

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: 7 December 2010

Subject: **South East England Councils subscriptions  
and draft budget 2011-12**

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

**Recommendation:**

SEEC members are asked to recommend a freeze in SEEC subscription levels for 2011-12 and submit this recommendation for approval by the SEEC All-member meeting in March 2011.

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The SEEC constitution specifies that membership subscriptions for the coming year should be discussed by the Executive Committee in December each year.
- 1.2. Following a year of significant change in 2010 members delayed subscription setting for 2010-11 until the AGM in July 2010. However, it would help forward planning to revert to the timetable included in the constitution as agreed when SEEC was established in 2009.
- 1.3 Alternatively, if members wish to change the timetable for debating subscriptions it will be necessary to agree an amendment to the constitution.

**2. Proposed subscription level**

- 2.1 Following extensive debate on the future of SEEC in summer 2010, it was agreed that SEEC should be a minimalist organisation, spending a maximum of £500,000 a year. In expectation of assets to be received from liquidation of SEERA Ltd it was agreed to cut proposed subscriptions for 2010-11 by 50% to raise some £250,000 from members.
- 2.2 In view of the 50% cut agreed last year, the proposal this year is to freeze subscriptions at last year's rate for 2011-12 and once again draw on reserves from the former SEERA Ltd to fund operations up to a maximum of £500,000. This would give subscription levels of:
  - £1,705 per district
  - Unitary councils pay £1,705 for each 50,000 population
  - County councils multiply the £1,705 by the number of districts in their county.Appendix A shows the table of subscription rates.
- 2.3 These subscription rates compare very favourably with similar organisations in other areas of the country. In other areas member subscriptions for the coming year are expected to raise between £600,000 - £800,000 from a smaller number of councils.

### 3. Draft SEEC Budget 2011-12

#### Income

Subscriptions (Assumes 85% membership)	200,000
IT & hosting contribution from SESPM	2,500
Reserves	122,500
<b>Estimated income</b>	<b>£325,000</b>

#### Expenditure

Staffing (Max 3.5 staff, including NI and pension)	220,000
IT hardware & external support (not via Surrey CC)	10,000
Estimated Surrey CC hosting costs (Accommodation, post, payroll management etc)	10,000
Meeting costs (Including venue hire, refreshments for plenary, executive committee, task & finish groups and ad hoc meetings)	30,000
Day to day running costs (Including stationery, mobile phones, staff travel)	10,000
Communications (Including printing, web upgrades)	10,000
Projects (eg conferences, research etc)	35,000
<b>Estimated expenditure</b>	<b>£325,000</b>

1 December 2010

## Agenda Item 7 - Appendix A

<b>AUTHORITY</b>	<b>Multiplier</b>	<b>Base rate 2010-11</b>	<b>2010-11 subs by council</b>
Each District, City & Borough Council	1	1,705	1,705
<b>County Councils</b>			
Buckinghamshire	4	1,705	6,820
East Sussex	5	1,705	8,525
Hampshire	11	1,705	18,755
Kent	12	1,705	20,460
Oxfordshire	5	1,705	8,525
Surrey	11	1,705	18,755
West Sussex	7	1,705	11,935
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Bracknell Forest	3	1,705	5,115
Brighton and Hove	5	1,705	8,525
Isle of Wight	3	1,705	5,115
Medway	5	-	-
Milton Keynes	5	1,705	8,525
Portsmouth	4	1,705	6,820
Reading	3	1,705	5,115
Slough	3	1,705	5,115
Southampton	5	1,705	8,525
West Berkshire	3	1,705	5,115
Windsor and Maidenhead	3	1,705	5,115
Wokingham	3	1,705	5,115