

Association of South Essex Local Authorities

Memorandum of Understanding

between

Basildon Borough Council
Brentwood Borough Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Essex County Council
Rochford District Council
Southend on Sea Borough Council
Thurrock Council

1. Background

- 1.1 Stemming from housing and local planning issues initially, there has been a growing recognition of the opportunity and need for greater cross-boundary working on strategic infrastructure planning and growth across South Essex. In June 2017 Leaders and Chief Executives of Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend–on-Sea, Thurrock and Essex County Council (the Authorities) agreed to initiate and shape a programme of work through the summer and autumn to explore a joint ‘place vision’ and the scope for greater strategic collaboration along the South Essex growth corridor.
- 1.2 The work during the summer and autumn has resulted in an emerging vision and identification of strategic growth opportunities that need testing and strengthening with the people and stakeholders of South Essex and beyond. It has also built a strong commitment amongst the Authorities to collaborative working. It was agreed that an Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) should be established to continue this collaborative work.
- 1.3 The Authorities wish to record the intention to establish ASELA and basis of our collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU sets out:
 - a) The core purpose and aims of ASELA
 - b) The principles of collaboration

2. Core Purpose and aims

- 2.1. The core purpose of ASELA is to provide place leadership for South Essex. Recognising that through our collaborative approach we will be best placed to develop and deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth for our communities.
- 2.2. ASELA will focus on the strategic opportunities, regardless of individual local authority boundaries for the South Essex economic corridor to influence and secure the strategic infrastructure that will help our individual areas to flourish and realise their full economic and social potential.
- 2.3. The aims of ASELA will be to:
 - Provide place leadership;
 - Open up spaces for housing, business and leisure development by developing a spatial strategy;
 - Transform transport connectivity;
 - Support our 7 sectors of industrial opportunity;
 - Shape local labour & skill markets;
 - Create a fully digitally-enabled place;
 - Secure a sustainable energy supply;
 - Influence and secure funding for necessary strategic infrastructure; and
 - Enhance health and social care through co-ordinated planning.

3. Principles of collaboration

- 3.1. Our collaboration will be focused on three key areas:
 - Tackling problems we can't solve individually
 - Creating collective scale and impact
 - Providing the place leadership to promote and sell the 'South Essex' proposition
- 3.2. The Authorities agree to adopt the following principles in working together:
 - We are all in this together – and stronger if we work together
 - We should build our governance incrementally – learning from the lessons from other places who are more advanced
 - Through our collaboration we should be gaining something not losing something
 - Local identities should not be lost
 - We need to be a voice for South Essex

4. Term and Termination

- 4.1. This MoU shall commence on the date of the signature by each Authority, and shall expire if ASELA dissolves.

5. Variation

5.1. The MoU can only be varied by written agreement of all the Authorities.

6. Charges and liabilities

6.1. Except as otherwise provided, the Parties shall bear their own costs and expenses incurred in complying with their obligations under this MoU.

7. Status

7.1. This MoU cannot override the statutory duties and powers of the parties and is not enforceable by law. However the parties agree to the principles set out in this MoU.

Signed by.....

Basildon Borough Council

Brentwood Borough Council

Castle Point Borough Council

Essex County Council

Rochford District Council

Southend on Sea Borough Council

Thurrock Council