

**Attendees**

BH	Ben Hook	East Sussex CC	KT	Katy Thomas	East Sussex CC
BS	Cllr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	LR	Lisa Rawlinson	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
CM	Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother DC	MAA	Monica Adams-Acton	Hastings BC
CS	Clive Soper	FSB	ME	Martin Ellis	Recruitment SE
DE	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	MS	Martin Searle	FSB
DS	Dan Shelley	Sussex Coast College	NHa	Nigel Hannam	Wealden DC
GB	Georgina Button	SELEP	PJ	Philip Johnson	Locate East Sussex
GM	Gordon Mankelov	Relativity Ltd	PS	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
GP	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	RD	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
HA	Holly Aquilina	East Sussex CC	SB	Sue Baxter	University of Brighton
JS	Jim Sims	Service Design Co	SDn	Sean Dennis	LDBG
JW	Jon Wheeler	East Sussex CC	SDr	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
KG	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC	TL	Tony Leonard	Rother DC

Apologies

AS	Cllr Andy Smith	Lewes DC	IG	Ian Gutsell	East Sussex CC
CC	Clive Cooke	Sussex Coast College	JH	James Harris	East Sussex CC
CE	Christina Ewbank	ACES	MW	Max Woodford	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
DG	Derek Godfrey	Ellis Builders	NHu	Nazeya Hussain	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
DT	Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC	PC	Cllr Peter Chowney	Hastings BC

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; none were declared.

2. Review of previous minutes (5 Jun 2017)

- 2.1. **GP** ran through the actions of the previous minutes noting that all had been completed. The previous TES minutes were approved by the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Growing Places Fund (GPF) Recycled Programme

- 3.1. **BH** provided a GPF update and ran through the six Expressions of Interest (EOIs) received in East Sussex. The EOIs will now be forwarded to Steer Davies Gleave (SDG), SELEP's Independent Technical Evaluator, who will review them and provide feedback on which projects they feel would be best placed to put forward for funding. ***Those recommendations will be circulated to TES Board members for electronic approval mid-August.*** ESCC officers will then support the project promoters of the endorsed schemes in preparing their strategic outline business cases for submission to SELEP by 29 Sep 2017, to be reviewed again by SDG before a final funding decision is made at the SELEP Investment Panel on 17 Nov 2017.

[Action: BH to circulate GPF recommendations to TES Board members for electronic approval; all TES Board members to respond by 24 Aug 2017]

4. Disruptive Technology

- 4.1. **ME** and **GM** delivered a presentation highlighting the various technologies that are likely to impact our lives in the coming years, and how they might affect business and the workplace (as underlined in part by data from the World Economic Forum). The purpose of the presentation is to enable TES to further consider and talk about this subject.
- 4.2. The key points from the group's discussion were as follows:
 - Changes in technology will undoubtedly affect roads/traffic, parking, communications, means of production, the workplace/workforce, skills... but in truth "the future is unknown" so the real impacts are as yet hard to fully quantify.
 - Everyone has a view on what constitutes 'technology', but how much do we truly understand such things as self-drive vehicles, robotics, genetics & biotechnology, the future of social networks, digital currency, 3D printing – the main barrier to change is a lack of understanding.

- TES should consider making an actual statement on this subject – with some unambiguous bullet points offering an informed view about our future.
- Our focus could potentially shift away from ‘road building’ towards self-drive vehicles, using shared cars, rail reliability (including better mobile connectivity on the rail network), the move to 5G, and ensuring the skills agenda is the right fit for everyone.
- People will need to change their behaviours to cope with new technologies, and the skills required will evolve – so again the skills agenda becomes key.
- Whilst it is absolutely necessary to have these conversations and plan for the next 20 years, we cannot and must not lose sight of the here-and-now (up until 2020) as our immediate priority.

5. TES DISCUSSION GROUP – SELEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

5.1. **GB** and **JS** presented an item on the SELEP SEP, providing some background to the original SEP, reasons for its ‘refresh’ and what it is hoped the refresh will achieve, details of the stakeholder consultation method and an overall timeline for the whole process.

