

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

Author

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Signed off-by

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