

South East England Partnership Board Economic Development and Skills Board

Purpose

This paper provides a report back on the first meeting of the Economic Development and Skills Board held on 17 November 2009.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to **NOTE** that at the 17 November meeting of the Economic Development and Skills Board the key issues arising for SEEDA were:

1. Ensure that the regional needs for investment are set out in the Regional Skills Strategy and taken fully into account in the allocation of investment;
2. The Economic Development and Skills Board will act as the sounding board for the development of the Regional Skills Strategy;
3. The RES targets remain an appropriate indicator of the direction of travel for the region;
4. Further work is needed to have a robust and transparent mechanism for identifying investment priorities in economic development and skills; this is in response to points raised by the Government in its response to the Regional Funding Advice;
5. Task and finish groups will be used to support the Economic Development and Skills Board's work, with 'champions' identified from amongst the Board members; key areas will be: Business Critical Infrastructure; Learning and Skills; and Innovation and Business Support.

Reputational implications

The Economic Development and Skills Board is one of three delivery boards that form part of the regional governance arrangements. It is chaired by Alex Pratt. Its effectiveness will be important in terms of both strategy development and implementation; it has a high profile, high impact in terms of SEEDA's reputation.

Financial and resource implications

SEEDA provides the executive support for the Economic Development and Skills Board; the Board manager role forms part of the new structure

Timescale

The Economic Development and Skills Board will meet on a quarterly basis; the next meeting is scheduled for 2 February 2010.

Author

Martin Tugwell, Director of Regional Investment: 01483 555211 e mail:
martintugwell@seeda.co.uk

Signed off-by

Paul Lovejoy, Executive Director (Strategy), date

To be Published