



Attendees

BS	Cllr Bob Standley	Wealden DC	ME	Martin Ellis	Recruitment South East
CM	Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother DC	MS	Martin Searle	FSB
CSp	Clive Soper	FSB	MV	Mark Valleley	East Sussex CC
CSw	Cllr Colin Swansborough	Eastbourne BC	PC	Cllr Peter Chowney	Hastings BC
DE	Dave Evans	East Sussex CC	PJ	Philip Johnson	Locate East Sussex
DSp	David Sheppard	D-RisQ Ltd	PSm	Penny Shimmin	Sussex CDA
DSy	Dan Shelley	East Sussex College Group	PSp	Peter Sharp	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC
GP	Graham Peters (CHAIR)	ES Rural Partnership	RD	Richard Dawson	East Sussex CC
IG	Isabel Garden	Wealden DC	RM	Rhiannon Mort	South East LEP
IN	Ian Noble	ACES	RS	Cllr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex CC
JH	James Harris	East Sussex CC	SB	Sue Baxter	University of Sussex
JW	Jon Wheeler	East Sussex CC	SD	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
KG	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC	SH	Simon Hubbard	Hastings BC
KT	Katy Thomas	East Sussex CC	TL	Tony Leonard	Rother DC
LR	Lisa Rawlinson	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC			

Apologies

AB	Adam Bryan	South East LEP	CE	Christina Ewbank	ACES
AC	Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce	DG	Derek Godfrey	Ellis Builders
AS	Cllr Andy Smith	Lewes DC	DT	Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne BC
CC	Clive Cooke	East Sussex College Group	IF	Ian Fitzpatrick	Lewes DC / Eastbourne BC

All of the papers and any presentations delivered at the meeting can be viewed on the following page of the ESCC website: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/eastsussex/selep/tesminutes/tes190128

1. Welcome & introductions

- 1.1. **GP** welcomed the attendees and delivered the apologies.
- 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 (3 Dec 2018)

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

3. Matters Arising

SELEP Annual Performance Review (APR)

- 3.1. **GP** advised that SELEP's Annual Performance Review with Government took place on 21 Jan 2019. Colleagues met with MHCLG officials in London for what seems to have been a very positive discussion. The main action SELEP will need to address moving forward is 'diversity'. To note, Laura Jackson is our new principal contact at MHCLG.

LEP Review

- 3.2. **GP** advised that the issue of overlapping boundaries has been resolved, with Lewes DC now wholly part of SELEP. A very amicable agreement was reached whereby Coast to Capital (C2C) LEP will continue to be engaged with Lewes DC and Newhaven Enterprise Zone over the next 1-2 years, collaborating closely on such things as the Local Industrial Strategy. It is planned that Newhaven EZ will seek to become incorporated.
- 3.3. On the matter of Strategic Board size and the proportion of public/private sector representatives, Chris Brodie met recently with Jake Berry MP, the Minister for Local Growth leading the LEP Review. Despite Chris's persuasive arguments, *Jake Berry was insistent that the number of SELEP Board members is limited to twenty, with at least two-thirds of the Board coming from the private sector.* There is provision to have an additional five co-opted members (who serve for one year and are appointed on the basis of specific specialisms) but the private/public ratio must still be the same.

Until this matter is resolved SELEP is considered to be non-compliant, which means the Government can and will withhold Core funding for the SELEP team, and potentially the yearly LGF funds too.

- 3.4. TES members discussed this at length and agreed that officials have clearly not taken into account the overall size of our particular LEP, coming up with a blanket solution to a problem that doesn't even exist, and the implication of this change is that Borough and District representatives – with their clear responsibility for planning and housing delivery – will inevitably be the ones left out of the rationalised Strategic Board.
- 3.5. In order to move forward with a resolution the group made three key points – that the makeup of TES itself won't be affected, that D&B colleagues could still be invited to participate in discussions (but not 'vote'), and that whosoever from TES attends the SELEP Strategic Board meetings will continue to do so "with a clear mandate from the rest of the TES Board", just as they've always done.
- 3.6. TES members agreed that whilst there is clearly a great deal of discontent with the Government's stance, **the overall view of TES is that we give our consent** in order to ensure funding continues uninterrupted.

