



**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Thursday 1 December 2016**

Engineering Employers' Federation  
Broadway House, Tothill St, London, SW1H 9NQ

**Present:**

- Nicolas Heslop (Chair)
- David Monk (Secretary/ Treasurer)
- Ralph Bagge
- Paul Bettison
- Myles Cullen
- Kim Forward
- Hilary Hibbert- Biles
- Keith House
- Gerry Lewin
- Peter Martin
- Keith Mans
- Ann Newton
- Carole Paternoster
- Chris Townsend
- Clive Woodbridge

**In Attendance:**

- Heather Bolton, SEEC
- Nick Woolfenden, SEEC
- Neil Border, SESL
- Emma Sutton, SEEC/ SESL
- Ian Mackie, SEEC
- Mona Seghal, LGA
- Timothy Weadon, Lead Chief Executive
- Lisa McCance, Programme Director, Shared Intelligence

**1. Apologies, declarations of substitutes and declarations of interest**

1.1 Keith Mans substituted for Roy Perry, Gerry Lewin substituted for Andrew Bowles, Kim Forward substituted for Peter Chowney and Hilary Hibbert- Biles substituted for Ian Hudspeth. Apologies came from, David Neighbour, Paul Carter, Lynne Hack and Stephen Parker. Declarations of interest were made by Nicolas Heslop on skills relating to his work for the Edge Foundation and their support for the Baker Dearing Educational Trust.

**2. Hard choices: making informed decisions on South East services and investment following the Autumn Statement**

2.1 Lisa McCance from Shared Intelligence highlighted trends in future demand to help members consider how they might plan for future spending including:

- Employment and economy – highlighting a shift in the demand for skilled workers, the amount of people retiring exceeding those entering the workforce, working patterns becoming more flexible and the changing sectors of employment in the South East, with more people in the South East being employed in professional occupations and less in administration roles. These changes can all affect education and skills provision and business bases.
- Housing and Infrastructure – the high cost of housing in the South East is a concern and commuter distances are increasing but in some areas car ownership was falling. These will impact on transport and infrastructure capacity in the South East.
- Lifestyle – there are increasing care requirements for the ageing population and potential for health related technologies.. The shift towards the use of the internet is impacting on service delivery.

2.2 In discussion, members raised points including:

- Changes in the mix of businesses and how skills can match future business needs.
- How business rates are captured as business bases and property uses change.
- Increases in tech industry start-ups, the digital dimension and the need for high speed broadband capacity.

- Concerns around housing growth, commuter areas and how it will impact on rail capacity. Falling car ownership is not recognised in more rural parts of the South East.
- Technology and its impacts on society and how it's changing the way people work and use services – i.e. paperless working in offices.
- Impacts of internet shopping on the high street and the changing mix of retail shops.
- South East ageing population and filling the funding gap for care services.
- How health applications and wearable technology could have long-term benefits to residents' health, reducing costs long-term.

2.3 Paul Bettison shared his concerns about the Government's initial indications of Local Growth Funding (LGF) to LEPs, with provisional allocations being substantially less than original bids. In discussion, members highlighted:

- Local disappointment with provisional allocations in several places.
- The effects allocations will have on areas' ability to deliver critical infrastructure plans.
- The business communities' disappointment with provisional allocations, leading to them questioning the purpose of LEPs and their future involvement.
- LGF allocations seeming to be weighed in favour of areas with Mayors or a combined authority, undermining the role of LEPs elsewhere.

Members agreed to write to Government on LGF expressing their concerns.

**ACTION 1:** SEEC to circulate Lisa McCance's [slides](#)

**ACTION 2:** SEEC to consider writing to Government to encourage greater use of health apps

**ACTION 3:** SEEC Executive to write to Government asking for a review of provisional LEP funding and email the letter to all SEEC members for them to raise with local MPs

**ACTION 4:** SEEC to consider letter to David Gauke MP Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the lack of funding arrangements for the South East, including social care gaps, transport and highways funding.

