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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of South Essex Councils Joint Committee

Date: Tuesday, 3rd December, 2024

Place: Brentwood Town Hall, Ingrave Rd, Brentwood, CM15 8AY

Present: Councillors Aspinall, Newport, Callaghan, McKinlay, Kent, D Blackwell and D Cowan

In Attendance: C Ansell, A Hutchings, J Stephenson, R Harris and E Helm

Start/End Time: 10.00 am - 10.30 am

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

3 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Callaghan be appointed Chair for 2024/25.
2. That Councillor Newport be appointed Vice-Chair for 2024/25.

4 Resourcing South Essex Councils (SEC)

The Joint Committee considered a report setting out a proposal for the provision of dedicated resource for the Joint Committee and also presented the work undertaken by Inner Circle and Metro Dynamics.

On consideration of the matter the Joint Committee noted that the government would shortly publish its White Paper on devolution which may have implications for the resourcing of the SEC.

Resolved:

1. That, in principle, the proposed approach for the next phase of SECs development, be endorsed, subject to further consideration of the implications of the Governments Devolution White Paper and that following consideration of the white paper the decision to approve the approach set out in the report be delegated to the Chair/Vice-Chair in consultation with other Leaders.

2. That the following matters be deferred:

(a) Note the findings of the South Essex Growth Action Plan and its benefits in guiding and informing the Joint Committee's future activity.

(b) Approve the recruitment to a Programme Director to provide dedicated resource and support for the SEC Joint Committee in accordance with the principles and approach set out in the report.

(c) Recruit an interim resource to provide immediate capacity whilst recruitment of a new Programme Director takes place.

5 South Essex Councils Finance Report

The Joint Committee considered the finance report summarising the latest forecast financial position for the various programmes within the SEC.

Resolved:

That the finance report be noted.

6 Date and time of future meetings

A meeting of the Joint Committee would be arranged for early January 2025.

Chair: _____