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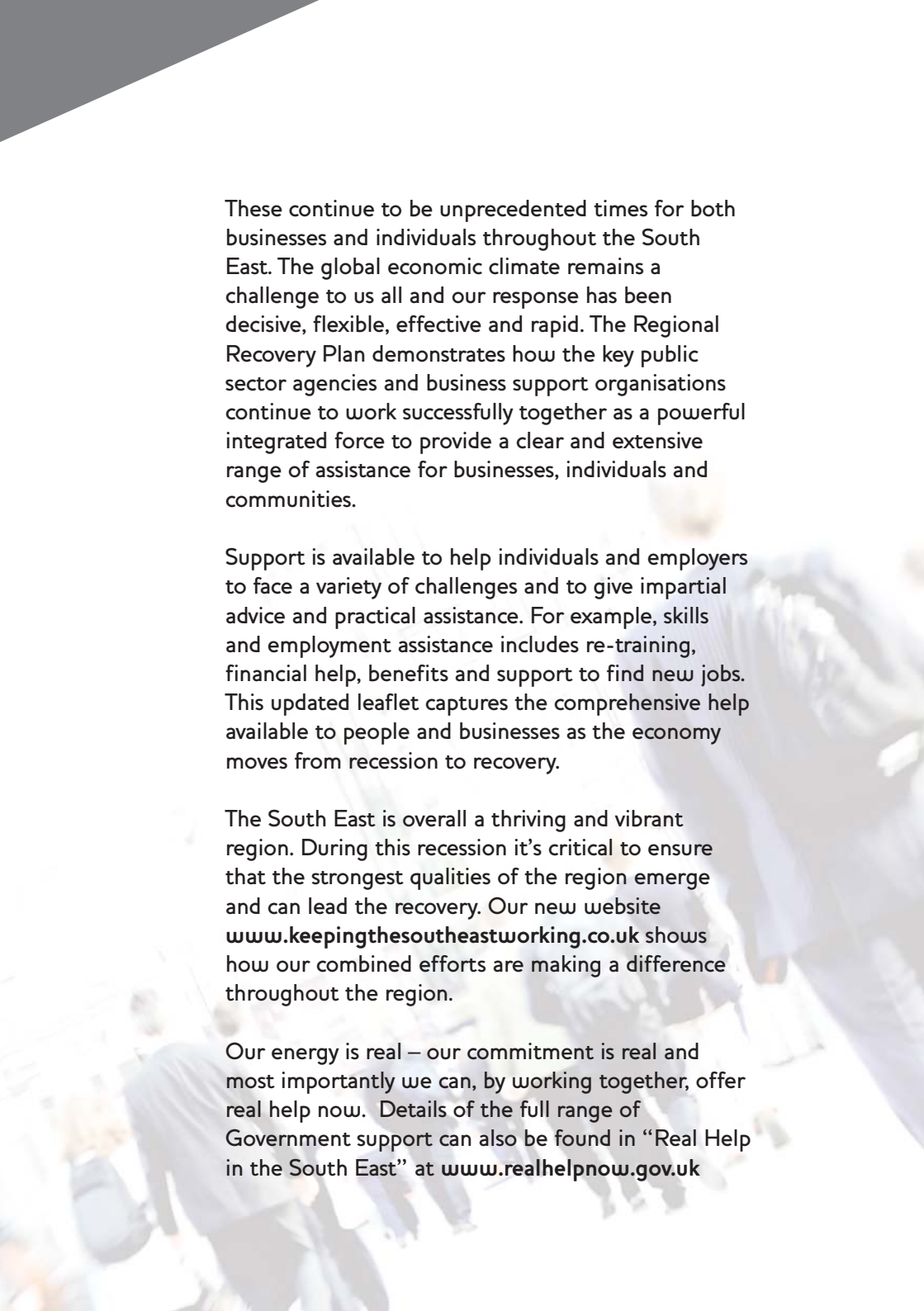
KEEPING THE SOUTH EAST WORKING

From Recession to Recovery

www.keepingthesoutheastworking.co.uk

PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER TO MOVE FROM RECESSION TO RECOVERY





These continue to be unprecedented times for both businesses and individuals throughout the South East. The global economic climate remains a challenge to us all and our response has been decisive, flexible, effective and rapid. The Regional Recovery Plan demonstrates how the key public sector agencies and business support organisations continue to work successfully together as a powerful integrated force to provide a clear and extensive range of assistance for businesses, individuals and communities.

