

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
MINUTES OF THE SEEC ALL-MEMBER MEETING & AGM

Friday 23 June 2017, 10.30am

EFF Broadway House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NQ



1. **Welcome, apologies, declarations of substitutes and declarations of interest**
 - 1.1 Nicolas Heslop welcomed members and explained that this SEEC business section of the meeting had been shortened to allow more time for a Brexit, skills and migration workshop at 11.30am. Apologies and substitutes are attached. There were no declarations of interest. Condolences were recorded for recent deaths of Councillors Van Coulter and Roger Croft.
2. **SEEC political balance following May 2017 elections**
 - 2.1 Rounded allocation of SEEC Executive seats following the May 2017 elections is Conservative 13, Labour 2, Liberal Democrats 2. It was also agreed to round up the smaller party seats to 2 as this allocation was nearest the rounding trigger point. Among 4 smaller parties, no single party exceeds the 5% of seats threshold for Executive representation. Members supported a proposal from Independent/Residents' Association representatives to form a coalition to take 2 Executive seats, subject to giving other smaller parties the chance to put forward an alternative.
ACTION 1: SEEC secretariat to write to leading South East UKIP and Green Party councillors offering a chance to comment on the proposed Independent/ Resident coalition taking seats on the SEEC Executive.
3. **Election of South East England Councils' Chairman 2017-18**
 - 3.1 Nicolas Heslop (Tonbridge & Malling BC, Con) was re-elected Chairman and thanked members for their support.
4. **Election of SEEC office holders and nominations to external bodies 2017-18**
 - 4.1 Roy Perry (Hampshire CC, Con) was re-elected Deputy Chairman. David Monk (Shepway DC, Con) was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Tony Page (Reading BC, Lab) and Keith House (Eastleigh BC, Lib-Dem) were named SEEC Vice Chairmen.
 - 4.2 In addition to the names above, Executive Committee appointments were:
Conservatives: Ralph Bagge, South Bucks DC; Andrew Bowles, Swale BC; Paul Carter, Kent CC; John Furey, Surrey CC; Lynne Hack, Reigate & Banstead BC; Eileen Lintell, Chichester DC; James Mills, West Oxfordshire DC; Carole Paternoster, Aylesbury Vale DC; Tony Rooth, Guildford DC; Bob Standley, Wealden DC.
Labour: Linda Smith, Oxford City Council.
Lib-Dems: David Neighbour, Hart DC.
Ex Officio: Paul Bettison OBE, Bracknell Forest Council (Con, SESL representative); Moira Gibson, Surrey Heath BC (Con, District Leaders' Chairman); Stephen Parker, Hart DC (Con, District Leaders' Deputy Chairman); Jeanette Clifford, West Berkshire Council (Con, Unitary and NHS link).
 - 4.3 Nicolas Heslop was nominated as the SEEC representative on the LGA Executive with Stephen Parker as substitute.
 - 4.4 John Furey was nominated to fill a vacancy on the Wider South East Political Steering Group.
 - 4.5 Jeanette Clifford was nominated to fill a vacancy for a local authority governor on the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation trust.
ACTION 2: SEEC secretariat to confirm new appointments to partner organisations.
5. **SEEC Review of the Year and annual accounts**
 - 5.1 Nicolas Heslop summarised SEEC's successful work over the past year on a range of key issues including transport, infrastructure and housing. Work included written submissions to decision makers, engagement with Ministers and 5 free events for members. He recommended that members read [SEEC's 2016-17 highlights](#) and use it to help encourage non members to re-join. SEEC's new electronic newsletter was more accessible to members, and there had been more opportunities to raise SEEC members' priorities in the press following the appointment of a communications officer. The Data Dashboard was recognised as an important and useful tool to illustrate South East messages. Thanks were recorded for Heather Bolton and SEEC officers.
 - 5.2 Members noted SEEC's financial results and agreed to freeze subscriptions for 2017-18. They also thanked Surrey CC for hosting the SEEC office over the past year.

ACTION 3: SEEC members to use the Annual Review to approach to recruiting non-members.

ACTION 4: Members to provide Ian Mackie with any feedback on the SEEC Newsletter.

ACTION 5: SEEC secretariat to issue subscription invoices for 2017-18 during July.

6. Latest SEEC activity report & updates

6.1 Nicolas Heslop summarised SEEC's recent work. In discussion on future priorities, members raised a number of points to be reflected in SEEC influencing work over the coming year:

A) South East as the engine room of the UK economy making the biggest contribution to the Treasury and impacts of Brexit on the economy.

- Pressures on South East funding and finance and presenting constructive solutions to government
- The Oxford Economics figures should be assessed to see if the South East economic performance has remained static. Future work may need to highlight any dips/ fluctuations so that South East prosperity is not taken for granted
- SEEC could consider what happens to the UK economy if net contributions in the South East decline and whether it is feasible to assess the Brexit effect on the South East economy
- Industrial strategy: How the economic success/ wealth generation of the South East breaks down by industry and what more could be done to grow the South East economy. What is the economic impact of congestion?

B) Future funding for local government

- Clarity on business rate reform as this was not included in the Queen's Speech programme
- Impact of the DUP deal on infrastructure funding for the South East
- Continue to push for greater powers to be devolved for councils to raise their own funding
- The South East's ageing population – review if it is possible to quantify how many people are in receipt of local authority-funded social care and the impact on council costs.

C) Housing and planning

- Increasing affordable housing, including allowing councils to build their own homes
- Reducing barriers to housing delivery – by increasing infrastructure investment and giving councils more powers over unimplemented South East planning permissions
- Responding to the GLA to shape the Mayor's Transport Strategy and new London Plan.

