

SOUTH EAST FIRST

The Newsletter of South East England Councils

September 2019



High Streets - placemaking and local leadership

High Streets in the South East remain centres of the community where people live, shop, work, study and enjoy themselves. Local leadership is essential to adjust to changes in retail and set direction for the type of places and mix of uses that millennials and 'Generation Z' (people born since 1997) will be looking for. South East England Councils' Executive considered the challenges and opportunities.

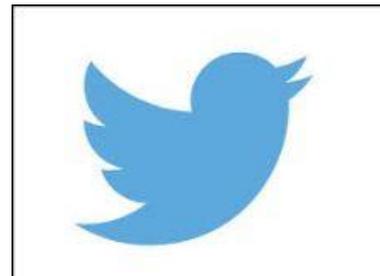
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We're on Twitter!

South East England Councils now has a Twitter account. Our handle is [@SECouncils](#) - follow us at <https://twitter.com/SECouncils>. Twitter will help us keep in touch with your news and mean we can give the South East's views on important events and announcements faster and to a wider audience.

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South East Charter for Elected Member Development

As part of its wide-ranging Member Development programme, South East Employers undertakes assessments for the Charter for Elected Member Development. To celebrate 15 years of the Charter, South East Employers commissioned in-depth case studies including East Hampshire District Council and authorities in London and Essex.

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Climate Change in the South East

The South East has the greatest ecological footprint of all the UK regions and has particular vulnerabilities to climate change. Councils across the region have declared climate emergencies and/or made carbon reduction commitments. Our 2020/21 Business Plan will reflect our work on planning including environmental aspects and we want to hear views on other ways in which a South East wide perspective can add to the work of individual Councils, organisations and groups.

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News Roundup

The Treasury Committee has published evidence from the initial stage of its Inquiry into Regional Imbalances in the Economy. South East England Councils' evidence is at:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/treasury-committee/regional-imbances-in-the-uk/written/104248.pdf>

More information

For more information about South East England Councils see our [website](#) or contact the Director, David Covill, email address below.

Dates

13 December 2019 - South East England Councils' Executive

Contacts

[David Covill – Director](#)
[Nick Woolfenden – Policy Co-ordination](#)
[Shaughna Bloomfield - Project Support](#)

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Changing High Streets - placemaking and local leadership

High Streets in the South East are centres of the community where people live, shop, work, study and enjoy themselves. With more bad news about the closure of retail chain stores and banks, it's more important than ever that local authorities take a lead working with residents, businesses and other partners to shape a distinctive future for city, town and village centres.

South East England Councils' Executive considered both the challenges and opportunities with Montague Evans, a leading consultancy and property company with a team of specialists in High Streets. Members discussed how important it is to understand and plan for the type of High Street that millennials and 'Generation Z' (people born since 1997) will be looking for. This may be closer to the original mix of uses before the upsurge in large-scale retail developments in recent decades. Members also considered case studies which showed the importance of counties and districts working together in two-tier areas.

We would welcome your views - what will make the South East's High Streets successful in 5, 10 or 20 years' time? Does the South East have particular opportunities or challenges? Please send your views and ideas to davidcovill@secouncils.gov.uk or share on our Twitter page.

South East Charter for Elected Member Development - Case Studies launched

In 2004 South East Employers, in partnership with the Local Government Association, launched the Charter for Elected Member Development and has now undertaken 192 assessments in 96 Councils that have successfully awarded the Charter for Elected Member Development.

The Charter is a national framework of accreditation that recognises the investment in member development and the importance of member development in supporting the strategic priorities of your Council.

To celebrate 15 years of the Charter, South East Employers commissioned the first in-depth case studies that identify the benefits of the Charter and councillor development. The 3 unique case studies are based on the

experience of Charter accreditation in East Hampshire District Council, Essex County Council, and the London Borough of Brent and demonstrate the value of the Charter from the councillor, officer and strategic partner perspective.

In addition to the case studies, South East Employers has also developed the '**Charter for Member Development- Benefits for Councillors**' that outlines the key benefits of the Charter/member development for the front-line councillor. Details of this and the case studies can be found at:

<https://seemp.co.uk/support-for-councillors/charter-for-member-development/>

Should you wish to discuss taking forward a commitment to the Charter for Elected Member Development in your Council please do contact mark@seemp.co.uk

Climate change in the South East

The South East has the greatest ecological footprint of all the UK regions and has particular vulnerabilities to climate change. Councils across the South East have declared climate emergencies and/or made carbon reduction commitments. Protecting the environment has always been a feature of South East Councils' work on Planning, for example when giving evidence to the London Plan Examination in Public. We will also be making the case for increased Government funding.

Is there a South East perspective which is being missed by Government and cannot be tackled by individual local authorities or groups? Please let us have your views by contacting Nick Woolfenden nickwoolfenden@secouncils.gov.uk or share views on our Twitter page.

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