
UPDATE ON THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH ESSEX LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ASELA) AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Association of South Essex Local Authorities and comments about a promised government White Paper on Devolution and Local Recovery.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Executive on 7 February 2018, the Council considered the intention, along with five other south Essex authorities, to establish an Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) and the principles for joint working, as set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 10 January 2018. The principles set out in the MOU were noted and endorsed. The primary purpose of ASELA is to deliver growth and regeneration across south Essex. This report provides an update on ASELA's progress.
- 2.2 Earlier this year the government announced an intention to publish a Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper and this was initially promised for autumn of this year. Arising from early discussions with Ministers, some initial work has progressed to look at possible changes to the structure of local government across Essex. However, the expectation is that the White Paper will not be published until next year.

3 ASELA UPDATE

- 3.1 As a reminder, the purpose of ASELA is to:
- Prepare a statement of intent explaining what has been done and how it is intended to take the collaboration forward;
 - Build a forward plan of work to fully develop the outline proposition and ideas for the association;
 - Implement a wider engagement plan and programme to include a place proposition to promote south Essex, a strategic approach to growth and spatial planning and to co-ordinate an infrastructure strategy delivering a series of game-changing initiatives.
- 3.2 At the end of July 2020, the ASELA 'Growth and Recovery Prospectus 2020' was submitted to government and ASELA is now engaged in conversations with civil servants to seek to deliver the ambitious proposals set out in the prospectus.

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- 3.3 The prospectus sets out the details of a series of ambitious workstreams intended to deliver real improvements to prosperity in south Essex and reflecting the challenge of recovery from the pandemic (see appendix 1).
- 3.4 ASELA has been actively pursuing growth and regeneration opportunities since its inception and a summary of the specific benefits for Rochford District by being part of ASELA is attached (see appendix 2).
- 3.5 There is a powerful case for the south Essex authorities to work collectively to deliver economic, social and environmental transformation for our residents. The prospectus sets out plans and programmes for south Essex to build its way forward, focusing on jobs, blue green infrastructure (i.e. natural and semi-natural landscape elements), digital connectivity and accelerating housing delivery. Working together the south Essex authorities can bring scale and capacity to the regeneration and recovery required in response to the COVID 19 pandemic and to tackle the environmental impact of climate change.
- 3.6 The intention is to progress the delivery of the proposition set out in the prospectus – a transformed vision for south Essex. A work programme of projects and schemes is being progressed that reflects the ambition to deliver long lasting and wider benefits for both people and place.
- 3.7 It should be noted that formal governance arrangements for ASELA are being considered but, until arrangements are agreed, all key decisions which form part of the ASELA work programme will be made at a local level, as required by the Council under its existing governance arrangements.

4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

- 4.1 Advice from government raised expectations of a Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper being published in the autumn. As a result, work commenced in Essex to consider the options and opportunities that might result from governance through a small number of unitary authorities reflecting economies of scale and clearer lines of accountability.
- 4.2 Essex County Council appointed specialist advisers to build a case for new local government in Essex. The 12 districts and 2 unitary authorities, in turn, have arranged for their own advice to build an evidence locker to be able to challenge and fully assess any case made by the County Council.
- 4.3 The latest informal update from government suggests that the White Paper will now be delayed to an unspecified date next year. That being the case, there is less urgency to prepare an evidence base, but the principle of being prepared and informed remains and work will continue to ensure an appropriate response can be provided when the White Paper is published.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial impact of the pandemic has brought into sharp focus the need for local authorities in south Essex to work closely together on ambitious plans

for growth and regeneration that individual Councils on their own will not have the capacity or resources to deliver.

- 5.2 Without the emerging benefits of partnership and joint working across south Essex, there is a real risk that infrastructure improvements, job opportunities and environmental benefits for Rochford District's residents will be missed. The summary of the benefits for Rochford District, to date, provides compelling evidence of the benefits of partnership working.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Environmental considerations and climate change are central to the ASELA prospectus and work programme.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 An annual subscription of £60,000 is paid to ASELA by each of the member authorities and this is built into the Council's 2020/21 budget.
- 7.2 A year on year financial summary of the ASELA work programme has been prepared and is attached to this report for information (see appendix 3).

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Governance arrangements for ASELA are being considered and proposals will be brought back to Council for consideration in due course. A report on the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper will be prepared following publication.

9 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report.

10 RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) To note and support progress on the ASELA growth and recovery plans, as set out in the Prospectus July 2020.
- (2) To note and support the preparation of an evidence base to feed into deliberations on local government reorganisation following the publication of the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper.



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Background Papers:-

None.

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

Growth and Recovery Prospectus

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH ESSEX LOCAL AUTHORITIES

JULY 2020



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Introduction

THE OPPORTUNITIES

South Essex is a powerful region with a proactive attitude to delivering growth. The South Essex authorities and local businesses have formed an association which, for the past two years, has developed joined up proposals and prioritised projects, driving change collectively for its people and businesses.

