

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS BOARD**

### **Purpose**

This paper provides a steer for Board members in advance of the inaugural meeting of the Economic Development and Skills Board on 17 November 2009.

### **Recommendation**

The Board is invited to **NOTE** that:

1. The proposed outline agenda is set out under justification below.
2. SEEDA's key objectives for the meeting will be to ensure that the Board:
  - a) takes forward, as a priority, the work required to develop a Regional Skills Strategy
  - b) takes on the role of overseeing progress made in delivering the Regional Economic Strategy previously held by the RES Steering Group
  - c) realises the opportunity to improve the alignment of economic development and skills priorities across the region
3. A full briefing will be provided to Board members in advance of the meeting

### **Reputational implications**

The Economic Development and Skills Board is one of three regional delivery boards that form part of the new regional governance arrangements; it will be chaired by Alex Pratt, with Jeremy Birch and Pamela Charlwood also representing SEEDA.

### **Financial and resource implications**

SEEDA provides the administrative support for this body.

### **Timescale**

This is the first meeting of the Board; it will meet on a quarterly basis.

### **Justification for recommendation**

The forward programme contains the following items for the 17 November meeting:

- The Regional Funding Advice – to reflect on the outcome of the RFA and implications for prioritisation of economic development and skills funding
- RES targets – to review progress with delivery
- Regional Skills Investment Strategy – to consider the key issues
- Future Jobs Fund – to consider progress
- European programmes and partnerships – to consider arrangements for liaison between SEEDA, local authorities and other partners
- Forward programme of work

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### **Author**

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### **Signed off-by**

**Paul Lovejoy:** Executive Director (Strategy and Communications), 28 October 2009