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## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Queen outlined the Government's legislative priorities for the coming Parliamentary year at the official state opening of Parliament on 18 November. In total, 13 Bills and two draft Bills were announced, some of which were carried over from the 2008/09 legislative programme (for example, the Equality Bill) or had featured in the draft legislative programme announced back in June 2009 (such as the Digital Economy and Flood and Water Management Bills). New Bills announced included the Fiscal Responsibility Bill and the Personal Care at Home Bill. RDA lead roles are currently looking at the content of the Bills to identify any potential impact on the RDA network.

1.2 The sixth formal "Cabinet outside London" event was held on 20 November in Nottingham. The event provided an opportunity for over 150 representatives from business and local communities to discuss a range of issues with Cabinet Ministers. Key areas of discussion focused on antisocial behaviour, family intervention programmes and youth unemployment. Alongside this event, Ministers also took the opportunity to visit various projects and programmes across the region. *emda* worked closely with GOEM to identify relevant projects and provide associated briefing in relation to these visits. Key visits included a visit to Phoenix Square, Leicester by Regional Minister, Phil Hope. Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson, visited the Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, Nottingham and Pat McFadden visited businesses in Swadlincote.

1.3 The Regional Index of Sustainable Economic Wellbeing (R-ISEW) has been updated on behalf of *emda* by the New Economics Foundation. The latest data (for 2007) ranks the East Midlands 4<sup>th</sup> among the English regions. 5 other regions are now actively using the R-ISEW for monitoring purposes. Funding has been secured from Natural England and a consortium of regions to further develop this measure. Work to disseminate the R-ISEW continues and we recently gave a presentation to a national DEFRA conference on environmental limits – we were the only external organisation given this opportunity and the R-ISEW stimulated a significant amount of interest and discussion at the event.

### 2. Raising Productivity

#### 2.1 Employment, Learning and Skills

2.1.1 East Midlands' schools, colleges, universities, businesses and third sector agencies turned out in force for the fifth year in a row to celebrate **Global Entrepreneurship Week** (GEW) held from 16 to 22 November. Unleashing Enterprise, the *emda* funded enterprise programme, recorded upwards of 300 events taking place across the region during the week, including activity targeted at primary school age children through to later life entrepreneurs. Key events held during the week in which *emda* was involved included:

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- The regional heats of the Make Your Mark Challenge, which involved over 80 regional schools and colleges. This year's challenge event had a low carbon theme and encouraged young people to show how they could develop viable businesses that are not harmful to the environment.
  - *emda*, in partnership with Enterprise UK, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Disability Direct held an enterprise and disability event in Derby. The event assessed whether young disabled people have equal access to enterprise skills development and business support. The 25 delegates came away with a clear set of actions to implement to ensure that enterprise support is equitable and accessible to all.
  - The first ever Home Enterprise Day was held in Nottingham, with prospective home entrepreneurs hearing from those who are already delivering successful businesses from home.

2.1.2 The region's winning entry, Ashfield School and Skill Centre achieved third place and won the Highly Commended trophy against a strong field of 12 entrants in the national final of the **Enterprising Britain** Competition held in London on 30 November. The overall winner was Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services with their programme of enterprise activity in Lowestoft and East Anglia. The chair of judges commented on how impressed the judging panel had been by the school's enterprising approach to engaging the community and businesses with education in such progressive and creative ways. Since its inception in 2005 the East Midlands has had considerable success in the competition, showcasing excellent examples of enterprising activity supported by *emda*: the winning entry in 2005 (Sherwood Energy Village); the national and European runner-up in 2006 (the Welland SSP); and last year's regional winner, BioCity, was praised for its success in building a culture of enterprise.

2.1.3 An East Midlands Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) Partnership Forum Event - **Enriching the STEM Workforce of Tomorrow** was held on 18 November at the Nottingham Science Park to address the importance of engaging employers in STEM education. The Partnership, funded by *emda* and supported by the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET), forms part of *emda*'s £9m STEM investment programme. 122 delegates heard from keynote speakers Sir Alan Jones of Toyota and Semta and Kate Bellingham the National STEM Careers Coordinator from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). *emda* board member Martin Bryant also showcased the work taking place across the region through *emda*'s STEM programme. East Midlands employers, including Siemens, 4energy, NHS and Easibind, shared their views and experiences on engaging with education and their own skills needs and took part in a Question and Answer session. The STEM Partnership was recently highlighted as an example of good practice by the DCSF in their STEM Careers Action programme.