5.2. The key points from the group’s discussion were as follows:

- It’s important to be clear on who we’re pitching this new SEP to. We know the Government is very focussed on Brexit, but also on the north of England – we need to make it clear that the SELEP area is crucial to the continued stability and success of the whole country.
- Whilst the SEP covers the SELEP geography it will need to acknowledge, and where applicable demonstrate parity with, our contiguous Devolution Deals (Three Southern Counties, 3SC) and Sub-national Transport Boards (Transport for the South East, TfSE).
- We should use this as an opportunity for us to put more challenging and exciting questions to Government.
- Whilst other federated areas of the LEP have occasionally had to contend with infighting or division, TES has always been the ‘free-thinking’ partner; maybe we should now be leading the way in coming up with new innovative ideas.
- There was some debate on whether TES should try to come up with a few things that the whole LEP area can get behind rather than just individual federated areas (in order to avoid competing for ‘more-than-our-fair-share’), or if we’re better off not concerning ourselves with what the rest of SELEP thinks and should simply focus on getting a good fix on our own ideas.
- The SEP should include more joined up thinking/working between businesses and education providers (not just universities) on the skills agenda.

5.3. **GB** and **JS** asked the group to consider the nine key questions given in the presentation and provide feedback. **RD** advised that he and **JH** are on the SEP Steering Group, so will help to coordinate the responses and ensure the East Sussex opinions across all our TES partners are considered.

[Action: DE to immediately circulate the ‘SEP key questions’ to TES and the wider subgroups; TES to provide feedback to JS and GB by 28 Jul 2017]

5.4. **JS** will attend the next TES meeting on 18 Sep 2017 to provide an update and seek further feedback from TES, prior to the SEP being discussed at the SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 22 Sep 2017.

6. Other recent developments

6.1. **KT** provided an update on Growth Hubs, in particular the potential need to make them independent of Government funding from Mar 2018, as there is no guarantee of continued Government funding after this date. The SELEP Growth Hub Steering Group has already discussed the various options and the general feeling is that we do nothing for the moment as we don’t want to jeopardise the trusted nature of the current offer that has been developed over the past few years. There is the potential to seek public/private-sector support, but not yet. This is just for information at the moment, to make everyone aware that there is a gap in funding that will need to be considered at some point (most likely following the Government’s Autumn Statement if there is no indication given of further match funding for Growth Hub delivery).

- 6.2. The Growth Hub issues will be discussed by the SELEP Senior Officers Group (SOG) on 25 Jul and a report will go to the next SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 22 Sep 2017. TES will be consulted again when there are more options.
- 6.3. **JW** ran through a Strategic Infrastructure update, noting in particular that we're expecting feedback on Network Rail's Kent Route Study consultation very soon.
- 6.4. **GP** circulated a short paper from SeaChange Sussex highlighting some of the statistics (jobs created, companies in occupation, enquiries received) on their GPF-funded developments.

7. TES round table / AOB

- 7.1. **MS** advised that he now issues a weekly e-newsletter to FSB members, and made a general request to the group for items, articles, links to consultations etc.
- 7.2. **DS** advised that Sussex Downs College (Eastbourne & Lewes) and Sussex Coast College (Hastings) have declared their intent to merge. This follows the Government's Area Review recommendations and the existing close working relationship of the two colleges. Further talks are planned to examine the business case for a formal merger and if successful the new college will launch on 29 Mar 2018. A Transition Board has been created to oversee the process and a public consultation will take place after the summer.

Summary of actions:

- 3.1 **BH** to circulate GPF recommendations to TES Board members for electronic approval; all TES Board members to respond by 24 Aug 2017.
- 5.3 **DE** to immediately circulate the 'SEP key questions' to TES and the wider subgroups; TES to provide feedback to **JS** and **GB** by 28 Jul 2017.