
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 7 FEBRUARY 2018**REPORT FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR****SUBJECT: SOUTH ESSEX 2050 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 That the progress made by Leaders and Chief Executives on strategic place shaping in the preparation of a South Essex 2050 Vision be noted and endorsed.
- 1.2 That a programme of further collaboration on key strategic place shaping and cross boundary planning policy matters, be noted and endorsed.
- 1.3 That a sum of £10,800 be allocated to progress the preparation of the SE2050 vision and preparatory work for a joint strategic plan.
- 1.4 That the intention to establish an Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) and the principles for joint working set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 10 January 2018 (see appendix 1) be noted and endorsed.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework requires public bodies to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries; the MOU signed by the South Essex local authorities reflects this principle and recognises a new requirement for local authorities to prepare a ‘statement of common ground’ setting out joint working arrangements.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 explains at paragraph 178 that:

“Public bodies have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the strategic priorities set out in paragraph 156. The Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities.”

Paragraph 179 goes on to state:

“Joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas – for instance, because of a lack of physical capacity or because to do so would cause significant harm to the principles and policies of this Framework.”

3.2 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 2014 at Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 12-007-20140306 further explains that:

“The duty to cooperate requires local planning authorities and certain other public bodies to cooperate with each other in preparing a Local Plan, where there are matters that would have a significant impact on the areas of 2 or more authorities. A joint Local Plan is one means of achieving this and those preparing Joint Plans will wish to consider a joint evidence base and assessment of development needs. Less formal mechanisms can also be used. In particular, local planning authorities should consider the opportunities for aligning plan timetables and policies, as well as for sharing plan-making resources.”

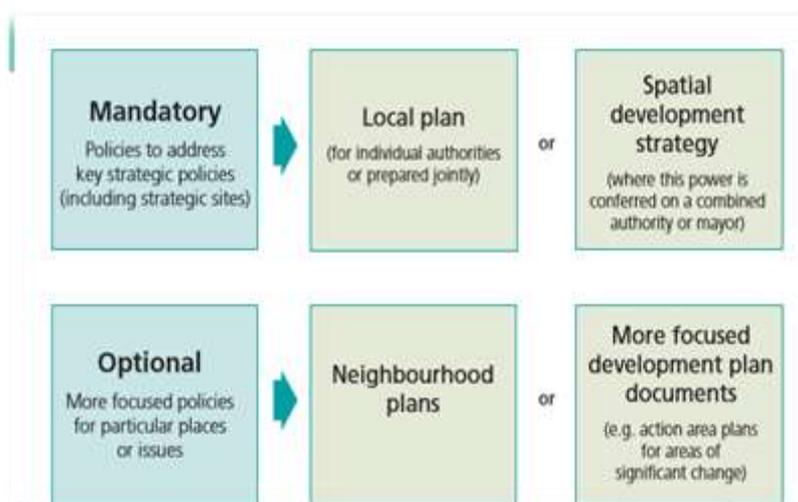
3.3 The Housing White Paper “Fixing our Broken Housing Market”, published in February 2017, described more clearly the Government’s direction of travel regarding strategic planning. In paragraph 1.9 it explains that:

“..... we will consult on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, so that authorities are expected to prepare a Statement of Common Ground, setting out how they will work together to meet housing requirements and other issues that cut across authority boundaries.”

3.4 Furthermore, in the Annex at paragraph A.16 it states that:

“As suggested by the Local Plans Expert Group, we will remove the policy expectation that each local planning authority should produce a single local plan. We will make clear instead that authorities should identify the most effective way of setting out their key strategic priorities (which may be jointly with other authorities), with the expectation that more detailed matters are addressed through neighbourhood plans or more focused development plan documents”

3.5 This model of development plan preparation is described by Government in the illustration below:



- 3.6 Finally in his recent speech of 16 November 2017, the Secretary of State announced that he had written to fifteen local planning authorities expressing concern at lack of progress with plan-making. Three of the fifteen authorities are in South Essex – Basildon, Brentwood and Castle Point. In deciding whether to intervene in local plan-making, the Secretary of State wishes to “.....be informed by the wider planning context in each area (specifically the extent to which authorities are working co-operatively to put strategic plans in place...)”
- 3.7 It is therefore evident that the Government accepts that the “duty to co-operate” is not an effective mechanism for strategic planning across local authority boundaries, through its recent announcements and imminent reforms, and that joint statutory strategic plans are seen as the best way to achieve more effective mechanism for delivering growth, and by providing a framework for the preparation of other local development plan documents.

