

AGENDA PACK

Meeting OSE Board
Date and Time Wednesday 4th March 2020, 2-4pm
Venue Carstairs Room, Green Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park, Pitsea, Basildon, SS16 4UH

Item	Title and Description	Lead	Timing
Procedural Items			
1	Welcome and Introduction	Chair	14:00 to 14:30
2	Declarations of Interest	Chair	
3	Minutes of last Meeting	Chair	
4	Action Tracker	Chair	
5	Directors Report	Ian Lewis	
6	Programme Monitoring	Ian Lewis	
Agenda items for discussion			
7	OSE Board Discussion around the objectives for the OSE Board	Chair	30 Mins
8	Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) Update Presentation of the work of ASELA, and discussion around future working	Cllr Rob Gledhill	20 Mins
9	Consultation Responses to Lower Thames Crossing and Freeports Discussion of the OSE response to consultations	Ian Lewis	20 mins
10	SELEP Update	Adam Bryan	15 mins
11	OSE Board Appointments Confirm SELEP Representation and Deputy Chair	Chair	5 mins
	Date of Next Meeting 4 th June 2020, 2pm. Venue TBC		

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Meeting OSE Board
Date and Time 14th November 2019, 14:00
Venue Green Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park, Pitsea, Basildon

Attendees

Kate Willard	Stobart Group (Chair)
Murray Foster	Southend Business Partnership
Perry Glading	Thurrock Business Board
Angela O'Donoghue	South Essex College
David Barnes	Basildon Business Board
Lucy Harris	Pixelwork
Robert Singh	University of Essex
Chris Brookhouse	Greenergy
Sarah Stone	Konica Minolta
Mark Curle	Essex Developers Group
Larry Fenttiman	Inner London Group
David Burch	Essex Chamber of Commerce
Colette Bailey	Metal
James Sharples	Couno
Cllr Kevin Robinson	Southend on Sea Council
Cllr Norman Smith	Castle Point Borough Council
Cllr Tony Ball	Essex County Council
Cllr Mike Steptoe	Rochford District Council

Apologies

Rob Gledhill	David Burch	George Kieffer
Cllr Ron Woodley		

Officers/Observers/Presenters

Iain McNab	Cities and Local Growth Unit
Emma Wilcox	Creative Estuary
Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Council
Andy Lewis	Southend Council
Dawn Redpath	Essex County Council
Ian Lewis	Opportunity South Essex
Sharon Spicer	South East Local Enterprise Partnership
Dave Manning	Lower Thames Crossing
Emma Wilcox	Creative Estuary

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
1	Introductions	
1.1	Kate Willard confirmed that this would be her last Opportunity South Essex meeting as chair. Kate has been successful in securing the role of Envoy for the Thames Estuary, which means that she would be stepping down from the OSE Board. The board were unanimous in congratulating Kate in securing the role.	

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
1.2	Kate proposed that Perry Gladding became interim chair of OSE. The Board accepted this proposal, and confirmed Perry as Interim Chair.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
	None specifically declared.	
3	Minutes of Last Meeting	
3.1	Minutes of the 11 th September 2019 meeting were approved	
4	Action Tracker	
4.1	Progress with the website was raised. ASELA are aiming to start development of their site early in the new year. We will keep this action live until we have confirmation of progress with the ASELA site	IL to follow up
5	Directors Report	
5.1	Apprenticeship Levy – indicated that Thurrock have a process in place, and Southend are developing a process for the use of local authority levy within local supply chains.	
5.2	South Essex College are launching the Apprenticeship Levy Pledge with businesses to support the distribution of levy within their supply chains.	
5.3	Basildon and Essex have been invited to present the work they have been doing with the National Infrastructure Commission at the next meeting of the Board.	Basildon & Essex to present NIC project on 4 th March 2020
5.4	The Board were asked to note that the Expression of Interest for the Strength in Places Fund for Resilient Infrastructure has been submitted.	
5.5	The Board noted the report	
6	LGF Capital Monitoring	
6.1	The Board agreed that we should write to the SELEP Chair indicating our concerns that high risk projects within the Local Growth Fund Programme need to make an early decision about their ability to spend the funding ahead of the March 2021 deadline. We will seek swift reallocation to other pipeline projects which are in a position to deliver in this timescale, and also the flexibility to introduce new projects.	OSE to write to SELEP Chair
6.2	Sector Support Fund proposal for Creative Connectivity – since publication of the papers this project has been further developed. A revised proposal will be sent electronically to the Board for approval once it is complete.	University of Essex to Update, IL to distribute for approval

