

## ESCC Report for Parish Councils      September 2019

ESCC has been awarded Local Growth Fund money of £2.5 million by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) for two initiatives in the Bexhill and Seaford areas. £960,000 will help develop six industrial units to attract creative industries to Bexhill, while the remaining £1.5 m will go towards the cost of a bridge replacement project at Exceat. These projects will help to stimulate the local economy. Construction of a new bridge at Exceat is expected to start in May 2020. The Bexhill Creative Workspace will complete in 2020 and is being supported by match funding of £800,000 from RDC.

People are being encouraged to travel by bike or on foot or by public transport with the help of £1.1m funding secured from the Department for Transport by ESCC as part of the AAfG programme. Schemes were put forward by Eastbourne, Bexhill and Newhaven Job Centres, Bike Lab Hastings, and Education Futures Trust in Hastings, Seaford Head School, Denton Primary in Newhaven, and Eastbourne DGH were all involved in the Active Access for Growth Award (AAfG). The accolade recognises schemes set up to encourage the use of healthier sustainable travel. Winning initiatives included the closure of roads outside schools at drop off and pick up times to improve air quality, bike maintenance and riding courses, and the production of Active Travel maps which give sustainable transport information. With these funds from the DfT ESCC have worked with more than 100 workplaces, more than 50 schools, four job centres, community groups and universities and colleges across East Sussex.

ESCC has been awarded £145,000 to extend its successful East Sussex Careers Hub for secondary pupils to primary school children from the age of 5. This is a one year pilot. From September, the county council will be able to develop a careers strategy that covers the full range from age 5 to 19 or 24 for SEND pupils. The only local authority to receive this funding, the Primary Careers Hub will work with 24 schools and more than 8000 pupils from reception to year 6 to embed career support early. We will share this pilot across the county.

Transport for the SE has agreed major road improvements to the A259 between Brighton and Eastbourne, and the A22 in Wealden. If approved for government funding, the schemes, which are aimed at cutting congestion , speeding up journey times, and boosting the economy would be delivered by 2025.

Investment in the South East economy has resulted in 2000 jobs in the last 5 years. ESCC has worked with partners to secure more than £600m in capital investment since launching the growth strategy for the county in 2014. This investment which is predicted to result in a further 1000 jobs was highlighted in the recently published State of the County Report.

Roads across East Sussex will receive a summer make over programme in the form of surface dressing to extend the life of the road and to stop potholes .

29 miles of road will be treated between August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A new garden has been designed to promote wellbeing at a respite centre for adults with learning difficulties. The garden at Grangemead Respite Service in Hailsham has had a complete renovation using recycled or locally sourced materials. This was a collaboration by the University of Brighton's Community21 Team and staff and guests of the service. The project has helped shape new research by Community 21 into how a service like Grangemead can work creatively with the local community and can enrich peoples' lives.

Angharad Davies      East Sussex County Councillor Northern Rother