Wider South East Political Steering Group
10 March, 12.00 – 13.30, City Hall, <u>Room 1.2</u>, London
Agenda and Papers

1   **Welcome** by Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor of London for Planning (5 mins)

2   **Introductions** - see Annex 1 for list of Group members – Members to note (10 mins)

3   **Working Arrangements (20 mins)**

    a   Story so far…

    b   Draft Terms of Reference of the Steering Group– see Annex 2 – Members to discuss and agree, based on Summit agreement.

    c   Officer Working Group – Review of membership and Terms of Reference - see Annex 3 – Members to discuss and agree

    d   Sequence of future meetings and ensuring effective linkages between Summit, Steering Group and Officer Working Group – see Annex 4 – Members to consider proposed schedule.

    e   Effective communication

4   **Work Programme (45 mins)**

Summit discussions highlighted the importance of all four emerging issues below for future joint working but it was suggested that an initial focus for the Political Steering Group would be on the London Plan review and barriers to delivery:

    a   <u>**London Plan Review**</u>
          Wider South East engagement on London Plan & Emerging Growth Options – see Annex 5

        Taking forward the Summit debate, Members are invited to discuss, and ask officers to progress:

- Specific opportunities for engagement and potential implications for Wider South East (WSE), including timing and issues.
- Ensuring new London Plan policy reflects Wider South East relationships (including existing policy 2.2 about how London should work with the Wider South East on strategic growth issues)

    b   <u>**Barriers to Housing Delivery**</u>
          Identifying shared concerns and possible solutions (including emerging Outer London Commission recommendations– see Annex 6)

        Taking forward Summit debate, Members are invited to discuss, and ask officers to progress:
- Suggestions for specific actions that should be explored collaboratively
- The potential for joint representation to Government related to identified actions, including around the relationship between housing barriers and infrastructure.

c   **<u>Common Understanding of Evidence</u>**
Demographic projections (including emerging GLA demographic modelling – see Annex 7)

Members are invited to discuss and ask officers to consider future working on:
- Understanding existing sources of demographic projections used for plan making across the Wider South East, and GLA's work to extend its modelling.
- Explore potential for joint representation to Government/ONS regarding resources to carry out and/or validate modelling work.
- Ensuring potential disruption of Local Plan examinations are avoided

d   **<u>Making case for strategic infrastructure</u>**
Improving WSE infrastructure, including potential strategic corridors for the WSE – radial and orbital – see Annex 8

Members are invited to discuss and ask officers to consider future working on:
- Exploring opportunities for joint lobbying on strategic infrastructure for radial/orbital routes, including those that free-up capacity from cross-London routes; and how infrastructure can help tackle housing barriers.
- Identify lessons learnt from established corridors for potential others, where local partners are in agreement
- Look into review of existing London Plan policy 2.3 about 'co-ordination corridors'

5   AOB (10 mins)

Annex 1   Wider South East Political Steering Group Membership

EAST OF ENGLAND

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Cllr Jason Ablewhite	EELGA Chairman and Leader	Huntingdonshire DC	Conservative
Cllr Linda Haysey	Leader	East Hertfordshire DC	Conservative
Cllr Graham Butland	Leader	Braintree DC	Conservative
Cllr Roy Davis	Leader's Representative	Luton BC	Labour
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Leader	Bedford BC	Liberal Democrat
Cllr Aidan Van de Weyer (sub)	Member	South Cambridgeshire DC	Liberal Democrat
Cllr Robin Howe (sub)	Deputy Leader	Huntingdonshire DC	Conservative
Cllr James Waters (sub)	Leader	Forest Heath DC	Conservative
Cllr John Gardner (sub)	Deputy Leader	Stevenage BC	Labour

SOUTH EAST

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Cllr Nicolas Heslop	SEEC Chairman and Leader	Tonbridge and Malling BC	Conservative
Cllr Peter Martin	Deputy Leader	Surrey CC	Conservative
Cllr David Burbage	Leader	RB Windsor & Maidenhead	Conservative
Cllr Carole Paternoster	Cabinet member	Aylesbury Vale DC	Conservative
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader	Reading BC	Labour
Cllr Ann Newton (sub)	Portfolio Holder for Planning & Development	Wealden DC	Conservative

LONDON

Name	Responsibility	Council	Political Group
Sir Ed Lister	Deputy Mayor of London	Greater London Authority	Conservative
Sir Harvey McGrath	Deputy Chairman	London Enterprise Panel	N/A
Cllr Claire Kober	London Councils' Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure and Regeneration, and Leader	Haringey BC	Labour
Cllr Kevin Davis	Leader	RB Kingston	Conservative
Cllr Stephen Alambritis	Leader	Merton BC	Labour

Annex 2   Draft Terms of Reference and Membership
Wider South East Political Steering Group

East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) nominates five members representing the East of England, South East England Councils (SEEC) nominates five members representing the South East of England and the Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Councils jointly nominate five members representing London. Members will meet 2-3 times per year. The group will have a rotating chair, and agendas/paperwork and arising work will be jointly prepared and agreed.

