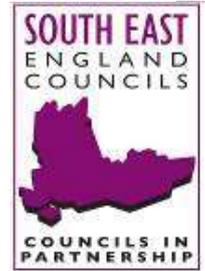


**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Friday 23 March 2018**

Engineering Employers' Federation

Broadway House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NQ



**Present:** Nicolas Heslop (Chair)  
David Monk (Secretary)  
Ralph Bagge  
Paul Bettison OBE  
Andrew Bowles  
Jeanette Clifford  
John Furey  
Keith House  
Keith Mans  
James Mills  
Stephen Parker  
Carole Paternoster  
Tony Rooth  
Bob Standley  
Chris Townsend  
Mike Whiting

**In Attendance:** Graham Gibbens, LGA Community Wellbeing Board and Kent CC  
Michelle Lowe, Sevenoaks DC  
Leon Steer, Rapport Housing & Care  
Jane Iley, Rapport Housing & Care  
Andrew Seddon, Adams Integra, planning adviser to Rapport Housing & Care  
Mona Sehgal, LGA  
Joe Ling, LGA  
Heather Bolton, SEEC  
Nick Woolfenden, 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 and Mike Whiting substituted for Paul Carter. Apologies came from Tim Wheadon, Eileen Lintill, Clive Woodbridge, Linda Smith, Tony Page, Lynne Hack and Moira Gibson. No declarations of interest were made.

**2. Social care pressures: funding and the role of all tiers in managing demand**

2.1 The Chairman introduced Cllr Graham Gibbens, Kent CC Cabinet and member of LGA's Community & Wellbeing Board, Cllr Michelle Lowe, Deputy Leader of Sevenoaks DC and Leon Steer, Chief Executive of Rapport Housing & Care.

2.2 Graham explained the financial pressures facing adult social care, with a current funding gap estimated at £2.3-2.5bn nationally. Social care demand is increasing and councils expect their funding gap to grow to around £5bn by 2020 while NHS funding is scheduled to continue rising. The LGA has supported several pilots to see how to maximise benefits of councils' health and social care roles and Graham emphasised the important role of all tiers of council in this. Government is expected to publish a green paper on older people's care before the summer recess, with a subsequent paper focused on working-age adults. Graham encouraged all councils to respond to the green paper and influence Government on issues that will really impact on the health of an ageing population, living with long term conditions.. The LGA is hosting a free event on 15 May on adult social care which everyone is welcome to attend.

2.3 Michelle explained that the county and three districts in Kent had agreed a West Kent Health Integration Deal, pooling £2m to promote independent living for their residents. She said the

NHS impacts at most about 20% towards people's health; lifestyle choices contribute around a further 30%; and the rest is influenced by social and environmental factors. Local government can directly or indirectly influence these factors and West Kent has a 10-point plan to improve the wellbeing of residents. Initiatives in Sevenoaks include tackling the causes of homelessness, a rapid hospital discharge scheme, joined up family centres/health visitor/social worker services, promotion of active lifestyles and green spaces, and working with business on healthy workplaces. Effective communication is also important.

2.4 Leon explained that Rapport is a relatively small registered housing association, specialising in accommodation and care for people aged over 55. An ageing population, rising costs and a lack of funding has increased the number of "financially stressed" care homes. Around 16% of the 7,497 care companies registered with Companies House are exhibiting signs that they are at risk of failure – up from 12% last year. Increasingly private care homes are having to focus on self-funders, with local authority admissions only accounting for around 30%. Leon said that nationally there are 11.4m over 65s and 36% would like to downsize. If more specialist retirement properties were available, they could help free up over 4 million family-sized homes. Also, having older people living in purpose built accommodation could reduce care home demand. However, only around 3.8% of applications going through the planning system in the UK are for retirement housing. Leon offered a one-to-one discussion with any councils interested in Rapport's business model.

2.5 In discussion, members raised points including:

- Not enough money for the South East's growing care needs (2% social care precept will not address needs), and councils cannot afford to pay rising care home fees.
- The importance of local authorities sharing information and learning from each other.
- Reviewing the boundaries between health and social care, and pressing for open transparent governance in the NHS, joined up budgets and the removal of silos.
- The South East's public health shortfall due to receiving below average funding.
- Challenges around provision of extra care dwellings, the impact of high land values and how to capture land value to help pay for extra care housing needs.
- Potential for over 55s housing on rural exception sites so people don't have to move to major towns.
- Whether social care funding should be raised nationally rather than through council tax.
- Concerns about separate green papers on care for under 65s and over 65s.
- Interest in how West Kent authorities came together and streamlined their approaches to achieve shared benefits.
- Interest in Rapport's business model and how they work with councils.

2.6 Members agreed SEEC should write to Jeremy Hunt in advance of the green paper and aim to include examples of why 2% council tax precepts do not meet care funding needs. A letter should also address responsibilities and funding between NHS and all tiers of council.

