

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
ALL-MEMBER MEETING**



Date: 7 February 2012

Subject: Skills Action Planning Workshop on 8 March: Outline programme & invitation to attend

Report by: Nick Woolfenden, SEEC Head of Policy Co-ordination

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- i. Note the outline programme for the forthcoming skills and employment action planning workshop, and the recent confirmation that Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Minister for Employment, will be speaking.
- ii. Note the invitation to register for a free place and advise SEEC's officers of any additional contacts to invite from the business community or other organisations.

1.1 Responding to members' suggestions at the last all-member meeting, we are holding a free action planning workshop 'Working our way to economic growth - skills and abilities to drive the economy' on Thursday 8 March 2012, 13.30–16.30 (registration/lunch from 12.45), at the Institute of Materials Minerals & Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB. This follows SEEC's Executive Committee meeting on the same day.

1.2 It will be a stimulating opportunity to identify actions that local government and partners can take to deliver the skills and abilities needed to support business growth and help tackle high unemployment, particularly among young people. The workshop is being jointly hosted by SEEC, South East Strategic Leaders (SESL) and the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM). It will be chaired by Cllr Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council.

1.3 We are pleased the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Minister for Employment at DWP, has confirmed he will join us to set out how the Government plans to tackle these challenges. We are also pleased to have a varied and experienced panel to help inform discussions and action planning on what local government, Local Enterprise Partnerships, businesses and skills/education providers can do to address these important issues, including:

- Workforce skills for business growth, including issues around economic migration - Doug Morrison, Chairman of Solent LEP; and Marc Bayliss, Worcester Research.
- Developing local skills to match business needs - Richard Byard, Reading UK CIC (Community Interest Company).
- Delivering skills, qualifications and employability - Cllr Paul Carter, Kent County Council; Jan Edrich, Association of South East Colleges; and Professor Ruth Hussey, Bucks New University.

1.4 The meeting will close with a focused action planning session to help identify what more can be done to address the challenges and seize the opportunities.

1.5 Places are limited so please register by emailing

hayleyaustin@secouncils.gov.uk before 23 February 2012. If you are unable to attend please pass the invitation to a colleague and we will be pleased to receive their registration. Invitations have been sent to all SEEC and SESL members, and a range of other business and skills/education organisations. Members should advise SEEC officers if they want any specific contacts to be invited from the business community or other related organisations.