

AGENDA - online KMEP meeting - Wednesday 19 July 2023, 13.00 – 14.00

Online via Zoom

	Approx. time	Page/Presenter
1. Welcome from Chairman	13:00	Liz Gibney
2. Apologies for absence & Declaration of interests		
3. Minutes & actions from previous meeting		Page 2-14
4. LEP Transition Update:	13:05	Steve Samson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update after SELEP Board Decision • Developing a Kent & Medway LEP Integration Plan • Timescales & Next Steps 		
4. Getting Building Fund & Growing Places Fund Updates	13:30	Steve Samson
5. Recent Transport Consultations Update (for information)	13:40	Steve Samson
6. Kent and Medway Economic Framework:	13:45	Steve Samson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timetable for finalisation 		
7. SELEP & KMEP Board Member Changes:	13:50	Liz Gibney
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent District Representative for SELEP board • KMEP Vice Chair 		
9. AOB	13:55	Liz Gibney

Future KMEP meeting dates:

- Wednesday 6th September 2023 from 10am-12pm
- Tuesday 3rd October 2023 from 4pm to 6pm
- Tuesday 5th December 2023 from 4pm to 6pm

Subject: Draft MINUTES of the 19 July 2023 Kent & Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) meeting held online on Zoom

Board Member Attendees:

KMEP Board Members

Liz Gibney (KMEP Chairman & Lee Evans Partnership)	Cllr Roger Gough (Kent County Council)
Jo James (Vice Chair & Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce)	Cllr David Burton (Maidstone BC)
Carol Ford (Horticultural Taskforce)	Cllr John Burden (Gravesham BC)
Vince Lucas (VA Rail)	Cllr Monique Bonney (Swale Borough Council)
Mayer Schreiber (Discovery Park)	Cllr Alan Baldock (Canterbury CC)
Andrew Metcalf (Maxim PR)	Cllr Perry Cole (Sevenoaks District Council)
Jo Nolan (Screen South)	Cllr Lauren Edwards (Medway Council)
Miranda Chapman (Pillory Barn)	Cllr Matt Boughton (Tonbridge & Malling BC)
Nick Fenton (Kent Housing and Development Group)	Cllr Rick Everitt (Thanet DC)
Sweena Badhan (IoD & EY)	

Additional Attendees

Steve Samson (Kent County Council)
Emma Watson (Kent County Council)
Chris Inwood (Maidstone BC)
Chris Townend (Dover DC)
Edward Thomas (Kent County Council)

Board Member Apologies:

KMEP Board Members

Prof. Jane Harrington (Uni. of Greenwich)
Simon Cook (Mid-Kent College)
Nicholas Scott-Gray (Peel Ports)
Matthew Arnold (Stagecoach)
Roland Cooper (Considine Ltd)
Cllr Julia Thornton (Sevenoaks DC) replaced by Cllr Perry Cole (Sevenoaks DC)
Cllr Kevin Mills (Dover DC) replaced by Chris Townend (Dover DC)
Mario Caccamo (NIAB)
Noel Ovenden (Ashford BC)
Jason Davies-Baker (Unipet)

Item 1 – Welcome, introduction and apologies.

- 1.1 Liz Gibney (the KMEP Chairman) welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies were stated by Steve Samson (listed above)

Item 2 – Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

Item 3 – Minutes of previous meeting

- 3.1 The actions from the 20 June meeting were not discussed. They are included below:

- KMEP secretariat to provide details of past GPF and GBF projects for Kent and Medway.
- KMEP secretariat to develop a short questionnaire to survey board members about future priorities for KMEP.
- Board members to send input to KMEP secretariat for Statement of Common Ground and formal Written Representation as soon as possible.
- KMEP secretariat to draft responses to Lower Thames Crossing SoCG and Written Representation
- KMEP secretariat to contact individual board members to request outstanding registers of interest.
- District leaders to contact the KMEP secretariat to nominate themselves for joining the SELEP board for 23-24
- Medway Council to send information to KMEP secretariat to facilitate the drafting of a letter of support for the retention of HIF monies.
- KMEP secretariat to confirm dates for additional KMEP meetings asap.

