



The overall objectives of Team East Sussex are driven by the **East Sussex Growth Strategy** – this strategy defines the vision for the East Sussex economy to 2020 & beyond, built around the 3 key pillars of *Business, Place and People*.

Since the Growth Strategy was introduced in 2014 we've realised a huge number of achievements, all helping to drive forward economic growth throughout the county. The following list in no way covers the full spectrum of activities that our TES members, partners and stakeholders are involved in, but does highlight some of the key achievements, demonstrating over £600m+ of investment since 2014 across the three strategic pillars.

Key Pillar 1–BUSINESS: enabling business growth, particularly of high value businesses

Includes business promotion, business support, access to finance, commercial property development, site investment readiness

- £20m Growing Places Fund (GPF) capital loan funding from SELEP secured for various property and infrastructure developments across the county, with 3 new workspace developments delivered through Sea Change Sussex (Havelock Place/Priory Quarter, Glovers House and Pacific House) realising 604 jobs, and overseen the successful sale of Havelock Place in Hastings to an investor; secured an additional £1.27m in loans through GPF round 2, to be invested in Eastbourne Fishermen's Quay and Charleston Trust Centenary Project that unlocked a further £9.6m of private and public investment.
- Local Growth Fund (LGF) capital grant funding from SELEP towards the development of commercial property, including High Weald House (£7m), Newhaven Eastside South Business Park (£1.6m) and Swallow Business Park (£1.4m), with the latter two having unlocked respectively £6m and £11m of private investment. And in March 2019 additional LGF monies were secured for both Bexhill Enterprise North Business Park (£1.9m) and Sidney Little Business Park (Hastings) of £500k again unlocking respectively a further £19m and £2m private investment.
- Various property and asset investment delivery vehicles established throughout the county by each Borough, District and County Council to acquire and/or develop commercial property (using own reserves and PWLB monies) and also to look into other viable opportunities (e.g. Clear Futures - Sustainable projects), alongside major private sector investments in Eastbourne's new Beacon shopping centre.
- New Locate East Sussex website launched Nov 2018, promoting the county and its assets; case studies developed including a Creative Prospectus for Hastings (in response to the Channel 4 local hub bid), alongside East Sussex Guide published.
- Innovate UK funding of £4.7m secured since 2014/15 for 55 x businesses to develop new technologies and equipment.
- Developers East Sussex (DES) group established, and sustained, as a business-led forum for commercial and housing developers; successful DES Leaders' Dinner in Nov 2018, to become an annual event.
- East Sussex Planning Protocol created and launched in conjunction with TES & DES groups.
- Newhaven Enterprise Zone established Apr 2017 and emerging Newhaven EZ Company.
- Growth Hub for East Sussex (Business East Sussex) – £660k secured, delivering a one-stop-shop for business support services.
- Commissioning 3 High Growth programmes testing new ways of delivering business support.
- Successful EU-funded South East Business Boost (SEBB) project – £1m secured with 94 grants to businesses for capital equipment already defrayed, unlocking £2m investment and creating 50+ jobs.
- Successful Grants & Loans programme to stimulate and sustain business growth – ESCC in partnership with Let's Do Business Group has issued over £8m in grant and loan funding to local businesses since Oct 2012 to expand premises, purchase capital equipment and take on new employees, creating 800+ direct jobs to date and working with over 200 local businesses; projecting a further 500 indirect jobs through supporting premises development and two new incubators (Haylands Development at Ivy lane in Hastings and the Pine Grove Enterprise Centre in Crowborough).
- Enhancing the current Locate East Sussex (LES) inward investment services with EU and ESCC/D&BC partner contributions – £1.8m with 150+ businesses successfully located/relocated to date (30+ businesses each year).
- Part of a SELEP-wide team building SECCADS (South East Creative, Cultural and Digital Support) programme to offer grants and tailored business support to this sector up to the value of £0.5m in East Sussex.

Pillar 1 investment = £102m+

Key Pillar 2–PLACE: A significantly valued asset to the East Sussex economy

Includes access & connectivity, transport infrastructure, road & rail, public transport, broadband, lobbying for improved connectivity, public realm, housing, enhancing the visitor economy

- Continued rollout of superfast Broadband across the county; already invested jointly with Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) over £30m through contracts 1 & 2; our new contract is forecast to deliver 99% superfast coverage.
- £75m Local Growth Fund (LGF) secured with £50m+ spent to date, alongside further 'pipeline' funds made available (i.e. Catalysing Stalled Sites fund); particular LGF projects to highlight as delivered or underway include:
 - Newhaven Port Access Road and Newhaven Flood Defence scheme
 - Eastbourne Walking and Cycling Package and Eastbourne town centre;
 - North Bexhill Access Road to be fully completed by Apr 2019;