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
6.3	The Board noted the report	
7	OSE Board	
7.1	The Board approved the terms of reference, on the basis that we have the flexibility to review within the next 12 months. This is to ensure their ongoing relevance and don't get in the way of what OSE seeks to achieve.	
7.2	The Board approved the Board recruitment process. The timetable outlined in the papers may shift slightly, but the application window will be this side of Christmas. Selection and appointment will take place early in the new year. Chair and Deputy Chair will be confirmed at the 4 th March 2020 Board meeting.	IL to confirm process and timings for applications with Board Members
7.3	The Board confirmed that the current OSE SELEP Board representatives (Colette Bailey and Perry Gladding) will continue during the recruitment process to maintain continuity.	
8	Growing Places Fund	
8.1	It was confirmed that the Futureproof project from the revised appendix circulated on the 12 th November is to be withdrawn at this point.	
8.2	The Board received the details of the 3 expressions of interest to be taken forward for consideration.	
8.3	The Board are asked to identify their priorities for funding and confirmed that the priorities are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leigh Cockle Wharf 2. No Use Empty South Essex 3. South Essex Productivity Investment Fund 	
8.4	The Board also questioned the low uptake of the opportunity to access the Growing Places Fund by the private sector in South Essex. The opportunity was widely promoted but did not prove to be attractive. A point should be considered that it may not be the right product, which has led to the no use empty and productivity investment fund proposals being developed because they may have greater resonance in South Essex.	
8.5	The next stage is to develop the outline business cases for each of the projects for submission to SELEP at the end of January 2020.	
9	Housing Delivery	
9.1	The Board received a presentation from Mark Curle. Key points included: <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero carbon requirements, move away from Fossil 	

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
	<p>fuels gas) and retrofitting existing homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable homes provision is always squeezed when viability challenged • Skills requirements in S106 – good intentions, but limits flexibility and access for trainees. Sometimes difficult to complete training before development is complete • Disposals of sites are being done at a scale which favours the biggest house builders. Disposal also via establish frameworks which require significant investment to engage with. • Difficult market place for SME developers – fewer sites becoming available, frameworks are a barrier to entry • Unrealistic expectations of land values • SME's would tackle development sites larger companies would overlook, but don't tend to be able to access funding in the same way larger developers do • Ageing workforce, which is not being replaced. Teaching unattractive option for most as would mean significant salary reduction – experience is also being lost 	
9.2	<p>Some of the issues are starting to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phasing of sites can be used much more effectively to ensure delivery • Closer working between Essex Developers Group and Essex Planning Officers Association. • Measures to ensure delivery – for example, council tax becomes payable on properties not delivered • Need to recognise local authorities are wholly in the hands of developers to realise their housing numbers 	
9.3	<p>Smaller house builders have a significant role to play in the housing delivery mix. Housing area is moving more towards an industry for the tier 1 national house builders, using framework contracts which are prohibitively expensive for smaller developers. We need to explore how we can maintain and grow SME developers.</p>	
10	Creative Estuary	
10.1	<p>The board received a presentation from Emma Wilcox, Project Director for Creative Estuary. Creative Estuary is funded by £4.3m from the Culture Development Fund, and seeks to use this as leverage to generate match funding to cover a range of activities across the Estuary. Programme to include Thames Estuary 2020 Festival, creation of workspace, new commissions, explore how to embedded culture in new developments, development of a new identity for the Estuary and also a range of opportunities for training.</p>	
10.2	Working as the first practical embodiment of the Thames	

