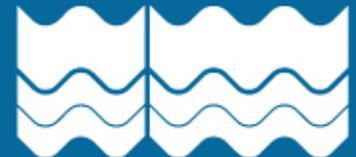


**Becky Shaw  
Chief Executive  
East Sussex CC  
South East**

**East Sussex  
County Council**



# Chief Executive Regional Hubs

- 9 LA Chief Execs
  - South West, Phil Norrey
  - South East, Becky Shaw
  - London, John O'Brien
  - West Midlands, Nick Page
  - East Midlands, Anthony May
  - North West, Tony Reeves
  - North East, Martin Swales
  - Yorkshire and Humber, Tom Riordan
  - East of England, Richard Carr
- And LGA
- Chaired by MHCLG with representatives of other Government Departments as needed

# What we do

- Provide a forum for senior Whitehall officials to test policy thinking, get ‘in confidence’ advice from a representative group of local authority chief officers and navigation round other groups (eg LRFs, ECAB, ADASS, ADCS etc)
- Provide a vehicle to help ensure messages from Government were co-ordinated and a check that they were reaching all local authorities
- Provide a vehicle for Councils to raise issues of concern,
  - those affecting individual authorities and
  - amplification of issues affecting the sector as a whole

# Key issues

- Ownership of issues across Whitehall –
  - Eg regulatory services - support a number of Government Departments and agencies - guidance issued on a range of issues in an ad hoc way
- Issues of transparency and trust with local government
  - Eg DoT sharing their planning assumptions with authorities with ports in their areas
- Some issues still unresolved
  - Eg Funding post Brexit
- Some issues unresolvable
  - Impact on services, communities and our services in short and medium term
- Government policy got in the way of practical action –
  - EU elections

# Lessons

- Local Government was as prepared as possible given all the uncertainty
- There needs to be a strong advocating voice for Councils across Whitehall – departmental silos can get in the way of a holistic view
- Capacity issues in specific areas remain, can't be resolved in the short term and need funding
- The model helped mutual understanding and trust – could be used on other issues