It is also an active member of the Thames Estuary Board and responded positively to the Thames Estuary Commission's recommendations to Government when it published its vision and priorities for the Thames Estuary. South Essex has used this platform to achieve early successes. It is actively working with Homes England to accelerate housing delivery, it is developing a Joint Strategic Plan with support from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, secure investment from the Future High Street Fund and the Towns Fund, and is rolling out a local full fibre network with support from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

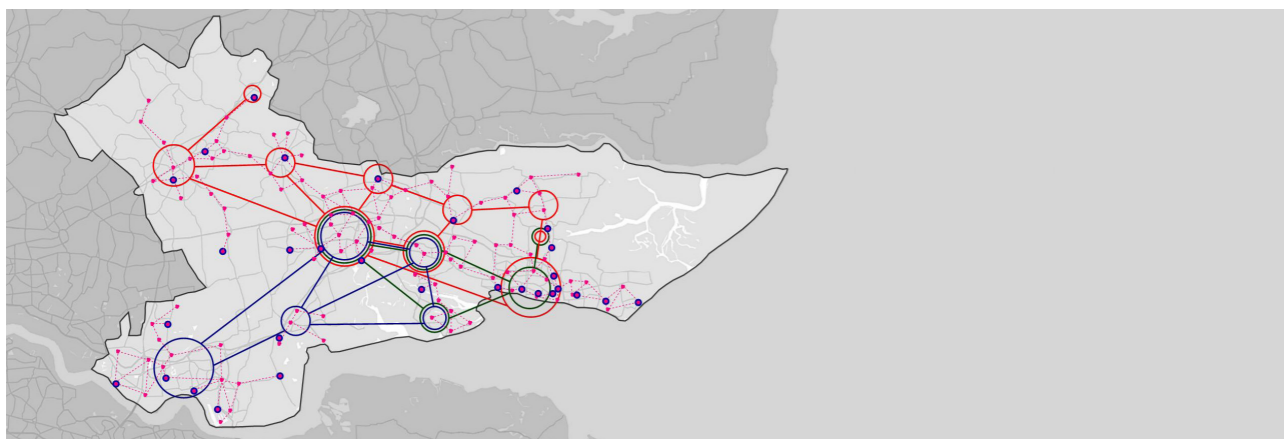
The region is now working hard to build its way forward as it moves its way out of the pandemic, with a vision to deliver for People productive jobs, blue and green infrastructure, physical and digital connectivity, new homes people need and can afford.

The South Essex economy is more vulnerable than most to the negative impacts of the coronavirus. Factors such as a higher prevalence of small businesses and self-employment, and an occupational mix less suited to working from home, are among those that underpin this assessment. Oxford Economics forecast estimates are that the

South Essex economy will contract by 8.5% in 2020, even after allowing for some rebound later in the year. Up to 25% of the regional workforce was furloughed, and it is predicted that 12,000 jobs will be permanently lost as a result of the pandemic. The South Essex authorities want to work quickly and proactively to build back better and make sure that its residents and businesses are guided through the recovery with new opportunities.

The region can also drive the levelling up agenda, over time, seeing more investment delivered here from both the public and private sector. More investment is needed in South Essex if it is to deliver its latent potential, with its proximity to London, the river and the coast, to bring new investment and jobs to the region. The region has seen underinvestment over the past few decades and wants to position itself for a fair share. The region wants to leverage private sector investment through strong partnerships and delivering new homes and infrastructure, including transport and digital.

Its work on connectivity is about ensuring an active travel network can be delivered, which will support local connectivity and a transformative change in movement for businesses and communities, so that the region is not a car dominated place. There are ambitions for better regional connectivity allowing South Essex to better connect to the other parts of the South East, East Anglia and the rest of the country. The area will build on its existing assets and sectors driving more productive jobs and regeneration, making sure its communities have access to the best amenities, green space and homes.




South Essex has a key role in the local economy and is of great importance to UK PLC:


- It is home to nearly 1 million people and generated £17.9bn of economic value in 2019.
- There is a rich culture of entrepreneurialism and is home to leading brands including Ford, Amazon, National Westminster Bank and Olympus among others.
- Industry sectors and clusters are firmly established around Advanced Manufacturing, Logistics, Creative industries and Health.

- It has some key infrastructure crucial to the UK, including:
 - four major ports that are recognised as the UK's fastest growing terminals and vital to the UK fuel and energy economy;
 - an international airport;
 - a Crossrail terminus; and
 - the proposed the Lower Thames Crossing.


