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SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 26 May 2015.

PRESENT: Cllr Stephen Alambritis, Cllr Ruth Dombey, Councillor Pamela Fleming and Cllr Tony Newman

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stephen Alambritis be appointed to serve as Chairman of the South London Partnership Joint Committee.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ruth Dombey be appointed to serve as Vice-Chairman of the South London Partnership Joint Committee.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Kevin Davies and from Lord True. Councillor Pamela Fleming was present as Lord True's representative.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

5. QUESTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No representations had been received from members of the public on this occasion.

6. INTRODUCTION TO THE SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

The Chairman introduced the Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules for this Joint Committee and highlighted their content. Officers advised that these Procedure rules had been approved by all the constituent Councils. The Joint Committee noted that the South London Partnership was the first grouping in the Capital to introduce a formal governance structure in readiness to opportunities for strategic growth, regeneration and investment through future devolution.

7. SOUTH LONDON GROWTH NARRATIVE

The Chief Executive of the London Borough of Sutton introduced a presentation on South London's potential to deliver growth. He stated that this joint committee would provide a key focus in that it provided key building blocks for the democratic accountability of the South London Partnership against the background of any negotiations on devolution.

He advised that with South London being the largest office location outside central London; achieving six times as many business 'start-ups' as the London average; having the fastest growing technology sector outside central London; possessing a highly skilled resident workforce, whilst home to world class research institutions; offering international transport links and the opportunity for a minimum of 20,000 new homes, the sub region offered the biggest immediate growth opportunity in London. To capitalise on this, the South London Partnership would be seeking further responsibility for devolved decision-making, new funding streams to encourage enterprise and resources to ensure the skills base met demands of the commercial sector, alongside a stronger role in planning transport, infrastructure and housing. It was noted that some of these initiatives would require new legislation and direct discussions with the Mayor of London.

In support of these ambitions, the joint committee noted that there were already existing relationships across the partnership's geographical area and areas of responsibility. These included joint procurement, shared service delivery, collaborative urban planning and sustainable waste management solutions. Examples of working together also included adult social care issues and adoption panels.

Members were advised that the immediate next steps included completion of the South London Partnership Prospectus for Growth, enhancement of the South London Partnership Programme Office, production of the Delivery Plan and Programme Arrangements and work to actively secure South London's Interests in the London Growth and Devolution negotiations.

In discussion Members noted the strong foundations in the Partnership and were keen to demonstrate that the joint committee would actively harness local assets and energy to achieve for the area. This initiative was considered to be an historic opportunity and key driver for sustained growth in South London. Every opportunity should be taken to engage with the Mayor and other interested parties. It was noted that decisions should build on the expertise in individual boroughs and that that the Partnership should communicate widely and be ambitious. Sub-regional arrangements needed to be complementary to the ambitions of the South London Partnership. In light of other potential competitors for growth opportunities, the South London Partnership needed to be very clear on its offer and how this would help the whole of London to be successful. Members considered that their role was therefore to be ambitious and pragmatic in order to achieve the best outcome.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting, which started at 10.30am, ended at 11.04am.