

South Essex Growth Partnership – our vision and role

South Essex Growth Partnership is driven by the private sector with support from the public sector and is part of the federated structure of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). This relationship is critical in achieving our ambitious growth plans and in securing resources to support project delivery. The partnership seeks to draw upon the areas key assets to help address the challenges that we face and unlock the growth potential of South Essex.

Our Vision is for South Essex to have one of the fastest growing, and most valuable economies in the UK providing opportunities and benefits to local communities.

In pursuing this vision the Growth Partnership has a number of priorities and has a strong pipeline of investment propositions.

Priorities for Intervention

The Growth Partnership has identified five priorities for intervention and for each of these priorities there is a strong pipeline of investment propositions that are identified in the appendix. This pipeline will remain fluid to reflect investment decisions, changes in the South Essex economy and new opportunity investments.

Priority 1: Driving Growth – securing resources for priority projects and supporting business growth with a strong integrated offer

- 1.1 Supporting the delivery of priority investment projects to secure significant employment growth in South Essex.
- 1.2 Making it simpler for businesses to access the support they need. Through our business-led Growth Hub, we will offer specialist help, advice and support to start-ups, SMEs and those businesses with the greatest growth potential. We will work with Government to make the most of national programmes as well as encouraging businesses to support each other through mentoring programmes and creating links between HE and the workplace.
- 1.3 Ensuring that suitable sites and premises are available to support business growth.

Priority 2: Outstanding connectivity – Improving connectivity locally, nationally and internationally

- 2.1 Securing investment in the road network and infrastructure which increases capacity to unlock growth and create jobs.
- 2.2 Influencing the timing and routing of any Lower Thames Crossing and working to secure maximum benefit from any decision.
- 2.3 Increasing capacity of the rail network and coordinating bus and rail services.
- 2.4 Developing high speed broadband infrastructure across South Essex.

Priority 3: Quality of Place

- 3.1 Enhancing the quality of the built environment and increasing access to the natural environment to improve the image of South Essex and increase its desirability as a place to live to retain and attract high skilled workers to the area.
- 3.2 Coordinated package of town centre regeneration across South Essex to improve and diversify local offers, deliver significant housing expansion and support local employment growth.

Priority 4: Skills for Growth – developing, attracting and retaining talent (To be developed based on the work Kate Willard is leading with business reps).

- Building upon the existing links between business and education providers to ensure that the existing workforce, together with those coming through the education system, are aware, engaged and able to provide the skills needed to support the delivery of the potential growth which has been identified.
- Ensuring our young people receive guidance and support to take full advantage of education, training and employment opportunities, and developing more effective approaches to supporting unemployed people back into work.

Priority 5: Housing - Stimulating and reshaping our housing market

- Finding innovative ways to offer existing and potential residents a place to live that meets or exceeds their expectations, and which they can afford.
- Promoting housing growth by creating new development models; unlocking stalled sites; tackling financial barriers; investing in infrastructure and easing the development process.
- Developing and implementing a coordinated housing estate renewal programme across South Essex to increase housing supply, support town centre regeneration and address historic image issues.