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| **ESSEX BUSINESS BOARD: Minutes of meeting 12th March 2018**  **6pm – 8pm**  **Lord Ashcroft Building**  **Anglia Ruskin University** | | |
| Present: David Rayner (Chair), Birkett Long LLP  Adam Bryan, SELP  Chris Newenham, Wilkin & Sons  Fiona Bodle, Anglia Ruskin University  Vanessa Cuthill, University of Essex  Cllr Mohindra, Essex County Council  David Burch, Essex Chambers of Commerce  Haydon Yates, West Essex Alliance  Andrew Campling, BT  Georgina Button, SELEP  Andrew Hayman, Anglia Ruskin University  Sandra Selmanovic, Anglia Ruskin University  Julian Gibbs, Anglia Ruskin University | | |
|  | **Item** | **Notes:** |
|  | Welcome and Introductions (Chair) | Introductions were carried out and apologies confirmed |
|  | Declarations of Interest (Chair) | A declaration of interest was highlighted from David Rayner with regards to the Innovation50 item as Birkett Long are one of the Innovation50 companies mentioned in the report |
|  | Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising | Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved. |
|  | SELEP Update | Growth Hub funding confirmed for a further two years;  Engagement is ongoing for the refreshed SEP, which will provide the strategic level vision for SELEP and the gauge for strategic fit for any repurposing of LGF;  Georgina Button reported on progress on the SEP which is being similarly reported to all federated boards. The LEP are seeking a special engagement session with EBB which will be arranged in due course and teamed up with a focus on Local Industrial Strategy and how the two strategies come together in Essex to best effect;  Adam Bryan reported on the recent Annual Conversation letter from Government and the subsequent Deep Dive audit which ties in to Government’s focus around LEP assurance and transparency. All is reported on the SELEP website. The LEP will be working closely with EBB to ensure that all transparency requirements at the federated level are met. |
|  | OSE Board Update | OSE have recently recruited a number of new board members from the private sector. As a business led board it was noted that it is important to have a good cross section of private sector representation and the new appointments will be able to support and champion the work of OSE in promoting the area.  OSE are currently advertising for a Programme Manager to support the board and to drive forward OSE’s activity across South Essex. The advert can be found here: <https://www.castlepoint.gov.uk/programme-manager-opportunity-south-essex>  They hope to finalise the recruitment by early April and get the new person in post as quickly as possible after that. |
| 6. | South Essex 2050 | The South Essex local authorities (Thurrock, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford and Southend) have all signed a Memorandum of Understanding and formed the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA). The purpose of this is to enable them to work more closely together to develop a single vision for how South Essex will look in 2050. The Association is working closely together on a number of fronts towards developing a single strategic approach which will shape planning policy across South Essex and better enable it to plan for significant housing and employment growth. OSE is supporting this work by providing a business voice, and OSE are firmly behind what the Association seeks to achieve.  **Housing Infrastructure Fund Success** South Essex has been successful in securing over £25m of support for three projects from the Housing Infrastructure Fund. The projects supported are Better Queensway, Southend (£15m), Basildon Town Centre, (£9.7995m), and Claudian Way, Thurrock (£0.538M)  **A127 Fairglen Consultation** ECC are consulting on improvements to the A127 Fairglen Interchange. The scheme, which is supported by Local Growth Fund and worth in the region of £27m, will aim to relieve some of the bottlenecks that currently occur. The consultation is open until 20th March 2018, and it is hoped that construction will commence in 2020. The consultation can be found at: <http://www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/major-schemes/a127-a130-fairglen-interchange.aspx>  **Thames Estuary 2050 Commission** The Commission has been given a fresh impetus following the appointment of Sir John Armitt as the new chair just before Christmas. The commission will seek to develop a coherent vision for the Estuary in 2050, alongside recommendations of how to realise this vision. Sir John was invited to Southend Airport in January to meet with the OSE board and he was pleased to see the progress we have made in South Essex in relation to our own visioning work and the much closer collaboration between local authorities. The commission will publish their report in late May 2018. |
| 7. | Capital Projects | Report was discussed – Emma Wakeling gave overview:  Comment: Essex has done well to get so much funding.   * Question was raised about the management for capital projects - do the funders go back to them, who monitors and for how long after delivery? * Where progress is delayed, and money is not being spent, a Capital Programme Manager at SELEP will look at the pipeline.   An extra column on the schedule to show progress was suggested, this would need to be agreed by OSE too. |
| 8. | Innovation 50 | delivered a presentation on the final report and the process that had been followed for the past 3 years. The presentation was met very favourably but EBB members want to know what comes next and what will happen as a result. EW said she would be meeting with ARU team to explore options and make recommendations. These will be shared at next EBB. *The main issues identified that were barriers to growth were*: accessing apprenticeships grow on space, fear of growth and becoming hierarchical and the conversion of social media marketing. The need for a high level innovation network was also key. Action: Send the Innovation 50 report in a separate email  Ideas shared were:   * Help to be provided to high growth companies / Innovation50 with entry in to new markets and accessing finance – mentoring was identified as paramount to success from the 50. Potential to expand the number of mentors like Ford. * Identify apprenticeship champions * Need to create case studies * Re run the programme focusing more specific support on medium sized companies * Carry on measuring impact * Need to foster them to grow further like Texas 50 . * Think differently with the banking sector evolve that capacity – financial capacity |
| 9. | AOB | Cllr Mohindra identified political pressure about lack of business representation on EBB, he asked for views on sector or geographical expert representatives  It was agreed that EBB has to be business led Vanessa Cuthill and David Burch agreed to see if they can identify any other businesses. One business expressed concerns on their ability to add value in the current model and it was noted that the Board needs to progress from being just an approval forum to being more of a decision making body. The companies that are Members need to be recognised for their expertise and they want and need to own the agenda.  **Action:** Remaining dates and venues to be sent in advance. |