

## **SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

### **BOARD MEETING ON 26 MARCH 2009**

#### **ITEM 9**

#### **FEEDBACK FROM REGIONAL TRANSPORT BOARD 16 JANUARY 2009**

##### **Recommendation**

The Board is invited to **NOTE** this report.

##### **Background**

1. The last Regional Transport Board was held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The meeting was preceded by a closed workshop for members. The meeting and workshop considered two substantial issues:
  - Key regional transport challenges post 2014
  - Updating the transport investment programme to 2014
2. Bob Goldfield, SEEDA's representative on the RTB and Tim Stansfeld, Head of Planning attended the workshop and meeting.
3. The workshop provided a good opportunity for Bob Goldfield, as the new SEEDA representative on RTB to understand key issues and the methodology used by the Board to prioritise regional investment decisions. As well as presentations from the RTB secretariat, Tim Stansfeld also gave a short presentation to the workshop explaining the specific RES sustainable economic development priorities which SEEDA will want to input to the RTB's decision making.

##### **Key regional transport challenges paper**

4. This paper was a "first cut" look at long term regional challenges. These will be developed further and discussed again at April RTB, leading to a submission to Department for Transport in June.
5. The challenges identified generally fit well with the RES priorities. However Bob Goldfield asked for more priority to be assigned to improving the South Coast transport corridor (A27 and south coast rail link). This was a priority for SEEDA to support the economic regeneration of the coastal SE.
6. Bob also supported the need for investigative work on a Lower Thames Crossing. This will be of key importance given the forecast increase in traffic through the channel ports.
7. It was agreed that the identified challenges would be included in the RFA submission.

### **Updating the regional investment programme**

8. The key issue here was the significantly increased cost estimate of the works on the A27 at Chichester. The cost estimate has risen from £137m to £200m. The programme cannot accommodate this increase and the scheme promoters (West Sussex County Council and Highways Agency) were asked to look again at how the allocated £137m could be used to address the issues on the A27.
9. SEEDA supported the revised programme. However Bob Goldfield asked that impact on journey times and traffic flows should be provided as part of the assessment process for major schemes, as this is key to their value for business.

### **Next meeting of RTB**

10. The next meeting of RTB will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, with a workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. These meetings were rearranged from the original date, and as a result Bob Goldfield is unable to attend. Keith Riley will be representing SEEDA instead.