

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 22 JULY 2021

PORTFOLIO: LEADER – CLLR S E WOOTTON

REPORT FROM: ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC

SUBJECT: THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH ESSEX LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ASELA) AND FORMALISATION OF A JOINT COMMITTEE

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 The Executive notes the updates provided in this report.
- 1.2 To formally agree to become a Member of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) Joint Committee in accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, to oversee ASELA and provide enhanced transparency and accountability in the new delivery stage of its work programmes.
- 1.3 To approve the governance arrangements of the Joint Committee in accordance with governing documents set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 To appoint the Leader of the Council as their representative on the Joint Committee, and to appoint the Deputy Leader as the Substitute Member, as set out in the governing documents.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the future governance arrangements for the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) and to seek agreement to move to a statutory Joint Committee.
- 2.2 Currently ASELA operates under a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was agreed by all ASELA councils in January 2018. The governance is via the ASELA Board (comprising the Leaders of the councils) which provides growth and strategic place leadership across the whole of the South Essex region - the geographic area covered by the Councils of Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend and Thurrock. The MOU recognises that the decision making and accountability arrangements for ASELA will need regular review to ensure that they are fit for purpose.
- 2.3 ASELA Leaders have scoped the terms of reference of a new Joint Committee outlining the main features and how it would operate in practice. An outline proposal was agreed on 21 January 2021 by the Board and has been developed to share amongst prospective councils (Appendix 1).

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

ASELA update

- 3.1 The ASELA councils have invested significant capital in the work that has been undertaken so far, through the dedication of political, officer and financial resources. The arrangements are tailored to meet the collective requirements of South Essex and the progress that it has made is important. The programmes that have been developed and the outcomes that are being sought in place and economic terms will deliver significant benefits to South Essex residents and businesses.
- 3.2 The ASELA Board is focused solely on economic growth and recovery activity that can only be achieved collectively and on programmes that cross local authority boundaries. It is not concerned with any matter that it is the preserve of a constituent council. Its focus also keeps it separate from other questions about the future delivery of public services in South Essex.
- 3.3 Since the submission of the ASELA Growth and Recovery Prospectus last summer (Appendix 2) there has been substantial progress in delivering the core programmes.
- 3.4 An update report was presented to Council on 20 October 2020 summarising the intentions as set out in the “Growth and Recovery Prospectus 2020” and consideration for formal governance arrangements to be in place.
- 3.5 In 2021, ASELA will enhance focus on delivery of five ‘anchor programmes’:
1. **Superfast Digital** - the principal objective of this programme is to provide gigabit connectivity to every household and premises by 2025. The Local Full Fibre Network project which was funded by DCMS (£4.4m) to connect fibre to public sector owned facilities has been delivered on time and on budget resulting in 130km of spine and 129 public buildings being connected with full fibre across South Essex. In addition to the LFFN funding, ASELA has secured from the South East Local Economic Partnership an additional £2.5 million of MHCLG funding to extend the current LFFN deployment. This funding means that by March 2022 the fibre rollout will have been extended into more rural areas, specifically around Brentwood borough and Rochford district, and connected up additional public sector/community sites with full fibre including: GP surgeries/care homes, rural schools, community centres and village halls; is complete. This activity is attracting significant private sector investment and up to £100m has now been committed to South Essex by Openreach, Virgin and CityFibre collectively. The next phase of this programme will be to develop the digital solutions that will be at the heart of the Thames Freeport, the Technical University and the South Essex Estuary Park;
 2. **Thames Freeport** - the Government announced in the Chancellor’s March Budget, that the Thames Freeport was one of eight successful

bids. The Thames Freeport bid is private sector led (DP World, Forth Ports, and Ford) and covers the geography of the local authorities of Thurrock, LB Havering, LB Barking and Dagenham. Thurrock Council is the lead local authority and the accountable body for public sector investment. Since March 2021 the Government has agreed the interim governance arrangements and approved initial capacity funding of £300k. Work on an Outline Business Case is now underway and the target is to submit to Government by 31 July. Simultaneously work is in train to establish Tax and Custom sites within the Freeport area. These bring significant financial incentives to the private sector partners and create the potential for business rate retention for the designated areas. The initial feasibility study identified substantial economic benefits including over 25,000 new jobs and over £5bn of inward investment. In addition, the priority policy objective is to capitalise on the Thames Freeport opportunity as a catalyst for regeneration and levelling up deprived communities. These benefits and policy areas will be tested and expanded as part of the business case development over the following weeks;

