Monday 27st September 2021, 17:30 to 19:30

Microsoft Teams Online Meeting

**MEETING MINUTES**

| Attendees | | |
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| Miles Adcock – Concurrent Technologies  Andy Sparks – Federation of Essex Colleges (FEDEC)  Eman Martin-Vignerte – Bosch  Kirstie Cochrane – University of Essex  David Rayner – Birkett Long LLP  Jenny Young – ARU (sub for Fiona Bodle)  Cllr Lesley Wagland - Essex CC  Cllr Marie Goldman – Chelmsford DC  Cllr Graham Butland – Braintree DC |  | Suzanne Bennett (SELEP)  Claudia McKibbin – ECC Secretariat  Rob Willis – ECC Secretariat  Mark Doran – ECC Secretariat  Lin Perry – ECC Secretariat  Peter Manning – ECC  Karthik Durgaprasad – ECC  Avjeet Grewal – ECC  Cllr Tony Ball – Essex CC  Cllr Mark Durham Essex CC |

| **Item** | **Subject** |
| --- | --- |
| **Welcome**   * Updates on Register of Interests | Apologies:   * Lara Fox – Objective IT * Richard Davidson – Willmott Dixon Construction * Fiona Bodle – ARU * Lindsey Hayward – Konica Minolta * Claire Lewis – Visteon * Trevor Scott – Simarco Worldwide Logistics * Steve Evison – ECC Secretariat   This meeting was recorded.  **Register of Interests:**   * Andy Sparks – Chelmsford College is benefiting from SELEP LGF for its Construction Centre |
| **Minutes of Last Meeting** | Approved.  Note action about persistent non-attendees. |
| **Update of ECC** | * + Mark Doran gave an update of a new ECC administration under the new leader Kevin Bentley and new cabinet members, also the 3 priorities of the administration. |
| **LEP Review**  Update | * + Future of LEPs still uncertain, yearly funding has been reduced by 50%.   + Majority of operational funding is spent on staff, decisions to be made on reducing the team for next financial year.   + To decide what are the activity priorities for next year on a smaller basis of resources.   + Both Chair and deputy Chair of SELEP are coming to the end of their terms, recruitment process will start once the Levelling Up White Paper is published.   + David Rayner asked whether there will be a costs reduction in the recruitment process, the answer is yes, it will be through internal network and scale back at a smaller cost.   + Two sets of statement of accounts for board members to consider only, not to approve.   + Capital programme update   + David Rayner asked about the Beaulieu Park project, confirmed it will go ahead as planned.   **Action:** to circulate the SELEP strategic board papers to a wider distribution list including the Success Essex Board members. |
| **Marketing Essex**  Market Essex as a great place to live, work and study | * + Mark Doran gave brief background information on ECC medium term work including Marketing Essex, Inward Investment and Sector Development.   + Peter Manning present Marketing Essex   + Cllr Goldman raised when to engage the community, it will be very early stage to get the community involved.   + Cllr Wagland mentioned Peter’s international credentials is useful to understand the international dimension to Marketing Essex. To find a unique selling point that Essex as a whole is the key, what the essence of living and working in Essex is about.   + Mark Doran said the aim of the project is to get Essex on the international map, but the districts will continue to have their place- based approach.   + David Rayner raised two hurdles to overcome, which are the geographic diversity of Essex and finding unique points of Essex which can play into theme and sectors.   + Cllr Durham said diversity is what makes Essex special.   **Action:**   * Peter Manning and Mark Doranto have offline discussions with Cllr Goldman regarding engaging communities * Separate conversation between Peter, Mark and David Rayner regarding the matters raised * Miles introduces Steven Phipson to Peter and Mark. |
| **Inward Investment**  Engaging with board for input on the development of Essex Inward Investment strategy, with reference to Marketing Essex and Sector Development | * + Mark Doran gave background of why a new Inward Investment strategy is needed and what the aim of it.   + Karthik Durgaprasad present Inward Investment and asked three key questions to the board.   + Andy Sparks raised no funding for skills, local governments should look into it and try to support or jointly fund skills training if there is a gap.   + David Rayner raised following points: * it is useful to have business input into planning process e.g. Chelmsford Garden Community, so the business can see where the employment areas are and the size of them, what sectors they are trying to attract within the proposed development. * A big comment from many businesses is that the house price is out of the range of many people they want to employ. * Suggestion to concentrate on west-east routes as we don’t have one, but we do have north-south routes.   + Miles Adcock raised following matters: * It’s worth understanding how international big American and Chinese companies make decisions when they consider international investment, it would be typically national. * It is important to understand how nearby or other UK zones impact those companies’ global decision making. * Skills agenda really matters.   + Cllr Goldman raised there is a network gap for tech start-ups to connect with investors, there are some networks in Essex, but we need to make it much more prominent and make it easier for start-ups.   + Cllr Ball raised concerns over need of businesses for ‘ready-made’ applicants and the disconnect where investment is needed to ‘train local’ to meet needs.   + Mark Doran put forward how ECC can have a role in bringing people together: such as colleges and employers, to look of what each need for the future   + Miles highlighted that the more diverse teams are, the greater return on investment.   **Action**:   * Karthik to introduce Cllr Goldman to Let’s Do Business Group * Cllr Wagland to touch base with Miles regarding the marketing and recruitment policies of Concurrent Technologies * Mark Doran or Cllr Ball to confirm Skills Roundtable date (Oct 20th) |
| **Making Working in Essex Family Friendly**  Overview  Roundtable | * + Cllr Wagland stressed that need for childcare is a key element of making this strategy work   + David Rayner market is changing as more firms are offering more family friendly flexible working   + Miles stressed that this is critical business and not altruistic, Essex has small to mid-sized businesses some of which are very strict and old-fashioned in controlling time/attendance. There is a level of education/awareness needed, which businesses cannot be assumed to have. |
| **AOB** | * + Careers Event – more information included in papers |
| **Meeting Close** | 19:30 |