

## SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: 11 July 2012

Subject: Business plan: Priorities and outcomes 2012-13

Report of: Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE, SEEC Chairman



### Recommendations:

- i) Members endorse development of a 3-year strategic vision for SEEC
- ii) Members contribute ideas on priority topics and outcomes and how to achieve these, working in conjunction with SESL to deliver a co-ordinated work programme across both organisations wherever possible.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 A draft business plan for SEEC was put forward at June's AGM, but recognising that further discussion would be needed following members' decision on the future of closer working with SESL.
- 1.2 Given the decision to move towards a shared staff team, I believe it is important for SEEC and SESL to work together on major issues wherever possible.

### 2. Strategic vision

- 2.1 I want to work with members of both organisations to develop and agree a 3-year vision setting out priority outcomes for the South East. This should cover not only policy issues that we want to influence, but also plans for the future sustainability and financial viability of our South East membership organisations.

### 3. Priority issues and outcomes

- 3.1 Building on suggestions from the SEEC AGM, I propose the first step to developing a 3-year strategy is to focus our business plan under two key headings:

- Infrastructure
- Health & Wellbeing

I encourage members to contribute suggestions to the developing vision, including specific projects or actions that will help us achieve key outcomes and make a constructive case to Government.

#### 3.2 Infrastructure

Investment in infrastructure is central to the future success of the South East to support economic growth and ensure a good quality of life for our residents.

Suggested key outcomes and issues include:

- i) Secure transport investment – develop a long term strategy on major road, rail and air investment for the South East. Highlight the return on investment for the national economy that South East projects offer, the potential for greater economic connectivity and reducing congestion.
- ii) Deliver South East economic development and essential housing – share good practice on how the new planning system can deliver the homes, economic growth and environmental protection that the South East needs. Includes focus on how initiatives such as CIL can help raise funds to contribute to better infrastructure.

- iii) Encourage take up of European funding – influence development of EU funding streams for 2014 onwards and improve awareness of European funding pots that could help take forward infrastructure/economic projects.
- iv) Improve skills and employability – work with colleges, schools, business and LEPs to ensure the South East delivers the workforce that employers need.
- v) Ensure a sustainable water supply – highlight the need for long term water investment that will ensure adequate supplies for South East residents and businesses.

### 3.3 **Health & Wellbeing**

- i) Successful transfer of health & wellbeing to local government – work to involve all tiers of local authorities in delivering better health outcomes for South East residents.
- ii) Promote innovative service delivery – share best practice on improving and integrating services such as health and social care to deliver more efficient, cost effective support for residents.
- iii) Address the demographic time bomb – raise the profile of challenges facing South East authorities in providing for our large and ageing population.

3.4 In addition to these two major topics, I also propose that SEEC should continue light touch involvement in a small number of ongoing projects during 2012-13. These include:

- Data dashboard
- Monitoring policy & legislation affecting local government to identify relevant opportunities to influence direction. For example, the current Local Government Finance Bill
- Publishing research into the impact of migration on policing.

3.5 I propose returning to SEEC with a developed strategy at the All-member meeting on 8 November.