The purpose of the Steering Group is to initiate, steer and agree strategic collaboration activities across the Wider South East (WSE) – defined as East of England, South East of England and London.

The Steering Group will

1. Be a forum for political oversight and debate on key issues arising from the Summit, including identifying opportunities for engagement, joint working and input to the London Plan process;

2. Be accountable to the annual Summit as well as its constituent membership bodies addressing actions identified by the Summit but also propose key issues for discussion to the Summit;

3. Prioritise work and resources and take forward agreed joint projects, including tasking officers to pursue strategic actions on behalf of the WSE and oversee their progress. Also keep oversight of functions, terms and membership of the Officer Working Group, which serves the needs of the Political Steering Group and the Summit;

4. Advise on the need for any additional thematically/geographically focused working groups beyond existing groupings to address strategic issues;

5. Oversee an effective engagement network to underpin communication between the bodies involved, and in particular provide regular updates for all WSE Leaders;

6. Use the collective influence of the Political Steering Group to further joint strategic goals with Government and other stakeholders;

7. Be informed of the work of relevant other groups and organisations that relate to the priorities of the WSE.

<u>Annex 3   Draft Terms of Reference and Membership</u>
<u>   Wider South East Officer Working Group</u>

EELGA nominates eight senior officers representing the East of England, SEEC nominates up to ten senior officers representing the South East of England and the GLA and London Councils jointly nominate eight senior officers representing London. There should be an appropriate spread of officers geographically/across tiers of council. Group members will meet at least four times per year. For individual meetings members may delegate attendance, or where necessary invite partners, if specific expertise is required. The group will agree its chairmanship jointly, and agendas/paperwork and arising work will be jointly prepared and agreed.

The Officer Working Group should serve the needs of the Political Steering Group and the Summit and in particular

1. Align its work programme to support and inform the Political Steering Group's priorities.

2. Schedule meetings to feed into preparation for the Political Steering Group and tailor agendas accordingly.

3. Be accountable to the Political Steering Group addressing actions identified but also propose key issues for discussion to the Political Steering Group;

4. Jointly support Political Steering Group and Summit meetings agenda and papers, and share drafting;

5. Work collaboratively to progress priorities agreed by the Political Steering Group and promote a shared understanding of technical work to support;

6. Identify resources and expertise and deliver strategic technical work that is required between meetings;

7. Enable effective strategic collaboration on plan making beyond the core Duty to Co-operate /Inform & Consult requirements as appropriate;

8. Disseminate meeting and work outputs as appropriate to WSE authorities and via WSE webpage;

9. If necessary, Create sub-groups with appropriate expertise to investigate specific strategic issues further and/or to support thematically/geographically focused working groups.

Annex 4   Proposed schedule of Meetings Spring 2016-Summer 2017

Wider South East Summit – one meeting annually
Wider South East Political Steering Group – 2-3 meetings annually
Wider South East Officer Group – four meetings annually

17 June 2016	Officer Working Group
July 2016	Political Steering Group (extra meeting new Mayor)
September 2016	Officer Working Group
October 2016	Political Steering Group
Winter 2016	Summit
February 2017	Officer Working Group
March 2017	Political Steering Group
June 2017	Officer Working Group

<u>**Annex 5   London Plan Review**</u>

Key milestones for Full Review of the London Plan

- May 2016: New London Mayor
- Summer 2016: Initial high-level consultation
- Summer 2017: London Plan consultation draft
- Mid 2018: Earliest Examination in Public
- 2019/20: Latest new London Plan publication

Extracts from current London Plan Policy 2.2
London and the wider metropolitan area
https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/current-london-plan/london-plan-chapter-2-londons-places/policy-22

The Mayor should work with regional, and sub-regional partnerships, local authorities and agencies in the East and South East of England to secure the sustainable development and management of growth in the wider metropolitan area and the greater south east of England and to co-ordinate approaches to other strategic issues of common concern.

The Mayor will work with partners in neighbouring regions and appropriate parts of London to broadly align approaches (and, where appropriate, planning policy frameworks) and to lobby for timely and sufficient investment to realise the potential of, and address the challenges facing, the city region as a whole and areas within it (particularly the growth areas and corridors referred to in Policy 2.3), especially those dealing with population and economic growth, infrastructure and climate change.

Through this process the Mayor will seek to ensure that:

a. appropriate resources, particularly for transport (including ports and logistics) and other infrastructure (including open space, health, education and other services) are made available to secure the optimum development of the growth areas and corridors as a whole and those parts which lie within London
b. common policies and procedures are followed to ensure that there is, so far as possible, a 'level playing field' particularly adjacent to London's boundaries. This will help to promote spatially balanced and sustainable economic growth, and to meet housing, energy and sustainability targets, and standards such as those for parking
c. integrated policies are developed for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, logistics provision and the adaptation of shared infrastructure
d. jointly owned policies are developed to help rationalise commuting patterns, both at different times of the day and to encourage reverse commuting where appropriate, including the promotion of public transport improvements to enhance access to key destinations
e. integration is achieved with other strategies to ensure that appropriate skills training is available and other barriers to work are overcome
f. common monitoring data are collected, reviewed and assessed on a regular basis with neighbouring local authorities, as appropriate
g. reviews of the London Plan have regard to relevant plans and strategies of neighbouring local authorities

Annex 6   Barriers to Housing Deliver

WSE Leaders are collectively concerned about slow/under-delivery of agreed housing plans and permissions.

