presentation on Sussex Modern, providing an update on the work undertaken and the achievements made over the past year. Sussex Modern has led on the delivery of over £1m of public investment to build a brand for the region's wine and cultural visitor economy and to develop an

evidence base for future investment. Highlights included a new and improved [Sussex Modern website](#) and a high-visibility marketing campaign.

- 6.3. The group commended the good work being done across the Culture and Tourism sectors and thanked **SS**, **SD** and all of the colleagues/partners involved. **CE** noted that Eastbourne was recently rated Number 1 in the [Timeout best places to visit in the UK 2023](#), being placed above Manchester, Birmingham and even London.

7. Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

- 7.1. **AC** delivered a presentation on the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), providing an update on the work to date and the next steps. Sussex Chamber has now been designated the 'Employer Representative Body' (ERB) for the whole of Sussex, and is developing a Delivery Plan through to March 2025.
- 7.2. The next steps over the coming months will be to refresh the background data, conduct deep dives of key sectors, engage with stakeholders to refresh the LSIP Priorities and Improvement Framework for submission to DfE in March 2023, and submit an LSIP Report and Action Plan to the Secretary of State in May 2023. Up-to-date information on the LSIP can be found on the [Sussex Chamber website](#).

8. Funding programmes: updates

- 8.1. SELEP Sector Support Fund (SSF): **SS** asked TES to endorse a Project Change Request (PCR) from the SECEN Creative Open Workspace Masterplan and Prospectus project, which includes a three-month extension to 31 December 2022, reduced outputs/benefits and a reduced SSF funding allocation. **The TES Board endorsed the PCR.**

Decision: The TES Board endorsed the Project Change Request from the SECEN Creative Open Workspace Masterplan and Prospectus SSF project.

- 8.2. Getting Building Fund (GBF): **RD** provided an update on the GBF project pipeline, confirming that the Observer Building project in Hastings has been prioritised for an additional funding award of £315,000. The required Variation Agreement is now being progressed. **RD** also provided a brief verbal update on some of our Growing Places Fund (GPF) projects and their repayment plans, including Eastbourne Fishermen's Quayside and Infrastructure Development project and Sovereign Harbour Innovation Mall, along with an update on the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Queensway Gateway Road project and the steps being taken by ESCC with the project sponsor Seachange Sussex. All of the details are given in the agenda pack for this week's [SELEP Strategic Board meeting](#), and in the usual Dashboard circulated with the TES papers.
- 8.3. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF): **LR** confirmed that Eastbourne BC has received approval for its UKSPF Investment Plan, and Lewes DC has been given conditional approval. **NW** advised that Wealden DC is still awaiting confirmation. The Government is clearly in the process of notifying applicants during the early part of December, so Borough and District colleagues will be able to provide a full update at the next TES meeting.
- 8.4. Levelling Up Fund (LUF): **LR** advised that the Government has still not provided any information on LUF Round 2 submissions.

9. SELEP Strategic Board, 9 December 2022

- 9.1. **AB** ran through the agenda items going to this week's SELEP Strategic Board meeting, some of which had already been covered above. Additional items will include a presentation from Jasmin Vardimon Company on the creative and cultural sector; an update on SELEP's recent mid-year review; a recommendation that the two local authority co-opted SELEP Directors for 2023/24 be drawn from East Sussex and Kent; a capital programme update; a discussion on Freeport East membership; an update on the Growth Hub; and a decision on the appointment of a new SELEP Chair.
- 9.2. On the appointment of a local authority co-opted SELEP Director from East Sussex, **GP** reminded the group that last year we asked the Borough and District members of TES to discuss/decide amongst themselves who should be put forward as our nomination. That process worked well, so we'll do the

same this time, aided by **DE** and **RD** as required. **DE** will get in touch with Borough and District TES members in the coming days to initiate the process.

10. TES round table / AOB

- 10.1. **BP** advised that Locate East Sussex has achieved all of its KPI targets for the current contract.
- 10.2. **KTh** reemphasised the earlier plea from **GP** for businesses to respond to the Local Transport Plan consultation.
- 10.3. **RS** advised that he is contacting Huw Merriman MP to help resolve the issues surrounding an abattoir in Wealden which is causing concern to local farmers.
- 10.4. **GP** noted that the next TES meeting is scheduled for 6 February 2023. We'll get more TES meetings in the diary for 2023/24 as soon as SELEP confirms its Strategic Board meeting schedule.

Meeting closed at 17:00.

Summary of decisions:

- 5.3 (i) The TES Board **agreed** to reduce the number of scheduled TES workshops from four per annum to "two per annum, if required".
- 5.3 (ii) The TES Board **agreed** to repurpose the TES workshops as 'information sharing' meetings, to be used for regular reporting from the subgroups and for informative presentations on specific topics.
- 5.3 (iii) The TES Board **approved** the updated draft TES Terms of Reference (version 3.2).
- 5.3 (iv) The TES Board **agreed** to proceed with the business member recruitment exercise during January and February 2023.
- 8.1 The TES Board **endorsed** the Project Change Request from the SECEN Creative Open Workspace Masterplan and Prospectus SSF project.

Summary of actions:

- 2.2 **DE** to recirculate the link to the Local Transport Plan consultation; all TES colleagues are encouraged to respond to the consultation by the deadline of 9 December 2022.