

Assembly Select Committee Recommendation	What SEEDA will do in response to our recommendation	Responsibility	Timetable for action	Progress and achievements (approx. six months after initial response)	Further actions
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>Given current economic conditions SEEDA should urgently make a public statement on the status of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The statement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm that the RES still provides a suitable basis for addressing long-term objectives in the region. • Explain that rather than undertaking short-term redrafting of the RES, SEEDA will focus on actions to help address the current economic conditions as well as preparing for the upturn. • Set out key actions SEEDA will be taking itself, as well as in partnership with others, to address issues arising from the current economic conditions. • Set out how SEEDA will ensure effective communication with partners in the region on the changing economic situation and SEEDA's activities. 	<p>SEEDA has used the RES Partner Conference to make it clear that the RES remains valid, and that the need to address short-term economic and business issues should go hand in hand with putting in place longer-term building blocks of sustainable economic competitiveness.</p> <p>In terms of actions to address the impact of the downturn, a SE Joint Regional Recovery Plan has been developed. This is a single plan bringing together the efforts of SEEDA, LSC and JCP in a joined-up fashion. The Plan provides the basis for a response to a major event, or a significant number of smaller events. It provides for both proactive work with business to minimise the impact of the downturn, as well as rapid response.</p> <p>In addition, SEEDA is producing a booklet to help businesses through the many offers now available. This will be published on the SEEDA website to complement and simplify the briefing material SEEDA already makes available about the business support packages.</p> <p>A senior SE Briefing and Response (SEBR) team has been set up within SEEDA to monitor and develop SEEDA's response to the economic downturn.</p>	<p>SEEDA</p> <p>SEEDA, LSC, Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>SEEDA</p> <p>SEEDA</p>	<p>RES Partner Conference took place on 29 January 2009.</p> <p>On-going – the Plan will continue to be monitored and developed for as long as required.</p> <p>On-going – the material will be regularly updated.</p> <p>On-going – SEBR will continue to meet on a weekly basis for as long as required.</p>		

	From August 08 SEEDA has developed a Regional Intelligence Snapshot bulletin to inform government and partners of the regional economic situation and influence on the action needed in response. Sector Skills Councils and Economic (and Learning) Partnerships also feed into this.	SEEDA, SSCs, SRPs	On-going – the bulletin is issued on a monthly basis.		
Recommendation 2: To maximise impact in tackling labour force and employment issues, SEEDA must ensure it takes a joined-up approach across its directorates and area teams. SEEDA must ensure the effective operation of its new ‘skills and sustainable prosperity’ directorate and ensure partners are clear on how the new arrangement will work.	SEEDA’s Employment & Skills team is working hand in glove with the enhanced Area teams and Investor Development Managers (IDMs) to share information and maximise impact at the sub-regional level. Work to date has included sub-regional mapping, considering 14-19 Reform and arrangements for the transfer of 16-18 funds from LSC to local authorities. With partners work up proposals to strengthen and simplify the regional architecture in the light of the post-SNR decisions by SEEDA and the SE England Leaders Board.	SEEDA’s Employment & Skills, Area teams and IDMs SEEDA with partners	On-going communication with Area teams and IDMs. Area teams will be engaged in simplification and strengthening the Employment & Skills functionality Boards at sub-regional level. Before 31 March 2009		
Recommendation 3: Where the need is identified, SEEDA should press the case to Government for greater freedoms and flexibilities to enable partners in the region to effectively tackle labour force and employment issues. SEEDA should set out how it will work with partners to identify barriers and constraints and how it will act on these.	SEEDA will use its new RDA Lead Role for Skills, DIUS and DWP to influence Government, eg making pro-active interventions to influence policy. To contribute to that influence and lobbying, SEEDA with LSC and JCP, and other partners, will ‘road test’ the end to end process in the Recovery Plan work, so as to test the actual flexibilities and freedoms.	SEEDA SEEDA, LSC, JCP, GOSE, Skills SE	On-going By 31 March and on-going		

