

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
ALL-MEMBER PLENARY MEETING**

Date: 19 November 2010

Subject: **The Way Forward: SEEC Work Programme 2010-11**

Report by: Cllr Paul Carter, Chairman; Cllr Gordon Keymer, Deputy Chairman; Cllr Paul Watkins, Secretary & Treasurer; Heather Bolton, SEEC Head of Communications & Public Affairs

Recommendations:

SEEC members are asked to agree the attached work programme.

In addition, members are asked specifically to:

- ii) agree topics for the first SEEC task and finish groups and nominate members to serve on the groups
- iii) agree to commission an independent report on South East public funding relative to other areas of the country.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following discussion at earlier meetings, work has been underway to produce a detailed work programme for SEEC covering the period to July 2011. A workshop for Executive Committee members was held on 15 October to ensure the new work programme was member-led. The resulting work programme is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Work will be funded by member subscriptions of some £250,000 in 2010-11. An additional lump sum is due to SEEC in the next few months representing SEERA Ltd reserves built up from local authority subscriptions to the former Regional Assembly. The final lump sum amount will not be confirmed until the liquidation process is complete, but is expected to be over £500,000.
- 1.3 Delivery of the work programme will be co-ordinated by a small SEEC team of 3.5, working with members and officers from South East local authorities. Current staffing is 1.5. Following SEEC Executive approval in September 2010, recruitment of admin and policy support is underway. New posts will be offered as six-month secondments.
- 1.4 The attached work programme identifies 4 principles and 6 priority topics as the focus for SEEC's work and use of resources. Principles are:
 - i) Strive for a fair funding deal for the South East
 - ii) Promote the South East's position as a leading global economy
 - iii) Act as single democratic voice for South East interests
 - iv) Monitor the pulse of the South East.Priority topics are:
 - i) Finance
 - ii) Economy
 - iii) Europe
 - iv) Housing
 - v) Migration
 - vi) Transport.

12 November 2010