

AGENDA PACK

Meeting	OSE Board
Date and Time	Wednesday 2 nd December 2020, 2-4pm
Venue	On Line via Microsoft Teams

Notes:

This meeting will be held using Microsoft Teams. Can you please mute your microphones unless speaking to reduce background noise and interference.

Item	Title and Description	Lead	Timing
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Procedural and update Items

1	Welcome and Introduction	Chair	14:00 to 14:25
2	Declarations of Interest	Chair	
3	Minutes of last Meeting (23 rd September and 11 th November)	Chair	
4	Action Tracker	Chair	
5	Directors Report including Programme Update	Ian Lewis	

Agenda items for discussion/decision

6	<u>Institute of Technology Bid</u> South Essex College will outline the project to the Board. Presentation – No Papers	Angela O'Donoghue	14:25-14:45
7	<u>Lower Thames Crossing</u> Update on project and procurement Presentation – No Papers	Matt Palmer LTC Executive Director	14:45-15:05
8	<u>Bradwell B Nuclear Power Station</u> Introduction to project and delivery Presentation – No Papers	Stephen Bray	15:05 – 15:25
9	<u>Freeports</u> Vivid Economics will update on progress with the Tilbury/London Gateway proposal Presentation – No Papers	Jake Wellman	15:25 – 15:45
10	SELEP Update	Adam Bryan	15:45 – 16:00

Date of Next Meeting

10th March 2021, 2-4pm
Venue TBC

2021/22 Dates, all 2-4pm:

- 10th March 2021 (already in diaries)
- 19th May
- 15th September
- 1st December
- 9th March 2022

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Meeting OSE Board
Date and Time 23rd September 2020, 14:00
Venue Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees

Mark Curle	Henderson Curle
Murray Foster	Southend Business Partnership
Perry Glading	Glading Consultancy, High House Production (Chair)
Lucy-Emma Harris	Pixelwork
Cllr Chris Hossack	Brentwood Council
Chris Lines	Leonardo
Cllr Aidan McGurran	Basildon Council
David O'Connell	DBD Communications
Angela O'Donoghue	South Essex College
Cllr Kevin Robinson	Southend Council
John Rowe	Olympus Key Med
Aideen Sadler	City Fibre
Rob Singh	University of Essex
Nicholas Smith	Cantel Ltd
Cllr Norman Smith	Castle Point Borough Council
Caroline Southgate	Doris Jones

Apologies

Colette Bailey	Metal
David Barnes	Basildon Business Group
Cllr Rob Gledhill	Thurrock Council
Glyn Jones	Southend Airport
Geoff Pearce	Swan Housing

Officers/Observers/Presenters

Jaki Bradley	Thurrock ACL
Mark Carroll	Essex County Council
Alison Griffin	Southend Council
Tomasz Kozlowski	Basildon Council
Andy Lewis	Southend Council
Ian Lewis	Opportunity South Essex
Iain McNab	Cities & Local Growth Unit
Helen Russell	SELEP
Shaun Scrutton	Rochford District Council
Jim Sims	Basildon Council
Tristan Smith	Essex County Council

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Notes – <u>NOTE: DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED</u>	Actions
1	Introductions	
1.1	Chair welcomed Alison Griffin (Chief Executive, Southend Council) and Helen Russell (Strategy & Intelligence Manager, SELEP) to the meeting	
1.2	Chair also reflected on the significant work of local authority partners over the last couple of months in response to the Covid 19 lockdown and the support given to businesses through this challenging time.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	None made	
3	Minutes of Last Meeting	
3.1	The Board agreed the minutes of the 6 th June Meeting	
4	Action Tracker	
4.1	Reminded Members of opportunity to become Member of the SELEP company, and highlighted that the AGM will be taking place on the 2 nd October	Interested Board Members to contact IL for info
4.2	Outstanding invitation for Jon Birkett to present to Basildon Business Group	DB to follow up
4.3	South Essex website is nearly complete and will be ready shortly	IL to let Members know when ready
4.4	Board noted the update	
5	Directors Report	
5.1	<p>Kickstart Scheme – key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme will fund 25 hours (at minimum wage) for work placements for new roles. £1,500 will also be available to support the placement with training and other support. Placements will last 6 months • South Essex College will be putting forward a proposal for the college and employers for around 30-40 places • We should aim to use the scheme to ultimately develop apprenticeship places • Southend Council are also offering to operate as an umbrella organisation for South Essex, covering both smaller local authorities and businesses. • Board Members wanted to be clear that we need to make sure that what we put in place works with other proposals that will come forward. We must also avoid duplication • Board Members would welcome the creation of a South Essex Umbrella scheme because the 	IL to keep Board informed of progress with scheme roll out