[Note: the Kent & Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) convened a meeting at the same time as this TES meeting, during which they also voted in favour of accepting compliance on Board composition.]

- 3.7. **RM** advised that SELEP is still awaiting further steer from Jake Berry on the process for co-opted members, but the next steps will involve asking current Strategic Board members to vote on whether we move forward with the above, most likely by electronic procedure in the next few days. We'll then aim to convene a Board meeting to discuss/decide the new Board makeup (again this may be done electronically), hopefully before the next scheduled Strategic Board on 22 Mar 2019.

4. Transport for the South East (TfSE)

- 4.1. **MV** delivered a presentation on Transport for the South East (TfSE), running through its background and setup, the work undertaken on an Economic Connectivity Review, the ongoing development of a draft Transport Strategy, and the move towards 'statutory status' for which a draft proposal to Government has been prepared.
- 4.2. The request for statutory status, if approved by Parliament, will see TfSE become a second sub-national transport body alongside Transport for the North (TfN) which was confirmed in Apr 2018, giving the south east region greater powers to facilitate the development of a Transport Strategy and so promote economic growth for the area. The proposal identifies the powers TfSE wants to draw down from Government, and also goes on to identify a number of powers it hopes to exercise concurrently with local authorities.
- 4.3. **MS** queried how TfSE will differ from TfN, which already has statutory status, to ensure we're not reinventing the wheel; **MV** gave rail as an example, clarifying that whilst TfN has powers to actually operate railways, TfSE will be more about strategic influence – we don't want to take over the running of rail but we absolutely want input and the ability to influence by becoming a statutory consultee on rail franchising.
- 4.4. **MV** asked TES members for feedback on the draft proposal, particularly on functions and governance arrangements. The current 'informal' engagement will lead into a more formal consultation through spring/summer, with TfSE aiming to submit its final proposal in Sep 2019.

[Action: TES members to provide any comments and questions on TfSE's proposal for statutory status back to MV]

- 4.5. **KG** commented that for TfSE to be truly successful it will need to engage with TES regularly, providing feedback and seeking regular input where appropriate; **GP** suggested that TfSE submit a short written update at each TES meeting and then present a more detailed update annually.

[Action: MV to liaise with DE on producing a regular written TfSE update to be included in the regular stakeholder reports; MV to present a more detailed TfSE update to TES annually]

5. Local Growth Fund (LGF)

- 5.1. **RM** updated the group on the steps taken so far to develop a single pipeline of priority projects through Round 3B of the Local Growth Fund (LGF). Following an initial assessment of 21 EOIs

submitted in East Sussex, 10 projects demonstrated suitability to go forward to Stage 2 and so submitted Strategic Outline Business Cases (SOBC) by 26 Oct 2018. The outcomes of the Stage 2 assessment by Steer, the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE), were initially due to be presented to an Investment Panel meeting on 7 Dec 2018 but due to the large number of strong applications received it was agreed that the Investment Panel meeting would be postponed to enable more detailed information to be prepared in relation to each project. That detailed technical assessment document has now been shared and SELEP has asked scheme promoters to submit any comments or clarifications on any substantive changes by 1 Feb 2019; the ITE Technical Assessment Report will then be updated accordingly and presented as a *ranked* list at the rescheduled SELEP Investment Panel meeting on 8 Mar 2019.

