



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

SELEP Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy





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Summary statement on SELEP strategic position to be released in January to:

- set out the role of SELEP in supporting recovery;
- provide clear messaging on the economic challenges for SELEP and how the we are responding to these;
- set out the activities and actions that have been taken by SELEP in the short term; and
- outline the strategic priorities agreed by SELEP at the recent Strategic Board meeting and next steps for the Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy.



Vision: To create a strong platform for recovery and growth in the South East; bolstering our role as the UK's global gateway, delivering investment to drive innovation, productivity and sustainable growth and powering trade and prosperity throughout the UK

Purpose: To set out the distinct strategic economic opportunities that will drive SELEP's economic recovery and renewal and will direct decision making and investments across the SELEP area.

Strategic Opportunities

1: Business Resilience & Growth

2: UK's Global Gateway

3: Communities for the Future

4: Coastal Catalyst

Objectives

To support businesses to start, scale up, adapt and grow

To drive trade and growth in a post CV19 and post Brexit economy

To deliver a skilled workforce that drives employment & productivity

To improve digital connectivity and capabilities

To put clean growth and climate change at the heart of what we do

To support equality to ensure everyone has opportunity to thrive

To promote greater resilience in our places and support growth

Deliverables e.g.

Single pipeline of projects for capital investment; delivery of GBF projects and other major housing and infrastructure; SELEP funding for SMEs, sectors and skills; enhanced business support; improved digital infrastructure and skills; strengthened local supply chains; investment in towns and high streets; greater emphasis and innovation to support clean growth

Key Challenges:

- Loss of up to £12bn in 2020
- Growing unemployment and inactivity
- Significant sector impacts
- Unemployment / lower skill levels
- Economic inequalities across people and places
- Impacts of rapid technological change
- Large scale infrastructure development
- Ability of businesses to adapt to CV19 & requirements of Brexit



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SP1: Business Resilience & Growth

- Increase business support activity to help businesses to:
 - **adapt and diversify** to CV19 restrictions and potential longer term changing consumer patterns;
 - innovate, diversify where possible and **adopt new technologies and processes** to enhance productivity;
 - to **trade with the EU**, understanding the new trading rules and understand and exploit **new international trade deals**;
 - undertake strategic planning and gain access to **skills and training** opportunities;
- Create an innovation framework/eco-system to **support greater participation in R&D** activities;
- Identify and **address gaps in digital infrastructure** and promote high quality digital infrastructure in all new developments;
- Increase **digital skills**, ensuring that businesses have the capabilities to take full advantage of new opportunities and technologies e.g. AI/automation;
- Provide **sector specific support** where it is required to support recovery (e.g. tourism, creative) and/or growth (e.g. digital, agri-tech);
- Create **cluster environments** to enable businesses to come together to focus on collaboration, R&D and product innovation;
- Encourage **entrepreneurship** and support **start ups and scale ups**, replacing jobs lost as a result of the economic impacts of CV19 and exploiting new opportunities.

SP2: UK's Global Gateway

- Support our ports to acquire **Freeport status** to accelerate SELEP's role as a gateway for global trade and enterprise;
- Work with Ports to ensure that gaining Freeport status **benefits the, often deprived, communities in which they are based**, as well as having significant economic benefit to the South East and UK;
- Realising the full economic and social benefits from **major project investments** that are already underway or planned for, building on the collaborative work of the Major Projects Group (MPG)
- Support our gateway locations to provide the **diverse skills** required in their current and future workforce;
- Work with Transport for the South East and Transport for the East to identify and prioritise transport improvements that will unlock global gateway access
- Enhance **port connectivity** to ensure opportunities can be maximized;
- Work with Maritime UK to bring together the diverse range of industries in the key **maritime sector** to tackle regional issues across the LEP;
- Support and champion the work of the **Thames Estuary Growth Board** and its priorities for sustainable transport and energy, skills and enterprise;
- Utilize our gateway role to build on the strong record of **inward investment** and maximise new trade deals to increase international trade;
- Work through **Catalyst South** to promote investment in the South East and the critical infrastructure required to support our unique economic opportunities.

