

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Date: 10 September 2010

Subject: **SEEC Subscriptions Update**

Report by: Cllr Paul Watkins, SEEC Secretary & Treasurer
Aidan Shutter, SEEC Policy Officer

Recommendation:

SEEC Executive is asked to note the report and encourage member councils to pay outstanding subscriptions as soon as possible.

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the outcome of the General Election and taking account of the Coalition Government's regional planning policy changes, SEEC subscriptions for 2010/11 were not finally agreed until its AGM on 14 July 2010.
- 1.2 It was agreed to retain SEEC as a minimalistic organisation with a maximum total budget of £500,000. This figure would be made up of £250,000 raised through subscriptions and a further £250,000 from SEERA Ltd reserves following the wind up of the company behind the former Partnership Board. Subscription invoices were subsequently sent to all 70 existing SEEC member councils in early August. A letter of invitation to join SEEC was also sent to the four councils who were not members of SEEC last year. Of those four, I can report that so far Oxford City Council has confirmed they wish to join for 2010-11.

2. Subscriptions received

- 2.1 At the time of writing, 34 councils had paid their subscription invoices with the remainder expected in the coming weeks. Subscriptions have initially been paid to Buckinghamshire County Council but will be transferred to a new SEEC bank account, which is currently being established. Once the wind-up of SEERA Ltd has been completed, remaining reserves will also be transferred into the SEEC account.
- 2.2 The Executive will also wish to note that to date, 10 notices of intended withdrawal from SEEC have been received from member councils, giving the required 12 months' written notice as set out in the SEEC Constitution.
- 2.3 Even though notice has been served, it does allow authorities to remain SEEC Members after July 2011 if they so choose, and several councils have committed to reviewing their decision on resignation next year. However, if notices received turn into actual resignations, this could potentially mean a loss of subscription income of £40,920 for 2011/12 (at current rates).

1 September 2010.