2.1.4 The successful applicants of the second phase of **Catapulting Kids Further!** were announced on 24 November. This phase has invested a further £1.7m of capital grants to regional schools and businesses. The programme allows schools to purchase equipment that will inspire and enthuse young people in engineering, manufacturing,

bioscience, sustainable construction and the low carbon economy, all critical to the region's economy. Successful applicants include:

- a virtual manufacturing 'world' for a consortium of schools in Northamptonshire;
- a Forensics Lab for a partnership of schools in Lincolnshire;
- a high-tech manufacturing centre for musical instruments for schools in Newark, Nottinghamshire.

This second phase also created an opportunity for businesses to apply for grants to support their engagement with schools. Businesses needed to demonstrate how the equipment would initiate, improve and expand their relationship with schools. Successful applicants are now contractually bound to work with regional schools to offer work experience, teacher-industry exchanges and support class based curriculum activities.

Successful businesses include:

- Sasie Ltd who will provide learning on renewable technology;
- Easibind International Ltd who will purchase manufacturing software to establish a virtual learning centre with local schools.

It is expected this second phase will build on the initial pilot programme that saw over £750k invested in similar projects. Initial findings have been positive with one school in North Nottinghamshire witnessing double the number of students applying to study engineering; an average increase of half a grade at a school in Northamptonshire; and the application of construction and the environment across a school's entire curriculum in Derbyshire.

## 2.2 Enterprise and Business Support

### Enterprise

2.2.1 On 3 November Lord Mandelson hosted an event giving the Government's formal response to the two taskforces representing **Women's Enterprise and Ethnic Minority Business**. The new measures focused on further developing support in critical areas such as business support, access to finance, procurement opportunities, advocacy and data. They included establishment of a Women's Enterprise Champion in each region and a new industry-led Women's Enterprise Forum to increase GVA growth through women entrepreneurs. Also, a new Ethnic Minority Business Advocacy Network (EMBAN) was formally announced to provide a single strategic voice on behalf of ethnic minority businesses across the UK. This will be led by the RDAs, with *emda* taking the lead on setting this up, and with the official launch planned for February 2010. Two other key announcements were a commitment between major high street banks to continue to improve the routes to business finance for women and ethnic-minority businesses and increasing the data available on women's and ethnic minority enterprises to provide evidence for advocacy and policy. Bryan Jackson closed the event by confirming the RDA family commitment to the two agendas and *emda*'s lead on working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on the response to the two taskforces.

2.2.2 The regional launch of the national cross departmental strategy entitled '**Valuing Employment Now: Real Jobs for People with Learning Disabilities**' took place on 12 November in Nottingham. The strategy aims to close the employment gap between those with learning disabilities and the disabled population as a whole by increasing the number

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of jobs available and ensuring the appropriate support. The overall goal is to increase the number of people with moderate and severe learning disabilities in employment by 2025. The event was hosted by the Department of Health and participants were informed of the goals and expectations of the initiative, requirements from stakeholders and best practice case studies from existing schemes. *emda*, who are cited in the national strategy in the self employment field, delivered a workshop on self employment opportunities and highlighted best practice and the support on offer through Business Link.

2.2.3 The **Business Champions** main annual event took place on 3 November, focusing on the current economic climate and how business must adapt to the changing social environment. Keynote speaker Peter Bazalgette, former Chairman of Endemol UK, spoke about his time at the forefront of emerging social trends and how he adapted to create a new wave of television programming. I also spoke on *emda*'s response to the economic downturn and the importance of working in partnership with businesses to inspire the region. The Business Champions programme has also secured Speedo as a partner to support Olympic athletes as they progress through their 2012 training towards finding new skills and careers in business.

