

10 July 2008

Dear Colleague

SEEDA Consultation on Place Based Innovation Teams

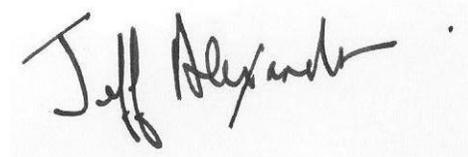
I am writing to let you know the outcome of the recent consultation on Place Based Innovation Teams. As you will know, we regard this as an important element of the implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy and the delivery of the challenging targets to further increase the Global Competitiveness of this region.

We were extremely pleased with the level of response we had to the consultation. 97 written responses were received and over 150 people attended the series of seven consultation workshops. The level of response reflects the importance that all partners attach to supporting growth and innovation in the region.

A report summarising the responses is attached. This follows the format of the pro forma questions which were issued with the consultation document. The report also includes how SEEDA intends to respond to the comments that were received. It is fair to say that the quality and cogency of the responses have significantly developed our thinking on this proposal, and the final shape of the service that is introduced will have been much influenced by the consultation.

You will see that the report identifies that the next step will be for SEEDA to issue a more detailed specification against which we will invite proposals for the first phase of four innovation and growth teams. The full timetable is set out in the report, but we hope to issue the specification in early August and to have phase 1 up and running by April 2009 and phase 2 by October 2009. We have strived as far as possible to reflect preferences of partners for the geographical coverage of each team, and the desire to be in the first or second phase. I know we will not have pleased everyone, but I hope you will be able to accept that in some cases there was no consensus among stakeholders, and from a regional programme perspective SEEDA has had to make a decision. I hope you will agree that having a firm decision which partners can now work with is better than having a further period of uncertainty.

The implementation of the new innovation and growth teams will remain a high priority for SEEDA, and I look forward to many ongoing discussions with you on the subject.



Jeff Alexander

Director, Global Competitiveness