Item 4 – LEP Transition Update:

- Update after SELEP Board Decision taken on 7 July to work towards ‘scenario D’ closure of SELEP and integration of LEP responsibilities to local authorities by 31 March 2024
- A Kent & Medway LEP Integration Plan will need to be produced alongside SELEP’s transition plan
- Information provided is contained in the following slides:

LEP Transition Update

1. SELEP Board 7 July– agreed to work towards ‘Scenario D’ – closure of SELEP and the integration of its activities into local authorities
2. Current LEP Functions:
 - Governance
 - Management of the capital programme
 - Business support provision (Growth Hubs)
 - Partnerships, Networks & Sector Groups
 - Economic Data
 - Skills & Employment



LEP Transition– Guiding Principles

1. Continued voice of business
2. No gap in business engagement
3. Clarity (quick decisions) for staff, business, areas
4. Alignment with government policy
5. Retention of SELEP-wide activity where added value
6. Replacement of relevant activity at K&M level

LEP Transition: Next Steps

1. DLUHC guidance expected before summer recess
2. SELEP – Local Authority Officers Meeting 19 July
3. SELEP Transition Plan Developed (approval 13 October)
4. Kent & Medway Integration Plan Developed (summer)
5. Kent & Medway ‘offer’ to DLUHC (summer)
6. KCC ‘offer’ to SELEP (summer)
7. March 2024 – closure of SELEP
8. April 2024 – new arrangements in place

Action: KEMP secretariat to circulate SELEP’s State of the Region Economic Report

- Cllr Roger Gough added that the agreed approach to close the LEP is the one that we collectively voted for in this group and is the overall approach by many local authorities of how to address the issue of closing down the LEPs. The County Councils Network produced a report on this a few days ago which emphasised closing LEPs as clean break approach. When thinking about the things that you might want to do at LEP level, the things that are bigger than Kent and Medway level may not be a full LEP concern. Things that work between Kent and Essex could presumably be addressed through Thames Estuary rather than LEP for example.

Getting Building Fund Allocation

SELEP is currently holding £2.05m of unallocated GBF

Funding to be allocated to projects this financial year

Funding for shovel -ready, capital projects with 12 month delivery

Projects to support economic growth, new jobs and green recovery including:

- Town and city centre modernisation
- Investment in physical connectivity
- Investment in innovation through improvements to R&D facilities
- Improvements to human capital
- Improving digital connectivity

Details can be found below on what SELEP are specifically looking for:

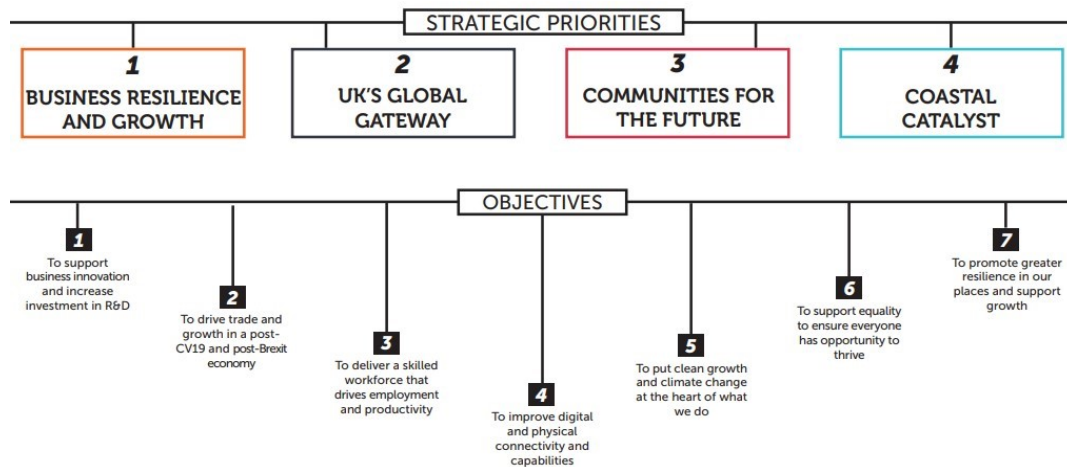
Getting Building Fund Allocation

Table 1: Criteria for projects seeking GBF funding

Projects must support the activities outlined in the SELEP Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy
Projects must demonstrate that they are shovel ready and that they are subject to a short delivery programme, with full spend of the GBF funding to be achieved within 12 months of receipt of funding approval from the Accountability Board
There should be no barriers to delivery, such as outstanding permissions or consents. Any remaining barriers to delivery will render the project ineligible for receipt of GBF funding
Projects must demonstrate a robust need for investment with particular reference to the challenges created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
Project Business Cases must demonstrate High value for money or compliance with one of the exemptions outlined within the SELEP Assurance Framework
Projects must demonstrate that a full funding package is in place to support delivery
Business Cases must demonstrate that consideration has been given to the impact of high inflation and interest rates on forecast costs
No upper limit on the amount of GBF funding which can be sought by projects
Projects which have previously been removed from the GBF programme cannot apply for funding

The projects will also need to link into SELEP'S broad strategy below:

GBF – Linking to SELEP Recovery Strategy



GBF – Timetable

1. Guidance to be issued shortly by SELEP
2. Summer - creation of project pipeline for Kent & Medway (KCC to collate)



NB – Decisions on remaining £9m Growing Places loan funding to be taken later in the year

- Liz Gibney pointed out that it is worth starting conversations about potential projects now.
- Jo James has already had discussions about projects and is not clear on how the Independent Technical Evaluation (ITE) costs will be being met by the project promoters as they are not being covered by SELEP and local authorities are not in a position to cover these.
- Steve Samson said that is an issue that needs clarifying with SELEP prior to them issuing the guidance but hopefully this can be resolved, and the emphasis now is on making it clear that this opportunity is open to potential shovel-ready Kent & Medway projects.

Previous GBF Projects



BRITTON FARM
REDEVELOPMENT
LEARNING, SKILLS &
EMPLOYMENT HUB



DIGITALLY CONNECTING
RURAL KENT AND MEDWAY
– TOP-UP BROADBAND
VOUCHER SCHEME



INCUBATOR R&D FACILITY,
DISCOVERY PARK



JAVELIN WAY
DEVELOPMENT – NEW
EDUCATION SPACE AND
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL UNITS



NEW PERFORMING &
PRODUCTION DIGITAL ARTS
FACILITY @ NORTH KENT
COLLEGE



ROMNEY MARSH
EMPLOYMENT HUB



THANET PARKWAY RAILWAY
STATION



THE MEETING PLACE,
SWANLEY – A BUSINESS
WORKHUB AND 17
RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

- **ACTION: KCC will coordinate the roll out and send out guidance when it is ready. If anyone has ideas, then please get in touch.**
- Liz Gibney: Processing the applications – really do what is the best thing to do for our region. The more is better if you are having to do the admin.
- Liz Gibney: What is meant by Human capital? Steve Samson said it is likely to be investing in people and investing in skills.
- Liz Gibney asked if there were any project ideas already.
- Mayer Schrieber mentioned that Discovery Park is a beneficiary of GBF – and would like to build on this – (Also mentioned he would be happy to host KMEP meeting and provide tour of the incubator space in future)
- Roger Gough asked about the timeline. How do we rank projects, how do we get the proposals in?
- Liz Gibney said it was important to have high level conversations as soon as possible, and there is a need to work quickly
- Cllr Lauren Edwards mentioned that work around Innovation Park Medway could be a possibility for a future project.
- Jo Nolan asked how the pre-conversation about projects will be organised? Round table or chat?

Steve Samson laid out the following timeline:

- He will make sure to have the key information from SELEP by Friday 21 July
- Kent colleagues will have a couple of weeks to respond to the initial call for ideas.
- The Initial review of potential projects will take place in the second week of August.
- Projects will then be invited to work on a more detailed business case to be submitted by the end of Augusts.
- SELEP's assurance framework requires that KMEP needs to do the prioritisation.
- Evaluate project that come in by mid August, then if needed look at setting up a call to discuss these with a view to finalising this during the additional KMEP meeting scheduled for 6 September.

- Regarding transition: SELEP is proposing a number of working groups about transition over the summer – KMEP secretariat will send out regular briefings.

