

11<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Our ref: R00036

## **Freedom of Information request – Betteshanger Colliery**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008, concerning Betteshanger Colliery.

You request was:

- How many new jobs, and in what fields, have been created at the old colliery site at Betteshanger, Kent?
- How much money was spent on the development?

### **Introduction**

The investment to achieve the comprehensive regeneration of the former Betteshanger Colliery and spoil tip was approved by the SEEDA Board, English Partnerships and the Central Projects Review Group at the Department of Communities and Local Government in 2002. The approved life time budget for the project is £18.7 million. Preparation works on the site commenced in 2003 and were completed at the end of 2007. SEEDA's responsibility is to invest to construct new roads, utility infrastructure (power supply and drainage) and development platforms. This investment does not include the construction of new buildings.

### **Job Creation**

The new business park will create up to 400 new jobs and development plots are now on the open market for sale during the next few years. The business model for Betteshanger assumed a ten year regeneration programme following project approval in 2002 with take up of all the business accommodation by 2012. Clearly, there will be no job outputs until the new buildings have been completed and this will take place during the course of the next five years.

The Betteshanger business plan identified the potential of new jobs in growth sectors for East Kent including logistics, IT, Port related development and freight forwarding, airport related expansion in association with Manston and supply chain business expansion to accommodate supermarkets' requirements for 'Just in Time' salads, fruit and vegetables.



## **Development Costs**

SEEDA can confirm that all site works have now been completed and the final development costs are currently subject to independent audit. This information is normally only for internal SEEDA use, but may be released on request subject to review for any valid exemptions. SEEDA considers it would not be in the Public Interest to release the un-audited figures at this time and would respectfully ask if you would be prepared to wait for a further 90 days until the audit is complete.

Further information on the Betteshanger Project can be downloaded from [www.seeda.co.uk](http://www.seeda.co.uk).