

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

**opportunity
south essex**

Meeting
Date and Time
Venue

OSE Board
2nd December 2020, 14:00
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees

Cllr Tony Ball	Essex County Council
David Barnes	Basildon Business Group
Mark Curle	Henderson Curle
Murray Foster	Southend Business Partnership
Chris Lines	Leonardo
Perry Glading	Glading Consultancy, High House Production (Chair)
Cllr Rob Gledhill	Thurrock Council
Lucy-Emma Harris	Pixelwork
Cllr Chris Hossack	Brentwood Council
Glyn Jones	Southend Airport
Cllr Aidan McGurran	Basildon Council
David O'Connell	DBD Communications
Angela O'Donoghue	South Essex College
John Rowe	
Aideen Sadler	City Fibre
Rob Singh	University of Essex
Nicholas Smith	Cantel Ltd
Cllr Norman Smith	Castle Point Borough Council
Caroline Southgate	Doris Jones

Apologies

Colette Bailey	Metal
Cllr Simon Wootton	Rochford Council

Officers/Observers/Presenters

Dan Aylward-Mills	Vivid Economics
Stephen Bray	Bradwell B
Adam Bryan	South East LEP
Bronte Clark	Lower Thames Crossing
Mark Doran	Essex County Council
Zoe Gordon	South East LEP
Angela Hutchings	Rochford Council
Tomasz Kozlowski	Basildon Council
Ian Lewis	Opportunity South Essex
Emma Lindsell	Southend Council
Iain McNab	Cities & Local Growth Unit
Matt Palmer	Lower Thames Crossing
Tristan Smith	Essex County Council
Jonathan Stevenson	Brentwood Council
Kate Stinton	Bradwell B
Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Council
Jake Wellman	Vivid Economics

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Notes – NOTE – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED	Actions
1	Welcome and Introduction	
1.1	Chair opened the meeting	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	The following Declarations were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela O'Donoghue – in relation to Lower Thames Crossing and the Freeport • David O'Connell – in relation to Lower Thames Crossing and Bradwell B • Lucy Emma Harris – Freeport • Cllr Tony Ball – Freeports (engagement with Harwich) • Perry Glading – Freeports (Deputy Chair, Port of Dover) 	
3	Minutes of last Meeting (23rd September and 11th November)	
3.1	Both sets of minutes were agreed.	
4	Action Tracker	
4.1	Board members are encouraged to provide news stories to IL for the website	All Board Members
4.2	IL to prompt Members Monthly for news items	IL
4.3	Kickstart Gateway schemes at South Essex College and Southend Council were approved on the day of the meeting. FSB scheme is up and running.	
5	Directors Report including Programme Update	
5.1	An additional resource has been secured to support the recovery work. They will be starting in January and focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local procurement within South Essex • Town Centres • No Use Empty project • Communications • Inward Investment 	
5.2	First meeting of the skills group for South Essex has been held. Agreed that the focus will be on retraining for adults, identifying sectors with high vacancies and retraining opportunities. This will be based around an expanded version of the You Train You Gain pilot.	
5.3	IL provided a short summary for the Board of the Spending Review published on the 25 th November 2020. There is a lot of detail to follow, but key points are:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New funds for levelling up and achieving net zero carbon by 2050 • Publication of the National Infrastructure Plan • Changes to project appraisal which will support the levelling up agenda (previous approaches favoured the South East/London given potential for greater economic impact) 	
5.4	<p>The changes to the project appraisal process are important because this will require South Essex to draw out the levelling up benefits of projects, how they will deliver against government policy and their local impact. This will mean a very different approach to the current economic output led process. Board Members made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is much more detail to come, and we must consider the right spatial level to take forward projects and proposals for best impact • The South East remains to be the main shopfront for the UK and links to Europe – a role which must not be overlooked • Clear that there is a shift to a more ‘political’ approach to the process. We need therefore to engage our MP’s more closely 	
5.5	<p>The Board agreed that there is a clear need to engage with South Essex MPs and secure their awareness and support of key messages and projects. Approaches via the East of England APPG and Catalyst South (group of other LEPs across the South) to be considered.</p>	PG & IL to progress
5.6	<p>All Getting Building Fund projects now have their business cases signed off, with the exception of Laindon as this is a substitute project. Its business case will be submitted in early January. £1.008m will be returned to SELEP for redistribution. Labworth Car Park contact has been awarded</p>	
5.7	<p>The Board agreed that the return of funding is disappointing. However, this does highlight the real need to have a deliverable pipeline of projects – of all sizes. The Board will develop this further in the new year.</p>	All
5.8	<p>OSE Board have endorsed the Gourmet Garden Trails Sector Support Fund project</p>	IL to confirm with SELEP
6	Institute of Technology	
6.1	<p>The Board received a presentation from Angela O’Donoghue (South Essex College) on the submission to be made to seek at IoT across a number of partner institutions across the SELEP area. The focus of the Institute will be logistics, automation, construction and health & life sciences.</p>	