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
	Estuary concept. Board Members confirmed their interest in the project and to support Creative Estuary with advocacy, promotion, explore options for investment and championing new ideas.	
10.3	Presentation to be circulated to Board Members	IL
11	Lower Thames Crossing	
11.1	Board received a presentation from David Manning from the LTC team.	
11.2	The timeline for the project was reconfirmed – completion in 2027, with the determination of the Development Control Order by the end of 2021.	
11.3	The first 2 workshop sessions have been held with SME's across Kent and Essex. The purpose of these events is to gear up the local supply chain to put them in the position to bid for work from the Tier 1 contractors. The types of supplier sought are much broader than those typically required to support construction projects. The project is keen to source as much as possible via local supply chains	
11.4	The scheme is not an absolute certainty. The outline business case is due to be presented to the Department for Transport in December, and the General Election creates further uncertainty.	
11.5	The LTC team have asked for OSE's support in continuing to advocate for the project. Board are reminded of Thurrock Council's ongoing objection to the project.	
12	ASELA Update	
12.1	Update to be provided to the next OSE Board meeting	
13	Future Strategy	
13.1	The Board received a presentation from Sharon Spicer from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership on the development of the South East Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). The Board noted the link from the South Essex Productivity Strategy to the LIS.	
13.2	The presentation highlighted 3 strategic opportunities for the South East: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Gateway • Communities for the Future • Coastal Catalyst 	
13.3	The OSE Board are asked to review the presentation, specifically to confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the main approach appears to be right • Is there anything we had expected to see that does not feature 	All Board Members to respond with comments by 27 th November 2019

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local aspects we would wish to see reflected <p>The Board are asked to provide comments to Ian Lewis by Wednesday 27th November to enable them to be collated and considered at the 6th December SELEP Strategic Board</p>	
13.4	IL to also consider how we keep the board engaged with the development of the LIS in the run up to its sign off at the end of January 2020.	IL

Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th March 2020, Venue TBC.

Item 4 – Action Tracker

Date	Action	Lead	Due By	RAG	Notes	Update (incl date of update)
14/11/2019	Basildon and Essex to present NIC work at next board meeting	IL	04/03/2020			Board Presentation provisionally set for June 2020
14/11/2019	OSE to write to SELEP expressing concerns about LGF at risk projects and time available to redirect funding	IL	30/11/2019	Complete		
14/11/2019	Confirmation of recruitment process	IL	30/11/2019	Complete		
14/11/2019	Creative Estuary and Housing presentations to be circulated	IL	30/11/2019	Complete		
14/11/2019	Board to review outline of SELEP Local Industrial Strategy	All	27/11/2019	Complete		
11/09/2019	Lower Thames Crossing team to be asked to present at November Board	IL	14/11/2019	Complete		
25/06/2019	Apprenticeship Levy	All Local authorities	31/07/2019		Establish position with apprenticeship levy at each authority and if it is being spent in full	16/1/20 - forms part of Productivity Strategy action plan. LA's are progressing.
25/06/2019	Proposal to help businesses use Apprenticeship levy within supply chains	A O'D	TBC		Paper to explain how this can be put in place	16/1/20 - forms part of Productivity Strategy action plan

Item	5
Subject	Director's Update
Date	4 th March 2020
Author	Ian Lewis, Executive Director

Report Summary and Recommendation

The report outlines the activities of OSE since the last Board meeting and provide an update of the current financial position of the Partnership.

The Board are asked to note the report.

Introduction

1. This report is in three parts:
 - General Updates
 - Productivity Strategy Progress
 - Finance Update

General Updates

2. **OSE Board refresh** – This has now been completed, with this meeting being the first of the refreshed Board.
3. **OSE & ASELA** – the South Essex Productivity Strategy has been finalised. Progress with the shorter term action plan is described in the Productivity Strategy section of this report. Ongoing input to the wider work of ASELA is ongoing, with a presentation to be made to the Board under item 8 of this agenda.
4. **Thames Estuary Growth Board** - Working with North Kent and London colleagues facilitated the first two meetings of the Growth Board, supported the Thames Estuary Envoy with a range of introductory meetings, establishing the accountable body, development of the initial work programme, communications and exploring other activity to establish the role and function of the envoy and Board.
5. **Local Industrial Strategy** – provided ongoing input to the development of the SELEP Local Industrial Strategy.
6. **LEP Review** – First Board meeting of the SELEP Company Board to take place on March 20th 2020. This is the first meeting of the Board as a formal entity.
7. **Apprenticeship Levy** – Further to the discussion at the last meeting, the local authorities are keen to support apprenticeships within businesses in their respective areas. Work will commence with South Essex College to roll this out.

Productivity Strategy Update

8. The productivity Strategy has been approved by both the ASELA and OSE Boards, and is moving into an implementation stage. A range of shorter term actions have

been identified and summarised in the table below, alongside progress to date. It is worth noting that work has only just commenced on this, so a lot of the activity at this point in time is establishing the scope and next steps. A plan for the longer term implementation is also underway.