3. **Technical University** - in March 2021 ASELA Leaders approved the feasibility study for a technical university. The intention is to create degree apprenticeships with local employers, providing opportunities for local people, leading to high skill local jobs. This is a business led venture, with a number of the leading businesses in the area identifying requirements for both young people and reskilling of existing employees. A Partnership Board has now been established, which includes senior representation from DP World, Leonardos, Olympus, Nat West Bank, Ford, and Southend Airport. Higher Education providers are also represented through Anglia Ruskin University, University of Essex and the University of East Anglia. The programme will reach into the school system to encourage students from communities that wouldn't historically have considered higher skills as attainable. The next steps that are now underway include the procurement of a Higher Education provider for the first tranche of degree apprenticeship courses, starting in September 2023, and the development of the full business case by November 2021;
4. **South Essex Estuary (SEE) Park** - This flagship programme aims to provide an extraordinary parkland setting that encompasses all of South Essex, bringing environmental, social, and economic value to the region. It will cover 1/3 of South Essex at 23,000ha (in line with government's aim of protecting 30% of England's countryside by 2030) and will comprise five large-scale landscapes, selected because of their capacity to perform multiple functions, while offering many benefits. ASELA leaders gave support for pressing ahead with building the case for investment in the SEE Park and for working up more detailed proposals to deliver a pathfinder implementation project across the Central Thames Marshlands. Since then work has been underway to design an implementation approach around creating early successes; building momentum and confidence with local residents and investors alike. Initial activity over the

next 12-24 months will be focused around four workstreams:

- a. Launching the SEE Park - with a distinctive branding, establishing a marketing & comms plan with web/social media presence; and creating options for a future operating model;
- b. Development of a Landscape framework plan - and design guide to ensure future development work across the 5 constituent landscapes reflects the GBI Strategy and objectives;
- c. Delivery of the Central Thames Pathfinder - as a 'demonstrator' project with a series of wave1 implementation deliverables within an initial 18-month period;
- d. Creating a Green Finance Strategy – looking to access Government grant / capacity funding in the short-term and to build a long-term green investment model to attract private sector infrastructure funding.

A case for investment has been developed and it describes the work and resource envelope (c.£7.5m) that will be needed to get the SEE Park up and running and to deliver the Central Thames Marshlands Pathfinder. The majority of funding for this will need to be sourced from outside of direct investments from ASELA Local Authorities; through a combination of related strategic programmes such as Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) and the Thames Freeport, Government capacity funding and private sector green financing models. This is the main area of focus over the coming months;

5. **Infrastructure and Housing** - the focus of this programme is the provision of infrastructure and homes that are needed to support the economy and meet existing housing needs. Over the last 12 months a detailed pipeline of housing schemes has been developed with a specific focus on schemes that are stalled because of issues of viability. By working together across all South Essex Local Authorities, the area has been able to create a compelling case for a trail blazing strategic place based partnership with Homes England. Now agreed in principle, by the Homes England Executive Board, it will be just one of two such partnerships in the country. A Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared for Leaders' consideration, along with a joint Business Plan. The intention is that these will be agreed by Leaders before 31 July 2021 and formally launched in September 2021. Homes England remain committed to provide capacity funding for this programme for 2021/22 and the outputs of the joint work on the Business Plan will also feed into the Spending Review in the Autumn. In addition to this activity, progress is also being made through joint working with regional housing associations, through a new initiative to create greater opportunities for small and medium sized builders.