4 JOINT WORKING

History of joint work

- 4.1 The local planning authorities in South Essex have for some time been defined as Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock and Essex County Council. More recently Brentwood has been incorporated in the group, given its close relationship with Basildon, Thurrock and key infrastructure affecting the area, such as the A127.
- 4.2 There is a long established tradition of working in partnership on strategic planning matters, dating from the era of the former Thames Gateway South Essex Board. Examples of this work include a Planning & Transport Strategy for the Thames Gateway South Essex area, a series of Strategic Housing Market Assessments, Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, and more recently an Economic Development Needs Assessment.
- 4.3 Furthermore Planning Portfolio Holders/Cabinet Members acknowledged in 2016 that a strategic planning framework of some kind was necessary for the area in order to assist with the preparation of individual local plans and demonstrate that the “duty to co-operate” was being effectively discharged. A Memorandum of Understanding for Strategic Planning in South Essex was subsequently agreed in early 2017.

Leaders & Chief Executives

- 4.4 Following discussions regarding devolution at an Essex level, and having regard to the “duty to co-operate” failings identified by the Planning Inspector examining the Castle Point Local Plan in early 2017, Leaders and Chief Executives of the seven authorities have come together to describe overarching strategic principles for South Essex. This work has been

supported by the East of England Local Government Association, recognising that it could act as a model for other areas of local government.

- 4.5 The Leaders and Chief Executives have met on a regular basis since the summer of 2017. Their meetings, a series of workshops, have been facilitated by an independent consultant, and supported by independent strategic planning advice.
- 4.6 The purpose of the discussions has been to prepare a strategic “vision” for the area, which goes beyond the normal 15 year time frame of local plans, and beyond the normal confines of strategic planning policy but embraces a range of public and private enterprises that together have the ability to create a sense of place.

South Essex 2050

- 4.7 The intention has been to describe a joint “place-based” vision, together with the growth and strategies necessary to support this, the infrastructure required in the area, and how local authorities might work together to deliver these aspirations.
- 4.8 It is accepted and agreed by the Leaders and Chief Executives that the shared mutual ambitions for South Essex require a “no border” approach to collaboration and joint working. It is only by working more closely together the major challenges in the area can be addressed, and opportunities taken forward.
- 4.9 Consequently following extensive discussion, working together the Leaders and Chief Executives have agreed on eight industrial and infrastructure strategic priorities for the area:
- Place leadership, proposition and brand
 - Opening up spaces for development (green infrastructure, housing and commercial)
 - Transforming transport connectivity
 - Supporting our seven sectors of industrial opportunity: Advanced manufacturing; Construction; Environmental technologies and energy; Digital and creative services; Finance and business services; Life sciences and healthcare; and Transport and logistics
 - Shaping local labour and skills markets
 - Creating a fully digitally-enabled place
 - Securing a sustainable energy supply
 - Enhancing health and social care through co-ordinated planning.

- 4.10 South Essex Leaders and Chief Executives are committed to continuing with the “vision” work beyond January 2018. This includes formalising the collaboration through the establishment of an Association to:
- Prepare an initial statement of intent explaining what has been done through the work shop programme and how it is intended to take the collaboration forward
 - Build a forward plan of work to fully develop the outline proposition and ideas created through the work shop programme
 - Implement a wider engagement plan and programme. This includes three key tasks
 - Design a place proposition to promote South Essex
 - Take a joined-up and strategic approach to growth and spatial planning
 - Co-ordinate an infrastructure strategy delivering a series of game-changing initiatives.

