

SOUTH EAST FIRST

Wider South East update

Pre-London Plan EIP Special



SEEC's occasional update on our work with London and the East of England
DECEMBER 2018

SEEC to give evidence at London Plan Examination

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Growth debate - SEEC and London Deputy Mayor

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Summit with Mayor of London: 11 January 2019

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Digital planning data: potential to join a London project

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Other News Roundup

What is Wider South East political collaboration?

SEEC has prepared a [1-side summary](#) explaining how the Wider South East collaboration operates. It provides an overview of partnership working, the part played by SEEC, organisations involved and the role of the Wider South East Political Steering Group.

WSE Dates

8 March 2019 – WSE Political Steering Group

WSE Contacts

SEEC leads on Wider South East for our area and can be contacted at:

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SEEC to give evidence at London Plan Examination

SEEC has had confirmation of its invitation to give evidence at the London Plan Examination in Public (EiP), beginning in January 2019.

This is an opportunity to ensure the panel of inspectors hears the views of South East councils on the Mayor's ambitious growth plans and on how to manage potential implications for the South East.

The EiP will run from 15 January until mid May 2019. SEEC is working collaboratively with SESL (South East Strategic Leaders) to submit written evidence in advance of the hearings and make representations direct to the panel at 8 sessions:

- Duty to co-operate and consultation
- London's spatial development proposals
- Wider South East policies in the London Plan
- Housing strategy
- Housing targets and supply
- Land for industry, logistics and services
- Green Belt
- Transport strategy and schemes.

Growth debate - SEEC and London Deputy Mayor

SEEC members discussed key growth issues with London Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe at October's Wider South East Political Steering Group (PSG).

Much of the debate focused on London's interest in 'willing partners' who might be able to help meet some of the capital's growth needs. This is in sharper focus now that GLA has published minor suggested changes to the draft London Plan showing that the Mayor aims to meet the 'vast majority' rather than 'all'

of London's housing need in his boundaries. Jules Pipe estimates a gap of 1,065 homes per annum for 10 years that cannot be met in London.

The Mayor is still inviting councils outside London to come forward to work with him as 'willing partners for growth' to help accommodate London's housing and economic growth needs, with mutual benefits. SEEC supports the Mayor's London Plan aim to deliver the large increase in homes within London that the capital needs. However SEEC members emphasised it must not be assumed the 1,065 gap can be met in the South East, given its own existing high growth levels and constraints. SEEC members remain concerned that the Mayor is unwilling to consider Green Belt review in London, as many South East councils have already been forced to release Green Belt.

Members called for the Mayor to be clearer on what he could offer to any South East councils that might be potential 'willing partners'. More information on mutual benefits is vital to help areas outside London understand the benefits that would come with any agreement to take additional homes or jobs displaced from London. For example:

- Areas outside London might want help with infrastructure investment.
- Any displaced growth should combine homes and jobs. This would ensure economic benefits for willing partners, not just commuter corridors for London workers to live in the South East.
- Likely timing of any 'willing partner' offers, as many South East local plans are nearing completion and major changes would need a long lead-in to incorporate them in plans.

Other PSG discussions included future engagement with the emerging Sub-national Transport Bodies who are developing investment priorities; and work to tackle housing delivery barriers - including options for land value uplift capture to help fund infrastructure. PSG will be writing to housing minister Kit Malthouse requesting a meeting on how to tackle housing delivery barriers.

Summit with Mayor of London: 11 January 2019

South East council leaders will have the opportunity to discuss issues with Mayor of London Sadiq Khan at the forthcoming Wider South East Summit.

Invitations for the Summit on 11 January 2019 have recently been circulated. Coming just days before the London Plan Examination in Public, the Summit is a unique opportunity to discuss growth issues with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe and council leaders from across the Wider South East.

Key discussions will include good growth, housing, economy and infrastructure. The Summit will also be a chance to shape Wider South East joint working priorities for the year ahead. Invites have been sent to all South East, East and London council leaders, senior officers and LEPs.

Spaces at the Summit are limited so please respond to invitations quickly to secure a place.

Digital planning data: potential to join a London project

October's Political Steering Group heard about potential for South East authorities to join a

project to streamline and share information on planning applications.

The project is being developed by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and could also be made available to South East authorities interested in digitising their planning systems.

The GLA is taking steps to meet Government's objective to get a clearer picture of development happening on the ground by using digital planning solutions. An automated system is being designed, which will allow the GLA to streamline how development monitoring data flows from London's 35 Local Planning Authorities to City Hall. Currently, this process is manual and could be much more efficient. Automation will enable the collection of more detailed, accurate information at a lower cost to local authorities. It will also enable the GLA to build a public, central, and easily accessible online hub of planning application information for London.

Expected benefits go beyond cost savings and include better public engagement in the planning process, cross-border planning and joined up development monitoring within councils. MHCLG has encouraged the GLA to identify authorities beyond London who would like to come on this journey as well. The GLA will share the technical solution it creates, for free, with interested authorities.

Any interested South East planning authorities can contact Peter Kemp, GLA Planning Change Manager for a discussion and further information: Peter.Kemp@london.gov.uk

Molly Strauss from the GLA has published two online articles explaining more about the GLA's [research](#) into the problem, and [vision](#) for a solution.

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