

REGIONAL STRATEGY PROPOSED APPROACH

Purpose

This paper explains for Board members how SEEDA's representation on the various Boards of the South East England Partnership Board will work together to ensure that the outcome is a South east England Strategy and Delivery plan which meets SEEDA's key economic development objectives.

A discussion paper will be presented to the June SEEDA Board to enable Board members to have a first look at the strategic options for the Regional Strategy

Recommendation

The Board is invited to **NOTE** this report.

Reputational implications

The effective involvement of SEEDA Board members in developing the Regional Strategy is important for SEEDA's reputation.

Financial and resource implications

SEEDA part funds work on the Regional Strategy, with the balance coming from CLG funding for Regional Planning. The Regional Strategy and Delivery Plan will influence SEEDA spending, and a range of other spending on economic development and regeneration in the region.

Timescale

Producing the single regional strategy is a long term project. The aim is to produce the draft Regional Strategy by spring 2012, for consideration at a Public Examination. The original date of end 2011 has been extended by three months at the request of the Strategy Board to include an additional period of public consultation. This will take place at the end of 2010.

Necessary background

The new Regional Strategy, to be called the South East England Strategy, will replace both the Regional Economic Strategy and South East Plan, to produce a single strategy to drive economic development and spatial planning in the region. It will be accompanied by a Regional Delivery plan. The timetable for producing the Regional Strategy and Delivery Plan is shown in Annex 1.

The South East England Strategy and Delivery Plan require sign-off by both the SEEDA Board and the South East England Leaders Board (the Leaders of Local Authorities in the region), and also require the active input of a range of key stakeholders. The decision making structure which has been set up under the auspices of the South East England Partnership Board reflects this, with SEEDA Board member representation on all the key bodies.

While the South East England Strategy has a long-term focus, looking 15 to 20 years ahead, the Delivery Plan has shorter timescale and will drive investment in Economic Development & Skills, Housing & Regeneration, and Transport in particular. Each of these three critical components of delivery is led by a separate Delivery Board, all of which have SEEDA Board representation. There is also a Planning Panel, to advise on spatial planning issues. Again this has SEEDA Board representation.

The immediate key milestones for the South East England Strategy and Delivery plan are as follows:

- Strategy: Development of Strategic Options – May to October 2010
- Delivery Plan: First Delivery Plan (based on SE plan and RES) – June 2010

The first Delivery Plan will be considered by all three Delivery boards in the May / June cycle of meetings. This will be a key opportunity to shape the strategic programme for the next five years and set overall priorities for the longer term. The Delivery Plan will then be considered in full by the Partnership Board on 2 July.

The strategic choices for the Strategy itself have already been influenced by the six think-pieces and the two stakeholder workshops held in February to consider their findings. The Strategic Options will be considered by the Strategy Board in October. Before this there will be an opportunity for SEEDA Board members to consider the options at the June Board meeting, prior to a workshop for SEEDA Board Members and Local Authority Leaders on 15 July.

The strategic options will need to consider issues such as:

- Which parts of the region and which sectors can best drive economic growth?
- How can public policy and investment best support economically disadvantaged individuals and communities?
- How can the region rise to the challenges posed by climate change?

A more detailed discussion paper will be presented to the June meeting of the Board.

Author

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Signed off-by

Paul Lovejoy, Executive Director (Strategy), 4 May 2010

Annex 1: South East England Strategy and Delivery Plan - timetable:

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND STRATEGY		SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL	REGIONAL DELIVERY PLAN
Prepare project plan and community engagement strategy	Nov '09 – Feb '10	Prepare draft Scoping Report	Scope and develop first Regional Delivery Plan (for South East Plan and RES)
Key Milestone: Give notice to Government of intention to prepare Strategy	Feb '10		
Initial evidence gathering stage	Feb '10 – Jun '10	Consult on draft and Finalise Scoping Report	
Develop strategic objectives and strategic choices	Jul '10 – Sept '10	Appraise strategic objectives and choices	
Consult on strategic objectives and strategic choices	Oct '10 – Dec '10		Review and update Regional Delivery Plan
Identify preferred strategic choices	Jan '11 – Mar '11		
Develop and test distribution, policy & delivery options	Apr '11 – Sept '11	Appraise distribution, policy & delivery options	
Prepare and agree draft Strategy	Oct '11 – Mar '12	Prepare draft SA Report	Prepare draft Strategy Delivery Plan
Key Milestone: Public consultation on draft Strategy	Apr '12 – Jun '12	Consult on draft SA Report	
Key Milestone: Submit draft Strategy to EIP Panel	Jun '12	Submit draft SA report	Submit draft Strategy Delivery Plan
Key Milestone: Examination in Public	Sept '12 – Oct '12		
Key Milestone: EIP Panel Report published	Dec '12		Review and update Regional Delivery Plan
Key Milestone: Agree and publish final draft Strategy	Mar '13	Publish final draft SA Report	
Government consultation on final draft Strategy	Apr '13 – Jun '13	Consult on final draft SA Report	
Key Milestone: Publish final Strategy	Sep '13	Publish final SA Report	Update Regional Delivery Plan