There are significant opportunities to create greater prosperity and quality of life in South Essex and by 2050 it plans to grow its contribution to the UK economy by £15bn, through:




50k
businesses
to grow and increase
their productivity




Physical + Social Infrastructure
including Education and Health Services
(ensuring all new development is underpinned by appropriate facilities)




100k
creating new jobs




£0.5bn
combined benefits to
the Exchequer
(per annum from reduced unemployment and increased business rates)




£5bn
private sector investment




economy enabled by the strongest digital network
for a mixed rural and urban area in the UK




5k+
work opportunities for young people
(per annum, and 5,000 apprenticeships per annum by 2030)




£5bn
private sector investment



creation of an integrated public transport
system that puts active travel and decarbonised transport at its heart



Carbon Zero by 2040
(utilising a combination of innovative energy technology, minimising harm caused by travel and reshaping why and how we move, and designing in the highest levels of energy efficiency in planning and building design)



96k
new homes
(including 29k affordable homes for key workers by 2038)

Jobs and Opportunity

SKILLS AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

The South Essex economy is important. With a business base of over 32,000 enterprises providing more than 354,000 jobs and a population of around 800,000, South Essex is a major economy, comparable in scale to the combined authority areas of Sheffield City Region, West of England or Tees Valley. Its relationship with London should not be underplayed, with around 80,000 people commuting to the capital for work. Although the area has, at times, lacked a sense of identity as a major employer, often seen as a dormitory to London.

The area wants to enhance its employment activity. Productivity in South Essex is significantly less than the national and regional average and at £20,143 per capita, is nearly 40% below that of nearby Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LEP. South Essex has a very high proportion of micro businesses and self-employed traders compared to regional and national average, which historically has had an impact on the scope for growth. There are major gaps in adult skills, with overall one in four adults (24.3%) with level 1 or no qualifications, rising to nearly one in three adults in parts of South Essex.

In summary, there has been a lack of investment in major employment areas in South Essex. The review of the green book and approach Government has taken to devolving funding and priority areas is welcomed here and it would like to see further investment in its priority projects.

This has been acknowledged in both the Thames Estuary Commission's report and other policy documents which have set out South Essex's latent potential and wanting to cement South Essex's USP in employment activity including:

- The manufacturing sector in South Essex consists of around 1,700 businesses providing over 19,000 jobs. The sector includes several specialisms that could be developed to increase business productivity and build a thriving green technology sector.
- A number of specialist areas including engineering, machinery and automotive manufacturing that create a solid foundation for high value growth and exploitation of green technology.
- Creative industries that are prevalent in the Thames Estuary Production corridor.
- Niche medical and dental manufacturers, linked to an emerging health sector in Southend. Allied to manufacturing is a notable concentration of engineering and industrial design jobs (over 6,500) located primarily in Basildon.
- High value manufacturing output, product and process design offer a key opportunity to build innovation networks maximising potential applications in software and control systems, sensor technology, quality control and energy and materials efficiency essential for the green economy. Co-ordinated through a centre for green technology and a network of maker centres, South Essex this provides the basis for significant high value growth.

Skills

Skills in the area need to improve and there is significant vulnerability with coastal communities and pockets of long-term unemployment. South Essex has a significant core of low skilled residents and a long-standing pattern where those with higher skills commute into London to work. While mobility is generally a positive characteristic, the labour market in South Essex has become polarised, creating a major barrier to change. A dual strategy will be implemented to improve skills levels, for young people and adults, while also connecting individuals to employment. Aligning skills supply and demand will not only address unemployment and create pathways into work but can be an important incentive to attract business investment. Reducing commuting levels will only happen when there are sufficient well-paid jobs in South Essex. There is also the threat of automation in the region which could impact significant sectors in the area including manufacturing, transport and logistics. Between 2009 – 2018 manufacturing employment in South Essex fell by about one quarter. The South Essex authorities want a joined-up approach to skills that seeks to support those currently in work but also work with employers and future investors to ensure that local people, and new residents, are equipped with the skills they need for productive employment.

Future employment

The South Essex authorities will support the transition of advanced green manufacturing businesses to be more productive and expand high skilled employment. Through improved business networking and strengthening local supply chains, targeted business support to assist firm to access higher value national and international markets and investment in workforce and entrant training.

Knowledge intensive services play an important part in the South Essex economy and offer significant potential to create high

skilled employment. Some 45.2% of jobs in South Essex are in knowledge intensive sectors, compared to a national (England and Wales) average of 48.5%. Across South Essex, the rates are significantly higher in Southend and Brentwood (55.3% and 51.1%), where knowledge intensive jobs form a majority of employment. South Essex has local concentrations of creative, engineering design, scientific testing, computing and education activities that provide a foundation for knowledge intensive growth.

Capturing the opportunity will be driven by extending production facilities present in Basildon, Southend and Thurrock to build the Thames Estuary Production Corridor, along the South Essex coast.