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6.2	The Institute has a range of partners across further and higher education.	
6.3	The Institute will be employer led and require the support of employers in each of the 4 focus sectors to establish the skills and curriculum needs. Digital skills will form a central part of all training	Board Members asked to consider support
6.4	Proposals include a plan for an innovation centre which will be established on a temporary basis in Grays before a more permanent move to Tilbury.	
6.5	Grays Town Fund are looking at digital skills and we need to check what the Tilbury Town Fund team are considering.	LEH to raise with Town Fund Teams
6.6	The Board raised concern that only one bid per LEP area should come forward. Other LEP areas have more than one IoT, and there may be another proposal in SELEP under development	Iain McNab to clarify position
6.7	The Board support the proposal and will assist where needed.	
7	Freeports	
7.1	The Board received a presentation from Dan Aylward-Mills (Vivid Economics) who outlined the key points of the prospectus and the Thames Freeport response.	
7.2	Vivid Economics confirmed that this is a Thames Freeport which will support the whole Estuary, not just the port clusters.	
7.3	Board member raised the constraint freight has crossing London by rail, and also wider north south links to/from the ports.	
7.4	The Board gave their support to the submission and any assistance in developing a compelling proposition.	
8	Bradwell B Nuclear Power Station	
8.1	The Board received a presentation from Stephen Bray and Kate Stinton from the Bradwell B project.	
8.2	<p>The Board Raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We always seem to be chasing skills. Timeline for this project gives us a chance to get this right. Should we start with year 7 pupils. • Question over how the project can genuinely drive the use of local suppliers and contractors. Early stages for the project, but will be seeking to drive local input. Work to develop supply chain will commence next year 	SB/KS said project committed to skills and work starts now

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications links across the whole site and with supply chains need to be considered from the outset as a single approach that is not fragmented • We need to make sure that this project, and the other major projects, co-ordinate and understand their overall needs to avoid competing for people • Need to recognise the opportunity that this project brings to Essex 	
8.3	The Board have asked that the project keep in touch and provided their support to the project. The Board are happy to assist as required.	SB and KS to keep in touch
9	Lower Thames Crossing	
9.1	The Board received a presentation for Matt Palmer, Executive Director for LTC from Highways England.	
9.2	The Government repeated their commitment to the project in the Spending Review. The withdrawal of the Development Consent Order is an opportunity to review the scheme and strengthen the application. Anticipated that the application will be re-submitted in early Spring 2021. Procurement of Tier 1 contractors will be progressing.	
9.3	Comments from Board Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurrock Council maintain their objection to the Lower Thames Crossing, but welcome the fresh approach to the project that Matt has brought. • Main benefits from the scheme seem to accrue outside Thurrock. Need to ensure that Thurrock benefits from the project. • Encouraged by intention to drive use of local suppliers, but concern that Tier 1 contractors may still deploy their own – HE intend to get to a hard figure for local input • There remain concerns about wider network capacity and changes in traffic routes, most notably the A130 Fairglen and Howe Green junctions. • Is there an opportunity to consider how joint capabilities across the Tier 1 contracts could be procured as a single package across the 3 tier 1 contracts? This could lead to cost savings and consistency 	
9.4	The OSE Board remain supportive of the project, respecting the position of Thurrock Council.	
10	SELEP Update	
10.1	Covid Business Support and Skills Support funding packages are now heading into procurement	

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10.2	Spending review – still no specifics outside the headline announcements. However, it is clear we will need to consider the narrative to Government for investment in the South East.	
10.3	The SELEP recovery and Renewal strategy will be developed during the first part of 2021	
10.4	SELEP have been a key part of Catalyst South which is a grouping of 7 southern LEPs. This has been beneficial in supporting engagement with Government, and will be important as we need to adapt the South East narrative to ensure Government investment in the area continues.	
10.5	Freeports – SELEP will be holding a session with the organisations proposing Freeports in the South East on the 29 th January to confirm support. Guiding principles for the SELEP view on requirements for support will be considered by the Strategic Board on the 11 th December 2021.	
10.6	Brexit – A panel session will be held on the 11 th December which will be used to highlight key messages to Government.	Board Members to contact IL if they wish to join

Next Meeting

10th March 2021, 2pm. Details TBC – likely to be virtual.