Programme	Activity	Progress
Vibrant Places	Define and publish a productivity-focused South Essex inward investment vision, targeting high-value business investment.	Exploration of Inward Investment models underway. Meetings held with other Investment organisations
	Develop and publish an investor prospectus, developed in-line with other ASELA work streams, promoting proposition/infrastructure/key sites/lifestyles/etc.	Work is ongoing with the Place workstream of the ASELA programme. South Essex will be having a presence at MIPIM in March 2020.
	Publish a 'South Essex Creates' vision and work programme; linked with the Thames Estuary Production Corridor to develop cultural and creative industries across South Essex.	Thames Estuary Production Corridor and Creative Estuary Programmes are getting underway, as is BasildON project. These programmes will contribute to the realisation of this activity.
	Prototype/pilot and evaluate a South Essex Inward Investment Ambassador project; leveraging the established international networks of South Essex businesses to catalyse investment.	Scope of a pilot project is being developed to test concept.
Enterprise Growth Programme	Develop and launch private sector business support model that leverages the business service sector (accountants, solicitors, marketers) to generate new business growth.	Scope and options development is underway.
	Develop the scope/plan for a new small scale business investment vehicle for South Essex (targeting SME market with best growth potential).	Business case with aim of securing Growing Places Fund funding has been prepared submitted to SELEP.
	Develop and agree a new South Essex 'Innovation Concordat' with academic partners to agree a new approach for supporting innovation in the private sector.	Engagement with Higher Education Institutes has taken place. Options paper for the next steps now being developed (See report for item 6, paragraph 7)
Future Work	Convene a new 'Skills Leadership Group' for South Essex; bringing together public and private stakeholders to develop a single, clear and comprehensive skills interface aligned to existing programmes of work	Initial event held on 6/2/20 which has helped to shape the scope of this work. Working group to be established.
	Establish a new project to expand higher education research base across South Essex; linked to the proposed 'innovation concordat'	Engagement with Higher Education Institutes has taken place. Options paper for the next steps now being developed. Options for extending the Higher Education offer also being explored.

Programme	Activity	Progress
	Targeted activity to improve South Essex utilisation of apprenticeships and apprenticeship levy potential	Local Authorities are implementing their own approach, and proposals for working with private sector are under development
Data Transformation	Develop and publish a South Essex online 'Data Observatory' as a single source for economic and social data	Essex County Council are developing a single data resource
	Commence partner engagement programme (targeting: MNCs (google, FB), Large Companies, Local Authorities, Universities, etc.)	Exploration of how data generated in South Essex can be used as a raw material for new technology and service models to be undertaken

Financial Update

9. The current financial position of the Partnership is shown in the table below.

Income and expenditure	2019/20 actual / budget £	2020/21 budget £	2021/22 budget £
Programme Manager salary, including on costs (later years include allowances for indexation)	90,220	93,000	96,000
Car Allowance	1,239	1,239	1,239
Expenses (spent to date)	2,803	0	0
Expenses (unspent balance)	697	3,500	3,500
Supplies and services (spent to date)	1,579	0	0
Supplies and services (unspent balance)	421	2,000	2,000
Premises and establishment	7,200	7,400	7,600
Sub-total expenditure before projects	104,159	107,139	110,339
Projects:			
• Kent County Council - Cultural development fund bid writing			
• Kent County Council - Thames Estuary production corridor consultant			
• South Essex Investment Fund - scoping work	1,300		
Total expenditure	105,459	107,139	110,339
Total subscription income	(97,500)	(97,500)	(97,500)
Net expenditure / (income) for the year	7,959	9,639	12,839
Opening partnership balance 1 April	(53,798)	(41,281)	(31,642)
Net expenditure / (income) for the year	7,959	9,639	12,839
Planned future projects:			
• South Essex Investment Fund - Business Case Contribution	4,558		
Closing partnership balance 31 March	(41,281)	(31,642)	(18,803)

Item	6
Subject	Programme Monitoring
Date	4 th March 2020
Author	Ian Lewis, Executive Director

Report Summary

This report provides an update on the current position of the Local Growth Fund supported Capital Programme. The Board are asked to

- Note the report
- Confirm the Board's view of the prioritisation of Growing Places Fund projects (See Paragraph 9)

