



South East
Centre for the
Built Environment

25 October 2005

Press Release

Your Voice, Your Choice – businesses work together to identify what is really needed to help good companies do even better.

On Thursday, 20 October 2005, the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) invited businesses in the construction and wider built environment sector to find out exactly how SECBE can make a difference to their "bottom line" and to demonstrate how closely the organisation works with regional government bodies.

The event included presentations from the South East Regional Assembly (SEERA) and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) highlighting the sheer scale of the sector and the challenges to businesses in the region. As SECBE exists to help companies meet these demands by improving their overall business performance, these presentations provided the context in which to assess the value of SECBE's services.

Discussion groups got businesses working together to identify the specific issues and barriers which need to be addressed in SECBE's four priority areas of work: Client Leadership, Planning Process, People Performance and Business Performance. This gave delegates a taster of how the SECBE consortium really works, showing how it gives members a voice to express their concerns and to influence policies/strategies while identifying which products should be developed so that SECBE's services align with the needs of its members.

The SECBE approach was clearly demonstrated during the feedback session when SECBE responded immediately to the issues captured in the discussion groups, and by the speed in which it conducted and analysed an "on the spot" benchmarking exercise. SECBE and its members will drive the sector's demand for change.

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Changing the image of the industry and promoting construction as a “choice” career was the focus for National Construction Week. People and skills are key to business performance. The eight South East events organised for NCW '05 by SECBE/SEEDA partnership, and ongoing initiatives such as the Construction Ambassadors and Considerate Constructors Schemes were the focus of some thought and discussion.

The South East Centre for the Built Environment is a not-for-profit organisation. It works in strategic partnership with SEEDA and is the regional partner for Constructing Excellence in the Built Environment. Business-owned and business-led, its members are representative of the whole supply chain, including clients, developers, designers, contractors and suppliers.

For more information see www.secbe.org.uk or phone Tina McGeachan, Marketing Manager for a Membership Pack.

Photo caption: Whose voice on planning? Pictured here, the discussion group on Planning at the recent SECBE members meeting. John Pounder, South East Regional Assembly; Patrick Feighery, Linden Homes; Tim Richards, PRP Architects; Nicholas Bather, Barton Willmore; Vincent Haines, Bracknell Forest Borough Council; Paul Miller, Calford Seaden; Kevin Tollet, Geomatic Engineering; Graham Anderson, Peak Quality Homes and facilitator Dennis Seal, Kier Partnership Homes and SECBE Board Member.

Notes for Editors:

About SECBE

The South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) is a new consortium of business leaders that exists to inform regional policy and drive business-to-business learning and networking. We are not a “talking shop” - we take regional strategies and industry issues and develop action plans to improve business performance throughout the supply chain.

Owned and driven by its members, SECBE’s programmes of work are identified by its members and agreed by an elected Management Board in consultation with an advisory group of key stakeholders.

The South East Centre for the Built Environment’s business membership is for: Clients, Developers, Designers, Contractors and Suppliers

Member services include:

- ▶ Information & networking;
- ▶ Influence - Brokerage between the industry and strategic regional/local government bodies.
- ▶ Improvement – relevant business tools and services

For further information, please contact

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