

19th June 2018

Policy Projects and Resources Committee

ASELA (2050) Update

Report of: *Philip Ruck – Chief Executive*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *This report is public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the PPR committee on the status of the work undertaken by Leaders and Chief Executives of South Essex Councils, now known as the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA).
- 1.2 South Essex Councils are defined as Brentwood, Basildon, Thurrock, Southend, Rochford, Castle Point and Essex CC

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the committee recommends to Ordinary Council, that the Statement of Common Ground (SCG), and attached as Appendix A, prepared by ASELA be approved as a guide to the preparation of a Joint Strategic Plan.

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Since the last written report to the PPR committee, 6th February 2018, work has continued, as ASELA have agreed to explore a common approach to supporting the development of growth, housing and key infrastructure over the next 20 years, in the South Essex area.
- 3.2 As part of the Council's production of a Local Development Plan, it will need to demonstrate a "duty to co-operate" with surrounding neighbouring authorities. The JSP will facilitate a co-ordinated approach to strategic growth in the South Essex area, enabling new development, whilst maximising economic opportunities for the region and will be aligned to improvements in infrastructure

- 3.3 To support this aim, ASELA has drafted a 'Statement of Common Ground' (SCG). This sets out the next steps and is an important part in focusing economic growth across the region.
- 3.4 The SCG, along with preparing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for south Essex, would assist future plans for development to ensure new transport links, health and social infrastructure, business and skill opportunities are all included and will ensure that the 90,000 homes that have been identified as being needed across south Essex over the next twenty years are built.
- 3.5 The JSP, if agreed, will provide much valued input to the review of the Council's LDP once it has been adopted
- 3.6 Members are reminded that the Leaders and Chief Executives of ASELA have agreed on eight industrial and infrastructure strategic priorities for the area;

1. *Place leadership, proposition and brand*
2. *Opening up spaces for development (green infrastructure, housing and commercial)*
3. *Transforming transport connectivity*
4. *Supporting our seven sectors of industrial opportunity:*
 - *Advanced manufacturing*
 - *Construction*
 - *Environmental technologies and energy*
 - *Digital and creative services*
 - *Finance and business services*
 - *Life sciences and healthcare*
 - *Transport and logistics*
5. *Shaping local labour and skills markets*
6. *Creating a fully digitally-enabled place*
7. *Securing a sustainable energy supply*
8. *Enhancing health and social care through co-ordinated planning.*

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The co-operation in South Essex and determination to succeed for the prosperity of the whole of the South Essex area requires this activity and there are no real delivery vehicles other than ASELA that can achieve this with acceptable timeframes.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 In order to fulfil the obligation of the Duty to Co-operate as required for the Brentwood LDP to be accepted, and to promote and deliver much needed infrastructure and economic growth, Brentwood must engage with the surrounding boroughs.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The Council is committed to make Brentwood a Borough where people feel safe, healthy and supported.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 Financial implications are currently being determined for the collaboration. The Council has sufficient reserves to fund any financial costs that may arise and will be reported back to Committee appropriately.

Legal Implications

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- 8.2 The Localism Act 2011 places a legal duty on local planning authorities and other defined bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross-boundary matters. It is not a duty to agree but local planning authorities must make every effort to secure the

necessary cooperation before they submit their Local Plan for examination. The cooperation should produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary issues.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 There are no other implications to this report

9. Background Papers
none

10. Appendices to this report
Appendix A – Statement of Common Ground

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