	<p>A re-shaped regional employment and skills architecture, building on the strengths of the RSPA and other current bodies, will be designed. This will feed into the new SE Strategy Board and the SE Economic Delivery Council, and will provide a stronger mechanism to press for any necessary freedoms and flexibilities.</p> <p>A follow-up Regional Employment & Skills Summit, supported by the Regional Minister, will be used to inform and feedback to partners.</p> <p>SEEDA is developing a new Accord (at national as well as regional level) with the Skills for Business Network (SfBN) Alliance to better influence Government on Skills policy.</p>	<p>SEEDA</p> <p>RSPA will develop the Summit in conjunction with the Regional Minister's office SEEDA, SfBN Alliance</p>	<p>Significant progress towards achieving a new structure should have been made by 31 March 2009.</p> <p>Summit to be held in mid-2009.</p> <p>Accord to be in place by 31 May 2009.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>SEEDA should work with the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus and other key partners to develop an action plan to take forward and implement the South East Skills Accord. With the forthcoming changes to the Learning and Skills Council, SEEDA should set out how it will ensure that the Accord will evolve to support transition and maintain joint working with all relevant partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. SEEDA should give specific attention to engaging with local authorities regarding their impending new responsibilities on skills.</p>	<p>The Regional Recovery Plan requested by the Regional Minister has catalysed activity within the Accord (see Recommendation 1 above).</p> <p>Early discussion is taking place on the development of an integrated Employment & Skills RES action plan incorporating the activities of the Accord Partners.</p> <p>SEEDA is represented on the Regional Planning Group for the transfer of responsibilities to local authorities and will take on the role of co-chairing the Group.</p>	<p>SEEDA, LSC, Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>SEEDA</p>	<p>Action plan to be finalised and agreed by April 2009</p> <p>Co-chairing arrangement will commence during 2009</p>		

<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>SEEDA should develop its working relationship with Jobcentre Plus and partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to maintain robust intelligence on the state of the labour market, with emphasis on the early identification of possible large-scale job losses affecting the region. This intelligence should inform SEEDA's proactive approach to minimising the negative impacts of any job-losses. SEEDA should encourage the use of local labour in filling job vacancies and where job creation occurs.</p>	<p>In recognition of the importance of up-to-date and forward-looking data and intelligence, SEEDA, LSC and Jobcentre Plus are creating a shared economic intelligence post to work within SEEDA's Economic Research team but employed by a Sector Skills Council (ProSkills).</p> <p>SEEDA's Economic Research team has begun to map data, including intelligence on redundancies, at a sub-regional level and is expanding this work.</p> <p>SEEDA's research team is also working with sub-regional employment and skills groups to produce bulletins for their key sectors.</p> <p>SEEDA's Continuing Employment Support Service (CESS) has already taken on an additional broker and has plans to expand the service further, up to 6 brokers. The LSC has agreed additional funding for CESS and Jobcentre Plus to support additional Information Advice and Guidance. All main agencies have agreed to feed redundancy information to CESS brokers and SEEDA is talking to local authorities to achieve feed-in from LAs too.</p> <p>As an example of sub-regional activity, SEEDA has reviewed Thames Gateway priorities and condensed and refined existing projects into one to provide a</p>	<p>SEEDA, LSC, Jobcentre Plus, ProSkills</p> <p>SEEDA's Economic Research team in conjunction with Employment & Skills and Area teams</p> <p>SEEDA's Economic Research team</p> <p>SEEDA, LSC, Jobcentre Plus, Local Authorities</p> <p>SEEDA, working in conjunction with LDA and EEDA within the</p>	<p>Post to be filled by 31 March 2009. It is anticipated the post will be filled for 2-3 years but the contract will be renewable annually.</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>Pilot bulletin for Berks by 31 January. Other bulletins by 31 March 2009.</p> <p>Additional CESS broker appointed in January 2009 and further brokers to be appointed by 31 March 2009. Additional LSC funding in place in January 2009. Discussions with Local Authorities to be completed by 31 March 2009.</p> <p>Project will start from 1 April 2009.</p>		
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	<p>jobs match service linking up to mainstream funding and working out of three hubs.</p> <p>The SEEDA 40-70 programme is supporting a drive to re-engage older workers who have left the active labour market. It is also being geared (with additional support from ESF and through specific tailored courses) to support older workers who maybe at risk of redundancy.</p>	<p>Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan.</p> <p>SEEDA, LSC, Jobcentre Plus.</p>	<p>Certain strands of the programme are already operating.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>SEEDA must ensure that there is clarity about the roles of, and alignment between, the regional, sub-regional and local structures dealing with employment and labour force issues. This is particularly important given the significant changes ahead. Specifically SEEDA, working closely with public, private and voluntary sector partners, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clarity on the role and membership of the new Employment and Skills Boards, including how SEEDA will work with partners to ensure coordination and alignment with other local structures. • Set out its vision of the role, relationship and future of the Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance and how SEEDA will work with 	<p>As set out under recommendation 3, a re-shaped and streamlined regional employment and skills infrastructure will be designed, building on the strengths of the RSPA and other existing bodies, to fit with the arrangements to be created in support of the Regional Strategy, and linking closely to the SE Economic Development Council. The aim is to streamline and strengthen, and provide greater clarity at regional and sub-regional/local level.</p> <p>SEEDA will work with partners on developing the employment and skills board functionality, and on how to develop and streamline structures at sub-regional level so as to simplify business engagement with the public sector. SEEDA has assigned employment and skills board Managers whose role is specifically to coordinate the work of partners and to work with other local structures to avoid</p>	<p>SEEDA</p> <p>SEEDA, employment and skills board Managers, Area Directors, Sub-regional Economic and Learning Partnerships</p>	<p>Significant progress towards achieving a new structure should have been made by 31 March 2009.</p> <p>Priorities and actions against which current employment and skills structures will be monitored to be agreed by 31 March 2009.</p>		

