

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON SEEDA's APPROACH TO LABOUR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Submission from: **Rushmoor Borough Council**

Date: **September 2008**

1. Within the RES, does SEEDA adequately capture the range of key issues and challenges regarding labour force and employment in the region? Yes
2. How effective are the key strategic regional agencies with an interest in labour force and employment, such as SEEDA, Job Centre plus and the Learning and Skills Council, in developing a joined up and coherent approach? *To be honest I am unsure on how joined up they are and am unable to say how effective this is as I am not clear on the targets they have had and their achievements against these. However there does appear to be a large number of agencies involved in similar activities which can confusing for both employers and potential customers.*
3. SEEDA's Corporate Plan gives considerable emphasis to higher level management and technical skills. Is this focus appropriate and what should it do to also ensure development of basic skills and employability? *For us as an employer basic skills is not really a problem but more of a concern are the lack of potential employees within certain professions where there are skills shortages e.g. Planners, Environmental Health Officers. So I would like to see a focus on encouraging people to gain qualifications in areas where there are real skills shortages and support offered to people studying towards these.*
4. Is the range of SEEDA's activities appropriate and suitably targeted to tackle labour force and employment issues? Where should the balance lie between strategic and local interventions? *Believe that the activities covered are wide ranging as I've stated in question 2. In terms of the balance between strategic and local think that this would vary dependant on the initiative.*
5. Is SEEDA doing enough to encourage sustainable job creation in the region particularly in under performing areas? How and where should it focus resources on this issue to best effect? *Believe that it is and should focus on the various areas identified.*
6. How effective is SEEDA in engaging with businesses to understand their skills needs and in promoting employer's responsibilities regarding skills development? *Believe this works ok, however as stated earlier am unclear about the objectives in this area and as an employer what I am expected or required to do.*
7. What has been your experience of the Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance? What needs to be done to ensure it's long term effectiveness? What can SEEDA or other partners do to support the evolution of Local Skills for Productivity Alliances into revised roles as local Employment and Skills Boards? *I don't believe that I've seen anything from the alliance so have no experience of their role.*

8. How effectively do SEEDA and other strategic regional organisations engage with the further and higher education sectors, voluntary and community sector, local partners and deliverers to tackle employment and labour issues in the region? What more needs to be done? *Am unable to comment as not part of the sectors stated.*
9. How effectively do SEEDA and local authorities work together on labour force and employment issues? In the light of an increasing role for local authorities in this area, what more needs to be done to ensure effective joined up working arrangements? *Need clarity on the objectives and what is required by each party also need to think about the local issues rather than a general approach for regions.*

I hope that this information is helpful and if you need any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Nicky Orchard
Head of Personnel