Future leadership and governance in South Essex

- 4.11 It is recognised that this important work “vision” and strategic planning work should be accorded appropriate priority and funding to ensure that the successful collaboration is carried forward and is robust enough to withstand the traditional electoral cycle and potential for change. Examples of governance and leadership from other parts of the country have been examined and of most interest is the creation of a Joint Committee, supported by Chief Executives, which would provide strategic direction on policy formulation, delivery and implementation. Each constituent authority would retain sovereignty over local matters but would acknowledge and accept that the work of and direction from a Joint Committee would be in the overall best interests of the area as a whole.
- 4.12 A Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared by the South Essex local authorities setting out an initial view on governance arrangements. (See appendix 1)

Planning Delivery Fund Bid

- 4.12 The Housing White Paper announced the creation of a Planning Delivery Fund to assist the process of collaborative working between local authorities. Given the commitment demonstrated by South Essex authorities to continue joint working, a bid was submitted on behalf of the seven South Essex authorities to support further joint work on governance and on preparation for strategic planning.

- 4.13 The benefits of working on a joint statutory strategic plan for South Essex, as opposed to solely working on individual local plans can be summarised as follows;
- Provide a more effective way of place-shaping, providing a bigger canvas to direct development to the right areas that deliver growth and that are (or can be) supported by the right infrastructure.
 - Deliver potentially significant cost savings as a result of a combined plan-making process (e.g. local plan examinations; public consultation and stakeholder engagement; evidence-base) and a more efficient and effective use of staff resources.
 - Increase funding opportunities and secure wider support from Government, with a strong emphasis on joint plans in all Government bidding processes (e.g. Housing Infrastructure Fund and Planning Delivery Joint Working Fund) and set the potential for a bespoke housing deal to deliver strategic infrastructure.
 - Help local planning authorities manage housing delivery more effectively (e.g. the Government is proposing to allow Five Year Housing Land Supply and Housing Delivery Tests to be managed across strategic areas where there is a joint local plan in place).
 - Provide a more robust and coherent basis for negotiating with the GLA/ Mayor to ensure that there are mutual benefits arising from London's growth.
 - Help deliver a technically sound and legally compliant local plan (e.g. by demonstrating that the "duty to co-operate" has been met) through examination.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The work described in Section 4 above will allow the seven South Essex local planning authorities, including Rochford, to demonstrate effective on-going cooperation on strategic planning matters, thereby satisfying the "duty to co-operate" and to meet the requirements of the new statement of common ground.
- 5.2 Where those local planning authorities are in the advanced stages of preparing or submitting a local plan for its area, the intention is that work on that plan should proceed, and be seen as supporting the ultimate delivery of a joint strategic plan by putting in place initial policies and proposals and early review mechanisms which will support and feed in to a subsequent joint plan.
- 5.3 Where those authorities have been identified by the Secretary of State of being at risk from intervention, the work described in Section 4 demonstrates

on-going commitment to joint working on strategic planning matters as advocated by Government.

- 5.4 Furthermore, for those authorities with no up-to-date local plan or five year housing land supply, the on-going commitment to joint working on strategic planning matters is likely to prove an important material consideration in resisting unwelcome or ill-timed development proposals, pending the completion of the joint strategic plan.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A key component of a joint strategic plan will be policies addressing environmental issues.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Potential funding

- 8.1 Work has coincided with the recent announcement by Government of a Planning Delivery Fund, again heralded in the Housing White Paper earlier in the year. The Government's intention is that the Fund would support:
- more and better joint working, across local authority boundaries, ensuring that there are the skills and capacity where they are needed to plan strategically for housing growth, and to manage delivery of new homes and infrastructure;
 - a step change in the design quality of new development, as well as design advice and support to local authorities delivering growth; and,
 - innovation in the planning system, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of processes and enable the delivery of more high quality homes.
- 8.2 Expressions of interests for funding were invited by 11th January 2018, and the Government is expected to announce the successful bids by the end of January. For joint working and design, successful bids are expected to be up to £250,000 per bid for expenditure incurred by the end of March 2018. For innovation, no award amount information is yet available since this will be dependent on the number and nature of bids. (See appendix 2 for full details of the bid).
- 8.3 The Government has made clear that bids will need to demonstrate:
- Scale and strength of ambition and commitment to housing growth – for example by showing that the activity funded will contribute to the area

planning to meet or exceed local housing need in the future, and accelerate effective planning across authority boundaries;

- Strength of commitment to joint working; and
- Strength of proposal and timetable for delivery of the joint planning work.