SP3: Communities for the Future

- **Lead the UK in reimagining, designing and creating communities** that are fit for the accelerated changes in the way that people live and work;
- Promote design that supports **new ways of working, healthy living, age-appropriate homes, clean green housing, working patterns and cultural vitality** and; where appropriate, create testbeds for such innovation;
- Ensure that new developments **protect and enhance our natural resources** to deliver social and environmental benefits;
- To support this, contribute to and implement **Government reforms for planning**;
- Work through the **Major Projects Group** to support a strategic approach to the successful delivery and economic and social impact of planned significant investments;
- Drive programmes of skills activities, with the MPG and SAP, to address **construction skills deficits**;
- Strengthen links with the construction sector and identify future funding sources for interventions to **support innovative construction methods and smart building approaches**;
- Support the implementation of the **South2East Local Energy Strategy** and deliver initiatives to transition to a net zero carbon economy;
- Provide strategic support to our **Towns Boards and our Future High Streets** as an important aspect of future community development, and support the case for investment in other towns across SELEP;

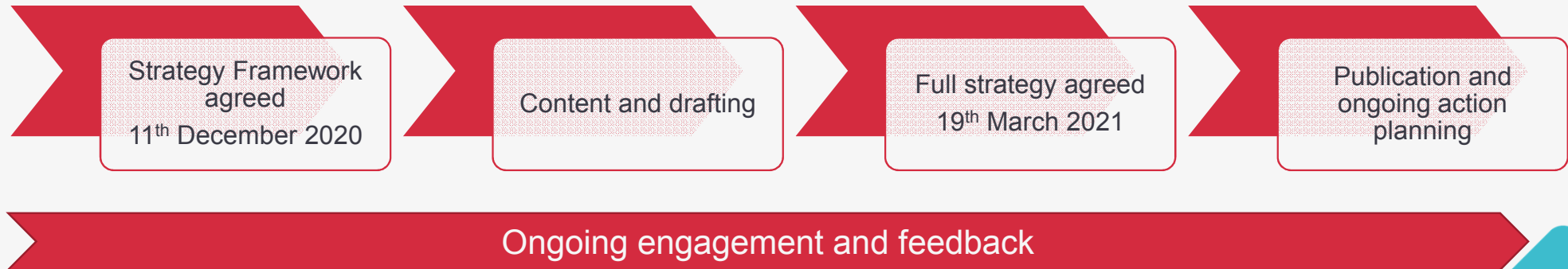
SP4: Coastal Catalyst

- Identify and **address gaps in coastal and rural digital infrastructure** and explore new models for delivering digital infrastructure in hard to reach places;
- Work with providers to secure a strategic approach to investment in **utility infrastructure** that will facilitate greater connectivity and support the shift to low carbon in our coastal areas
- Support coastal and rural businesses to deliver a tailored programme to:
 - adopt **new models, technologies and processes** that will support their recovery and resilience;
 - target and encourage those with capacity for innovation and **high growth to scale up**;
 - attract **greater innovation and research funding** into coastal and rural areas;
- Work with the MPG to support and maximise the **economic and social benefits generated from infrastructure projects**, many of which are based in deprived coastal communities;
- Work with TfSE and TfE to understand and address the **impacts of poorer physical connectivity** on coastal and rural economies;
- Understand the impacts of **access to post-16 education** on our coastal and rural communities, working through our SAP/SAG to address e.g. digital models, apprenticeships;
- Develop **the visitor economy**, understanding the impacts of CV19 and what is needed in a visitor economy of the future to support its recovery and better maximise its growth potential;
- Support and champion the work of the **Thames Estuary Production Corridor** and its vision to create a world-class centre for creative and cultural production;
- Protect and enhance **our natural resources** and explore opportunities to create new opportunities from our assets.



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Timeline



- Additional feedback on strategy content to be received by 19th February
- The process for developing delivery plans and determining specific interventions will be ongoing





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For consideration/feedback

Building on the agreed strategic framework we are keen to hear views on key messages and activities that should feature in the strategy and/or future action plans, for example:

- *What more could be done at a SELEP level to accelerate key cross cutting issues such as digital connectivity, skills, low carbon and business support/resilience?*
- *How can we best reflect the need to 'level up' within the SELEP economy as part of our efforts to build back a fairer economy?*
- *Are there particular case studies that could be used to demonstrate activities that are already supporting economic recovery across SELEP?*
- *Are there any other key messages that you want to ensure are reflected within the strategy?*