- 3.6 These programmes combine to provide strategic place shaping and delivery on a regional scale that is not possible by any organisation or agency acting

alone or in sub partnerships. There is now a clear requirement for governance arrangements to oversee these programmes, to provide transparency over decision making, to demonstrate to investors that South Essex is “investor ready” and provide the accountability arrangements for investment received. South Essex Leaders have agreed that the most appropriate form of governance in this respect would be a Joint Committee.

Proposals for a Joint Committee?

- 3.7 At the ASELA Leaders meeting on 10 December 2020, it was agreed that work would be undertaken to seek approval from constituent authorities to move towards a Joint Committee arrangement. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a report from ASLEA Leaders that was approved on 21 January 2021 to be considered by all ASELA councils. The paper recommends a Joint Committee model in order to provide appropriate overview, scrutiny and co-opted membership and allow ASELA to deliver its ambitious growth programme.
- 3.8 A Joint Committee formalises the business of an Association and would be established in accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Joint Committee would set the strategic and policy direction as well as commission and co-ordinate the delivery of projects and programmes.
- 3.9 Joint Committees are a common and favoured feature amongst councils because they provide a transparent and accountable means to achieving combined goals whilst ensuring the individual sovereignty of each body remains. Joint Committees do not become involved in the daily business of councils outside of the purposes for which it was established.
- 3.10 There would be no transfer of powers or functions currently held by the Council to the Joint Committee. It would also mean that no decision could be taken by the Joint Committee which relates to any matter that is in the preserve of the Council, unless it indicates its agreement with the proposal.
- 3.11 A current example of a Joint Committee of which Rochford is a member, is the South Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee which was formed by the collaboration of seven councils in Essex and manages the South Essex Parking Partnership.

Why is a Joint Committee right for ASELA?

- 3.12 The current governance arrangement is based upon a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreed by all councils in January 2018, which recognised that decision making and accountability arrangements for ASELA would need to be regularly reviewed to ensure it remained fit for purpose.
- 3.13 In response to progress of the programme of work into the delivery stage, it is now an appropriate time to review the current arrangement. With the imminent requirement to manage large sums of government and private sector investment, there is a pressing need not only to demonstrate increased

confidence in financial management but also to validate a combined commitment to the governance and operational delivery of the programme. A more formal, accountable and transparent governance arrangement would also support:

- a. enhanced openness and accountability to constituent authorities and residents;
- b. providing greater local control over direct investment and related financial considerations e.g. section 106 planning agreements between councils and developers;
- c. a signal to private investors, especially long term investors, that ASELA is capable and committed; and
- d. a signal to government departments and investors that ASELA is financially sustainable, and a trusted and reliable delivery partner.

3.14 In addition to oversight of the growth delivery programme a Joint Committee:

- a. provides management and oversight of expenditure and activity associated with funding received from Government and other sources;
- b. will agree the level of financial contributions to be sought from each local authority to support the work of ASELA; and
- c. ensures effective relationships and collaboration as necessary to achieve ASELA's vision, with central Government and other regional and national bodies including the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

Practicalities of the ASELA Joint Committee

3.15 The proposal for an ASELA Joint Committee would include the following features:

- a. Eight Members and co-opted Members are anticipated: Basildon; Brentwood; Castle Point; Essex County Council; Rochford; Southend; Thurrock; and The Federated Board of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- b. Each Council will appoint a Member.
- c. A Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed.
- d. Matters will be decided through voting (co-opted Members can speak but not vote) and decisions reached through majority.
- e. No decision can be taken by the Joint Committee which relates to any matter that is in the preserve of a specific constituent authority unless that authority indicates its agreement with the proposal. Thereby maintaining the principle of subsidiarity.
- f. One authority will act as an 'accountable body' in relation to the functions and resources of ASELA which shall be agreed by the Joint Committee.
- g. A local authority will be designated to provide secretariat to the Joint Committee.
- h. It is proposed that scrutiny of ASELA will take place through each partner council's existing processes as the most efficient and effective

