

Media Release

September 28th saw the successful launch of the South East Economic Development Network. This joint venture between South East Employers (SEE) and the Institute of Economic Development (IED) was set up in response to demand from member organisations who wanted a forum for learning, networking and sharing good practice across the South East and attended by over 70 key economic development professionals including elected members from local authorities.



Chaired by Alex Pratt OBE, Chair of Buckinghamshire Business First, delegates heard presentations on the importance of the South East to the UK economy and that it was the fastest growing area for Membership.

Susan Priest of SEEDA talked about the winding down of the RDA and their legacy planning and took questions from the floor. Mark Pearson, Chief Executive of the Surrey Economic Partnership talked about Smart Economic Growth.

After the break Paul Kinvig of the Hampshire Economic Partnership chaired a lively panel discussion with Simon Neilson, Assistant Director at Essex County Council, and Stuart Jones, the Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Business First.



Dawn Hudd said of the meeting, "Membership of the IED is the fastest growing in the South East. This was reflected in the amazing turn out for the inaugural meeting of the network. The experience, commitment and knowledge of the professionals in the room, representing economic development in both the public and private sectors puts us in a very strong position to face the difficulties of building our economy in these challenging times."

Cllr Rory Love, Chairman of SEE and Deputy Leader of Shepway District Council, added: "The South East Economic Development Network will bring key professionals from local government together with private sector wealth creators to share innovation and expertise. This is essential to create the climate for growth, and to generate jobs, income and investment."

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Notes for Editors

More details can be seen at www.ied.co.uk or www.seemp.co.uk . For additional information please contact John Lockett at 01604 874613 or Sian Campbell on 01962 840664.

Speakers included:

Alex Pratt OBE
John Lockett
Simon Neilson

Cllr Rory Love
Dr Susan Priest
Stuart Jones

Dawn Hudd
Mark Pearson
Jo James

Jennifer McNeill
Paul Kinvig

About SEE: SEE is one of the nine regional employers' organisations which represent the interests of local authorities and public sector bodies in England. As the regional employer's organisation for the South East, we are independent and not-for-profit. Our organisation is member-led, and we aim to add value to our councils and communities through our wealth of local knowledge and professional expertise.

About IED: The Institute of Economic Development (IED) is the leading United Kingdom organisation for economic development practitioners. It is committed to demonstrating the value of economic development work for local and regional communities, to the pursuit of best practice in economic development and to the attainment of the highest standard of professional training and competence.