

## SEEC EXECUTIVE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 OCTOBER 2009

**Present:** Paul Carter (Chairman)  
Paul Watkins (Secretary)  
Mike Appleyard  
George Beckett  
Louise Bloom  
Elizabeth Cartwright  
Myles Cullen  
Tony de Vere  
Moirra Gibson  
Ian Hudspeth  
Gordon Keymer, CBE  
Andrew Povey  
Tony Reid  
Cec Tallack  
Ken Thornber, CBE

**In Attendance:** Chris Williams, Chairman of the LACE Group  
Aidan Shutter, Policy Officer, SEEC  
Jenny Whittle, Communications Manager, SEEC  
Diana Pogson, Interim Managing Director, Partnership Board  
Strategy Unit  
Catriona Riddell, Director of Planning, Partnership Board  
Strategy Unit  
Irene Cripps, PA to Diana Pogson, Partnership Board  
Strategy Unit  
Mary Blanche, Acting Regional Partnership Manager, SESPM

#### **B1. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising:**

##### **a) SEEC AGM on 15 July 2009**

- B1.1 It was **noted** that Richard Kemp of the LGA is to be replaced by David Shakespeare.
- B1.2 It was **agreed** that Chris Williams should draft a paper for discussion at the next SEEC Executive meeting on the business plan and the proposal to the LGA; when agreed this would then be discussed at the following plenary meeting.
- B1.3 It was **agreed** to invite Paul Bettison to a meeting of the SEEC Executive to give an update on the activities of Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE - formerly RIEP).
- B1.4 The following changes and corrections to membership of the various boards were **noted**:
- i) SEEC Executive/Leaders Board correction - Louise Bloom prefers the title of Vice-Chair to Vice-Chairman.
  - ii) Partnership Board - Mary Mears replaces Mike Appleyard.
  - iii) Strategy Board - Mike Appleyard replaces Mary Mears.

- iv) Regional Housing and Regeneration Board correction - Lib Dem members are Gerald Vernon-Jackson and Angela Lawrence.
- v) Regional Economic Development and Skills Board - since the AGM the ToR had been agreed and SEEC would now have four members on this board (three Conservative and one Lib Dem). It has been agreed that the members will be Mike Appleyard (lead member for SEEC), George Beckett, Kevin Lynes and David Tutt; Jonathan Glen and Mary Mears would be named alternates.

**b) SEEC Executive on 24 July 2009**

B1.5 The draft minutes were **agreed subject** to the following change:

Inter-Regional Forum: Partnership Board to read Strategy Board.

**c) Matters Arising:**

**i) Members' Allowances**

B1.6 Following discussion of the proposals it was **agreed** that:

- the Chairmen of the main Boards and the Planning Panel will receive a monthly allowance as per the proposal;
- all members of the Boards and Planning Panel will receive a one-off payment of £500 for the year 2009/2010.

These will be paid through the payroll. There will be a review prior to the 2010 AGM.

**B2. European Update:**

**a) European Update**

B2.1 It was **noted** that Gordon Keymer will be attending a meeting in Brussels on how local authorities can make a real contribution on legislation issues.

B2.2 Paul Watkins **advised** that a meeting of those involved in European issues will be called as soon as possible, at which a template will be agreed on how best to pick up these issues in future; the outcome will be reported to the Executive.

**b) Committee of the Regions Report**

B2.3 The paper was received and it was **noted** that four of the six nominees put forward for membership of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) had been approved as follows:

Gordon Keymer, CBE (Conservative; Tandridge DC) - full member

David Shakespeare, OBE (Conservative; Buckinghamshire CC) - alternate member

Paula Baker (LibDem; Basingstoke and Deane BC) - alternate member

Linda Gillham (Independent; Runnymede BC) - full member

### **B3. Inter-Regional Forum**

B3.1 It was **noted** that the South East's five representatives would be:

Paul Carter - Chairman of SEEC

Mike Appleyard - Lead SEEC member of the Regional Economic Development and Skills Board

Elizabeth Cartwright - Chairman of the Regional Housing and Regeneration Board

Moira Gibson - Chairman of the Planning Panel

David Robertson - Chairman of the Regional Transport Board

### **B4. South East Regional Forum on Ageing (SERFA)**

B4.1 It was **agreed** that SEEC should take up the offer of having a representative on SERFA and that Paul Watkins would approach local authorities for nominations and arrange a ballot.

