

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS



ALL MEMBER MEETING

Date: 29 January 2020

Subject: Engagement between South East local authorities and GLA/ London Councils

Report of: Nick Woolfenden, Head of Policy Co-ordination

Recommendation:

Prior to forthcoming roundtable meetings, members are invited to discuss opportunities for engagement on key issues between South East local authorities and the GLA/London Councils with Jules Pipe CBE (London Deputy Mayor, Planning, Regeneration & Skills) and Cllr Darren Rodwell (Leader of Barking & Dagenham Council and London Councils Executive Member for Housing & Planning).

- 1.1 Following recent discussions at the Wider South East Political Steering Group (WSE PSG), we are pleased to welcome Jules Pipe CBE and Cllr Darren Rodwell to today’s meeting. The WSE PSG (more information [here](#)) brings together a small group of senior politicians from South East England Councils, the Greater London Authority (GLA), London Councils and the East of England Local Government Association. The group meets 2-3 times a year and considers issues of shared significance for the area - for example the implications of the new London Plan, and future engagement on other key growth and infrastructure issues. An annual Summit is also held, to which all councils in the area are invited – the next will be in autumn 2020, after May’s Mayoral and local elections.
- 1.2 At the request of a PSG working group (including Deputy Chairman Cllr Ralph Bagge), the PSG wrote before Christmas to all council Leaders/Chief Executives gauging interest in holding area-focused roundtable meetings to explore key issues of common interest. 29 councils in the South East have expressed interest at the time of writing, and the aim is to arrange these for spring-summer 2020. If any further members want to be involved in a roundtable, please email nickwoolfenden@secouncils.gov.uk by 31 January.
- 1.3 As well as an opportunity for political dialogue and building understanding, the forthcoming roundtables are an opportunity to explore potential for bilateral engagement between individual/groups of councils and London partners, or where there is benefit for further high-level joint action through the PSG – for example influencing Government.
- 1.4 Today’s high-level discussion is an opportunity to discuss key issues in advance of the roundtables. Some aspects previously raised by members include:
 - Exploring practical shared issues and possible ways forward around growth, infrastructure and the economy, as reflected in the ‘willing partners’ approach set out in the new London Plan eg. what the Mayor could offer/ask for from any councils that may want to explore working on growth issues with him; and associated actions to help sustainable local place-making, for example jobs/economic growth and infrastructure. *Note – following last year’s Examination in Public, the Mayor soon intends to submit his [revised London Plan](#) to Government, prior to adoption.*
 - Other topics to explore could include:
 - issues related to London boroughs ‘placing’ households to council areas outside London’s boundaries;
 - the importance of continuing to make the case to government for actions to help councils tackle housing delivery barriers/challenges, including infrastructure and affordable homes.