

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Date: 29 March 2019

Subject: **Wider South East liaison: Political Steering Group & London Plan Examination in Public (EiP)**

Report of: Nick Woolfenden, SEEC Head of Policy Co-ordination

Recommendation:

Note updates on SEEC's engagement with the Deputy Mayor of London and the work to raise South East concerns with the London Plan EiP inspectors.

1. Wider South East Political Steering Group – 8 March 2019

- 1.1 SEEC members met London Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe and leaders from the East of England to discuss next steps on political engagement across the Wider South East (WSE). This was the first meeting of the WSE Political Steering Group (PSG) since January's well-attended Summit with the Mayor of London. A brief [summary of the Summit](#) discussions is available on SEEC's website, in addition to a report included in this month's [SEEC WSE newsletter](#).
- 1.2 The PSG confirmed members' commitment to speak with one voice on some of the big shared issues facing the South East, London and East. Members are keen to make progress on this and will consider options and priorities at their next meeting, being planned for summer 2019. A [1-side SEEC summary about the purpose and membership of the WSE PSG](#) is available online.
- 1.3 The meeting was also a chance to hear about progress on the London Plan Examination in Public, and for SEEC members to highlight the importance of ongoing South East engagement. SEEC members want ongoing dialogue with the Mayor's office between the inspectors' report (summer 2019) and the Mayor's final version of the Plan (early 2020) to ensure any proposed changes do not adversely affect the South East.
- 1.4 Updates on other work included reports from three emerging Sub-national Transport Bodies who are leading on developing strategic transport priorities. Other ongoing priorities include joint work to highlight how Government could help tackle housing and infrastructure delivery barriers. Recent work includes a [joint letter to the Housing Minister](#) setting out shared concerns about proposals to extend Permitted Development Rights, building on SEEC's [own recent concerns](#) (see also agenda item 4a). The next joint piece of work will be to draft joint input to Ministers on the potential for land value capture opportunities to contribute funding for essential infrastructure investments.

2. London Plan Examination in Public (EiP)

- 2.1 SEEC has continued to give evidence at the London Plan EiP, where a panel of three inspectors is hearing views from groups including councils, developers and the voluntary sector.
- 2.2 SEEC is working jointly with SESL to make verbal and [written representations on 12 matters](#). SEEC's Deputy Chairman Cllr Ralph Bagge has been lead representative at the majority of these EiP sessions, which started in January 2019 and run until May.
- 2.3 Cllr Bagge has reiterated to the inspectors that SEEC and SESL member authorities have concerns about the Plan's possible implications for the South East if London cannot meet its housing needs within its own boundaries. He also called for clarification on key issues, such as the Mayor's 'willing partners for growth' policy.
- 2.4 Early EiP sessions covered London's housing growth and implications for the Wider South East, and this month's sessions addressed economy and Green Belt. These issues are of particular concern to SEEC members, as existing high levels of South East housing growth, large amounts of protected land and other constraints – such as our infrastructure deficit – all reduce capacity to accept further growth from London. EiP hearings continue through to mid-May 2019, with SEEC's input concluding with transport issues on 7 May.
- 2.5 The panel of inspectors is expected to report over the summer. Once the Mayor has considered their report, he is currently anticipated to publish the final Plan in early 2020.