

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: 7 June 2011

Subject: **Migration Update – latest data, migrant labour levels
and business plan 2011-12**



Report by: Roy Millard, South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM)

Recommendations:

That members note and discuss the following information:

- i) Latest data and statistics showing migration trends in the South East
- ii) Content and planned dissemination of research findings covering local labour markets' reliance on migrant workers
- iii) The SESPM business plan for 2011-12.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report updates the SEEC Executive on the work of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM). Three key issues are covered in this paper and two detailed annexes:

- Latest migration data for the South East
- New research on the impact of migrant worker caps on the South East
- SESPM business plan for 2011-12.

2. Migration data headlines

2.1 Detailed information in Annex 1 updates charts and data provided at SEEC's December Executive meeting.

2.2 Localised information from the Office for National Statistics will now be available from November and recent changes to the Schools Census data means this information will not be published until mid June. Annex 1 gives a brief narrative update in instances where new data is not yet available. It also highlights key issues and the policy implications of the data. The December 2011 Executive report will contain full updates on the data. Key migration information will also feature in SEEC's proposed data dashboard. Recommendations on the dashboard will go to the SEEC AGM in July.

2.3. Overall migration figures remain stable. Net migration remains high with emigration at its lowest for 10 years.

2.4. Transition arrangements for EU migrants from the accession states that joined in 2004 were removed on 1 May 2011. It is unclear what impact this will have as labour market restrictions are lifted across the rest of Europe. At this stage no appreciable difference has been reported,

2.5. Key areas of concern in the South East have been gathered in preparation for SESPM's participation in the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration roundtable. These include:

- the fit with localism
- access to English Language lessons and integration

- limiting non EU migration
- discrepancies between child care law and immigration law
- housing
- legal representation
- Gurkha resettlement
- reduction in asylum support services.

2.6. There is some evidence to suggest the Arab Spring may result in higher numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. There are also more reported 'lorry drops' in the South East.

3. Research into reliance on migrant labour

3.1. Following the September Executive meeting SESPM and SEEDA undertook joint research to understand the scale and nature of reliance on non EU migrant labour in the seven LEP areas with a footprint in the South East.

3.2. The report identifies potentially worrying gaps in labour market skills in some areas of the South East. It assesses the capacity of local areas to respond to reduced availability of skilled migrant labour as the policy to cut net migration from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands is enacted. The report also helps identify where increased skills training is needed to equip indigenous workers to fill gaps that may develop in the labour market. Annex 2 covers headline findings from the research in more detail.

4. SESPM 2011-12 Business Plan

4.1. This year's SESPM business plan focuses on relationship building and partnership working to continue to provide coherent evidence-based narrative on migration.

4.2. The plan enshrines a commitment to provide a practical resource to support partners across the South East by providing information which enables the area to understand and articulate the issues, giving collective voice to influence and inform policy as well as providing practical support.

4.3. Our six key objectives for the year are:

- Support and lead services in the South East to address challenges and maximise opportunities of migration.
- Monitor and report trends relating to the nature and effects of migration to and from the South East.
- Promote understanding of all aspects of migration and the integration of migrants with communities.
- Enable collective voice from the South East experience to inform and influence national and local policy and decision making.
- Build robust cross sector partnerships facilitating open and collaborative working.
- Provide a conduit for two way information exchange between government departments and local area partners.

4.4. The full business plan is available on the SEEC website:

www.secouncils.gov.uk/SESPM_plan_2011-12