### **Business Support**

2.2.4 The **Solutions for Business (SfB) programme** continues to progress towards full alignment of the whole portfolio by March 2010, with the recent transition of Enterprise Loans East Midlands and the commencement of the alignment of the suite of regional Innovation programmes to the national product portfolio. *emda* has also led RDAs in discussions with Government on the development of business cases for Mentoring and Supplier Development Support, which were identified as gaps in the initial portfolio of Solutions for Business products. Both cases have been received positively and a decision on them is imminent. *emda* has also played a central role in cross-RDA work on **mapping local authority support programmes** to help BIS establish whether there is a risk of local authority non-compliance with SfB by the March 2010 deadline. This work has helped BIS to quantify the risk, alleviate some concerns and put forward further proposals to the national Transition Management Board for how to assist local authorities along their intended transition paths to align with the SfB portfolio of products.

2.2.5 In November 2008, *emda* launched the **Route to Market** programme as part of its response to support businesses during the downturn. The programme was successfully delivered between January and July 2009, supporting 89 businesses through an intensive five day workshop programme against a target of 80. The workshop covered five key elements - business strategy, customer retention, sales and marketing, recruitment and development and finance. As a result of its success and continued demand from businesses in the current economic climate and to help them prepare for the up-turn, a further Route to Market programme will be delivered from January 2010. A minimum of 90 businesses are expected to benefit.

2.2.6 The number of businesses published on the **CompeteFor** Olympic 2012 database has increased by 33%, from 1,829 to 2,441 between June and October. This has been achieved by a series of sustained marketing campaigns and presentations to businesses

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and membership organisations across the East Midlands. Publishing a profile enables a business to be selected for tendering shortlists by buyers. During the same period, a further five East Midlands businesses have won contracts directly as a result of being registered on CompeteFor, taking the total to 14. This is in addition to 34 organisations winning London 2012 Games related work through their respective supply chains.

2.2.7 25 East Midlands businesses attended the **2012 Business Summit** on 4 November at ExCeL, London. The summit saw the launch of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) procurement categories by Lord Mandelson. LOCOG announced a further £1.7bn worth of contracts to be awarded, with £700m going to open tender before the start of the Games. 10 of the businesses stayed for a further day, to engage in one-to-one meetings with buyers and procurement officers. The businesses took the opportunity to promote their business not only to LOCOG, but to buyers from South Africa, Brazil, Russia and Poland, who will all be staging Games related activity over the coming years.

### **Manufacturing**

2.2.8 Bryan Jackson spoke alongside BIS Ministers Pat McFadden and Ian Lucas at an event to celebrate progress in implementing and developing the **Government's Manufacturing Strategy** since its publication a little over a year ago. This event was well attended by industry, senior stakeholders, and the national press. BIS appreciated *emda* support in the organisation of the event, and gave useful opportunities for us to profile the RDA role and achievements, including the official launch of the Manufacturing Technology Centre (the joint initiative with Advantage West Midlands) and the Manufacturing Insight initiative.

2.2.9 The **Manufacturing Advisory Service in the East Midlands (MAS EM)** project is still progressing well, with on-site manufacturing review activity currently ahead of profile, along with Businesses Assisted outputs (376 against a full year profile of 440). A supplementary contract agreement has now been agreed for the delivery of additional MAS activity in the areas of Low Carbon and Advanced Manufacturing. Over the next few weeks, the MAS EM team will continue to plan the implementation of this additional activity and the marketing strategy is due to commence in December.

2.2.10 On behalf of the regions, the **MAS National Network team**, based in *emda*, has coordinated a range of initiatives that are geared to deliver against the additional £8m provided to MAS in the recently announced Advanced Manufacturing and Low Carbon Industrial strategies. One example has been that MAS national has developed a relationship with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) and partnered with the NIA at two events to increase SMEs' awareness of opportunities in the area of UK Civil Nuclear build. The team will also deliver a workshop at the Manufacturers Directors Conference with the NIA and have co-funded a case study to showcase examples of how MAS and NIA can support SMEs. The team also showcased MAS to a range of manufacturers and public sector partners at the BIS manufacturing Strategy one year on event.