Introduction

1. There are 24 projects that are supported by Local Growth Fund (LGF) in South Essex. Six projects have been completed, which leaves 18 active projects. Appendix A includes a summary of all projects, including current status, funding and key events for each project between now and the next OSE Board. With recent funding awards to new projects, the total LGF allocation by SELEP to South Essex projects is £199.09m, supported by match funding of a further £216m.
2. Two projects (A130 Fairglen and A13 Widening) projects are identified as being a 'Retained Scheme'. This means that scheme funding will be held by the Department for Transport (DfT), and approvals to the scheme Business Case will be through the DfT rather than through SELEP Accountability Board.
3. The RAG status reflects the current level of risk with each project. This means that:
 - Green – project running to programme and all identified risks have appropriate mitigation in place
 - Amber – funding not fully secured, or there is a risk, delay or funding issue that has occurred but can be resolved
 - Red – significant cost or delay issues have occurred that cannot be resolved within the project

Project Status

4. Of the 18 active projects, 11 are rated Green and 7 are amber. The reasons for these amber ratings are summarised below. The Board should note that the convention we have adopted would be to classify a project as amber until its business case has been signed off by the SELEP Accountability Board.

Project (Lead Authority)	Reason for Amber Status	Mitigation
Innovation Warehouse (Basildon, ECC)	Project may not be deliverable in original location due to internet connectivity issues. Alternative locations being sought	Potential Alternative location has been found, but business case will need revision. Update to 15 th May Accountability Board to confirm if project will be ready to be considered at 3 rd July Meeting. If not, funding will be reallocated to another SELEP project.
A130 Fairglen (A130 to A127 East Link) Essex)	Business case not yet signed off by DfT/SELEP.	Business case submission to DfT in Q2 2020. Anticipated start on site Autumn 2020.
A130 Fairglen Interchange (Retained Scheme) (Essex)	Process for business case sign off yet to be confirmed by DfT. Scheme development is continuing.	Business case submission to DfT in Q2 2020. Anticipated start on site Autumn 2020.
Tilbury Riverside Business centre	Planning permission to be re-sought for development	Planning decision expected in March 2020. Contractor procurement underway
London Gateway / Stanford Le Hope (Thurrock)	Contractors target price submission exceeds the available budget.	Programme review underway. Redesign continues, with works resuming winter 2019/20
A13 Widening	Issues have arisen during delivery that have led to concerns about meeting budget envelope and programme timeframe.	Mitigation measures outlined in report to SELEP strategic Board on 4 th October 2019 are being implemented.
Purfleet Centre (Thurrock)	Costs have been re-profiled due to ongoing property acquisition negotiations.	Land acquisitions underway, but timing dependent on agreement with vendors. All SELEP funding expected to be spent in FY 2019/20. Awaiting announcement of Housing Infrastructure Fund allocations in March 2020. First reserved matters planning permission secured January 2020. Start on site for preparatory works expected in Spring 2020.

Future Business Case Submissions

5. The table below lists the projects and the Accountability Board meeting at which business cases will be presented:

Accountability Board Meeting	Business Cases to be submitted	Description and SELEP Ask
15 th May 2020	Innovation Warehouse (Basildon, ECC)	Project update to confirm that business case will be submitted to enable Accountability Board to consider at 3 rd July meeting.

6. Once the Accountability Board has signed off the business case, the financial profile within the business case will become the baseline for financial reporting.

Growing Places Fund

7. SELEP opened a call for projects in October 2019 for projects seeking loan funding from the Growing Places Fund. Three projects came forward from South Essex which are described in the table below. The projects are listed in priority order as agreed at the OSE Board meeting in November 2019.

Project	Promoter	Description
Leigh on Sea Cockle Wharf	Southend Council	Project will improve access to the Cockle Wharf from the High street, resurface the wall area and strengthen sea walls/retaining walls. Project is essential to enable the continued landing and processing of fish, and to also enable businesses which are actively seeking to grow to have the facilities to expand. This growth will not be realised without this project. £7m project, seeking £3.5m from GPF
No Use Empty South Essex	South Essex Project	Project will return long term empty commercial properties back into use for residential, other commercial and other mixed use purposes. It will focus on town centres, secondary retail and other commercial areas that have been impacted by changes in the economy. £2.65m project seeking £1m from GPF.
South Essex Productivity Investment Fund	South Essex Project	A new finance facility targeted at South Essex SMEs to help fund investment in new technology/equipment to increase productivity. Project will provide loans between £50-£250k, requiring 50% match. £6.254m project, seeking £3m from GPF

8. The SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) has reviewed all of the business cases that have been submitted in response to the call for projects. The Board need to note that the total value of the submissions is 2.5 times the funding that is available. In reviewing the submissions, the ITE is likely to come up with a different priority order to that identified by the OSE Board. Due to the timing of the OSE Board meeting, and that work is still underway on the assessment of business cases, the ITE's assessment of priority order will be tabled at the meeting. The Board will be asked for their views of this assessment.
9. The next steps will be for all of the projects submitted to SELEP from across the whole South East to be considered by the SELEP Investment Panel (a subgroup of the SELEP Board). This will be taking place on the 17th April. The Investment Panel will be asked to agree which projects will be supported and be asked to come forward with a Full Business Case to secure funding.

