

## **AGENDA ITEM 8**

### **SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS PLENARY MEETING**

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Subject: **SEEC – 2009/10 Budget position and arrangements and subscription levels for 2010/11**

Report by: Paul Carter, SEEC Chairman  
Aidan Shutter, SEEC Policy Officer

#### **Purpose of the Paper**

1. To update SEEC Members on the estimated budget outturn position for 2009/10 and to agree arrangements and subscription levels for 2010/11.

#### **Recommendations**

2. SEEC is asked to:
  - a) Note the estimated budget outturn for 2009/10 (paras 3/4)
  - b) Agree to hold the subscriptions levels for 2010/11 at the current rates (paras 5,6 & 7 and Appendix A)
  - c) Consider whether the two South East National Park Authorities should be invited to join SEEC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 (paras 8 & 9)
  - d) Agree to transfer the administration of the SEEC budget from Buckinghamshire County Council to SEERA Ltd from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 (paras 10, 11 & 12)

#### **SEEC Budget Outturn for 2009/10**

3. The current SEEC budget outturn to 10 March is set out below. Expenditure to date is £84,483 however the costs of this plenary meeting and any additional costs (estimated at £10k in total) will mean final year end expenditure of around £95,000. This will result in a surplus of approximately £55k which can be transferred into next year's budget. This surplus position has arisen due to:
  - The Communications Manager vacancy between January and March 2010
  - No significant SEEC expenditure during April/May 2009. Authorities were invited to join and pay their subscriptions from June 2009.
  - Expenditure for the July 2009 AGM (held at Surrey CC) was lower than expected

4. SEEC Budget to 10 March 2010

Cost Element	Total Plan for Year	Plan Year to Date	Actual in Last Period	Actual Year to Date
144001 Admin, Professional & Clerical - Sals:	55000.00	55000.00	24000.00	24000.00
144002 Admin, Professional & Clerical - NI	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.10
247000 Staff Travelling Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.31
248000 Car Allowances Mileage & Lump Sum	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.48
321010 General Provisions (Food)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1159.20
340010 Printing & Stationery	2500.00	2500.00	0.00	354.10
340013 Stationery & Office Supplies	5000.00	5000.00	0.00	0.00
382020 Mobile Telephones & Cellphone Charges	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00
552000 Courses, Conference and Seminar Fees	10000.00	10000.00	0.00	7336.82
562200 Subscriptions to National Bodies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
583010 Other Professional & Consultancy Fees	55000.00	55000.00	0.00	51362.32
594501 Contingency	21500.00	21500.00	0.00	0.00
922016 Income from other outside bodies	-150000.00	-150000.00	0.00	-149396.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				<b>84483.33</b>
<b>Balance</b>				<b>-64912.67</b>

**SEEC Subscriptions for 2010/11**

5. During 2009/10, income was on target at £150k. In total 70 out of 74 SE Councils have joined SEEC. The four that have not so far subscribed to SEEC are:

- Medway Council
- Gosport Borough Council
- Mole Valley District Council
- Oxford City Council

If all 74 local authorities joined SEEC, the maximum income available would be £157,526 at current rates.

6. Due to the difficult financial conditions facing all councils, it is recommended that the 2010/11 subscription rates remain unchanged from 2009/10 and bills are issued on that basis. I will also write to the four Councils above to invite them to join for 2010/11.
7. Clearly, depending on the outcome of the forthcoming general election, there may well be considerable changes to the regional architecture. I therefore propose to distribute subscription bills as above, but to ask SEEC to re-appraise developments at the July AGM meeting in terms of possible new regional arrangements and possible subscription rate changes.

### **National Parks Authorities**

8. As a result of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, SEEC members will be aware that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, a place on the Leaders' Board must be allocated to a representative from the region's National Parks Authorities. This place is being taken by a representative from the New Forest National Park who will also represent the interests of the newly formed South Downs National Park Authority.
9. As the Leaders' Board is effectively the SEEC Executive, SEEC Members are asked to consider whether the two SE National Park Authorities should be invited to join South East England Councils at a level equivalent to the district council subscription rate (£1,016).

### **Transfer of SEEC Budget to SEERA Ltd**

10. It is proposed that the SEEC income/expenditure will be managed through SEERA Ltd from 1 April 2010. This means that subscription invoices for 2010/11 will be sent out from SEERA Ltd, rather than Buckinghamshire County Council which has managed SEEC's finances during this current financial year. SEEC income and expenditure will be accounted for quite separately to the CLG funding which is paid to SEERA Ltd (on behalf of the Leader's Board) for the Regional Strategy work.
11. SEERA Ltd (a company limited by guarantee) currently has 53 local authority members and it was agreed at the AGM last October that its name should be changed to 'SEEC' Ltd from 1 April 2010. However, the SEERA Ltd Board has since been advised that 'SEEC Ltd' is already registered at Companies House and is therefore unavailable for use. Other possible names are now being checked out including 'South East England Councils Ltd', but under the Companies Act 2006 permission is needed from the Secretary of State to use the words 'England' and 'Councils', so it's taking longer than anticipated to propose an appropriate name change to the membership of SEERA Ltd. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting on 30 March.

12. Any local authority which has not yet joined SEERA Ltd is still invited to do so. Please contact Diana Pogson at [dianapogson@se-partnershipboard.org.uk](mailto:dianapogson@se-partnershipboard.org.uk) for a copy of the application form.

## Appendix A

### South East England Councils (SEEC)

#### Proposed Local Authority Subscription Rates for 2010/11

Local Authority	Subscriptions to SEEC for 2010/11 £	Previous subscriptions to SEERA for comparison £
Bracknell Forest Council	3,050	12,198
Brighton & Hove City Council	5,082	20,328
Buckinghamshire County Council	4,066	16,262
East Sussex County Council	5,082	20,328
Hampshire County Council	11,180	44,722
Isle of Wight Council	3,050	12,198
Kent County Council	12,197	48,788
Milton Keynes Council	5,082	20,328
Oxfordshire County Council	5,082	20,328
Portsmouth City Council	4,066	16,262
Reading Borough Council	3,050	12,198
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	3,050	12,198
Slough Borough Council	3,050	12,198
Southampton City Council	5,082	20,328
Surrey County Council	11,180	44,722
West Berkshire Council	3,050	12,198
West Sussex County Council	7,115	28,460
Wokingham Borough Council	3,050	12,198
Medway Council	5,082	--
District Councils x 55 @ £1,016	(1,016) = 55,880	(4,066) = 223,630
<b>Total from 74 Local Authorities</b>	<b>157,526</b>	<b>609,872</b>