

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BOARD MEETING ON 28 JANUARY 2009

ITEM 4

AREA TEAM UPDATE – SURREY AND BERKSHIRE

Recommendation

The Board is invited to **NOTE**

1. The long standing economic development position of Surrey and Berkshire
2. The implications of the economic down turn in the sub region
3. The response to managing the economic downturn
4. The focus and priorities to ensure Surrey and Berkshire are prepared and able to lead the economic upturn

Background

1. The Surrey and Berkshire Area Team sits within the Competitiveness and Growth Directorate and has been established to deliver SEEDA's focus on place. The Area Team aims to harness the competitiveness of the sub region and to do so it will:
 - provide policy advice on priority issues and sectors; Airport and transport policy, skills for key sectors, economic and business intelligence
 - create strong internal and external stakeholder relations in our priority areas; Diamonds, growth point towns, inner south east, functional economic areas for example around Heathrow
 - work with key partners and businesses who have a keen interest in helping to shape the economy to secure the areas continued success
 - use market intelligence and local evidence to lever resources into the area in order to meet economic, social and environmental needs
 - promote the areas assets, opportunities and need for investment through effective communications between partners and SEEDA

Introduction

2. This report outlines Surrey and Berkshire's contribution to the South East economy, the challenges it faces in the short and longer term as well as what needs to be done to regain its competitive edge. It will provide information on the areas economic position and its contribution to the Regional Economic Strategy, how it is being affected by its economic success and the increasing impact of the economic downturn, what is being done in response to maximise opportunities and the focus and priorities needed to ensure the area, its business and its communities are prepared for and in deed are at the vanguard of the economic up turn.

Surrey and Berkshire's Contribution to the South East Economy

3. Surrey and Berkshire are located within the Inner South East economic contour as set out in the Regional Economic Strategy which recognises that the full benefits of the 'Heathrow effect' are not currently being realised and that in order to sustain the success of the area there should be emphasis on productivity-led growth, matching knowledge sector businesses with research centres. Specifically, the priorities for the Inner South East are: to work with partners to ensure the area is at the forefront of the UK's global competitiveness; make the most of the 'Heathrow effect'; invest in the skills needed by global businesses; invest in public transport infrastructure to support access to the airports and the rest of the region; invest in globally competitive sectors.
4. Surrey and Berkshire are thriving economic areas with major centres of business and education connected to the region and London by national road and rail links and to the world by Heathrow and Gatwick international airports. This is complemented by high quality environment and rich cultural assets, all making the area an attractive place for businesses, people and students to work, live and study. This sub region plays a leading role in contributing to the Regional Economic Strategy priorities and drives the economy of the South East as evidenced by the following:
 5. Global Competitiveness
 - Ten of the sub region's seventeen local authority areas are in the top twenty locations (out of 407) in the UK Competitiveness Index 2008. All of them fall in the top fifty.
 - Surrey boasts the biggest and most diverse concentration of the world's leading HQs for knowledge industries, information technology, telecommunications, biotechnology and advanced engineering, outside London. Over 250 companies have been identified, with well know names such as Sony, Philips, McLarren, Proctor and Gamble, Avia.
 - Berkshire is home to over 50 of the world's leading 250 company spenders on R&D and home to 17 of the 50 most innovative firms in the world as recognised by Business Week 2008.
 - Together Surrey and Berkshire secured 47% of the 219 foreign direct inward investments into the region in 2007-08.
 6. Smart Growth
 - There are a total of 1,165,900 jobs in Surrey and Berkshire that represents a 26% share of employment in the South East, the largest of the five sub regions, for 23% share of the region's population
 - In 2007 Surrey and Berkshire had the greatest net gain of VAT registration of all sub region areas at 2,755. The area's stock of VAT registered businesses at the start of 2008 was also the greatest at 85,645, representing nearly 27% share of the total South East stock.
 - The latest figures from Office for National Statistics (ONS) published in December 2008, places Berkshire as the fourth best performing sub region in the UK for GVA per head of workforce at £28,853 in 2006. This makes Berkshire the top performing sub-region in the South East with Surrey as the fifth, it having a GVA per head of workforce of £22,309.

7. Sustainable Prosperity

- Countryside and green belt designation covers 80% of Surrey and it is the most wooded county in England. Metropolitan Green Belt covers Surrey and parts of east Berkshire, there are four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), three Special Protection Areas (SPA), seven Special Areas of Conservations (SAC) and two Rural Development Programmes for England (RDPE) Leader Areas for Surrey Hills and for North Wessex Downs.
- Elmbridge is top of the Quality of Life Ranking 2008 of all Local Authorities in Great Britain according to the Annual Quality of Life Survey by Halifax Estate Agents. In addition Wokingham is in fourth place and Surrey Heath in sixth.
- Wokingham has the least deprived Super Output Area (SOA) of all areas according to the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Waverley, Surrey Heath, Mole Valley and Guildford all have SOAs in the top 20% in the England.
- Reading has eleven Super Output Areas in the worst 20% in England; Slough has five and Woking one.