Agenda Item	Notes – <u>NOTE: DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED</u>	Actions
	requirements for payroll and other aspects of the scheme are complex. The need to create a minimum of 30 places rules out most businesses being able to run themselves	
5.2	<p>Local Growth Fund Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board informed that Tilbury Riverside Business Centre and Forum 2 projects were not proceeding. Funding allocated to these projects would now be available for SELEP to reallocate to other projects • Board Members were disappointed that these projects are not proceeding, but recognised that the risks to local authorities wider capital programmes, reviews of project viability post Covid and funding pressures from Covid have led to these decisions. • Board members were keen to firstly not lose the funding, but more concerned about SELEP not being able to support other projects and the funding being ultimately returned to Treasury. Board members wishes to avoid this outcome. Board members also asked that SELEP be approached in relation to providing funding for other South Essex projects. 	PG and IL to progress with SELEP
5.3	The Chair thanked the Board for their input during the Get Building Fund process during July 2020	
5.4	The Board agreed to endorse the Sector Support Fund applications for Rebuilding Demand in the Visitor Economy and Gourmet Trails, noting the latter may be dependent on the availability of match funding.	
5.5	The Board confirmed the priority order of the Get Building Fund reserve projects.	
6	South Essex Recovery & Growth	
6.1	<p>Alison Griffin Introduced the work that ASELA are taking forward to support the South Essex economy in the coming months. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASELA have put in place a Growth and Recovery group to oversee and drive forward a range of actions • We need to strengthen the South Essex economy through our residents and businesses purchasing locally • Local Authority Chief Executives will be contacting the top 10 businesses within their respective areas to get a temperature check on their current position and seek views on the next 6-12 months. This will give real insights, rather than just data • We need to recognise how our town centres may need to change as the return to a 5 day commute seems unlikely • We need to get the construction pipeline moving, and support where we can 	

Agenda Item	Notes – <u>NOTE: DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED</u>	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report outlined the programme areas that ASELA are working across. A business voice in each of these would help us strengthen the case and pitch, and help us identify the right interventions and projects • Devolution White paper is not expected soon. This will outline the future for local and regional structures but has been delayed. View that now may not be the time for local government shake up. Expectation currently is the first half of 2021. • Advised that MP's should be used as a direct route to Ministers 	
6.2	<p>In relation to the Kickstart scheme, AG confirmed that Southend are offering to become an umbrella organisation for employers and local authorities within South Essex. The scheme would be offered across South Essex. Should be noted that Kickstart does not replace apprenticeships, and is available to people on universal credit. It will not fix the problems faced by 16-18 year olds who have seen apprenticeship places reduce by over 70% this year, driving an increase in full time vocational courses. However, this means that the practical work based experience is not being gained.</p>	AG and AO'D to discuss further
6.3	Details of South Essex Kickstart schemes to be shared when available	IL
6.4	<p>In discussion, the Board made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to make sure that procurement from both local authorities and businesses leads to spend in the local economy. What can we do to ensure this? • We need to have something that publicises these opportunities, and consider a marketing campaign to engage businesses in using local suppliers – this has been done with the supermarkets • There are a lot of companies recruiting. How can we link those being made redundant to these opportunities, and retraining? • Real concerns about the end of the furlough scheme, and a replacement is needed. Post Meeting Note: Chancellor announced a follow on scheme to follow Furlough the day after the meeting • In terms of planning white paper, we need to share common ground and measures to support delivery. We must focus on what would be best for business • Can we streamline local procurement to make it easier for small local businesses to access opportunities • When considering local procurement, we need to recognise that there are a range of other institutions that can support this such as hospitals and the wider business community. • A jobs matching function to link people to opportunities is essential. Worth noting that unemployment levels are already high • We should also be lobbying local MP's to pick up the 	<p>IL to follow up</p> <p>IL to follow up</p>