arrangement at the present time. However, arrangements should be kept under review.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Do nothing – this option is not recommended. Continuing with the existing informal arrangements does not support ASELA's ability to secure large scale investment from Government and the private sector. Nor does it provide transparency of decision making or accountability for delivery.
- 4.2 If the Council determines that it does not want to join the Joint Committee, it can become a co-opted member. Councils that are co-opted members of the Committee will be able to speak on all matters in front of the Committee, but will not have a vote. If a Council is not a member of a Joint Committee, the Council would not benefit from any of the programmes, funding or investment.
- 4.3 The Joint Committee shall have the ability to appoint other appropriate co-opted Members who would not have voting rights. It is anticipated that this is likely to include the Federated Board of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Thames Estuary Growth Board.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If it is decided that the Council is not to join the membership of the Joint Committee at the current time, the Council could be a co-opted member of the Committee and will be able to speak on all matters in front of the Committee, but will not have a vote. If a Council is not a member of a Joint Committee, the Council would not benefit from any of the programmes, funding or investment.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 To date an annual subscription of £60,000 has been paid to ASELA by each of the member authorities and an equivalent sum has been built into the Council's 2021/22 budget. Going forward it will be for the Joint Committee to decide its required budget and associated contributions, if any, required from each constituent authority. The intention is that the Joint Committee should explore funding from other sources such as grants and private sector investment. If there was any further call on the public purse, the Joint Committee would need to be satisfied that the sums requested were justified and provided value for money. The Leader would not be entitled to agree any financial commitment on behalf of the Council without the relevant internal Council governance being satisfied.
- 6.2 A year on year financial summary of the ASELA work programme was shared with Council for its information at the meeting on 20 October 2020.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a local authority to enter into arrangements for the discharge of its functions jointly with, or by one or more other authority. Under Section 102 of the 1972 Act, local authorities are empowered to appoint Joint Committees.
- 7.2 Under the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the 2012 Regulations”), if the Council proposed to establish a Joint Committee and the arrangements involved the discharge by the Joint Committee of:
- a. one or more of the Council’s non-executive functions, then only Full Council can give approval to the proposal (including the number of Members and their term of office); or
 - b. one or more of the Council’s executive functions, then only the Executive can give approval to the proposal (including the number of Members and their term of office) and all borough Councillors on the Joint Committee must be Executive Councillors; or
 - c. one or more of the Council’s executive functions and one or more non-executive functions, then the appointment of Councillors to the Joint Committee (including the number of Members and their term of office) shall be made by Full Council with the agreement of the Executive, provided that at least one Member of the Joint Committee is an Executive Councillor.
- 7.3 As per paragraph 3.18 above, there would be no transfer of powers or functions currently held by the Council to the Joint Committee. It would also mean that no decision could be taken by the Joint Committee which relates to any matter that is in the preserve of the Council, unless it indicates its agreement with the proposal. This would require a further report back to the Executive or Council dependent on the discharge of the functions under the 2012 Regulations.

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

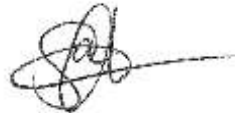
- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

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:



Acting Managing Director



Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Angela Hutchings (Acting Managing Director) and Angela Law (Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic) on:-

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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



thurrock.gov.uk



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.

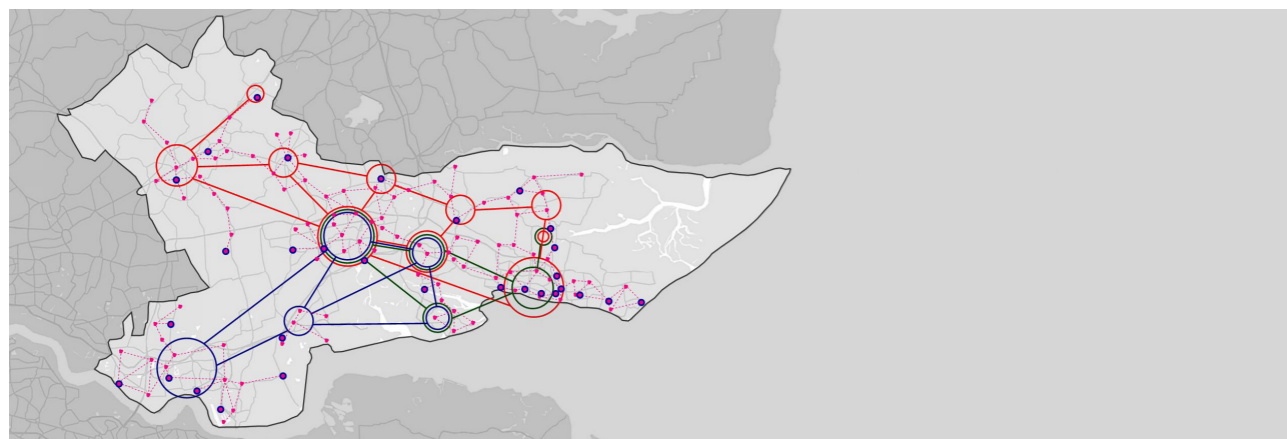
The region is now working hard to build its way forward as it moves its way out of the pandemic, with a vision to deliver for People productive jobs, blue and green infrastructure, physical and digital connectivity, new homes people need and can afford.