The Challenges of Success

8. Surrey and Berkshire's assets and attractions make the sub region successful, however this success comes at a price; commuting and congestion, housing availability and affordability, labour availability and quality, and community resistance to further growth. In short there is no room for complacency; there is a need to invest to sustain success.
 - Commuting – net loss of working age population in both Surrey (-21%) and Berkshire (-4%) – hides a 20% gain in Reading that equals 14,865 in-commuters
 - Congestion - There are more cars per mile of road in Surrey than any other shire county in England with traffic flows on A roads almost double the national average
 - House prices – Windsor and Maidenhead has the most expensive average house price in UK with Surrey the third most expensive, at some 47% and 41% above the UK average respectively
 - Economic Activity Rate over the period July 2007 to July 2008 in the South east was 82.2%; Bracknell Forest was 89.1% the highest of all county and unitary authorities in the region, with West Berkshire at 87.2% and Wokingham at 83.8% in second and third.
9. The number of people with only basic skills is particularly high in Slough, it having the sub region's highest percentage (13%) of its working age population with no qualifications. This represents a significant mismatch between the supply of and demand for skills and an underutilized resource in a sub region that traditionally suffers from labour shortages. Businesses recruit nationally and globally because they can't find the skills in the local work force.
10. The success of the sub region is undoubtedly driven by its proximity to two international airports and commuting links to London. These factors themselves provide the area with challenges as well as opportunities and strengths. A key

challenge is how to maintain Heathrow's premier position, sustainably, as a global hub airport in the light of growing opposition, wavering local political commitment to its expansion and alternative proposals from the Mayor of London for a new airport in the Thames estuary that could severely impact on long term growth of the economy and dramatically affect the quality of life that has been achieved in the sub-region.

11. With or without expansion plans there is an immediate need to tackle the longer term issue of the western access to Heathrow through the investigation into the infrastructure road and rail solutions along the M4 corridor, Airtrack road access issues in Staines and NW Surrey around the M25. In addition to plans and challenges at Heathrow the Competition Commission ruling on BAA and the announced sale of Gatwick Airport raises concern that there will be potential disinvestment in Gatwick Station creating a key issue for the Gatwick Diamond. There are also renewed talks about proposals to build a second runway at Gatwick Airport.

Impact of the Economic Downturn

12. Impact of the economic down turn on businesses and residents add to these pressures with the area over-exposed to multi-national and financial services companies, a large service industry – retail and leisure - supported by consumer spending and a large proportion of residents working in vulnerable sectors in London. This means there are some significant challenges ahead to ensure that Surrey and Berkshire remain the engine of the South East economy and is at the vanguard of the sub regions benefiting from the up-turn. The additional challenges include; Redundancies and Vulnerable Sectors; Public Sector Capacity and Social Impacts and Stalled Investment. The opportunities lie in the strong knowledge based, R&D and entrepreneurial characteristics of the sub region.

Redundancies and Vulnerable Sectors

13. In the quarter October to December 2008 the sub region notified BERR of some 2,800 potential redundancies or 20% of South East total – 38% of these were notified in the final month of the quarter.
14. The sub region is exposed to the financial services with 17% of the south east financial services businesses in Surrey and 19% of the sector's employees equating to 1,280 businesses and 23,940 employees. There has been a 20% reduction in jobs since the start of the year. (Source: Surrey Employment and Skills Board Meeting, November 2008, Stephen Smith Regional Director for the National Skills Academy for Financial Services.)

Public Sector Capacity and Social Impact

15. The public sector in Surrey and Berkshire has been affected by the recession with many making financial losses in the Iceland bank collapse. Surrey has audited its public sector and a recent report states "local authorities are especially loosing out to dwindling income streams from town centre car parks and planning application fees". This is evident in the significant impact on the finances facing Waverley Council that has reported an anticipated £700,000

shortfall in income from fees and charges this financial year representing an almost 10% reduction. The sub-region, especially in Surrey, has an abundance of private schools and as reductions in salaries and redundancies take hold families are withdrawing from private sector education, one school in Haslemere has already closed, and the Surrey Strategic Partnership Report on the Impact of the Economic Down Turn noted that there is an increasing demand for public school places.

16. Figures for those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) have reached an all time high in Reading. The business community led by the Reading Economic Partnership will be outlining their concerns about the skills of their labour force at a conference on 28th January. They have clear evidence that concluded resident skills lag behind locally available employment, 68% of businesses have staff who need to develop their skills. 12% of Reading workforce is from overseas. 40% of the workforce work for employers with 200+ staff, making large employers a key partner in tackling these issues.

Stalled Investment and Development

17. While Hindhead Tunnel marches on, there have been some significant concerns raised about the plans for Airtrack from communities in Surrey which could impact on the schemes future. A number of major construction projects have recently come to a halt or have not started and discussions with the developers and local authorities suggest that some could be set going again with a small but targeted injection of public sector finance. These are evident in Reading, Slough and Redhill in particular.
18. Station Hill Reading is a major mixed use development which is subject to scrutiny at its current planning application stage. This development is critical to the town centre regeneration of Reading alongside the redevelopment of the Station, track improvements and is a catalyst to other town centre schemes.
19. Heart of Slough is a major scheme which will regenerate Slough Town Centre as an important commercial and community centre. The scheme will ensure that the town centre is appropriate to the economic growth and prosperity experienced elsewhere in Slough and will provide new University and learning facilities and public transport and improved access facilities.
20. The proposed Westfield Development in Guildford Town Centre has now been put on hold and the consequences of this are that a land deal with Guildford Borough Council has been withdrawn meaning it can not use the proceeds to rebuild the Civic Hall. The developers of the Civic Hall had been relying on this contract and will also be put in difficulties.

