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Meeting of Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) - Joint Committee

Date: Wednesday, 6th December, 2023

Place: Brentwood Council Chamber, Brentwood Council, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AY

Present: Councillor A Jefferies (Chair – Thurrock BC)
Councillor A Baggott (Vice-Chair – Basildon BC)
Councillor B Aspinall – Brentwood BC
*Councillor T Ball – Essex CC
Councillor D Blackwell – Castle Point BC
Councillors

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: L Aelberry, R. Gilbert, E Helm, A Hutchings, S Logan, J Stephenson, K Thomas, T Walker, K Waters and S Cox

Start/End Time: 10.00 am - 10.33 am

16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Bentley (substitute: Councillor T Ball), Councillor T Cox, Councillor J Lamb, Councillor J Mason, Councillor J Newport and Councillor L McKinlay.

Apologies were also received from G Jones and D Smith.

17 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

18 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2023

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Thursday 28th September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

19 South Essex Councils: The Next Chapter Specification and Next Steps

The Joint Committee considered a report which provided an update on the proposals for the 'next chapter work' and the the draft Specification of Requirements for commissioning expert support to build and implement a mid-term (2025+) South Essex Economic Growth Action Plan.

Resolved:

1. That the outline Specification of Requirements for commissioning expert support to develop and implement the South Essex Economic Growth Action Plan, be approved.
2. That the Vice-Chair of South Essex Councils (SEC) be involved in the consultancy commissioning and selection process.

20 South Essex Councils: Partnership Narrative

The Joint Committee considered a report which set out the communications narrative for the partnership.

Resolved:

1. That the final version of the narrative for use by the partnership, following amends made to the draft after the informal JC meeting, be approved.
2. That it be noted the plan to develop a communications strategy once work to consolidate the partnership's workstreams is agreed, with a view to present a draft for approval at the next Joint Committee in February.

21 Shared Services Verbal Update

The Joint Committee received an update on shared services and agreed for a report to be referred back in the New Year for consideration and further discussion.

Officers and Leaders were requested to identify which services could potentially be shared or coproduced going forward, ahead of the next meeting scheduled for January 2024, and that previous workshop responses should feed into this.

Resolved:

1. That a report on shared services be referred to the Joint Committee in the New Year.

22 Finance Update Report

The Joint Committee considered a report summarising the 2023/24 forecast financial position for the various programmes within SEC.

The Chair requested an update on the various projects at the next meeting.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.