- Queensway Gateway Road construction underway.
- All the above has unlocked a further £30m of public and £2m of private investment.
- £125m investment in the Bexhill Hastings Link Road (Combe Valley Way), with business sites now opening up.
- Lobbied for Road & Rail Infrastructure improvements with circa £103m of further funds committed; includes £18m from Network Rail for improvements and re-signalling to the Lewes/Newhaven/Seaford line, £10m for Newhaven Port Access Road and £75m for the A27 (£72m secured for small-scale A27 improvements, including junction & capacity improvements, plus £3m for a study to support the development of a business case for dualling the A27 – reported in May 2018 with potential further work to progress the case to next stage).
- Transport for the South East (TfSE) established with ESCC as lead authority; ESCC is now making the case for prioritising major investments for future Route Investment in Road and Rail by Government for 2020+ including HS1, A27 and A21 routes.
- Major Road Network (MRN) – case made on 9 x economically important ‘A Class’ roads to be included within the MRN with the potential to bid for investment from early 2020’s.
- ESCC’s own local transport capital programme (LTCP), circa £20m (£4-5m/yr) from ESCC capital programme allocation and development contributions (Section 106 & Community Infrastructure Levy), topped up with a further £4-8m per year from the LGF programme up to 2020/21.
- Various walking and cycling schemes implemented, particularly in the Eastbourne & South Wealden and Bexhill & Hastings areas; includes £2m on the Horsey Cycle Route between Langney Rise and Lottbridge Drive.
- Town centre improvements in public realm – includes Lewes North Street Quarter, Eastbourne town centre and Devonshire Park (£50m), Hastings Bohemia Quarter (White Rock), Newhaven, Hailsham and Uckfield town centres, plus Future High Street fund bidding.
- East Sussex investment in projects within the SELEP pipeline (for LGF-3B & other funding sources).
- Housing Infrastructure Fund: £16.7m secured through District & Borough partners for the delivery of 4 x HIF ‘Marginal Viability’ schemes; circa £30m HIF ‘Forward Funding’ bid being developed by ESCC & Wealden DC for various interventions in the Wealden area to unlock housing delivery.
- Local Plans developed and approved; Local Plan housing targets improving and Community Infrastructure Levy process being implemented with funds released/secured.
- Coastal Communities Housing project – initial funding secured by Hastings BC, alongside EU CLLD funding and various other coastal communities team & fishing projects across the county, circa £8m.
- Successful and award-winning tourism and cultural projects – Coastal Cultural Trail, Sussex Modern and major yearly events delivered.
- Placed based strategies, film friendly locations and visitor/tourism offers have increased.

Pillar 2 investment = £480m+

Key Pillar 3–PEOPLE: Meeting the skills needs of business & supporting residents to reach their full potential

Includes increasing STEM skills, aligning providers with business needs, expanding higher level education, improving soft & basic skills, work readiness

- Skills East Sussex (SES) established and delivering as the county’s Employability and Skills Board, tackling the key growth sectors in the East Sussex economy with practical actions.
- Secured £1m+ funding from ESCC and the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) to support SES priorities; East Sussex is one of only 20 x national Careers Hubs pilots.
- Plumpton College significant capital investment providing ‘Skills for Rural Business’ with LGF monies secured of £2.9m to provide a regional centre of excellence in technical training, skills supply and business support interventions to drive productivity increases in agrifood (butchery and bakery etal) to support the post-Brexit 10 year competitive opportunity, this has unlocked a further £4m private investment.
- Increased employer involvement in shaping the curriculum with involvement across all 6 x SES task groups.
- Sussex Coast and Sussex Downs Further Education (FE) colleges merged, following an Area Based Review, to form East Sussex College Group (ESCG), with Sussex Skills Solutions established as a training and recruitment arm.
- Co-commissioned £1.6m Adult Education Budget (AEB) with East Sussex College Group in 2018-19.
- Capital investments made in college STEM facilities from secured LEP funds – £450k.
- Highly successful Open Doors event ran for the third consecutive year in Nov 2018, with over 500 young people getting an experience of over 40 businesses in the county.
- Industry Champion scheme launched in Mar 2018; now has over 80 Industry Champions delivering a range of work readiness and careers activities for local school & college students.
- The County Council’s Employability and Skills Strategy was delivered, with significant procurement and social value achieved (£400k+ with 50 apprentices).
- Increased Apprenticeship offers; over 800 people attended Apprenticeship Roadshows in Eastbourne and Hastings during 2018.
- Successful Enterprise Advisor Scheme, STEAMfest, Careers Hub and Careers advice established and ongoing in schools.
- Work readiness and job opportunities – contracts awarded by Government / EU funds through the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), circa £10m.

Pillar 3 investment = £20.3m+