Support is available to help individuals and employers to face a variety of challenges and to give impartial advice and practical assistance. For example, skills and employment assistance includes re-training, financial help, benefits and support to find new jobs. This updated leaflet captures the comprehensive help available to people and businesses as the economy moves from recession to recovery.

The South East is overall a thriving and vibrant region. During this recession it's critical to ensure that the strongest qualities of the region emerge and can lead the recovery. Our new website www.keepingthesoutheastworking.co.uk shows how our combined efforts are making a difference throughout the region.

Our energy is real – our commitment is real and most importantly we can, by working together, offer real help now. Details of the full range of Government support can also be found in “Real Help in the South East” at www.realhelpnow.gov.uk



EXTENSIVE SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Jobcentre Plus

Contact Jobcentre Plus at
www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk
for advice on

- Claiming benefits – **0800 055 66 88**
- Job vacancies – **0845 6060 234**
- Finding work and local labour market information
- Training opportunities to learn new skills or improve existing ones
- Specialist support for lone parents and people with a health condition or disability
- Self employment
- Volunteering opportunities
- Help for people at risk of redundancy via the Rapid Response Service and Continuing Employment Support Service (CESS) in partnership with SEEDA. Help is tailored to individual needs and can include job search techniques and support; training and benefits advice
- New measures are being introduced over the coming months to assist young people under 25 who have been out of work for some time. These measures include funding 150,000 jobs through the Future Jobs Fund. Initially, in the South East, 3,800 jobs will be created. More graduate internships and apprenticeships are also being developed.
- Adults aged 25 or over and unemployed for six months will get access to jobs supported by recruitment subsidies, help setting up a business, skills training or volunteering opportunities

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Business Link

Contact Business Link on
0845 600 9 006 or
www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast
for advice on and access to:

- Support for people thinking about starting a business.

nextstep

Contact nextstep on **0800 195 4700** or
www.nextstepsoutheast.org.uk for:

- Free, face-to-face advice on learning, training and work.
- Support from experienced advisers offering an impartial and confidential service to all adults.
- Help with finding work, updating skills, changing direction or improving careers prospects.
- Advice on training and information about training courses.
- Employment workshops covering CV design, application forms and interview skills.
- Personal development including confidence building.
- Information about other support available such as funding and childcare.



Trade Union Congress (TUC)

unionlearn is the learning, skills, and workforce development arm of the Trade Union Congress (TUC). With over 1500 union learning reps (ULRs) in the South East, trade unions are assisting thousands of workers to develop their skills and knowledge, progress at work, and improve their chances of finding employment in the wider labour market. TUC provides advice on a variety of areas such as Employment Law and redundancy and claiming benefits. For further information on how TUC can help you or your employer through the economic downturn:

Phone: **020 7467 1284**
www.unionlearn.org.uk

Other help for individuals is available from

www.direct.gov.uk and
www.realhelpnow.gov.uk
www.traintogain.gov.uk
www.apprenticeships.org.uk
www.learndirect.co.uk
www.connexions-direct.co.uk
<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/econsoc/challenge/>

Local authority websites all contain details of other locally available support.

EXTENSIVE SUPPORT AVAILABLE



FOR BUSINESSES

Business Link

Business Link is the primary access channel for all business support in the South East.

Contact Business Link on
0845 600 9 006 or
www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast
for advice and access to:

- Free Business Health Check which offers advice on cash-flow, marketing and business planning, debt management and product development.
- Access to finance advice
- Guidance on how to survive in difficult times.
- Specialist skills assessment and access to Train to Gain to increase the skills of your workforce. A team of skills advisers provide quality assured impartial advice to help businesses identify skills needs and source high quality vocational training, such as Apprenticeships and leadership and management opportunities.
- Information on new business opportunities and markets.
- Financing is available via Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and freeing up bank lending.
- Grant for Business Investment. Funding is available for those companies whose capital investment plans are being held up by the current economic conditions.
- Immerse programme providing extensive design support to selected larger businesses who are looking for robust business development opportunities.
- Manufacturing Advisory Service.
- Transition Loan Fund. Directed at those fully established viable businesses who are currently facing difficulties in obtaining credit through banks.
- Commercialisation Fund. Available for companies with high growth potential to bring new services into the market.

