Thursday 21th November 2019, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Chapman Room, Essex Record Office,

Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT

**AWAYDAY MEETING SUMMARY**

| Attendees |
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-Andy Sparks

-David Burch

-Fiona Bodle

-Kirstie Cochrane

-Lara Fox

-Miles Adcock

-Richard Davidson

-David Rayner

-Jonathan Oates

-Lindsey Hayward

-Trevor Scott

-Cllr Tony Ball

-Cllr Martin Bracken

-Sharon Spicer – SELEP

-Claudia McKibbin – ECC

-Tristan Smith – ECC

-Dawn Redpath – ECC

| Item | Notes |
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| 1. **Welcome** | **Apologies:**  Colin James  Cllr Chris Whitbread  Cllr Graham Butland – Braintree District Council |
| 1. **SELEP** | Board recommended that SELEP ensure policies reflect a two-way investment - not only outward (SE to world) but focus on inward investment too (world to SE)  A point was raised regarding Sustainable Communities the need to ensure planning projects do not happen in isolation  Board highlighted that the LIS needs a distinctive edge as it seems to be generic and similar to what other LEP’s areas would submit to government. Also, it seems to be written for government’s approval; so businesses may find it difficult to relate to it.  A need to rethink Essex’s relationship with London and its commuters, by focusing on less commuting, home-working and developing local working opportunities. Greater London Authority is working with LEP regions to help understand how to maximise benefits of being near London and its impact on productivity.  A question was raised on what percentage of productivity in London is generated from Essex (people/business)? As this will highlight how important Essex is, and how much London is dependent on Essex.  LIS needs to be more candid to show Government what challenges we face and in turn the potential benefits we can generate. Don’t feel that LEP is capitalising on our available geography or focusing on its potential. Examples given: facilitating the link between government initiatives on Garden Communities and greater local economic growth and focusing on the distinctive rural and aggrotech growth.  Other LEPs have more focus in innovation, we are far behind on this.  **ACTION: Success Essex Board to provide views to secretariat by 06/12 for collation and submission to SELEP, with formal SELEP approval happening at the Strategic Board Meeting on 31/01/20** |
| 1. **Key Highlights from Data** | Essex has high level of retail employment coming from the old high street structure, we will need to be creative in order to evolve a ‘new’ high street.  Highlighted that upskilling is not only needed within formal qualification, but also the upskill of older workforce to use technology. With regard to apprenticeship, SME’s having issues with the vast regulations involved in hiring apprentices. |
| 1. **Unpacking the Missions** | Board can act as the role model for connectivity/networking e.g. through sharing apprentices / work experience placements etc.  Essex previously identified as the ‘land of opportunity’ leading-edge tech, its proximity to London and international links, perfect for knowledge sharing.  However, the board needs to take a more strategic position on growth of Grade A commercial space. A need to focus on supporting Entrepreneurial companies by increasing their aspirations through support, was identified.  **ACTION: Garden Communities Overview presentation for a future board meeting** |
| 1. **How to work together** | To ensure that there is no duplication of work maybe focus more on connecting or ‘up-lighting’ existing work groups and organisations rather than doing the same work.  Alignment of this connectivity in order ensure Essex’s voice is heard by joining businesses networks behind key funding/initiatives: by shaping applications for funding to focus on inclusion in Essex.  **Emerging Themes:** Skills, Diversity & Inclusion, Garden Communities, Infrastructure, Networks/Collaboration, innovation  Can do this through:   * Lobby/campaigns on things that are already happening, such as infrastructure, and strategic areas outside Essex * Networking so businesses talk and share best practises, * Understanding the strategic point of view of Garden Communities impact on Essex by supporting the garden communities to be innovative and resilient   **ACTION: Secretariat to submit ideas from today’s meeting to SQW to summarise and report back.**  **ACTION: Secretariat to coordinate with SELEP to update references to reflect new board name.**  **ACTION: Secretariat to take full board photo at Dec. 2nd meeting and gather member bios for website.** |
| 1. **Any Other Business** | Andy Sparks cannot make 02/12 – will send substitute |
| **Meeting Closed** | **3:50pm** |