

BOARD STRATEGY AWAYDAY – 25 FEBRUARY 2010

Purpose

Each year the Board holds an awayday to focus on key strategic issues with SEEDA's executive team. In February 2009 the primary focus was on shaping the choices to be made in SEEDA's Corporate Re-Planning process, drawing on external facilitators to allow close working between Board members and the Executive Board. With SEEDA's new structure now in place, a General Election due by June 2010 and a Spending Review expected by the end of 2010, an awayday in February will provide the opportunity to consider SEEDA's priorities in the context of possible changes in political and financial contexts.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to **AGREE** the following outline proposals:

1. Retain the services of appropriate external facilitators;
2. Maintain the emphasis on small mixed teams of Board members and executives working on specific tasks;
3. Focus on those functions currently within SEEDA's remit, and in particular those relating to:
 - a. Innovation and exploitation of the technology base;
 - b. Business support;
 - c. Business critical infrastructure;
 - d. Skills and employment.
4. Consider the implications of potential political and financial scenarios for the future organisation of these functions;
5. In the light of these scenarios, consider SEEDA's key messages to each of its key stakeholder groups, particularly businesses and business organisations; central government departments; and local government leaders in the South East.

Financial and resource implications

Costs will be met from SEEDA's administration budget.

Timescale

Subject to Board agreement or amendment, these proposals will be worked up into a detailed programme with facilitators during January for circulation at the January Board meeting.

Author

Paul Lovejoy, Executive Director Strategy, 2 December 2009