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| <b>Key Decision Required:</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>In the Forward Plan:</b> | <b>No</b> |
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## CABINET

1 AUGUST 2014

### REFERENCE FROM COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

#### **A.1 SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

(Report prepared by Colin Sweeney)

#### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting held on 7 April 2014, the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee requested a report detailing the priorities being pursued by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) with regard to its Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan.

At its meeting held on 23 June 2014, the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee considered such a report.

In considering the report, the Committee was advised that SELEP was one of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) set up by the Government following the 2010 UK Parliamentary Election. The SELEP's brief was to determine strategic economic priorities in South East England and it had access to resources channeled to it from various government departments (including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government) to support its interventions. The SELEP's overarching remit was to drive growth and to create local jobs.

The Committee was further advised of SELEP's geographical make-up and of its significance as an economic gateway, which provided the strategic route between mainland Europe, London and the rest of the UK.

Members stated that they had a number of questions they wished to put to a representative of SELEP at a future meeting but, in the interim, asked questions of the Council's Regeneration Manager in respect of jobs growth and housing within Tendring and whether Tendring would have been better off in a different LEP since the SELEP was so large.

In response to the question around jobs growth and housing, the Council's Regeneration Manager made specific reference to the Council's Economic Development Strategy and its emerging Local Plan.

In response to the question around whether Tendring would have been better off in a different LEP since the SELEP was so large, the Council's Regeneration Manager said that, whilst the SELEP was a large geographic area within which Tendring was a relatively small district authority, there were distinct, and obvious, advantages to the Council's membership of it. He said that it maintained the Council's relationship with the Essex Family of authorities (shared ambitions, challenges etc.), provided closer links with London and the South East (where the majority of the UK's growth was taking place), provided greater opportunities for investment in infrastructure (i.e. the A120, which was unlikely to be an investment priority of the New Anglia LEP) and, politically, the Council was better served by the existing arrangements given the relationships, roles and

responsibilities of Tendring's County Councillors (something the Council would lose if it was part of the New Anglia LEP). In addition, some South Suffolk authorities had privately complained that the New Anglia LEP's Strategic Economic Plan did not give sufficient priority to the issues impacting upon their districts.

Given the above, it was reasonable to assume that Tendring would not be in any better position if it were to be part of the New Anglia LEP and it was, in fact, reasonable to assume that the district would be worse off.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET**

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendations of the CLAP Committee and determine its response if any:

It is **RECOMMENDED** to **CABINET** and agreed unanimously that:

- (a) Cabinet looks at having a representative from the Tendring District on the SELEP Board;
- (b) Tendring required targets to be developed in line with what it wanted from SELEP; and
- (c) As the Council needed a team to put the projects together to be ready to present to SELEP, Cabinet consider whether resources were sufficient to carry this out.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

Comments will be provided directly at the meeting.