

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 26 February 2019



Subject: Scrutiny of External Organisations - South-East Local Enterprise Partnership

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee consider and agree the scope of its external scrutiny of the South-East Local Enterprise Partnership.

1. Members will recall that the Committee has previously requested an opportunity to undertake appropriate external scrutiny of the South-East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). This matter is included in the work programme for the Committee for 2018/19.
2. Mr. Adam Bryan, the Managing Director of SELEP will be attending the meeting of the Committee to be held on 16 April 2019, together with representatives of the Essex Business Board, a local board of SELEP.
3. In accordance with the procedure previously agreed by the Committee, members are therefore now asked to consider and agree the scope of such external scrutiny of the local activities of the Local Enterprise Partnership and appropriate lines of questioning, in order that prior notice of the specific issues to be raised by the Committee can be provided to SELEP, to ensure that maximum value is derived from this external scrutiny activity.
4. The following overarching themes relating to the role and responsibilities of SELEP have been notified to Mr. Bryan as the emphasis for such external scrutiny:
 - (a) the success of the Local Enterprise Partnership in terms of its achievements in the Epping Forest District;
 - (b) the views of the Local Enterprise Partnership with regard to the Government's new proposals for partnerships to drive economic growth and investment in local businesses; and
 - (c) the views of the Local Enterprise Partnership with regard to its future geography that best reflects its functional economic area.
5. The identification of relevant lines of questioning to be raised with SELEP has also been sought from members through the Council Bulletin.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

The proposed scrutiny of SELEP was agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 24 July 2018.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:***Risk Management***

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.