

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**



Date: 4 April 2014

Subject: South East response to Further Alterations to the London Plan

Report of: Nick Woolfenden, SEEC Head of Policy Co-ordination

**Recommendation:**

SEEC Executive members give final comments on the draft SEEC & SESL response to the Further Alterations to the London Plan consultation, prior to submission by 10 April.  
*The draft response was circulated to all SEEC members by email on 25 March for comment.*

**1. Consultation on Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP)**

- 1.1 At SEEC and SESL's joint meeting on [6 February](#) members agreed to respond to the Mayor of London's consultation on [Further Alterations to the London Plan \(FALP\)](#), given the potentially significant implications of the Mayor's housing and infrastructure plans for South East councils.
- 1.2 A draft response reflecting key issues discussed by members has been developed with officer input from district, unitary and county councils. This was circulated to all members by email on 25 March and comments from the wider membership will be reported to the meeting on 4 April. Executive members are invited to give any final comments prior to finalising the response for submission by the 10 April deadline.

**2. Key aspects of South East councils' draft response**

- 2.1 Our draft response highlights four key strategic issues that need addressing to ensure London and the South East's current and future global economic success is not jeopardised. We emphasise the importance of co-operation between the Mayor and South East councils to achieve this.

**A) London needs to do more to meet its housing needs:**

- Whilst acknowledging the Mayor's ambition to achieve a step-change in London's housing growth in light of its rapidly increasing population, we highlight concerns that the Plan could be viewed as under-planning for London's identified need by some 7,000-20,000 homes a year.
- We ask the Mayor to set out clearly how he will fully tackle the challenge of meeting London's housing needs within London itself, exploring all options including Green Belt review (as councils in the South East have already had to do).
- We are concerned to ensure London's housing ambitions are firmly set out as our members believe it would not be viable or sustainable to assume or imply that London's unmet housing needs can be met, either in part or in full, in the South East given our statutory environmental constraints, existing high levels of growth and wider social and economic challenges.

**B) Action is needed to help developers increase delivery of new homes:**

- We ask the Mayor to work with South East councils and Government to press developers and the construction industry to up their game.
- This includes increasing industry capacity and skills to meet London's increased growth targets.

- Another key step would be introducing discretionary local 'use it or lose it' planning powers to ensure locally-approved developments are built.

**C) Infrastructure is vital to avoid damaging current London and South East economic success:**

- Regardless of future needs, our current shared infrastructure is struggling to keep up with demand.
- We ask the Mayor to work with South East councils to secure investment in mutually-beneficial strategic transport infrastructure and services.
- Without this we risk damaging our global economic success and prevent our businesses and communities from thriving.

**D) Need for strong co-operation between London and South East councils:**

- We seek the Mayor's commitment to co-operate closely with South East councils on key strategic planning and economic growth issues.
- This is necessary to ensure the implications of London's growth and development plans are considered with full regard for councils outside London given the scale of challenges and opportunities we collectively face.