

PLANNING PANEL

Recommendation

The first meeting of the Planning Panel was held on 15 October. The Panel is accountable to the South East England Strategy Board, advising on spatial planning issues related to the development and implementation of the Regional Strategy. It replaces the former Regional Planning Committee.

The SEEDA Board is invited to **NOTE** the Planning Panel's work programme and the role of Keith Riley in its work.

Reputational implications

The Panel is a key element of the Regional Partnership Structure.

Financial and resource implications

The Panel's work sets the framework for decisions affecting economic development.

Timescale

The Panel will meet 'as and when', probably every two – three months. No date has yet been fixed for their next meeting.

Background and justification for recommendation

The Panel comprises 11 Local Authority members and one SEEDA Board member (Keith Riley). Keith Riley attended the meeting on 15 October, as did 3 Local Authority members as well as the Chairman (Cllr Moira Gibson, Surrey Heath Borough Council). The Panel agreed a provisional work programme of which the substantive issues were: the Partial Review on Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople; Regional Strategy Project Plan; Local Development Framework (LDF) Conformity and Major Planning Applications; and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations.

As regards contentious planning applications, or issues of LDF conformity, it was agreed that Keith Riley would be one of the 4 members of a sub-group who would 'sign off' the response letters.

It remains the case that SEEDA may wish to support planning applications which other members of this sub-group judge are not in conformity with the South East Plan, and may respond separately where appropriate – see item 2.3 on this agenda. This might arise where SEEDA wishes to emphasise the importance of a proposal in the context of the Regional Economic Strategy, despite the conformity issue.

Author:

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Signed off by:

Paul Lovejoy, Executive Director (Strategy & Communications), 28 October 2009