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

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

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

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

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

£5bn private sector investment

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)

100k creating new jobs

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

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.

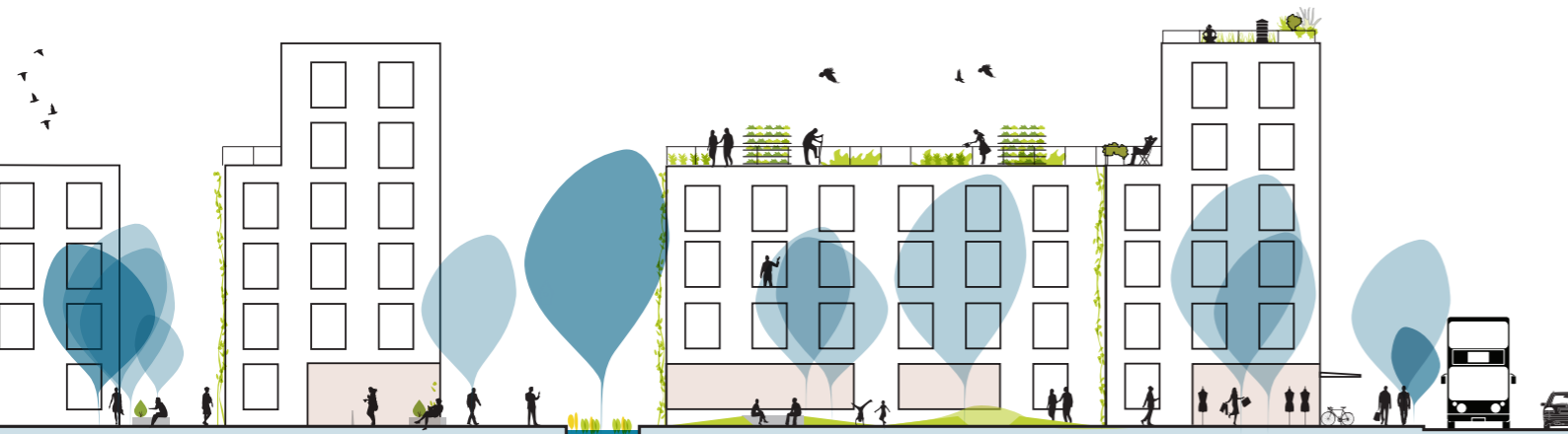
To enable this, the ambition in South Essex is to:

- 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



Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)

