

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS

DATA DASHBOARD TASK & FINISH GROUP ACTION NOTE

Friday 15 April 2011

Institute of Materials, London



Present: Mike Appleyard (Chairman)
Myles Cullen
Kelsie Learney
Paul Watkins

In Attendance: Heather Bolton, Head of Communications & Public Affairs, SEEC
Roy Millard, Partnership Manager, South East Strategic Partnership for Migration
Ivan Perkovic, Head of Research and Economics, SEEDA
Nick Woolfenden, Head of Policy Coordination, SEEC

1. Apologies, declarations of substitutes and declarations of interests

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Paul Carter, Andrew Cumpsty, Ann Ducker, Moira Gibson, James Swindlehurst and Chris Williams. Miles Cullen was attending as substitute for Elizabeth Cartwright.
- 1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

2. Note of last meeting and actions arising

- 2.1 The note of the previous meeting was agreed as an accurate record.
- 2.2 Nick reported that all the actions had been taken forward. On the specific issue of the Regional Growth Fund, a letter was sent by SEEC's Chairman to Vince Cable suggesting improvements to the data used to assess bids. It was however disappointing that the recent guidance for RGF round 2 did not reflect SEEC's advice.

3. Draft data dashboard – discussion

- 3.1 Members discussed the issues set out in the paper and commented on the draft Data Dashboard examples. Members agreed the examples provided a sound basis for further development of the Dashboard. During discussion, members agreed:

Themes/Issues

- Focus on six headline themes: Economy and employment; Housing and infrastructure; Public finance and grants; Demography; Migration; Environment.

Dashboard structure

- Include six single page headline summaries (one for each theme) at South East level, including short commentary on key issues and policy/lobbying implications.
- Each summary to be supplemented with additional datasets/more detailed local authority (where possible CC/UA/DC) information in chart/table format.
- Links to be provided to original source/further information on the internet (eg ONS website).

Datasets

- The proposed list of data/sources included in Annex 1 of the paper should form the basis for further development of the draft Dashboard.

Presentation of information

- Most data should be presented in charts or table form, allowing individual local authorities to see data for their own area and how it compares to other areas.
- Helpful to include ranking of data where appropriate and change over time to see how individual LAs compare to national and regional averages.
- Maps may also be helpful for capturing overall picture for some information, but this would require additional GIS assistance as SEEC does not have this in-house.

Geographic disaggregation

- Include South East/regional/national comparison information in the summary page for each theme, and County/Unitary/District breakdowns where possible in the detailed sections.
- It was agreed the focus should be on local authority geographies, but also consider including limited range of LEP-level information where it was readily and consistently published by official sources by LEP geographies.

Publishing the Dashboard

- Make the Dashboard primarily available through the SEEC website, with in-house hard copies only produced if the need arises.
- Include the Dashboard with meeting papers to update members at the SEEC Executive/all member meetings as appropriate.

Frequency of dashboard updates

- Begin with three Dashboard updates each year, timed to fit both with new data releases and SEEC's meeting schedule.
- Retain flexibility to identify/share new data that raises significant issues between updates.

Resources

- SEEC officers to advise on any specific/specialist staff support (eg GIS; data analysis and charting/presentation) required - members to consider this for inclusion in recommendations to SEEC Plenary in July.
- Officers also to explore whether there is capacity to support such needs from within local authorities.
- The time/resources required to produce the Dashboard should be reviewed once the Dashboard has been produced/updated a couple of times; this will inform SEEC decisions about whether the initial

approach to producing the Dashboard is sustainable in the longer-term or needs to be reviewed.

- 3.2 Members agreed the revised draft Data Dashboard should be prepared in time to share with the SEEC all-member meeting in July, alongside recommendations from the group.
- 3.3 On the specific issue of migration data, members agreed Roy should investigate what other regions are doing to identify any potential for jointly undertaking data gathering/analysis to create economies of scale/efficient use of resources.

Actions:

- Nick to further develop members' proposals for the Dashboard in conjunction with Ivan, Roy and other officers as appropriate, to share revised draft in early June.
- Heather/Nick to explore possible specialist support available from local authorities to assist SEEC's Dashboard work eg GIS/data analysis and charting/presentation.
- Roy to investigate other regions' work re migration data and opportunities for joint/cost-effective work on this.

4. Indices of Deprivation 2010 – update on South East key issues from the newly released data

- 4.1 Ivan updated members on the recently published Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2010. Analysis indicated that, compared to other parts of the country, the South East had become relatively more deprived since the previous IoD in 2007. Heather reminded members that SEEC had also emphasised to government that in numerical terms the South East has very large numbers of people in deprived areas.
- 4.2 Ivan also explained that the IoD was underpinned by seven different data 'domains'. It was likely further analysis would reveal significant intensity of issues in the South East for some of these domains, including income deprivation.

Action:

- Ivan to undertake further analysis of IoD and its domains and share key South East findings with SEEC.

5. SEEDA's closure and research/knowledge assets – update and discussion on transfer of research etc to SEEC

- 5.1 Nick explained SEEC had written to SEEDA confirming its desire and credentials for taking on SEEDA's research and data/GIS archive, making relevant documents available through SEEC's website. Ivan confirmed SEEDA was supportive of this and would be writing to confirm this soon. He also explained a limited number of its datasets/models would need SEEC to purchase licences if it wanted to use them.
- 5.2 The expectation is that the information would be transferred electronically by end of May/June 2011, prior to the next major stage of redundancies at SEEDA. It was understood much of the information would remain publicly available on SEEDA's website until April 2012,

so SEEC would have some time to ensure its website was ready to host this information.

Action:

- Nick/Heather to liaise with SEEDA to progress the transfer of knowledge assets; Nick to prepare summary of agreement and progress report for SEEC AGM in July.

- 5.3 Ivan also explained BIS would be tendering for a company to undertake regular business surveys and economic updates to inform its own work, effectively replacing this function of the RDAs during summer/autumn 2011. He was hopeful that this would include some level of regional and local level breakdown/analysis which SEEC could access. Members agreed this could provide additional useful information for the Dashboard, depending on the information gathered and geographic analysis.

Action:

- Nick to liaise with Ivan and BIS local (Ian Coates) to understand what information will be available and when.

6. Priority and phasing of group's forward work programme

- 6.1 The group agreed it would not plan to meet again, but rather comment on further drafts of the Dashboard and recommendations for its final SEEC AGM report via email.
- 6.2 Nick would further develop the Dashboard and share it again with members in early June, working with Ivan, Roy and others as required. Based on discussions at the group's two meetings, he would also prepare outline draft recommendations for the group to consider during late May, in order to help shape the group's final report to the SEEC AGM in July.

Action:

- Nick to further develop the Dashboard and outline draft recommendations for the Task & Finish Group as per agreed timetable.

7. Any other business

- 7.1 There was no other business.