

Committee: Council

Date:

Title: Briefing Note – North Essex Economic Strategy

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Summary

1. Context for the North Essex Economic Strategy (NEES) and Local Enterprise Partnership
 - The District was part of both the then Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (GCGPLEP) and South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). Central Government has directed that no local authority should be served by more than one Local Enterprise Partnership and from March 31st 2021 the district will only form part of the SELEP.
 - This important change places even greater emphasis on Uttlesford developing its relationship with SELEP including via partnerships with other local authorities such as those authorities also involved in the development of the North Essex Economic Strategy. Working in partnership significantly enhances our ability to influence SELEP, promote the opportunities in Uttlesford and attract funding via the SELEP Prosperity Funding provided by Central Government to support the delivery of projects in LEP areas.
2. Context for the North Essex Economic Strategy and Other Partnerships
 - Uttlesford District Council is a member of the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium and of the Consortium's Central Area Alliance (alongside partners in Harlow, Epping Forest, East Herts, Broxbourne, Essex and Hertfordshire) and has a pivotal role facing north, south, east and west. In addition the Council is a member of the Digital Innovation Zone and Cross Border Tourism Partnership which also includes Harlow, Epping Forest, East Herts and Broxbourne councils.
3. North Essex Economic Strategy Action Plan

Work has been ongoing with the other local authority partners in the NEES to bring forward a number of projects to be included within a subsequent action plan which will be developed in the coming weeks. A number of specific projects have been put forward by this council for consideration by the partnership. These include a feasibility study for a new research institute / incubator centre at Chesterford Research Park; grow-on commercial property at CRP and in the Stansted airport location (Northside); rapid transit systems Stansted to Braintree and North Uttlesford and expansion of both the Aerozone and Airport College. The proximity to the Cambridge knowledge based economy will be a key driver in the attraction of a new research institute / incubator centre and grow-on space at Chesterford Research Park.