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## Business Investment

2.2.11 In the last month **Grant for Research and Development (GRD)** payments totalling £2.47m, representing 55% of the annual budget have been made by the Business Investment Team. These payments represent Single Programme expenditure of £1.77m and ERDF expenditure of £700k. At the current rate of progress, we are on course to spend a total of £4.5m – combining single pot and ERDF - in GRD grant payments in the current financial year. This represents the largest financial commitment ever made to GRD, by either *emda*, or the DTI's Small Business Service who delivered this programme before 2005. In the financial year to date, 31 grant offers totalling £2.77m have been made, reflecting the continued interest in, and commitment to, innovation activity by East Midlands businesses. There is little doubt that we have seen an upturn in requests for funding as companies have encountered difficulties in raising commercial finance to cover the full cost of R&D projects. In addition, we have just awarded out first small 'Proof of Market' grant under the GRD scheme. Following a review of the GRD scheme by BIS and the RDAs as part of the Business Support Simplification Programme, Proof of Market grants were added to the GRD portfolio in April this year to provide funding for market assessments and intellectual property reviews.

2.2.12 A further five companies have been awarded grants totalling £1.72m, under the **Grant for Business Investment (GBI)** scheme. 3 of these 5 grants have also been awarded with the support of ERDF funding. ERDF funding of £1.4m was endorsed by BRG on 16 April for the three years from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013. So far this financial year, payments totalling £2.08m have been made to 40 companies under the GBI scheme, representing 66% of the scheme's annual budget against a target of 60% by 31 December 2009. These payments have created and safeguarded 239.5 jobs, generated £13.7m of private sector leverage and developed 10,297 sq.m. of employment floorspace.

2.2.13 Established in 2004, **Growth Investment Network East Midlands (GINEM)** aims to increase business angel activity in the region. On 7 October, I helped to launch GINEM's 'Angel Insight' programme in conjunction with the British Business Angels Association. This launch event is being followed by a series of in-depth workshops providing information and guidance to potential business angel investors. The evaluation of GINEM itself has now been completed. From this evaluation it is clear that this network has brought a greater sense of cohesion to the East Midland's investment community, generating new investment in the region's businesses which equates to 10 times the *emda* funding which GINEM has received. GINEM remains unique in the UK and an application for continuation funding – covering the period 2010-2013 – will shortly be submitted.

## International

2.2.14 Since the start of April 2009 we have been involved in 15 **inward investment** successes with more than 1,500 associated jobs created or safeguarded (against annual targets of 35 and 2,800 respectively).

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2.2.15 Our representative in India presented at the University of Nottingham's UK Science Bridge event in Delhi, launching the university's programme for collaboration with Indian universities and other institutions. The event, which was attended by senior officials from India's Department of Science and Technology and academic institutions, helped to raise the region's profile in India, as well as supporting the university's efforts to win business in the market.

2.2.16 We attended the international waste to energy event, Entsorga, in Cologne as part of the UKTI delegation and stand. Prearranged meetings with companies resulted in two specific enquiries and five other leads. We were also represented at the BWEA Wind Energy event in Liverpool, generating two leads from German companies.

2.2.17 The China Bureau organised a market visit to South West China between 14-22 October, involving eight companies from the region. The companies participated in the EU China Cooperation & Technology Fair and pre organised meetings with potential buyers. Five meetings were held with potential inward investors. A follow up exercise to assess impact was conducted on 17 Nov with the China Bureau. Three companies have expressed the intention to return to SW China in the next few months to follow up on company leads and one company intends to set up in Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

2.2.18 The India Bureau led a market visit to Gujarat, visiting Ahmedabad, Baroda and Surat, between 4-10 October. Three business networking events had been organised as part of the visit and the five East Midlands' businesses involved in the visit had one-to-one meetings with some 80 potential buyers. Three of the companies are returning to India before Christmas to finalise contracts with Indian companies. Meetings were also held with companies looking to invest in the East Midlands, including Central Bank.

