

Minutes of SEEC European Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 25th May 2010 – 1.30pm to 3.30pm

At: 'The Davy Room', Institute Of Materials, Minerals & Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB

Present:

Alex King	Kent County Council (In the chair)
Paul Watkins	Dover District Council & SEEC Secretary
Alan Marsh	Kent County Council
John Pinnell	GOSE
Paul Lovejoy	SEEDA
Ameeta Rowland	SE England Partnership Board
Irina Von Wiese	SEEDA
Tiziana Boyland	SEEDA
Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Vincent O Connell	Surrey County Council
Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Helen Richardson	Hampshire County Council
Cec Tallack	Milton Keynes Council
Ron Moys	Kent County Council
Rachel Williams	Brighton & Hove City Council
Aidan Shutter	SEEC
Heather Bolton	SEEC



Apologies:

Martin Tugwell	SE England Partnership Board
Paula Baker	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

1. Chairman's Welcome

1. Alex King welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the importance of working within the scenario of a new coalition government and how this will mean different ways of working in the future. The changing value of the Euro means both difficulties and opportunities and it will be important to ensure the best outcomes for SE England.

2. Follow up actions from the previous meeting held on 22 January 2010

2. The following actions were noted:

- i) -The Regional Transport Board has already picked up potential bids for European funding opportunities and the Economic Development and Skills Board considered a European funding paper at their meeting earlier in the day (click [here](#) to link to EDSB paper for information)

- ii) – table included in SEEDA paper elsewhere on the agenda
- iii) – Roy Perry has met with Alex King and Alan Marsh to discuss future working opportunities. Alex said that whatever future structures emerge, the intention is to support those who want to be involved. SELP and Kent will work together to support the South East.
- iv) – today’s meeting was convened as the follow-up meeting
- v) – a report will be made to the SEEC Executive on 16th June.

3. GOSE & SEEDA Update Reports

3. Tiziana Boyland presented a report on the European funding administered by SEEDA, which also focused on INTERREG IV funding. Tiziana also explained that SEEDA’s new European Strategy focused on the following three key areas

- Enabling the low carbon economy
- Facilitating business-led innovation
- Supporting business-critical infrastructure

4. Tiziana added that traditional sources of match funding are drying up so looking at areas where joint participation can be facilitated will be critical in the future. There will also be a need to look at budget availability beyond 2013. Alan Marsh noted that the figures in the INTERREG table were incorrect.

Action 1 – Tiziana Boyland to circulate correct figures (attached to these minutes)

5. Alan Marsh also raised concerns about the value of the Euro declining. Alex King said this was a key issue as the future of the Eurozone was very uncertain.
6. John Pinnell provided an update on the £191m ESF programme. He said £90m of funding was available from the beginning of next year with money being distributed on a pan-regional basis but aimed predominantly at hard to reach groups. Roy Perry asked how he could check if money was coming into Hampshire.

Action 2 – John Pinnell to circulate details of ESF funding in the South East (further details can be found at the following website - http://www.esf2008-2011-se.org.uk/providers_se.htm)

7. Alex King raised the issue of maintaining progress in a changing environment. Helyn Clack noted that if SEEDA and GOSE disappear in the future, will more responsibility fall on local government? Paul Lovejoy said a White Paper covering the future of SEEDA was expected before the summer recess. There was however an expectation that SEEDA would be replaced by March 2012. The recent Government announcements made clear that £270m needed to be saved from RDA budgets which will inevitably mean severe budget cuts. Pam Alexander is currently writing to all local authorities in the South East. Heather Bolton mentioned three key Bills in the Queen’s Speech which covered Public

Bodies, Health and Decentralisation & Localism which will herald the necessary legislative changes. John Pinnell said a review of GOSE was expected in the autumn.

8. Alex King said it was difficult to speculate, however we should continue to promote three key elements:

- There remains a European Competitiveness Programme to deliver for the South East
- There should be a continual dialogue to achieve the best result for the South East
- We should continue to promote the importance promoting and maintaining the South East as the Powerhouse of the UK economy.

9. Alan Marsh asked John Pinnell whether the Equality and Human Rights Commission could provide more information for all hard to reach groups.

Action 3 – John Pinnell to investigate and provide further information.

4. Group Discussion Items

10. Many of the issues had already featured in previous discussions. Alex King said that the South East should ensure it receives its fair share of funding. This will mean making sure information and support is available to all local authorities. SELP could provide a quarterly bulletin if that would be helpful.

Action 4 – Heather Bolton to consider how information can best be circulated to member councils

11. Helyn Clack also suggested that the SEEC grouping should have some specific terms of reference that could guide and shape its future work. The ToR's from the old Joint Europe Committee could be used as a basis.

Action 5 – Aidan Shutter to co-ordinate production of a draft set of Terms of Reference for the group.