SEEDA's Support to the Surrey and Berkshire Sub region

21. SEEDA provides support to Surrey and Berkshire through its regional programmes. The area benefits from two Business Links, four Investor Developer Managers, funding of inward investment services, two Sub Regional Partnerships (SRPs) and is currently applying for two Innovation and Growth Teams. It also has Enterprise Hub centres at Newbury, Reading, Slough,

Thames Valley and University of Surrey, Guildford, Royal Holloway and Leatherhead Food International. A lot of time is spent in foreign direct investment interest into this sub region by the SEEDA team.

22. SEEDA's programme investment is given in the table below. In the previous corporate plan period there was significant investment in the Area Investment Framework of the Thames Valley (primarily in skills, employment and women's enterprise) and in a range of business support, energy saving and skills initiatives in the Gatwick Diamond (East Surrey and North West Sussex). There are have been major capital investments however.

Corporate Plan Priority	Total Investment	% of Total
Global Competitiveness	£9.28m	30%
Smart Growth	£18.84m	62%
Enabling Infrastructure Development	£0.45m	1%
Sustainable Prosperity	£1.05m	3%
Strategic Influence	£0.99m	3%
Total	£30.60m	100%

Responding to the Economic Down Turn

Redundancies and Business Support

23. SEEDA is providing a rapid response programme to redundancies and whilst having advised a number of companies it is not actively working with any of them as yet. Grants to support research and development are available and five have been award to companies in the sub region totalling an investment of £476,442. The Area team is working with local partners to ensure that local initiatives complement those from government and the region.

24. By working with the Surrey Economic Partnership Employment and Skills Board the potential to provide support for the financial services sector is being explored with the LSC Chambers of Commerce, Surrey Business Link and the Continuing Employment Support Service. Two workshop are being planned for March with partners to offer support and guidance to local companies on services they can access to support them through the downturn.

Local Authority Response

25. A support package to help Wokingham businesses during the credit crunch including swift payment and Small Business Rates Relief was approved by the Council at its meeting in November.
26. Slough Borough Council is organizing of a series of surgeries and job clubs based on a previous project called 'Steps to Success'. These will be open to anyone who has been made redundant, is at risk of redundancy or graduates who have no job to go into and will run for three months from January 2009. SEEDA's Continuing Employment Support Service is planning to run a workshop as part of the Slough Programme.

27. Reading Borough Council has held a summit to look at what the public sector locally can do to support local business. Surrey Strategic Partnership has responded with a piece of research outlining the impact on the public sector in the county and identifying what steps it can take to support business.
28. SEEDA is working with the British Association of Science to maximise the business innovation and enterprise benefits to be gained from the Festival of Science, a high profile national event to promote and demonstrate innovation, to be held at the University of Surrey in early September 2009 where 80,000 people are expected to attend. This could lead to the University becoming one of only four venues in the country to host this event on a permanent basis every couple of years.

Investment and Development

29. Bracknell town centre regeneration is still going ahead. The Council has just agreed some new work streams (broken down larger work streams) with the developers to go ahead. In fortunate position as the developer owns site.
30. An outline planning application for the multi-million pound redevelopment of Newbury Racecourse has been submitted to West Berkshire Council. The proposals include a new 120-bedroom hotel, improvements to the golf course and driving range, a new building for the children's nursery and up to 1,500 new homes.
31. A number of FE College redevelopment plans are in place including the £90m plan to redevelop Guildford College which will involve demolishing all but one of the present buildings on the Stoke Road campus and replacing them with a so-called "pavilions in the park" design. At the time of writing however it is understood that all Learning and Skills Council funded capital plans have been put on hold.
32. Additional funding has been allocated for GP surgeries, health centres and other frontline services in Slough's Primary Care Trust. Between 2009 and 2011 Berkshire East PCT will receive £53.7m of extra investment that will help ensure higher standards.

Focus and Priorities

33. Top priorities for Surrey and Berkshire Area Team are:
- Managing the economic crisis, specific closures and redundancies and co-ordinating SEEDA activity with local measures
 - Ensuring the local economic development architecture is fit for purpose and focused (SRP's and Diamonds, local strategic partnership's and their Local Area Agreements)
 - Researching infrastructure projects that may be brought forward and will help in the upturn (town centre and roads/rail)
34. It will deliver these priorities by focusing on four areas of work:
1. Responding to the Economic Downturn

- Helping sustain key employment and housing led-regeneration projects and key site developments especially in growth points and regional hubs namely Reading, Redhill, Guildford and Slough
 - Facilitating support to businesses and vulnerable sectors through co-ordinated action with local partners
 - Using sub regional partnerships to gather intelligence and focus responses to the economic downturn
2. Growth Areas
- Developing the vision and working arrangements for the Reading Diamond for Investment and Growth
 - Exploring interest among key stakeholders in a 360 degrees plan to manage the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that Heathrow has in its hinterland
 - Ensuring the Surrey priorities are fulfilled in the implementation of Gatwick Diamond Plan and new governance procedures
3. Strategic Partnership Development:
- Supporting the set up of the Berkshire SRP and relationship building with Thames Valley Economic Partnership
 - Helping Surrey Economic Partnership work with local partners to further assert its lead role in economic development
 - Ensuring partnership arrangements help support the RES priorities through alignment of Local Strategic Partnerships priorities through Community Plans, Local Area Agreements and any potential Multi-Area Agreements
4. Brokering SEEDA core programmes in the area:
- Supporting local partnerships to bring forward two Innovation and Growth Teams; West Surrey and NE Hants and Berkshire
 - Supporting the set up of employment and skills boards linked to sub regional partnerships
 - Helping local authorities to deliver on the Business Support Simplification Programme

Summary and Conclusion

35. Historically the sub region has been the growth engine of the south east, helping significantly to achieve the growth targets in the RES. The key drivers are the two airports, Gatwick and Heathrow and proximity to London. The area provides a good rate of return on investment on innovation and enterprise programmes such as the Enterprise Hub. Historically, however, capital and revenue investment has been low as the area generally performs well on key indicators of the economy without public subsidy.

