

Note of the Joint SEEC-SESL Meeting (Not in Public)

1. Welcome

1.1 Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE, SEEC chairman, welcomed members to the joint SEEC-SESL meeting and introduced guest speaker Sir Edward Lister.

2. London's housing and infrastructure needs 2015-2050 – SE implications

2.1 Sir Edward Lister, GLA, said that next year London's population will be 8.6m again for the first time since 1939, and is then likely to grow 100,000 per year. This is largely driven by increasing birth rate, and as a result London needs another 200,000 school places by 2020.

2.2 The Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) states there is a need to build 49,000 homes per year, and identifies where 42,000 per year can be built for the next ten years. The figure of 42,000 had been agreed with the Boroughs and therefore there was confidence in the plans. Sir Edward said the shortfall of 7,000 per year could be met from two sources: London's 38 opportunity areas and regenerated town centres.

2.3 To release these developments it is necessary to identify the infrastructure that London needs. This is being undertaken in London's Infrastructure 2050 document, which makes the case for large transport schemes, such as Crossrail 2, as well as improvements in electricity, water, gas and Wi-Fi.

2.4 The London Finance Commission has recommended that Government gives London the funding certainty it needs to invest in infrastructure by replacing grants with locally-retained taxes. London is working with the core cities on this, believes it is the way forward for infrastructure and commends the principle to the South East.

2.5 Members asked whether there is a "plan B" for the shortfall of 7,000 housing units per year and if it included exporting population to the South East. Sir Edward said there is no "plan B" – the GLA is not in the business of greenbelt review, and it is not viable to export people from London who need to work there because of transport pressures. He said the capacity is there to build within London's town centres and opportunity areas but this may not prevent some natural shift of people choosing to leave London.

2.6 London will share consultation documentation in its Infrastructure 2050 plan with SEEC-SESL, and welcomes feedback on this and other issues.

2.7 Cllr Keymer thanked Sir Edward Lister for attending the meeting, and also for the regular meetings that SEEC-SESL have with him and his staff.

3. Making the case for the South East – update on SEEC-SESL campaigns

3.1 Heather Bolton informed members that [*Mind the Gap*](#) – a 10-point programme of transport investment across the South East – had been published and sent to Ministers. SEEC-SESL have also submitted a programme of mutually beneficial transport scheme proposals to London's Infrastructure 2050 team.

- 3.2 SEEC-SESL submitted a response to the FALP consultation, largely focused on housing, and have been shortlisted to appear at the examination in public.
- 3.3. SEEC-SESL responded to the Government's independent inquiry into the local authority role in housing supply and to a DCLG consultation on proposals to amend section 106 planning contributions. A response was also made to a call for evidence from the LGA's Independent Commission on Economic Growth & the Future of Public Service in Non-Metropolitan England.
- 3.4 Cllr David Burbage MBE, SESL chairman, drew members' attention to the "South East Manifesto", which has three headline asks of government focused on economic growth and better public services. More cross-party agreement appears to be emerging on one of the key asks – Devo-max – which proposes giving local authorities the funding and freedoms they need to deliver growth.
- 3.5 Philippa Melish informed members that SEEC-SESL had produced a campaign leaflet in May setting out facts about the economic cost of flooding in the South East and five key asks of government to mitigate the impact of future flooding. Philippa repeated comments made by Eric Pickles MP in SESL's Group Meeting that morning praising local authority Leaders for their leadership of local flood response efforts.
- 3.6 SEEC-SESL submitted a joint response to the DfE consultation on powers to delegate children's services in May, and are working toward a response in July to the call for evidence from the Service Transformation Challenge Panel.
- 3.7 Cllr Keymer thanked members for attending the joint session.