

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Chief Executive

To

Cabinet

On

22 July 2020

Report prepared by Alison Griffin

Report from the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gilbert

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

In early 2018, the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together with other local authorities in South Essex through a partnership collectively known as the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)

The purpose of this report is to present an update report from ASELA which is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Recommendation

2.1. To note the update report from the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) at Appendix 1

3. Background

3.1 As referred to above, the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding in early 2018 to work together with other local authorities in South Essex through a partnership collectively known as the Association of South Essex Local Authorities ("ASELA")

The work of ASELA has been overseen by ongoing governance that has included monthly meetings of the Leaders and Chief Executives of the Partner Authorities.

Attached at **Appendix 1** is an update report from ASELA with 3 Enclosures.

3.2 The update report recommends that the Partner Authorities:

1. Note ASELA's intention to immediately engage with Central Government ahead of the autumn Spending Review, regarding the economic agenda for the South Essex region, how it can deliver new jobs, new transport infrastructure, new homes, and the future governance arrangements to deliver better outcomes for its existing, and new, residents and businesses as set out in the 'Growth and Recovery Prospectus 2020' at Enclosure No. 2;
2. Note the work commenced by ASELA to begin to consider and explore the most appropriate and effective future governance arrangements to realise South Essex's full economic and social potential and shared ambitions as set out in the independent Review of Governance in South Essex at Enclosure No. 3. This report does not seek approval or endorsement of any specific governance proposals; and
3. Note that a further report will be presented later in the calendar year to provide an update on the outcome of the discussions with Central Government and any proposals for more formal interim governance arrangements for ASELA to ensure transparency and accountability.

4. Other Options

The Cabinet is only being asked to note the update report. It is not being asked to discharge any of the authority's functions.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

To provide an update on progress.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Southend 2050 Road Map

The update report from ASELA refers to the economic agenda for the South Essex region, how it can deliver new jobs, new transport infrastructure, new homes, and the future governance arrangements to deliver better outcomes for its existing, and new, residents and businesses.

These all contribute in a significant way to various aspects of the Southend 2050 Road Map, particularly the objectives in Opportunity & Prosperity and Connected & Smart.

6.2 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.3 Legal Implications

The update report and Enclosures at **Appendix 1** deal with legal issues.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

Internal to Partner Authorities.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Risk issues are covered in **Appendix 1** and the Enclosures thereto.

6.9 Value for Money

N/A

6.10 Community Safety Implications

N/A

6.11 Environmental Impact

N/A

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1- Update report from the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), with 3 Enclosures:

- Enclosure No. 1 – ASELA Memorandum of Understanding
- Enclosure No. 2 – South Essex Growth and Recovery Prospectus 2020.
- Enclosure No. 3 – Review of Governance in South Essex

