

Attendees

AS	Cllr Andy Smith	Lewes DC	MAA	Monica Adams-Acton	Hastings BC
BK	Beth King	Locate East Sussex	ME	Martin Ellis	Recruitment SE
BS	Cllr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	MK	Cllr Martin Kenward	Rother DC
CE	Christina Ewbank	ACES	NHa	Nigel Hannam	Wealden DC
CS	Clive Soper	FSB	NHu	Nazeya Hussain	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
DE	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	PC	Cllr Peter Chowney	Hastings BC
DG	Derek Godfrey	Ellis Builders	PJ	Philip Johnson	Locate East Sussex
DS	Dan Shelley	Sussex Coast College	PS	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
DT	Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC	RD	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
GP	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	RM	Rhiannon Mort	SELEP
HA	Holly Aquilina	East Sussex CC	SD	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
JW	Jon Wheeler	East Sussex CC	SH	Simon Hubbard	Hastings BC
KG	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC	TL	Tony Leonard	Rother DC

Apologies

CC	Clive Cooke	Sussex Coast College	JS	Jim Sims	Service Design Co
CM	Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother DC	MS	Martin Searle	FSB
GB	Georgina Button	SELEP	RS	Cllr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
IG	Ian Gutsell	East Sussex CC	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; **DG** declared an interest in the *Fisherman's Quayside* GPF project, as Ellis Construction is hoping to be the main contractor.

2. Review of previous minutes (17 Jul 2017)

- 2.1. **GP** ran through the actions of the previous minutes noting that all had been completed; **GP** thanked TES members for their feedback on the SEP key questions (Action 5.3).
- 2.2. The previous TES minutes were approved by the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. SELEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

- 3.1. **RM** provided a brief progress update on the SEP refresh. A huge amount of stakeholder engagement has taken place across the SELEP area through the summer, and several cross-cutting themes are beginning to emerge, including Skills, Commercial Space, Broadband Connectivity, Utilities, and the Lower Thames Crossing. The group agreed that Skills and Utilities are both very important areas to be covered in the SEP. **DG** suggested also asking the Government for more control over Permitted Development.
- 3.2. **RM** commented that delays in several Government publications have caused some uncertainty – guidance on Sector Deals, Shared Property Funds (Brexit), LEP Reviews, plus we're still waiting to see the Government's Industrial Strategy – however we're still pressing ahead with the SEP refresh.
- 3.3. Attendees at this week's SELEP Strategic Board meeting will be asked to start considering how we structure the document – i.e. by theme, sector, place etc. It's hoped that an 'evidence base' document can then be shared for comment/feedback before developing a draft SEP by mid-Dec 2017, for launch early next year. SELEP also intends launching its Skills Strategy and its Energy Strategy at around the same time, and the Infrastructure Investment Strategy (IIS) will follow soon after.

4. Skills East Sussex (SES)

- 4.1. **HA** delivered a presentation on SES, providing some background to the group and explaining its current priorities. SES operates as a subsidiary of TES, with communication flowing freely in both directions due to having several people sitting in both groups. SES also has representation on the SELEP Skills Advisory Group.

4.2. SES has established six 'economic priority sector' task groups – Construction, Creative & Digital, Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing, Land-based, Visitor Economy, and Health & Social Care (the first four are operational and the latter two are being set up at the moment). To better understand the needs of these groups, SES undertook substantial sector-skills research, and the nine resulting sector-skills reports are given on the [East Sussex in Figures](#) website. SES has honed these down to come up with five guiding priorities:

- Improving the quality and relevance of Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) for people of all ages;
- Helping young people become ready for the world of employment;
- Addressing gender imbalance in employment and study in key industries/sectors;
- Making sure that the curriculum is shaped by employers wherever there is scope for this to be done;
- Helping to stimulate the uptake of Apprenticeships and higher level skills and learning.

4.3. **HA** commented that some of the biggest challenges are around resourcing, the fragmented nature of skills delivery and getting local businesses involved. **DG** asked what TES can do, e.g. to help curriculum planning and future course provision, and **HA** suggested that continued lobbying is the best help along with support to help identify businesses within these sectors that have a passion for skills development. **PC** commented that CLLD funds (expected to be awarded during the autumn) will help address skills issues in some of the more deprived communities in Hastings.

5. The Image of East Sussex

5.1. **SD** provided a progress update on the 'image' work being undertaken. A meeting took place last week where the agreed forward actions included using in-house expertise to define a marketing development plan, conducting competition analysis, looking at house images alongside other identity work going on (across LES, BES, CES etc.), mapping tourism activity to identify crossover, and identifying synergy with other county-wide partners. Next steps will involve conducting further research/testing of internal markets before beginning work on scoping a 'campaign'. The group will meet again next month to review progress on those actions.

5.2. **BK** introduced herself as the new Marketing Manager for Locate East Sussex and described her intention to produce a marketing strategy for LES over the coming months.

5.3. **DS** asked to be kept in the loop on all of the above work as the merger of Sussex Downs/Coast Colleges will undoubtedly involve a certain amount of rebranding.

6. Local Growth Fund (LGF) / Growing Places Fund (GPF)

6.1. **JW** ran through an LGF paper giving details of several proposed re-profiling recommendations: Eastbourne Town Centre (to tie into the timescales of the Arndale shopping centre extension), Eastbourne/South Wealden Movement & Access Package (accelerated spend), Devonshire Park (accelerated spend), and Hastings/Bexhill Movement & Access Package (feasibility and impact of a harbour/marina at Rock-a-Nore in Hastings).