### 3. **Infrastructure: possible options for bridging the South East funding gap**

3.1 The joint SEEC-SESL commissioned LGFutures report looked at South East infrastructure needs and how these could be funded. In discussion, members highlighted:

- The need to maintain New Homes Bonus at 2019-20 levels and relax rules that only allow five developer contributions to be pooled for any one project.
- The importance of councils trying to find their own funding solutions, for example via existing prudential borrowing powers – low rates of repayment if spread over 30-40 years. However there were some concerns about the potential risks associated with borrowing and maintaining repayments.
- Government could help by allowing councils to negotiate an equity share in new housing.
- Calls for local authority discretion to set council tax – relating to need.
- The need for business rates retention to be fairer with baseline resets inline with local authority need.
- The ability to tax the increase in land value once planning permission is granted.
- Possibility of roof taxes set at significant levels to fund large scale/ strategic infrastructure needs.
- Potential for one or more South East infrastructure funds.
- Bespoke deals with developers to increase housing and infrastructure delivery.

**ACTION 5:** SEEC to write to Government about housing infrastructure funding ahead of the forthcoming white paper expected early 2017, potentially jointly with SESL

**ACTION 6:** SEEC and SESL to draft a proposal for member discussion on a package of proposals to raise infrastructure funding.

### 4. **London's growth: how will it affect the South East?**

4.1 The Wider South East Summit will take place on the 9 December, to discuss the new London Plan ahead of formal consultation early next year. In discussion, members noted their disappointment by the lack of engagement from the London Mayor himself. Concerns were also raised around negative impacts for the South East from growth corridors, existing

transport problems, pressure to build on the Green Belt and Thames barrier closures causing South East flooding.

- 4.2 SEEC will submit a response to the London Mayor's high level vision document called A City for All Londoners.

**ACTION 7:** Circulate agenda and joining instructions to members registered for the Summit

**ACTION 8:** Members to provide input by 9 December for a SEEC response to A City for All Londoners.

## 5. Minutes of SEEC Executive Meeting 30 September 2016

- 5.1 The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising.

## 6. Information updates: Latest SEEC activity report

- 6.1 Members welcomed the updates on SEEC's recent work set out in the meeting paper.

- SEEC Chairman will meet with Gavin Barwell MP on housing in January 2017 with London and East of England representatives.
- A group of SEEC members met Louise Ellman, Chair of the Transport Select Committee in November on South East transport investment needs.
- SEEC's housing barriers report is currently being prepared ahead of the Housing Workshop taking place on 27 January 2017.
- SEEC jointly with SESL produced an on the day member briefing for the Autumn Statement.
- SEEC will explore out of area homelessness placements and associated pressures on services.
- SEEC will respond to the Schools that work for everyone Department of Education consultation.
- Members endorsed SEEC's subscriptions and outline budget for 2017-18.

**ACTION 9:** SEEC to submit a written paper to the Transport Select Committee proposing an inquiry into the Economic Value of Transport Gateways. Member suggestions should be sent to Heather Bolton by 16 December.

**ACTION 10:** Housing case studies for the barriers report to be sent to Nick Woolfenden by 9 December

**ACTION 11:** Homelessness and out of area placement examples to be sent to Heather Bolton, [heather.bolton@secouncils.gov.uk](mailto:heather.bolton@secouncils.gov.uk)

**ACTION 12:** Schools funding and places information to be sent to Emma Sutton by 6 December.

## 7. Confirmed forward meeting dates:

- 27 January 2017 – All-member Meeting (inc housing workshop with LGA)
- 24 March 2017 – SEEC Executive (shared date with SESL)
- 23 June 2017 – SEEC All member and Annual General Meeting (SEEC only date)
- 13 October 2017 – SEEC Executive (shared date with SESL)

## 8. Any other business

- 8.1 Members endorsed the appointment of Cllr Peter Martin (Conservative, Surrey CC) as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, as a Wider South East Political Steering Group representative.

- 8.2 The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Signed:

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**Nicolas Heslop, Chairman**