**ACTION 1:** SEEC to circulate presentations to members – circulated 26 March 2018. Also available here are [Michelle Lowe](#) and [Leon Steer](#) slides.

**ACTION 2:** SEEC to prepare a draft letter to Jeremy Hunt in advance of the green paper.

### 3. **Draft London Plan and SEEC's work with the London Mayor's office**

3.1 SEEC has submitted a formal response to the [London Plan](#). The Mayor has received around 2,500 consultation responses, with issues about whether London can increase housing delivery by 50% a key focus. South East respondents remain keen to know whether the Mayor still wants 'willing partners for growth' outside London's boundary, and what would be on offer in any deals with councils. SEEC will consider how best to contribute to the Plan's Examination in Public later this year.

3.2 In addition to discussing London Plan issues, the March Wider South East Political Steering Group between SEEC members and London Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe agreed to write jointly to Housing Minister Dominic Raab about tackling housing delivery barriers. The group also discussed how to engage with emerging sub-national transport bodies to refine and enhance the case for strategic transport priorities. There was positive member feedback from the Wider

South East Summit in January 2018, including the opportunity to raise issues direct with London Mayor Sadiq Khan. The next WSE Summit is on 12 December 2018.

#### **4. SEEC nominations to South Central Ambulance Trust**

4.1 Members selected Cllr Dr Anne Crampton from Hart DC and Cllr Keith House from Eastleigh BC to serve as local authority governors on the Trust for 3 years.

#### **5. Latest SEEC activity report and updates**

##### **a) Initial views on MHCLG housing & planning consultations launched 5 March 2018**

5.1 The Chairman updated members on the recent small member meeting with Housing Minister Dominic Raab. Issues raised included:

- The need for adequate infrastructure provision in advance of housing development and concerns that not all developments are required to contribute to the cost of providing infrastructure/affordable homes (eg. office to residential conversions).
- Concerns around the new method for determining housing need, and whether it would be better to use resident rather than workplace-based incomes for affordability calculations; and how to address areas with large amounts of protected land and Green Belt.
- Ongoing concerns that permitted homes are not being built out in a timely way by developers.

5.2 Government's consultation on its draft revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), closes on 10 May 2018. Members were asked to feed in views for a SEEC response, particularly on the housing test, housing delivery barriers and infrastructure funding.

**ACTION 3:** Members to provide suggestions to [nickwoolfenden@secouncils.gov.uk](mailto:nickwoolfenden@secouncils.gov.uk) to inform SEEC's NPPF consultation response.

**ACTION 4:** SEEC to respond to NPPF and related consultations by 10 May 2018.

##### **b) SEEC Expert Panel on housing & infrastructure**

5.3 The Chairman informed members that very good feedback from this event had been received, and a report is [online](#).

##### **c) SEEC commissioned guide: Good practice in working with LEPs**

5.4 SEEC's guide to maximising the value of working with LEPs was circulated at the meeting and an [electronic version](#) will be circulated to members to pass on to relevant colleagues.

**ACTION 5:** Electronic version of the guide to be circulated to members, for sharing with colleagues.

##### **d) SEEC responses to consultation**

5.5 Responses have been submitted to the London Plan and the [Major Roads Network](#) consultations.

##### **e) Ministerial letter on funding for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

5.6 A letter has been sent to Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes and a response is awaited.

##### **f) Refugee resettlement: Mid-point progress report from South East Strategic Partnership for Migration**

5.7 This month the South East resettled its 1,000<sup>th</sup> refugee. However, 56 South East authorities originally pledged just over 3,000 places, so the Migration Partnership may make contact to see if more of these offers can be converted into tangible places.

##### **g) Member briefing on Chancellor's Spring Statement**

5.8 The Chairman thanked the SEEC team for its on-the-day [Spring Statement](#) briefing for members.

##### **h) Verbal update on closer working between SEEC and SESL**

5.9 A verbal update on progress towards potential closer working between SEEC and SESL was given by the Chairman. He has written to SESL's Chairman and is awaiting a response.. In the meantime, SEEC Executive agreed to hold a smaller working group meeting to consider positive proposals to present to SESL.

**ACTION 6:** A meeting of the SEEC working group to be arranged before the SEEC AGM.

**i) SEEC's February newsletter and Wider South East Update**

5.10 Links to SEEC's January and February newsletters and the Wider South East Update were included in the meeting papers circulated to members.

**6. Minutes and matters arising**

6.1 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. Under matters arising, members queried SEEC's level of reserves. Without an accurate figure to hand Heather Bolton estimated they are in the region of £650,000. Some of these reserves are used each year to help fund SEEC operations and to keep subscriptions frozen since 2011.

**7. Confirmed forward meeting dates:**

- 28 June 2018 – SEEC AGM and All-Member Meeting.
- 28 September 2018 – SEEC Executive (shared date with SESL).
- 30 November 2018 – SEEC Executive (shared date with SESL).
- 12 December 2018 – Wider South East Summit.

**8. Any other business**

8.1 There was no further business and the meeting closed at 3.30pm.