Item 6 - Recent Transport Consultations Update (for information)

- The following slide capture the information that was shared:

Transport Consultations

Recent KMEP Responses:

- Lower Thames Crossing SoCG (3 July)
- Shaping the future of England's strategic roads (13 July)
- Lower Thames Crossing Written Representation (18 July)
- *Proposed instrument to regulate traffic on M20 motorway: call for views (27 July)*
- *Related - The future of customs declarations (28 Sep)*

LTC news:

Skanska named the preferred bidder for the Kent Roads package

The contract includes construction of green bridge, a new public park in Gravesham, and 6km of new road

Skanska plans to recruit almost half (45%) of its workforce from within 20 miles by upskilling local people with new qualifications and training

- KMEP Submitted the Lower Thames Crossing written representation:
ACTION - KMEP secretariat will circulate the final submission with the papers.
- Cllr John Burden stated that Gravesham BC will not be supporting the Lower Thames Crossing and will not be supporting any documents that support the LTC.
- Liz Gibney said that in terms of strategic transport issues KMEP will seek to represent everyone as best as it can. Strategic transport is kept on the agenda if there is the potential for it to unlock investment. Everyone should feel equally well supported in their views.
- Carol Ford said with regards to the Future of customs declarations consultation, that the Fresh Produce Consortium would like it known that there is a big issue around custom declarations and will send Steve the work that has been done around this by them to feed into a potential BAB response.
- Steve Samson said that they would look into a joint KMEP and or BAB response concerning the above.
- Liz Gibney said that the work around Transport Consultations is a really multi stranded. It is a key to growth and other areas. Fresh Produce is impacted as is the costal side. It also impacts on motorway aspects. Please make your priorities clear on this to KMEP.
- Cllr Burton asked why do we need KMEP to relay the concerns as this could be done directly by districts/leaders? Priorities for MBC are issues around Operation Brock and traffic regulations on the M20 and MBC would respond directly to these consultation themselves.
- Jo James said that feeding into a county wide response does not mean that you cannot also provide your own response. KICC also respond independently.

Item 7 - Kent and Medway Economic Framework:

Timetable for finalisation and endorsement was covered in the slide below:

Economic Framework: Timetable



- Steve Samson said that there will be time to feed into this before it is finalised and essentially, the dates above are approval points with colleagues having the opportunity to share view beforehand.
- Cllr Lauren Edwards asked what is the timetable for the engagement with Medway on this?
- Cllr Roger Gough responded by saying that the Kent and Medway Economic Framework has been developed over a long period of time and that Medway has been part of that. However, given the recent change of leadership in Medway if there was a need to engage again then this is possible. Otherwise this would take place through the Leaders and Chief Executives process.
- Jo Nolan asked if KMEP comments get fed back?
- Steve Samson said that as soon as there is a sharable draft (early August) then this will be circulated to KMEP members for comment.
- Jo Nolan also wanted to comment on the relationship with the districts and stated that both the districts and business representatives being on KMEP panel is positive. Perhaps there could be a more local representation that feeds back on certain issues.
- Cllr John Burton said that in terms of the involvement of the boroughs and the districts there should be the opportunity for them to shape this Framework and not just approve it.
- Liz Gibney said that we need to ensure that the communication around the framework is as good as it can be across all bodies. So that when funding opportunities do arise, relevant parties have the best possible mechanism to apply at their disposal.
- Jo James asked if the draft will go to BAB? To which Steve Samson answered that it would.
- Cllr David Burton asked how the KMEP strategy / diagram relates to the new Kent & Medway Economic Framework? As districts also have their own Economic Development

Strategies.

- Steve Samson explained that diagram is about how KMEP supports the Kent & Medway Economic Development Strategy in moving forwards.
- Cllr Burton mentioned that it would then be best to wait until the Kent & Medway strategy has been developed and work from there.