2.2.19 During his speech to the CBI Conference in November, the Prime Minister announced that there would be a **British international investment conference** in London in the New Year. The event, which will target CEOs and senior executives from major global investors, will showcase the UK's exceptional strengths as a global investment location, and give them access to top UK decision makers. The RDAs will be invited to attend at senior level. It is likely that arrangements will also be made for participants to visit centres of excellence around the country. In our RDA lead role on International matters, we will be working closely with UK Trade & Investment to ensure that the English regions are promoted effectively.

2.2.20 12 East Midlands companies exhibited at the **Professional Motorsport World in Cologne** on 3-5 November. UKTI regional teams (South East, London, East of England, East Midlands) joined forces to take a stand at the show. The purpose of this was to provide an area which could be used by UK companies either exhibiting or just visiting the show to hold meetings with clients. This proved to be extremely popular, with most companies from the East Midlands making use of the facilities.

## Tourism

2.2.21 The findings of East Midlands Tourism's **final business survey for 2010**,

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conducted immediately after the October half-term holiday period, has revealed that 42% of businesses are looking to make improvements to their facilities a key priority for 2010. Just over one quarter are planning to upgrade their existing facilities to a higher standard. The focus on 'staycations', with more visitors choosing to holiday at home, continued into the autumn, with 38% of businesses reporting an increase in visitor numbers. However, the trend for last-minute bookings remains across all areas of the visitor economy.

2.2.22 EMT presented to secondary school teachers from across the East Midlands at a regional conference on 12 November, organised by Leicestershire Education Business Partnership. The event targeted teachers who will be delivering a new **14-19 Diploma in Travel and Tourism** from September 2010, and key employers, such as East Midlands Airport and Finesse Hotels, with the aim of helping them understand the new qualification.

2.2.23 *emda* Board Member Tricia Pedlar spoke at the opening of the new **National Volleyball Centre** at Kettering Leisure Centre at the beginning of November. *emda* provided modest financial support to the project which will see the centre become the national home of training and competition for all forms of volleyball – junior, men's, women's and sitting. The Centre will make a significant impact on the Northamptonshire economy through visitor stays and attracting international matches. It will also provide a great facility for local communities that will attract people of all ages to try an Olympic and Paralympic sport in the run up to the Games in London in 2012.

## 2.3 Innovation

2.3.1 The region had significant presence at **Innovate09**, the Technology Strategy Board's annual innovation conference, held in October. The Sustainable Construction and Healthcare & Bioscience iNets had stands at the event, within the Low Carbon and Life Sciences themed zones respectively, illustrating the innovation support to business across these two NINJ-related areas. The iFestival was also profiled, and attracted significant attention from visitors, with many leads being followed up, in particular with other RDAs who are considering adopting the principles of an iFestival for their area. Pam Alexander (SEEDA Chief Executive) and keynote speaker Lord Sugar both made references to the successful innovation support activities available in the East Midlands.

2.3.2 *emda's* **FP7 Service** has been successful in helping businesses and leading researchers to bid for and secure large-scale research funding from the European Union Framework 7 Programme. To date more than 50 SMEs in the region have joined FP7 consortia and are benefiting from funding to help them develop new products and technologies. Ten bids have been submitted from East Midlands organisations taking the lead and three of these have been successful to date, resulting in funding of €8m being secured. This success has brought the East Midlands to the attention of policy and programme leaders within the EU responsible for FP7 and we were subsequently approached to advise on the needs of SMEs and how some technology areas could be supported in the future. As a result, we took a delegation of seven regional innovation and technology-led SMEs on a visit to the Commission and spent time with the leads for the funding themes covering Research for the Benefit of SMEs and the programme around Nano, Materials and New Production Technologies. Feedback from the businesses has

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been positive and the Commission also wish to maintain the channels of communication going forward as the next generation of work programmes and funding calls evolve.

2.3.3 With BIS we have launched the **Cluster Mark** competition to find the region's most successful manufacturing clusters. Winners will receive national recognition and become one of a handful to be able to carry the Cluster Mark logo on their promotional material – a sign of the highest standards of innovation and success. East Midlands' manufacturing clusters of inter-connected companies, specialist suppliers, service providers and educational institutions are invited to encourage entries. Two regional winners will be announced in January 2010 and put forward to the national competition. National winners will be selected by a panel chaired by a BIS Minister and announced at a gala dinner later in 2010.

