

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
ALL-MEMBER PLENARY MEETING**



Date: 17 March 2011

Subject: **The Future of Improvement and Efficiency South East**

Report by: Aidan Shutter, SEEC Policy Officer

Recommendation:

SEEC members are asked to note and respond to the presentation by Paul Bettison on the future role of IESE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Cllr Paul Bettison, Chairman of Improvement & Efficiency South East (IESE) and Leader of Bracknell Forest BC, has previously reported to SEEC on the activities, progress and performance of the South East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP).
- 1.2 IESE is one of nine RIEPs and was established to work with the South East's 74 local authorities and 9 fire authorities to facilitate and fund projects that will drive efficiencies and service improvements across the region.
- 1.3 In its first two years of operation, IESE has enabled councils in the South East to make more than £80million cashable savings. IESE is governed democratically by members across the South East and managed by a South East chief executives' board.

2. The future of IESE

- 2.1 As cuts in public spending begin to bite, local councils have to adapt and change. New legislation such as the Localism Bill is also introducing new freedoms and flexibilities for local councils and local communities. As well as the need to make cost savings, driving innovation and transforming the way councils work both individually and together will be vital tools for the future.
- 2.2 In his presentation, Paul Bettison will outline the latest outcomes achieved by IESE, proposals for the future of IESE as a self-funding organisation, and how these will fit with other existing improvement programmes running across the SE.

11 March 2011