



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Cllr Ted Kemble

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The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Business
House of Commons
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Date: 16 December 2009
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Dear Mr Clarke

Conservative Policy on Regional Development Agencies

I am writing to you in my capacity as Brighton & Hove City Council Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects.

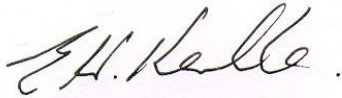
I wondered whether you would be able to expand a little on what the policy of a future Conservative Government will be on Regional Development Agency (RDA) funding? I understand from reading the "Control Shift" policy green paper that the general policy towards RDAs is to refocus them on economic development, stripping them of their powers over planning and instead, giving local governments the power to establish their own local enterprise partnerships. These are all measures which I am in complete agreement with but I was wondering if you could give me some more detail on how the funding streams that currently come through the RDAs (SEEDA in our case) would operate in the future? Will they, for example, be directed straight to local authorities and, if so, will they be ring-fenced to specific projects as is often the case now?

There is an increasing acceptance amongst our partners in the City that politically, things are going to be changing post-May 2010 and this sort of information would be very useful for me to give a little more clarity about future economic development projects.

Yours sincerely

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Councillor Ted Kemble
Brighton & Hove City Council Conservatives
Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects