

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LOCALISM BILL WORKSHOP**

27 May 2011 at 10.30am

Council Room, Church House, Dean's Yard,  
Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ



NB:

This is a private workshop not a public meeting

Group meetings at 9.45am

An LGA specialist policy officer will attend the meeting to answer detailed questions on the Bill and provide an update on the LGA priorities relating to the Bill.

Lunch will be provided at 12.30pm

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies, declarations of substitutes and declarations of interest.
2. Localism Bill – update on content of Bill and progress through Parliament.
3. Key Localism Bill issues raised by SEEC members and SEEC questionnaire.
4. Round table discussion to establish priorities for aspects of the Bill SEEC may want to influence. Suggested member focus on practical suggestions/ changes needed in two key areas:
  - a) Central vs Local – how to shift the balance of the Bill to:
    - reduce central control and regulation over local government
    - minimise additional bureaucracy resulting from the Bill's proposals
    - enhance local democracy and consider best use of local referenda
    - make the power of competence meaningful and simplify procurement to make local service delivery more viable.
  - b) Housing growth & neighbourhood planning – how to make the new system work better for local government including:
    - reducing cost and bureaucracy in the system
    - clarifying councils' role in the face of anti-development community groups
    - making incentives for growth more attractive to councils & their communities.
5. Agree next steps for SEEC work programme (verbal)
6. Update on SEEC's Fair Funding report by Local Government Futures (verbal)
7. Any Other Business (Chairman to be notified in advance of the meeting)

**PLEASE NOTE:** All substitutes should be notified to the secretariat in advance of the meeting.