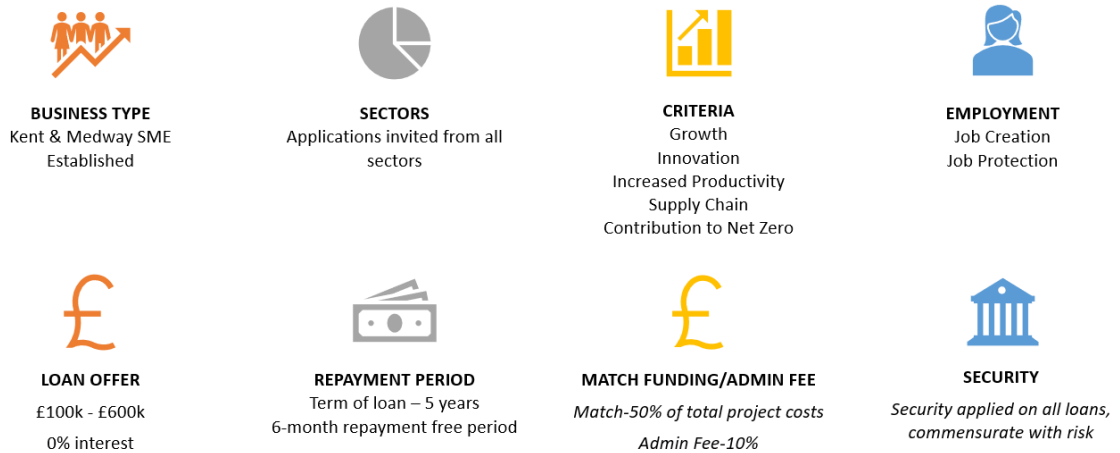
Item 8 - SELEP & KMEP Board Member Changes:

- Kent District Representative for SELEP board; Jo James will be retiring at the end of the year, there will be a new Kent representative on the SELEP board which will be Tudor Price.
- The new KMEP Vice Chair will be Vince Lucas.

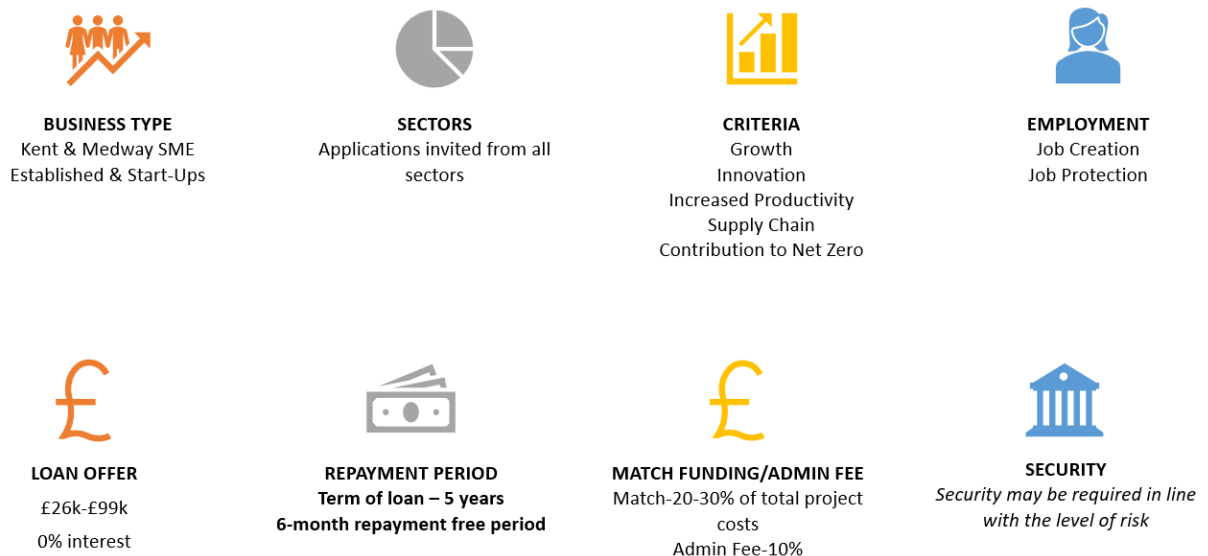
Item 9 - AOB

A number of items would have been presented but the meeting had to conclude at 14:00:

Kent & Medway Business Fund Launching October 2023



Kent & Medway Business Fund Small Business Boost Launching October 2023



KCC Budget Consultation 2024-25

Launches: 13 July

Closes: 6 September

This year we want to hear views on:

- > our Council Tax proposals,
- > whether we are prioritising resources in the right areas, and
- > suggestions for how we might find further savings.

www.kent.gov.uk/budget

