

Scrutiny Programme – Tracking of recommendations for the Manufacturing Select Committee

	Committee Recommendation	SEEDA Response
1	In view of the importance of manufacturing to the region, as lead RDA nationally on manufacturing, SEEDA should lobby DTI for greater regional devolution of resources for best practice, sectors and innovation in the 2006 Spending Review.	SEEDA is no longer the lead on manufacturing, but continues to lobby central government. The Comprehensive Spending Review is being used to ensure that adequate support exists for MAS in the future.
2	The MAS cannot be the 'be all and end all': SEEDA are already working on a range of relevant interventions, and should work with EEF SE, the CBI, FSB and other appropriate bodies to identify other measures to promote the retention and liberate the growth of manufacturing in the region.	SEEDA has established a Forum of the major manufacturing companies in the South East to maintain support for the region's manufacturers. SEEDA continues to provide support for manufacturers to ensure that the region's strengths in science, technology and creative industries are retained.
3	SEEDA should take the lead in commissioning case study research so that manufacturers contemplating off-shoring can take properly informed decisions and, where it's an appropriate course of action, are able to manage it successfully, safeguarding intellectual property and other assets, so as to ensure the survival of a healthy manufacturing sector in the region.	SEEDA will commission case study research later this year.
4	SEEDA should ensure that the Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance (RSPA) urgently develops and delivers an action plan for manufacturing skills in the South East, covering, inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of sources of information and funding, and of means of delivery; • Up to date research to determine the future skills requirements of modern manufacturing; • Stronger links to local 	SEEDA continues to work with the RSPA to fill gaps in private sector and further education manufacturing skills provision. Investment was provided for Nanotechnology at the Begbroke Innovation Centre and the Motorsport Centre at Oxford Brookes. The DTI, DfES and SEEDA are currently working a virtual organisation, the Manufacturing Skills Academy, to help manufacturers find necessary skills support.

	<p>employers' forums;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion to young people of engineering, applied IT, craft and other key skills required for a competitive manufacturing sector; and • Sustaining and modernising the region's education and training capacity for such skills development. 	
5	<p>Following completion of the current re-tendering of the MAS for 2005-08, SEEDA should review its scope, reach, length of contract and resources with a view to stepping up the service to meet the scale of the challenges faced by the region's manufacturing; for example reaching more SMEs, and taking in skills issues, are both areas to be addressed.</p>	<p>The new contract for MAS provides twice the previous resources, with all of the extra funding coming from SEEDA. The contract is for a period of three years.</p>
6	<p>In its next phase (2005-08), the MAS needs to develop its emphasis beyond process innovation onto product innovation, particularly by linking more closely with centres for research and development.</p>	<p>SEEDA did not accept that MAS should move beyond process innovation to product innovation and as such MAS's emphasis remains operational excellence. However, SEEDA has launched the Innovation Advisory Service and the Design for Business, a design programme similar to MAS, to ensure that product innovation is tackled.</p>