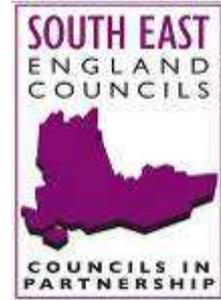


**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: 8 March 2012

Subject: **SEEC finances**

Report of: Cllr Paul Watkins, SEEC Treasurer



Recommendation:

Members note SEEC's current financial situation.

1. Background

- 1.1 In December 2011 the SEEC Executive Committee provisionally agreed to freeze member subscriptions for 2012-13, subject to full member agreement at the AGM in June 2012.
- 1.2 During the Executive discussion, members asked for an overview of SEEC's current financial situation, including income, the status of liquidation funds from SEERA Ltd and current reserves.

2. Financial overview year by year

- 2.1 Annex A (attached) sets out a high level picture of SEEC finances since the organisation's inception in April 2009.
- 2.2 **Financial year 2009-10:** Costs were low in this set-up year as SEEC employed no full time staff, relying on part time support and free policy officer input from the former South East England Partnership Board.
- 2.3 **Financial year 2010-11:** This year saw substantial receipts following the closure of former regional partnerships. These totalled over £740,000:
- £725,000 representing the bulk of funds from liquidation of SEERA Ltd (the company behind the former Regional Assembly and Partnership Board)
 - £15,900 from closure of SEE-IN (the regional observatory function).
- Other significant income in 2010-11 included member subscriptions and money reclaimed from the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM) grant to cover costs of operating the migration partnership. Expenditure increased following the phased appointment of three dedicated SEEC posts, but showed a healthy credit balance at the end of the year.
- 2.4 **Financial year 2011-12:** (NB figures only available so far to 31 January 2012.) Main sources of funding this year are member subscriptions and reserves carried over from last year. Once again there is reclaimed income from the SESPM grant, with more to come by the end of the year. Expenditure forecasts to 31 March 2012 – including almost a full year of staff costs for the first time – are on target to meet or undercut the agreed budget of £359,000. Final accounts and VAT calculations will be prepared after the end of the financial year. These figures have been produced on a cash basis and the surplus shown in Annex A is an accurate reflection of SEEC's bank balance on 31 January 2012.
- 2.5 Final wind up of the SEERA Ltd liquidation process is still ongoing. SEEC officers are in contact with the accountants handling this and expect a final distribution of around £30,000 in spring 2012.