Agenda Item	Notes – <u>NOTE: DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED</u>	Actions
	key issues we have locally	
6.5	<p>Helen Russell (SELEP) updated the Board on the data collection and analysis that SELEP are currently undertaking. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1% unemployment nationally, disproportionately affecting under 24 age group • 32% of eligible employments furloughed across SELEP area • 193k claiming self employed income support across SELEP area • 164k claiming universal credit across SELEP, double March 2020 number • £120m of support grants paid out in South Essex • Retail, hospitality, arts, food and air travel all severely impacted. • Noted that the volume of calls to the Growth Hubs had increased 4 fold since March 2020. 	
6.6	Board are asked to make any comments on the presentation to Helen Russell	
6.7	Local Industrial Strategy development on hold, but material to be used to support recovery and renewal strategy. HR indicated that SELEP will wish to engage with OSE on the development of the strategy over the Autumn	HR and IL to co-ordinate
6.8	Universal credit figures to be shared in more detail, with comparison to national figures	HR to share
6.9	Link to web page for data, which will be regularly updated, is: https://www.southeastlep.com/our-strategy/economic-data-and-intelligence/ . SELEP have offered to offer different cuts of the data if this is required.	
6.10	Wider point made about the funding streams available and the activity that is required, and how we bend the funding to meet clear needs. We need to make sure that there is the flexibility in business support to meet the needs of business.	
6.11	SELEP were asked if there was an intention to put in place opportunities for subcontractors to register in advance of major projects being let, to ensure that the benefits of large projects are retained locally	HR to consider within SELEP major projects group
7	SELEP Covid Response programmes	
7.1	<p>The Board made the following comments and observations on the proposed programmes SELEP are considering for Covid response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timescales need to be much faster, especially with the business support • Priority order needs to be reconsidered – waiting until next year to address digital felt too far into the future 	

Agenda Item	Notes – <u>NOTE: DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED</u>	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay between call being announced and entering into contracts will not see these programmes start until well into next year. Skills programmes need to allow delivery in specific locations rather than being thinly spread across the whole SELEP area. This will allow much better targeting of funding and increased benefits realisation. LEP wide contracts do not allow for local focus • We have identified a clear capacity issue right now with growth hubs (call traffic increased four-fold by SELEPs own figures) and anecdotal evidence of businesses waiting 4 weeks for appointments. Support programme should provide funding now to provide the clearly needed additional capacity 	PG to follow up with SELEP to explore options for increased resource
7.2	All above points are to be reflected by SELEP Board Members at the next meeting of the LEP strategic board (2 nd October) and also directly with SELEP	PG, AS plus Cllr Gledhill and Cllr Woodley
7.3	BIES are bidding for a 40% increase in funding to Growth Hubs through the Spending Review, but this will be for 2021-22 at the earliest	
8	Inward Investment	
8.1	The Growth Hub may have a role in supporting an inward investment function. There is also a role for ASELA in supporting this function	IL to explore

Next Meeting

2nd December 2020, 2pm. Details to be confirmed.

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Meeting OSE Board
Date and Time 11th November 2020, 16:00
Venue Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees

Colette Bailey	Metal
Cllr Tony Ball	Essex County Council
David Barnes	Basildon Business Group
Cllr Mark Coxshall	Thurrock Council
Mark Curle	Henderson Curle
Murray Foster	Southend Business Partnership
Chris Lines	Leonardo
Perry Glading	Glading Consultancy, High House Production (Chair)
Cllr Chris Hossack	Brentwood Council
Glyn Jones	Southend Airport
Cllr Aidan McGurran	Basildon Council
David O'Connell	DBD Communications
Angela O'Donoghue	South Essex College
Cllr Kevin Robinson	Southend Council
Geoff Pearce	Swan Housing
John Rowe	
Aideen Sadler	City Fibre
Rob Singh	University of Essex
Cllr Norman Smith	Castle Point Borough Council
Caroline Southgate	Doris Jones
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend Council
Cllr Simon Wootton	Rochford Council

Apologies

Cllr Rob Gledhill	Thurrock Council
Lucy-Emma Harris	Pixelwork
Nicholas Smith	Cantel Ltd