Joint Committee Agreement and Constitution

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The core purpose of the Joint Committee is to provide place leadership for South Essex. Recognising that through a collaborative approach, the constituent authorities will be best placed to develop and deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth for communities.
 - 1.2 The Joint Committee 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 individual areas to flourish and realise their full economic and social potential.
 - 1.3 This agreement sets out how the ASELA Joint Committee shall operate in seeking to deliver its overarching purpose, what powers and functions it holds, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that it operates efficiently, effectively and is both transparent and accountable.
 - 1.4 The Joint Committee shall come into effect from 1st April 2021.
 - 1.5 The Association shall operate and discharge its functions through a Joint Committee between all local authorities formally established in accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and who have agreed to form part of the Joint Committee and made the agreed financial contribution to support the work of the joint committee. It has * members, being
 - a councillor (elected member) appointed by each of the 'Constituent Councils' which includes -
 - o *
- (to be updated to reflect the authorities who have agreed to form the joint committee)*
- 1.6 The Joint Committee shall have the ability to agree to additional local authorities, who it is considered are able to contribute to the aims of the Joint Committee, to join the committee as a 'constituent council'. Any such authorities will need to have formally agreed, in accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to form part of the Joint Committee and made the agreed financial contribution to support the work of the Joint Committee.
 - 1.7 The Joint Committee is subject to overview and scrutiny through constituent authorities' own scrutiny arrangements.

2. Principles

- 2.1 This agreement and the terms of reference provide a basis for the work of ASELA. A review of this document shall be undertaken by the Joint Committee at the end of the 2021/22 municipal year and annually thereafter
- 2.2 There shall be no transfer of powers currently held by any constituent authority to the Joint Committee and this document makes no provision for such.
- 2.3 No decision can be taken by the Joint Committee which relates to any matter that is in the preserve of a specific constituent borough/district authority unless that authority indicates its agreement with the proposal.
- 2.4 An 'accountable body' in relation to the functions and resources of ASELA shall be agreed by the Joint Committee
- 2.5 A local authority will be designated to provide secretariat to the Joint Committee which shall be agreed by the Joint Committee

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS

A. JOINT COMMITTEE

1. Overview

- 1.1 The Joint Committee has been formally established by all constituent councils in accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to discharge the functions of ASELA as set out in this Constitution.

2. Membership

2.1 Appointment.

Membership of the Joint Committee shall consist of the Constituent Council Members who comprise the Joint Committee, whereby each shall appoint –

- (i) one of its elected members as a member of the joint committee, preferably to be the Leader of the Council; and
- (ii) another elected member as a substitute member to act in the absence of the member appointed under (i) above

The joint committee shall have the ability to appoint co-opted members (without voting rights) to the Joint Committee as they see fit.

2.2 Term of Membership

- (a) Members or substitute members cease to be a member or substitute member of the joint committee –
 - (i) if they cease to be a member of the constituent council that appointed them; or
 - (ii) A person may resign as a member or substitute member of the joint committee by written notice served on the proper officer of the council of the constituent council that appointed them; or
- (b) Where a member or substitute member's appointment ceases the constituent council that made the appointment must, as soon as practicable, give written notice of that fact to the Association's Secretariat and appoint another of its elected members in that person's place;
- (c) A constituent council may at any time terminate the appointment of a member or substitute member appointed by it to the Association and appoint another of its elected members in that person's place.

- (d) Where a constituent council exercises its power under subparagraph (c), it must give written notice of the new appointment and the termination of the previous appointment to the Association's Secretariat and the new appointment shall take effect and the previous appointment terminate with immediate effect.

2.3 **Chair** – A Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed at the first meeting of the joint committee. Appointment of a new Chair and Vice-Chair shall take place by the end of June each year, following the annual meetings of all constituent councils. The Chair or, in his or her absence, the Vice-Chair shall chair all meetings of the joint committee when present.

2.4 **Quorum.** No business of the joint committee shall be transacted unless at least half of the Constituent Council Members or substitute members appointed are present.

3. Meetings and Procedure

3.1 Voting

- (a) Subject to those matters at paragraph (d) below, any matters that are to be decided by the joint committee are to be decided by a majority of the members present and voting on that question at a meeting of the joint committee, such majority to include substitute members, acting in place of members.
- (b) Each member, or a substitute member acting in that member's place, is in post is to have one vote and no member or substitute member is to have a casting vote.
- (c) If a vote is tied on any matter it shall be deemed not to have been carried. There shall be no casting vote.
- (d) A decision on a question relating to a matter that is in the preserve of a specific local authority shall require the support and agreement of that specific authority.

