

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY MEETING

Date: 4 March 2009

Subject: **Motion to Dissolve the South East England Regional Assembly**

Proposed by: Cllr Paul Carter, Chairman of the Assembly and Leader of Kent CC

Seconded by: Cllr George Beckett, Leader of Winchester City Council

- a) **That this meeting agrees to dissolve the South East England Regional Assembly from 31 March 2009.**
- b) **That the meeting recognises and records appreciation to all its constituent members and staff for their invaluable work and dedicated professional input for the benefit of the people of the South East during the lifetime of the Assembly.**

Background Note:

The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently taking legislation through Parliament, part of which proposes the abolition of Regional Assemblies by 2010. As a consequence the residual responsibilities of delivering a Single Regional Strategy (a combined Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy) will become the joint responsibility of Local Government and Regional Development Agencies with input from National Parks.

Many regions are moving to this new structure in advance of 2010 and will have the current planning powers transferred to the new bodies.

Over many months negotiations have taken place within the South East to put in place a new structure for the delivery of the single Regional Strategy by principal local government authorities and SEEDA, in partnership with delivery agencies and stakeholders. The attached Working Model, 4 March 2009, has been agreed subject to changing 'Stakeholder Sounding Board' to read 'Stakeholder Liaison Group'.

The Chairman of the newly formed South East England Councils (SEEC) and the Chairman of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) are now in a position to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting transference of the Regional Planning Body status to the South East Partnership Board from 1 April 2009.

If agreed, the funding of this process will transfer with these responsibilities. Currently the funding from CLG, together with local government subscriptions, delivers the functions of the Assembly.

Local Government has now formed its own organisation, South East England Councils (SEEC), to meet the requirements of delivering the Single Regional Strategy and to represent local government interests in the South East. On this basis individual councils are unlikely to subscribe or take part in any residual Assembly activities.

Having drawn together these separate issues and following negotiations with stakeholders confirming their continued presence at all levels (with the exception of the main Partnership Board) this Motion is presented today to dissolve the South East England Regional Assembly and move forward with a positive approach to serve the communities of the South East.

Date/time lodged with the secretariat: 02.03.09/11.15