12. Alex King said that in these extraordinary times, we must learn from best practice right across the world. It would be important that this grouping is updated on the very latest best practice at least on an annual basis. .

5. Update on Nominations to the Congress of the Council of Europe

13. Aidan Shutter said SEEC had been made aware of nominations made by Cec Tallack, Paula Baker, Alex King, Robert Bliss and David Shakespeare. Lesley Clark (Wycombe District Council) had also made enquires. The timetable for the nomination process was set out in the letter from the LGA. Successful nominees will take office in October. Paul Watkins explained that final decisions will be made by the LGA but with advice from SEEC.

6. Nominations for 2 LA officer representatives to serve on the ERDF PSC

14. Alex King questioned why only officer representatives served on the Programme Selection Committee? Members served on the Programme Management Committee (Cec Tallack, Alan Marsh and Helyn Clack) however this was primarily for strategic oversight and monitoring implementation rather than project selection. It was noted that the authorities represented on the PMC should be different from those on the PSC. Aidan Shutter explained that the next meetings of the PSC are scheduled for 15th & 20th July 2010 at the Hilton Hotel Gatwick.

Action 6 – Paul Watkins and Aidan Shutter to arrange a meeting with the three current PMC members, GOSE and SEEDA to bring back ideas on alternative representation on the PSC. This meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

15. Pending the outcome of Action 6, two officer representatives were provisionally nominated by group members. These were:

- a) Daniel Garnier – Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
- b) Siobhan Flynn – West Sussex County Council

16. There being no other business, Alex King thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

**For further details about South East England Councils (SEEC) please visit
www.secouncils.gov.uk**

Agenda Item 3 – Revised funding figures supplied by Tiziana Boyland



European Funding in South East England

EU funding in the region represents a range of sources and levels of funding, from a number of key EU programmes. Between 2007 and 2013 SEEDA will receive approximately £148.2M of direct funding from the EU¹. Annex I provides a break-down of funding spend and availability by programme. SEEDA has developed a substantial portfolio of projects through competitive bidding, attracting £51M of additional European funding since 2002, £46m of which is under the business critical infrastructure arm. In addition pipeline projects worth £13M of additional leverage are expected to be secured from the EU in 2010/11 and work is underway to develop a programme of approximately £85M for retrofitting public buildings², using European Investment Bank lending.

A new European strategy for SEEDA aligns and integrates SEEDA's policy and programme priorities with complementary European opportunities, with a view to maximizing SEEDA's approach and cross-border partnership working. The strategy will focus SEEDA's work in three key areas: enabling the Low-carbon Economy; facilitating Business-led Innovation and supporting Business-critical Infrastructure

Table 1 Value of Allocated and Competitive Bidding Funds in SEEDA

	Total value (£M) of the programme in the region	Amount (£M) managed by SEEDA	Amount (£M) managed by SEEDA 2010 - 2011
EU Programme - Allocated Funds			
European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme (2007-13)	44	22	3.5
European Social Fund Priority 1&2 (2007-2010)	372 ³	10	6.9
Rural Development Programme for England ⁴ (2007-13)	160	64 ⁵	11.72

¹ This figure is bound to increase if competitive bidding continues

² Figures have been converted from Euros to Sterling using the current exchange rate of approximately £1-€1.2. The exchange rate has fluctuated significantly since funds were allocated, generating a windfall for the UK, and may continue to do so.

³ 2007-13 and includes £10M SEEDA match and £186M of third party regional funding match

⁴ The RDPE programme is funded through the EU and UK Government (together 40%) and private sector (60%). No SEEDA match is required. £800M allocated to RDAs

⁵ Value left to spend in this programme in the region of £15M

EU Programme - Competitive Bidding			
European Regional Development Fund- SEEDA's leverage (mainly INTERREG- 2002-11)	102	51	5 ⁶
Total	678	147	27.1

Table 2 Value of INTERREG IV Funding 2007-2013

INTERREG IV Funding Programme	Total value (£M) of the programme	Value (£M) of the European funding left in the programme⁷
Cross Border Programmes⁸		
Interreg IVA - 2 Seas Programme	145	99
Interreg IVA - Manche Programme	150	89
Trans National Programmes⁹		
Interreg IVB North West Europe	290	147 ¹⁰
North Sea ¹¹	120	36
Interreg IVC	279	80 ¹²

Source: CLG June 2010

⁶ Interreg is a pan-EU programme; this figure represents investments in the South East only

⁷ Based on commitments as of June 2010

⁸ Only open to Kent, East & West Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey and associated Unitaries. Both programmes have recently had calls so figures are subject to change.

⁹ Pan regional

¹⁰ Around 40% of this has been committed, and figures will change as the 6th call has just closed

¹¹ Open only to Kent in the SE

¹² £8.2M managed by SEEDA