3.2 Procedure

- (a) The joint committee will conduct business in accordance with the meeting standing orders set out in these terms of reference.
- (b) The proceedings of the joint committee are not invalidated by any vacancy among its members or substitute members or by any defect in the appointment or qualifications of any member or substitute member

4. Sub-Committees and advisory bodies

4.1 The joint committee -

- (a) may establish such other sub-committees, which may include the co-option of any non-voting members, as it sees fit; and
- (b) may establish such advisory panels and ad-hoc working groups as it considers may be expedient to assist it.

5. Delegation

5.1 The exercise of the joint committee's functions may be delegated to:

- (a) a sub-committee; or
- (b) an officer.

A record of such delegations shall be maintained

6. Core Purpose, Aims and Functions

Core Purpose and aims

6.1 The core purpose of the Joint Committee is to provide place leadership for South Essex. Recognising that through a collaborative approach, the constituent authorities will be best placed to develop and deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth for communities.

6.2 The Joint Committee 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 individual areas to flourish and realise their full economic and social potential.

6.3 The primary aims of Joint Committee will be to:

- Provide place leadership;
- Open up spaces for housing, business and leisure development by developing a spatial strategy;
- Transform transport connectivity;
- Support the 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; and
- Work with and provide a voice for South Essex working with the Thames Estuary Growth Board.

Principles of collaboration

6.4 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

Specific Functions

6.5 The functions of the joint committee are as follows:

- a. Provide oversight and direction of programmes of work aligned to the core purpose and aims of the joint committee set out above.
- b. Commissioning and co-ordination of delivery of programmes, projects and development of policy against in accordance with the core purpose and aims of the joint committee and allocate resources accordingly
- c. Submission of bids for funding to Central Government and other bodies as considered appropriate to deliver the vision and objectives, subject to the advice and approval of the Chief Financial (S151) Officer of the accountable body.
- d. Provide oversight and direction associated with the Joint Strategic Plan and approve any strategic planning framework proposals for consideration by individual local authorities
- e. Management and oversight of expenditure and activity associated with funding received from Government and other sources
- f. Agree the level of financial contributions required from each local authority as a member of the joint committee to support its work.
- g. Ensure effective relationships and collaboration as necessary to achieve ASELA's vision, with Central Government and other regional and national bodies including the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Opportunity South Essex.

MEETINGS STANDING ORDERS

1. Interpretation, Suspension and Chair's Ruling

- 1.1 These Standing Orders apply to meetings of the joint committee, and where appropriate, to meetings of any sub-committees. Any reference to committee in these Standing Orders also refers to sub-committees.
- 1.5 The ruling of the Chair on the interpretation of these Standing Orders in relation to all questions of order and matters arising in debate shall be final.

2. Revisions to Standing Orders

- 2.1 Standing Orders may be changed by the joint committee, which will be subject to a unanimous vote, either at the Annual Meeting or by a motion on notice made at a meeting of the joint committee.

3. Chairing of Meetings

- 3.1 The Chair shall chair all meetings of the joint committee whenever he or she is present.
- 3.2 In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the meeting shall appoint another member to chair the meeting.
- 3.3 The Chair (or the Vice Chair or any other Member presiding in the absence of the Chair or Vice Chair) shall not have a casting vote on any issue.

4. Meetings

- 4.1 The Annual Meeting of the joint committee shall be held annually in June on a date and at a time following the annual meetings of all 'Constituent Councils'
- 4.2 Ordinary meetings of committee for the transaction of general business shall be held on such dates and at such times as the committee shall determine.
- 4.3 All meetings of the committee shall be open to the public (including the press) except to the extent that they are excluded whether during the whole or part of the proceedings either:
 - (a) In accordance with Section 100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972; or

- (b) By resolution passed to exclude the public on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. Any such Resolution shall identify the proceedings or the part of the proceedings to which it applies and state the description, in terms of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 of the exempt information giving rise to the exclusion of the public.

5. Notice of Meetings

- 5.1 At least five clear working days before a meeting of a committee:
 - (a) notice of the time and place of the intended meeting shall be published;
 - (b) a summons to attend the meeting, specifying an agenda for the meeting, shall be sent to all Members of the joint committee by electronic mail.
- 5.2 Lack of service on a member of the committee of the summons shall not affect the validity of a meeting of the committee.
- 5.3 Each constituent authority shall ensure a link from their own website to information regarding meetings of ASELA and copies of agendas and minutes.

