

Key Challenges and Opportunities for the South East

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HOUSING

- Acute shortage of housing in the South East
- “Heat Map” of affordability showing red for almost all of the region
- Local Planning complex and disproportionate

BUT..

- District Councils determined to play part in driving delivery
- Lifting of the HRA cap brings new opportunities for affordable housing
- The Letwin review could help

SKILLS

- Affordability of housing impacts on skills market in lower paid work
- Proximity to London can make pay rates a challenge for some areas
- Still assessing likely impact of Brexit on labour in rural areas
- Are we doing enough to understand business needs and match learning and skills to them?

BUT.....

- The Skills Advisory Panels could help
- Working cross sector can and does happen

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Roads congested and in poor repair
- Real issues with capacity on the rail network
- Bus routes and concessionary fares under threat
- Digital connectivity patchy

BUT.....

- Growth brings opportunity to address deficits
- Transport South East
- Can technology drive modal shift?

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

- Huge demographic pressures – predicted decline in working age population
- Massive pressure on social care budgets leading to reduction in services
- Isolation and distance from services in rural areas

BUT...

- Districts can play real role in early intervention and prevention
- New homes can be “whole life”
- Community resilience can help



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