8.4 In making awards, priority will be given to those groups of authorities with the highest housing need, where affordability is a major issue, or where funding is necessary to overcome difficult planning issues; for instance, to distribute unmet housing needs in highly constrained areas or plan for infrastructure across a wider geography.

8.5 At the time of writing, no announcement had been made about the bid.

8.6 Notwithstanding the bid for funding by the Planning Delivery Fund, it is recognised that the cost of preparing an individual local plan can be significant. The preparation, collection and analysis of evidence, extensive consultation requirements, legal and specialist technical advice, and then engagement of Programme Officers and Planning Inspectors at Examination are likely to result in substantial sums.

8.7 There are benefits of scale from aligning this expenditure with joint strategic planning work. However it is unlikely that planning policy resources alone will be sufficient to bring about the step change required to deliver a joint strategic plan.

8.8 It is therefore necessary not only to seek additional Government funding of up to £250,000 through the Planning Delivery Fund, but also to augment this with further resources at each individual local planning authority level for joint work. A provisional sum of £75,000 (£10,800 per authority) is suggested, although this may need to be revised should the bid for Government funding not prove successful; this will be included within the 2018/19 budget which will be taken to Full Council for approval on 13th February.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 At this stage in the development of the vision and work programme, there are no specific legal implications arising from the joint working arrangements. Dependent on the outcome of the work programme and the revisions to the NPPF, there may be a requirement for South Essex Local Authorities to be placed within a formal legal framework; the MOU is a statement of intent at this stage and is not legally binding.

10 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.



LT Lead Officer Signature: _____

Managing Director

Background Papers:-

South Essex Memorandum of Understanding – January 2018.

For further information please contact Shaun Scrutton (Managing Director) on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

Memorandum of Understanding

between

Basildon Borough Council

Brentwood Borough Council

Castle Point Borough Council

Essex County Council

Rochford District Council

Southend on Sea Borough Council

Thurrock Borough Council

1. Background

- 1.1 Stemming from housing and local planning issues initially, there has been a growing recognition of the opportunity and need for greater cross-boundary working on strategic infrastructure planning and growth across South Essex. In June 2017 Leaders and Chief Executives of Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock and Essex County Council (the Authorities) agreed to initiate and shape a programme of work through the summer and autumn to explore a joint 'place vision' and the scope for greater strategic collaboration along the South Essex growth corridor.
- 1.2 The work during the summer and autumn has resulted in an emerging vision and identification of strategic growth opportunities that need testing and strengthening with the people and stakeholders of South Essex and beyond. It has also built a strong commitment amongst the Authorities to collaborative working. It was agreed that an Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) should be established to continue this collaborative work.
- 1.3 The Authorities wish to record the intention to establish ASELA and basis of our collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU sets out:
 - a) The core purpose and aims of ASELA
 - b) The principles of collaboration

2. Core Purpose and aims

- 2.1. The core purpose of ASELA is to provide place leadership for South Essex. Recognising that through our collaborative approach we will be best placed to develop and deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth for our communities.
- 2.2. ASELA will focus on the strategic opportunities, regardless of individual local authority boundaries for the South Essex economic corridor to influence and secure the strategic infrastructure that will help our individual areas to flourish and realise their full economic and social potential.
- 2.3. The aims of ASELA will be to:
 - Provide place leadership;
 - Open up spaces for housing, business and leisure development by developing a spatial strategy;
 - Transform transport connectivity;
 - Support our 7 sectors of industrial opportunity;
 - Shape local labour & skill markets;
 - Create a fully digitally-enabled place;
 - Secure a sustainable energy supply;
 - Influence and secure funding for necessary strategic infrastructure;
 - Enhance health and social care through co-ordinated planning; and
 - Work with and provide a voice for South Essex to the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission and Commissioners.

3. Principles of collaboration

- 3.1. Our collaboration will be focused on three key areas:
 - Tackling problems we can't solve individually
 - Creating collective scale and impact
 - Providing the place leadership to promote and sell the 'South Essex' proposition
- 3.2. The Authorities agree to adopt the following principles in working together:
 - We are all in this together – and stronger if we work together
 - We should build our governance incrementally – learning from the lessons from other places who are more advanced
 - Through our collaboration we should be gaining something not losing something
 - Local identities should not be lost
 - We need to be a voice for South Essex

4. Term and Termination

4.1. This MoU shall commence on the date of the signature by each Authority, and shall expire if ASELA dissolves.

5. Variation

5.1. The MoU can only be varied by written agreement of all the Authorities.

6. Charges and liabilities

6.1. Except as otherwise provided, the Parties shall bear their own costs and expenses incurred in complying with their obligations under this MoU.

