

Meeting Note



Meeting OSE Board
Date and Time 19th May 2021, 14:00
Venue Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Location
Perry Glading	Chair	
Colette Bailey	Metal	Southend
David Barnes	Basildon Business Group	Basildon
Mark Curle	Mime Consultancy	Castle Point
Murray Foster	Southend Business Partnership	Southend
Chris Lines	Leonardo	Basildon
Lucy-Emma Harris	Pixelwork	Thurrock
David O'Connell	DBD Communications	Basildon
Angela O'Donoghue	South Essex College	Basildon, Southend, Thurrock
Geoff Pearce	Swan Housing	Basildon
Aideen Sadler	City Fibre	Southend
Rob Singh	University of Essex	Southend
Nicholas Smith	Cantel Ltd	Southend
Caroline Southgate	Doris Jones	Southend
John Rowe	Independent	Southend

Apologies

Glyn Jones	Southend Airport	Southend
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Officers/Observers/Presenters

Adam Bryan	South East LEP
Ian Lewis	Opportunity South Essex
Ed Pearce	Onside
David Mellis	Onside
Martin Whiteley	ASELA

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
1	Welcome and Introduction	
1.1	<p>Chair opened the meeting.</p> <p>The chair reiterated the important role that OSE has in representing businesses across South Essex. It is important that the key messages and issues from businesses are shared and that through OSE and its links we can bring these issues to a wider audience via SELEP, ASELA and with Government.</p> <p>There will be two key changes taking place during the year. Firstly, the Government are reviewing the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships nationally and so this will have implications for OSE. The Board will hear further on this from the chair of SELEP, Christian Brodie.</p> <p>Secondly, the link and engagement routes with ASELA will develop further in the coming months. The Board will hear more on this from Martin Whitely from ASELA.</p>	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	<p>The following Declarations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Harris - Onside 	
3	Minutes of last Meeting	
3.1	Minutes from the Full Board meeting on the 10 th March 2021 were both approved	
4	Action Tracker	
4.1	Confirmed that the Thames Freeport proposal had been endorsed by Government. The concern discussed with Basildon around the risk of displacement was raised and the Board asked to highlight issues so we can collate concerns.	All Board Members
5	Directors Report including Programme Update	
5.1	The Board Noted the Report	
6	SELEP Update	
6.1	<p>Chris Brodie, Chair of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, presented an update to the OSE Board on the review of Local Enterprise Partnerships currently being undertaken.</p> <p>Presentation slides have been circulated to Members</p>	

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6.2	<p>Angela O'Donoghue and the Board raised the following points in relation to Skills: LEPs have provided a strong leadership role in relation to skills. SELEP in particular have generated a lot of traction in this area. Concern that this will be diluted with more local groupings for proposed Local Skills Improvement Plans. Felt that this moves away from the value LEPs can bring in terms of strategic position. There is also concern that Chambers of Commerce (a fee charging membership organisation) seem to be given a role, given the variability in how they are organised nationally.</p>	
6.3	<p>Question raised over the role of the Growth hub and how this will function going forward. SELEP may be required to deliver a more centralised function rather than the 3 area focussed operations it has currently. SELEP approach needs to be preserved as it best meets local needs.</p>	
6.4	<p>The Federated Boards of SELEP provide a voice to sectors that don't normally get a voice in economic development discussions. This is primarily SMEs, which make up the vast majority of South Essex businesses. Government value the unbiased input from business and this needs to be maintained</p>	
7	ASELA Update	
7.1	<p>Martin Whiteley, ASELA's Programme Director, updated the Board with progress.</p>	
7.2	<p>Update on Governance Aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections are now over and local authorities confirming Leaders, Portfolio Holders and Committee Chairs • ASELA will move forward with the creation of the formal Joint Committee which will enable Authorities to transfer decision making authority to a single South Essex committee. Decisions will be made in a fully transparent way • A Joint Committee will also be a formal entity that is able to receive funding and take formal decisions. First meeting likely to be September 2021. • Enables stronger business engagement, with OSE chair becoming co-opted member of the Joint Committee. OSE will advise the ASELA Board in relation to economic leadership, competitive advantage and business support • ASELA will also seek greater private sector leadership of its key programmes 	
7.3	<p>The Board need to note that the outline of the way forward needs to be confirmed by the ASELA leaders, so this approach is not formally adopted.</p>	
7.4	<p>There is an expectation that ASELA's programmes of work will be private sector led. The public sector will have a role</p>	

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
	in convening and financial accountability, but a private sector led approach is considered to lead to quicker outcomes.	
7.5	The Board asked about public sector resource to support the ASELA programme given that there is no spare capacity given existing demands. The ASELA LA's all contribute to a single funding pot and further funding for capacity is being sought from Government sources for specific activity.	
7.6	The Board asked how the private sector would lead aspects such as placemaking. The OSE Board recognise the importance of the Creative Sector in placemaking. ASELA anticipate that programmes would be developed initially by the public sector – with private involvement – and transfer over time.	
7.7	ASELA are developing a programme for the Creative Industries, yet this doesn't appear to feature in the ASELA priority programmes. Anticipation that this will continue once linked to one of the programmes.	MW to confirm
7.8	Local business engagement in delivery and supply chains is essential to drive the local economy.	
7.9	The Chair thanked Martin Whiteley for his contribution. The Chair also highlighted that this will be an opportunity for OSE to consider its structure in recognition of this greater level of engagement.	
7.10	The Chair also asked Board Members to consider the appointment of a Deputy Chair.	Board Members to contact Chair if interested in role
8	Onside – Basildon and Tilbury	
8.1	The Board received a presentation from Ed Pearce and David Mellis From Onside Presentation has been circulated to Board Members	
8.2	The Basildon location has secured planning consent, and aiming for a 2023 opening. The incoming administration at Basildon Council are reviewing the funding structure for the project.	
8.3	The Tilbury scheme is a little behind Basildon but has strong local political support.	
8.4	Board Members have indicated that they have visited Onside facilities in Barking and Croydon and were hugely impressed.	
8.5	The Board asked about sustaining the projects in the long term. Onside seek multi year support from businesses,	

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
	which can build over time. The Bolton scheme has been open for 20 years and now has 300 businesses engaged.	
8.6	The Board were extremely impressed with the project, especially in relation to how careers advice was incorporated. Onside locations are regularly used for careers events.	
8.7	Chair will link the Onside team with Thurrock CVS in relation to the work they are doing around local businesses corporate social responsibility programmes.	Chair to introduce Onside to CVS
9	Creative Estuary	
9.1	The Board received a presentation of the Thames Estuary 2021 Festival from Colette Bailey Presentation has been circulated to Board Members	
9.2	The Board were hugely impressed with the programme and the impact it will have in putting the Estuary on the map. The Board have been sent the links to the Festival programme.	
10	Business Buy Local Proposal	
10.1	The Executive Director presented the 'Its Local' proposal to the Board. The Board were supportive and would wish to see the scheme come forward in South Essex.	
10.2	Its Local are developing a product for Southend Council.	
10.3	The Board also asked how we could use the creative talent within South Essex to support the design of the site and publications.	
10.4	Structuring and categories will need to be carefully considered to have a legible and intuitive product.	

Next Meeting

15th September 2021, 2pm. Details TBC