Officers/Observers/Presenters

Adam Bryan	South East LEP
Mark Doran	Essex County Council
Anna Eastgate	Thurrock Council
Angela Hutchings	Rochford Council
Tomasz Kozlowski	Basildon Council
Andy Lewis	Southend Council
Ian Lewis	Opportunity South Essex
Tim Rignall	Southend Council
Jim Sims	Basildon Council
Tristan Smith	Essex County Council
Katherine Stout	Focal Point Gallery
Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Council

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Notes - <u>NOTE: DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED</u>	Actions
1	Sector Support Fund	
1.1	<p>The Board made the following comments to be fed back to project promoters:</p> <p>General Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does SSF provide too little funding given the geography and is the funding being stretched too thinly <p>Catalyst for Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further clarification sought in relation the figures in the proposal • Concern that there is no South Essex part to this project • Need to recognise that there are no production venues in South Essex as there are in the locations in the brief • We need to recognise that resource to support these venues may come from South Essex, and the opportunity for 10 commissions to be delivered locally <p>SEED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to make sure that we open up all locations to all sectors • Is the project too limited in its focus 	IL to feed back comments to promoters
1.2	<p>The Board supported the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Back Better • Carbon Pathways • Catalyst for Culture • South East Export Development 	
1.3	<p>The Board Endorsed the Creative High Streets Project which is being promoted by Southend. Project promoter to take on board comments made by the Board.</p>	
1.4	<p>Final Decision on these projects will be made by the SELEP Board on the 11th December 2020.</p>	
2	Local Growth Fund	
2.1	<p>The Board agreed the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A13 Widening • A127 Maintenance • Southend Town Centre • Southend Airport Business Park 	
2.2	<p>The priority projects will consider phasing of their funding ask and confirm with OSE Director the initial funding sought now and further funding asks for inclusion within the pipeline list should further LGF funding become available.</p>	

Agenda Item	Notes - <u>NOTE: DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED</u>	Actions
	<p>POST MEETING NOTE:</p> <p>Final submission following further discussion with project leads is:</p> <p>A13 Widening - £1,500,000 A127 Maintenance - £207,000 Southend Town Centre - £125,000 Southend Airport Business Park (Part A) - £600,000 Total - £2,432,000</p> <p>We will retain the following in order of priority should further funding become available:</p> <p>Southend Airport Business Park (Part B) - £500,000 Southend Airport Business Park (Part C) - £500,000 A13 Widening - £1,000,000 A127 Maintenance - £393,000</p>	
3	Getting Building Fund	
3.1	The Board noted that the Grays Shopping Centre project is no longer able to proceed, releasing up to £1.8m for re-allocation.	
3.2	<p>The Board have agreed, subject to confirmation that projects are in a position to proceed quickly, switch funding to the next projects, up to the value sought for Grays, on the priority list as agreed by the Board at its September meeting. These projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Properties as Energy Centres (Southend) • Laindon High Street Improvements (Basildon) 	
3.3	<p>POST MEETING NOTE</p> <p>Final submission following discussions with project leads is below. We have confirmed that the Social Properties as Energy Centres is not able to proceed in the timing required by the Getting Building Fund. This leaves the following projects:</p> <p>Laindon Place High Street Improvements - £570,000 Laindon Place Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - £80,000 Laindon Place Environmental Improvements - £150,000 Total - £800,000</p> <p>This leaves £1,008,865 unallocated.</p> <p>Navigator Park and Thames Enterprise Park will not be in a position to proceed in line with the timings required by the Getting Building Fund</p>	

Next Meeting

2nd December 2020, 2pm. Details to be confirmed.

Date	Action (Minute reference)	Lead	Due By	RAG	Notes	Update (incl. date of update)
23/09/2020	OSE Website (4.3)	IL	31/10/2020	Complete	Website went live 21st October 2020	
23/09/2020	Kickstart Work placements (5.1 and 6.3)	IL	31/10/2020		IL to keep Board members up to date with scheme and when open	17/11/20 - Update at 2nd December Meeting
23/09/2020	LGF Funding (5.2)	PG & IL	30/11/2020		IL/PG to ensure funding not lost to SELEP	17/11/20 - OSE confirmed LGF and SELEP Board to finalise 11/12/20
23/09/2020	Kickstart scheme (6.2)	AG & A O'D	31/10/2020		AG & A O'D to discuss the kickstart scheme and apprenticeships	17/11/20 - Complete
23/09/2020	Local authority and business procurement (6.4)	IL	30/11/2020		Exploration of how to expand local procurement as part of Task force activity	17/11/20 - additional resource to be secured to progress
23/09/2020	Job Matching scheme (6.4)	IL	30/11/2020		Exploration of how to expand local procurement as part of Task force activity	17/11/20 - additional resource to be secured to progress
23/09/2020	SELEP Recovery & Renewal Strategy (6.7)	IL & HR	30/11/2020		SELEP to engage with OSE Board on development	
23/09/2020	Universal Credit Figures (6.8)	HR	30/09/2020	Complete	South Essex Figures to be shared	Complete
23/09/2020	Sub contract and suppliers for major projects (6.11)	HR	30/11/2020		HR to discuss with SELEP major projects group options for developing database	