The logistics sector is at the forefront of automation, with employer demand and skills requirement evolving to a more efficient use of space and an occupational shift away from elementary roles to skilled process and technical jobs managing intelligent transport and warehouse management systems. The requirement for digital skills, quality control, performance analytics and communication skills will become increasingly important and it will be vital to ensure that employers have access to qualified local labour to fill vacancies and meet replacement demand.

The opportunity for South Essex is to capture increased value and productivity in the sector to boost the share of higher skilled jobs and value chain activity. With existing and historical locational and infrastructure advantages, South Essex can become a centre for innovation in logistics by growing capacity in digital, AI, data management and control systems technologies. Building on the international recognition the South Essex major ports and access to London, significant benefits can be gained by realising the potential of the sector to generate higher paid jobs, support digital enterprises and offer degree level vocational training through apprenticeship frameworks.


Connectivity


PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

South Essex plans to transform digital and transport and connectivity in the region, providing contemporary digital infrastructure that will see the entire region super-connected to attract a new business base. This is alongside a viable, deliverable and resilient transport system.


In South Essex the transport network, especially highways, operate over capacity. This has significant impact on productivity and movement. The authorities want to rebalance modal priorities in favour of active and sustainable modes and deliver a decarbonised, integrated public transport system. Walking, cycling and greener public transport will become the most appealing and practical choice. These will be supported by quality placemaking initiatives improving public realm, regeneration and community led initiatives.


There are a number of guiding principles underpinning South Essex's approach:


 Become the **leading place in the UK for urban and rural digital connectivity**.


 **Enhancing** and connecting local places to reflect the distinctiveness of communities.

 **Supporting healthier lifestyles** by connecting places at a human scale.

 **Reducing the need for travel** by the private car, providing attractive and safer routes for active travel while aggressively reducing emissions with the aim for South Essex to become Carbon Neutral ahead of national targets.

 Laying foundations for future working practices by **improving connections between existing and future residential and employment areas**, supporting logistics and advanced manufacturing sector by creating new opportunities to integrate these land uses and reducing the need to travel.

 **Trialling future technologies** to overcome existing challenges and provide flexibility and resilience to respond to the changing needs of employers.

 **Supporting access to local services**, particularly health and education, by active modes and public transport.

Underpinning all this is South Essex's aim to be carbon zero by 2040, with significant progress by 2030. How successful the region is in this aim will highly depend on reducing emissions from transport.

There are a number of key programmes developed to deliver the transformative change:

Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) '5G Network'

It will be delivered across the sub region, providing an ecosystem for businesses, public sector organisations, educational organisations and the public.

South Essex Active Travel Network

A regional wide active travel programme to provide attractive connections between places which will enable a significant shift to movements by active modes.

Green Blue Integrated Public Transport

A rapid transport network that provides high quality, high frequency direct links to public transport hubs (or living stations).



Visualisation of School Street in Southend-on-Sea

Living Stations

Establishing key public transport hubs (Living Stations) that will be a focus for public transport interchange and opportunities for the delivery of high quality and distinctive public realm, creative employment and retail spaces and education, health and leisure services located at Brentwood, Basildon, Grays, Southend and Southend Airport.

New strategic Interchange Hubs on the River Thames

Located between Tilbury and Southend to support new passenger river services.

Green and Blue Infrastructure through South Essex Estuary Park

Where there is a long term vision to create a single park system that encompasses all of South Essex, framed by five large-scale landscapes and an improved network of blue and green connectors.

Local Connections to Health, Education & Natural Assets

A programme including establishing active routes to schools. These routes will link schools to local communities with enhanced landscaping providing opportunities for play and interaction with green spaces.

Forward Funding of a new EV Infrastructure Network

At scale, providing EV charging points across homes, businesses and existing infrastructure to drive the transition away from petrol and diesel vehicles and securing a step change in decarbonised transport use.

Homes and Place

INFRASTRUCTURE LED GROWTH

South Essex support the idea that investment in infrastructure can support large scale and accelerated housing delivery. Historic delivery rates have been poor in South Essex, with underinvestment in both infrastructure and employment. South Essex want to support the delivery of new homes, with a strong sense of place and community, through growing existing urban settlements or delivering new ones, including Garden Towns.

Across South Essex, a number of new, mixed use, communities will be required to meet long term needs. South Essex intends to build on its heritage to pioneer the next generation of settlements and create a new concept to sustainable living for South Essex. All proposals for housing, including new settlements will be subject to existing planning controls and local decision making. Where a plan for a new settlement is brought forward, it is envisaged that they would be designed around garden village principles offering high quality and inclusive places with a mix of homes, jobs in all sectors, open spaces, community infrastructure, digital connectivity, retail and leisure space that meet need and build cohesive communities.

