

South East England Partnership Board Economic Development and Skills Board

Purpose

This paper provides a briefing on the upcoming meeting of the Economic Development and Skills Board to be held on 2 February 2010.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to **NOTE** that the main items will be:

1. Regional Skills Strategy – there will be an update on the 2010/11 regional priorities for skills; in addition the Board will consider the project plan for the Regional Skills Strategy; the target is for the Board to consider the draft at its September meeting;
2. Innovation – there will be the opportunity for the Board to identify strategic issues that need to be taken into account in the development of our approach to innovation;
3. Business Development Advisory Group – the first meeting of the Advisory Group was scheduled for 18 January; this will give the Board the opportunity to begin considering issues associated with Business Critical Infrastructure and Business Support
4. Local Economic Assessment – the Board will review progress to date and use that to identify any issues of regional significance with a view to disseminating good practice to help achieve consistency in key aspects of these assessments.

Reputational implications

A Board Manager has been appointed to the Economic Development and Skills Board ; this will ensure the Board has an appropriate level of support.

Good progress is being made in refocusing/establishing the support groups that will take forward specific areas of work. The first meeting of the Skills Working Group will be set up following the Board's consideration of the Project Plan for the Regional Skills Strategy.

Financial and resource implications

SEEDA provides the executive and administrative support for the Economic Development and Skills Board.

Timescale

The Economic Development and Skills Board meets on a quarterly basis; the next meeting is scheduled for 25 May 2010.

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Signed off-by

Paul Lovejoy, Executive Director Strategy, 13 January 2010

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