Date	Action (Minute reference)	Lead	Due By	RAG	Notes	Update (incl. date of update)
23/09/2020	Increased demand for Growth Hub (7.1)	PG	02/10/2020		Follow up with SELEP Board and request additional resource to meet demand	17/11/20 - Funding for additional resource secured
23/09/2020	Feedback on SELEP Covid SME support package (7.1)	SELEP Board members	02/10/2020		Feedback to SELEP comments on the proposed timing and sequencing of support	02/10/20 - Concerns raised at Strategic Board
23/09/2020	Growth hub role in Inward investment (8.1)	IL	30/11/2020		Explore potential role as part of task force work	17/11/20 - additional resource to be secured to progress
05/06/2020	Membership of SELEP Company (5.4)	Board Members	31/07/2020		Board members to consider membership of SELEP Company	9/6/20 Open invite to Board Members and Local Authorities
05/06/2020	Invite to Jon Birkett to present at Basildon Business Group	D Barnes	19/06/2020			23/9/20 - Need to confirm this has been actioned

Item	5
Subject	Director's Update
Date	2 nd December 2020
Author	Ian Lewis, Executive Director

Report Summary and Recommendation

The report outlines the activities of OSE since the last Board meeting and provide an update of the current financial position of the Partnership.

The Board are asked to:

- Note the Update
- Note the final position with the Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund submissions
- Endorse the Gourmet Garden Trails Sector Support Fund application
- Note the need to develop the South Essex project pipeline and confirm next steps

General Update

1. **ASELA**– We are currently **seeking an interim resource** to support the delivery of the recovery task force programme we have discussed at previous meetings. The South Essex local authorities are all contributing to much needed additional capacity. The post will focus on establishing an inward investment process, maximise local procurement, share best practice across our town centres, support no use empty and other areas of work as required.
2. **Thames Estuary Growth Board** – Since the last meeting, the **Growth Board has finalised its work plan** which for the next 6 months will be focussing on Hydrogen, Freeports, Digital Infrastructure, River Connectivity and Quality of Development. The Board has **held a major event to highlight the opportunities hydrogen** will present for the Estuary. The next steps will be to develop a roadmap for investment in hydrogen infrastructure.
3. **Freeports** – The **Government prospectus for Freeports was launched** on the 16th November. We have been working with the London Gateway/Tilbury proposal and will arrange an opportunity to engage with the Board in the next few weeks. See Item 9.
4. **Growth Hub and additional resource** – we have been able to **secure additional funding for the next two quarters to provide much needed extra capacity** to the Growth Hub. It has been experiencing a quadrupling of traffic which has extended response times. Quick responses are essential right now and Southend, Thurrock and Essex Councils have agreed to fund this additional resource.
5. **Skills Leadership** – at our last meeting we were able to confirm that we **have secured additional resource to help us move forward**. The focus of this work will be on adults wishing to retain, highlighting areas with high levels of vacancies and also joining up parts of the skills offer across South Essex. This work will not replicate any current arrangements but join up areas of activity and improve access. Kickstart schemes as discussed at our last meeting are being approved.