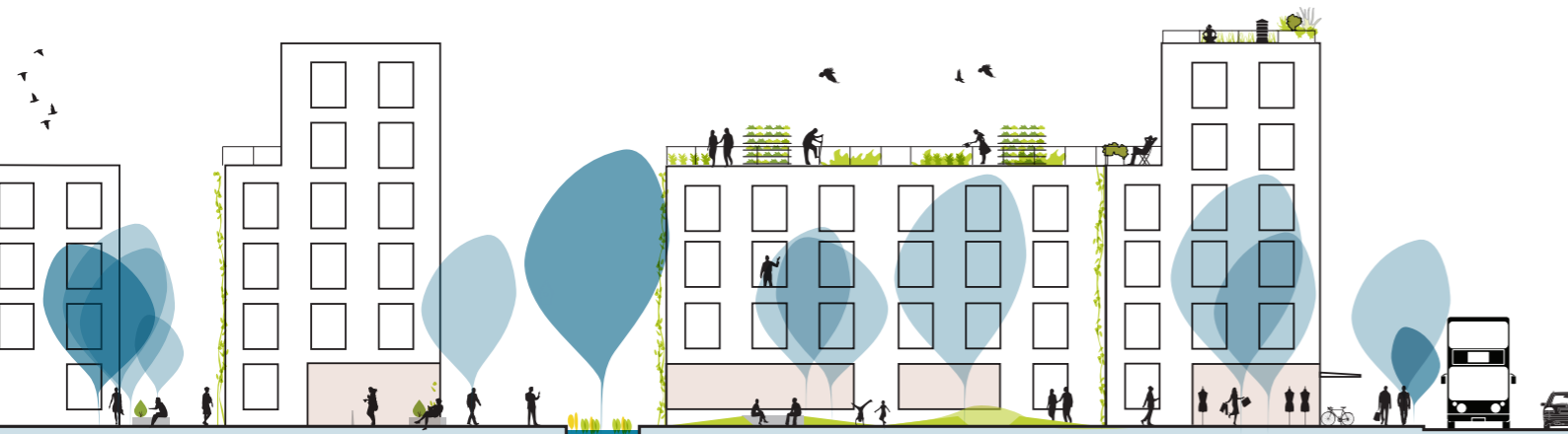
To enable this, the ambition in South Essex is to:

- Put in place a complete suite of up to date local plans, supported by the South Essex Plan, a strategic plan that establishes the strategic planning ambition, and policies to address sub-regional cumulative impacts that local plans cannot fully address.
- Completely transform housing delivery in the region – there is a recognised need

for, and commitment to, a programme of strategic and tactical interventions that would significantly increase delivery rates;

- Co-ordinate strategic land-use with strategic transport planning and provide an ambitious framework to achieve net zero and tackle the climate emergency with urgency and strong leadership
- Be a pathfinder for the Thames Estuary and set about rapid implementation of the Governments objectives for this area;
- Work collaboratively with Homes England, Housing Providers, Developers and Builders (large and small), to deliver a joint plan; and
- Establish a new delivery team – utilising expertise from the public and private sectors.

Over the past six months, South Essex have been working with Homes England on a joint delivery plan. Together they have identified the requirement for 96,000 homes in just under twenty years which equates to 4,500 homes per annum. The area is not delivering this volume of housing and is only achieving around half the requirement. To accelerate housing delivery to the level required will need substantial additional management, and technical capability, to help delivery transport and infrastructure, unlock stalled sites, remediation issues and other factors that prohibit faster delivery.



Visualisation of active travel network

The vision for South Essex is to:

- Unlock up to 43,000 of the 96,000 homes included in the strategic assessment of housing needs.
- Unlock up to 39,000 more construction jobs.
- Generate additional income for the Council of up to £450m one-off payments and £31m gross recurring annual income through Council Tax, Business Rate, Community Infrastructure Levy & New Homes Bonus.
- Increase wider economic benefits for the community by up to £2.2bn

South Essex wants to ensure its housing delivery is a result of strong economic development, new jobs and inclusive growth across the region. This means that the area will invest in its town centres, high streets and new settlements. The ambition is to embed outstanding place making principles in every project so local communities can thrive and see a step change in employment and skills, life chances and health and wellbeing.

Regeneration plans are already underway across the area, for example at Basildon, Brentwood, Grays and Southend, to develop a design blueprint that can be tailored and applied at a local level in towns across South

Essex. The programme will determine the locations where delivery can be accelerated and develop up-date strategies and action plans, this will include facilitating economic recovery and resilience responding to the impact of COVID-19.

