

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

Friday 1 December 2017

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



Present: Nicolas Heslop (Chair)
David Monk (Secretary)
Ralph Bagge
Paul Bettison OBE
Andrew Bowles
Jeanette Clifford
Lynne Hack
Eileen Lintill
Keith Mans
James Mills
Stephen Parker
Carole Paternoster
Tony Rooth
Bob Standley
Tim Wheadon

In Attendance: Steve Broadbent, Wycombe DC
Ian Barham, Bucks Thames Valley LEP
Richard Byard, Oxfordshire LEP
Stuart Baker, Solent LEP
Lisa McCance, Shared Intelligence
Phil Swann, Shared Intelligence
Kevin Lloyd, Surrey CC
Kate Herbert, LGA
Kevin Kewin, LGA
Heather Bolton, SEEC
Nick Woolfenden, SEEC
Ian Mackie, SEEC
Hayley Austin, SEEC & SESL
Neil Border, SESL

1. Apologies, declarations of substitutes and declarations of interest

1.1 Keith Mans substituted for Roy Perry. Apologies came from Angela Glass, Keith House, Clive Woodbridge, David Neighbour, Paul Carter, Linda Smith, Tony Page, Chris Townsend and John Furey. No declarations of interest were made.

2. Minutes of the SEEC Executive 13 October 2017 and matters arising

2.1 Andrew Bowles asked for his apologies to be added to minutes of the last executive meeting. They were then agreed as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

3. Latest SEEC activity report and updates

a) Budget 2017: South East implications & SEEC's same-day member briefings

3.1 The Chairman thanked the SEEC team for its on-the-day Budget briefing for members. He noted the Budget included nothing on SE devolution or social care. SEEC will continue to monitor the impact of Budget proposals and make the case for investment in the South East. He was pleased that Sir Oliver Letwin will undertake a review into unimplemented planning permissions, reflecting concerns raised by SEEC in pre-Budget briefing.

3.2 Housing and infrastructure are the focus of SEEC's next all-member meeting on 1 February 2018 with an expert panel including Sir Edward Lister from Homes England, Lord Porter, the LGA chairman, and Tony Pidgley, Chairman of Berkeley Homes.

3.3 In discussion, members raised ongoing concerns about lack of funding for affordable homes, the HRA cap not being lifted for all councils, and ongoing underfunding of South East transport infrastructure.

b) London Plan: Launch of consultation, shaping SEEC's response and invitation to summit with London Mayor

3.4 The Chairman confirmed SEEC would make a formal written response to the London Plan consultation by GLA's 2 March 2018 deadline. A 1-side SEEC summary of the 500+ page consultation had been shared with members.

3.5 He reminded members of the WSE Summit being held on 26 January 2018 which the Mayor of London and Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe would be attending, giving members the opportunity to discuss issues with them. Save the date emails had already been sent and a reminder email would be sent out shortly. Due to the popularity of the event and limited space, members were asked to respond promptly to secure their place.

ACTION 1: Formal response to the London Plan consultation to be made by SEEC by 2 March 2018.

ACTION 2: Members to contact admin@secouncils.gov.uk to book Summit places.

c) Draft SEEC data dashboard Winter 2017-18

3.6 The draft 2-side summary of SEEC's Winter 2017-18 Data Dashboard had been circulated to members for comment. It provides evidence on key South East opportunities and challenges for members to raise with the Government/key Ministers and local MPs, to help influence funding and policy decisions. It incorporates suggestions previously made by members. The Chairman asked for any further by 11 December 2017. In discussion, members raised points including:

- Suggestions on how to present updated housing data, including latest year and 3-year trend comparisons between South East and London.
- Concerns about latest trends showing South East unemployment rising more quickly than other areas.
- Clarification that the Dashboard's GVA data is drawn from official ONS figures rather than a forecast model.
- Importance of the Dashboard in highlighting SEEC concerns about the large size of South East population, implications on services, and the need for infrastructure investment to support economic success.

ACTION 3: Members to send any further Dashboard comments to nickwoolfenden@secouncils.gov.uk by 11 December 2017

ACTION 4: SEEC to circulate final Dashboard to members, MPs and Ministers.

d) SEEC subscriptions 2018-19

3.7 Members recommended SEEC subscriptions for 2018-19 should be frozen.

ACTION 5: Recommendation for subscription freeze to be presented to SEEC AGM in June 2018 prior to member invoicing.

e) Future SEEC-SESL working: verbal update

3.8 A verbal update on progress towards establishing talks about possible closer working between SEEC and SESL was given by Paul Bettison. Cllr Bettison advised members that the morning's SESL group recommended the establishment of a joint SEEC-SESL task group (3 councillors from each organisation) to consider options for the future. He also noted that the Chairman of SESL would be writing to the Chairman of SEEC outlining this proposal. SEEC members nominated Roy Perry, Lynne Hack and Jeanette Clifford as possible representatives to join the group.

ACTION 6: Chairman to update members once correspondence has been received from the SESL Chairman.

f) Planning for the right homes in the right places: SEEC response to DCLG consultation

- 3.9 The Chairman confirmed that SEEC had submitted a response, setting out member views, including concerns about Government's proposed new housing needs methodology. The response is on [SEEC's website](#).

g) South East Housing Delivery Network

h) SEEC-SESPM joint input to Migration Advisory Committee on post-Brexit skills

i) SEEC media coverage on Brexit: Potential skills gaps in the MJ and border control priorities in LGA First

- 3.10 The Chairman drew members' attention to SEEC's work on these important issues.

4. Confirmed forward meeting dates:

- 26 January 2018 – Wider South East Summit (consultation on London Plan)
- 8 February 2018 – SEEC All-member meeting: 1 year on from Housing White Paper expert panel workshop (**POST MEETING NOTE:** Date subsequently changed to 1 February to avoid a clash with a national event)
- 23 March 2018 – SEEC Executive (shared date with SESL)

5. Workshop session – Engaging with Local Industrial Strategies: Opportunities & Challenges for Councils

- 5.1 Following launch of Government's Industrial Strategy the previous week, members participated in an interactive workshop to share good practice on working with LEPs. Facilitated by Phil Swann from Shared Intelligence, member views and experiences will be collated to develop guidance on how councils can contribute to successful local industrial strategies. An interim report of the session is available on [SEEC's website](#).

ACTION 7: SEEC secretariat to work with Shared Intelligence to prepare and publish a guide on working with LEPs. The report to be finalised and circulated to members in spring 2018.

The meeting and workshop closed at 4pm.