- 5.2. **GP** queried how often new projects will be permitted to join the pipeline as it continues to develop from the short term into the medium/long term; **RM** responded that the exact nature of future funding, e.g. Shared Prosperity Fund, is still unclear at the moment, hence focusing on 'short term priorities' this time around, but an annual review of the pipeline seems the most reasonable timeframe at this stage.
- 5.3. **RM** added that whilst the amount of LGF-3B funding available is currently £8.3m from previously unallocated LGF funds, there is an Accountability Board meeting on 15 Feb 2019 that will determine whether any additional funding will be made available (underspend on existing LGF schemes being reallocated back into the LGF-3B pot), with the total potential pot being up to £47m.

6. Assurance Framework

- 6.1. **RM** advised that the SELEP Assurance Framework will need further revisions in the wake of the LEP Review and the recent publication of the new National Assurance Framework. The new requirements on Strategic Board size and business member ratio, detailed in item 3 above, will all be included in the new version, and the legal entity requirements around incorporation will be explored. However, aside from some additional scrutiny requirements, overall there will be very little substantial changes this time around. A final draft of the newly-revised SELEP Assurance Framework will be shared on 4 Mar 2019, for final approval by the Strategic Board on 22 Mar 2019.
- 6.2. **RD** commented that the impact on Team East Sussex will be minimal as TES is already fully compliant with the current Assurance Framework, but ESCC colleagues will review the new requirements and make the necessary revisions to the TES Terms of Reference in due course.

7. East Sussex Growth Strategy

- 7.1. **KT** reminded the group that TES's overall objectives are driven by the East Sussex Growth Strategy, which defines the vision for the East Sussex economy to 2020 & beyond. Since the Growth Strategy was introduced in 2014 we've realised a huge number of achievements, all helping to drive forward economic growth throughout the county. **KT** circulated a paper highlighting some of those key achievements, noting that everyone around the table has contributed in some way. **GP** thanked everyone involved for all of the hard work that has gone into accomplishing such successes.

[Action: KT to circulate an electronic version of the Growth Strategy Achievements paper]

8. TES round table / AOB

- 8.1. **PJ** advised that Locate East Sussex is hosting an exclusive Dieter Rams film screening at Towner on 13 Feb 2019.
[Action: PJ to circulate a flyer for the Dieter Rams film screening on 13 Feb 2019]
- 8.2. **SD** advised that following last year's very successful event, the De La Warr Pavilion is hosting its annual Jobs Fair on 5 Apr 2019.
- 8.3. **BS** noted that a report proposing significant development in Hailsham is due to be presented to a Cabinet meeting at Wealden DC this week; **BS** will continue to keep the group informed.
- 8.4. **MS** commented that the FSB has a resource hub and is hosting a series of webinars on the new requirements for digital tax returns. The annual FSB Awards are taking place on 12 Apr 2019.

- 8.5. **PSm** advised that the SELEP Social Enterprise working group is now finalising its Prospectus, to be launched in the coming months.
- 8.6. **IG** confirmed that the final draft Wealden Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State earlier this month.
- 8.7. **SB** reminded the group that she's now moved from the University of Brighton to the University of Sussex, but will continue to represent both on TES.
- 8.8. **DSy** advised that East Sussex College Group is now finalising the case for a new College Estate Strategy, particularly in regards to the Lewes and Eastbourne campuses.
- 8.9. **DSp** advised that he, **GP**, **PJ** and **JH** are all involved in a working group of business and academia looking at technology in regards to the ageing population. This group was developed on the back of a TES Workshop in Jan 2018, where the universities joined TES to consider USPs in East Sussex. Discussions have already been held with BEIS, and the working group plans to bid for funding to develop this area when appropriate funding calls come out later in the year; **DSp** will continue to keep the group informed.

Summary of actions:

- 4.4 **TES** members to provide any comments and questions on TfSE's proposal for statutory status back to **MV**.
- 4.5 **MV** to liaise with **DE** on producing a regular written TfSE update to be included in the regular stakeholder reports; **MV** to present a more detailed TfSE update to TES annually.
- 7.1 **KT** to circulate an electronic version of the Growth Strategy Achievements paper.
- 8.1 **PJ** to circulate a flyer for the Dieter Rams film screening on 13 Feb 2019.