### **B5. SEEC Budget and Membership Update**

B5.1 It was **noted** that since the update had been written membership had increased and that 71 of the 74 local authorities in the region had now committed to joining SEEC; the outstanding authorities are Gosport BC, Medway Council and Mole Valley DC. It was **agreed** that these authorities would be contacted by Paul Carter (Medway), Gordon Keymer (Mole Valley) and George Beckett (Gosport).

B5.2 It was **noted** that there may be a small surplus at the end of the financial year 2009/10.

B5.3 Errors re party control of authorities on the accompanying spreadsheet had been noted and would be corrected.

### **B6. Declaration of Interests**

B6.1 It was **agreed** that Paul Watkins would circulate Declaration of Interest forms to members for completion; he would then pass this information to Bridget Williams at the Partnership Board.

### **B7. Forward Plan**

B7.1 It was **noted** that this item duplicated Agenda Item A7.

### **B8. Migration Partnership Update**

B8.1 It was **noted** that Paul Watkins chairs the South East Strategic Partnership on Migration (SESPM) and is the only politician on the group; as chairman of this group he also has a seat on the LGA's asylum group. There are many issues, including issues around health, housing, planning and skills.

B8.2 Mary Blanche gave an update on the work of SESPM. Paul Carter thanked Mary for attending the meeting and giving members a very interesting and informative update.

B8.3 It was **agreed** that Mary would provide the SEEC Executive with regular updates in the future.

### **B9. South East Planning Academy - Update on Progress**

- B9.1 Catriona Riddell **advised** that the SE Excellence website would transfer from SEEDA to the Partnership Board.
- B9.2 It was apparent at the recent SEE Advisory Board meeting that there are areas where developers and politicians have a common agenda and Moira Gibson **advised** that this is worth further discussion.
- B9.3 The Advisory Board is keen to meet with the SEEC Executive to discuss how to take this forward and it was **agreed** that the Advisory Board should be invited to meet with the SEEC Executive on the afternoon of its next meeting (22 January 2010).

## **B10. Regional Economic Development and Skills Board - Terms of Reference**

- B10.1 The ToR were **noted**.
- B10.2 It was **noted** that the EDSB will be chaired by SEEDA Board member Alex Pratt and that it is hoped the first meeting will be held in early November.

**POST-MEETING NOTE:** The first meeting will be on 17 November 2009.

## **C. General**

### **C1. Schedule of Meetings**

- C1.1 It was **noted** meetings of the Planning Panel in November and December had been included in the schedule in error and the next meeting is scheduled for 12 January 2010.
- C1.2 It was **noted** that the next SEEC plenary meeting will be held on 4 December 2009 at a central London venue.

**POST-MEETING NOTE:** the venue has been confirmed and is Church House, Westminster.

### **C2. Any Other Business**

#### **a) Substitutes for Meetings**

- C2.1 Questions asked during the discussion of how substitutes should be identified were:
- Does the name of the substitute have to be notified in advance to the meeting?
  - Does the substitute have to be found by the individual member or the party group?
  - Should the substitute be, where possible, a member of SEEC rather than from the authority of the member not attending?
  - Could substitutes be shared around authorities as long as the substitute has the appropriate expertise?
- C2.2 Catriona Riddell commented that the practice of having named substitutes for the Planning Panel provides continuity was **noted**.

- C2.3 **Also noted** was Chris Williams's suggestion that SEEC have a similar arrangement to that of the Local Authority Chief Executives' Advisory Group, where each Board/Panel has three or four Chief Executives to shadow and provide support to the members.
- C2.4 It was **agreed** that Diana Pogson would, in the interim, amend the ToR to state that the alternate representative may be drawn from either the SEELB members on the Partnership Board/Strategy Board or the Delivery Boards. Diana Pogson to be advised of the names when SEEC has agreed its pool of named representatives.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 13.40.