

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

Second Annual RES Partners' Conference

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

Speaker Biographies

Pam Alexander – Chief Executive, SEEDA

Pam Alexander joined the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) as Chief Executive in January 2004, having been involved in regeneration for nearly 30 years. As Chief Executive of SEEDA she chairs the Margate Renewal Panel, the Hastings & Bexhill Taskforce and is Deputy Chair of Ashford's Future. She also chairs the South East Partnership 2012.

Pam is Chair of the Peabody Trust and a non-executive Director of The Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. She chaired the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Policy and Practice Programme on Mixed Income Communities and is on the Shadow Board of Investors in Communities. Pam was on the inaugural Advisory Board of Regenerate and is a Director of Brighton Dome and Festival Ltd. In November 2006 Pam was appointed as co- Chair of a new Women's Enterprise Task Force.

Before joining SEEDA Pam was Chief Executive of English Heritage from 1997 to 2001 and led the creation of its nine regional offices, integrating its advisory and grant-giving with its historic attractions at regional level. As Deputy Chief Executive of the Housing Corporation from 1995 to 1997, she was responsible for the regional teams and its annual £2 billion programme of investment in social housing through housing associations. As a civil servant in the Department of the Environment from 1975 to 1994, she worked on local government finance, transport, inner city regeneration and housing policies and in Brussels on legislation to protect the environment. Her report for Cabinet Office and Treasury 'Better Government Services: Executive Agencies in the 21st Century' was published in July 2002 and its recommendations are being implemented.

Chris Bichard – Managing Director, South East Coachworks

Chris Bichard was born in Northern Rhodesia August 1961, relocated with his parents to Southern Rhodesia in 1962. Chris left secondary school and undertook compulsory national service with the Rhodesian Light Infantry.

Upon disbandment, Chris entered into the asset finance market with UDC (part of UDT Group). Not seeing a future in the Mugabe regime and Zimbabwe, Chris moved to England in June 1986. On the 4th August 2003, after various sales jobs and business enterprises, Chris purchased a failed business from liquidation. South East Coachworks was newly formed: - motto:

“Craftsmanship – Reliability”

Chris Bichard said:

“My vision is to enhance the skills and expertise of our very qualified craftsmen and pass it to the next generation by way of apprenticeship, whilst fulfilling my youth’s visions of Great Britain. When I was growing up in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Great Britain was my idol country, British Steel, the Morris Minor, coal mines and battle ships; skilled craftsmen creating great things, we must ensure the future of this craft by educating young people coming through, in the different areas of this trade.”

James E Brathwaite, CBE – Chairman, SEEDA

Jim Brathwaite is Chairman of SEAL Ltd an environmental company based in Burgess Hill, whose equipment is used to test nearly all the drinking water in the UK. He is also Chairman of four other small businesses in Sussex, Community Alerts, Morgan Everett and the local radio stations in Worthing, Splash FM, and Brighton, Brighton and Hove Radio Ltd. He is also a director of RSTV Ltd in Maidstone. After graduating in Zoology and Physiology at Sheffield University, Jim’s early career was in accountancy, marketing and sales with Beecham and Bayer Pharmaceuticals until he started his own business designing training videos for industry in 1982. This led him on to form Epic Interactive Media in Brighton in 1989, which he built up to become one of Europe’s largest multimedia companies, and a listed company, employing 150 staff. He floated the company in 1996 becoming Britain’s first Black CEO of a publicly quoted company.

He was appointed to the Board of SEEDA the Development Agency for the South East of England in December 2001 and in August 2002 was appointed Chairman. Jim is a member of the Court of the Sussex University, the DTI’s Manufacturing Forum and Small Business Investment Taskforce, Strategic Supply Chain Group, and until April 2006 DEFRA’s Sustainable Procurement Taskforce, and until June 2005 of the UK Trade and Investment’s International Trade Development Advisory Panel, when he was then appointed to the new International Business Advisory Panel until October 2006. From June 2006 he became a member of the DTI’s Environmental Innovations Advisory Group and from November 2006 became a member of DeFRA’s Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance. He is a director of the University of Greenwich, Farnham Castle Trustees Ltd, Environment Agency, Public Catalogue Foundation, and until August 2004, was a director of the National Business Angels Network Ltd. He became a member of City & Guilds Council in September 2006. Jim was a member of the national Small Business Council until June 2004, with responsibility for dealing with the Inland Revenue, and of the government’s Export Advisory Committee for the ‘Americas’, and the DTI’s Investment Committee until March 2006. He was a director of Sussex TEC Ltd from April 1993, which then became Sussex Enterprise in 1995, and he remained on the board until December 2002. He was the

founding Chairman of Business Link Sussex, holding the post from 1996-2001, and also a founding Director of "Wired Sussex". He has been: Treasurer of the Caribbean Advisory Group at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Chairman of the Arundel Festival; Governor of Brighton & Hove 6th Form College; a member of the Council of the University of Sussex. He is also Patron of the Asian Business Council. He was awarded the CBE for services to the Sussex economy in the New Year's Honours 2001. He was also awarded an Honorary Degree from University College Chichester in 2003 and became an Honorary Fellow of City & Guilds in February 2006 and a Councillor in September 2006. In October 2007 Jim was appointed as Honorary Consul for South Africa in the South East England.

