

## **SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY –SELECT COMMITTEE ON URBAN RENAISSANCE**

### **Response from GOSE on SEEDA's impact**

#### **Area Investment Frameworks**

These have been received around the region with mixed views. Some areas are using them well as a strategic driver for priority setting. Other areas are frustrated by them and are struggling to see their links to the LSP agenda. Their effectiveness as a tool in meeting SEEDA's objectives for all involved in the process will need to be reviewed periodically.

#### **Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE)**

SEEDA has a number of projects and tools are in place to drive the urban renaissance agenda. It is the intention that the RCE focuses on supporting those involved in planning, delivering and maintaining sustainable communities rather than providing services directly to the public. Specific progress in an identity for the RCE and a Business Plan has been slow in processing. A consultation process is only just about to begin. GOSE was able to influence progress more effectively when the lever of finance from ODPM was challenged through Government Office Skills and Knowledge budgets – an exercise that repeats this year. There was initial concern that the RCE was focussing on professional skills to deliver urban renaissance. Well informed and enabled communities are equally important to the delivery of renaissance. This has now been recognised and SEEDA (together with GOSE and The Assembly as members of the steering group) have ensured this balance is present in the principles of the Centre.

#### **Housing Board**

SEEDA is an effective and supportive partner in the work of the Regional Housing Board. No specific issues regarding their impact in this area of work.

#### **Working with Partners**

Senior Management in SEEDA place high priority on urban renaissance work and fulfil a leadership role in major regeneration projects. They have a role to share the practice of renaissance more widely around the region. This could be encouraged to happen more once the RCE is further established.

SEEDA plays an active role in the development to secure urban renaissance in Thames Gateway and Ashford, They also support the major growth areas of Milton Keynes.

They are the lead partner in the regeneration investment taking in Hastings. The task force is focussing on land acquisition, enabling and infrastructure work and Built Environment activity. Progress is being made.