partners to deliver this.	duplication and create a joined up approach to the local employment and skills agenda.				
Recommendation 7: SEEDA should set out how it will support and work more closely with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to maximise collective impact in delivering actions to improve basic skills and employability. This should take particular account of the wide range of opportunities provided by the VCS to help deliver the RES target to bring residents in the region back into employment.	SEEDA, along with LSC and RAISE, ran a conference in October 2008 to highlight the extensive contribution of the sector to economic prosperity and local communities. The event also highlighted the opportunities for VCS organisations to benefit from the new flexibilities within Train to Gain, including financial support for leadership and management training for SMEs. Further work is also taking place to develop the VCS regional and sub-regional infrastructure. This will engage local VCS organisations to help build their capacity to more effectively address their skills and training requirements in the sub-regions.	SEEDA, LSC, RAISE	SEEDA is meeting with partners at the end of January 2009, and a full update on the development of the proposed 3 rd Learning Infrastructure will be produced by March 2009.		
Recommendation 8: SEEDA should further develop its working relationships with Higher and Further Education institutions and organisations to ensure the right mix of skills and qualifications are delivered in the region and skills shortages and future skills needs reported by employers are addressed.	SEEDA is working with HE/FE partners on business engagement pilots in Kent and Sussex. The outcome of this work may be an expansion of the existing MoU between SEEDA, HESE and HEFCE to include FE. The Higher Skills Alliance actively promotes the development of higher skills in the region and to share best practices that can inform partners' activities in support of higher skills development. The Alliance is focusing on three core areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing more employable graduates • Raising the skills and capacity for 	SEEDA, HESE, AOSEC, HE Kent & Medway, Kent FE Consortium, FE Sussex SEEDA, HEFCE, HESE, AOSEC, LSC, SSCs, Foundation Degree Forward, STEMNET, Lifelong Learning Network	Pilots to report back by December 2009 Progress to be reviewed in September 2009		

