

Appendix 1

Local Government Reform

Memorandum of Understanding

between

Basildon Borough Council

Thurrock Borough Council

1. Core Purpose and Aims

- 1.1 Both authorities remain supportive of, and committed to actively participating in ongoing collaborative work being undertaken by local authorities across Greater Essex to realise the benefits of joint working and the potential for Local Government Reform and hope that work undertaken under this MOU may support other local authorities to unlock proposals for local government reform in their areas of Essex.
- 1.2 This joint working approach is highlighted by the work of both Authorities within the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA).
- 1.3 This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agrees that the two authorities will work together to maximise the economic and social benefits for residents and businesses across the two Boroughs and specifically the extent to which the local authority areas might be likely to provide a meaningful geographic and economic area, and fulfil other criteria and requirements in the context of future local government reform.
- 1.4 This work may include joint working and the potential for a combined approach to wider Local Government Reform, and specifically considering the creation of a new South West Essex unitary authority which encompasses both local authority areas.
- 1.5 This MoU does not indicate a fixed view on the geography of local government reform in South West Essex. We intend to assess a range of potential options and consult positively with our neighbours to seek their input to the process
- 1.6 A key principle of this MoU is that signatories are equal partners but will bring the best of their experience and capabilities to the work

2. Term and Termination

- 2.1. This MoU shall commence on the date of the signature by each Authority, and shall expire if either party gives notice to the other.

3. Variation

- 3.1. The MoU can be varied by written agreement of the Authorities.
- 3.2. The MoU allows for other local authorities to join as the process develops if appropriate by mutual agreement

4. Charges and liabilities

- 4.1. Except as otherwise provided, the Parties shall bear their own costs and expenses incurred in complying with their obligations under this MoU and agree to split equally all jointly incurred costs.

5. Status

- 5.1. This MoU cannot override the statutory duties and powers of the parties and is not enforceable by law. However the parties agree to the principles set out in this MoU.

Signed by

Local Authority	Leader of the Council	Chief Executive	Date
Basildon Borough Council			
Thurrock Borough Council			