

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009

Our ref: R00071B

## **Freedom of Information request – Kent**

### **Information requested**

Could you advise from the £400M RES budget some more detail of how SEEDA's funds are allocated by SE Region?

### **SEEDA's response**

I note that you are asking this from a Kent perspective, and as you will have seen from the Corporate Plan (available on SEEDA's website at [www.seeda.co.uk](http://www.seeda.co.uk)), a significant proportion of SEEDA's funding has and continues to be spent in Kent, reflecting regeneration needs in the area. The Corporate Plan sets out the totality of SEEDA's plans for Kent. The culture-related projects quoted in our letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> November are only one element, and I can reassure you that they have not stalled: they are very much live and moving ahead.

SEEDA's prioritisation process for funding that is spatially specific includes the close involvement of Local Authority partners and other sub-regional stakeholders, especially those who also bring resource and funding into the region. While I thank you for your offer of a Kent flavour, we believe our existing consultative processes provide us with an excellent understanding of local issues.

Finally, Business Link is not under review. The Business Link advisory service is very much a key plank of the future landscape for achieving sustainable economic development. The contract is being retendered on a competitive basis, which is necessary for a public sector contract.

