

27th June 2018

Ordinary Council

ASELA (2050) Update

Report of: Philip Ruck – Chief Executive

Wards Affected: All

This report is: This report is public

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the Policy, Projects and Resource Committee held on 19 June it was approved:-

“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”.

- 1.2 The purpose of the report was 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 Statement of Common Ground (SCG) attached as Appendix A, prepared by ASELA, be approved by Full Council 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, 6 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 Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) will facilitate a co-ordinated approach to strategic growth in the South Essex area, enabling new development, whilst maximising economic opportunities for the sub-region. Importantly, it will be aligned to improvements in infrastructure across the sub-region.
- 3.3 To support this aim, ASELA has drafted a 'Statement of Common Ground' (SCG). The SCG sets out the principles of joint working and next steps, including work to progress the South Essex JSP. The JSP will assist future plans for development at a strategic level across the wider sub-region to ensure new transport links, health and social infrastructure, business and skills opportunities are all included. Working together at this sub-regional level will help provide this necessary supporting infrastructure alongside delivery of the 90,000 homes required across South Essex over the next twenty years.
- 3.4 The JSP, if agreed, will provide much valued input to the review of the Brentwood Local Development Plan once it has been adopted.
- 3.5 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:*
 - a) *Advanced manufacturing*
 - b) *Construction*
 - c) *Environmental technologies and energy*
 - d) *Digital and creative services*
 - e) *Finance and business services*
 - f) *Life sciences and healthcare*
 - g) *Transport and logistics*
 5. *Shaping local labour and skills markets;*
 6. *Creating a fully digitally-enabled place;*
 7. *Securing a sustainable energy supply; and*
 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 area requires approval of certain documents over time, such as the SCG. There are no delivery vehicles other than ASELA that can achieve this within acceptable timeframes.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To fulfil the obligation of the Duty to Co-operate as required for the Brentwood Local Development Plan to be accepted, and to promote and deliver much needed infrastructure and economic growth, Brentwood must engage with the surrounding authorities.
- 5.2 Each ASELA partner local authority is presenting the SCG to their respective decision-making committees for approval. Individual approval of the document will assist ASELA to continue progress on joint working for Planning Policy documents (both at a local and sub regional level).

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. The Local Development Plan is a key priority in the Council's 'Vision for Brentwood' Corporate Plan 2016-2019. Work with ASELA on South Essex sub-regional projects will help to inform and support the Local Development Plan and the delivery of several other corporate priorities.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Jacqueline Vanmellaerts, Interim Chief Financial Officer and S151 Officer

Tel/Email: 01277 312829 / jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk

- 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

Name/Title: Daniel Toohey, Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services

Tel/Email: 01277 312860/daniel.toohey@brentwood.gov.uk

- 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

- 9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

Appendix A – Statement of Common Ground

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Philip Ruck, Chief Executive
Telephone: 01277 312648
E-mail: philip.ruck@brentwood.gov.uk