



# SOUTH WEST COUNCILS

## KEY FACTS

### Strategic Leaders' Board and South West Councils

The **Strategic Leaders' Board** (SLB) is the executive arm of South West Councils. The 20-strong SLB brings together local authority Leaders from the county and unitary councils and includes district Leader representation.

Formed in late 2008, the SLB was created as part of the South West response to the Government's Sub-National Review (SNR). Each region was invited to establish a Local Authority Leaders' Board to enable local authorities to act collectively at the regional level. Strategic Leaders wanted to see a strong democratic voice in the South West and agreed to move quickly to establish the Board.

Under these new arrangements, functions previously carried out by the Regional Assembly are now the responsibility of the SLB. The SLB is formally designated as the Regional Planning Body (until this designation ceases under legislation). The SLB makes Regional Planning Body decisions in partnership with the South West Regional Development Agency (South West RDA) Board Members and Stakeholders. In the longer term, the SLB and South West RDA Board will be jointly responsible for producing a Single Regional Strategy (SRS).

**South West Councils** brings the region's 41 local authorities together to ensure the best deal for local government, strengthen the local voice at regional and national levels and encourage continuous local authority improvement through the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP).

All local authorities, police, fire & rescue services, parish and town councils and national parks are Members. The South West Councils plenary is politically proportionate and the chair rotates between the different political parties.

### **Working together, the Strategic Leaders' Board & SW Councils can:**

- **Provide** a strong voice for constituent local authorities on major issues affecting the South West.
- **Influence** Government policy as it affects the region.
- **Encourage** partnership working between local authorities and other organisations and agencies in the South West on policy issues where a broader regional or cross-boundary approach is necessary.
- **Promote** the sharing of good practice.
- **Support** councils through delivery of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP) agenda.

## Our Members

### Strategic Leaders' Board (2009/2010)

The Chairman is **Cllr Angus Campbell**, Conservative Leader of Dorset County Council, and he is supported by two deputies, **Cllr Nigel Ashton**, Conservative Leader of North Somerset Council and **Cllr Tim Carroll**, Liberal Democrat Leader of South Somerset District Council.



Cllr Angus Campbell



Cllr Nigel Ashton



Cllr Tim Carroll

### South West Councils (2009/2010)

The Chairman is **Cllr Alan Connett** (Teignbridge District Council, Liberal Democrat) supported by Deputy Chair **Cllr Christine Channon** (Devon County Council, Conservative), and Vice Chairs **Cllr Roger Hutchinson** (South Gloucestershire Council, Labour) and **Cllr Keith Ross** (West Somerset Council, Independent).



Cllr Alan Connett



Cllr Christine Channon



Cllr Roger Hutchinson



Cllr Keith Ross

## Our Meetings

South West Councils and Strategic Leaders' Board meetings are held in public, with papers and minutes posted on the website.

For more information visit:  
[swcouncils.gov.uk](http://swcouncils.gov.uk)