**SEEDA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNDING AND DELIVERING
BUSINESS LINK IN THE SOUTH EAST.**

EXTENSIVE SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Jobcentre Plus

Contact Jobcentre Plus on
0845 601 2001 or
www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/employers
for advice on:

- A comprehensive range of support to help employers recruit the right people. There is nothing to pay and no red tape. These services make the difference to thousands of employers dealing with changes in the current economic climate.
- Professional, modern and free Vacancy Advertising Services to get jobs noticed by the right people.
- Recruitment Advisory Services provide free access to a range of practical measures and financial support to help employers of any size meet their recruitment needs in return for working with our customers.
- Local Employment Partnerships where employers and Jobcentre Plus work together to unlock the talent available in the local community.
- The Continuing Employment Support Service (CESS) in partnership with SEEDA offers a free, tailored, in-house package of support to businesses making redundancies, help for workers before they leave employment, such as advice on pensions, state benefits, careers advice, CV writing and interview techniques.

Alliance of Sector Skills Councils

Contact Sector Skills Councils on
0845 072 5600 or www.sscalliance.org

- The Alliance represents all 25 Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) and acts as their collective voice by:
 - promoting understanding of the role of SSCs within the skills system
 - co-ordinating policy positions and strategic work on skills with stakeholders
 - ensuring the training and skills needs of employers are met. Sector Skills Councils are employer driven organisations that together articulate the voice of the employers of more than 85% of the UK's workforce on skills issues.

FOR BUSINESSES



ACAS

ACAS can help your business to understand legislation and explore the support available through difficult economic times. If facing a redundancy situation, early consultation with your employees is pivotal to success, and Acas advisors can help guide through this process. Call the ACAS helpline for advice on any employment related matter on **08457 474747** or visit www.acas.org.uk

Other help for businesses is available from

www.traintogain.gov.uk

www.direct.gov.uk

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Local authority websites all contain details of other locally available support.



WHAT ARE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE KEY PARTNERS IN THE SOUTH EAST?

Keeping the South East Working is a co-ordinated approach to ensure businesses and individuals have access to business, employment and skills advice, support and practical assistance.

The aim is to help employers continue trading through the downturn and to help businesses and individuals prepare for and actively engage in the recovery.

This work is a priority in the region. Jobcentre Plus, the Learning and Skills Council and SEEDA, supported by the Government Office for the South East, are to deliver a plan of action by working in regional and local partnerships, which will critically include local authorities and local networks with a focus on:

- Supporting **businesses** through a package of measures aimed at improving business viability and assisting with specific issues.
- Providing a rapid response for those at threat of, or experiencing, **redundancy**.
- Enhancing **adult information, advice and guidance** so that individuals, especially those made redundant, have tailored advice and signposting to relevant training or employment and other necessary services.
- Providing **employment support and skills opportunities** including for those who are unemployed or at risk of redundancy, through both pre-employment and vocational training.
- Supporting **young people** as they prepare for employment and training or face redundancy.

Individuals and businesses will benefit from clear signposting to the skills, business and employment support available to them for workforce development, re-training, benefits and financial support and finding new jobs.



- Provides information, advice and support to start, maintain and grow businesses.
- Helps businesses to understand their needs and refers them to the most appropriate support from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast



- Provides face-to-face information, advice and support to individuals on learning and work.
- Provides practical employability workshops.
- Helps individuals identify transferable skills, strengths and training needs.

www.nextstepsoutheast.org.uk



- Assists employers and employees in redundancy situations, including the Rapid Response Fund for redundant workers.
- Assists employers with recruitment
- Provides benefits and employment advice to individuals
- Access to the largest UK jobs database

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk



- Provides the strategic lead for the regional response to the downturn.
- Identifies and co-ordinates relevant funds and programmes.
- Supports sub regional partnerships.
- Manages CESS in partnership with JCP
- Funds and delivers Business Link in the South East.

www.seeda.co.uk



Leading learning and skills

- Monitors redundancy and downturn support in local areas.
- Identifies, reviews and funds skills provision to support businesses and individuals, including Train to Gain and Apprenticeships.

www.lsc.gov.uk



- Works with Government and its agencies to test out plans from an employer perspective.
- Provides advice and guidance on opportunities and support available to companies.
- Signposts employers to options relating to skills and productivity.

www.sscalliance.org.uk



For national assistance
www.realhelpnow.gov.uk