2.3.4 The second **Food and Drink iNet** Innovation Awards were held in Leicester on 17 November. The winners included:

- Most Innovative SME - Thornbridge Brewery, Ashford in the Water, Derbyshire - for their new brewery incorporating cutting-edge technology;
- Most Innovative Large Food & Drink Manufacturer - Marshall Bros (Butterwick) Ltd, Lincolnshire - for breeding and launching bellaverde, a sweet-tasting, long-stemmed broccoli;
- Most Innovative Business across the Food and Drink Supply Chain - Eistechnik, Loughborough, for developing eutectic refrigeration for trucks that reduces noise and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- Most Innovative Business in the Wider Food Sector - Mem Saab, Leicester - for establishing a Tandoori and Indian cuisine skills centre;
- Most Innovative Research Project and overall Innovation Champion - Nottingham Trent University in collaboration with University of Lincoln - for non-leaching, antimicrobial, nanomaterials for food and drink packaging applications.

2.3.5 The Higher Education Collaboration Fund (HECF) managed by the **Healthcare and Bioscience iNet** has allocated £750k to research projects across the East Midlands. Two of these projects have recently secured £2.2m of additional funding, bringing the total of leveraged funding for the iNets' HECF programme so far to £6.5m. The two projects are the East Midlands Centre for Respiratory Science, which is the result of collaboration between the Universities of Nottingham and Leicester; and a research project led by the University of Loughborough into the control of respiration during physical exertion in people with a Spinal Cord injury.

2.3.6 The **Transport iNet** hosted a highly successful electric vehicle event at Henry Ford College, Loughborough on 19 November, with 130 business delegates in attendance. Keynote speakers from leaders in industry such as TATA Motors, MIRA and Delta Motorsport provided information on opportunities for regional businesses in the design and build of electric vehicles.

2.3.7 **Environmentally Friendly Engine** (EFE) is a £117m, Rolls-Royce-led project within the National Aerospace Technology Strategy, also involving Aero Engine Controls, Bombardier Aerospace, HS Marstons and Unison (formerly Lucas Aerospace). *emda* has

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invested £6m out of the £13m contribution from RDAs, which is matched by £21m from the Technology Strategy Board. There is now a specific first application of EFE technology in the large engine market, for the Trent XWB engine, which will be utilised for the Airbus A35-eXtra Wide Body due to enter service in late 2015. Rolls-Royce has already taken orders for more than 1,000 such engines.

2.3.8 As part of their **Inquiry on Aerospace and Motorsport**, the BIS Select Committee visited Silverstone on 24 November. As well as having discussions with the circuit, the committee met companies from the Silverstone Innovation Centre to discuss the impact of support to businesses in the motorsport sector.

2.3.9 It was announced on 7 December that Silverstone has signed a 17-year contract to stage the British Grand Prix from 2010. This is excellent news for the region, following Donington Park's failure to raise the funds required to run the event next year

2.3.10 Under the **Regional Technology Framework**, two new Demonstration projects have been contracted as follows:

- City Scan (£120k grant) delivered by the University of Leicester - a novel technology for monitoring and managing the toxic by-products produced during the fuel combustion process in energy generation and transport environments;
- Contour Measurement (£111k grant) delivered by the Open University - a structural measurement system of particular value in advanced manufacturing of components such as jet engines.

2.3.11 The **Sustainable Construction iNet** has approved 26 innovation support projects (8 of which have been completed) with overall grant funding of £190k. These cover energy, waste and water in both new build and retrofit. The iNet has also held a programme of events, including breakfast briefings in Nottingham and Derby with 15 and 28 regional delegates respectively; a full-day event at Loughborough University on the application of renewable technologies (29 delegates); and an evening event on new technologies in timber held at Nottingham (15 delegates).

