

# SOUTH EAST FIRST

The Newsletter of South East England Councils

April 2018



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## Integrated communities: consultation workshop on 14 May

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## News Roundup

**Ambulance Trust governors appointed**

SEEC Executive has appointed Cllr Dr Anne Crampton and Cllr Keith House to serve as governors on the board of South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). SEEC regularly nominates councillors to fill local authority seats on SCAS council of governors.

A very strong field of candidates came forward this time to fill one Conservative vacancy and one opposition party vacancy. Anne Crampton is a Conservative councillor at Hart DC and Keith House is Lib-Dem Leader of Eastleigh BC. Both will serve 3 year terms from April 2018. They join Cllr Jeanette Clifford (Con, West Berkshire), the third SEEC nominee who joined the SCAS board in July 2017.

### **SEEC AGM: 28 June 2018**

SEEC's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 28 June 2018. The key member debate this year will cover the local authority role in skills and launch new SEEC research on South East skills gaps. The AGM is also the opportunity to elect a new SEEC leadership team as current Chairman Cllr Nicolas Heslop is standing down at the end of his 3-year term.

Elections will be held for SEEC's Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Vice Chairs and Executive committee. The AGM will be held at Broadway House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NQ. Provisional timings are 10am -1.15pm, followed by lunch.

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### **SEEC Dates**

[28 Jun – SEEC All-Member and AGM](#)

[28 Sep – SEEC Executive](#)

[30 November 2018 – SEEC Executive](#)

12 December 2018 – Wider South East Summit

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## **Social care green paper should address funding says SEEC**



**All local authorities have a role in effective, locally-targeted social care for older people so SEEC members want Government's care green paper to ensure councils have funding to keep delivering.**

Social care pressures in the South East are rising as the SEEC area has the UK's highest and fastest growing

population of residents aged over 75. An all-party member debate at SEEC Executive in March SEEC covered key issues including:

- South East and national funding challenges outlined by Cllr Graham Gibbens, Kent CC Cabinet and member of the LGA Board Community & Wellbeing Board.
- Good practice in reducing costs by helping people stay in their own homes longer, including a detailed [case study from Cllr Michelle Lowe](#), Deputy Leader of Sevenoaks DC (pictured above).
- [Options for delivering high density, affordable homes for older people from Leon Steer](#), Chief Executive of care providers Rapport Housing and Care.

Following the meeting SEEC members have agreed to write to Health and Social Care Secretary Jeremy Hunt MP setting out key issues they would like to see covered in the green paper.

Rapport Housing & Care Chief Executive Leon Steer has also offered one-to-one discussions with any SEEC members interested in his organisation's approach to delivering housing for people aged over 55.

## 2,500 comment on London Plan during consultation

**SEEC members met London Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe for an update on the draft new London Plan and to agree next steps in joint work to influence Government on housing and infrastructure needs.**

The Wider South East Political Steering Group (PSG) meeting in March heard that the GLA has received 2,500 responses to consultation on the draft Plan, including many from South East authorities. These include [SEEC's own cross-party response](#). GLA's initial review of responses shows that a number of responses reflect SEEC member concerns, including:

- The need for greater clarity on how London will bridge the gap between housing need and expected supply
- Continuing pressure for a strategic review of London's Green Belt to help the capital meet its housing need within its own boundaries.

PSG also discussed whether the Mayor still plans to pursue the idea of 'willing partners for growth' and – if so – SEEC members need to understand more about potential deals and mutual benefits.

The meeting agreed to explore joint working with 3 emerging sub national transport boards on calls for greater transport investment across the Wider South East. PSG members also agreed to write jointly to Housing Minister Dominic Raab on steps needed to overcome barriers to housing delivery.

The PSG brings together politicians from SEEC, London Mayor's office, East of England LGA and London Councils.

## Heathrow needs better transport now and for any future expansion

**Heathrow's owners should play a greater role in funding better transport access to the airport to solve current congestion problems before any new runway goes ahead. This is one of the key messages in [SEEC's response to Heathrow Airport Limited's consultation on a third runway](#).**

Across political parties in SEEC there is broad support for the economic benefits that airport expansion could bring, although views remain divided on whether Heathrow is the right location for a new runway. In responding to Heathrow's proposals for expansion, SEEC members called for:

- Immediate action to improve public transport access for Heathrow's existing two runways – including commitments on Western and Southern rail access to the airport. These are needed now and should not be dependent on a third runway.

- Clearer and more comprehensive proposals on future transport investment for an expanded airport, including much-improved road and rail surface access and alternative routes for non-airport traffic.
- Performance targets for noise and air pollution, independently enforced to minimise the impact of expansion on local communities
- Proposals for how Heathrow will work with the public sector to secure non-transport infrastructure needed – for example the schools, health, waste and other public services required by new residents moving into the South East to work at an expanded airport.

## Integrated communities: consultation workshop

South East local authorities and partners are invited to reserve spaces at a free workshop in London on 14 May to shape consultation responses to Government's [Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper](#).

Organised by the SEEC-hosted South East Strategic Partnership for Migration, the workshop will include a focus on how to improve integration of migrants and refugees, as well as addressing wider points in the green paper. The event aims to draw together South East implications of Ministers' proposals to help inform responses to the green paper, including Government's approach to 4 key aspects of integration activity:

- English language learning
- Employment
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Cultural orientation.

The workshop will be held at Broadway House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NQ. Provisional timings are 10.30am- 3pm and these will be confirmed as soon as possible.

To reserve a free place please email [smpsupport@secouncils.gov.uk](mailto:smpsupport@secouncils.gov.uk), including your name, organisation, contact details and any dietary requirements.

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