D) Data dashboard

- The dashboard should present a compelling case on areas the South East wants government to address
- Members considered possible format changes to increase the size of Dashboard charts to make it easier for MPs to digest – for example as a 2-sided landscape format
- An option of adding data on unimplemented planning permissions should be considered.

ACTION 6: Members to send further Data Dashboard comments to Nick Woolfenden by 28 June, to allow circulation to SEEC members, MPs and Ministers before summer recess.

ACTION 7: SEEC to look at further analysis of the Oxford Economics data to assess South East performance over time.

ACTION 8: SEEC to review member suggestions on Dashboard format and possible additional data analysis for future Dashboards, including social care recipients in the South East and further understanding of the South East economic structure.

ACTION 9: SEEC secretariat to review member suggestions in drafting a business plan to present to the October Executive.

7. Minutes: 27.1.17 and 1.12.16 and matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

7.1 The minutes of the last all-member meeting in January 2017 and SEEC Executive in December 2016 were agreed as true and accurate records.

8. Confirmed forward meeting dates:

- 8 September – SEEC-SESL Commercialisation Workshop
- 13 October 2017 – SEEC Executive (joint date with SESL)
- 1 December 2017 – SEEC Executive (joint date with SESL)

9. Any Other Business

9.1 No other business was recorded. The meeting closed at 11.30am

Signed:

Nicolas Heslop, Chairman

SEEC ALL-MEMBER MEETING & AGM 23 JUNE 2017: ATTENDANCE LIST

| Name | Organisation | Signature / Apologies / Substitute |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Gillian Brown | Arun District Council | Yes |
| Gerry Clarkson | Ashford Borough Council | Apologies |
| Carole Paternoster | Aylesbury Vale District Council | Yes |
| Clive Sanders | Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council | Apologies |
| Paul Bettison OBE | Bracknell Forest Council | Yes |
| Simon Cook | Canterbury City Council | Apologies |
| Barry Wood | Cherwell District Council | Apologies |
| Eileen Lintill | Chichester District Council | Yes |
| Isobel Darby | Chiltern District Council | Sub – Peter Martin |
| Jeremy Kite MBE | Dartford Borough Council | Apologies |
| Paul Watkins | Dover District Council | Yes |
| Angela Glass | East Hampshire District Council | Apologies |
| Gill Mattock | Eastbourne Borough Council | Apologies |
| Keith House | Eastleigh Borough Council | Yes |
| Stuart Selleck | Elmbridge Borough Council | Apologies |
| Clive Woodbridge | Epsom & Ewell Borough Council | Yes |
| John Cubitt | Gravesham Borough Council | Apologies |
| Paul Spooner | Guildford Borough Council | Apologies |
| Roy Perry | Hampshire County Council | Yes |
| Keith Mans | Hampshire County Council | Yes |
| David Neighbour | Hart District Council | Apologies |
| Stephen Parker | Hart District Council | Yes |
| Peter Chowney | Hastings Borough Council | Apologies |
| Michael Cheshire, MBE | Havant Borough Council | Apologies |
| Ray Dawe | Horsham District Council | Apologies |
| Paul Carter, CBE | Kent County Council | Apologies |
| Ron Maskell | Lewes District Council | Apologies |
| Garry Wall | Mid Sussex District Council | Apologies |
| Vivienne Michael | Mole Valley District Council | Apologies |
| Barry Rickman | New Forest District Council | Apologies |
| Linda Smith | Oxford City Council | Yes |
| Ian Hudspeth | Oxfordshire County Council | Apologies |
| Tony Page | Reading Borough Council | Yes |
| Dr Lynne Hack | Reigate & Banstead Borough Council | Yes |
| Simon Dudley | RB of Windsor & Maidenhead | Apologies |
| Nick Prescott | Runnymede Borough Council | Apologies |
| David Clifford | Rushmoor Borough Council | Apologies |
| Peter Fleming | Sevenoaks District Council | Yes |
| David Monk | Shepway District Council | Yes |
| Ralph Bagge | South Bucks District Council | Yes |

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| John Cotton | South Oxfordshire District Council | Apologies |
| Ian Harvey | Spelthorne Borough Council | Apologies |
| David Hodge | Surrey County Council | Sub – John Furey |
| Moira Gibson | Surrey Heath Borough Council | Yes |
| Andrew Bowles | Swale Borough Council | Sub- Mike Cosgrove |
| Martin Fisher | Tandridge District Council | Apologies |
| Chris Wells | Thanet District Council | Apologies |
| Nicolas Heslop | Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council | Yes |
| David Jukes | Tunbridge Wells Borough Council | Apologies |
| Julia Potts | Waverley Borough Council | Apologies |
| Bob Standley | Wealden District Council | Apologies |
| Graham Jones | West Berkshire Council | Sub – Jeanette Clifford |
| James Mills | West Oxfordshire District Council | Sub – Colin Dingwall |
| Caroline Horrill | Winchester City Council | Apologies |
| John Kingsbury | Woking Borough Council | Apologies |
| Charlotte Haitham Taylor | Wokingham Borough Council | Apologies |
| Katrina Wood | Wycombe District Council | Sub – David Johncock |
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| Other Attendees | | |
| Heather Bolton | SEEC | Yes |
| Nick Woolfenden | SEEC | Yes |
| Emma Sutton | SEEC / SESL | Yes |
| Ian Mackie | SEEC | Yes |
| Neil Border | SESL | Yes |
| Tim Wheadon | Bracknell Forest Council | Yes |
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