

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND LEADERS BOARD/SEEC EXECUTIVE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2009

Present: Paul Carter (Chairman)
Paul Watkins (Secretary)
Mike Appleyard
Mary Ballin
Lionel Barnard
George Beckett
Roger Belson
Elizabeth Cartwright
John Furey
Maira Gibson
Gordon Keymer, CBE
Mary Mears
Tony Page
Jerry Patterson
Tony Reid
Cec Tallack

In Attendance: Diana Pogson, Interim Managing Director, Strategy Unit
Catriona Riddell, Director of Planning, Strategy Unit
Irene Cripps, PA to Diana Pogson
Ameeta Rowland, Policy Adviser, Strategy Unit
Chris Williams, Chairman of the LACE Group

The Chairman opened the meeting, explaining the reason for the dual title on the agenda - SEELB/SEEC Executive. There are now two National Parks within the region and it is a requirement of central Government that the parks are represented under the new regional governance arrangements; the dual title is to differentiate between the board on which the parks will have representation and meetings of the Executive, which will deal with 'non-integrated' matters. The National Parks will be invited to attend Executive meetings when there are agenda items relevant to the Single Regional Strategy.

The Chairman **advised** the group that Dr Andrew Povey had been elected as the new Leader of Surrey CC, replacing Nick Skellett, and that he would send a letter of congratulation in which he would seek clarification of Surrey CC's nomination to this group and the Task and Finish Group. It was **noted** that the nomination of the Chairman of the Regional Transport Board is not within the remit of this group, and that that is an issue for the RTB membership to resolve.

I. Apologies and Substitutes

- I.1 Apologies were received from Louise Bloom, Keith Gill, Nick Skellett CBE, Henry Smith, Ken Thornber CBE, Ed Turner and Robert Guile.
- I.2 Lionel Barnard substituted for Henry Smith.

2. **Notes of Task and Finish Group Meeting, 18 March 2009 and Verbal Update**
 - 2.1 The notes were received and **noted**.
 - 2.2 The group **noted** the membership of the Task and Finish group, as circulated with the meeting papers.
3. **Report from Group re Delivery Boards/Working Groups, 27 March 2009**
 - 3.1 A verbal report was given on the first meeting of the working group on Delivery Boards and Member Working Groups (the light blue group on the working model structure chart); the agenda, attendance list and draft terms of reference had been circulated with the other papers for this Executive meeting.
 - 3.2 Diana Pogson **advised** the group that David Edwards, Director South East, Homes and Communities Agency would be invited to the next meeting of the working group, which it was hoped would be in early May.
 - 3.3 Diana Pogson also **advised** it was hoped that the first meeting of the Partnership Board would be in June, soon after the local and European elections, and the first meeting of the Strategy Board in July. The South East Partnership Board is a commissioning group and in the short-term is the Regional Planning Body. The Strategy Board is more like a mix of the former Assembly Executive and Regional Planning Committees, and will steer work on the regional strategy.
 - 3.4 Catriona Riddell **advised** the group that the role of the Inter-Regional Forum needs to be reviewed. The current membership want the Forum to remain a political group and this could be achieved by keeping it within SEEC.
 - 3.5 It was **noted** that the SEEDA Board may have difficulty in respect of nominations to the various groups as most Board members only undertake two days' work on behalf of the RDA.
4. **Strategy Board Nominations** (taken after Agenda Item 5)
 - a) Membership of SEELB
 - 4.1 The membership of the group, as circulated with the meeting papers, was **noted**.
 - b) Template and Membership of Strategy Board
 - 4.2 It was **noted** that the proposed arrangements will be interim until the first SEEC AGM in July 2009, when nominations would again be sought, and take account of continuity and experience from roles within the former Assembly, geography, party and local authority tiers.

- 4.3 The Task and Finish Group had **recommended** that the nominees should be Paul Carter, Louise Bloom and Tony Page, the four chairmen of the boards/working groups (planning, transport, housing, economy and skills) and a district council leader. As the Chairman of the Economy and Skills Board will be a SEEDA representative for continuity/experience, the SEELB representative will be seen as a SEEC spokesperson. It was hoped that the current Chairmen from the RPC, RTB and RHB will remain the same until July, when the first SEEC AGM will be held.
- 4.4 It was **noted** that in future, depending on which tiers the working board chairmen represent, the eighth SEELB nominee to the Strategy Board may not be a district councillor.
- 4.5 Elizabeth Cartwright **proposed** Paul Watkins as the district council nominee; this was **seconded** by John Furey.
- 4.6 Paul Watkins **suggested** that the spokesperson from the Economy and Skills Board should be from a county or unitary council. It was **agreed** that it would be more appropriate for the nominee to be drawn from the unitaries and upper tier. Mary Mears was then nominated.
- 4.7 The nominations were **agreed** as follows:

Paul Carter, Louise Bloom, Tony Page.

Boards/working group Chairmen: Elizabeth Cartwright (Chairman of the RHB), Moira Gibson (Chairman of the RPC) and Nick Skellett (to be confirmed by the RTB).

Economy and Skills group Spokesperson: Mary Mears.

District council: Paul Watkins.

5. Partnership Board Nominations

- 5.1 It was **noted** that again the proposed arrangements will be interim until the first SEEC AGM in July 2009, when nominations would be sought, and take account of continuity and experience from roles within the former Assembly, geography, party and local authority tiers. It was **also noted** that a representative from the National Parks would sit on the Partnership Board whilst it is the Regional Planning Body.
- 5.2 The Task and Finish Group had **recommended** that, again for continuity, the nominees should be Paul Carter, Louise Bloom and Tony Page, and to take account of geographical, party and local authority tier considerations the other five nominees from SEELB should be two county councillors, two Conservative district councillors and one Conservative unitary councillor.
- 5.3 Mike Appleyard **nominated** himself and Tony Reid; this was **seconded** by Mary Mears.

