

FINAL SEEC business plan 2014-2015

A. Infrastructure and funding	
<p>Aim A1: Secure greater infrastructure investment and funding devolution to help South East councils drive economic growth as part of the engine room of UK plc</p>	<p>Activity planned includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● i) Present the South East case for investment and financial devolution to help influence 2015 General Election manifestos. ● ii) Raise the profile of South East strategic transport investment needs using the Mind the Gap report to engage MPs, partners and media. ● iii) Ensure South East priorities are reflected in London's Infrastructure 2050 debate, highlighting the mutual benefits of investment in shared transport, utilities and services. ● iv) Make the case for greater devolved funding and powers for South East authorities, including greater tax retention to help fund infrastructure that is essential to economic growth and transforming services. ● v) Research to examine the case for a more balanced approach to investing in successful economies such as the South East. ● vi) Work to define the benefits of localising skills & employment funding and an action plan for devolving responsibility to local authority level. ● vii) Member workshop on how to maximise South East economic potential and work successfully with LEPs to boost growth and productivity. ● viii) Update members on wider South East infrastructure issues and opportunities to influence areas such as aviation, power, water, skills and broadband. Ensure responses to key consultations.
<p>Aim A2: Support South East councils in their work to develop sustainable local plans that reflect local housing and infrastructure needs.</p>	<p>Activity planned includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ i) A workshop on Duty to Co-operate to help members and officers consider the building blocks required for sound local plans. ● ii) Represent South East views at the London Plan Examination-in-Public. ● iii) Make the case for greater local discretion on planning issues, including powers to turn planning approvals into real development. ■ iv) Establish a member task & finish group to make recommendations on future political engagement with London on housing and infrastructure.
<p>Aim A3: Influence funding for South East authorities, including national Government and EU funding streams.</p>	<p>Activity planned includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● i) Make the case for Government core funding of councils to be based on population, reflecting South East demand as the UK's most populated area. ■ ii) Report on progress of EU funding in the South East via ERDF 2014-2020 and potential for council involvement in managing committees. ■ iii) Ensure updates for members on emerging UK and EU funding potential.

Key ■ SEEC work ● Joint work SEEC and SESL ●■ Some joint work/ some separate

B. Health & wellbeing

<p>Aim B1: Influence funding and policy decisions to help South East authorities deliver effective, integrated local services, particularly in health and care.</p>	<p>Activity planned includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● i) Present the case for changes in health and care funding & policy, including a single budget, to influence 2015 General Election manifestos. ● ii) Make the case for adequate funding for Care Act reforms, particularly the impact of the care cap on South East authorities with high populations and high numbers of self funders. ● iii) Promote the role of democratically-elected councillors in leading effective integration of health, care and wider services to meet local needs, including responses to key consultations. ● iv) Work with London Councils to ensure effective communications on London residents who need to be housed in South East council areas.
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C. On-going areas of work

<p>Aim C1: Maintain an evidence base to support SEEC influencing work.</p>	<p>Activity planned includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ i) Publish two Data Dashboards a year, identifying key policy issues for SEEC and partners to act upon.
<p>Aim C2: Monitor national/EU policy & legislation affecting local government to identify relevant opportunities to influence direction, minimise bureaucracy and support local determination rather than central regulation.</p>	<p>Activity planned includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ■ i) Ensure South East views are represented in responses to relevant consultations, discussions & briefings on national and EU policy issues. ● ■ ii) Priority topics for SEEC influencing are maximising local control and minimising bureaucracy in local government funding, planning, infrastructure, economic growth and service reform. ■ iii) Make the case for minimising burdens and bureaucracy arising from any EU policy proposals affecting local government as the new EU work programme emerges following May 2014 elections.
<p>Aim C3: Maintain hosting arrangement with South East Strategic Partnership for Migration, ensuring updates for members on key South East migration issues.</p>	<p>Activity planned includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● i) Update members on a proposed South East Anti-Trafficking Partnership to help tackle Modern Day Slavery. ■ ii) Regular reports on migration trends, including economic & service impact
<p>Aim C4: Maximise efficiency of operations</p>	<p>i) Set up a member group to recommend next steps in working with SESL.</p>

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