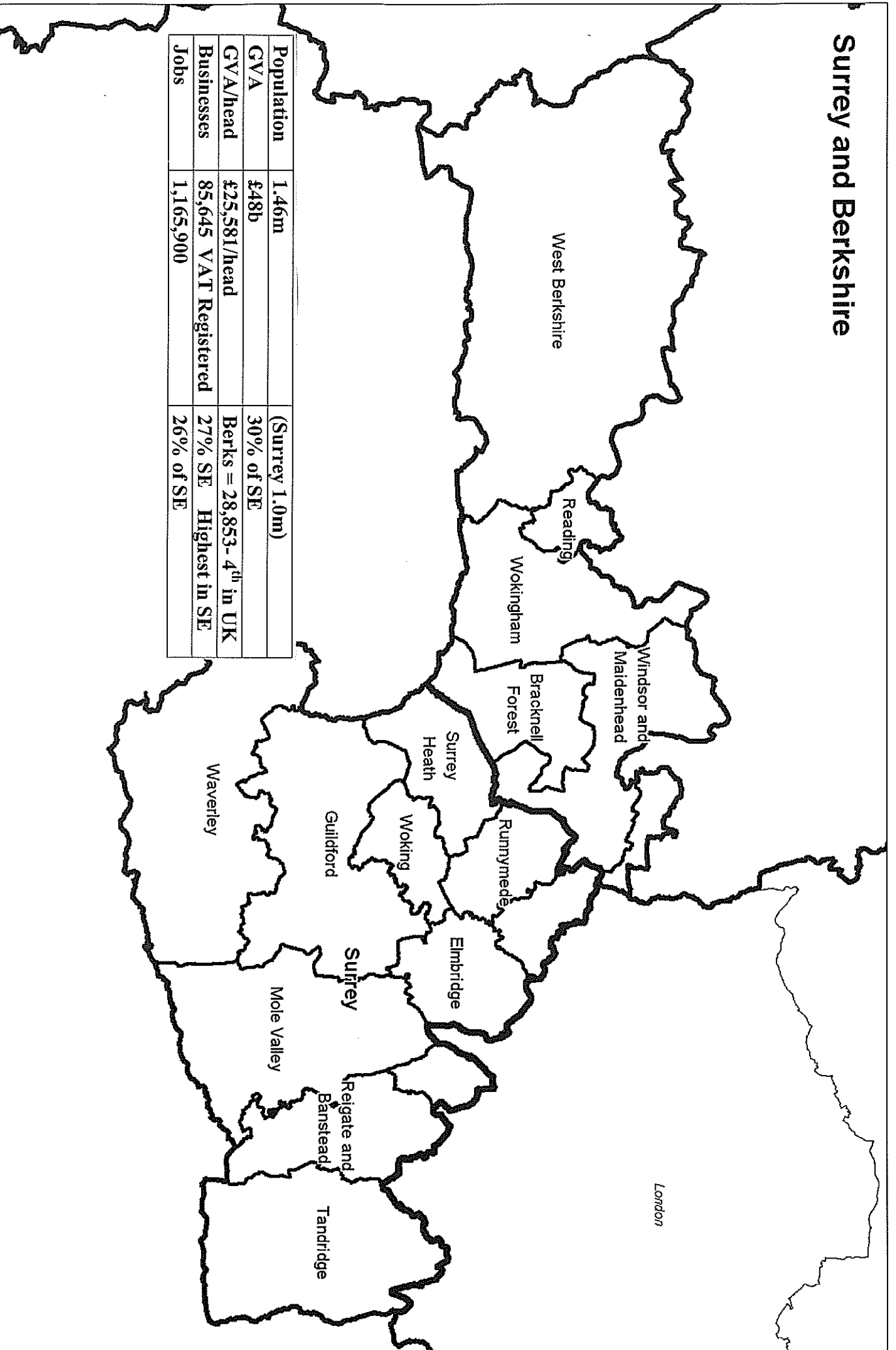
36. The key issues for business have been skills, recruitment, affordability of housing and gaps in transport infrastructure. There is evidence however that the sub region will suffer as much as others, if not more, as a result of the credit crunch and the global economic recession. Vulnerability to the financial services locally and in London is a key issue along with impacts on the retail and leisure sectors,

for example in the south east four Marks and Spencer stores are to close and three of these are in Bracknell, Reading and Woking. The other area for concern is the large number of multi-national companies at risk in this global economic downturn. Further closures and redundancies are expected from local companies and the level of redundancies faced by those living in the sub regional but working outside it the will also rise, although this will be hard to monitor.