7. Status

7.1. This MoU cannot override the statutory duties and powers of the parties and is not enforceable by law. However the parties agree to the principles set out in this MoU.

Signed by

Local Authority	Leader/Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee	Chief Executive	Date
Basildon Borough Council			10/1/18
Brentwood Borough Council			10/1/18
Castle Point Borough Council			10/1/18
Essex County Council			10/1/18
Rochford District Council			10/1/18
Southend on Sea Borough Council			10/1/18
Thurrock Borough Council			10/1/18

Annex A. Joint Working Fund (Expression of Interest Template)

Lead authority	Thurrock BC <u>on behalf of the authorities below</u>	
Partners involved	Basildon BC	
	Brentwood BC	
	Castle Point BC	
	Essex CC	
	Rochford DC	
	Southend-on-Sea BC	
	Thurrock BC	
Senior sign-off	<u>Chief Executive of Castle Point BC on behalf of the authorities above</u>	
Funding being applied for	2017-18	2018-19
	<u>£262,337</u>	<u>£608,663</u>
<p><u>Summary of proposal</u> (please describe the relevant geographical area, nature of joint working proposed, the strategic planning issues to be addressed, scale of ambition and how this award will help you to achieve it.)</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p> <p>South Essex is an area of some 842km², extending from east London, the M25 motorway and Dartford Crossing eastwards as far as Southend and the Essex coastline.</p> <p>Whilst its southern limit is marked by the River Thames, the north part of the sub-region includes Brentwood and Shenfield, which mark the eastern terminus of the Elizabeth line through to Billericay and then Rochford and Wallasea Island.</p> <p>The sub-region is uniquely positioned to support London as a world city and engine of growth, as well as good connections to existing and emerging markets in Europe and beyond by virtue of the presence of London Southend International Airport, London Gateway Container Port and London Tilbury Port.</p> <p>The six local authorities in the area and Essex County Council have a long and productive history of joint work on planning evidence and strategic planning and continue to work together to promote a positive approach in planning for growth and housing delivery.</p> <p>More recently the South Essex authorities have :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the key principles for Duty to Co-operate and strategic planning matters; • Offered to pilot the Government's proposed Statement of Common Ground; • Completed joint technical studies including a Review of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SMHA), an Economic Development and Needs Assessment (EDNA), and a Retail Study. 		

Since the summer of 2017, and with the assistance of the East of England Local Government Association the Leaders and Chief Executives of the councils have been working together on a shared vision for South Essex - South Essex 2050. This work reached a key milestone in December 2017, with agreement on key policy themes to be supported, six growth areas identified and promoted and the establishment of new joint working arrangements at a political and executive level, embracing not just strategic planning but health, education, and transport matters.

The South Essex Leaders and Chief Executives are committed to continuing with the Vision in 2018 and formalising the collaboration by creating an Association as agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding. The East of England Local Government Association has also confirmed its commitment to Phase Two of this work. Three key tasks have been identified:

- Design a place proposition to promote South Essex;
- A joined up and strategic approach to growth and spatial planning;
- Co-ordination of an infrastructure strategy.

South Essex has an ambition to improve opportunities for housing delivery, investment and growth beyond current housing needs. The scale of ambition is demonstrated by proposals for the sub-region to be realised and to deliver **100,700 homes** and **58,000 jobs**. However in order to deliver the housing and growth the authorities recognise the continuing need for a partnership approach not just within the area but also with Government to create the right conditions for this to happen and to further formalise plans for joint strategic planning and infrastructure delivery.

In taking forward the strategic approach the authorities have agreed to prepare a Joint Spatial Strategy over a 3 year timescale and incorporating the following high level thematic areas: – Vision and Spatial Strategy, Housing, Economy, Environment, Transport, Infrastructure (including a Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan - SIDP).