6. Meeting Agendas

- 6.1 The Chair of the Joint Committee will decide upon the agenda for the meetings. The Chair may put on the agenda of any meeting any matter which the Chair wishes.
- 6.2 Any Member of the committee may require that an item is placed on the agenda of the next available meeting of the committee for consideration.
- 6.3 Any item proposed to be included on the agenda for any meeting of the committee in accordance with sub-paragraph 6.2 above, which is not submitted in writing before 7 working days of the meeting, shall not be included on the agenda for that meeting unless it is agreed by the Chair. In this case the amended agenda for the meeting will state the reason for the late acceptance of any such item.

- 6.4 The agenda for each meeting of the committee shall set out the items of business requested by Members (if any) in the order in which they have been received, unless the Member concerned has given notice prior to the issue of the agenda, for it to be withdrawn. If the Member concerned is not present at the meeting when an item of which they have given notice comes up for discussion, this item shall, unless the committee decides otherwise, be treated as withdrawn.

7. Access to Information

- 7.1 Access to agenda, reports and associated documents in respect of a meeting of the committee are as determined by Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Meetings and Documents of Certain Authorities, Committees and Sub-Committees).

8. Quorum

- 8.1 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of a committee unless at least half of the Members or substitute members appointed by the constituent councils are present.
- 8.2 If at the time for which a meeting is called, and for 15 minutes thereafter, a quorum is not present, then no meeting shall take place.
- 8.3 If during any meeting of the committee the Chair, after counting the number of Members present, declares that there is not a quorum present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time fixed by the Chair. If there is no quorum and the Chair does not fix a time for the reconvened meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the committee.

9. Order of Business

- 9.1 At every meeting of the committee the order of business shall be to select a person to preside if the Chair or Vice-Chair are absent and thereafter shall be in accordance with the order specified in the agenda for the meeting, except that such order may be varied -
- (a) by the Chair at his/her discretion; or
 - (b) on a request agreed by the committee
- 9.2 The Chair may bring before the committee at their discretion any matter that they consider appropriate to bring before the committee as a matter of urgency.

10. Standing Orders of Debate

- 10.1 The Chair shall decide all questions of order and any ruling by the Chair upon such questions and the interpretation of these Standing Orders of Procedure and upon matters rising in debate shall be final and shall not be open to discussion.

11. Voting

- 11.1 Subject to sub-paragraph 11.6, any matters that are to be decided by the committee are to be decided by a majority of the members present and voting on that matter at a meeting of the committee, such majority to include substitute members, acting in place of members.
- 11.2 Each member appointed according to the provisions in paragraph 1, or a substitute member acting in that member's place, and the Chair, or the Vice-Chair acting in his or her place is to have one vote and no member or substitute member is to have a casting vote.
- 11.3 If a vote is tied on any matter it shall be deemed not to have been carried.
- 11.4 Whenever a vote is taken at meetings it shall be by a show of hands. On the requisition of any member, supported by one other Member who signifies their support, and before the vote is taken, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each Member present gave their vote for or against that question or abstained from voting.
- 11.5 A Member, or Substitute Member acting in that Member's place may demand that his/her vote be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.
- 11.6 A decision on a question relating to a matter that is in the preserve of a specific local authority shall require the support and agreement of that specific authority.

12. Conduct

- 12.2 In the event of general disturbance, which in the opinion of the Chair, renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible the Chair, in addition to any other power vested in the Chair may, without question put, adjourn the meeting of the committee for such period as the Chair considers expedient.

13. Disturbance by Members of the Public

- 13.1 If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting of the committee the Chair shall warn him or her. If they continue the interruption the Chair shall order his or her removal from the room. In the case of general disturbance in any part of the room open to the public the Chair shall order that part to be cleared.

14. Notification and Declaration of Interests

Members of the committee shall comply with their respective councils Code of Conduct for Members.

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.