

SEEDA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
14 October 2004

1. Owing to work on the South East Plan an Assembly officer only attended for the following items:

- Business Resource Efficiency & Waste (BREW) Programme
Graham Tubb, SEEDA
- South East Plan: Update
Wout Janssen, Assembly

2. Business Resource Efficiency & Waste (BREW) Programme

The Chancellor broadened the scope for the deployment of the recycled revenues to 'resource efficiency'; this is now referred to as the 'Business Resource Efficiency & Waste (BREW) Programme'.

A fund, rising to £146 million a year in England by 2007-2008, is to be used to support business in improving resource efficiency. The majority of proposals in the BREW programme is directly relevant to SEEDA; of particular interest are: Waste Minimisation Clubs (possible funding £6 million over three years), National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP, possible funding up to £18 million over three years) and the Regional Collaboration Fund, capital and revenue grants for strategic regional resource efficiency projects (possible funding in order of £20 million over three years).

SEEDA is preparing a Waste Market Development Action Plan and a NISP programme. The significant injection of resources expected from 2005 onwards will complement current activity and will enable SEEDA to achieve a great deal more, both through Sustainable Business Partnerships (SBPs), Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and at regional level. Detailed proposals will be shared with the Committee following confirmation of DEFRA funding.

3. South East Plan

The Committee was given an up-date on the key themes, the sub-regions, the timetable and the Sustainability Appraisal; the following comments were made:

- 'Sustainable design' does not seem to be given sufficient attention.
- The Plan is too focused on the region itself. We must take account of our global responsibility by developing policy and adopting indicators that quantify the global impacts of our economic activity.

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