

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS &  
SOUTH EAST STRATEGIC LEADERS  
JOINT MEETING**

Thursday 6 February 2014

Church House Conference Centre, Dean's  
Yard, Westminster, SW1P 3NZ



**Note of Action Points Arising from the Joint SEEC-SESL Meeting**

**1. Welcome**

1.1 Cllr David Burbage MBE, welcomed members to the joint SEEC-SESL meeting and introduced guest speaker Professor Tony Travers.

**2. Future funding for local government**

2.1 Professor Tony Travers, LSE, made the case for fiscal devolution for England, including more local control over taxation. The UK government's centralised approach is preventing the South East from using its own growth to finance its services. Applying the recommendations of the London Finance Commission (LFC) to the South East would see locally-retained taxes rise to three times the current level, allowing areas to fund a larger amount of local investment.

2.2 Cllr Burbage thanked Tony Travers and noted that the notion of applying the LFC proposals to the South East context was of interest.

**3. Influencing Future Government – Towards a South East Manifesto**

3.1 Members discussed the work being undertaken by the Manifesto steering group to develop a joint SEEC-SESL document to influence General Election manifestos. They agreed that the steering group should work on a further iteration of the paper, aiming for a short, accessible document focusing on two or three key messages.

**ACTION 1:** The working group to work on a further iteration of the document, aiming to focus on two or three key proposals to the main prospective Government political parties.

**4. Modelling the financial implications of the Care Cap on South East local authorities**

4.1 Members considered four options for modelling the financial implications of the Care Cap on the South East and highlighted option 4 as their preferred option.

**ACTION 2:** With support from member authority officers, SEEC-SESL to undertake in-house analysis of the cost of implementing the care cap and changes to the means test. The work will use individual authority data gathered through ADASS's national survey, based on Surrey CC's model, and an external organisation will be approached to validate that analysis.

**ACTION 3:** SESL-SEEC to explore with an external organisation what additional costs will fall on South East local authorities as a result of implementing other aspects of the Care Bill and options for modelling these additional costs.

**5. London's future housing plans: South East implications**

5.1 Members discussed a joint SEEC-SESL response to the Mayor of London's consultation on further alterations to the London Plan and were broadly supportive of the suggested key issues in the paper. In discussion, members emphasised that London needs to do more to meet its own housing needs. Particular points covered the South East's statutory environmental constraints

and that London should consider greenbelt development in order to meet its own needs.

**ACTION 4:** SEEC-SESL to draft a joint response stressing that London cannot assume its unmet housing needs will be met in the South East. The final response to be approved by SESL and SEEC's Chairmen / Deputies for submission by the 10 April deadline.

**6. Joint Working with South East Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)**

6.1 The paper was noted and clarification provided on paragraph 3.1.

**ACTION 5:** A decision on co-commissioning research with LEPs was deferred to a further meeting when more detail could be provided and a revised proposal submitted.

**ACTION 6:** Members asked SEEC-SESL to organise a meeting of lead political representatives on the LEPs.