

**Wider South East (WSE) Political Steering Group
10 March, 12.00 – 13.30, City Hall, Room 1.2, London**

Meeting Notes

1. **Welcome** by Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor of London for Planning
 2. **Introductions** - see Annex 1 for attendance list
 3. **Working Arrangements**
 - 3.1. Terms of Reference for the Political Steering Group were agreed as circulated subject to the strengthening of fifth bullet point on effective communication.

Action:
The following improved wording was agreed subsequently:
Oversee an effective engagement network to underpin communication between the bodies and members involved to ensure progress on agreed actions is made between meetings; it is also important to provide regular updates for all WSE Leaders.
 - 3.2. Terms of Reference and membership arrangements for the Officer Working Group were agreed as circulated without change.

Action:
Officers in the East of England, South East and London to separately nominate their Officer Working Group members as soon as possible.
 - 3.3. **Schedule of future meetings** was discussed. The need to ensure effective linkages between Summit, Steering Group and Officer Working Group was highlighted. It was stressed that not all meetings necessarily have to take place in London. Identifying specific meeting dates and venues was considered to be an urgent priority.

Action:
The following specific meeting dates/venues were agreed subsequently:
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| • Fri 17 June 2016, 11 am – 1 pm (City Hall) | Officer Working Group |
| • Mon 18 July 2016, 11.30 am – 2pm (City Hall) | Political Steering Group
incl. meeting new Mayor |
| • Fri 9 Sept 2016, 1.30 – 4 pm (City Hall) | Officer Working Group |
| • Weds 12 October, 2 – 4.30 pm (LGA) | Political Steering Group |
| • Fri 9 Dec 2016, 12 – 4 pm (Kings College London) | Summit |
- 3.4. **Chairmanship:** It was agreed that members from the East of England, South East and London would take this in turns. Cllr Jason Ablewhite offered to chair the next meeting in July. This was agreed.
 - 3.5. **Secretariat:** It was initially suggested to rotate the Secretariat between the GLA, SEEC and EELGA, but on balance it was agreed that the GLA would maintain this function to ensure continuity and consistency. However, it was also agreed that the process for preparing meetings had to change ensuring that the East of England and South East representatives are involved from the outset in the preparation of meetings and have

responsibility for the delivery of individual meeting items. Longer lead-in times are needed to ensure members receive final papers well in advance of meetings.

Action:

Officers to agree action plan and timetable for preparation of meetings as well as more detailed collaboration arrangements and resourcing on the secretariat function generally.

- 3.6. Summit:** It was agreed that the format of the next Summit would need to be more engaging and interactive. The London Plan event on 8 March was mentioned as a positive example of a more effective and inspiring setup.

Action:

Officers to explore options and make initial proposals to next Steering Group meeting.

- 3.7. Website:** The Wider South East website will be updated to include the papers of the Steering Group meetings. A comprehensive review of the website will be considered once the arrangements are further established.

4. Work Programme

a. London Plan Review and Common Understanding of Evidence

- 4.1.** GLA currently expecting household growth at similar levels to those set out in 2015 London Plan (40k/year), population increase slightly lower (70k/year), but employment growth significantly higher (above 40k/year).
- 4.2.** Across WSE need to balance housing growth requirements with economic growth potential and necessary/timely transport infrastructure investment in advance of growth.
- 4.3.** GLA to share results of emerging demographic model (similar to ONS/DCLG, but more adaptable to different scenarios/assumptions) and other pieces of research as/when they become available.
- 4.4.** Highlighted again the need to ensure potential disruption of Local Plan examinations are avoided.

Action:

GLA offered to engage directly with individual areas within WSE, e.g. for London Plan review workshop or to address specific concerns.

GLA also offered to pull together data to show strategic migration flows from a South East and East of England perspective.

GLA to confirm opportunities for formal and informal consultation on the London Plan as early as possible.

b. Barriers to Housing Delivery

- 4.5.** Need to review findings of Outer London Commission, National LGA Housing Commission, Institute of Public Policy Research (Kerslake report) as well as other relevant reports and draw out learning/common points for sharing with members.

Action:

Based on analysis of these reports, officers to provide Steering Group members for their next meeting with a selection of those approaches/mechanisms that are potentially suitable for collaborative strategic action and joint lobbying with Government.

c. Making case for strategic infrastructure

- 4.6.** Jointly this Steering Group has considerable lobbying power it could make use of in engaging with Government and Treasury in particular. However, it will be important to focus resources on just a few strategic infrastructure schemes.
- 4.7.** Improving capacity on existing strategic rail corridors, or creating alternative routes, would be essential, to support and constrain existing commuter demand.
- 4.8.** There is some spare capacity and appetite for growth along parts of existing HS1 route.
- 4.9.** Growth potential along the HS2 route through Buckinghamshire should be removed from the strategic priority list and the Oxford-Cambridge growth corridor should be added.
- 4.10.** The need for strategic improvements to water management and other types of infrastructure should also be considered.

Action:

Based on analysis of identified corridors and potential investment options, officers to provide Steering Group members for their next meeting with a selection of strategic opportunities for collaborative action and joint lobbying on strategic infrastructure.

Annex 1 Attendance

EAST OF ENGLAND

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Cllr Jason Ablewhite	EELGA Chairman and Leader	Huntingdonshire DC	Conservative
Cllr Linda Haysey	Leader	East Hertfordshire DC	Conservative
Cllr Roy Davis	Leader's Representative	Luton BC	Labour
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Leader	Bedford BC	Liberal Democrat
Cllr Aidan Van de Weyer	Member	South Cambridgeshire DC	Liberal Democrat

SOUTH EAST

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Cllr Nicolas Heslop	SEEC Chairman and Leader	Tonbridge and Malling BC	Conservative
Cllr Peter Martin	Deputy Leader	Surrey CC	Conservative
Cllr David Burbage	Leader	RB Windsor & Maidenhead	Conservative
Cllr Carole Paternoster	Cabinet member	Aylesbury Vale DC	Conservative

LONDON

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Sir Ed Lister	Deputy Mayor of London	Greater London Authority	Conservative
Sir Harvey McGrath	Deputy Chairman	London Enterprise Panel	N/A
Cllr Stephen Alambritis	Leader	Merton BC	Labour

Officers

Russell Williams	Lead Chief Executive	Ipswich BC
Nigel McCurdy	Corporate Director	Huntingdonshire DC
Cecilia Tredget	Managing Director	East of England LGA
Cinar Altun	Policy and Secretariat Manager	East of England LGA
Heather Bolton	Director	South East England Councils
Katharina Winbeck	Head of Transport, Environment and Infrastructure Policy and Public Affairs Division	London Councils
John Lett	Strategic Planning Manager	Greater London Authority
Jorn Peters	Senior Strategic Planner	Greater London Authority