

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ALL-MEMBER MEETING**



Date: 25 June 2015

Subject: **Financial report: SEEC accounts 2014-15 and subscriptions 2015-6**

Report by: Cllr Nicolas Heslop, SEEC Secretary & Treasurer

Recommendations:

- i) Note SEEC's accounts for 2014-15 and budget 2015-16
- ii) Subject to next steps on SEEC-SESL joint working, finalise subscription levels for 2015-16 to allow invoicing to go ahead
- iii) Record thanks to Surrey CC for hosting the SEEC payroll and office
- iv) Members commit to continuing in membership for 2015-16.

1. SEEC finances

- 1.1 For the financial year 2014-15 SEEC managed finances in-house with the help of an external accountant. Accounts for the year are included as Annex 1.
- 1.2 SEEC spent £257,200 in 2014-15, some 5% below the budgeted maximum spend of £270,700. We continue to offset costs by sharing services with SESL, including a joint admin post.
- 1.3 As agreed by members, SEEC draws on reserves to balance the budget and maintain affordable subscriptions. In 2014-15, the draw on reserves was £50,750. At 31 March 2015 SEEC had net assets of £688,250.

2. Subscriptions and budget 2015-16

- 2.1 The SEEC constitution sets out that subscriptions should be discussed by the Executive at least 3 months before the end of the financial year. Subject to the outcome of discussions about the future of joint working by SEEC-SESL, on 12 November 2014 SEEC Executive recommended freezing 2015-16 subscriptions at existing levels (para 2.4 gives a full table of subscription rates):
 - £1,705 per district
 - Unitary councils pay £1,705 for each 50,000 population
 - County councils multiply the £1,705 by the number of districts in their county.
- 2.2 If this recommendation needs review – subject to further discussions scheduled today on SEEC-SESL – members are urged to make a swift decision to allow subscriptions to be invoiced as soon as possible after today's AGM.
- 2.3 In March SEEC Executive agreed a budget of £265,700 for 2015-16, a small reduction on last year's budget of £270,700.

SEEC budget 2015-16

Staff costs	204,000
Projects/ research/events	20,000
Regular meeting costs	15,000
Rent	7,850
Travel	2,100
Insurance	1,375
Professional fees	2,600
IT/website	7,775
Admin/ office costs	5,000
Total	£265,700

2.4 SEEC subscription rates are set out below for information (NB includes a small number of councils who have given notice of resignation).

AUTHORITY	Multiplier	Base rate	Subs by council
Each District, City & Borough Council	1	1,705	1,705
County Councils			
Buckinghamshire	4	1,705	6,820
East Sussex	5	1,705	8,525
Hampshire	11	1,705	18,755
Kent	12	1,705	20,460
Oxfordshire	5	1,705	8,525
Surrey	11	1,705	18,755
West Sussex	7	1,705	11,935
Unitary Authorities			
Bracknell Forest	3	1,705	5,115
Brighton and Hove	5	1,705	8,525
Isle of Wight	3	1,705	5,115
Medway	5	1,705	8,525
Milton Keynes	5	1,705	8,525
Portsmouth	4	1,705	6,820
Reading	3	1,705	5,115
Slough	3	1,705	5,115
Southampton	5	1,705	8,525
West Berkshire	3	1,705	5,115
Windsor and Maidenhead	3	1,705	5,115
Wokingham	3	1,705	5,115