

Runnymede Borough Council

Given the small resources at SEEDA dedicated to Urban Renaissance, it is perhaps not unreasonable to concentrate on areas of deprivation. This does however mean that large areas of the south-east which are more prosperous, will have little involvement with the SEEDA team. This will include the whole of Surrey, where redevelopment in town centres and former industrial sites have been led for many years by a buoyant economy and sustained development pressure. For example in Runnymede, 100% of housing has been delivered for several years on brownfield land. The Council has also led on a number of projects, such as Chertsey Revitalisation Area, which has been redeveloped with a private sector partner over some 12 years.

Having said that, by redeveloping in deprived areas and making sites become available, this may attract some investment away from areas such as to the west of London, thus assisting in reducing what is an overheated economy, in that part of the region.

I would agree that moves to address skills shortages, both in the construction industry and in areas such as urban design and planning is a vital area of work. Equally, dissemination of good practice is useful across the whole region, and the point that this should not be seen as PR is well made. Experience of what can go wrong is often as useful as that which went well.

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