Moira Gibson **nominated** George Beckett and John Furey; this was **seconded** by Elizabeth Cartwright and Gordon Keymer.

Mary Ballin **nominated** herself; Mary Mears was **also nominated** but she offered to concede the nomination, without a vote, in view of Mary Ballin's experience within the former Assembly.

5.4 The nominations were **agreed** as follows:

Paul Carter, Louise Bloom, Tony Page.

County: Mike Appleyard and Tony Reid.

District: George Beckett and John Furey.

Unitary: Mary Ballin

5.5 It was **agreed** that the SEEC Constitution be amended so that in future the full Executive votes on nominations to other bodies rather than taking the nominations between tiers.

6. SEEC/SEERA Ltd Director Appointments

6.1 It was **noted** that following the dissolution of the Assembly the current Directors of SEERA Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, are Paul Carter, Louise Bloom, Tony Page and Diana Pogson (as the Interim Managing Director).

6.2 Diana Pogson **advised** that a decision on whether to increase the number of Directors could be taken at SEERA Ltd's AGM in October 2009.

6.3 Paul Carter asked that the LACE Group look to formally inviting individual local authorities to take up a shareholding in SEEC as soon as possible.

6.4 It was **noted** that when councils become members of SEEC they will automatically also become members of SEERA Ltd, which it is intended will in due course become SEEC Ltd.

7. Draft Business Plan

7.1 Chris Williams talked through the draft plan and the following amendments were **agreed**:

- i) Introduction - Formal Status of SEEC: reword 'SE chapter of LGA?' to say this is being negotiated.
- ii) Introduction - Objective 1: add 'Responsibility to nominate to regional bodies'.
- iii) Introduction - Objective 3: reword the opening sentence to reflect that at present policies are represented by the regional strategy.
- iv) Introduction - add a fourth objective to cover Police.
- v) Introduction - add a fifth objective to cover reporting back from other bodies.

- vi) Key Activities for 2009/2010 - add planning and Regional Housing Board to the list before Corporate Activity.
- vii) Articulate available officer support.

7.2 It was **noted** that work is needed in respect of the level of subscriptions.

7.3 It was **agreed** that a revised paper on the outline Business Plan would be published by the end of the week after Easter, and invitations to join SEEC can then be sent.

7.4 It was **noted** that the Business Plan would be formally adopted at the SEEC AGM in July.

7.5 Catriona Riddell **advised** that it is the intention that the Regional Monitoring Report would become a wider encompassing document, more like a state of the region report.

7.6 It was **agreed** that it is essential to have proper communication between the boards and that news releases are issued as and when appropriate. It was **noted** that a Partnership website is under construction.

8. Draft Budget

8.1 It was **noted** that the detailed budget will be agreed once the Business Plan has been finalised.

9. SESPM Integration

9.1 Paul Watkins introduced this item as Rob Guile had been unable to attend. It was **noted** that a request would be made to the Home Office/Border Agency for the transfer of funds from Portsmouth to SEEC. A meeting between SEEDA and the UK Border Agency had been scheduled for May to discuss the possibility of integrating SESPM into SEEC. There will be a separate bid to CLG to co-ordinate ongoing work under SEEC, following calls from GOSE to identify schemes to bid for.

10. Europe

- a) Briefing from LACE Advisory Group

10.1 Chris Williams introduced the paper that had been prepared by Hampshire CC.

10.2 Referring to the paragraph about SELP securing a position on the Project Selection Committee of the ERDF funding stream for competitiveness, Cec Tallack **advised** that he, Helen Clack of Surrey CC and Alan Marsh of Kent CC are members of the Project Monitoring Committee and that it is important control is not lost by SEEC.

10.3 It was **noted** that SEEDA wishes to discuss with SEELB/SEEC the issue of missed opportunities to make bids to these funding streams.

b) Committee of the Regions

- 10.4 The content of Gordon Keymer's report was **noted** and it was **agreed** that he should call a meeting of interested parties, as he had suggested, following the elections on 4 June to discuss co-ordinating the South East's European work now that the Joint Europe Committee had ceased to function.
- 10.5 A call for nominations for the CoR is expected shortly and it was **agreed** that Gordon Keymer would be the Conservative nominee. It was **noted** that the other parties would make their own arrangements to select their nominees.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

a) SEELB/SEEC Executive

- 11.1 It was **agreed** that these meetings would be held as originally identified for the Assembly's Executive Committee meetings until the end of 2009:

June - date and details to be confirmed

16 October - details to be confirmed

Late January 2010 - date and details to be confirmed

b) SEEC AGM

- 11.2 It was **agreed** that the inaugural AGM would be held on 15 July 2009, the date originally identified for the Assembly's AGM. Timing and venue to be confirmed in due course.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 Catriona Riddell **advised** that:

- i) South East Plan: it is hoped that Government will publish this at the end of April 2009, but publication could slip to early May.
- ii) The consultation on Aggregates continues to June 2009.
- iii) Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople: the agreed replacement policy will be submitted to Government Office at the beginning of June for a 12 week public consultation to the end of August 2009; there will be an Examination pre-meeting in mid-October and the EiP is expected to start at the beginning of February 2010.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 14.15.