

South East Board meeting 22 September 2017

SEDEEPT, the South East Directors group, met on Friday 22nd September. The group discussed strategic planning with Michael Bingham, the Head of Planning Strategy and Reform at DCLG, who is leading the review of the National Planning Policy Framework following the Housing White Paper and latest consultation on a standard approach for assessing housing needs; the Statement of Common Ground (SCG); viability issues; and planning fees. SEDEEPT welcomed the focus on how to better capture the uplift in land values when development occurs, in order to help fund critical infrastructure. SEDEEPT stressed the need to reform current funding arrangements, especially in two tier (non-mayoral) areas where land use planning is led by district councils, transport planning is led by county councils, and economic planning is primarily led by the LEPs. The need to address viability issues earlier in the planning process was also highlighted. Alternative infrastructure funding models were discussed, along with other changes that SEDEEPT member authorities would like to see made to the NPPF. The group was invited to submit any additional information or case studies to DCLG (Michael Bingham) in order to help inform the revision of the planning framework.

SEDEEPT also received an update on the latest progress of Transport for the South East's three-year plan to develop a robust, forward-looking Transport Strategy for the region, and its ongoing discussions with DfT. It also received an update on work by SEEC and SESL with the Deputy Mayor of London to better address future growth pressures across the wider south east region.

Joanna Richardson
Secretary, ADEPT South East Board