To support new modes of living and quality of life, South Essex also wants to invest in its green and blue infrastructure and not see them as a 'nice to have' but rather core to all project work moving forwards. The emerging green blue infrastructure (GBI) framework, along with the mapping and design guidance being developed by Defra and Natural England, will help South Essex and the Thames Estuary to become an exemplar of good green infrastructure delivery, benefitting the economy, people and the environment of the region, and helping to deliver biodiversity net gain and net zero carbon.

The long-term vision is the creation of one single park system that encompasses all of South Essex. A South Essex Estuary Park will be framed by five large-scale landscapes and an improved network of blue and green connectors. These five sites include flood zones, habitats, existing parkland, riverfront, former industrial sites, agriculture land, and special historical features and landmarks:

- Island Wetlands
- Central Thames Marshlands
- Central Woodland Arc
- Mardyke Valley
- Brentwood Parklands

The Proposition

A TRANSFORMED VISION FOR SOUTH ESSEX

The South Essex Authorities have a strong 'can do' attitude and want to see lifelong improvements for its communities and businesses.

The area knows it can do better and is working hard to achieve a step change in productivity, skills, employment and place making.

It can only do this with both support and long term investment, not just from the public sector but by leveraging its assets and opportunity to drive private investment too.

South Essex is placing strong emphasis on joined up leadership and governance, knowing it can achieve greater than the sum of its parts by working proactively together. South Essex authorities recognise that delivery of these proposals will require appropriate governance arrangements to be in place and has already undertaken a preliminary review of governance in the area to assess future options. If the area is going to build back better then it needs a long term strategy with some short term interventions to recover quickly from Covid-19 and create economically and socially resilient communities. At the heart of the work being undertaken by the South Essex Authorities is an ambition to deliver a series of priorities which the leadership know will deliver long lasting and wider benefits for both people and place.

These priorities need support both locally and centrally and includes:

- Providing excellent and contemporary **digital infrastructure** including 5G and connectivity that will see businesses want to invest in the area and start successful and productive enterprises.
- Delivering significant improvements in **connectivity and public transport**, underpinned by investment in active travel projects which benefit people's health and wellbeing and could see major environmental benefits.

- Unlocking **housing** sites to deliver accelerated development seeing new **quality homes**, neighbourhoods and communities brought to South Essex, and enhancing amenity and place for existing local residents.
- Investment in **green and blue infrastructure** to enable new parks and river walks, supporting active use of environmental assets, adding to biodiversity, health and wellbeing outcomes, whilst supporting active and thriving communities.

- Improving **skills** across the region from school aged children through to adult training and education, ensuring that the current and future workforce can access productive and highly skilled jobs.
- A strategy to secure more **commercial development** from employers who can provide productive and well-paid employment, locally.
- Supporting **young people** to achieve their best and build their futures in South Essex.



Visualisation of future Basildon Living Station



ASELA Benefits to Rochford

- 1) Oxford Economics have forecast that the ASELA Growth Plan will deliver for Rochford:
 - a. An uplift in economic value of £0.914bn per annum by 2050 (from £1.175bn to £2.089bn)
 - b. Increase the number of jobs from 28,000 to 31,000 – 3,000 new jobs
 - c. Improve productivity per job from £42,000 to £68,000 - £26,000 per job

- 2) Joint accelerated infrastructure and housing delivery programme with Homes England. A strategic and tactical partnership built on shared objectives and a single delivery plan:
 - a. The core purpose of the programme is to attract public and private sector investment for infrastructure and other interventions to support housing schemes that wouldn't otherwise be viable.
 - b. In Rochford 657 homes have been identified (within the local plan) with a potential funding requirement of over £16m.
 - c. A joint Programme Board and Working Group provide governance and value for money in bringing together capability and resources. Rochford CEO is a member of the Programme Board.

- 3) The Local Full Fibre Network programme, working with the Department for Media, Culture and Sport to create the backbone of a regional 5G digital network.
 - a. £4.4 million DCMS funding, soon to be a total of £7.1m
 - b. In Rochford 13km of spine and 12 public buildings will have full fibre by 2021
 - c. The next phase will extend to include Rochford GP surgeries and Care Homes
 - d. As part of Openreach's on going investment in full fibre entitled Fibre First Openreach have made over the last 12 months a series of investments to deploy a full fibre to premise solution to a number of areas of ASELA. This has been based on an exchange basis with the following exchanges having been identified for investment: Wickford, Rochford, and Great Wakering. Across ASELA this investment is assessed to be c.£35m

Economic forecasts indicate the Digital programme will enable over 13,000 new jobs and over 3,500 new businesses across ASELA including Rochford

- 4) Economic recovery - Close working relationship with Opportunity South Essex (OSE) on jobs, skills, growth and economic development.

- 5) Growing the Creative Industries sector:

New Generation Model of Creative Skills: designed by the sector, for the sector. Providing work experience, paid placements, co-created diplomas and industry networking to young people as well as those wishing to retrain or improve current skills. Ambition is to establish South Essex as the foremost provider of creative skills training.