37. Response locally has been quick, local authorities have been swift to assess the situation and to bring forward support for their areas, though some further co-ordination is needed for maximum impact.
38. It is thought that the sub region's strengths, as a knowledge economy with a history of global foreign direct investment, innovative and creative start-ups and high growth potential businesses, will stand it in good stead. There is evidence that the area's businesses are fighting back against the economic crisis and remaining optimistic at least up until the New Year. The area is also well placed to further exploit key growth sectors that will drive the upturn in the economy, through its strong research base, investment in science and technology sectors especially those that can exploit the environmental technology markets. The decision on Heathrow and changes at Gatwick Airport will have a major influence on the area, as will restructuring in the financial services sector, but the sub region is holding its own in terms of inward investment with 25 of the 58 Foreign Direct Investment projects that have invested in the south east this financial year. SEEDA has the opportunity to respond through its new innovation and growth team, working with the universities and global R&D companies and national research laboratories in the sub region.
39. Focus will be needed also on stimulating key regeneration commercial developments bringing forward key transport infrastructure projects and on investment in skills and training of those unemployed or disadvantaged in the work force.
40. SEEDA is well placed in this sub region to make timely and targeted investments of time, expertise and funds into stimulating the knowledge base, developing the skills of the area and key town centre redevelopment sites that will stimulate growth of key town centres in order to regain the sub regions leading economic position.

Surrey and Berkshire

Population	1.46m	(Surrey 1.0m)
GVA	£48b	30% of SE
GVA/head	£25,581/head	Berks = 28,853- 4 th in UK
Businesses	85,645 VAT Registered	27% SE Highest in SE
Jobs	1,165,900	26% of SE