The emerging Outer London Commission report outlines 14 measures which collectively aim to address the various barriers inhibiting housing delivery across London and ensure the capital is better equipped to consistently maintain the necessary level of housing output. These measures are:

1. forward funding costs associated with brownfield redevelopment
2. accelerating infrastructure delivery
3. streamlining and enhancing land assembly
4. aligning transport infrastructure investment with planning and land assembly
5. incentivising build out rates and tackling genuine land banking
6. increasing and diversifying housing supply
7. reviving output from small and medium sized house builders
8. enabling the delivery of affordable rented housing
9. increasing the delivery of build to rent developments
10. improving the speed and certainty of the planning system
11. increasing and accelerating housing delivery on public sector land
12. boosting housing delivery by local authorities
13. optimising and incentivising net additional housing output from the existing housing stock
14. enhancing the capacity of the house building industry

More detailed recommendations sitting under each of these key measures are available on request.

SEEC is also looking at what actions would address barriers to housing delivery in the South East, such as:

- Discretionary council powers to incentivise the timely build-out of approved planning permissions to ensure local plans are delivered eg. charging council tax on stalled sites.
- Funding for strategic infrastructure projects to help unlock sites for sustainable housing development
- Council control of skills budgets to allow better targeting of investment in the skills needed by the construction industry

WSE Political Steering Group agreement on actions that should be explored collaboratively will allow joint WSE representation to Government.

Annex 7 Common Understanding of Data

Population and Household Projections

- National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) states that the subnational household projections (SNHP) produced by DCLG should form the starting point for determining Objectively Assessed Need. These projections are underpinned by ONS's subnational population projections (SNPP).
- London uses its own projections to underpin its Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and the London Plan.
- Districts across the WSE typically work with consultants to produce their SHMAs.
- Consultants generally analyse the SNPP and SNHP, considering the likely impact of reverting to longer term trends and sometimes considering the possible impact of the GLA's assumed scenarios of domestic outmigration. The process of accounting for the GLA's assumptions is made complicated as its models don't explicitly output data for districts outside of London.
- As discussed at the WSE Summit in December, it is important that the impact of emerging modelling on emerging Local Plans at an advanced stage is handled sensitively, in particular in the light of the Government's deadline to have Local Plans in place by 2017.

Emerging GLA modelling

- The extended model that the GLA has developed allows consistent projections to be run for the entire country (all LAs in England, plus the home nations as individual units), much as ONS and DCLG do.
- The model is similar in principal of operation to those of ONS/DCLG, but can easily be configured to run different demographic scenarios that aren't available from the official projections.
- Such scenarios include use of longer term migration trends to project forward as advocated by many districts in their SHMA documentation.
- The GLA is engaging with ONS and DCLG regarding quality assurance and guidance of how the GLA projections might fit into the planning landscape.
- The GLA has committed to working with demographic experts from neighbouring regions to give them an understanding of the model and its operation and to agree upon a set of projection scenarios that could help inform planning across the wider region.

Annex 8   Making Case for Strategic Infrastructure

Potential Strategic Corridors for the WSE *(list below is an initial draft for discussion)*
GLA is interested in understanding potential for growth corridors where councils in the Wider South East may want to discuss growth and infrastructure opportunities. WSE members are concerned to ensure any such corridors are complementary to – and do not hinder - achieving economic/other growth ambitions outside London i.e. not just to support additional commuting to London. Proposals for joint work have so far included the following areas:
- East West Rail corridor (between Orford – Cambridge and beyond)
- London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor
- Thames Gateway including Crossrail 1 extension and HS1 route into Kent as well as C2C route into Essex
- Proposals for Crossrail 2 into Surrey and Hertfordshire
- Capacity released by proposals for HS2 through Buckinghamshire
- Concepts for Norwich in 90/Ipswich in 60

Extract from current London Plan Policy 2.3 Growth areas and co-ordination corridors
https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/current-london-plan/london-plan-chapter-2-londons-places/policy-23

The Mayor will engage with relevant agencies beyond London to identify and develop:

a. linkages across, and capacity of, nationally recognised growth areas which include parts of London (the Thames Gateway and London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough)
b. timescales and mechanisms for co-ordinating planning and investment in corridors of city region importance which connect London with the wider city region, including the Western Wedge, Wandle Valley and London-Luton-Bedford corridors.

Current London Plan Key Diagram, including corridors featured in the current Plan
https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/current-london-plan/london-plan-chapter-2-londons-places/chapter-2