

## **REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**22 MARCH 2022**

### **SCRUTINY OF SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

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#### Summary

This report sets out the work covered by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). Adam Bryan, Chief Executive Officer of SELEP, will attend this Overview and Scrutiny meeting to give a presentation on the SELEP with a focus on its impact on Medway, and achievements to date. The presentation will also cover the future operation of the LEP, in the context of the Levelling Up White Paper and discussions with local partners and will seek Member comment.

1. Budget and policy framework
  - 1.1 February 2020 Cabinet approved the revised governance and membership arrangements for SELEP in response to the reforms required by the Government to the leadership, governance, accountability and financial reporting of LEPs:
  - 1.2 The SELEP Assurance framework contains a commitment of attendance at local authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees on request.
2. Background
  - 2.1 Members will recall that the August 2019 Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the scrutiny of SELEP, the June 2020 meeting of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment (RCE) Overview and Scrutiny agreed that it would be incorporated into Medway's overview and scrutiny arrangements under this committee, and that an annual invitation would be extended to SELEP to appear at RCE Overview and Scrutiny.

### 3. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) Overview

- 3.1 LEPs are private sector-led partnerships between businesses and local public sector bodies, each supporting the delivery of government policies to support local economic growth. LEPs take varying corporate structures, with the most common being company limited by guarantee and unincorporated voluntary partnerships. All LEPs must have a private sector chair, and the majority of board members should be from the private sector.
- 3.2 SELEP is one of 38 LEPs in England. The Government has committed £12 billion in Local Growth Funding (LGF) to local areas in England between 2015/16 and 2021/22, and of this, £9.1 billion has been allocated through Growth Deals negotiated between central government and individual LEPs.

### 4. SELEP Funding for Medway

- 4.1 SELEP has awarded over £40m LGF investment in Medway projects, since the launch of LGF in 2015. SELEP has also awarded over £8m Growing Places Fund (GPF) loan to Medway projects.
- 4.2 Notable completed LGF projects include Chatham Town Centre Place-making and Public Realm Package, which was awarded £4.2m and transformed the town centre through gateway improvements at Chatham Railway Station, improved walking and cycling facilities, and the creation of a civic square. Medway Cycling Action Plan was awarded £2.5m and provided a package of interventions which improved access to cycling and delivered 13.75km of new cycle way across Medway.
- 4.3 Over £10m investment in Innovation Park Medway (IPM) has been awarded by SELEP, across LGF, Getting Building Fund (GBF), Sector Support Fund (SSF) and GPF loan. IPM will deliver 100,000 sqm of commercial floorspace to become the new home for businesses working in technology, precision engineering, manufacturing, and highly skilled support services, and will bring forward over 3,000 high GVA jobs.
- 4.4 LGF funded projects nearing completion include Strood Town Centre Journey Times and Accessibility Enhancements which was awarded £8.6m, and Medway City Estate Connectivity Improvement Measures awarded £2.5m.

### 5. Levelling-Up White Paper

- 5.1 The Levelling-Up White Paper (provided within background papers), sets out 12 quantifiable 'national missions' which all aim to be achieved by 2030. These 'missions' will be the basis of the policy objectives for levelling up and will form the heart of the government's agenda for the 2020s. The missions are across four broad areas:

- boosting productivity and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;
- spreading opportunities and improving public services, especially in those areas where they are weakest;
- restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and
- empowering local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

5.2 The White Paper formally embedded LEPs in the policy agenda and sets the course for their future relationship with national and local government. It recognises the convening power of LEPs and the commitment to working with stakeholders to strengthen and deepen partnership working to drive local growth.

## 6. Risk management

6.1 There are no specific risk implications to Medway Council arising from the contents of this report.

## 7. Financial and legal implications

7.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

## 8. Recommendation

8.1 The Committee is asked to note the report, and to comment on the presentation at the meeting delivered by Adam Bryan, Chief Executive Officer of SELEP.

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## Appendices

None.

## Background papers

August 2019 Business Support O&S:  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=4389&T=10>

June 2020 RCE O&S Work Programme:  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=4761&T=10>

February 2020 Cabinet SELEP Future Board Structure:  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=51288>

SELEP Assurance Framework:

<https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2019/07/Assurance-Framework-2019-FINAL.pdf>

Levelling Up the United Kingdom:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>