



## **South East LEP to benefit from £32 million government boost to unlock development and growth opportunities**

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The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) will benefit from £32 million government funding to help kick start schemes boosting the area's local economy under the Growing Places Fund announced today (Monday).

The £500 million national fund is designed to help Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) push forward with developments and projects stimulating economic growth and creating jobs which may have stalled as a result of the financial climate.

SELEP – the largest strategic partnership of its kind outside of London – has been allocated £32 million for schemes across East Sussex, Essex and Kent.

Welcoming the funding SELEP Chairman, John Spence, said: "This funding will enable SELEP to breathe new life into schemes that will provide a significant boost to both the local and national economies.

"We will be able to fund innovative ways of removing the barriers that have prevented the progress of some key projects across the SELEP area. This will help us continue to support and develop our urban, rural and coastal communities

"Our area is a key driver of economic growth for the whole country and we are committed to creating the most enterprising economy in England. This funding helps to create a solid foundation to achieve this."

The areas covered by the LEP are the country's economic powerhouse contributing £55 billion a year to the national economy.

SELEP also represents a combined population of 3.9 million people and is home to more than 130,000 businesses, which provide more than 1.3 million jobs. It is a critical port and gateway area in a strategic location between London, Europe and the global economy.

Ends

More information on the LEP, and some key facts and challenges, can be found here: <http://bit.ly/t0neWY>

A copy of the SELEP vision and mission statement can be found here: <http://bit.ly/t58hpY>

You can also follow SELEP on Twitter @southeastlep

For more information on SELEP please contact Stewart Henderson in Essex County Council's Communications on 01245 433150 or by email on [stewart.henderson@essex.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.henderson@essex.gov.uk)

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