2.3.12 The success of the **Innovation Lincolnshire** programme was evidenced at the Lincolnshire Business Awards on 12 November. Innovation Lincolnshire, an *emda*, ERDF, City of Lincoln Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Enterprise funded SME support programme ran between April 2007 and October 2009 and supported a number of finalists and winners at this year's awards. 'Shelton's Sportsturf Drainage Solutions' LLP received the 'Business Innovation' Award; 'Safelincs' the 'Customer Care' Award and RealWire (Previously Webit PR) was a finalist in 'Best Use of IT and Communications' Award. A new three year programme 'Innovation Advice and Guidance in Lincolnshire' will build on the Innovation Lincolnshire pilot project, which stimulated innovation in SMEs in Objective 2 areas, assisting 200 businesses to improve their performance. Phase 2 will extend the project to all the sub-region to achieve improvements in product, process, technology and business practices, and the creation and exploitation of new markets. It will provide innovation business support to tenants of enterprise and innovation centres in Lincolnshire, and the wider business community. Direct links will be made to regional initiatives to ensure an integrated approach to

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delivery, signposting and awareness raising, embedding the innovation agenda into the Lincolnshire economy.

### 3. Ensuring Sustainability

#### 3.1 Energy and Resources

3.1.1 Over the last 2 years, *emda* has been working with a number of Further Education (FE) colleges to improve their **low carbon curriculum provision**, investing £620k in colleges to install low carbon equipment (hybrid vehicles, wind turbines, solar heating systems) to stimulate low carbon courses aimed at Levels 3 and 4. Take-up has been enthusiastic, with colleges reporting over 2,000 enrolments to date. Supported by the Association of Colleges, 14 FE colleges have now come together as a Further Education Energy Skills Task Group to develop a coordinated FE low carbon offer to regional businesses. As well as being showcased in the National Skills Strategy (BIS, November 2009), our work in this area also featured in the oral evidence provided by David Kidney MP (Undersecretary of State for DECC) to the Environmental Audit Select Committee on 3 November.

#### 3.2 Land and Development

3.2.1 On 9 November, seven draft **National Policy Statements** (NPSs) were published by the Government: six concerned with different aspects of Energy infrastructure and one related to Ports. These are the first of the NPSs, which will establish the framework against which the new national Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) considers planning applications for nationally significant infrastructure. The role of NPSs is to provide a clear national position on the need for certain types of infrastructure. The IPC is now in place and will start considering applications from 1 April 2010. The Government is seeking views on the NPSs, with a deadline of 22 February 2010. With the exception of the draft statement on Nuclear Power, the NPSs are not site specific (the Nuclear NPS does not include a proposed site for the East Midlands – new nuclear build will happen in areas with existing nuclear capabilities). Instead, the NPSs deal in general principles, providing criteria based guidance for dealing with major applications. The draft National Policy Statement for Ports sets out the broad need for port capacity up to 2030 and beyond, taking account of forecasts of freight demand and the economic benefits of port activity. As the East Midlands does not have a nationally significant port and reflecting the importance of the Distribution and Logistics sector to our economy, the key issue for us will be to prioritise surface access (including rail) to major deep sea ports in other regions. The NPSs will also impact on the future Regional Strategy as they will partly determine the thresholds and parameters of regional infrastructure priorities. We will be working with other RDAs to develop cross responses to the consultation and with the Regional Assembly in relation to East Midlands specific considerations.

3.2.2 The Draft Policy Statement on **Regional Strategies** (BIS/CLG, August 2009) stated that the Regional Strategy will be required to deliver the outcome of Sustainable Economic Growth (SEG), which is defined as: “*economic growth that can be sustained*”

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*and is within environmental limits, but also enhances the environment and social welfare, and avoids greater extremes in future economic cycles*". In preparation for the Regional Strategy, we have recently appointed consultants (funded by *emda* and DEFRA) to consider how the concept of 'sustainable economic growth within environmental limits' can be determined and operationalised within a regional context. The consultants will review different facets of environmental limits (e.g. water, soil, atmosphere, aggregates etc) and help inform how we deal with environmental considerations within the Regional Strategy development process. We have established a regional steering group to manage and support the project and members include Natural England, the Environment Agency, East Midlands Environment Link and the Regional Assembly. DEFRA and other English regions are showing interest in this work as it could, building on our experience of developing the R-ISEW, lay the foundations for a national model for operationalising environmental limits issues. The project will conclude in May 2010.

