

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
ALL-MEMBER MEETING**



Date: 31 January 2019
 Subject: **SEEC subscriptions 2019-20**
 Report of: Heather Bolton, SEEC Director

Recommendation:

- i) Members reach a decision on recommendations from the SEEC Executive on SEEC subscriptions, including a rise of 2% from 1 April 2019.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members have discussed SEEC subscriptions on several occasions over the past two years, debating how to balance the competing desires to keep charges low but also keep pace with rising costs and maintain a good and effective service for member councils.
- 1.2 SEEC member subscriptions were frozen in 2011. After discussion at last year’s SEEC AGM members agreed to continue the freeze for 2018-19 but reconsider potential changes for 2019-20.

2. Executive’s recommendation on subscriptions

- 2.1 November’s SEEC Executive meeting discussed options for 2019-20 and recommended a small increase in subscriptions of 2% to reflect the following:
 - The increase would be the first for seven years
 - Increases for individual councils would be very small, ranging from approx £34 to £400 a year depending on type of council (see table 1 below)
 - An increase would help mitigate inflation & cost increases faced by SEEC year on year
 - An increase would help reduce the call on reserves that SEEC makes each year to fund its operations.
- 2.2 Presenting subscriptions to today’s meeting for decision will allow SEEC to invoice member authorities in April for the 2019-20 year. Traditionally, the Executive’s recommendation on subscriptions has been presented to the summer AGM for endorsement before invoicing. This means invoices have been sent in July rather than at the start of the financial year, causing confusion for some finance departments.
- 2.3 Further Executive recommendations on subscriptions, budget and membership were:
 - SEEC secretariat keep budgets and spending under review for 2019-20 to help minimise costs and further limit the draw on reserves required.
 - Members consider a strategy for approaching lapsed members.

Table 1: SEEC subscriptions 2% increase

<i>Type of council</i>	<i>Multiplier</i>	<i>Base rate 2011-18</i>	<i>Current subs per council 2018-19</i>	<i>Subs per council 19-20: with 2% rise</i>	<i>Rise per year per council</i>
District	1	£1,705.00	£1,705.00	£1,739.10	£34.10
Unitary c150,000 popln	3	£1,705.00	£5,115.00	£5,217.30	£102.30
Unitary c200,000 popln	4	£1,705.00	£6,820.00	£6,956.40	£136.40
Unitary c250,000 popln	5	£1,705.00	£8,525.00	£8,695.50	£170.50
County with 4 districts	4	£1,705.00	£6,820.00	£6,956.40	£136.40
County with 5 districts	5	£1,705.00	£8,525.00	£8,695.50	£170.50
County with 7 districts	7	£1,705.00	£11,935.00	£12,173.70	£238.70
County with 11 districts	11	£1,705.00	£18,755.00	£19,130.10	£375.10
County with 12 districts	12	£1,705.00	£20,460.00	£20,869.20	£409.20