Councillor Elizabeth Cartwright – East Hampshire DC

Elizabeth Cartwright has been a District Councillor on East Hampshire DC since 1987 and was the Housing Committee Chairman from 1990-9. Elizabeth was Council representative on the Boards of both Hangras and East Hampshire Housing Associations (now part of Drum Housing Association) from their inception until she became Leader of EHDC, was leader from 1999-2004 and remains in the Cabinet with the portfolio for housing. Elizabeth has been a member of the S. E. Regional Housing Board since 2004 and its Chairman, following its transfer to the Regional Assembly, since May 2006. Elizabeth is the EHDC representative on SEERA and an ex-officio member of the Executive.

Elizabeth took part in the Rural Excellence programme run by IDeA in 2007 and gave peer support to Warwick DC. Elizabeth is also a member of the Rural Housing Advisory Group and chairs the HARAHA (Hampshire Alliance Rural Affordable Housing) Members Group in central Hampshire.

Megan Dobney - Regional Secretary, SERTUC

Megan Dobney is the Regional Secretary of SERTUC. The Southern and Eastern Regional Council of the Trades Union Congress represents TUC affiliated trade unions in London, the South East and the East of England. SERTUC directly represents the interests of those unions' two million members who live and work in this region.

Megan is a Board member of the London Development Agency, a non-executive director of Greater London Enterprise, a member of the East of England Development Agency's Strategy Committee and of its Equality and Diversity Advisory Group, a member of the Steering Group of the East of England Employment Relations forum, a member of the South East of England Development Agency's RES Steering Group, and of SEEDA's Social Dialogue Forum.

Megan is also a Vice President of the EuresChannel Inter-Regional TUC.

Mike Galvin - Director of BT plc, South East

Mike Galvin took up the role of BT's South East Regional Director in April 2007. Mike is passionate about bringing excellence to BT's customers using BT's services, anywhere in the world. Mike believes that this is a challenging objective but it matches BT's ambitions and a key component of helping BT's customers to thrive.

Mike has had a career which started in the Ministry of Defence in Farnborough, until he joined BT in 1985. Since then Mike has worked on a number of projects, mostly aimed at introducing new technology. During the recent period of explosive internet growth, Mike was Head of Internet Operations in BT during the first Narrowband and then Broadband revolutions – one of BT's internet pioneers.

Mike passionately believes in the internet and the online World as a force to accelerate commerce, extend personal education, communications and freedom. He says "In ten years the internet has changed forever the way people live and work. Imagine what it will do in the next ten".

Mike is also involved in projects protecting children on the internet.

Mike grew up and went to school in the Gosport area and has spent most of his career living and working in the South East. Educated in Gosport, Mike now lives in Bedfordshire with this partner and their four children.

Mike's interests are rugby, shooting and sailing but his family takes up most of his time.

Mike has a BEng in Electrical Engineering and an MSc in Telecommunications Engineering.

Paul Lovejoy – Executive Director, Strategy & Communications, SEEDA

Paul Lovejoy is an economist with 25 years of experience in economic development as a practitioner and consultant. Paul joined SEEDA in 2000.

Paul led the development of the Regional Economic Strategy for South East England 2006 – 2016.

Marinos Paphitis – Regional Director for the South East, Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

Marinos Paphitis was appointed Regional Director for the South East in June of this year. Marinos has been with the LSC since its inception in 2001 and has wide-ranging experience of the learning and skills sector. Marinos was previously the LSC Area Director for Wiltshire & Swindon and Gloucestershire. Prior to this role, Marinos was the Executive Director for LSC Somerset and was also Director of the LSC's National Employer Service.

During his time at the LSC in the South West, Marinos was the lead on Apprenticeship developments and performance. He also played a key role in developing the new national Apprenticeship Service.

Marinos had also formerly worked in the South East region, where he undertook a range of senior roles including the position of Training Director for Thames Valley Enterprise.

Jonathan Shaw MP, Regional Minister for the South East

Jonathan Shaw MP is Regional Minister for the South East and represents Chatham and Aylesford. In the latest reshuffle, Mr Shaw was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary with responsibility for Disabled People at the Department for Work and Pensions. Prior to this, he was Parliamentary Under Secretary in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. He has identified housing and skills/employability as priorities for his Regional Minister role.

Mr Shaw worked as a social worker and was a local councilor on Rochester City Council before being elected to Westminster in 1997. Born and bred in Kent, he enjoys folk music, walking and dancing in his spare time.

Bob Sherwood – London and South East Correspondent, Financial Times

Bob Sherwood is the London and South-East Correspondent of the Financial Times, covering business, socio-economic and political issues across the region.

Bob was previously the FT's Legal Correspondent and a home news editor. An experienced journalist, Bob has also written for a range of other national and provincial newspapers and worked as a freelance in Canada.

Dr William Thomson - Director, International Economics, Experian Business Strategies

William Thomson is Director of International Economics at Experian. He has worked for many years to help some of the world's leading private sector organisations understand how economic change will impact on their business portfolios. At Experian, William is responsible for global macroeconomic and regional analysis and forecasting. William is currently leading Experian's initiative to apply economic forecasts and analysis to portfolio risk analysis and in particular forecasting future portfolio losses.

Prior to that, William was Managing Director of European Economics at Global Insight and Vice President of European Fixed Income Research at Merrill Lynch. William has also worked for a number of years in the public sector at the Department of Trade and Industry and in the portfolio risk management division of the UK Export Credit Agency (ECGD). He holds degrees from the University of Essex in the UK and a PhD from the University of Connecticut in the USA.