Item	8
Subject	Association of South Essex Local Authorities Update
Date	4 th March 2020
Author	Ian Lewis, Executive Director

Report Summary

The Board will receive an update presentation in relation to the work of ASELA

Introduction

1. The Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) was launched in January 2018. Seven Local Authorities (Brentwood; Basildon; Castle Point; Essex CC; Rochford; Southend and Thurrock Councils) signed a Memorandum of Understanding based on collaborating around three key points:
 - Providing the place leadership to promote and sell the South Essex proposition
 - Tackling problems that can't be solved individually
 - Creating collective scale and impact
2. The work of ASELA is focussed on a shared ambition to deliver transformational change in the prosperity and quality of life in South Essex. This is being taken forward under the principle that ASELA partners are stronger if they work together to achieve the step change in growth across South Essex. The vision for South Essex is:

South Essex: *the* place to live, *the* place to visit, and *the* place for business to thrive
3. To take this forward, the work programme is currently structured around 4 themes:
 - Place – spatial planning, housing delivery, place promotion
 - Connectivity – connecting people to opportunity, infrastructure, transport
 - Productivity – economic growth (See Agenda Item 9)
 - Investment – creating a compelling investment proposition for South Essex
4. The South Essex business community will have a pivotal role to play in realising the vision. The purpose of the item will be to explore how the business community can both inform and shape the work going forward, as well as the role they could have in bringing the vision for South Essex to life.

Item	9
Subject	Consultation Responses
Date	4 th March 2020
Author	Ian Lewis, Executive Director

Report Summary

The report highlights two active consultations which will have significant economic and growth implications for South Essex:

- Lower Thames Crossing
- Freeports

The Board are asked to:

- Confirm that a response will be made to these consultations;
- If so, discuss points to be made in response to the consultations; and,
- Agree to finalise the response electronically following the Board Meeting

Introduction

1. There are two active consultations underway which will have potentially significant implications for South Essex. The first one is consultation on a range of changes to the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) project, and the second is seeking stakeholder views on the freeport concept which will go on to shape future policy.

Lower Thames Crossing

2. Major consultation took place on this project during 2018. Responses to this, plus further project development has led to a number of changes to the project. It is these changes that are the subject to consultation. The consultation materials can be found at: <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation-2020/>
3. The main changes to the project, in South Essex, are (numbering refers to plan overleaf):
 - Removal of the Tilbury interchange and the associated motorway service area (3 & 4)
 - Changes to the alignment with the aim of reducing intrusion (5, 6, 8)
 - Reduction of the southbound carriageway from 3 to 2 lanes between the M25 and A13 (7)



4. There are also a number of concerns raised at the last major consultation exercise that have not been addressed. These primarily focus on the Lower Thames Crossing/A13 interchange where a number of movements are still not possible:
- Southbound on the LTC Link into Tilbury Port – requires vehicles to travel to A1014 Manor Way junction to execute a u-turn; this in turn blocks up the Manor Way junction and access to London Gateway and Thames Enterprise Park.
 - No access to Tilbury Port from the LTC
 - No west facing slip roads to/from the A13
 - No link from A128 to LTC

5. OSE Board should consider the role of the project in supporting the growth and prosperity of the South Essex economy, and the implications from the missing links highlighted above especially in benefits that could go unrealised.
6. The closing date for the consultation is 25th March 2020.

