

**South East Local Enterprise Partnership Briefing
December 2011**

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership

- The South East LEP (SELEP) is the largest partnership of its kind between private and public sector bodies outside London working together to develop and deliver sustainable economic growth across all parts of the LEP area.
- Its mission statement is to 'Create the most enterprising economy in England'.
- SELEP is home to more than 130,000 businesses supporting over 1.3 million jobs. It is also home to 3.9m people
- It is the country's economic powerhouse contributing £55 billion a year to the national economy
- There are eight ports in the SELEP area making it a critical gateway between Europe, London and the rest of the country. This will be further enhanced by the London Gateway port in Thurrock which when complete will create 12,000 direct jobs and over 20,000 indirect jobs
- The combined rural economies of East Sussex, Essex and Kent are the largest of any other LEP area - worth over £10 billion a year.

SELEP's vision

Under the South East LEP vision:

- established and new businesses across the area will create between 250,000 and 300,000 new jobs.
- the regeneration of the Thames Gateway will be largely completed and the coastal and rural communities in the South East LEP area will aim to match the prosperity of our small cities and market towns.
- deprived areas will be supported to towards becoming thriving communities
- Gross Value Added (GVA) per head will exceed that for the south east as a whole and unemployment will be well below the average other prosperous European regions.
- The workforce across the South East LEP area will be known for its 'can do' and entrepreneurial attitude; offering skills and talents which compete with the best in Europe
- universities in the area will be global businesses in their own right, not only attracting high calibre 'learners' to the UK, but exporting intellectual excellence across the world.
- every community across the South East LEP area will be served by super-fast (100 mbps or greater) broadband networks.
- there will be a steady flow of public and private investment in strategic infrastructure, including improvements in road and rail networks, sea ports and airports to ensure that businesses benefit from even better connections to key global markets.

Progress so far

- secured two Local Enterprise Zones – one in Sandwich (Kent) the other in Harlow (Essex)
- received the largest allocation of Growing Places Funding (£32 million) outside of London
- received £27 million government funding to provide homes and businesses with broadband
- East Kent received around £40 million from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) to help create up to 5,000 jobs and boost high-speed rail links.
- e2v Technologies in Essex received £6.2 million RGF in April to provide them with increased capability, staffing and research & development to develop new applications and products for companies within medical and science, aerospace and defence, and commercial and industrial markets

Key challenges

- three of the top 50 most deprived areas in England are in the SELEP area - Brooklands and Grasslands (Jaywick – Essex) Cliftonville West and Margate Central (both Kent) – Index of Multiple Deprivation March 2011
- 6.5 per cent of 18-24 year olds in the SELEP are claiming Job Seekers Allowances compared to 4.6 per cent in the South East. 5.2 per cent of 18-24 year olds across the SELEP area have been claiming JSA for six months (compared to 3.7 per cent in the South East) (June 2011)
- The rates of 16-64 year olds with no qualifications in more than half of the districts across SELEP (18 out of 32) are either on par or below the national average of 12 per cent.

How to stay in touch and support SELEP

- to keep in touch with the work of South East LEP sign up to the weekly news update issued by the SELEP Secretariat by emailing LEP@essex.gov.uk
- you can also visit the SELEP website www.southeastlep.com
- you can also follow SELEP on Twitter [@southeastlep](https://twitter.com/southeastlep)