

MINUTES OF THE ALL-MEMBER PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday 7 February 2012

The Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining,
1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB



Present: See attached attendance list.

1. Apologies, Declarations of Substitutes and Declarations of Interest

1.1 See attendance list (attached). No declarations of interest were made.

2. Minutes of SEEC All-Member meeting on 8 November 2011 and Matters Arising Not Elsewhere on the Agenda

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

2.2 Heather Bolton suggested SEEC write to BT Openreach as it had not responded to issues raised in November on broadband speed and 'unbundling' exchanges.

ACTION 1: SEEC's Chairman to write to BT Openreach regarding unanswered questions raised by members following BT's presentation in November.

2.3 Heather updated members on closer working between SEEC and SESL. Progress so far included holding SEEC and SESL meetings on the same day, and joint responses to Government on mayoral powers and social care. The next step will be options for members to consider at the AGM in June 2012.

ACTION 2: SEEC and SESL lead chief executives to put together options on closer working for member consideration at the AGM in June.

3. Local Government Association priorities for 2012: Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman LGA

3.1 Sir Merrick Cockell thanked members for inviting him and explained his ambitions for the role of local authorities in representing communities, providing strong local leadership and ensuring effective public services.

3.2 Significant economic challenges are driving change and Sir Merrick highlighted the importance of councils providing effective and efficient services by co-operating together and working with other partners.

3.3 He said there are key challenges for local government in proposed health and social care changes. The LGA has been lobbying Government to ensure:

- i) healthcare decisions are accountable to local people.
- ii) decisions and service structures are based on local needs.
- iii) effective integration of services/delivery, breaking down organisational barriers.

3.4 The LGA has welcomed Government's recognition that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) should generally be co-terminus with local authorities. However there remain concerns about the level of central direction retained by Ministers.

3.5 He said the LGA's role is to highlight the value of local government across a range of areas, from handling last year's riots through to making community budgets work and driving economic growth. However it is important that councils are given the right tools to achieve growth - for example influence over transport investment.

- 3.6 He also stressed the importance of clear leadership in local government – locally and nationally – on self regulation following abolition of the Audit Commission.
- 3.7 Sir Merrick outlined changes at the LGA, including downsizing and a new Chief Executive. He invited comments on LGA’s business plan (circulated previously).
- 3.8 The Chairman thanked Sir Merrick. Member discussion focused on self-regulation including the role of peer reviews and how to ensure continued improvement in local government despite current financial constraints. Andrew Bowles, Swale BC, explained the LGA Audit & Scrutiny Panel is looking at the approach to peer reviews and would welcome feedback from SEEC members.
- 4. Public Health: local government’s role in improving community health**
- a) The new health landscape for South East local authorities: Dr Ruth Hussey, Director of Public Health, Public Health England (PHE)**
- 4.1 Dr Ruth Hussey outlined public health reforms underway and local government’s role in shaping and delivering the changes. She said the core issues are now set out as Government has published key policy proposals, an outcomes framework and headline budget allocations. LGA has published guidance on workforce transition.
- 4.2 PHE is a new national organisation. It brings together roles that have been separate in the past, aiming for better service integration. It will have three major functions, to:
- Deliver services eg clinical tests to help support investigation of infections.
 - Provide information, evidence, advice & help to support local & national delivery.
 - Work with local government to take the new system forward. The relationship with councils will become clearer once PHE’s leadership team is in place.
- 4.3 Ruth emphasised councils’ leadership role in delivering public health under the new system. Local authorities are a major building block for the reforms, working closely with CCGs to integrate different parts of the system to tackle health problems more effectively. The Director of Public Health will be a key role in local authorities. PHE and LGA plan to publish case studies highlighting lessons from front-runner areas.
- 4.4 She was impressed with progress so far and some public health teams had already moved to local government. Agreeing a clear timetable and effective handover are critical in helping councils seize the new opportunities to meet local needs better.
- 4.5 In discussion members raised points, including:
- Local authority staffing implications and the degree of flexibility available to councils on transfer of staff from previous structures/new appointments.
 - The importance of PHE being responsive to local government needs, not ‘policing’ councils.
 - The importance of ensuring local authorities have adequate resources to deliver the new functions effectively.
- b) Cross-tier partnership working and the Kent Health Commission: Meradin Peachey, Director of Public Health, Kent**
- 4.6 Meradin Peachey explained partnership work underway in Kent in preparation for the public health reforms. A Forum of local authorities and key partners has been established to consider service location and quality and provide democratically accountable leadership for the new system. There has been good early engagement between GPs and councillors, including joint discussions between a PCT cluster, 7 CCGs and Kent CC on commissioning support for GPs.

- 4.7 A key focus is ensuring commissioning achieves better results for service users. Kent's Health & Wellbeing Board wants practical outcomes as soon as possible.
- 4.8 Paul Carter explained that Kent partners are working hard to seize the opportunities, eg working with innovative GPs and the CCG in Dover and Shepway to develop a clinically-led approach to prevention/community health. The Kent Health Commission has submitted an interim report to Andrew Lansley MP including recommendations on pooling resources to deliver better holistic support for patients.
- 4.9 Paul also highlighted opportunities for improving community health provision and reducing acute hospital admissions by integrating social care and health. This could lead to a 5% shift out of acute hospitals, with savings used to deliver preventive support services to people in their own homes. Kent plans a pilot project on this.
- 4.10 In discussion members acknowledged the importance of moving the emphasis from clinical treatment to public health. However some wondered if reducing the need for acute hospital beds could lead to closures. The potential for increased intermediary care places instead of more costly acute services was also discussed.

