

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS  
EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Date: 13 October 2017

Subject: **Election of new Chairman for South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM)**

Report of: Heather Bolton, SEEC Director

**Recommendation**

Consider expressions of interest and select a councillor to serve as SESPM Chairman for an initial period until June 2019.

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**1. Background**

1.1 SEEC has a regular role in nominating councillors to sit as political representatives on the boards of a variety of external bodies.

1.2 A new vacancy has arisen this month for a Chairman for the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM). This follows the decision by past Chairman Cllr Paul Watkins, to retire as a councillor and as Leader of Dover DC with effect from 30 September 2017.

**2. The SESPM role**

2.1 SESPM is funded by Home Office grant and hosted by SEEC. The SESPM Chairman requires specialist knowledge of migration issues to guide work on the South East's response to issues such as refugee resettlement, placement of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and adult asylum dispersal. A more detailed role profile is attached for information at Annex A.

2.2 As the vacancy has arisen midway through the year, it is proposed that the new Chairman should be appointed for an initial period until June 2019. Nominations to external bodies are normally handled at the SEEC AGM in June but as the next AGM is only 8 months away, a longer term is suggested to allow the new Chairman to establish herself or himself in the role.

2.3 The role profile was circulated to SEEC member authorities in late September, asking for Leaders or Cabinet members with relevant experience to provide expressions of interest in time for the SEEC Executive to review potential nominations at today's meeting.