Freeports

7. The Government has announced a consultation on the establishment of freeports within the UK. The consultation can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/freeports-consultation>
8. At this stage, the Government are consulting on the policy surrounding freeports and how they will operate. It will be later in the year that they will open a process for locations wishing to secure Freeport status will be invited to submit their proposals. Indications are currently that the Government are seeking to identify 10 locations.
9. The government wants to establish freeports, which have different customs rules than the rest of the country, that are innovative hubs, boost global trade, attract inward investment and increase productivity. In doing so, the government wants freeports to generate employment opportunities to the benefit of some of our most deprived communities around the UK. The government has the following objectives for UK freeports:
 - establish freeports as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK
 - promote regeneration and job creation
 - create hotbeds for innovation
10. The government has drawn on evidence from successful freeports around the world to develop a UK freeport model. The proposed model includes tariff flexibility, customs facilitations and tax measures. We are also considering planning reforms, additional targeted funding for infrastructure improvements and measures to incentivise innovation.
11. For South Essex, there are a number of aspects we may wish to respond to:
 - Views on the Freeport concept and potential implications, limitations and opportunities
 - The link between Freeports and the role in supporting regeneration of deprived communities
 - How we can use Freeport status to help drive innovation and enhance the skills of our workforce
 - Explore the potential for multiple sites – both in and outside ports – to form part of a single Freeport proposal

Item	10
Subject	South East Local Enterprise Partnership Update
Date	4 th March 2020
Author	Amy Ferraro, SELEP

Report Summary

The Board are asked to note the report

Introduction

1. This is a short note to provide an update on key areas of recent activity for the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Local Industrial Strategy

2. The SELEP team have continued to develop the Local Industrial Strategy at pace, despite some delays to the Government timescales, and were pleased to share a full working draft of the document with the SELEP Strategic Board at the end of January.
3. The Board discussed the developing draft, and were very supportive of the progress, noting the important role of this strategy in articulating the significant economic impact that we can achieve through growth in the SELEP area and the ongoing need for Government investment. Work is continuing on:
 - strengthening the economic narrative on the value and distinctive strengths of the SELEP economy as well as legacy deficits, for example around skills, infrastructure and coastal areas;
 - continuing to develop our focus on addressing the climate change emergency and embedding clean growth principles;
 - ongoing development of clear and tangible actions and outcomes to underpin the priorities and ambition of the strategy;
 - strengthening the evidence base and accompanying logic chains, with work currently taking place to present more information on sectors and the supply and demand side of skills; and
 - pursuing conversations with Government departments, when we are able to do so, to test the appetite for supporting our ambitions.
4. We are currently reviewing feedback on SELEP's evidence base and logic chains which were reviewed by the Government LIS Analytical panel on the 11th February. BEIS remains keen that LEPs continue to develop and maintain a robust evidence base to inform their LIS; and Government feedback to date has been very positive about the quality of our evidence work.
5. We are still waiting for confirmation of LIS timescales from Government, but a progress update will be presented to the next SELEP Strategic Board meeting on 20th March.
6. The overall timeline for production of the Strategy and other resources relating to the LIS will continue to be updated on the SELEP website.

LEP Review

7. Over the Christmas 2019 period the final decisions were made by the Strategic Board on the governance documentation for the LEP Review. There are now decisions pending in partner organisations, but current timelines are such that SELEP Ltd will be registered on 28 February 2020 should all those approvals be gained.
8. Sarah Dance has been confirmed as the Deputy Chair of the Strategic Board and Chris Brodie has been confirmed as Chair for another 2 years.
9. Federated Boards have completed recruitment exercises and are in the process of confirming their Strategic Board members, who will be Directors of the South East LEP Ltd. We are on track to achieve the Government requirements around gender diversity, however further work will be needed on the diversity agenda as the target becomes even more stretching and requires 50% representation by 2023. The SELEP is also committed to considering diversity more generally.
10. All Directors will be supported through an induction process which will make clear the changes in the governance structures of the LEP and their revised roles and responsibilities.
11. A revised Assurance Framework has been constructed and approved by Strategic Board which will be adopted when the company is registered. Supporting guidance documents such as the Guide to Governance and Board Members' Handbook have also been created.

Annual Performance Review

12. The Annual Performance Review (APR) formal meeting was held on 27 January 2020. As in earlier years, the Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) has refined the process for the APR. LEPs will continue to be assessed on three categories of performance: Strategic Impact, Governance and Delivery.
13. The scoring for the three categories differs. Strategic Impact is rated as a binary met/not met requirements. The other two categories have the following possible ratings: inadequate, requires Improvement, good and exceptional
14. Provided that the LEP meets all the LEP Review requirements as previously agreed (including gender balance), we will be scored as "good" in both Governance and Delivery and as "met requirements" for Strategic Impact. We are expecting final marks at the end of March 2020.