5. Skills workshop 8 March

- 5.1 Members were reminded about the Skills & Employment Workshop on 8 March, where Employment Minister Chris Grayling MP would be speaking.

6. Items for Information

- 6.1 Gordon Keymer explained that SEEC's briefing on concerns about the EU Energy Efficiency Directive had been well-received by MPs and MEPs.

7. Confirmed forward meeting dates:

- AGM – 21 June 2012, Church House, London (shared date with SESL).
- Executive Committee – 11 July 2012.
- Executive Committee – 11 September 2012.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 David Robertson raised new DfT consultation on devolving Local Major Transport Schemes to Local Transport Bodies/Consortia. DfT wants new arrangements in place by late 2012 so work can start on identifying projects that need funding from 2015 onwards. Members supported a joint SEEC/SESL response.

ACTION 3: SEEC and SESL to prepare a joint response to the consultation on devolving major transport schemes by the deadline of 2 April 2012.

- 8.2 Heather Bolton informed members about two free events.
- Planning under Localism – 9 March by LGA/Planning Advisory Service
 - Climate change adaptation – 20 February by Environment Agency, Defra, LGA and Climate UK.
- 8.3 Gordon Keymer urged member councils to respond locally to Government consultation on passing EU fines to local government. This raises concerns about potential financial liabilities. Consultation closes on 22 April.
- 8.4 There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.30pm.

Signed:

Paul Carter, Chairman

Date: 21 June 2012

Name	Organisation	Signature / Apologies / Substitute
Neil Parkin	Adur District Council	Apologies
Gillian Brown	Arun District Council	Apologies
Peter Wood	Ashford Borough Council	Apologies
John Cartwright	Aylesbury Vale District Council	Sub – Carole Paternoster
Clive Sanders	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	Apologies
Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	Yes
Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council	Yes
John Gilbey	Canterbury City Council	Sub – Tony Austin
Barry Wood	Cherwell District Council	Apologies
Myles Cullen	Chichester District Council	Apologies
Nick Rose	Chiltern District Council	Apologies
Bob Lanzer	Crawley Borough Council	Apologies
Jeremy Kite	Dartford Borough Council	Apologies
Paul Watkins	Dover District Council	Yes
Patrick Burridge	East Hampshire District Council	Yes
David Tutt	Eastbourne Borough Council	Apologies
Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council	Apologies
John O'Reilly	Elmbridge Borough Council	Apologies
Neil Dallen	Epsom & Ewell Borough Council	Yes
John Burden	Gravesham Borough Council	Yes
Tony Rooth	Guildford Borough Council	Apologies
Ken Thornber, CBE	Hampshire County Council	Apologies
Ken Crookes	Hart District Council	Apologies
Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Council	Apologies
Tony Briggs	Havant Borough Council	Apologies
Ray Dawe	Horsham District Council	Apologies
Paul Carter	Kent County Council	Yes
Elayne Merry	Lewes District Council	Apologies
Chris Garland	Maidstone Borough Council	Apologies
Garry Wall	Mid Sussex District Council	Apologies
Andrew Geary	Milton Keynes Council	Apologies
Barry Rickman	New Forest District Council	Apologies
Ed Turner	Oxford City Council	Sub - Van Coulter
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Oxfordshire County Council	Yes
David Robertson	Oxfordshire County Council	Yes
Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City Council	Apologies
Tony Page	Reading Borough Council	Yes
Lynne Hack	Reigate & Banstead Borough Council	Yes
Carl Maynard	Rother District Council	Apologies

David Burbage	RB of Windsor & Maidenhead	Yes
Patrick Roberts	Runnymede Borough Council	Apologies
Roland Dibbs	Rushmoor Borough Council	Yes
Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council	Yes
Robert Bliss	Shepway District Council	Yes
James Swindlehurst	Slough Borough Council	Apologies
Adrian Busby	South Bucks District Council	Apologies
Ann Ducker	South Oxfordshire District Council	Yes
Royston Smith	Southampton City Council	Apologies
Vivienne Leighton	Spelthorne Borough Council	Apologies
David Hodge	Surrey County Council	Apologies
Moira Gibson	Surrey Heath Borough Council	Yes
Andrew Bowles	Swale Borough Council	Yes
Gordon Keymer, CBE	Tandridge District Council	Yes
Ian Carr	Test Valley Borough Council	Apologies
Clive Hart	Thanet District Council	Apologies
Mark Worrall, OBE	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Sub – Owen Baldock
Robert Atwood	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Apologies
Robert Knowles	Waverley Borough Council	Apologies
Bob Standley	Wealden District Council	Yes
Graham Jones	West Berkshire Council	Apologies
Barry Norton	West Oxfordshire District Council	Yes
George Beckett	Winchester City Council	Yes
John Kingsbury	Woking Borough Council	Apologies
David Lee	Wokingham Borough Council	Apologies
Paul Yallop	Worthing Borough Council	Apologies
Arif Hussain	Wycombe District Council	Apologies
Speakers		
Sir Merrick Cockell	LGA	
Meradin Peachey	Director of Public Health, Kent	
Dr Ruth Hussey	Director of Public Health England	
Observers		
Marianne Abley	LGA	
Other Attendees		
Chris Williams	SEEC	
Heather Bolton	SEEC	
Nick Woolfenden	SEEC	
Hayley Austin	SEEC	
Kate Jones	SESL	