Rochford Leader is the political sponsor for this programme.

- 6) Support for the Construction sector:
 - a. ASELA has just secured £16m of Government funding from the Get Building Fund
 - b. The South Essex Construction Training Academy (SECTA) exceeded all targets in 2019/20 by training 749 individuals ready for the construction industry
 - c. Economic forecasts predict potential for over 30,000 new construction jobs across ASELA and in Rochford by 2050

- 7) Growing the Advanced Green Manufacturing sector:
Rochford, Brentwood, Basildon and others to codevelop a centre for Green technology and Infrastructure
- to research and pioneer innovative solutions, encouraging SME start-ups and grow-ons

A sector that locally provides 19,000 jobs and the potential to create further high value employment

- 8) A new technical University

To be located along the A127 providing higher technical skills demanded by local businesses including
Ford and Leonardo Working with an existing provider and the private sector

- 9) South Essex Estuary Park and Thames Pathway

A business case for £4.5m has just been submitted to Governments Green Recovery Fund to support the creation of the park and central Essex marshland

- 10) Capturing the learning from the work in specific localities to ensure that they benefit the wider region, such as Basildon's work with the National Infrastructure Commission and Thurrock's allocation from the new Town's Fund to help improve infrastructure, drive economic growth and increase job opportunities.

ASELA has a seat at Thames estuary growth board and on OSE board.

Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)	
Investment projects enabled by ASELA (since July 2017)	
	£m
Local Full Fibre Network	4.5
Accelerated Local Full Fibre Network	2.5
South Essex No Use Empty scheme	1.2
Planning Delivery Fund	0.9
EELGA and LGA investment	0.1
Total value of investment enabled by ASELA	9.2
Income and Expenditure for the 2018/19 Financial Year	
	£000's
Partnership Contributions	(420)
Planned Expenditure	
2018/19 ASELA Strategic Support	137
ASELA Formation and Development	32
Total Expenditure	169
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	(252)
Income and Expenditure for the 2019/20 Financial Year	
	£000's
Balance Brought Forward	(252)
Partnership Contributions	(420)
Planned Expenditure	
2019/20 ASELA Strategic Support	187
South Essex Productivity Study	55
Growth Corridors	34
Legal Structure and Joint Working Arrangements	12
State Aid Advice	5
Homelessness Consultation	1
Total Expenditure	294
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	(378)
Income and Expenditure for the 2020/21 Financial Year	
	£000's
Balance Brought Forward	(378)
Partnership Contributions	(420)
Planned Expenditure	
Housing Delivery Plan (Homes England)	129
Coastal Corridor	112
Growth Delivery Programme	112
Impact Fund Development	90
South Essex Economic Study	88
Local Connectivity Strategy	80
2020/21 Strategic Support	62
Prospectus Development	12
5G Options & Bid Development	12
ASELA Review of Governance arrangements	11
ASELA Website	9
Total Expenditure	717
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	(80)

Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)
Investment projects enabled by ASELA (since July 2017)

	£m	Notes/Expected Outcomes
Local Full Fibre Network	4.5	Enabling digital infrastructure and connectivity through the Full Fibre network programme with DCMS, and exploring with Strathlde University and DCMS, the potential to be leaders in 5G technology for an urban and rural area.
Accelerated Local Full Fibre Network	2.5	Enabled by the initial work of ASELA and the previous investment secured, this additional investment from the Getting Building Fund (subject to final confirmation) accelerates and extends the ultra fast broadband connectivity, unlocking the economic benefits to remote communities and businesses, in particular targeting the health and social care sector.
South Essex No Use Empty scheme	1.2	This scheme, funded by SELEP, seeks to bring back into use currently empty properties for use as quality housing accommodation.
Planning Delivery Fund	0.9	£871k grant from MHCLG's Planning Delivery Fund for developing the Joint Strategic Partnership. Thurrock are the accountable body for this grant.
EELGA and LGA investment	0.1	Strategic planning collaboration programme commissioned and paid for jointly by EELGA and LGA.
Total value of investment enabled by ASELA	<u>9.2</u>	

Income and Expenditure for the 2018/19 Financial Year

	£000's	Notes/Expected Outcomes
Partnership Contributions	(420)	£60k per authority per annum.
Planned Expenditure		
2018/19 ASELA Strategic Support	137	Commissioned by Castle Point, EELGA Talent Bank are providing strategic support to co-ordinate and push forward ASELA's plans.
ASELA Formation and Development	32	Commissioned by Thurrock Council, initial workshops and support with the formation of ASELA provided by 3 Fox International.
Total Expenditure	<u>169</u>	
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	<u>(252)</u>	Balance Carried Forward to 2019/20.

