

**The Regional Economic Strategy
Responding to the Current Economic Climate**

Second Annual RES Partners' Conference

**Thursday 29 January 2009
Mandolay Hotel, Guildford**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09.30 Coffee and registration

Part I: Managing the Here and Now

10:00 **Introduction and Welcome by Conference Chair**
Bob Sherwood – London and South East Correspondent, Financial Times

10.05 **Opening Remarks**
Jim Brathwaite CBE – Chair, SEEDA

10.15 **Economic Context**
William Thomson – Director, International Economics, Experian

10.30 Questions & Answers

10.40 **Minister's Address**
Jonathan Shaw MP – Regional Minister for the South East

10.55 Questions & Answers

11:00 **The South East: Responding to the Economic Challenge**
Paul Lovejoy – Executive Director, Strategy & Communications, SEEDA

11.20 **The Voice of Businesses: Plenary debate with a panel of business leaders from the region**
Mike Galvin – Director of BT plc, South East
Chris Bichard – MD, South East Coachworks
Megan Dobney – Regional Secretary, SERTUC
Rob Sauven – MD, Vestas Blades

12.30 **Networking Lunch**

Part II: Investing for the Future

13.30 Regional Funding Advice: Investing for the Future

- Economic Development Pam Alexander – CEO, SEEDA
- Housing Cllr Elizabeth Cartwright – Chair, Regional Housing Board
- Transport Cllr Nick Skellett CBE – Chair, Regional Transport Board
- Skills Marinos Paphitis – Regional Director, LSC

14:10 Roundtable Workshops

Workshop Group A: *Managing the here and now – helping businesses and communities to ride out the downturn*

Workshop Topics:

- A1 Employment, Skills and Redundancy Support
- A2 Access to Finance
- A3 International Competitiveness and Business Support
- A4 Social Economy

Workshop Group B: *Investing for the future – identify areas for public support with a potential to fuel the economic upturn; identify investment opportunities with potential for alignment of resources*

Workshop Topics:

- B1 Skills for the Future
- B2 Environmental & Health Technologies
- B3 Housing and Infrastructure
- B4 International Investment & Innovation

Tea and coffee available

15.30 Plenary Feedback from the Table Discussions

Bob Sherwood – London and South East Correspondent, Financial Times

15.55 Closing Remarks

Jim Brathwaite CBE – Chair, SEEDA

16.00 Close