3.2.3 The official launch of the **Chesterfield Waterside Regeneration Project** took place on the 15 October. The project comprises a long term scheme to regenerate 16ha of derelict land adjacent to the River Rother for mixed residential, office, leisure and retail uses, which is being taken forward by a partnership of Chesterfield Borough Council and a private sector developer. *emda* funding of £800k under the Waterways Regeneration Programme was used to fund the creation of a new canal basin and canal arm to allow this development to progress.

3.2.4 Following approval by *emda*'s Board Resources Group in January 2009 to grant £9.5m of funding towards the £67m Nottingham Station Area upgrade and regeneration scheme, known as the '**Nottingham Hub**', the Network Rail Board gave approval to funding of circa £42m on 27 November, albeit with some remaining issues to be resolved between Network Rail and East Midlands Trains. The project will deliver a new high quality transport 'Gateway'/Interchange by 2012 with associated improvements to the public realm which will improve safety, user friendliness and ease of movement for passengers. It is also hoped to encourage a 5% increase in rail usage by 2012. Network Rail's agreement will now enable work to commence in the spring.

#### 4. Achieving Equality

4.1 On 19 November I attended a reception at Number 10 Downing Street for **Social Enterprise Day** (part of the week-long Unleashing Enterprise celebrations). The reception was hosted by the Prime Minister and Angela Smith (Minister for the Third Sector) and showcased social enterprise success stories. Approximately 150 people attended, including Stan Crawford reflecting the national standing that Sherwood Energy Village enjoys and Stan's role as a national adviser to the Office of the Third Sector.

4.2 Social Enterprise East Midlands (SEEM) also hosted a **regional social enterprise event** in Derby, attracting 150 delegates to hear about the work that SEEM, *emda* and successful social enterprises are undertaking in our region. *emda* Board member Ann Cartwright provided a keynote address, focusing on the support available to social enterprises through Business Link. The Regional Minister, Phil Hope also

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addressed the conference, reflecting on the increasing success that social enterprises are having in promoting their message across Whitehall. Reflecting his role as Minister of State for Care Services at the Department of Health (DH), the Regional Minister also announced the results of a national 'right to request' initiative that allows NHS staff to request to start their own health service-delivering social enterprise. 20 new social enterprises across the country will be created and share in the national £100m Department of Health Social Enterprise Investment Fund.

4.3 The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) has awarded a £91k grant to **Binleys Bridge Farm** in Leicestershire to enable the farm to diversify and create another income by constructing an on farm purpose built Cookery School. The school will open in July 2010 and will host over 30 cookery events and 240 training days a year.

4.4 Geoffrey and Rosemary Brown, owners of **Bluebell Dairy**, Spondon, Derbyshire achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the BBC's Farmer of the Year 2009 competition for rising to the challenges of modern farming. A £144k RDPE grant supported the conversion of farm buildings into a purpose-built ice cream parlour to manufacture and sell luxury ice cream, made with milk produced on the farm. Bluebell Dairy's ice cream was served during the awards ceremony lunch on 25 November 2009, which was attended by HRH Prince Charles and chefs including Jamie Oliver and Raymond Blanc.

4.5 The first phase of the **Great Northern Greenway** in Breadsall was opened on 18 November. This is the start of a new 12.8km high quality multi-user trail in a green corridor to link Derby City Centre to Ilkeston along the former Northern Railway line. It links to the national Sustrans network, offering new access opportunities for the local community for continuous off road routes as well as the potential to attract tourists to the area through its links to other routes within the existing greenway networks. £300k of *emda* funding was used in the land reclamation works, which levered in an additional £245k of public money.

4.6 The formal opening of new canal bridge and towpath improvements at the canal basin near Meadow Lane, Nottingham took place on 6 November. It marked the completion of works to link the towpath of the Beeston Canal with Victoria Embankment, creating a traffic free route for cyclists and walkers as well as canal boaters. The works are part of a much larger project entitled **Trent River Park** which encompasses four locations on the length of the river from Attenborough to Gunthorpe. The overall aim is for the river corridor to become a major attraction for visitors, residents and commercial activity. *emda* has provided £900k towards the costs of the project.