Programme Update

6. We held an additional Board meeting on the 11th November to discuss a number of funding decisions we needed to make in relation to the Get Building Fund, Local Growth Fund and the Sector Support Fund.
7. Getting Building Fund (GBF) Fund – the Board agreed to look to the existing prioritised pipeline and allocate to the next projects in turn, once they have established that they are in a position to proceed within the timing requirements for GBF. Since the Board meeting we have worked with project promoters to confirm the ability for projects in the prioritised list to proceed to the timings required by the Get Building Fund. **The following will be taken forward:**
 - Laindon Place High Street Improvements - £570,000
 - Laindon Place Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - £80,000
 - Laindon Place Environmental Improvements - £150,000
 - Total - £800,000
8. This leaves **£1,008,865 unallocated. Final Allocation will be determined by the SELEP Board.**
9. The Board should note that the rest of the Getting Building Fund projects put forward by OSE have now been reviewed by SELEP and their business cases endorsed by the Accountability Board.
10. Local Growth Fund – The **Board agreed their prioritisation at the meeting on the 11th November**, and subsequent discussions have been able to confirm the amounts sought by each project. Further discussion has been had with project leads to confirm the Covid related additional costs and the phasing of spend, so the final position is:
 - A13 Widening (a) - £1,500,000
 - A127 Maintenance (a) - £207,000
 - Southend Town Centre - £125,000
 - Southend Airport Business Park (Part A) - £600,000
 - Southend Airport Business Park (Part B) - £500,000
 - Southend Airport Business Park (Part C) - £500,000
 - A13 Widening (b) - £1,000,000
 - A127 Maintenance (b) - £393,000
11. Sector Support Fund – The board have confirmed their endorsement of a range of projects. Comments and questions raised by the Board at the additional meeting held on the 11th November 2020 have been referred to the relevant project promoter.
12. An additional project has been re-submitted to reflect that match funding has been changed. The Gourmet Garden Trails project will focus on the domestic market, outside London, to encourage visits to regions to extend the season and capitalise on emerging trends for local, rural and experiential products. The project is seeking £35,000 contribution from the Sector Support Fund to support an overall project value of £84,000. A bid for a further £100,000 is being made to Visit England. **The Board are asked to endorse this application.**
13. It should be noted that the **South Essex project pipeline will need work during the first part of 2021** to re-populate with projects. The ASELA programme will need to identify clear, deliverable and viable projects in anticipation of forthcoming Government funding opportunities. This is highlighted by the point in paragraph 9 that we have had to hand funding back indicates that we may not have a sufficiently well-developed pipeline. A joint way forward needs to be developed between ASELA and OSE to address this.

Item	6, 7, 8 and 9
Subject	Major Project Presentations
Date	2 nd December 2020
Author	Ian Lewis, Executive Director

Report Summary

The Board are to receive presentations on the following projects

Introduction

The agenda items 6-9 are formed of presentations from a number of key projects taking place in the region. Each one will have significant implications for South Essex. The projects are:

South East Institute of Technology

South Essex College is leading a SELEP wide bid for an Institute of Technology focused on Logistics, Automation, Construction, Health and Life Sciences. Institutes of Technology are new collaborations which focus on the delivery and development of Level 4/5 (HNC/HND Level) qualifications in partnership with employers.

The South East Institute of Technology has a number of FE partners including South Essex College, Mid Kent College, East Sussex College, Harlow College, Chelmsford College, Plumpton College and Logistics Academy East of England (LAEOE).

There are also two university partners to provide a research arm to the IoT to support employers – Anglia Ruskin University and the University of East Anglia. The IoT has a number of anchor employer partners including DP World London Gateway, Tilbury Port, Lower Thames Crossing, Stansted Airport, Princess Alexandra Hospital and BAE. We are in discussions with a range of other employers about their commitment to this development who will then be added to this list. The timetable is:

- Stage 1 bid submission date – 17 December
- Stage 2 bid submission date March 2021
- Final outcome date – June 2021.

Lower Thames Crossing – The Board will hear from Matt Palmer, the Executive Director for Lower Thames Crossing. The project website can be found here:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/lower-thames-crossing/>

Bradwell B Nuclear Power Station – This project will construct a new nuclear power station at Bradwell. This is a significant project, which will take up to 12 years to complete and require up to 9,000 people at its peak period of construction. For more details see: <https://bradwellb.co.uk/>

Freeports – The Government released its Freeport Prospectus on the 16th November 2020. Bidders have until 5th February 2021 to create and submit their proposals. DP World and Forth Ports are progressing a proposal which will cover London Gateway, Port of Tilbury and the engine plant at Dagenham. Vivid Economics are supporting the development of the proposal and will be presenting at the Board meeting. Press release: <https://www.forthports.co.uk/latest-news/forth-ports-dp-world-push-forward-with-thames-freeport-bid/>