

Following the general presentation on SELEP's Skills **COVID-19 Recovery Fund** to members of the Skills East Sussex network, we later held three meetings last week devoted to each of the three Lots. Many thanks to all of those who took the time to participate in the meetings.

The meetings provided an opportunity for members to find out more detail about each Lot and share with each other the pros and cons of each opportunity. They also enabled members to find out if there would be any partnership opportunities, as all three Lots require pan SELEP coverage.

It seems that for Lots 1 and 2 most of those attending were deterred from submitting bids due to a lack of time to:

- Form partnerships with counterparts in Kent and Essex (and Medway, Thurrock and Southend?)
- Develop or identify the industry relevant training
- Ensure that they avoid replicating the numerous government support schemes

and due to the relatively limited proportion of funding due to East Sussex although it was noted that East Sussex partners should push for 20% of the funding from each lot.

However, there was consensus that were possible, that if any bids from East Sussex proceed, they should focus on developing technical and digital skills to support our construction sector, health sector (in particular new jobs in the NHS) and should also support skills for the visitor economy (eg chef) when the visitor economy is able to pick up again.

There are some organisations operating locally that already are able to address the main concerns (have pan – regional partnerships ready, already etc) and if we can support these with employer links or data we are happy to do so.

The meeting of Lot 3 positively identified the possibility of a strong partnership bid. This will build on the current ESF digital kit project which started in East Sussex just before Christmas, has been very well received, and discussions are happening with identified partners in Kent and Essex.

If anyone requires additional support with bids in terms of partnerships, data or employer links/endorsement, or SES endorsement (which is a requirement), then please let ESCC know. Please also make sure to run any ideas by Bruce Campbell to see if there are any areas of duplication with local DWP provision as discussed at SES.