



ANNUAL MEETING : THURSDAY 10 JULY 2008

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN Cllr Michael Tunwell July 2007 – July 2008 (Agenda Item 9)

1. INTRODUCTION

I was delighted to be re-elected as Chairman for the year and would like to record my appreciation of the valuable support and assistance given by my two Vice-Chairmen, Reg Edwards and Ron Flaherty, and the members of both the Executive and Management Committees. This was again a very full year, responding to many changes within the organisation, regionally and nationally.

2. MEETINGS

We have continued with our usual schedule of meetings and have been fortunate to have listened to a very diverse and interesting range of speakers on a variety of subjects.

At our full meeting in November 2007, our main agenda was followed by a presentation from Fleur Thomas, Regional Director (South East) of SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists concerning their work in relationship with the MoD, and its current campaign to liaise between employers and those of their staff who choose also to be in the Reserve Forces. This was followed by an update on the Local Government Workforce Strategy and the Local Government Bill. The full meeting in March was combined with the Pay Roadshow where representatives from Local Government Employers set out the options available for a 3-year pay deal. We were joined at this meeting by a number of our Heads of HR.

During the year Executive Committee meetings continued to adopt an alternative approach by inviting guest speakers and splitting into discussion groups to consider such issues as Partnership Working, Workforce Strategy 2008, the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Councillors' Commission and the Charter for Elected Member Development. Advance warning of the topics to be discussed was given in order to encourage our Members to discuss the issues with their Head of HR prior to the meeting.

The Management Committee continued to look at organisation issues, including the change to membership subscription calculations for the coming year, the proposed new structure of SEE in light of the retirement of the Head of Employment Services, the introduction of new projects such as "SEE Jobs", and the extension of the PtP project with its staffing implications. This year the Chairmanship of NARE (National Association of Regional Employers) is held by South East Employers and, together with the Vice-Chairmen and Regional Director, I have attended meetings of NARE and CEEP UK (the UK body of the European Public Employers).

In Jennifer McNeill's report you will have heard of the main activities and achievements of the Organisation during the past year. This has been a very challenging year with changes to staffing at the top level. However, I am very satisfied with the positive manner in which she has tackled these challenges and look forward to the future with our new staffing structure in place.

This year saw the retirement of Oliver Woodman as Head of Employment Services after a very long career with local government - his expertise and witty Members' Briefing Reports will be much missed. However, this has enabled us to revise our staffing structure to more accurately support the changing demands on our business and provide services at a more appropriate level.

In March we welcomed Martin Rutherford who had joined Winchester City Council as a result of their re-structure and will take over as Treasurer for SEE from Alexis Garlick at the Annual Meeting in July.

3. THE FUTURE

Major projects in which we have been involved have been the continuation of the Progress through Partnership contract, the Members' Charter, the Post Graduate Certificate in Local Governance for Councillors (coming towards the end of its pilot year), Enhancing Local Democracy Conference, the South East Mentoring Programme, *SEEJobs*, Committee Administration, Executive Coaching and increasing work with various Fire and Rescue Services. These will all be ongoing in the future and are reported on elsewhere in the agenda. This year saw our new re-vamped website launched (www.seemp.co.uk) with a special section for Councillors. It also contains a link to *SEEJobs* in which some of our reserves have been invested.

4. THANKS

My thanks go to all our South East Employers representatives, who loyally support this organisation.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate and thank the staff of South East Employers. Their hard work and dedication is much appreciated.

Michael Tunwell
Chairman

July 2008