

SOUTH EAST COUNCILS

Resolution proposed by Cllr Keith R Mitchell CBE

5 March 2008

Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration

Local Authorities in South East England resolve as follows:

1. To oppose legislation to transfer strategic planning, transport and housing powers to government-appointed regional quangos.
2. Instead, to press Government that the RDA be reconstituted as a 'shared regional agency' between local and central government, with 70% of board members nominated by and from the region's local authorities and adopting the open and inclusive ways of working required in order properly to engage the region's communities in strategic policy-making.
3. To require the maximum delegation of economic development delivery and funding from the RDA to local authorities.
4. To establish a regional local government grouping of all 74 councils represented by their leaders or nominees, for the purposes of collectively:
 - (a) Signing off future regional governance arrangements with Government, SEEDA and others;
 - (b) Steering the preparation of and approving the single regional strategy;
 - (c) Holding the RDA and other regional bodies to account;
 - (d) If necessary, nominating Leaders from among their number to regional positions and receiving reports back from those Leaders on the actions taken on their behalf.
5. To nominate a task and finish group of up to eleven Council Leaders, Deputies or senior members, involving representation of all types of local authority and the main political parties, to:
 - (a) Propose a constitution and ways of working for the regional local government grouping;
 - (b) Develop the 'shared agency' regional governance model in more detail;
 - (c) Steer the negotiation with Government, SEEDA and others; and
 - (d) Report back to all 74 local authorities in July 2008.
6. In the meantime, to support an orderly transition to new regional arrangements with a view to retaining expert and experienced staff and protecting the knowledge and evidence base now established at the regional level.