Surrey & Berkshire in the South East

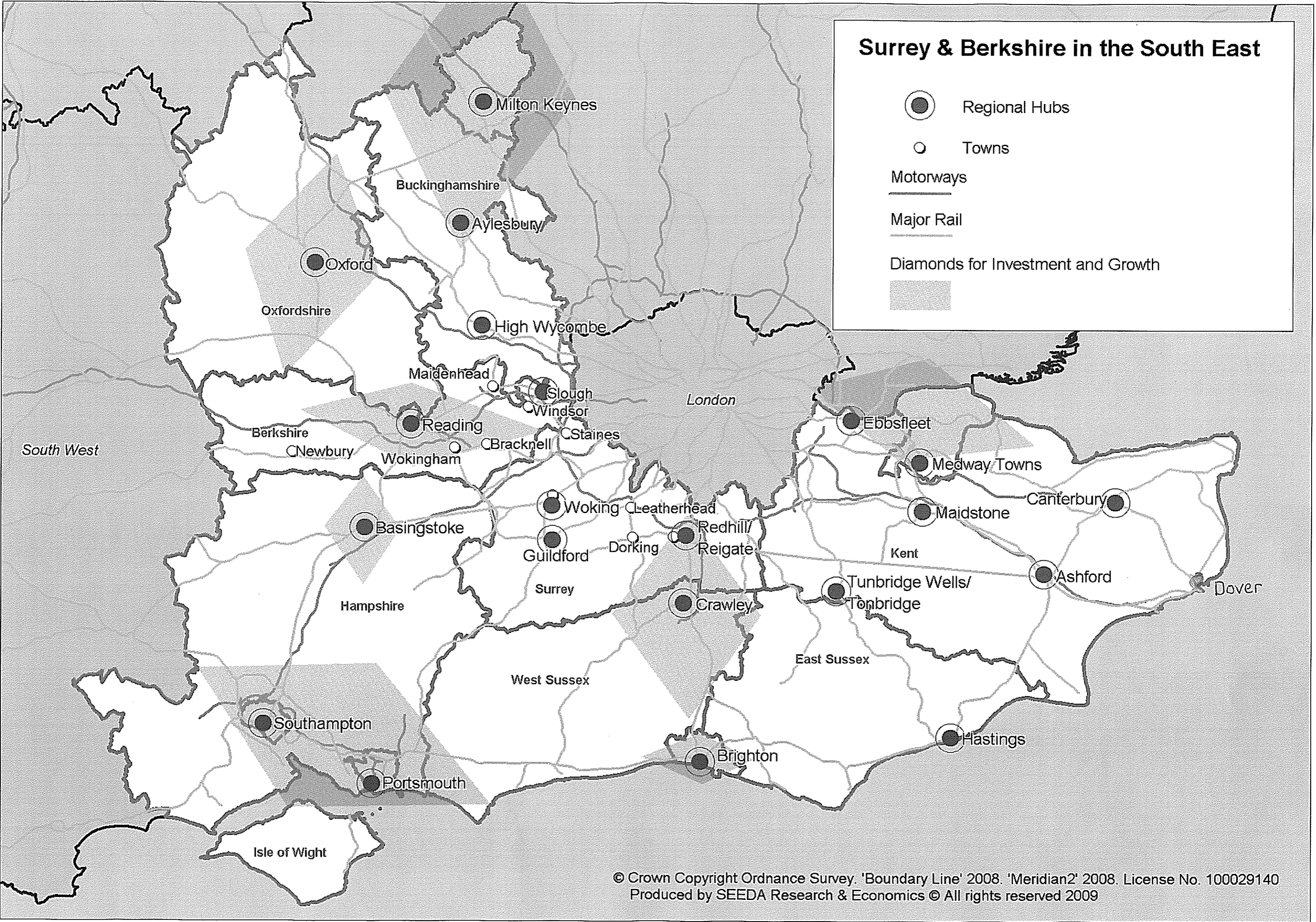
● Regional Hubs

○ Towns

Motorways

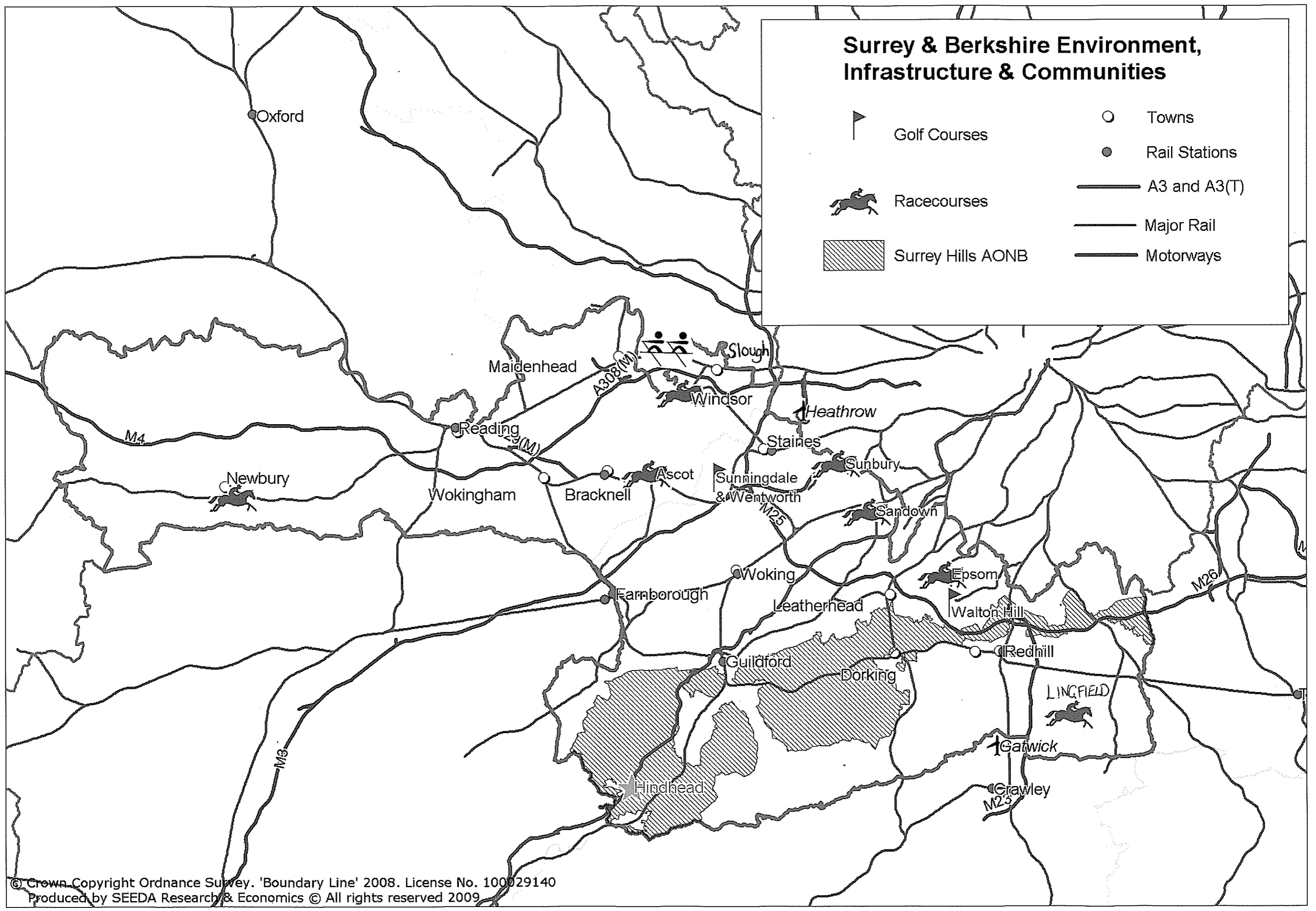
Major Rail

Diamonds for Investment and Growth



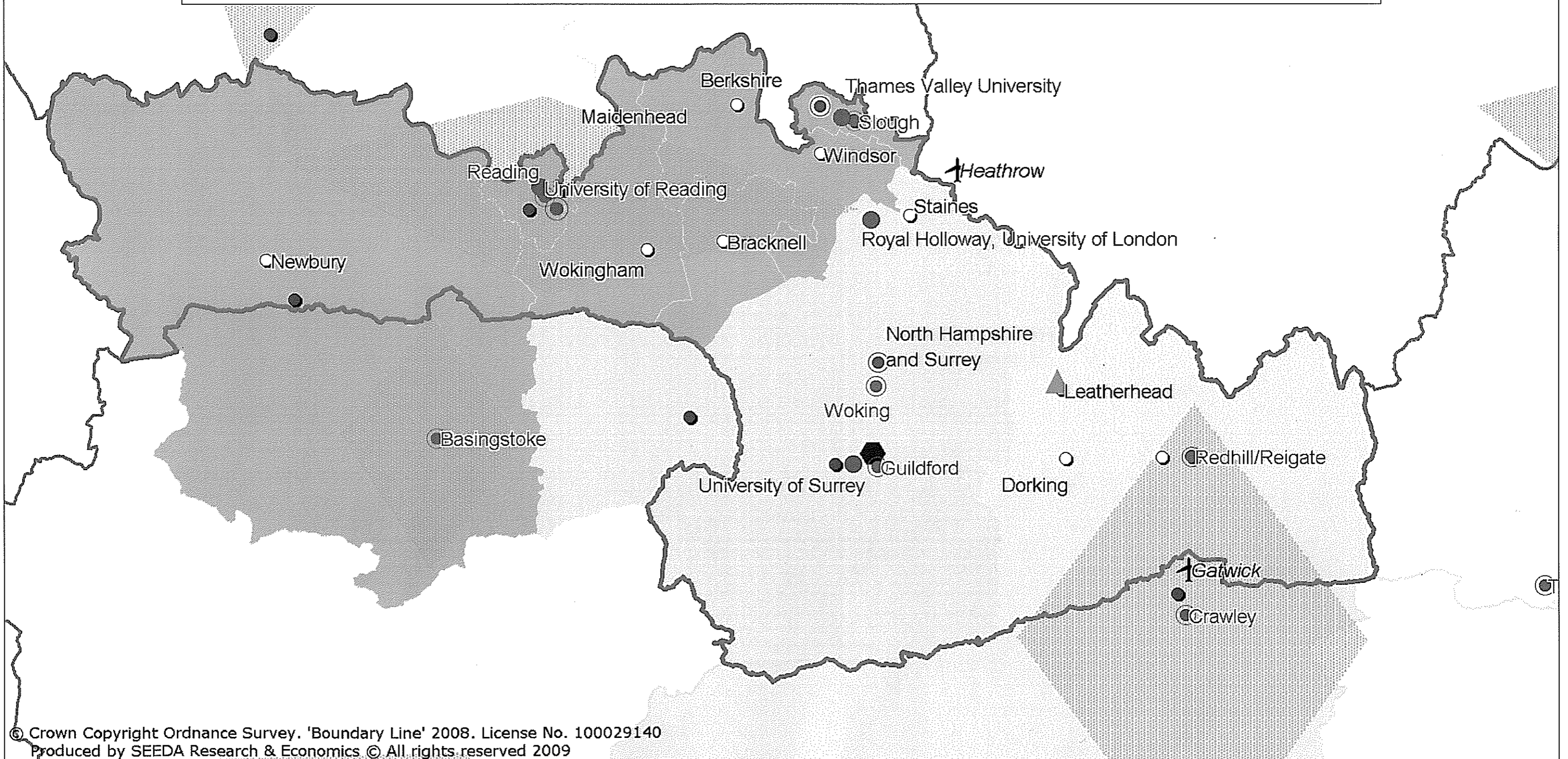
Surrey & Berkshire Environment, Infrastructure & Communities

-  Golf Courses
-  Racecourses
-  Surrey Hills AONB
-  Towns
-  Rail Stations
-  A3 and A3(T)
-  Major Rail
-  Motorways



Surrey & Berkshire Enterprise, Innovation & Growth

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ● Universities | ◉ Sector Consortia | ◊ Innovation and Growth Teams |
| ◉ Regional Hubs | ◆ Sector Consortia CEOs Forum (Facilitator) | ◊ East Surrey & West Sussex |
| ● Enterprise Hubs | ◉ South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) | ◊ West Surrey & North East Hants |
| ◉ Enterprise Gateways | ▲ South East Healthcare Technologies Alliance (SEHTA) | ■ Berkshire & Basingstoke |
| ■ Diamonds for Investment & Growth | | |



Surrey and Berkshire Area Team

SEEDA Board Report

- Provide an economic snapshot of Surrey and Berkshire
- Update on the Impact of the economic crisis
- Highlight action and priorities

Nigel Horton-Baker
Area Director

28 January 2009

Economic Success

International Business Location

Centre for Innovation and Technology

High Quality of Life and Environment



47% of the 219 foreign direct inward investments into the region last year



50 of the Worlds top R+D spenders in the Thames Valley



Elmbridge is top LA in GB in the Halifax Quality of Life Ranking 2008

Heathrow a driver of the Surrey and Berkshire economy

Heathrow

- Heathrow is the primary economic driver for much of the western half of the South East RDA especially in Surrey and Berkshire. In Slough 3000 or 1 in 20 of the local workforce work at Heathrow and in Spelthorne there are over 5000 or 1 in 9 of the local workforce, despite the fact there is no direct rail link to Heathrow from the west.
