

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: 11 September 2012
Subject: Business plan update
Report of: Heather Bolton, SEEC Director



Recommendations:

- i) Members consider the developing SEEC business plan and contribute any additional suggestions for inclusion
 - ii) Members note that the final plan will be developed in time for the November All-member meeting, following member discussions scheduled with SESL later in September on potential joint work areas.
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1. Background

- 1.1 Members agreed headline issues for the SEEC business plan for October 2012-October 2013 at the July Executive, focusing on Infrastructure and Health & Wellbeing. The table in Section 2 below adds some suggested actions to support the headline outcomes. Further input from members is welcome for discussion.
- 1.2 Following agreement on closer working by SEEC and SESL, a small member group and lead chief executives from both organisations will meet on 14 September. Topics for discussion will include potential areas for joint working.
- 1.3 SEEC's business plan will be finalised after the SEEC-SESL meeting on 14 September, taking into account any adjustments needed to reflect member decisions on joint work areas. A final version will be prepared for the November All-member meeting.

2. Draft SEEC business plan 2012-2013 - for discussion

1. Infrastructure	
Aim 1A: Securing transport and other key infrastructure investment to drive the economy, including highlighting the return on investment for the national economy that South East projects offer.	Activity planned includes: i) Explore the potential for city deal-type investments in the South East and make the case to government ii) Influence MPs on the case for greater funding for the South East as engine room of the UK economy iii) Discuss next steps in promoting the South East's high level transport needs iv) Make the case for improved broadband to support economic growth, including delivery of high speed access in rural areas.
Aim 1B: Supporting delivery of South East economic development and essential housing by sharing good practice on initiatives such as Community Infrastructure Levy and the new planning system.	Activity planned includes: i) Member workshop in March 2013 highlighting successful routes to infrastructure planning and delivery and raising infrastructure funding.
Aim 1C: Encouraging take up of European funding and influencing development of EU funding streams for 2014 onwards.	Activity planned includes: i) Member meetings with Government to influence development of EU funding streams and influencing via SEEC connections with the LGA and Committee of the Regions ii) Member and officer input to management of ERDF funding programmes and project selection iii) Regular updates on funding opportunities for all member authorities.
Aim 1D: Improving skills and employability by ensuring the South East delivers the workforce that employers need.	Activity planned includes: i) Share good practice guide on developing young people's skills and employability, drawing on lessons from local authorities' economic development work, apprenticeship schemes and experience of the Connexions service.
Aim 1E: Ensuring a sustainable water supply for South East residents and businesses.	Activity planned includes: i) Engage the Environment Agency to understand and influence investment and supply plans for the South East ii) Include need for investment in water as part of SEEC's wider influencing work.

2. Health & wellbeing	
Aim 2A: Successfully transferring health & wellbeing to local government, involving all tiers of councils.	Activity planned includes: i) Engage Department of Health officials to ensure views of South East members are taken into account during the transition to local government ii) Make the case to redress historic underfunding of public health and ensure adequate funding for local authorities taking on these responsibilities from April 2013.
Aim 2B: Promoting innovative service delivery by sharing best practice on improving and integrating services such as health and social care.	Activity planned includes: i) Influence development of the draft Social Care bill, working in partnership with SESL ii) Work with the Cabinet Office to raise awareness of employee-owned mutuals as an innovative option for service delivery.
Aim 2C: Addressing the demographic challenges affecting service provision, including the impact of a large ageing population.	Activity planned includes: i) Member workshop in December 2012 on how services need to adapt and respond to population changes, including growing need for social care.
3. Other on-going areas of work	
Aim 3A: Maintaining effective evidence base and understanding of key issues to inform SEEC's influencing work.	Activity planned includes: i) Publish two Data Dashboard updates per year, identifying key policy issues for SEEC and partners to act on.
Aim 3B: Monitoring policy & legislation affecting local government to identify relevant opportunities to influence direction.	Activity planned includes: i) Ensure South East views are represented through responses to consultations, discussions and briefings on relevant policy issues at national and European levels.
Aim 3C: Maintaining relationship and hosting arrangements with SESPM (South East Strategic Partnership for Migration), ensuring updates for members on key migration issues.	Activity planned includes: i) Publish research into the impact of migration on policing.