

RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION



Title of Item: South Essex Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Accountable Body Transitional Arrangements

Decision Maker: Cllr Daniel Cowan, Leader of the Council

Key Decision Yes

Name & Job Title of Officer Requesting Decision:

Alan Richards, Executive Director for Environment & Place

Decision:

That approval is given:

1. to engage with all parties necessary to agree a suitable Transition Agreement. Terms of the Transition Agreement to include: allowing the closure of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), outlining arrangements for on-going reporting in respect of the Government funded capital programmes which are re-aligned to reflect the new incoming Accountable Body arrangements, providing the continuation of requirements to ensure project delivery and transfer of the residual SELEP revenue and capital funding which will be released to each SELEP partner from ECC as the SELEP Accountable Body, releasing Essex County Council from its Accountable Body role of SELEP, and specifying governance arrangements for incoming Accountable Bodies for each functional economic area, incorporating the Integration Plans submitted to Government; and
2. to delegate negotiation of the precise terms of the Transition Agreement to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources, along with the authority to sign the final Transition Agreement.

Reasons for Decision:

The Strategic Board of SELEP has decided that it would work towards full integration of all LEP functions into alternative upper tier local authorities for each Functional Economic Area. This decision was taken in the context of Government confirming its removal of funding and sponsorship for LEPs in their current form and directing how LEPs should operate in future. It is therefore necessary for a Transition Agreement to be completed to allow the closure of the SELEP, the transfer of responsibilities for legacy SELEP projects to the upper tier authorities within which they are geographically located and the release of ECC from its Accountable Body role for SELEP.

Alternative Options Rejected:

In the context of the removal of Government funding and sponsorship for LEPs in their current form, the direction from Government on how LEPs should operate in future, the decision of the Strategic Board of SELEP to work towards the full integration of all LEP functions into alternative upper tier local authorities for Functional Economic Areas and the constrained resources within which local

government is currently operating, it is not considered that there are any other realistic alternative options available to Southend.

Declarations/Conflict of Interest:

Decision Taken by Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Corporate Strategy

Councillor: Cllr Daniel Cowan - Leader

Signed: Councillor Cowan (via email)

Date: Wed 15/01/25 15:42