- 74% of the SE's sector is in sectors which make intensive use of air travel
- The High levels of foreign direct investment are related to this 70% of internationally based organisations locating into the UK do so with one hour of Heathrow
- The down side comes in two main forms, firstly noise and air pollution. Failure to increase demand and reduce the utilisation from its current level of 99%, and adopt new technologies will exacerbate the problems.
- Secondly congestion on the road networks, which is the biggest contributor to CO2 emissions in the area. There must be investment in rail infrastructure that goes directly into Heathrow from the west and south of the Airport.

Heathrow has been given the go ahead for a third runway along with a package of additional infrastructure and CO2 busting measures to be explored or implemented. This has further sharpened a number of priorities for SEEDA and its partners

- Creation of a company – High Speed 2 to consider a case for new high speed rail links between London and Scotland, starting with a new line between London and the West Midlands which could link to Heathrow and Crossrail.
- Electrification of the Great western Line and Midland Mainline
- £6bn for the country's busiest roads
- Use of Runway 3 only by the most environmentally friendly planes

Tipping Point

High House Prices

Labour and Skills Shortages

Road Congestion



Windsor and Maidenhead has the most expensive average house price in UK

Bracknell Forest's Economic Activity Rate 89.1% - highest of all upper tier authorities in the region

Traffic flows on Surrey A roads almost double the national average



Is Surrey and Berkshire Recession Proof?