Income and Expenditure for the 2019/20 Financial Year		
	£000's	Notes/Expected Outcomes
Balance Brought Forward	(252)	Balance brought forward from 2018/19.
Partnership Contributions	(420)	£60k per authority per annum.
Planned Expenditure		
2019/20 ASELA Strategic Support	187	Commissioned by Castle Point, EELGA Talent Bank are providing strategic support to co-ordinate and push forward ASELA's plans.
South Essex Productivity Study	55	Commissioned from EELGA Talent Bank by Castle Point, this productivity study established what the potential future challenges and opportunities are, for example AI, automation, big data, mobility, climate change etc. It then addressed how South Essex would meet (and exploit) those challenges driven by a desire to improve productivity and wider economic performance.
Growth Corridors	34	Commissioned from EELGA Talent Bank by Castle Point, this project created an outline plan for delivery for the 6 growth corridors, provided a level of detail for each major programme/project to be taken forward (with ASELA partners being engaged on these), and provided an outline plan for stakeholder engagement.
Legal Structure and Joint Working Arrangements	12	Commissioned by Southend Council, Pinsent Masons provided legal advice, options and a heads of terms on the structure and joint working arrangements of ASELA.
State Aid Advice	5	Commissioned by Thurrock Council, state aid advice was provided by 11KBW in respect of the MOU.
Homelessness Consultation	1	Commissioned from the EELGA Talent bank by Castle Point, this formulated the ASELA response to a consultation on homelessness.
Total Expenditure	294	
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	(378)	Balance Carried Forward to 2020/21.

Income and Expenditure for the 2020/21 Financial Year	
	£000's Notes/Expected Outcomes
Balance Brought Forward	(378) Balance brought forward from 2019/20.
Partnership Contributions	(420) £60k per authority per annum.
Planned Expenditure	
Housing Delivery Plan (Homes England)	129 EELGA Talent Bank has been commissioned by Castle Point to produce a prospectus for the region incorporating a housing delivery plan to deliver on the ambition of accelerated housing delivery. This includes creation of a compelling case for change, development of the economic and financial cases, working with Homes England in reviewing sites being considered, working with promoters and developers of each site and exploring and appraising alternative delivery models and mechanisms.
Coastal Corridor	112 Commissioned by Castle Point, EELGA Talent Bank are establishing a strategy and portfolio of growth delivery proposals for the South Essex Coastal corridor. This will be done by: 1) Establishing clarity on the growth strategy, agreeing the strategic positioning for the corridor and headlining the major features, assets, issues, opportunities and objectives. 2) Driving forward the fast-track development of Growth Delivery proposals, creating a portfolio of connected proposals that build upon and align with the growth strategy. 3) Creating a focused evidence base which provides modelling, forecasts, benchmarks and quantification to support development of business cases for the delivery proposals.
Growth Delivery Programme	112 Capacity from EELGA Talent Bank, commissioned by Castle Point, to progress and maintain momentum with the Strategic Outline Business Cases that have been developed covering the strategic delivery programme areas, supporting check and challenge discussions with MHCLG on the prospectus submission, development of programme and project level specifications and creation of a delivery implementation plan.
Impact Fund Development	90 Commissioned by Southend Council, CBRE and Pinsent Masons are developing an "impact" investment fund to attract private sector finance to commercial schemes.
South Essex Economic Study	88 Oxford Economics have been commissioned by Castle Point to produce an economic study of the South Essex sub-region covering all aspects including employment and GVA. Thurrock Council are the lead for this commission.
Local Connectivity Strategy	80 Arup, commissioned by Southend Council, are bringing forward a framework and plan to re-design local connectivity and public transport – so that residents and businesses can go easily about their daily lives.
2020/21 Strategic Support	62 Commissioned by Castle Point, EELGA Talent Bank are providing strategic support to co-ordinate and push forward ASELA's plans.
Prospectus Development	12 Commissioned by Castle Point, Arup are tasked with creating the prospectus, bringing together many aspects of the work ASELA has commissioned into a single document which makes the coherent case for change.
5G Options & Bid Development	12 Regional Network Solutions have been commissioned by Castle Point to provide expert commercial, technical and strategic advice to develop a funding bid to Government in respect to accelerating the deployment of 5G within the ASELA Region.

Income and Expenditure for the 2020/21 Financial Year (continued)	
	£000's
ASELA Review of Governance arrangements	11 Shared Intelligence, managed by Basildon Council, are reviewing the functional economic market area and preparing the economic evidence. Reviewing this evidence in relation to current arrangements, and reviewing the arrangements for effectiveness and efficiency. Options appraisal of future governance structures.
ASELA Website	9 Enovate, commissioned by Thurrock, are developing a standalone website for ASELA
Total Expenditure	<u>717</u>
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	<u>(80)</u> Any surplus is retained for future use by ASELA.