

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
JOINT EUROPE COMMITTEE**

Date: 23 April 2004

Subject: **LGIB's Top Ten Priorities for 2004-05**

Report of: Cllr Harry Rees

At a glance

LGIB's Top Ten Priorities for 2004-05

European

Project to put local government at the heart of the enlarged EU policy making process.

Project to raise awareness of the European Parliament elections in June 2004 and to make effective contact with the new MEPs.

Contribute to over half of the LGA's 41 priority projects as part of the drive to mainstream European issues into the policy and lobbying work of the LGA.

Support the new structures of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), particularly its three new policy forums, and to make it a more effective voice for local government in Europe, and to continue to improve the effectiveness of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE).

Develop contacts and assist with capacity building for local government and its associations in the 10 accession states in order to make enlargement a success.

International

Project to assist UK local government develop the capacity of local government and its associations in developing countries particularly South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Sierra Leone, the Indian sub-continent and Jamaica.

Contribute to the successful establishment of the new world body, 'United Cities and Local Governments', including at its inaugural Congress in Paris in May 2004.

With our consortium partners, deliver a successful EU-funded project to rebuild democratic local government in Kosovo.

With DFID and our Alliance partners, implement the Strategic Grant Agreement to raise UK local government's awareness of, and engagement in, the benefits of international development work.

Communications

Run five regional road shows on local government and Europe, and initiating the next phase of the LGIB website.