

SE2050 ASELA Meeting: 03/06/2021 Time: 3.00pm-5.10pm

**Present: Cllr R. Gledhill (RG), Cllr C. Hossack (CH),
Cllr S. Wootton (SW), Cllr I. Gilbert (IG), Cllr A Baggot (AB), Cllr A Sheldon (AS)**

**CEx: A. Hutchings (AH), J Stephenson (JS), L Carpenter (LC), A. Griffin (AG),
M. Skeat (MS) and C. Mills (CM).**

**Also present: R. Harris (RH) (Secretariat) and M Whiteley (MW) (Programme
Director)**

Apologies: S Logan (SL)

Minutes

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Councillor Gledhill advised that he would be stepping down as Chair. Leaders thanked Councillor Gledhill for his dedication and commitment to ASELA.

AGREED:

1. Councillor Hossack be appointed as Chair of the ASELA.
2. Councillor Wootton be appointed Vice-Chair of the ASELA.

2. Minutes held 18th March 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. ASELA Programmes – Updates on Progress

Leaders received and considered a report providing an update on progress made in the last quarter on the delivery of the strategic programmes and demonstrating how these programmes were evolving.

Leaders discussed the report and commented positively on the significant advancement that has been achieved and particularly in relation to the five anchor programmes. The focus on a balanced portfolio of strategic place shaping programmes was welcomed. Leaders commented that it highlighted the need for further promotion and communication of the work of ASELA.

AGREED:

1. That the focus on the five strategic programmes outlined in Section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That the substantial progress being made in the delivery of these programmes, be noted.

3. That the significance of a Joint Committee to oversee the work programme, subject to a detailed briefing paper being provided to the new ASELA Leaders, be agreed.
4. That the strengthening position with Government, be noted.
5. That the evolving role of business as a collaborative partner in the delivery of the programmes, be noted.

4. Joint Committee – Next Steps

Leaders discussed the next steps towards the formation of a Joint Committee.

Leaders recognised that each constituent authority is taking the proposal for a Joint Committee through their decision-making processes and within their individual timescales.

It was reiterated that the Joint Committee would not take any powers from the constituent authorities and will provide clear accountability and transparency. Leaders expressed their collective support for a Joint Committee. Cllr Sheldon noted that Castle Point BC would need more time to consider the implications.

AGREED:

1. That the next steps towards establishing a Joint Committee by end of July 2021, be noted and the final report on the formation of a Joint Committee be circulated to Leaders, as soon as it is available.
2. That an updated 'Moving to a Joint Committee' report on the formation of a Joint Committee be sent to ASELA Leaders (including ECC Leader).
3. That the proposals for a Joint Committee continue to progress through the constituent authorities' democratic processes by end of July 2021, recognising that Basildon BC and CastlePoint BC may not achieve the timescale.

5 Programme Leadership, Capacity and Resources

Leaders received and considered a report bringing together the plans and expenditure proposals for the programme as a whole and the anchor programmes for the financial year 2021/22, building on the positions set out in the previous paper.

Leaders discussed the report and noted that a medium-term financial plan will be provided to the ASELA in the autumn. Leaders also noted that once established as a Joint Committee it will meet quarterly and will receive a detailed finance report at each meeting.

AGREED:

1. That the overall position, the substantial investments being secured from Government and the Private Sector, be noted.
2. That the deployment of ASELA funds, be noted.

3. That it be noted that the new Castle Point Chief Executive will continue to lead on ASELA finance, and that Castle Point will act as ASELA Treasurer.
4. That it be noted that a further paper updating Leaders on the position and the intention to bring forward a Medium-Term financial strategy in the Autumn.

8. Communications

Leaders received and considered a draft South Essex Growth Programme e-newsletter aimed at MPs and Councillors.

Leaders also broadly discussed the approach to communications and engagement with MPs, Councillors, the public, etc. Leaders commented that a wide range of communications channels need to be used to promote ASELA (e.g. social media, roadshows, etc). Leaders noted that a communications plan would be produced going forward for review at each meeting.

AGREED:

1. That the South Essex Growth Programme /ASELA update e-newsletter, subject to minor changes, be endorsed and sent to MPs and Councillors.
2. That a communications and engagement plan be presented to Leaders for consideration at future meetings.

9. Thanks, and Appreciation – A. Griffin

Leaders noted that this was Alison Griffin's last meeting and placed on record their thanks and appreciation and wished her every success for the future.

10. Date and time of future meetings

*T.b.a. for end July 2021.