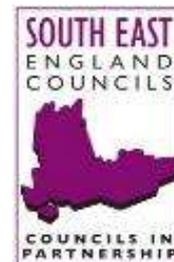


## SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS EXECUTIVE MEETING



Date: 1 December 2017

Subject: **Engaging with Local Industrial Strategies: Opportunities and Challenges for Councils**

Report of: Heather Bolton, SEEC Director

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Contribute to workshop discussions to help shape a good practice guide for councils on working with LEPs, including delivery of effective Local Industrial Strategies
- Consider follow up options for bespoke data analysis on key South East economic sectors, their location and growth potential.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 Today's workshop session has been organised to take forward work on the Industrial Strategy and South East economy set out in SEEC's 2017-18 business plan. The workshop will share good practice and help councils make the most of working with LEPs – for example councillors' role in shaping LEP delivery and councils' role in supporting the Industrial Strategy 'pillars'. In addition to Executive members, workshop invitations have also been extended to wider SEEC membership and senior LEP representatives.
- 1.2 The workshop will be facilitated by Phil Swann, Executive Chairman of economic growth experts Shared Intelligence.

### 2. The workshop session

- 2.1 As context, the workshop will briefly set out the prospects for an imminently-expected white paper on Government's Industrial Strategy plus LEPs' current work on developing Local Industrial Strategies and how these relate to their Strategic Economic Plans.
- 2.2 Mini case studies will illustrate good practice in current council-LEP working relationships:
  - Bracknell Forest BC as a unitary council working with Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
  - Surrey CC as a county council working with Enterprise M3 and Coast to Capital LEPs
  - Tonbridge & Malling BC as a district council working with South East LEP in a federated structure.
- 2.3 Building on case studies and members' own local experiences, round table discussions will develop headline themes for a good practice guide and look at how changes to policy or operations could maximise councils' and LEPs' joint impact. For example:
  - Joint LEP-council working – what does good look like? What implications does the introduction of local industrial strategies have for this relationship?
  - What are the key areas where councils can help shape and deliver Local Industrial Strategies? For example – place-based approaches; public sector procurement.
  - How can councils help shape and monitor LEPs' wider work? For example – a role in sector deals, supporting delivery and/ or monitoring performance.
  - How can councils take advantage of the LEP role and business perspective?
- 2.4 Facilitators on each table will record round table discussions, which will feed into a guide to be published by SEEC on good practice for councils' work with LEPs.
- 2.5 Members will also have the opportunity to consider options for follow-up data analysis on key South East economic sectors, their location and growth potential. Views are welcome on how high-level, South-East-wide data could support SEEC work in highlighting what is needed to maintain the South East as a successful economy. For example could research focus on:
  - Growing sectors/ clusters or those with large volumes of business/ staff?
  - Leading sectors or those which are lagging behind?
  - Which areas share sector strengths that could become part of a sector deal?
  - And with Brexit on the horizon:
    - the level of exports by sector/ location and destination of exports?
    - Skills shortages by growth/ volume sectors?