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Dear Jake

LEP Review: Lewes District Overlap Resolution

We write jointly to confirm that we have resolved the geographic overlap pertinent to Lewes District - the details of our agreement are outlined in the enclosure. It has been agreed that Lewes will be part of the South East LEP moving forward.

Both LEPs are committed to continuing to work closely together, across Lewes and the Newhaven Enterprise Zone in particular, but also our broader agenda – whether through the delivery of the Energy Strategy which we have worked together in developing (alongside Enterprise M3), or the development of our Local Industrial Strategies over the coming calendar year.

We are indebted to our respective Vice Chairmen, Graham Peters and Steve Allen who have worked together to reach this agreement on our behalves. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we deliver the Growth Agenda across our areas.

Yours sincerely



Christian Brodie
Chairman
South East Local Enterprise Partnership



Timothy Wates
Chairman
Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership

Encl: Agreement

Agreement on Resolution of the LEP Boundary Overlap in Lewes

Background

1. Lewes District is a key part of the economy of East Sussex and also of the Greater Brighton economic area, which brings together districts and boroughs whose economies interact closely with the City of Brighton and Hove. The importance of this is confirmed in the [2016] City Deal for Greater Brighton.
2. Reflecting this, Lewes has always been part of both the South East LEP (SELEP) - which includes East Sussex - and the Coast to Capital LEP which contains Greater Brighton. However, the Government has asked that LEPs across England eliminate such overlaps in order to ensure clarity on how local industrial strategies will be delivered.

Future working arrangements

3. SELEP and Coast to Capital are committed to resolving this overlap in order to support the development of Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) in both LEP areas. We confirm that Lewes will be part of SELEP going forward. Four areas of extensive cooperation between the two LEPs will be incorporated in the formalisation of that transition and withdrawal of Coast to Capital.
4. Firstly, both LEPs will collaborate in the preparation of LIS's for their separate areas. This will ensure that evidence on the economic performance of Lewes is addressed in both LISs, as appropriate and in a fully consistent way. This will include issues relating to the interaction between Lewes and the rest of East Sussex, and the interaction between Lewes and the rest of Greater Brighton.
5. Secondly, it is agreed that projects arising from the LIS process will be considered for future funding by SELEP in line with their corporate processes and without prejudice to the changing status of Lewes within the LEP.
6. Thirdly, both LEPs agree that continued development and investment in Newhaven is essential to ensure the long-term economic growth of Lewes District. Successful medium-term delivery of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone is central to this. The EZ contains eight important development sites in Newhaven, and has been led by Coast to Capital since 2015. Both LEPs agree that close collaboration is needed to support

the development of the EZ over the coming years, and to ensure a managed handover from Coast to Capital to SELEP.

7. Fourthly, a separate Collaboration Agreement for Newhaven EZ will be agreed and implemented. This will be based on the creation of a special purpose vehicle to lead delivery of the EZ. This will be independently chaired, and will bring together both LEPs and all relevant Local Authorities and businesses from the town. It will continue with and develop the existing long-term strategy for the town's future, bringing together public and private funds to ensure that Newhaven can meet its economic potential. The EZ's governance and the SPV will be reviewed by SELEP after two years, with the expectation that Coast to Capital will withdraw from these arrangements at this point. The Collaboration Agreement will be included in assurance arrangements for the two LEPs in line with Government requirements.
8. The Accountable Body function for this SPV will remain with the London Borough of Croydon until April 2020 when it will transfer to SELEP's extant Accountable Body arrangements.
9. Both LEPs agree to long-term collaboration and cooperation in line with the spirit of this agreement and the intentions of the Government's Industrial Strategy.