The Planning Delivery Fund would allow ;

The South Essex authorities to undertake the preparation of a Joint Spatial Strategy including:

- Commissioning joint technical studies;
- Appointment of a Programme Manager;
- Recruitment of additional staff /technical expertise;
- Public consultation and stakeholder engagement.

Specific activities and timetables (including a breakdown of activities, milestones and profile of expenditure)

[max 500 words]

The South Essex authorities funding request is set out below covering the two year financial periods 2017/18 and 2018/19 to support joint working and the improved delivery of housing and infrastructure.

2017/2018 Funding bid for joint working

For our bid we would seek retrospective funding for activities undertaken in the current year 2017/18 (see below) that include completion of joint technical studies and also consultancy support for delivery of the South Essex Vision 2050. The reimbursed fees would be recycled towards the costs of activities to support the preparation of a Joint Spatial Strategy in year 2018/19 (see table of activities).

Funding bid for completed joint technical studies and consultancy fees 2017/18

Activity/output	Finish	Cost
Review of South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2017	June 2017	£39,836
South Essex Economic Development and Needs Assessment	December 2017	£72,300
South Essex Retail Study	January 2018	£68,690
Catriona Riddell Associates fees to support South Essex 2050 Vision	December 2017	£30,000
South Essex Strategic Flood Risk SFRA Level 1	January 2018	£41,511
South Essex Vision GIS Mapping	November 2017	£10,000

The total funding bid covering fee costs for activities completed in 2017/18 is **£262,337**.

2018/19 Funding bid for joint working

A funding bid for 2018/19 by the South Essex authorities would be for the activities listed in the table below, integral to the preparation of the Joint Spatial Strategy and the delivery of housing growth. It is anticipated that the technical studies would be completed by end of financial year 2018/2019. Other elements of the activities set out below include funding the project manager and other staff/consultancy resources.

The total bid for funding for activities in 2018/19 is **£608,663**.

Activity	Start/Complete	Cost	Output
South Essex Strategic Housing Growth Options Study	Commission early 2018/Complete January 2019	£100K	A top down sub-regional constraints/opportunities study based on series of housing options defining broad locations for accommodating additional housing growth across South Essex and adjoining areas. Options would be appraised in terms of deliverability, infrastructure and implementation issues and risks. Options would be subject to Sustainability Appraisals. The study would include a South Essex wide housing market insights report to identify barriers to housing delivery and the mitigation measures required.
South Essex Housing and Employment Land Availability Appraisal	Commission early 2018/Complete January 2019	£100k	Sub-regional study would provide an input into the detailed testing of the broad location options as the Joint Spatial Strategy progresses.
South Essex Plan Viability Assessment	Commission early 2018/Complete March 2019	£100k	Whole of plan viability assessment covering CIL, land value uplift, sub-area land value assessment and strategic tariffs
Update to South Essex SHMA	Commission early 2018/Complete January 2019	£30k	To reflect the new Government methodology and updates to tenure and specialist housing need across South Essex.
South Essex Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Assessment	Commission early 2018/Complete March 2019	£150k	To provide up to date assessment of transport and infrastructure across South Essex and to support the Joint Spatial Strategy and Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
South Essex Spatial Strategy Sustainability Appraisal	Commission early 2018/Complete Early 2019	£100k	To provide evaluation of the spatial strategy and development options

			against sustainability objectives.
South Essex Strategic Programme Officer	2018/19 Annual salary	£70K	A Programme Officer would be in position 2018/19 to support and manage the joint working on strategic planning.
Additional staff resources (delivery, strategic sites and strategy)	2018/19 Annual Salary	£150K	To provide additional posts with technical expertise in delivery, strategic sites and the preparation of spatial strategy.
Catriona Riddell Associates fees to support South Essex joint planning	Commission early 2018/Complete June 2018	£7,000	Provision of reports and guidance notes on strategic planning and assistance in setting up structures for enabling joint strategic planning preparation.
South Essex Collaborative Programme	Commission early 2018/Complete March 2018	£64,000	Aim is to create a compelling proposition and single actively promoted place brand. The programme will create understanding and support collaboration of partners; build support for the collaboration with Government and other stakeholders; establish the South Essex brand and promote the South Essex brand and place.

