

# Coast to Capital

## Coast to Capital Stakeholder Update

### Looking ahead to a Brilliant Future

Coast to Capital is not the same organisation it was last year - we have adapted, evolved and stepped up in difficult circumstances to continue our support to businesses and strive for the economic success of the area. We not only moved to remote working and continued our business as usual activity but launched new funds and programmes and expanded our support to business.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be using this blog to look back at our successes during the pandemic but also share more information about how we are looking ahead to our brilliant future.

Read the full post on '[Looking ahead to a Brilliant Future](#)' on our [Economy Watch blog](#).

### Local Growth Fund Project Successes

Our government funded [Local Growth Fund](#) (LGF) programme has now invested more than £292 million since launching in 2015 to more than [90 projects](#) across the region. Over the past six years, we have listened to our businesses and worked with our partners in local authorities and the private and academic sectors to ensure local insight is used to make sustainable investment decisions.

The overarching aim of the programme has been to enable inclusive economic growth with a focus on projects which create space for businesses, sustain our flourishing creative and digital sector and support skills. So far, we are on track to exceed our target of:

- 30,000 jobs/apprentices created
- 11,000 homes built

In addition, we are on track to achieve a combined total of more than 800,000 square metres of new and refurbished floor space built and more than 800 kilometres of new roads and cycleways by 2025.

Read the full post on '[Local Growth Programme invests £292m in projects across Sussex, East Surrey, Greater Brighton and Croydon](#)' on our [Economy Watch blog](#).

## **Skills 360 Board April Meeting**

The Skills 360 Board met again last week, and welcomed new members Ana Christie from the Sussex Chamber of Commerce, and Louise Punter from the Surrey Chamber of Commerce.

The Skills 360 Board is further expanding its membership to broaden our joint working in the world of employment and skills across the area, and we look forward to welcoming new member Dawn Redpath from Surrey County Council to the next meeting.

Simon Pringle from Red River, our Digital Sector Champion, gave the Board an insight into some of the skills challenges in the Digital Sector and provoked an interesting discussion around ideas for collaborative interventions. The presentation can be viewed online [here](#).

## **Skills 360 Board Opportunity: Horticulture or Viticulture Business Representative**

We currently have a vacancy for a senior business representative from the Horticulture or Viticulture sector on our Skills 360 Board.

The Skills 360 Board is the Skills Advisory Panel for the [Coast to Capital LEP](#) area, bringing together employers and skills providers to understand and address key local skills challenges and offer the opportunity to influence the regional skills agenda.

Membership of the Skills 360 Board will involve policy and decision making at a regional level, helping to shape our negotiations with Government on the best skills deal for the area. We are looking for an individual to support us to understand the challenges we currently face and to be a part of the solution.

**Application deadline: Friday 7 May**

If you are interested in applying, or know someone who might be, more information can be found on our [website](#).

## **Local Skills Report**

Coast to Capital's Skills Advisory Panel, the Skills 360 Board, are pleased to announce the publication of the first Local Skills Report for the area.

Our Local Skills Report incorporates our previously published Skills Strategy and Action Plan for 2020 – 25, but also includes a progress update, case studies and a data annex of core indicators.

We hope that the Local Skills Report will be a useful tool in engaging partners and stakeholders across the region to work collaboratively with the Skills 360 Board to achieve our aspirations for skills and employment in Coast to Capital.

View it on our [website](#) and on the [Government's Skills Advisory Panel webpage](#).

## **Construction Sector Spotlight**

Our Skills 360 Board Construction Sector Champions, Liane Richardson and Tim Walder, are leading a Construction Spotlight Project which aims to raise the profile of the sector and of sector specific initiatives which support economic recovery.

As part of the project we will be holding the first in a series of virtual events during May, June and July 2021, which will include:

- An information session on the Talent Retention Scheme
- Roundtable events to have a two way conversation with skills providers and construction organisations on the skills required for the sector
- A session to present on the findings of research being undertaken into the workforce and skills need of the sector over the next 10 years.

For more information on these events, including how to register, please visit our [website](#). Please do share with your networks and colleagues as appropriate.

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