



Attendees

BH	Ben Hook	East Sussex CC	KG	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
BS	Cllr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	KTm	Katy Thomas	East Sussex CC
CE	Christina Ewbank	ACES	KTp	Kate Thorpe	University of Sussex
DE	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	KTu	Kane Tudor	East Sussex CC
DG	Derek Godfrey	Ellis Builders	LA	Louise Aitken	South East LEP
DSh	Dan Shelley	Sussex Coast College	LR	Lisa Rawlinson	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
DSm	David Smith	Independent Consultant	ME	Martin Ellis	Recruitment SE
DSp	David Sheppard	Sussex Chamber of Commerce	MS	Martin Searle	FSB
EH	Eduardo Hernandez	University of Sussex	PJ	Philip Johnson	Locate East Sussex
GP	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	PSm	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
IS	Ioni Sullivan	East Sussex CC	RD	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
JB	Judith Badger	University of Brighton	SD	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
JH	James Harris	East Sussex CC	SH	Simon Hubbard	Hastings BC
JS	Jo Simmons	SELEP / East Sussex CC	TL	Tony Leonard	Rother DC

Apologies

AS	Cllr Andy Smith	Lewes DC	NHa	Nigel Hannam	Wealden DC
CC	Clive Cooke	Sussex Coast College	NHu	Nazeya Hussain	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
CM	Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother DC	PC	Cllr Peter Chowney	Hastings BC
CS	Clive Soper	FSB	PSp	Peter Sharp	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
DT	Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC	RS	Cllr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
GB	Georgina Button	South East LEP	SB	Sue Baxter	University of Brighton

1. Welcome & introductions

- 1.1. **GP** welcomed the attendees and delivered the apologies; round table introductions were made.
- 1.2. **GP** asked for any additional interests not already held on record and for any specific conflicts of interest with today's agenda items; no additional interests were declared.

2. Review of previous minutes (11 Dec 2017)

- 2.1. **GP** ran through the actions of the previous TES minutes and noted that all had been completed.

3. TES DISCUSSION GROUP – Innovation & Productivity

- 3.1. **KTp** and **EH** delivered a presentation on the *University of Sussex*, giving some background to the university and explaining the value of its research, particularly in the areas of Creative & Digital, Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing, and Health & Social Care. The university has also identified four key challenges from the government's Industrial Strategy – the AI & data-driven economy, clean growth, the future of mobility, and an ageing society (pertinent to our county where we're talking about 'ageing well'). All of these are areas in which the university is happy to collaborate.
- 3.2. **PJ** gave a presentation on *Improving Innovation*, explaining why innovation is so important and what we're doing innovatively here in East Sussex, giving practical examples of businesses in each of the county's boroughs and districts that are making real strides in this area.
- 3.3. Finally **JB** delivered a presentation on the *University of Brighton*, giving some background to the university and its specialisms, detailing how the university supports innovation and productivity and describing how they can engage with businesses, industry and indeed with Team East Sussex. Last year the university published a new Research & Enterprise Strategic Plan, outlining its priorities for the next five years and embedding 'enterprise' into every aspect of the university's research activity.
- 3.4. *All of the presentations/videos delivered in this section are available to view on the Team East Sussex pages of the [ESCC website](#).*
- 3.5. The following points were made in the group discussion that followed:
 - It's good to see so much collaboration between the universities as there are clearly lots of overlaps; it's also encouraging to see an emphasis on knowledge transfer.
 - In discussing the county's USP there are lots of suggested areas to move forward on, such as the ageing population, but we must ensure it is 'needs-driven'.
 - How do we improve the interface between business and universities? Perhaps some thought is required on how to do this through Business East Sussex and/or Locate East Sussex.

- There's a perception that we lose people out of county after university as they don't think there's a future for them here; it would be interesting to see the universities' actual figures on this.
- The 'wine making' model has been hugely successful in the south east; we should consider how to take the model and apply it in other fields.
- Brighton & Hove is currently a test bed for 5G, something we could consider here too.
- Health & Social Care would be a good area to focus on as it's actually due to be the next topic for the Skills East Sussex group.
- Innovation doesn't necessarily mean large machines or industry, it's about 'thinking'; but how do we use innovation to firstly prevent health issues and secondly to help with care?
- There are lots of 'soft skills' associated with the ageing population, not just technology, so it would be good to drill down on this area.
- The universities are already collaborating on these areas of research but it would be great to broaden out that collaboration.
- We certainly have the drive to put together a collaborative agenda between the universities and the county/districts/boroughs, but the issue is in securing the resource to create an 'engine' to drive such a partnership; as a possible solution note that the 'Gatsby Foundation' is a charitable trust which may be able to help.
- There are two approaches we should adopt – focus on what the universities are already developing but also look at the key growth sectors of the county; find the overlaps and collectively take forward those issues.
- It would be good for TES, or a smaller subgroup of TES, to visit the university campuses to get under the skin of what they're doing, perhaps with some tech companies invited too.

[Action: GP to liaise with both universities on setting up meetings at the campuses to drill down on key ideas and shape up a focus to move forward on]

4. SELEP Skills Strategy

- 4.1. **LA** delivered a presentation updating the group on the progress of the SELEP Skills Strategy. The government's Industrial Strategy has been published since the first draft so it's important to ensure the relevant policies are incorporated and the strategies are fully aligned.
- 4.2. All of the feedback from the long consultation is now being collated, so further amendments may be necessary (e.g. to the draft priorities); a revised draft will be circulated in the next couple of weeks so any further feedback will be welcome.

[Action: LA to recirculate an updated draft of the SELEP Skills Strategy; any further feedback to be sent back to LA by the end of Feb 2018]

- 4.3. Sector reports and district profiles are underway; drafts will be shared once they're complete. It's expected that the updated strategy will be signed off by the SELEP Skills Advisory Group and the SELEP Strategic Board in Mar 2018.

5. TES round table / AOB

- 5.1. **GP** referred to a letter from MHCLG to Chris Brodie confirming that core funding for SELEP will continue, as will the funding for Growth Hubs.
- 5.2. **RD** advised that the East Sussex Business Survey is now out to tender so we should have a contractor in place by the next TES meeting.
- 5.3. **DSh** confirmed that the merger of Sussex Downs and Sussex Coast colleges will go ahead from 31 Mar 2018.
- 5.4. **MS** advised that he's attending meetings with BEIS and South Eastern Rail next month, so if anyone has any points to raise then please let him know.