6.2. **SH** and **PC** provided some additional information on the strategic importance of the potential Hastings Marina development, and how the seafront can be an economic tool in terms of long-term regeneration; the Rock-a Nore scheme is still at concept-stage at the moment but has huge potential.

6.3. ***The TES Board endorsed all of the recommendations in the paper.***

6.4. **RD** provided a GPF update, confirming that three East Sussex projects had been electronically approved by TES for submission to SELEP in the current round: North Hastings Trading Park, Eastside Business Park in Newhaven, and Fisherman's Quayside in Eastbourne. We're entitled to submit bids of up to £4.65m (half of the overall £9.3m pot), but as the above three projects total £4.1m we have a little leeway, so we're proposing to add a bid from Charleston as well. This project submission has already been approved by TES previously (in LGF round 3) and now for GPF the project has been scaled down to a request of only £120k.

6.5. ***The TES Board approved the addition of Charleston into the current GPF project submissions.***

- 6.6. Colleagues are now working to get GPF business cases submitted by the end of next week. SELEP's Independent Technical Evaluator (Steer Davies Gleave) will then conduct a review of the business cases and make a recommendation by the end of October, with a final funding decision to be made at a SELEP Investment Panel meeting on 17 Nov 2017.
- 6.7. **RD** added that two East Sussex projects, Charleston and Plumpton College, have also submitted bids to the C2C LEP, who had asked for projects to come forward due to an underspend. We're expecting the outcomes to be announced by mid-Nov 2017.

7. Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)

- 7.1. **RD** circulated a paper summarising the details of the £2.3bn Housing Infrastructure Fund, launched by DCLG in Jul 2017 as part of the wider Home Building Fund. The HIF is split into two types of fund aimed at addressing different types of interventions – 'Marginal Viability' designed to address viability gaps due to infrastructure needs (bids of up to £10m but applications are restricted to lower tier authorities and not open to the County Council) and 'Forward Funding' designed to enable local authorities to take a more strategic approach to planning infrastructure to support housing growth (bids of up to £250m, applications must come from the uppermost tier of local authorities).
- 7.2. Working with local partners, most notably officers from all of the Borough & District Councils, several bids are being put forward. The proposals best able to meet the Forward Funding criteria have come from the Wealden area, and so a package of three Wealden projects totalling £32m will be submitted. Smaller bids from Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes and Rother Councils will be submitted to the Marginal Viability fund. The deadline for submissions is 28 Sep 2017.
- 7.3. The TES Board was asked to endorse the various bids with letters of support. However there was further discussion on whether some of the proposed Marginal Viability bids could/should be worked up into Forward Funding bids instead – **NHu** and **AS** made their case for consideration of the A259 Corridor bid in Lewes and **DT** separately sought consideration for the Bedfordwell Road bid in Eastbourne. **RD** highlighted the eligibility criteria listed in the paper and reiterated that he'd been in regular contact with all D&B Senior Officers to clarify the reasoning and then develop the Wealden proposals. **BS** raised concerns around the possibility of additional Forward Funding bids 'diluting' the Wealden proposal. **RD** also noted that we'd need to rank/prioritise the schemes if multiple Forward Funding bids are put forward, and stressed the shortened timeframe we now have to prepare the EOI forms by the deadline.
- 7.4. After further debate it was agreed that the appropriate Senior Officers would continue the dialogue outside of the meeting and agree the best way forward. **AS** and **DT** asserted they're preference that their projects be 'upgraded' to Forward Funding bids, but all agreed to abide by the officers' conclusion and endorse the submissions with letters of support.

[Action: Wealden's HIF proposal to proceed as a Forward Funding bid; Senior Officers to agree which projects should be submitted as Marginal Viability bids by the deadline of 28 Sep 2017; TES to endorse the submissions with letters of support]

8. SELEP Strategic Board meeting (22 Sep 2017)

- 8.1. TES attendance at Friday's SELEP meeting was confirmed as **CE**, **CS**, **GP**, **KG**, **PC** plus one other Local Authority representative to be determined.
[Action: DE to liaise with TES Local Authority reps to find one additional substitute for the upcoming SELEP Strategic Board meeting]
- 8.2. **DT** commented that TES attendance at the SELEP meetings ought to be dependent on the agenda items, so it would be useful to see the agenda sooner; **RM** advised that an early draft is normally sent to the Senior Officers Group so we could use that.

9. Additional updates & stakeholder reports

- 9.1. **DG** highlighted the DES summary paper, noting in particular that Nick Fenton has now been recruited to the role of DES Coordinator.

10. TES round table / AOB

- 10.1. **RD** reminded the TES business members that the additional 'business-reps meetings' are scheduled to take place on the same day as TES Workshops (rather than standard TES meetings) so should be in all of the business members' diaries.
- 10.2. **JW** advised that Highways England will be making an announcement on the A27 preferred route next week.
- 10.3. **PJ** advised that Locate East Sussex is currently working with two large businesses who are looking to move into Rother and Hastings.
- 10.4. **KG** advised that MPs are holding a reception at the end of next month to launch Transport for the South East (TfSE).
- 10.5. **DS** reminded the group that a public consultation document on the proposed merger of Sussex Coast/Downs Colleges will be shared next month.
- 10.6. **CE** advised that this year's Sussex Economic Forum conference is taking place on 16-17 Nov 2017 at the Hilton in Brighton, featuring a large number of high-level speakers.

Summary of actions:

- 7.4 Wealden's HIF proposal to proceed as a Forward Funding bid; Senior Officers to agree which projects should be submitted as Marginal Viability bids by the deadline of 28 Sep 2017; TES to endorse the submissions with letters of support.
- 8.1 **DE** to liaise with TES Local Authority reps to find one additional substitute for the upcoming SELEP Strategic Board meeting.