

SEEDA welcomes four appointments to its Board

30 November 2009

Four new appointments have been made to the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) Board. The announcement was made today by Rosie Winterton, Minister for Regional Economic Development and Coordination.

Joining the SEEDA Board from 14 December 2009 for three years will be Councillor Keith House, Councillor Andrew Finney, Richard Ascough and Professor Julian M Crampton.

Rob Douglas CBE, SEEDA Chair, said: "I am delighted to welcome four new Members to the SEEDA Board who will enrich and strengthen our collective understanding of the South East region to drive up global competitiveness and share economic prosperity. With their wide ranging experience and deep local knowledge they will help SEEDA and its partners to assist businesses improve productivity and to create new skills and employment opportunities to make a difference for businesses, for individuals and for the economy.

"I would also like to thank the retiring Board Members, Cllr Peter Jones, Sue John Phil Wood and Professor Sir Bill Wakeham, for their excellent contributions to SEEDA and the region. We will miss them all and I am sure the South East will benefit from their support for many years to come."

Pam Alexander, SEEDA Chief Executive, said: "I warmly welcome our four new Board Members. SEEDA has a vital role in supporting the economic development of the region, helping to drive it, and the rest of the UK, out of recession and back into prosperity. The breadth of skills and experience, particularly of local government and of the labour market, which these four individuals will bring to this task will be invaluable. I look forward to working with and supporting them and the rest of our Board. "

...ENDS...

Notes to Editors

Biographies

1. Cllr Keith House is a member of Eastleigh Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. He has served with organisations including the South East England Regional Assembly, the Association of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Authorities, the Local Government Association, and 4ps – the Public Private Partnership Programme.
2. Cllr Andrew Finney is Leader of Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council a position he has held since May 2008. He has worked in retail banking, mortgage lending and real estate. Andrew is currently vice-chair of the Local Strategic Partnership, Chair of the South East Diamonds for Investment and Growth board, Board member of Thames Valley Innovation and Growth, and Trustee of Queen Mary's Foundation Trust.
3. Richard Ascough spent his early career working at British Airways. He was on the first executive of the newly formed British Airways Trade Union Council and has extensive experience with the GMB union. Richard has an MA in Employment Relations and Law and is the Treasurer of the Industrial Law Society.
4. Professor Julian M Crampton has been the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton since 2005. He was the founding Head of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Liverpool, subsequently becoming Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Professor Crampton is also the Chairman of Higher Education South East, Treasurer of Universities UK, and Vice-Chair of the Universities UK committee on Employer, Business and Innovation.

Photographs available on request

- **SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency**, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.
- **SEEDA's support helped deliver the following** over the period 2005-2008:
 - o 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
 - o 32,500 people helped to get work
 - o 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
 - o 137,500 businesses assisted
 - o £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
 - o 200ha Brownfield land remediated
 - o 148,500 people assisted in skills development
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