The anticipated expenditure profile would be:

- The technical studies - completed and payment by end of financial year 2018/19. Initial 20 % fees payment followed by two tranches at 30% and final 20% fee on completion.
- Programme Officer costs – payment as annual salary of £70,000
- Consultancy fees – annual cost of £7,000
- Stakeholder Engagement - payment of consultancy fees for period to March 2018

Summary

The total cost of the funding bid over the two financial years would be **£871,000** comprising:

- 2017/19 recycled fees for activities 2018/19 **£262,337**
- 2018/19 funding for activities 2018/19 **£608,663**

Impacts expected from funding (including description of outputs and outcomes you expect to achieve, and how they will be measured) [max 500 words]

Joint Technical studies

The funding of the technical studies would:

- Enable a continuing and accelerated programme of joint working on technical work required to inform the preparation of the Joint Spatial Strategy;
- Provide an area-wide and consistent level of technical evidence to inform the Joint Spatial Strategy;
- Focus upon key elements of work required in order to increase housing delivery and infrastructure provision and expedite the process of plan preparation.

Strategic Programme Manager/other staff resources

- The funding of the Programme Manager and other staff would build early capacity into the joint working to enable an accelerated work programme;
- The provision of additional staff resources including the Programme Manager is essential to ensure proper coordination and delivery of the joint planning arrangements.

Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

- Provide support to the development of the South Essex Proposition in terms of marketing, engagement and a communication strategy;
- The funding would ensure capacity to develop and undertake engagement with stakeholders on the South Essex 2050 vision and joint spatial planning arrangements.

The key outcomes from a successful bid for the above activities would be :

- Provide a more effective way of place making to deliver housing and growth in the right places;
- Deliver immediate and potentially significant costs savings as a result of combined plan-making process and more effective and efficient use of staff and resources;
- Increase funding opportunities and secure wider support from Government;
- Help deliver a technically sound and legally compliant Joint Spatial Strategy;
- Continuation of the successful joint working on technical studies across South Essex;
- Several key area wide technical studies completed during 2018/19 to inform joint planning arrangements;
- Staff resource in place to deliver the initial stages of the Joint Spatial Strategy during a 3 year period to an agreed timetable;
- The activities are focused on the delivery of additional housing and infrastructure beyond existing plan targets;
- Help the South Essex authorities to manage housing delivery more effectively;
- Improved image and credibility of the planning process across South Essex;
- Improved investor confidence in South Essex.

Assurance that there is strong commitment to joint working, and that any award will be spend in accordance with the award profile (please outline joint working arrangements in place, or envisaged, and confirm how you will ensure the money is spend as outlined) [max 250 words]

- The South Essex authorities already have an established governance structure and track record that ensures delivery of joint planning matters. This includes a Member Group for oversight and a Heads of Service Group co-ordinating task and finish matters;
- The current arrangements are being enhanced through the South Essex 2050 vision work with commitment to establish a Leaders/CEX formal Joint Committee to oversee strategic working;
- There is a commitment from CEXs and Section 151 Officers that monies will be carried over and spent in accordance with the bid profile;
- There is an offer to Government to agree the timetable and partnership arrangements through the pilot of the Statement of Common Ground;
- The South Essex Local authorities have agreed to provide additional dedicated resources towards joint planning arrangements.

Assessment of risks to achieving the objectives of the proposal (please list your top three risks and mitigating actions)

[max 250 words]

- Slippage in the timetable to prepare a Joint Spatial Strategy due to a lack of staff resources – undertake resource audit at the outset of the process to assess existence of any capacity/skill deficiencies and identify alternative resource options (fixed contract appointments/consultancy services/temporary secondments);
- Political instability undermining joint planning arrangements and agreements on the direction of future strategy/policy outcomes – develop an effective cross party/cross boundary communication and member engagement strategy;
- Public and stakeholder opposition to the development of new joint planning arrangements and their outcome – adopt an evidenced approach to plan making and the development of an effective community/stakeholder engagement strategy.

Does your bid rely on, or align with, other funding or initiatives from Government?

For example, are you part of housing deal negotiations, or have bid for Housing Infrastructure Fund money?

[max 250 words]

No.

There are no other collective funding bids or initiatives from the South Essex authorities.