

# Public Document Pack

## SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Meeting of ASELA & Local Government Reform Working Party

**Date: Monday, 7th June, 2021**

**Place: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Councillor I Gilbert (Chairman)  
Councillors J Courtenay\*, D Cowan, M Davidson, D McGlone,  
A Moring, C Mulroney and I Shead

\*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

**In Attendance:** S Brown, S Dolling, G Halksworth, T MacGregor, M Sheppard,  
S Tautz and J Williams

**Start/End Time:** 6.00 pm - 6.20 pm

#### **1 Apologies for Absence & Substitutions**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor T Cox (substitute Councillor J Courtenay).

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made by members of the Working Party.

#### **3 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held on 11 February 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

#### **4 Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) - Anchor Programmes**

The Leader of the Council advised the Working Party of progress with regard to the delivery of each of the anchor programmes within the ASELA Growth and Recovery Prospectus agreed in July 2020 and the current position with regard to the achievement of specific objectives for each programme, on which ASELA was enhancing its focus during 2021.

Resolved:

That progress against the anchor programmes and the current position with regard to the objectives within each programme, be noted.

#### **5 Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) - Governance Arrangements**

The Working Party considered a draft report to be made to the next meeting of the Cabinet, with regard to the adoption of appropriate governance arrangements for ASELA, to provide transparency and accountability around its strategic and policy direction and the delivery of the programmes within the Growth and Recovery Prospectus.

The Leader of the Council advised the Working Party that the joint committee arrangement favoured by the leaders of the ASELA councils was a common feature amongst local authorities to provide transparent and accountable means to the achievement of combined objectives, whilst also maintaining the individual sovereignty of each authority.

The Leader of the Council reminded the Working Party that the establishment of a joint committee would not result in the transfer of any powers currently held by the Council, but that such joint arrangement would support ASELA in the management of government and private sector investment and in demonstrating its status as an effective partner in the delivery of the transformation programme. At the request of the Working Party, the Leader undertook to seek consideration by ASELA of the inclusion of an appropriate provision for the maximum continuous tenure of the position of Chair of the proposed joint committee by any of the constituent authorities, within the constitution of the joint committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That the current position with regard to the development of appropriate governance arrangements for ASELA, be noted.
- (2) That the recommendations to be made to the next meeting of the Cabinet with regard to the adoption of appropriate governance arrangements for ASELA and the proposed membership of the Council in a joint committee arrangement, be supported by the Working Party.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_