

21 July 2010

Our ref: R00228

Dear Madam/Sir,

RE: Freedom of Information request – Margate Renewal Partnership

Introduction

Thank you for your request dated 23 June 2010 made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is:

- 1) *What is the relationship between MRP and SEEDA?*
- 2) *What is the relationship between MRP and Margate Town Partnership?*
- 3) *Has any money from SEEDA funds been given to the MRP since 1 January 2005? If so, how much was given in each of the 5 financial years ending on 31 March 2010?*

Will you please also report:

- a) *What were the conditions under which the money was given and have the recipients of the money complied with those conditions?*
- b) *How has that compliance been verified by SEEDA officers?*
- c) *What action has been taken, or is to be taken, if the recipients have not complied with the conditions of the funding?*

Information requested

The three questions are answered here sequentially:

1. The Margate Renewal Partnership (MRP) comprises a number of public and private bodies that are involved with the regeneration of Margate town centre. For a full list of partners and more information about the Partnership, please refer to the Partnership website at <http://www.margaterenewal.co.uk/>.

SEEDA is one of the partners of the Margate Renewal Partnership and Pam Alexander, SEEDA's Chief Executive, is the chair of the Margate Renewal Partnership.

2. SEEDA does not have a direct relationship with Margate Town Partnership. However, Margate Renewal Partnership is represented on the Margate Town Partnership Board by Derek Harding, Programme Director of Margate Renewal Partnership, as a co-opted, non-voting

member. Margate Town Partnership has an observer status on the Margate Renewal Partnership Board and is invited to attend meetings.

3. The Margate Renewal Partnership has two paid officers, the Programme Director and an Administrative Assistant; both of whom are employed by Thanet District Council. SEEDA has provided funding to support the staffing of the Margate Renewal Partnership since 1 January 2005. Until 2008/09 this funding was provided via the East Kent Area Investment Framework.

The East Kent Area Investment Framework was a programme that operated between 2004 and 2008. Thanet District Council was the delivery lead and the partnership included representatives from a range of local organisations including Business Link Kent, The Federation of Small Businesses and Kent County Council. The purpose of the Area Investment Framework was for these partners to develop strategy and provide a shared vision and agreed objectives, as well as to lobby for and facilitate investment in projects benefiting East Kent. SEEDA's funding was delegated through the East Kent Partnership, for which Thanet District Council was the accountable body.

SEEDA currently has a grant funding agreement for 2009-11 with Thanet District Council to contribute funding towards the two officer posts. The contributions for each financial year are as follows:

- 2005/06 £21,000
- 2006/07 £85,000
- 2007/08 £123,832
- 2008/09 £74,000
- 2009/10 £90,000
- 2010/11 £90,000

- a) The terms and conditions of the current grant are set out in the enclosed Grant Funding Agreement for 2009 – 2011 (Appendix 1). Please note that personal information has been removed from these documents as this is exempt from disclosure under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. As far as SEEDA is aware, the grant recipient has complied fully with the terms and conditions of the funding.
- b) Compliance with the grant conditions has been monitored through regular progress reports submitted to SEEDA via the Margate Renewal Partnership Board.
- c) In the event of non-compliance and/or a breach of contract conditions, SEEDA retains the right to take action including suspending grant payments, withdrawing grant payments, requiring grant money to be repaid, and terminating the agreement. Please see Section 10 of the Grant Framework Agreement enclosed for full details. SEEDA is not aware of any breach of grant conditions having occurred.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: R228 Appendix 1 GFA 20092011