

Agenda Item 6

Pam Alexander
Chief Executive
SEEDA
Berkeley House
Cross Lanes
Guildford
Surrey GUI 4YA

26 January 2006

Dear Pam,

I am pleased to present the views of the Regional Assembly on the draft revised Regional Economic Strategy for the South East.

The strategy is a vital mechanism for supporting the future economic prosperity of the South East and for mobilising and directing resources of other organisations. The approach taken through the draft consultation document provides a useful framework for directing investment in the development of the region's economy, and the depth of analysis accompanying the document is significantly improved when compared to the previous version.

Many of the recommendations in this submission seek to emphasise the need for consistency with the South East Plan. While there is a great deal of complementarity between both documents, the final RES must fully embrace the established regional and sub-regional spatial planning strategy. I would highlight two issues of particular concern. First, it is the role of the South East Plan to set housing targets, not the RES. Second, the Assembly does not consider that at the present time it would be appropriate to include proposals for further expansion at either Heathrow or Gatwick beyond those already provided for: air travel requires demand management as much as road usage.

I very much welcome your comments on this submission and our continuing dialogue as we examine issues of importance to the region.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Mitchell
Chairman of the Regional Assembly

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