

SE2050 ASELA Meeting: 29/07/2021 Time: 10.00am – 12.10

Present: Cllr C. Hossack (CH) (Chair)

Cllr I. Gilbert (IG), Cllr A Baggot (AB), Cllr A Sheldon (AS), *Cllr I Ward (IW), *Cllr L McKinlay (LM)

CEx: A. Hutchings (AH), J Stephenson (JS), L Carpenter (LC), A. Lewis (AS), C. Mills (CM), G Jones (GJ) and S Logan (SL).

Also present: R. Harris (RH) (Secretariat), M Whiteley (MW) (Programme Director) and S Bayliss (Implementation Director).

Apologies: Cllr S Wootton (sub: Cllr I Ward), Cllr K Bentley (sub: Cllr L McKinlay) and Cllr M Coxshall.

Minutes

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd June 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. Thames Freeport

Leaders received and considered a report providing an overview of the Thames Freeport programme.

Leaders discussed the report and noted that the Outline Business Case will be submitted to government by the 30th July 2021 deadline. Leaders also commented on the significant opportunities and benefits for businesses and residents of South Essex that will arise from a successful bid.

AGREED:

That the Thames Freeport programme highlight report, be noted.

3. Infrastructure and Housing

Leaders received and considered a report providing an overview of the accelerated housing delivery for South Essex programme.

Leaders discussed the report and commented that the Strategic Place Partnership Memorandum of Understanding should be further strengthened to set out clearly that the Partnership Board will not have any decision-making powers delegated to it and that the sovereignty of the constituent authorities will be retained.

Leaders also requested a list of all earmarked sites and an overview of the status of each constituent authority's Local Development Plan's.

AGREED:

That the Accelerated Housing Delivery for South Essex programme highlight report, be noted and that the list of earmarked sites and status of each authority's Local Development Plan, be provided to Leaders for information.

4. SEE PARK

Leaders received and considered a report providing an overview of the SEE Park programme.

Leaders discussed the report and commented on the significance of the SEE Park programme which would be a significant gamechanger for South Essex.

AGREED:

That the SEE PARK programme highlight report, be noted.

5. Superfast Digital

Leaders received and considered a report providing an overview of the Digital Infrastructure programme.

Leaders discussed the report and commented on the need for testimonials and case studies from businesses and residents on the positive impact that the digital infrastructure programme has had on improving their connectivity.

AGREED:

That the Digital Infrastructure programme highlight report, be noted.

6. Technical University

Leaders received and considered a report providing an overview of the South Essex Technical University programme.

AGREED:

That the South Essex Technical University programme highlight report, be noted.

7. Joint Committee – In practice

Leaders received and considered a report presenting options for a programme of meetings of the ASELA Joint Committee once established, alongside informal meetings of the Leaders and Chief Executives of the ASELA authorities, for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year and going forward.

Leader discussed the report and referred to the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements for a casting vote where there is an equality of votes and also drew attention to the process for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee. The Chief Executives' will review with the Monitoring Officers' and report back to Leaders in early September.

AGREED:

1. That the future meetings of the ASELA Joint Committee, once established (and associated informal 'pre-meetings in advance of each meeting of the Joint Committee) and arrangements for the meetings of the Joint Committee to be held during the remainder of the current municipal year, be agreed.

2. That the meetings of the Joint Committee be held on a rotational basis around the ASELA local authorities and be webcast.
3. That the agenda and minutes of the Joint Committee meetings, be published on the 'South Essex 2050' website.
4. That the Joint Committee Constitution, in relation to the casting vote, be reviewed.

8. Communications Update

Leaders received and considered a report providing an update on communication activity and outlined plans for the coming months.

Leaders discussed the report and commented that the Communications Plan should be reviewed at each meeting. Leaders also emphasised the role of MPs and suggested that a further meeting with the South Essex MPs and ASELA takes place in November/December 2021.

AGREED:

That the report on communication activity, be noted and that the more detailed Communication Plan be provided in September for review.

9. Thames Estuary Growth Board September Visit

Leaders discussed the arrangements for the visit from the Thames Estuary Growth Board in September which will be hosted by the ASELA at the Cliffs Pavilion in Southend-on-Sea.

Leaders noted that the logistics for the visit are being looked at, including the potential sites/locations to visit (i.e. Port Tilbury and Ford's in Basildon). The visit will provide significant opportunities for networking and further promoting the work of ASELA.

AGREED:

That the Thames Estuary Growth Board visit in September, be noted.

10. Any other business

Trams in South Essex – Leaders noted that there was some local news reports concerning the potential introduction of electric trams in South Essex and it is unclear where these reports have originated from.

11. Future meeting dates

To be advised (as per item 7 above).