Businesses

- Business Link helpline up 25-30% receiving a lot of desperate calls - rising level of referrals to insolvency practitioners
- High demand for advice in finding financial help cash flow is biggest problems – Q4 will see a convergence of bills coming in rent rates, tax, utilities - complaints that large firms are extending payment periods – the banks are not forthcoming especially on Govt's recent announcements – Public Procurement contracts hard to secure
- High demand for start up advice especially among women , but to-date low conversion rates,
- Global businesses announcing job cuts Microsoft (5000 global) Electronic Arts (1000global) Sony (2,500), TT Yell (400) Electronics(700), Tesco Warehouse Weybridge (500),Woolworths Surrey,, (600),Bank of Ireland Reading (285)

Workforce

- Unemployment rising but not rapidly. Berkshire and Surrey has the lowest levels with 1.75% and 1.3 %. This below the SE average of 2% and national average of 3%. It represents about 9,000 people in each county.
- 50% of workforce commute in and 50% of the workforce commute out from Surrey each day. Redundancies in high paid City jobs and low paid service jobs are hard to track
- Hot Spots of unemployment ; larger towns especially Reading (2.6% - 2,500) and Slough (2.5% 2,000) and In Surrey Spelthorne, Woking and Reigate and Guildford (800- 1000 registered unemployed in each town)

Economic Development

- Partners at the local level believe that the most deprived and those on low and no income or with no qualifications will suffer disproportionately and more support is needed now. They are also worried the worst is to come from job losses in Business and Financial services
- They also feel the strong knowledge based economy will help the area out of the recession more rapidly and this should also be a focus for support and
- Impacts on the City and Heathrow will have a knock on effect for business and commuters

Impact on development

A wide range of construction projects are stalling for a range of reasons including restricted access to finance, objections at planning application stage, land deals and diminishing demand for housing and business premises.

Station Hill Reading, The Station Hill/Friars Walk redevelopment site covers 5 acres and stands directly opposite the entrance to Reading Station. It is therefore a pivotal component and major catalyst for the regeneration of the wider Station Major Opportunity Area (MOA), as defined in the Council's adopted Reading Central Area Action Plan. The site is also the preferred location for Reading's principal cluster of tall buildings and is a key priority for investment.

Sackville Properties, estimate the development value of the scheme to be around £500 million. The 1.8 million square feet scheme will include residential, business, retail and cultural offers. A key component of the proposals will be the creation of high quality public realm that will welcome visitors arriving by train and provide new pedestrian links to the rest of the commercial core and beyond.

Station Hill has a window of opportunity to tie up a financing deal but may miss it if objections to planning permission cannot be overcome. In addition it will still have a funding shortfall required to clear and prepare the site. Not to do this would leave a derelict site next to the refurbished Reading Station which has the go ahead and funding

Westfield Centre and Civic Centre Guildford, Westfield after announcing the opening of one of the biggest retail centres in Europe decided to stop all plans for the new Retail centre in Guildford. This in turn has brought the halt to a new Civic centre in Guildford. A land deal on the Westfield site was to help Guildford B.C. fund the new Civic Centre. The halt to the Westfield development will also halt plans for a new bus station and other public realm improvements. Guildford BC are now applying for help to the Regional Infrastructure Fund

Other schemes facing problems include; Heart of Slough mixed development town centre regeneration scheme; Redhill mixed development town centre regeneration scheme, M4 Southside housing scheme, Bracknell Staff College housing and community scheme,

Priorities and Action



Heathrow

- Western Access including rail access, M4 road widening and , an additional lane and use of the hard shoulder.
- Airtrack, the addition of a link from Staines in to Heathrow by Rail
- Developing market opportunities for SE businesses and supporting new research in to sustainable technologies
- Working with partners in around Heathrow including London to manage the current and future opportunities at Heathrow 360



Innovation and Growth

Innovation and Growth Teams

- West Surrey and NW Hampshire
- Berkshire and Basingstoke
- Developing wider innovation Strategies

Inward Investment – planning

Infrastructure - e.g. Surrey Research Park, Reading Science Park

New Technologies - Space Technology, Environmental Technologies

Skills to support innovation and growth

Priorities and Action

Diamonds for investment and growth

- Reading; world class destination, top ten retail centres, skills, knowledge economy, infrastructure and ecological footprint
- Gatwick – Smart Growth
- “Inspire” through raising skill levels and improving access to Higher Education
- “Connect” the area to the rest of the UK and the World through upgrades to Gatwick, local roads and public transport
- “Grow” by joining up planning policy across the area allowing employment, housing development and town centre regeneration

Support that will trigger development

- Making the economic case
- Identifying gap funding for site preparation
- Advising and forming partnerships
- Sustainable procurement including local jobs and training



Celebration



London 2012

- Venues - Dorney Lake
- Bisley (tbc)
- Training camps
- Accessibility form and to London and locally
- Tourism offer
- Hospitality Training



www.seeda.co.uk

**Festival of Science
2009 – Guilford –
hosted by the
University of Surrey**



- Europe's largest & longest established science event - 88,000 visitors
- 180 science events – 350 scientists, and engineers
- Knowledge Transfer Partnership and Innovation showcasing opportunities
- Field trips – site visits
- National and international media attention – 130 UK and international journalists