

**SE2050 ASELA Meeting: 24/07/20 Time: 10:00/12:35**

**Present: Cllr R. Gledhill (RG) – Chair**

**Cllr C. Hossack (CH) – Vice-Chair**

**Cllr S. Wootton (SW), Cllr N. Smith (NS), Cllr I. Gilbert (IG), Cllr G. Callaghan (GC)**

**CEx: S. Logan (SL), A. Griffin (AG), S. Scrutton (SS), L. Carpenter (LC), J Stephenson, D. Marchant (DM).**

**Also present: R. Harris (RH) (Secretariat) and M. Whiteley (MW) (programme lead)**

## **Minutes**

### **1. ASELA Leaders Feedback**

The Chair provided a brief overview of their discussions and agreed that the agenda and minutes of the ASELA should be placed in the public domain going forward for openness and transparency.

However, it was emphasised that the meeting would remain private and not open to the public. Confidential items will be treated in accordance with common practices already adopted by Local Authorities in the publication of minutes.

The agenda and minutes will be included on the ASELA website. It was noted that the website was continuing to be developed and would be fully launched towards end of August.

AGREED:

1. That the agenda and minutes of the ASELA be included on the ASELA website going forward.

### **2. ASELA Growth and Recovery Prospectus**

Leaders received and considered the latest iteration of the Growth and Recovery Prospectus for Government.

Leaders noted that further work had been carried on the Prospectus to fill out the gaps, make some minor corrections and ensure that all the numbers reconcile throughout the document. The feedback and comments from Homes England and Thames Estuary have also been reflected in the Prospectus. The 'final' version would be circulated to Leaders/CEx following this meeting.

Leaders discussed the process and next steps to take the Prospectus forward for submission to Government. The following key points and observations were made:

- Cllr Wootton would be taking to his group on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for discussion and decision; (Cllr Gledhill, ASELA Chair, will be attending to support and make the case for submission to Government);
- The decision of SBC Cabinet was referred to Full Council taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020;
- The letter from the MHCLG was expected shortly which will provide a steer in terms of the ask of Government (what is ruled out/ruled in);

- Emphasised that South Essex as an area makes economic and cultural sense;
- The covering letter to the Prospectus will need some revisions and tweaks;
- Reiterated that the Full Prospectus remained a confidential document as advised by the MHCLG;
- Advised that there was more work to do around the economic piece under Phase 3 (i.e. development of tangible qualitative outcomes, development of priority actions and evidence good practice) - this will come back to Leaders at the appropriate time.

**AGREED/ACTION:**

1. That any comments and further amendments on the Prospectus be sent to Martin Whiteley by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and a voluntary 'drop-in' session be arranged for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for any further feedback and questions.
2. That, subject to the decisions of RDC and SBC, the ASELA Growth and Recovery Prospectus, be submitted to Government by mid-day on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020.
3. That the Chair, Vice-Chair in consultation with AG and MW make any final revisions to the covering letter for the Prospectus.

**3. Communications**

Leaders discussed the need to step up the communications around ASELA and create an ASELA 'linked-in' page as soon as possible as there is no vehicle currently to be able to respond to the media, etc.

The 'linked-in' page (coupled with the ASELA website) would be helpful to correct misinformation that has been presented in the media, both nationally and locally and promote/raise awareness of the positive and good work that has already taken place by ASELA.

**4. Date and time of next meeting**

To be advised.