



The following captures some of the recent key policy documents, announcements, publications, and research relevant to the work of South East Employers. We provide links to the source of information for further consideration. SEE is happy to provide you with any further information or discuss how we can best support you and your authority in relation to any of the following issues.

### Spending Review

As part of the Government's Spending Review, Chancellor George Osborne confirmed that central government funding to local authorities would fall by 26%.

[Read details about how the Spending Review may affect you.](#)

### **Shared Services**

Three London boroughs are considering a cost-cutting merger of every major service they offer, a move which could see the creation of a so-called 'super-council'. The Conservative-led councils of Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea are setting up working groups to look at combining children's services, environmental services, adult social care and corporate services.

The groups are expected to make their recommendations in February 2011. Councillors at the authorities will then consult with staff and partners.

### Flexible Working

The Employment Relations Minister Edward Davey announces plans for more flexible, family friendly working. [View further information.](#)

### Local Enterprise Partnerships

Business Secretary Vince Cable has confirmed that 24 new Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will be given the green light as part of the Coalition Government's devolution of economic development powers to England's regions and cities.

[Take a look at the successful bids from across the South East region.](#)

### Standards

The Government has released further information concerning the abolition of the Standards Board and local standards committees, with more power being given to the Local Government Ombudsman. Reference was made to the Government's proposal to allow councils to return to the committee system, should they wish to.

[Read the Standards press release.](#)

### Participatory Budgeting - YouChoose tool

An online budget simulator tool has been launched by the LG Group, YouGov and the London Borough of Redbridge. This free tool enables councils to engage with the public about future spending cuts and the consequences for council services.

[Find out more.](#)

