

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**



Date: 18 February 2011

Subject: **Presentation on LGA Environment & Housing Board work programme**

Report by: Heather Bolton, SEEC Head of Communications & Public Affairs

Recommendation:

SEEC Executive is asked to provide feedback to guest speakers from the LGA on the work programme for the LGA Environment & Housing Board.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Two representatives from the LGA Environment & Housing Board will be attending the SEEC Executive to outline the Board's work programme:
- Cllr Gary Porter, Board Chairman (from South Holland DC)
 - Martin Wheatley, LGA Programme Director for Environment & Housing.
- 1.2 This is an opportunity for SEEC Executive members to provide feedback on the proposed work programme and raise priority topics that could be included in the Board's work.
- 1.3 Particularly topical is the Board's work on planning and housing, which are key issues in the Localism Bill.

2. Background to the LGA Environment & Housing Board

- 2.1. The Board has responsibility for Local Government Group activity in the area of the sustainability of the environment, including issues of planning, waste and housing. It comprises 14 members and meets 4-6 times a year.
- 2.2 At the most recent meeting in November 2010, the Board agenda included:
- LGA/ CLG Housing Commission
 - Spending Review 2010
 - Housing and Planning Influencing Programme
 - Defra Waste Review Submission
 - LG Group support for councils on tackling litter
- 2.2. Notable recent work includes:
- A meeting between LGA Chair Cllr Margaret Eaton, Lord Richard Best and Housing Minister Grant Shapps to discuss the work of the CLG/LGA commission on councils' role in house building.
 - Creation of an Inland Flood Risk Management Group to feed expert views into the Board. (SEEC nominates 2 councillors to this group).
 - Meeting with the Environment Agency Sustainable Communities Board Group to discuss strengthening partnership working and delivery of strategic priorities such as flood risk management.
 - Discussion on issues around planning reform, housing and the Decentralisation and Localism Bill.