

## SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS EXECUTIVE MEETING



Date: 23 March 2018

Subject: **Draft London Plan and SEEC's work with the London Mayor's office**

Report of: Nick Woolfenden, SEEC Head of Policy Co-ordination

### Recommendations:

Members are invited to:

- i) Note outcomes from the recent Wider South East (WSE) Summit with the Mayor of London, including agreement for continued joint engagement on the new London Plan, tackling housing delivery barriers and promoting strategic transport priorities.
- ii) Note SEEC's response to the Mayor's London Plan consultation, which highlights member views on implications for the South East.
- iii) Receive a verbal progress report from the 21 March WSE Political Steering Group.

### 1. Outcomes from January's Wider South East Summit

1.1 Over 100 councillors, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of London, officers and LEP representatives [took part in](#) the 26 January Wider South East (WSE) Summit, to discuss the London Plan and other priorities for political engagement between London, South East and East of England. The importance of continuing to develop collaboration on shared growth and infrastructure issues was reiterated by keynote speakers Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe and SEEC Chairman Cllr Nicolas Heslop, as well as in contributions from SEEC members. SEEC's February [WSE update](#) provides a fuller Summit report.

1.2 The Summit agreed that development of the new London Plan continues to be an important focus for collaboration. Members also welcomed the continuation of work by the WSE Political Steering Group (PSG), led by SEEC for the South East, on tackling barriers to housing delivery and strategic infrastructure priorities. Next steps will be discussed at the PSG on 21 March (see para 3 below). The PSG will also consider if it has capacity to add environmental & resource management (energy/waste/water) and digital connectivity issues to its work programme. The next Summit is expected to be held on 12 December 2018, with further details nearer the time.

### 2. SEEC response to consultation on the draft London Plan

2.1 This month's SEEC [response](#) to the draft London Plan welcomed the Mayor's ambition to increase house building within London, but raised concerns about a range of issues which could have implications for the South East if not addressed. It also highlighted the importance of sustaining the South East's success alongside London's. There was high interest in the Mayor's consultation, with over 1,000 written responses, including many from the South East.

2.2 SEEC welcomed:

- The Mayor's aim to achieve a sustainable step-change in growth to deliver London's housing and other needs within its own boundaries.
- The principle – in the spirit of existing joint engagement through PSG – of London working with councils in the South East to deliver mutual benefits from growth and to secure investment and national policy changes needed to help both our areas. SEEC has built constructive dialogue over the past 18 months between South East councils and the Mayor's team and helped shape thinking on key draft London Plan policies.

2.3 However SEEC called for further clarity in the next iteration of the Plan on how high-level aims will be delivered to avoid uncertainty and potential negative impacts on the South East's own local growth plans. SEEC has stressed that, whilst local circumstances vary, it cannot be assumed that South East authorities would be able to accommodate additional unmet housing needs from London. Many SEEC member authorities already have their own challenging growth pressures and constraints and face similar challenges to London in ensuring delivery of housing and securing infrastructure funding.

2.4 SEEC's response highlighted 3 main proposals where more detail is required on how the Mayor plans to deliver his ambitions:

- **Mayor's aim to meet all London's housing within its boundaries.** The Plan should include further information on how the proposed 50% increase on current delivery will be achieved, how the 1,000 homes a year gap (between homes needed and site availability in London) will be filled, and what happens after the Plan's initial 10-year targets (the Plan has a 20-25 year horizon, but only includes housing targets for 10 years).
- **Mayor's focus on only 'willing partners' outside London who might want to help accommodate some of London's growth as 'a prudent long term contingency' if London cannot meet its housing needs.** The Plan needs to specify how this will work in practice, and define the Mayor's offer to any willing South East councils.
- **Mayor's support for joint working on infrastructure.** Further information is needed on how the Mayor can support the need for infrastructure investment required to underpin delivery of plans outside London. The Plan also needs to be clear that many of the identified investments are needed to support existing South East plans/priorities, not additional growth from London.

2.5 The GLA will consider responses to the consultation during spring-summer 2018, and a Planning Inspector will be appointed by Government to lead an Examination in Public, expected in winter 2018-19. The Inspector will decide on key issues/matters to be discussed, and a call for written submissions to the Inspector is expected over summer-autumn 2018.

### **3. Update from Wider South East Political Steering Group meeting on 21 March**

3.1 SEEC's Chairman and other members will give a verbal update on this week's meeting. Main agenda items included:

- Next steps on making the case for WSE strategic transport priorities, including engaging with Sub-National Transport Bodies.
- Feedback and next steps on London Plan consultation.
- Tackling housing delivery barriers.